

Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Newsletter

July 2020 – Issue 11



Newsletter

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Headlines –

It is the time for nature: World Environment Day 2020

World Environment Day is a cause for celebration. For over forty years people around the world have dedicated their lives towards advocating and fighting for a healthy environment. Countless examples from beach clean-ups to mass tree planting to nation-wide marches have epitomized the dedication of individuals, communities and governments in standing shoulder-to-shoulder for our planet.

This year many things have changed. Our current global circumstances have impeded us from going outside and fighting for nature, as we now adopt an equally important responsibility to stay inside and protect those most vulnerable from the worst ravages of disease. We stand in solidarity with these individuals and have adapted to celebrate World Environment Day virtually.

While these celebrations are a great tribute to human commitment and ingenuity, the reality that we must persist in this manner means that there is something inherently wrong with human stewardship of the planet. We must come to the inevitable conclusion that this virus is not an example of bad luck, nor a one-off event that nobody could possibly see coming. The inescapable truth of the matter is that this event was an entirely predictable result of humanity's destruction of nature, which has the potential to inflict far greater suffering if left unchecked.

COVID-19 is zoonotic, a type of disease that is transmitted between animals and humans. We are facing it in large part because of humanity's expansion into the wild and exploitation of species, bringing people into closer contact with wildlife. COVID-19 may very well be one of the worst diseases humanity has faced in recent history, but is by far the only one. 75% of all emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origins.

The lockdown we recently experienced is by no means a silver lining for the environment, but it does offer a glimmer of hope for the prosperity of nature as we see reductions in air pollution and wild animals sprawling in urban areas. What needs to be done by governments as we slowly alleviate the lockdown, is to ensure that funds directed towards reigniting the economy are in line with the upcoming global biodiversity framework so as to ensure positive environmental change such as ending fossil fuel subsidies, stopping deforestation, backing sustainable production, etc.

To read the full article written by Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, click [here](#).

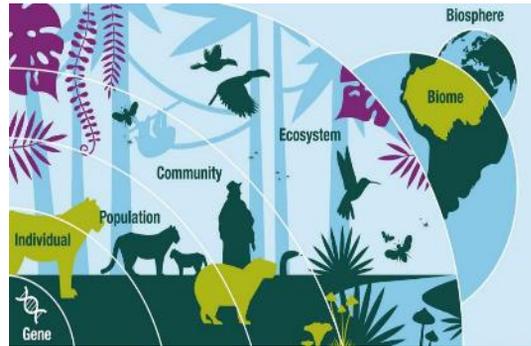


Headlines –

Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity

The importance of nature in our every day lives cannot be understated as its influence is far reaching and omnipresent. In order to sustain our very existence, we rely on nature for food, water and shelter. For many of us, nature is a source of inspiration and countless opportunities. In short, life without nature would be non-existent. Despite its crucial role, the degradation of nature resulting directly and indirectly from human activity continues to persist and has resulted in an average decline of 60% in the populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians in the last four decades.

The interim report of the Dasgupta Review, published by the UK government in April 2020, focuses on the inherent relationship between nature and economic activity. It aims to identify actions that can both provide economic development and propagate biodiversity enrichment, allowing for decision-makers in the private sector to be better equipped in implementing biodiversity initiatives.



The report is comprised of three chapters that highlight the underlying economic and scientific concepts that will make up the foundation of the final review. It recognizes that biodiversity is an essential characteristic of nature that directly contributes to its increased ability to resist adverse impacts, ultimately reducing risks to the products and services that it provides.

The review is scheduled to be published later this year. To read the entire interim report, click [here](#).

Headlines –

The state of the world's forests 2020

The year 2020 marks the end of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, and while looking forward, countries are preparing to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. One particularly important factor when considering the state of biodiversity and its sustainable use in the future is the current contributions of forests and those who use and manage them.

Although a relatively smaller percentage of the global population lives within forest areas due to increased urbanization in the last century, our reliance on forests has all but subsided. Essentially everyone benefits from the resources provided by forests that are used to create products that are fundamental to our way of life, including paper, furniture and medicine. Forests have also contributed heavily to the development of society through the trade of wood as well as to the health of the planet through natural carbon storage.



