

# ***THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY***

## **Information Newsletter – Volume 2, Issue II – May 2014**

After a long, harsh winter, at least for many of us in the northern hemisphere, the blossoming of spring is most welcome. The delights of spring also turn our thoughts to other positive things, such as the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea (6-17 October 2014) and to meetings like the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia (12-19 November 2014).

As we note in this newsletter, the Secretariat is, in addition to other business-related activities, planning a three-day business forum at COP 12. Partnership members are also looking to get involved in the IUCN programme, details when available. I would also like to draw your attention to a new feature in this newsletter, the Executive Committee Corner. From this edition forward, the Chair of the Executive Committee will use this space to update members and prospective applicants about various administrative aspects of the Global Partnership. In addition, our website now features enhanced information about the Partnership, including member pages and relevant information. As of this writing we have 15 official members. Hopefully these numbers will increase prior to COP 12.

### *In this edition:*

- Executive Committee Corner
- Update on COP 12 preparations
- Updates from National/Regional Initiatives (Brazil, the European Union, Germany, India, Japan, South Africa, Spain and Sri Lanka).

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### **Executive Committee Corner**

Though still an interim committee, the Executive Committee is working towards the inauguration of the first official committee. That is scheduled to take place in October 2014, coincident with COP 12, at the meeting of the Global Partnership in the Republic of South Korea.

It was decided to take this route because there is currently no process in place to select the initial committee. The committee wants to ensure that all members are given equal opportunity to participate. Also, with COP12 rapidly approaching, the prevalent view was that it would be better to use the existing group to conduct the planning for the upcoming events rather than turn it over to a new group close to the event.

In addition, during a 22 April conference call it was decided that we need to divide the Partnership into membership regions for the purpose of selecting members to serve on the Executive Committee. The suggested breakdown is as follows:

- Americas
- Europe
- Africa
- East Asia and Pacific
- West, Central and South Asia.

It was then suggested that Canada and the United States be moved from the Americas and instead be included with Europe, but this idea requires further thought.

While it was initially proposed that all regions be represented on the Executive Committee, this was

thought not practical in the early stages of the Global Partnership development. Thus, at this early stage, and to better serve the needs of the Partnership, it was decided to include the most engaged participants on the committee and that a minimum of three regions should be represented on the committee at all times. It was also felt that having a full slate of executive board members in the initial committee (8 plus secretary) might be problematic given the relatively small number of members in the Partnership at the present time. Therefore it was decided that the makeup of the Executive Committee would be based on the following membership numbers:

- Membership of 20 or less: 6 members
- Membership 20 to 30: 7 members
- Membership greater than 30: 8 members (full membership)

The CBD Secretariat has been diligently working on the Global Partnership website: [www.cbd.int/business/gp/about.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/business/gp/about.shtml). Please review it and feel free to send us any suggestions or comments.

## COP 12 Preparations

The Secretariat is planning a business forum during COP 12 scheduled for 12-14 October, 2014. A three-day series of business engagement events, the forum will include a high-level segment, a business and biodiversity workshop, a meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and several media/launch events. The forum, with the theme “*Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Innovative Opportunities for Business*”, will look at practical ways for businesses to play a role in the overall objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Day 1 will be dedicated to several parallel events aimed at various business stakeholder groups (i.e. biotrade, tourism, commodities, the Global Partnership). Days 2 and 3 will focus on exchanges of creative practices aimed at showing how businesses can contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including through mainstreaming biodiversity into business practices.



The events will demonstrate economic opportunities related to biodiversity for business as well as examine different aspects of the challenges facing companies. Specifically, these events should help and encourage businesses in understanding how to better engage with, and implement, biodiversity-related initiatives. The events should further encourage governments and other stakeholders to create the correct enabling conditions to facilitate these opportunities.

