



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 5.C - Tuesday 1 December 2009 16:15-18:00 – Parallel session
BIODIVERSITY TOOLS AND THEIR APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

In order to address the current unsustainable rate of biodiversity loss, indicators are needed which make transparent the impacts of production systems and consumption patterns on biodiversity. Today, more than ever, this is needed because the interconnectedness of global business means that environmental impacts often occur far from the local point of consumption and are not easily identified due to limited traceability. Life cycle and supply chain tools have the potential to enable businesses, financial institutions and consumers to become aware of these links and to take action.

Carbon footprinting is one example of a life cycle-based sustainability assessment tool which is becoming widely adopted by business and will likely become mainstream in many markets. Water footprinting and forest footprinting are other life cycle-based initiatives which are each gaining the attention of business. There is strong interest in incorporating biodiversity impacts into life cycle assessment (LCA). However, the development of simple, operational, biodiversity indicators which can be applied across a supply chain at various scales and in multiple landscapes has not been straightforward. This session will highlight best practice and emerging case study evidence and explore mechanisms to increase the uptake of biodiversity tools by the business sector.

PURPOSE AND ISSUES TO ADDRESS

In this session, stakeholders from around the world will focus their discussions on responding to the following issues:



- The capacity of existing biodiversity tools to meet the demands of industry for product and supply chain characterization in different environments and operational settings.
- Lessons from existing efforts to implement biodiversity value chain management and identification of barriers to increased uptake
- Identification of industries and applications where early adoption should be encouraged

MODERATOR

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PANELISTS

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- Eduardo Escobedo, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD, Switzerland
- Michael Curran, Institute of Ecological Engineering, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Nicola Breier, Head of Division, International Conservation Unit, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Germany
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