A large majority of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity can be found within forests. Thus, it is important to realise that our interactions with forests, both directly and indirectly, have a significant influence on the condition of global biodiversity. Forests make up 31% of global land area, and yet more than half of area is found within 5 countries (Brazil, China, Canada, Russia and the United States).



Despite its importance, excessive deforestation and forest degradation is still occurring. It is estimated that approximately 420 million hectares have been lost since 1990 due primarily to repurposing of land such as for agricultural expansion. Although deforestation rates have declined in recent years accountability and transparency must be present for this trend to continue on into the future.

To read more, click [here](#).



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Headlines –

Promoting a sustainable agriculture & food sector

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture (TEEBAgriFood) initiative is comprised of scientists, economists, policymakers, business leaders and farmers organizations that undertake comprehensive assessments of agricultural systems, practices, products, and policies. The initiative emphasizes the importance for organizations operating in the food sector to develop an understanding of their influence and needs towards social, human and natural capital. The initiative further provides direction on how to implement these considerations into the decision-making process in order to derive benefits from more sustainable uses of resources.

A new project, involving a collaboration between the EU, UNEP and the Capitals Coalition focuses on building resilience, mainstreaming best practice and protecting biodiversity, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable agriculture and food sector in seven EU partner countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand.

There is a strong correlation between the health of our ecosystems and our ability to produce various types of foods. The degree to which current deforestation and degradation is taking place is thus adversely affecting not only our agricultural sector but our health and livelihoods.



Progressive changes in the food and agriculture sector can bring about benefits to nature. These changes include:

- **Developing** key partnerships at regional and national levels.
- **Guiding** those that work in the sector in understanding their needs and influences towards nature and how it impacts the health of ecosystems.
- **Identifying** areas in which nature-based solutions can be implemented and provide benefits to businesses.

To read more, click [here](#).



Headlines –

We Value Nature: Training resources

We Value Nature has developed a training programme based on research conducted on behavioral and organisational change in order to help individuals and organizations in implementing natural capital considerations. The training programme will consist of several different modules that will be released in the following months. The first of which is an introduction to natural capital focuses on the inherent relationship between business and nature. Modules can range in length from one hour to one day in order to accommodate different individual needs, and include several different resources such as a facilitator agenda, speaking notes, workbook, etc.

Beyond the modules offered, We Value Nature has also made available a virtual office hour call which acts as an interactive platform to ask questions and contribute to group discussions. The next virtual office hour call takes place on **30 June 2020 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CEST**.



It is now more important than ever before to consider natural capital in business activities in order to ensure both economic and natural growth through the development of sustainable and efficient strategies. A key factor in executing sustainable new strategies is to make critical information and decision-making tools widely available and easily accessible for individuals, ultimately broadening the scope of natural capital implementation.

To find out more, click [here](#).



Headlines –

Biodiversity as a human right

The European Parliament published a study that explores the role of biodiversity as a human right and how an approach emphasizing this role can lead to the reduction of biodiversity loss and degradation. The study provides an overview of the impact of biodiversity loss on human rights, establishing that an individual's ability to enjoy their human rights relating to health, food, and water just to name a few, directly depends on the health of the ecosystem that surrounds them. Therefore, the correlation between the prosperity of biodiversity and the degree to which someone can exercise their rights, particularly for groups such as indigenous people and local communities, is clearly identified.

The study takes the opportunity to assess the status of existing international obligations surrounding biodiversity and human rights as well as existing initiatives with some form of political impact relating to this topic. Despite these obligations and initiatives, current negative trends in biodiversity reflect a threat towards the progress that has currently been made towards 80% of Sustainable Development Goals, specifically those relating to poverty, health, water, hunger, cities, climate, ocean and land.



The study ultimately brings forward several recommendations, including that funding research on biodiversity is a human right, the position of the EU in the latest international negotiations, and the use of EU bilateral trade agreements.

To view the full study, click [here](#).