An overview of the business forum, please note that times are still subject to confirmation, can be seen below:

Day 1 (October 12, 2014)	Day 2 (October 13, 2014)	Day 3 (October 14, 2014)
09:00 Opening Plenary Panel	07:45 High Level Business Panel <i>(date/time tbc)</i>	09:00 Business Forum Workshop: Session #3
10:15 Parallel Event #1: UNCTAD Biotrade Congress	10:45 Business Forum Workshop: Session #1	12:00 Discussion of output from the forum
10:15 Parallel Event #2: Workshop on Sustainable Tourism	14:15 Business Forum Workshop: Session #2	13:00 Close of Business Forum
10:15 Parallel Event #3: Commodity Indicators Discussion	18:00 Official Launch of Commodity Indicator Process <i>(tbc)</i>	14:00 Closed Meeting of the Global Partnership
10:15 Parallel Event #4: Status and Updates on the Global Partnership	18:30 Networking Cocktail	
16:30 Official Launch of Global Partnership and Korean Secretariat		
17:30 Networking Cocktail		

We will shortly be putting out a call for speakers and participants for the Business Forum Workshop and for Days 2 and 3 in particular. Please watch your in-box for this request.

For additional information on the business forum: [www.cbd.int/business/bc/cop12.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/business/bc/cop12.shtml).

Finally, a paper on business engagement for consideration by Parties to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI), which will then send recommendations to the COP, can be found at: [www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/wgri/wgri-05/official/wgri-05-10-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/wgri/wgri-05/official/wgri-05-10-en.pdf).

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## Updates from Initiatives

*(We invite submissions from all members and those developing national initiatives)*

### **Brazil**

#### **Brazil-India-Germany TEEB Dialog**

A Brazil-India-Germany TEEB dialog, organized by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) and the Brazilian National Confederation of Industries (CNI), and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, was held in Brasilia from 5-7 May 2014.

The goals of the dialog were to:

- Discuss lessons learned for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) into public policies and the business sector.
- Explore possible routes for mainstreaming the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity into policy at different levels, from the public to the private sector, in order to move from scientific knowledge and scattered actions to real-world decision-making.
- Deepen discussions on the contributions of TEEB national initiatives for the achievement of the international country commitments agreed on under the CBD.

The dialog was built around knowledge-sharing and networking, inputs from experts and a field excursion. Participants included representatives from India, Germany and Brazil, as well as project staff and external experts from the United Nations Environment Programme, CBD, UFZ, technical experts involved in the TEEB process from academia and organized civil society, and members of the business sector.

#### **International Workshop - Business and Natural Capital: Dialogue for a Sustainable Partnership**

The Business and Natural Capital: Dialogue for a Sustainable Partnership workshop was held in Brasilia, 7-9 May 2014. Co-sponsored by the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI), the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, the German International Development Cooperation, by means of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the three-day meeting was well-attended with approximately 160 people participating. A two-day seminar on the Brazil-India-Germany TEEB Dialogue Meeting 2014 preceded the workshop. The seminar was part of the ongoing exchange between those countries on implementation of TEEB National Initiatives.



The first evening (7 May) featured a networking reception and launch of two publications: “*Directives for the engagement of the business sector with the biodiversity*” and “*Manual on Payment for Environmental Services*”. Also distributed was a CNI study on the impacts of the Nagoya Protocol on Brazilian industry and the document, “*CBD Decisions and the Business Sector*”.

The workshop was divided into several “dialogue” themes, including: “Challenges and Opportunities for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Business Sector”, “International Commitments for the Conservation of Natural Capital” (which included detailed sections on the Aichi Targets and the Nagoya Protocol), “Initiatives for Integrating Ecosystem Services and the Engagement of the Business and Public Sectors, Academia and Civil Society” (which



discussed TEEB and the Global Partnership as well as including panels on the integration of ecosystem services into business strategies and the role of the financial sector). The workshop concluded with a series of parallel sessions on various topics and initiatives. Discussion on the links between climate change and biodiversity loss was one of the most interesting and best attended sessions (with the session focusing on how the two issues interact and reinforce each other in a negative fashion, and if meaningful action is to be taken the two issues must be tackled together). Other sessions discussed the Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Planning, the UEBT initiative and LIFE Certification.

A series of messages emerged from the workshop deserving of further consideration from business, government, and business and government (B&G) collectively.

