



Biodiversity and Business
Convention for Biological Diversity
Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference
In Conjunction with the
UNEP Business and Industry Global Dialogue
Jakarta, Indonesia

DAY 2 - Session 4.2 - Tuesday 1 December 2009 11:30-13:00 - Panel discussion
MEASURING, VALUING AND REPORTING BUSINESS IMPACTS AND
DEPENDENCIES ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

BACKGROUND

Rising from 45% only 7 years ago, 79% of the Fortune Global 250 companies issued a corporate responsibility report in 2008 that includes environmental and related performance information. Yet of the largest 100 companies in the world in 2008, only 18 made any mention of biodiversity and ecosystem services (BESs) in their annual report. And only 24 of these disclosed some detail in their corporate responsibility or sustainability reports on measures they are taking to reduce their impact on BESs. Few identified impacts on biodiversity as a key sustainability issue for them.

Environmental management and reporting has come a long way since the 1990s, when standards by ISO and others consolidated early experimentation in measurement and putting systems in place to manage and communicate related performance information. While high interest in climate change today has intensified work on methodologies and approaches for tracking GHG emissions, efforts by business to measure and manage impacts and dependencies on BES have been lacking. Crisis events around food have raised interest in resource scarcity and improved methodologies for approaching water accounting. Yet a systematic approach to valuing ecosystem services and capturing BES metrics from a core business perspective is hard to find.

As we seek new ways of addressing the depletion of natural resources and loss of species at an unprecedented rate, practical tools and credible approaches for addressing the BES impacts of business and industrial operations are critical. This includes consideration of ways to internalise the real costs of impacts and dependencies in core areas of accounting, environmental management and reporting. It poses real challenges in internal business communications as well as external dialogue with stakeholders on who is responsible for what, what is worth measuring, degrees of impact and setting targets for improvement. It also raises questions related to appropriate timeframes, discount rates and the expectations of communities on opposite ends of the value chain.



Against this background, panel participants from the business sector, NGO community and public sector will debate challenges and opportunities today in measuring, valuing and reporting on business impacts and dependencies on BES. They will highlight their experience with new management tools and experimentation on business-wide or project basis, considering lessons learned and ways to scale up. They will bring views that range from local community perspectives to methodological research and global corporate management perspectives. The discussion will conclude with thoughts on the way forward, including the mainstreaming of new approaches that address BES in a transparent and accountable manner.

PURPOSE AND ISSUES TO ADDRESS

The session will assess the state of play in measuring, valuing and reporting business impacts and dependencies on BES, in particular:

- The incorporation of BES metrics in investment decision-making, financial accounting, environmental management and reporting.
- Deciding on boundaries of responsibility, scope of action (from local project or site to value chain), materiality and relevance of local vs global context.
- Challenges in using appropriate indicators and life cycle data when setting targets and putting monitoring systems in place.
- Experience to date with new approaches to measurement, assessment and communication of results from a business and NGO perspective.
- Considering the way forward, including how public initiatives and regulators can help.

MODERATOR

- Cornis van der Lugt, Coordinator: Resource Efficiency, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi / Paris

PRESENTERS

- Pierre de Prémare, Vice President Environment & Public Affairs, Quarries, Aggregates and Concrete, Lafarge, France
- Sean Gilbert, Director Sustainability, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), The Netherlands
- Mikkel Kallesoe, Program Manager, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Switzerland
- Zoe Cullen, Program Manager, Flora and Fauna, Indonesia
- Aimee Russillo, Project Coordinator, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada

RAPPORTEUR

- Zoe Cullen, Program Manager, Flora and Fauna

CONTACT

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