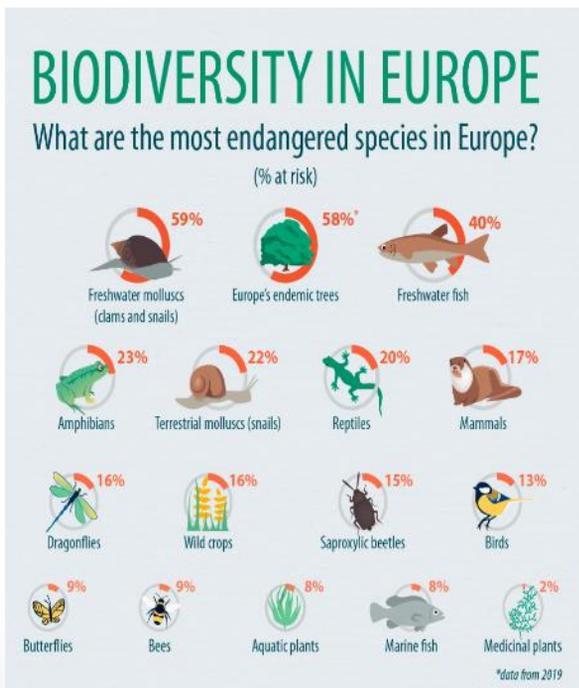
European Parliament

Headlines –

Endangered species in Europe

Despite the efforts of the last decade in confronting the challenge of biodiversity loss, many plants and animals still face the very real threat of extinction. It was determined by the European Parliament that one million of a total of eight million species globally are at risk of becoming extinct if current circumstances continue to persist. These circumstances in question include the loss and degradation of habitat, the adverse effects of pollution and climate change, and finally the lasting impacts regarding the emergence of invasive alien species.

It is without question that humans significantly depend on biodiversity for a healthy and sustainable existence. In order to preserve endangered species, the EU has committed to improve its biodiversity by adopting a very ambitious plan for the next decade focusing on the main causes of biodiversity loss, while setting legally binding targets for both the EU and member states.



The primary goals of the EU's biodiversity strategy include:

- **Ensuring** that at least 30% of the EU territory consists of natural areas.
- **Restoring** degraded ecosystems by 2030.
- **Taking** biodiversity objectives into account in all EU policies.
- **Earmarking** a minimum of 10% of the 2021-2027 long-term budget for efforts to improve biodiversity.

Although these goals are quite ambitious, the commitment set forth by the EU brings new hope to preventing further biodiversity loss.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Headlines –

1st Public Consultation of the International Standard on Sustainable Territorial Management

The International Standard on Sustainable Territorial Management was created with the intent of expanding the analysis of sustainability issues in order to incorporate a wider range of stakeholders. These issues include the reduction of deforestation, food security, pest and disease control, as well as urban sustainability. The Standard also focuses on ensuring connectivity among environments and opening opportunities for converging actions to achieve positive social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes.

The ultimate goal is to use the International Standard on Sustainable Territorial Management to:

- **Diagnose, plan and/or evaluate** the search of solutions capable of containing the decrease of environmental services.
- **Identify and strengthen** the roles of local players.
- **Recognize, disseminate, and create** synergy between good practices and implemented initiatives.
- **Guide** decisions related to public and private investments.
- **Address**, in an integrated way, environmental services and its relation to human wellbeing and society.



These objectives are meant to be adopted by both the private and public sectors. They will offer strategic guidelines and best practice recommendations to prompt action towards sustainability challenges.

The 1st public consultation of the International Standard on Sustainable Territorial Management is now open. The public can contribute and submit answers by **19 July 2020**.

To learn more, click [here](#).



Headlines –

The state of biodiversity and business in the Nordic countries

Ecogain, an organization specializing in ecological restoration and providing solutions for nature, has created a Biodiversity Index with the intent of making biodiversity relevant to businesses. The index identifies the need to make biodiversity a more prominent topic of discussion among business leaders within the private sector, with the goal of ensuring that conversations tackling this subject will lead to better identification and awareness of both risks and opportunities in the matter. Specifically, the Biodiversity Index both clearly and transparently maps how far the largest companies in the Nordic countries have progressed in terms of their reporting and general work on biodiversity.

One crucial realization stemming from the Biodiversity Index is that only approximately one quarter of the top 100 largest Nordic companies have formulated some form of biodiversity targets, with 0% of those companies having goals aligned with science that forecast to have no net loss of biodiversity after 2030. When identifying specific industry trends, the index shows that the Materials, Energy and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods industry have come the furthest in terms of gaining understanding, from a business perspective, of the importance of biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Index also provides specific measures to ensure that biodiversity is considered in future plans and objective. These are:

1. Educate yourself and your colleagues.
2. Map your essential biodiversity issues.
3. Set a goal.
4. Make green in the company's surroundings.
5. Take responsibility for a species.