## **European Union**



### **Call for Evidence: Innovations in Business Models and Processes**

- B@B members, observers and representatives are invited to contribute evidence ASAP showcasing innovations in business models, business processes and offerings, by suggesting opportunities for further development of innovations, and by highlighting new, relevant, business models that help conserve biodiversity. For more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/Workstream2-Innovation-for-Biodiversity-and-Business/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/Workstream2-Innovation-for-Biodiversity-and-Business/index_en.html).

### **Call for Evidence: Finance for Biodiversity**

- B@B members, observers and representatives are invited to contribute evidence ASAP showcasing examples of products, services and initiatives providing information on their experiences of biodiversity-related finance, and by suggesting opportunities beneficial to biodiversity and business in the future. For more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/Workstream3-Access-to-Finance-and-Innovative-Finance-Mechanisms/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/Workstream3-Access-to-Finance-and-Innovative-Finance-Mechanisms/index_en.html).

### **Expressions of Interest Invited in New Natural Capital Financing Facility**

- The Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) is a new European Union (EU) financial instrument funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission. The NCFF will provide innovative financial solutions to support bankable projects, which are or have the potential to



be, revenue-generating or cost-saving, promoting the conservation, restoration, management and enhancement of natural capital. It will be complemented by technical assistance to support project preparation, implementation and monitoring. Read more at:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/assets/pdf/ncff.pdf>

### **Workshop on Natural Capital Accounting for Full Members**

- The European Commission hosted a workshop on 28 April 2014 with full members of the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) workstream to inform development of a decision framework that can help companies determine what form of NCA to adopt. Full members – representing a variety of sectors, sizes and geographies – provided valuable input, in particular when elaborating on their company’s needs and motivations for carrying out NCA. All members and observers are invited to comment on the draft framework in June.

### **High-Level Conference on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) in Europe - 22 May 2014 – Brussels**

- On 22 May 2014, the International Day for Biological Diversity, the European Commission hosted a high-level conference highlighting the policy relevance of MAES. Putting the spotlight on work undertaken to date at the EU and at the member state level, the conference also featured contributions from key stakeholders. The conference helped demonstrate how reliable, high-quality information on the state of ecosystems and the services they provide, can contribute to the advancement of biodiversity objectives and to the integration of natural capital concerns into the EU. Read more: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem\\_assessment/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/index_en.htm).

### **Green Week 2014 Session on "Monitoring the State of Natural Capital for a Truly Circular Economy" – 4 June 2014 – Brussels**

- The biggest annual conference on European environmental policy, Green Week 2014, is now accepting registrations. The EU platform invites you to attend the dedicated session on Natural Capital Accounting ([www.greenweek2014.eu/04062014-1-3.html](http://www.greenweek2014.eu/04062014-1-3.html)). The session will provide insight on the increasing number of initiatives within both the public and private sector that recognise the importance of analysing and monitoring the state of natural capital, and how we impact and depend on it. It will also seek to identify focus areas for governments and companies in assessment and accounting of natural capital and to discuss possible next steps for scaling up good practice examples at the macro and micro level. More information at: [www.greenweek2014.eu/registration.html](http://www.greenweek2014.eu/registration.html).

## **Germany**

### **6th National Forum on Biological Diversity in Germany**

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) is holding the 6th National Forum on Biological Diversity in Berlin on 3 June 2014. Open to all stakeholders, the event will discuss key issues regarding the implementation of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. Whereas the focus of the 2013 forum was on business responsibility, this year's event looks at the role consumers and sustainable consumption play – How can biodiversity be communicated and become a relevant factor in consumer buying decisions? The dialogue with Environment Minister Dr. Barbara Hendricks and Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel, BfN President, as well as other panelists will give room to these and other questions. The event is in German only. Registration and additional information: [www.nationalesforum-biologischevielfalt.de](http://www.nationalesforum-biologischevielfalt.de)

- Veolia Germany is the latest member in the “Biodiversity: In Good Company” initiative: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Presse/140331\\_PressRelease\\_Membership\\_Veolia.pdf](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Presse/140331_PressRelease_Membership_Veolia.pdf)

- Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings has published its new CSR Report on Natural Capital: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/sumitomo-mitsui-trust-holdings-veroeffentlicht-csr-bericht-zum-thema-naturkapital/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/sumitomo-mitsui-trust-holdings-veroeffentlicht-csr-bericht-zum-thema-naturkapital/)
- 'Biodiversity in Good Company' has become a partner in the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/biodiversity-in-good-company-partner-der-eu-business-and-biodiversity-platform/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/biodiversity-in-good-company-partner-der-eu-business-and-biodiversity-platform/)

## **India**

### **Indian Companies Join Hands under the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative**

India, with only 2.4% of the world's land area, accounts for nearly 7% of globally recorded species while supporting 18% of global human population. The rapidly growing trajectory of the Indian economy has often led to inefficient use and exploitation of biodiversity.



Concurrent to India's Presidency of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Indian companies have joined together under a national initiative to address the critical issue of biodiversity loss. The India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) aims to sensitize, guide and mentor Indian business organizations in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use related to their operations, and across their value chain and beyond, towards the conservation of India's biodiversity.

On invitation by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is hosting the IBBI with the support of the German International Cooperation (GIZ). The IBBI



serves as a national platform of business and its stakeholders for dialogue, sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biodiversity into businesses. Ms. Seema Arora, Executive Director, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, noted the significance of this initiative and aptitude of CII to scale it up. "CII as a business association is well placed to reach out to the industry to create greater awareness on biodiversity among companies. Over the years the Centre has been working towards integration of sustainability into businesses. IBBI is a platform for companies to engage, share, learn and create synergies. It is a natural complement to the sustainability services provided by the Centre," said Ms. Arora.

The IBBI was officially launched in New Delhi on 22 May 2014, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity. A series of awareness-raising workshops will also be held in major business hubs across India.

Membership to IBBI is open for companies from any sector and size, as well as stakeholder organizations that can contribute to the platform in terms of technical assistance. IBBI business members are subject to become signatories to a ten-point IBBI Declaration, demonstrating the organization's commitment towards biodiversity. Every two years the signatory companies will publicly disclose progress made on the Declaration.

Mr. Edgar Endrukaitis, Director Biodiversity Programme, GIZ India, believes that the "Indian Business & Biodiversity Initiative with its multi sectorial approach involving businesses, government, and non-government organizations will lead to more public awareness and effective biodiversity management

within companies. It is about the co-creation of effective solutions for conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity resources.”

In the initiative’s first year, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, with support from GIZ, is documenting good business practices in biodiversity management by Indian companies. The case study publication, for release at COP 12, will present a wide range of company cases covering various biodiversity initiatives in India.

Based on dialogue with industry it is clear that there exists a lack of knowledge on how to tackle biodiversity issues at the corporate level. Consequently, IBBI will shift its focus from awareness-raising towards capacity-building. GIZ together with the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development have initiated the development of relevant tools to mentor and help companies on their journey towards integrating biodiversity into business operations.

## **Japan**



### **Natural Capital Seminar in Tokyo**

The Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) Committee on Nature Conservation hosted a seminar on Natural Capital in Tokyo, 17 February 2014. Some 75 participants attended from various member companies. Mr. Jonathan Hughes, IUCN Regional Councillor and Programme Director, World Forum on Natural Capital, was the keynote speaker. He introduced activities at the global level and a project in Scotland on Natural Capital, as well as its implications on corporate activities. From the Japanese business community, SANDEN Corporation shared its experiences on natural capital assessment and methodology.

## **South Africa**



### **The Endangered Wildlife Trust and Fauna and Flora International Partner to Mainstream Biodiversity into Business in South Africa**

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) are joining forces to support businesses in South Africa to address biodiversity issues in their operations. The signing of a formalised, strategic collaboration to mainstream biodiversity into business signals the recognition by the two organisations of the synergies that exist in relation to their work in the private sector. Thus they have joined forces to leverage off of each other’s existing networks, connections and best-practice learning.

