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REPORT ON PROGRESS RELATED TO THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note supplements the note by the Executive Secretary on strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5) and provides a more in-depth report on activities related to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity undertaken since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the adoption of decision XII/10 on Business Engagement.

2. The document provides a brief summary of some of the main developments with respect to the Global Partnership, including summaries of the 2014 and 2015 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forums and other major activities involving or affecting the Global Partnership. Finally, it summarizes the progress and activities in each of the member initiatives since COP 12.

II. ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

3. Since the conclusion of COP 12, there has been considerable work undertaken in growing and making more effective the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. A formal executive committee was inaugurated at the fourth meeting of the Global Partnership held in Pyeongchang, Korea, on 14 October 2014, with Canada serving as the chair and six other members representing different regions of the world. At the fifth meeting of the Partnership, held on 12 November 2015 in Helsinki, Finland, the chair passed to Brazil and the executive committee for 2016 was established. There have been regular teleconferences of the executive committee during the year to discuss the work of the Partnership, various administrative aspects of the Partnership, as well as to provide input into the planning of major events such as the business forums. The executive committee is also responsible for admitting new members to the Global Partnership, based on the criteria set out in the Global Partnership governance document (which can be found on the Global Platform website: <https://www.cbd.int/business/Global%20Partnership%20Governance%20Document%202013.pdf>), as well as recommendations from the CBD Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/1/Rev.1.

4. At the fourth meeting of the Partnership, members launched several working groups which were envisioned as a way to increase cooperative efforts within the Partnership. The topics covered included: Communication/Strategy; Capacity-Building-Mapping Exercise; Financial Resources; Inputs to future COPs; Mainstreaming; Refining Formal Role of the Executive Committee; and Measuring Impacts. However, despite the initial interest, these groups were not operationalized. At the fifth meeting of the Global Partnership, members agreed to establish two groups (Financial Recourse Management and Knowledge Management). Both groups are currently operating well.

5. In 2015 a logo was developed for the Global Partnership as part of an effort increase the Partnership's visibility and "brand". In designing the logo, various elements were incorporated that showcase the ideals of the Partnership. The two hand prints represent business activities, with an emphasis on interconnection (i.e. supply chains) and cooperation. The larger hand-print indicates multi-national and large companies, and the smaller hand denotes SMEs and very small businesses. These sit immediately above greenery which evokes the importance of the natural world, but also indicates that business activities are fundamentally dependent upon natural capital. Finally, the circle, which captures the colours of the decade on biodiversity, represents the fact that businesses operate on a finite planet, with finite resources, and that these resources must be used in a wise and sustainable manner. General guidelines have also been developed outlining how the logo can be utilized by Global Partnership members. The logo can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/business/gp.shtml>.

6. The membership of the Global Partnership itself has grown considerably, with 21 members as of 1 January 2016, including a number of larger countries. There are also an increasing number of countries looking to develop initiatives and join the Partnership, as well as a number of global organizations who are acting as observers to the Partnership. Updates containing information of relevance to the Partnership from member initiatives, as well as observers and countries with initiatives under development, are featured in the Global Partnership newsletters, which are issued quarterly by the Secretariat. Back issues are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/business/gp.shtml>. Reports outlining the overall activities of the national and regional initiatives are summarized below with the full reports available on-line on the Global Platform website: https://www.cbd.int/business/National_Regional_BB_Initiatives.shtml.

7. The Global Partnership has also been deeply involved in the planning and delivery of the annual CBD Business and Biodiversity Forums. The annual meeting of the Global Partnership also occurs coincident to these Forums, generally immediately following the conclusion of the event. A brief summary of the 2014 and 2015 Business Forums is provided below.