To learn more, click [here](#).



Headlines –

Company ESG scores improve country macroeconomic growth

In a landmark report published by the University of Oxford, it was revealed for the first time that a significant positive correlation is present between average ESG scores of companies and native macroeconomic development measured in GDP per capita and rate of unemployment. Given this correlation, the study affirms that promoting good ESG practices in the private sector, can greatly help policymakers to stimulate further economic growth and development.

In the midst of our current COVID-19 recovery, the report brings forward a substantial argument for adopting a green recovery that could unlock a variety of economic benefits while simultaneously benefitting the environment and global climate.

Researchers involved in the report analyzed ESG scores of thousands of firms across a total of 19 developed economies and 11 emerging economies over a 15-year period culminating in 2017. It was found that an improvement in corporate environmental and governance performance had a positive impact in emerging economies. Taken from a more quantitative perspective, a one-unit increase in the average Environmental, Social or Governance scores by companies was associated with respective increases of 0.06%, .10% and .19% in the log of GDP per capita. Thus, investing in sustainable business practices can result in substantial returns in the form of increased GDP and GDP per capita value.



Credit: Markus Spiske

Policymakers can take advantage of this information to make better-informed decisions pertaining to which direction to steer the economy in light of current circumstances. One such example is to develop ESG loans that could potentially incentivize positive behaviour within the private sector.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Headlines –

A global standard for nature-based solutions

In 2016 at the World Conservation Congress and members assembly, IUCN members adopted, for the first time, a resolution which defined the use of nature for simultaneous benefits towards biodiversity and human wellbeing. The term Nature-based Solutions (NbS) was defined as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits”.

The need to identify such solutions stems from the ongoing array of societal and environmental challenges, such as water and food security, which in our attempt to rectify has led to global biodiversity and climate crises as well as increased inequalities and vulnerabilities. Millions of various plants and animals are on the edge of extinction due to our direct actions and inactions contributing to biodiversity loss.



Daisy Hessenberger

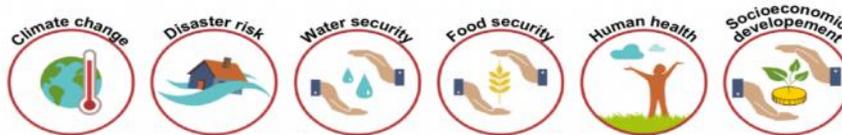


Photo: IUCN

The standard that has been established strives to increase the demand for Nature-based Solutions, thus contributing to a positive sustainable movement. Mainstreaming these solutions will require a common language and framework in order to bring together partners to face corresponding natural challenges. As Nature-based Solutions are progressively and increasingly implemented, the standard will ensure quality and credibility.

The standard consists of nine criteria and associated indicators developed by the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme and Commission, providing guidance on using the standard to:

- Design new Nature-based Solutions.
- Upscale pilots by identifying gaps.
- Verify past projects and future proposals.



To learn more, click [here](#).

Headlines –

Unlocking nature's potential



The CDP, a not-for-profit organization based in the United Kingdom, guides companies and cities in taking action towards disclosing environmental impacts and ultimately becoming more sustainable. They recently launched a briefing emphasizing the importance of forests related nature-based solutions in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. Its purpose is to allow policymakers to better understand the role the private sector plays in unlocking the potential of nature-based solutions as a cost-effective tool to support a responsible forest-risk commodity value chain. International cooperation is a key driving factor in ensuring the implementation of nature-based solutions and attaining the apex of sustainability in a deforestation free world.

The briefing found that 15% of the responding companies are implementing and supporting nature-based solutions, which indicates significant potential for growth and space for policy incentives. In terms of trends regarding companies from different geographic locations, it was found that organizations in Asia lead the way in reporting nature-based solutions through the CDP's Forests Questionnaire, while companies in Central and South America appear to be lagging. Regarding information gathered from specific sectors, companies operating in the materials sector are those that lead the way in reporting nature-based solutions, while the services and hospitality sectors are also performing above average. It was found that forest conservation and reforestation are the most commonly implemented categories of nature-based solutions that are implemented by disclosing companies.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Headlines –

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The European Commission on 20 May 2020 adopted a new strategy designed to be an ambitious long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the ongoing degradation of ecosystems. It was adopted simultaneously with the Farm to Fork Strategy; an initiative that encourages the transition to a sustainable food system that safeguards food security. This strategy sets forth concrete targets in order to ultimately transform the EU food system, including a reduction by 50% of the use of pesticides, a reduction by at least 20% of the use of fertilizers and reaching 25% of agricultural land under organic farming. Both strategies will work in unison to bring together farmers, businesses and consumers to create a more sustainable future.



