

Strategy to Advance the Business & Biodiversity Agenda post-2010

Introduction

Decision V111/17 (COP-08) and Decision 1X/26 (COP-09) collectively define a consensus path forward to improve engagement of the business community in the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD. These decisions may be summarized as:

1. Making and raising awareness of the business case for biodiversity;
2. Including biodiversity considerations into all investments by public and private financial institutions and to create investment schemes to promote sustainable business activities;
3. Engaging and encouraging companies to adopt practices that support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans through such means as the wider use of good practice guidelines, benchmarks, certification schemes, reporting guidelines, standards, and indicators.

The following recommendations for consideration at COP-10 are designed to build on these decisions and initiate a path forward.

Context

Noting the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Noting the advancement of private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation is one of few successful achievements of the 2010 target;

Realizing the need to incorporate biodiversity conservation into existing and emerging private sector initiatives and operations;

Recognizing the important role that governments can play in facilitating an enabling environment conducive to biodiversity conservation by business

Recognizing the importance of a balance among ethical, scientific, and economic approaches for tackling biodiversity challenges;

Noting the potential role of NGOs in facilitating modification of consumer behavior and societal expectations;

Building on existing CBD-related activities and initiatives related to business and biodiversity, including those of the private sector itself;

Emphasizing the interest and capacities of private enterprise, including SMEs, in sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a source for future business operations, and as a condition for new business opportunities and markets

Recognizing the opportunity and need to incorporate biodiversity objectives into emerging new green development initiatives;

Recognizing also the potential role of NGOs in influencing business practices and modifying consumer behavior;

Recognizing also the need for the establishment of a regular forum of dialogue between parties, representatives of business and other stakeholders

Desired outcomes

A public policy environment that enables private sector engagement and mainstreaming of biodiversity into corporate strategies and decision-making in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the three objectives of CBD

Use of the CBD as a reference point for defining concrete and measurable biodiversity targets for business

Potential elements for discussion and advancement at COP-10

For potential commitment by Parties

- Develop principles for incorporating biodiversity into business practices, as listed in the Annex (*to be defined*), which take into account existing developments under various fora, including relevant institutions and NGOs such as BBOP, IUCN, UNEP, WBCSD, OECD, Keidanren, the Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative (initiated at COP 9) and agree to work toward global corporate performance standards/criteria for conservation and sustainable use. The first step will be to discuss a common declaration at the Jakarta conference;
- Establish a global platform of business and biodiversity activities and initiatives through national focal points;
- Strengthen and support the CBD Secretariat as a platform for promoting cooperation between private sector, governments and NGOs, in close collaboration with national focal points and relevant institutions;
- Develop and report on national activities that promote and facilitate mainstreaming of biodiversity by business, such as through NBSAPs and national reports;
- Encourage the sharing and adoption of lessons learned between and among SMEs;
- Develop on-going dialogue with the business community in relation to biodiversity conservation activities;
- Include the business as partners for any future revision and implementation of NBSAPs

For potential commitment by Business

- Define concrete CEO commitments to biodiversity objectives by means of a voluntary declaration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles (like e.g. Leadership Declaration of Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative);
- Maintain on-going dialogue with governments in relation to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use activities

- Use criteria or indicators as a means to track implementation of these commitments ;
- Contribute to the implementation of the new biodiversity target

For potential request to the Executive Secretary subject to availability of financial resources

- Explore the possibility with interested parties to establish a forum of dialogue between parties and business and other stakeholders
- Collect and analyze existing biodiversity conservation tools/mechanisms such as business operating principles for biodiversity conservation, indicators of conservation efficiency and effectiveness, and biodiversity valuation methodologies/techniques/tools that can facilitate impact assessments, offsets, etc.
- Encourage the further development and application of market-based biodiversity conservation-related mechanisms such as; certification, valuation, incentives, offsetting, etc;
- Create opportunities to encourage participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
- Identify other formal initiatives of relevance and establish link with them ;

Process and Timetable

- 15 September 2009 – 2 October 2009:
 - The drafting committee (led by COP9 Presidency with the support of the CBD secretariat) to prepare and circulate a draft proposal for comment
- 2 October 2009 – 16 October 2009:
 - Commenting and possible teleconference on the draft proposal

- 30 November 2009 – 3 December 2009:
 - Presentation by the triple presidency, Netherlands and Canada to the participants of the Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia
- 3 -18 December 2009
 - Drafting committee revises the draft strategy and draft common principles, reflecting the discussions at the Jakarta conference
- 18 December 2009-29 January 2010
 - CBD secretariat prepares a paper for WGRI 3 in close cooperation with IUCN, BBOP, WBCSD, UNEP, Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative and relevant partners
- 24-28 May 2010:
 - Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, Nairobi
- 7 June 2010 – 18 October 2010:
 - Informal consultation with the business sector
- 18 - 29 October 2010:
 - Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), Nagoya, Japan with potential Ministerial-CEO session