“The EWT approaches mainstreaming biodiversity into business through the National Biodiversity and Business Network and its strategic partnership with various businesses,” said Dr. Marie Parramon-Gurney, EWT Head of Conservation Business and facilitator of the Network. “The EWT supports companies in implementing solutions at several levels throughout the business’s operations and its supply chain. We aim to set best-practice standards in terms of making biodiversity a core business focus and concern within the private sector and profile businesses and partners who make efforts and achieve successes in this area.”

FFI protects threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing sustainable solutions based on sound science and ones that take human needs into account. Operating in over 40 countries – mainly in the developing world – FFI saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction while improving the livelihoods of local people. Founded in 1903, FFI is the world’s oldest established international conservation body and a registered charity. It also works with the private sector to build long-term strategies for environmental management.

“FFI believes that business value is gained through the knowledge that resources are not being depleted and impacts are within limits acceptable to local communities, customers and investors alike,” said Pippa Howard, Director of FFI’s Business & Biodiversity Programme. “We work with businesses and the influencers of business across a range of sectors to create an environment where the private sector has a long-term positive impact on biodiversity conservation.”

The EWT and FFI have been collaborating on the business and biodiversity agenda over the last two years. FFI became a supporting partner of the National Biodiversity and Business Network and the alignment of vision and work between the EWT and FFI was evident. The organisations will share and combine their respective expertise to ensure that companies in the region fully appraise and manage their direct and indirect business risks, opportunities and dependencies related to biodiversity.

## Spain



Spain joined in the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22nd. This year’s celebration was especially relevant for Fundación Biodiversidad because it represents the first anniversary of the launching of the Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative. Seventeen large companies have signed the Biodiversity Pact during this time. By signing this agreement those enterprises acknowledge and support the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The most recent incorporation into the Initiative was that of Altran Spain. Altran is an international group and a global leader in innovation and high-tech engineering consulting. The group operates in over twenty countries throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, and has five offices in major Spanish cities.

With the inclusion of Altran Spain, 8 economic sectors are now involved in the conservation of Spain’s natural capital through the initiative: 5 companies in the field of energy (CEPSA, Endesa, Gas Natural Fenosa, IBERDROLA and Red Eléctrica de España), 4 in construction (CEMEX, Ferrovial, FCC and Holcim), 2 in food and drink (Grupo Mahou-San Miguel and HEINEKEN), 2 in innovation and technology (ABB and Altran), 1 in facility management (ISS), 1 in Biopharmacy (Grupo Zeltia), and 1 in home appliances (BSH).

## Sri Lanka



### **The Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform Hosts Patron Member Learning Event and Roundtable Discussion on Coral Reef Conservation and Restoration in Sri Lanka**

*“Globally, we estimate that almost half a billion people live within 100 kilometers of a coral reef, benefitting from the production and protection these ecosystems provide” - Reefs at Risk, World Resources Institute, 1998.*

Being an island nation, the Government of Sri Lanka has exercised leadership in shaping and developing environmentally-sound and comprehensive coral reef policies, in line with international conventions. These policies foster strategic partnerships with international and national organizations, the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations to address threats to the island’s coral reef ecosystems.

In keeping with these efforts, stronger public-private partnerships are now emerging to support coral reef conservation efforts that reduce and prevent degradation of coral reefs and associated reef habitats. With the aim of building such partnerships, the Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform hosted a learning event and roundtable discussion on coral reef conservation and restoration in Sri Lanka for a select group of its Patron Members engaged in conservation projects that involve coastal ecosystems, species and



habitats. The meeting focused on addressing causes of coral reef degradation in reefs surrounding the island's coastal waters.

Marine biodiversity experts from the Platform's Resource Bank discussed 'Coral Reef Ecology, Key Issues and Required Interventions'. Several private sector-led case studies from Protected Areas and other reefs located in the Southern and Eastern provinces of the country were discussed in depth and several recommendations made. The aim of the session was to raise awareness among private sector entities on the importance of conserving the reefs, both as a means of enhancing biodiversity and as a resource with much economic advantage.

The session concluded that the country's policy framework should be more prone to promote private sector participation in conservation efforts and legislative mechanisms should be formulated to attract private sector participation in responsible conservation efforts. Private sector actors are ideally positioned to finance the environmental services that support their economic activities.

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