In a world currently attempting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the biodiversity strategy focuses on building resilience for societies in the presence of potential future threats such as climate change impacts, forest fires, food insecurity and disease outbreaks. This new strategy strengthens and reaffirms the commitment of the EU towards tackling the issue of the deterioration of biodiversity and aiding in a green recovery in a post COVID-19 world.

The main elements of the strategy for 2030 are:

- Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea.
- A EU restoration plan consisting of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU.
- A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change.
- Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.

To read more, click [here](#).



News from the Secretariat –

Update on SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3

The meetings for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, were initially scheduled for 17-22 and 24-20 August, 2020, in Montreal, Canada. However, due to current circumstances surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the continued uncertainties relating to travel restrictions and the ability to convene in public locations, SBSTTA 24 and SBI will no longer take place physically in Montreal during those dates. Therefore, delegations should not proceed to make any plans to travel to Montreal in order to attend these events.

The Secretariat is currently exploring alternative arrangements, including:

1. The possibility of holding some preparatory sessions for the meetings virtually during early September.
2. The possibility of holding the physical meetings of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 in the second half of October, or at a later date, subject to logistical constraints, and restrictions on travel and the convening of large physical gatherings being lifted.



The Secretariat is consulting with the COP Bureau, the SBSTTA Bureau, and the SBI Chair, as well as the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on these matters and will make further announcements in due course.

The Secretariat and the Bureaux remain committed to ensuring the successful and timely preparation of these meetings, the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols.

The Secretariat is also preparing a series of webinars on various issues related to the agenda items of SBSTTA and SBI to be held in June, July and August and a list will be made available on the CBD website in due course.



News from the Secretariat – Webinars & Action Agenda

The Secretariat has prepared a series of webinars with the intent of providing information regarding the overall post-2020 process and SBSTTA 24 agenda item 3. These webinars will offer the opportunity for all parties and relevant stakeholders to be debriefed on the overall post-2020 process, the approach and scenario towards the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) as well as specific documents for SBSTTA 24 related to goals, targets, monitoring framework and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The first round of information briefings includes four webinars as follows:

- Webinar 1: **Tuesday, 30 June, 2020** (focus on time zones for Americas, Europe, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe)
- Webinar 2: **Thursday, 2 July/ Friday, 3 July, 2020** (focus on time zones for Asia and Pacific)
- Webinar 3: **Friday, 3 July, 2020** (focus on time zones for Americas)
- Webinar 4: **Tuesday, 7 July 2020** (focus on time zones for Europe, Africa, Middle East)

To learn more, click [here](#).



During the fourteenth meeting of the conference of parties, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity along with the governments of China and Egypt, have established the Action Agenda for Nature and People. The purpose of the Action Agenda is to promote and disseminate various commitments and actions plans from individuals and organizations, targeted at conserving our ecosystems and reversing biodiversity loss. Parties are encouraged to promote the Action Agenda by registering commitments or by motivating organizations, private companies, and relevant stakeholders to contribute to some degree.

To visit and contribute to the Action Agenda, click [here](#).

News from GPBB –

Re-launch of the EU B@B Platform

In its mission to tackle biodiversity loss, the EU B@B Platform has aided many organizations in identifying the extent of their impact, and how to proceed in implementing measures to avoid adverse repercussions on nature. Despite current success in onboarding the private sector, more needs to be done to motivate decision-makers to consider biodiversity in business processes and raise awareness across a broader spectrum of industries and businesses.

The new changes that comprise the relaunch of the Platform aim at making it increasingly relevant to the specific needs of the community, while emphasizing its distinguishing features.



The relaunch of the Platform is reorganized into three new workstreams that focus on Methods Pioneers and Mainstreaming:

- 1) **Helping** companies identify best practice, guidance, and tools available to support informed business decisions related to biodiversity and natural capital.
- 2) **Facilitating** dialogue and cooperation between pioneering financial institutions and businesses to gain deeper understanding from practice and identify opportunities and solutions to scale up biodiversity considerations in corporate decision-making.
- 3) **Promoting** the integration of biodiversity concerns within the decision-making processes of a growing number of businesses and financial institutions across Europe.

This Platform will play a crucial role in building a more sustainable economic environment in Europe and mainstream natural capital considerations in everyday business activities.

To learn more, click [here](#).

News from GPBB –

BahnLog awarded prize for innovation and the German initiative explores the relationship between biodiversity loss and global pandemics

Biodiversity in Good Company, the German initiative for business and biodiversity as well as an established member of the CBD, has announced that one of its corporate members was recently recognized for its efforts in taking progressive action towards environmental causes. In March 2020, BahnLog GmbH, a railway transport and railway infrastructure company, was awarded the renowned German prize for innovation in climate and environment, in the category “innovation and biodiversity”.

BahnLog was awarded the prize due to its holistic approach, which integrates the protection of species and biotopes in their daily working routine, especially on the company’s premises in the southwestern region of Saarland, ultimately proving that economy and ecology can work together. Their recent success can potentially inspire other organizations to follow a similar path in integrating biodiversity considerations that aim to protect and preserve natural environments through a similar biotope and species protection management.

To learn more about BahnLog biotope and species protection integrated approach, click [here](#).

To learn more about the German Prize for innovation in climate and environment, click [here](#).



The rapid and dramatic spreading of COVID-19 has once again opened the debate on the loss of biodiversity as a contributing cause for global pandemics. Business in Good Company has published a selection of articles and studies addressing the correlation between loss of biodiversity and global pandemics in order to properly inform and make accessible relevant information to its members and relevant stakeholders. Although all the articles and studies have the same overarching theme, they range in specificities, from aligning economic stimulus packages with long-term nature conservation goals, to transforming our global food system in light of the pandemic. Indeed, these texts are of particularly significant meaning and relevance due to our current circumstances.

To view the various publications available, click [here](#).

News from GPBB –

Webinars organized by IBBI

India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) has organized two webinars in the last two months, aimed at taking action and raising awareness on the value of biodiversity.

The first webinar, held 27 April 2020, focused on the Business and Nature Action Agenda for the next decade. Ongoing business operations contribute to a rise in the adverse consequences to ecosystem services and nature loss, which results in significant risks for both businesses and the economy at large. These risks include the threat to supply chain security and stability, costs involved due to loss of market or legal action or adverse regulatory changes, and societal instability affecting reputation and brand value. One important factor established in the webinar was the use and promotion of instruments for biodiversity management such as Access and Benefit-Sharing that can be used for sustainable supply chain management. This is particularly useful as countries like India face particular challenges, such as lack of awareness, misinterpretation of biodiversity related regulations, lack of business involvement in policy development and finally a lack of biodiversity value integration in planning activities.



The second webinar was held on 22 May 2020 under the theme of working in harmony with nature in order to accompany the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity. The purpose was to emphasise the importance of biodiversity and its necessity to unlocking a more sustainable future. The event highlighted the accomplishment of the IBBI in engaging 38 businesses in the last six years, making up 4.5% of India's entire GDP, in making commitments towards conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity. Approximately 40% of IBBI business members have a dedicated biodiversity policy and the rest have integrated biodiversity into their Environment Management Systems.

News from GPBB –

L'Oreille En Coin, to keep in touch during lockdown

The lockdown due to COVID-19 prevented ORÉE, a French focal point of the GPBB, from holding a meeting for its Biodiversity & Economy working group, initially planned for 20 March 2020. However, the lockdown presented an opportunity for the Biodiversity & Economy team, led by Hélène Leriche, to initiate a weekly Biodiversity letter: L'Oreille En Coin (LOEC). This letter aims at keeping a strong connection within the working group, steering discussion amongst participants - many of whom are company representatives.

Each week, Claude Fromageot and Michel Trommetter, the two co-presidents of the working group, share their thoughts and reflections with the other members. These bulletins capitalise on the richness and diversity in biodiversity terminology to debate common perceptions along with associated complexities, in order to question their application.



In addition to these editorials, the LOEC gives free rein to all participants of the working group to take part in the debate, as well as invites French experts to share their thoughts and ideas in a “Libre expression” (free expression). Participants include a wide range of personalities from different backgrounds (from the worlds of academia, industry, business, politics, etc.), who represent a large array of commitments. It was chosen by Hélène Leriche and Claude Fromageot to bridge several disciplines to reflect upon events, concepts and biodiversity lingo through the prism of philosophy, sciences, economics, history, etc. This approach enhanced the debate and allowed a heterogeneous group to find common ground to reflect and discuss their ideas.

News from GPBB –

New AMEBIN alliance and biodiversity projects among member companies

The Mexican Alliance for Business and Biodiversity (AMEBIN) has allied with IKI-IBA Project (GIZ) and the Capitals Coalition to protect biodiversity and contribute to a more sustainable food and agriculture sector in Mexico.

Funded by the EU, this TEEB for Agriculture & Food (TEEBAgriFood) project aims to protect biodiversity and contribute to a more sustainable agriculture and food sector in seven EU partner countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand. In May, activities began through a webinar in order to inform Mexican stakeholders of the project. A record of the webinar is available [here](#).

The global goals are outlined as follows:

1. Identify stakeholders and opportunities for change.
2. Map current policy situation.
3. Design pilot projects.
4. Engage with agri-business networks.
5. Analyze policy scenarios.
6. Develop roadmap for implementing change.
7. Deliver the change.
8. Communicate and mainstream results.



Jonas Delgado

Additionally, two case studies have recently been published, involving AMBIN member companies CEMEX and Proteak. They demonstrate examples that strengthen the alliance's commitment to biodiversity conservation.

El Carmen Nature Reserve is in many ways CEMEX's crowning achievement in terms of biodiversity conservation. The nature reserve is a cross-border conservation area, consisting of a wide range of habitats located along the border of Mexico and the US. Since 2000, CEMEX has acquired more than 140,000 hectares of land and has earmarked them for conservation.

Proteak, a Mexican industrial forestry company specializes in planting teca and eucalyptus in lands degraded by livestock. Proteak implements forestry practices that comply with current environmental and social legislation, while being voluntarily certified under the international standards of the Forest Stewardship Council. The planting, processing, and production process that Proteak implements allows it to ensure that the entire process is economically sustainable.

To learn more about CEMEX's commitment, click [here](#). To learn more about Proteak's commitment, click [here](#).



News from GPBB –

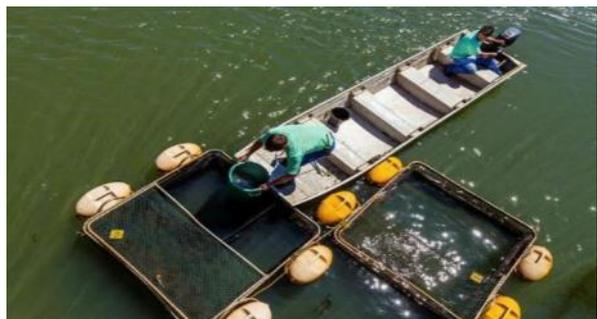
Online platform monitoring private sector biodiversity targets

The Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS) launched, on 22 May 2020, an online platform that gathers and monitors private sector actions and goals for issues related to biodiversity, in addition to case studies, methodologies and best practices. The platform is part of the Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, with the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) and the Life Institute. “Biodiversity is today considered an extremely strategic asset, including from a financial point of view, for the sustainability of business,” says Marina Grossi, CEBDS president.

The platform currently gathers information from 13 large companies (Anglo American, Bayer, Boticário, BRK Ambiental, Eletrobras, Equinor, Furnas, Natura, Philip Morris, Shell, Suzano, Vale and Votorantim Cimentos), which joined the Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity, setting goals for 2030 and inserting biodiversity conservation in their business strategies.



“Adhering to the Commitment and setting targets is a fundamental step, but it is not enough. This process will only have value insofar as companies start to show what they are already doing to conserve biodiversity and what their planning is for the next decade,” explains Henrique Luz, coordinator of the Thematic Chamber of Biodiversity at CEBDS. Through the platform, it will be possible to monitor and give visibility to the process of meeting the goals defined by these companies within the commitment, either with information related to the measurement of the impact of their activities or on their dependence on environmental services.



“The most interesting thing in this context,” said Luz, “is that companies realize that it is not just about the importance of environmental preservation, mitigation and compensation to contain climate change. There is a high economic potential already dimensioned for the standing forest.”

News from GPBB –

Mainstreaming biodiversity in the business community: BPM's collaborative project in Costa Rica

On 22 May 2020, the International Day for Biological Diversity, Costa Rica's president announced Costa Rica + Natura, a renewed national commitment to consolidating biodiversity as one of the fundamental pillars of the country's social and economic development model.

Along with UNDP, Germany's GIZ, and the ministry's experts, BPM is tasked with developing a new and vigorous vision of conserving and restoring nature in the decade post-2020. This will be done by building on the substantial achievements made by Costa Rica, a country famous for its pristine biodiversity and thriving ecotourism sector. One particularly successful initiative that could perhaps be considered the first of its kind, was the creation some 30 years ago of a system of payments for environmental services, which has led to an increase in forest cover and biodiversity.

The Costa Rica + Natura project includes in-depth consultations with Costa Rica's governmental institutions, private sector as well as civil society organizations, in order to identify the key components of the post-2020 biodiversity plan. Within this framework, BPM's primary task is to evaluate how the participation of the private sector in biodiversity conservation can be substantially increased through effective incentives. The first step is to consult with members and numerous other businesses in Costa Rica to determine their perspective and recommendations. The project is supported by Expertise France and Germany's GIZ.

BPM is also reaching out to its colleagues from the GPBB around the globe, asking for any pertinent thoughts or experiences. The knowledge of GPBB partner organizations will significantly add to the value of BPM's conclusions.



News from GPBB –

Biodiversity Sri Lanka – private sector engagement

In order to successfully meet Sri Lanka's national and international environmental commitments, ascertaining private sector contributions is critically important. According to a recent study undertaken by Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL), from 2010 onwards, its members have engaged in approximately 290 initiatives, most of which can be identified as contributing towards a number of national environmental commitments. The study has revealed that achieving environmental sustainability has become an integral part of a company's business strategy.

The study classified the identified initiatives into seven thematic areas: Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration, Reforestation and Greening, Species Conservation and Biodiversity Assessments, Marine and Coastal Management, Water Management, Education and Awareness, and Waste/Energy Management including Carbon Assessments.

BSL partnered with Ministry of Environment & Wildlife Resources and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop an online portal aimed at collecting information on private sector environmental/biodiversity projects/initiatives in Sri Lanka.

The survey is expected to aid in developing a comprehensive information repository, through which the Government of Sri Lanka would be able to easily identify private sector contributions towards its multiple national and international commitments.

The survey portal is currently available [here](#).



Further, in commemorating World Environment Day, Biodiversity Sri Lanka, in collaboration with Dilmah Conservation and UNDP, hosted a virtual dialogue on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Role of Business, on 9 June, 2020.

The dialogue, held under the theme of biodiversity, as designated by the United Nations, featured international and local experts. The experts engaged in a discussion on how Sri Lankan businesses have a role in supporting the country to achieve its goals within the framework, drawing examples of best practices and lessons learnt from around the world. The role of businesses in conserving biodiversity and how these actions will contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was also debated.

The recording of the event is accessible [here](#).

News from GPBB –

Student Competitions launched to commemorate World Environment Day 2020

Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL), in collaboration with its Patron Members – Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts and Stafford International School - launched three student competitions to commemorate World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June.

2020 is an important year for biodiversity. With one million plant and animal species facing extinction, there has never been a more important time to focus on the issue. 2020 is also a critical year for nations' commitments to conserving and restoring biodiversity, with it being the year for reviewing the achievement and delivery of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Next year also marks the beginning of a new decade in which augmented plans will be set in motion to combat environmental threats and enhance biodiversity.



Given this importance, it is only apt to ensure that the next generation is sensitized and made aware of biodiversity, the challenges it faces and the potential solutions which they then can be a part of in the coming years, to overcome obstacles currently being faced by the environment surrounding them.

As such, a collaborative partnership between Shangri-La, Stafford International and BSL, launched art, essay, and speech competitions for participation by 5th, 6th and 7th graders of the Stafford International School. A panel of BSL-appointed judges evaluated the students' submissions, with the winners and runners-up announced via BSL's social media platforms on 5 June.



The winners of the competitions received awards of achievement, with the support of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts. Certificates of achievements were also awarded by Biodiversity Sri Lanka to both the winners and runners-up of the competition.



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