CBD 2014 Business and Biodiversity Forum

8. With the generous support of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Germany, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity hosted a three-day business and biodiversity forum from 12 to 14 October 2014, in parallel with COP 12. The themes of mainstreaming, capacity-building and reporting were selected for the forum to reflect the parts of the COP 12 business draft decision which were under negotiation at that time. On day one, parallel events were organized to discuss BioTrade, sustainable tourism, biodiversity indicators for commodity production, and the Global Partnership. On days two and three, discussion groups focused on the issues and concerns surrounding the implementation of the aforementioned key themes. All of the sessions focused on presentations and interactive discussions which led to expressions of interest for concrete actions by Parties to create enabling environments so that businesses can integrate values of biodiversity into their operations and strategies. The full report of this meeting, as well as presentations, can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2014.shtml>.

9. The first day began with an opening plenary panel featuring welcoming remarks followed by a panel discussion introducing the Business Forum and the four parallel events of the day. The first parallel event was the 3rd BioTrade Congress organized by UNCTAD on Promoting Sustainable Use through Business Engagement. It provided a platform to share experiences and explore avenues on how to foster

business engagement in BioTrade activities. The second parallel event consisted of a workshop on Sustainable Tourism and discussed green tourism development, financing protected areas, and supporting indigenous and local communities. The third event introduced the Initiative for Biodiversity Impact Indicators for Commodity Production and discussed how major impacts of commodity production on biodiversity can be identified and addressed. The fourth parallel event consisted of an overview and review of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. During this event, speakers presented their National and Regional Initiatives on Business and Biodiversity, and discussed future opportunities for the Global Partnership.

10. The main Business Forum on Mainstreaming and Implementation opened on the second day during which four consecutive discussion sessions took place. The first session, on CBD Issues and Enabling Conditions, consisted of parallel discussions on access and benefit sharing (ABS), and resource mobilization. The second session, on Mainstreaming and Assessment, examined sustainable consumption and production, standards and certifications schemes, sustainability action plans, and biodiversity valuation. The third session, on Capacity-Building and Cooperation, discussed training, partnerships, sustainable procurement, and supply chain management.

11. The third day began with the High-Level Business Panel on Business Contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The High-Level Business Panel discussion featured senior governmental officials and business leaders on corporate social responsibility (CSR), information sharing and cross-sectorial collaboration. The High-Level Business Panel was followed by the fourth and final session of the forum, on Reporting and Communication.

12. Approximately 250 people participated in the various elements of the forum over the course of the three days. This included official representatives of Parties, businesses, associations, NGOs, academia and other stakeholder groups, representing well over 30 countries. The mix of panel presentations and smaller discussion groups, that each focussed on cross-cutting, business-related topics, allowed for interactive and constructive discussions. Following the conclusion of the Business Forum, a summary statement was prepared for the high-level segment of the COP and was read out by Mr. Reg Melanson, Executive Director, Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council and Chair of the Executive Committee and the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

CBD 2015 Business and Biodiversity Forum

13. The CBD 2015 Business Forum, with the generous support of the government of Finland, was held on 11-12 November 2015 in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting, which had space for 270 participants, was considerably oversubscribed, and although not all registered participants attended, over the two days approximately 250 people were in attendance. These participants represented over 30 different countries from Europe and beyond, and were comprised of business people (about 30%) governments, NGOs and those from other international organizations. The meeting itself featured two opening sessions with welcoming remarks and scene-setting keynote addresses. There was then a session on Natural Capital which looked at different measures including the Natural Capital Protocols and the need to measure/value natural capital properly. This was followed by two parallel sessions on Agriculture and Extractives, and the day concluded with discussion on procurement and supply chains.

14. Day 2 started with a session on financing and then continued into a discussion of partnerships, featuring information on the Finnish initiative, the European Platform and the Global Partnership as well as discussion about various upcoming meetings. The final panel involved a summation of key points of the meeting as well as recommendations to be taken to COP, Although these are still being developed, they centred around improved communication and partnerships as well as the establishment of a more effective enabling environment. The full report of this meeting, as well as presentations, can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/business/bc/2015forum.shtml>.

15. Some of the key messages emanating from the Forum included the following:

- Biodiversity mainstreaming into business plans and processes requires enhanced communication among all actors, including businesses, governments and NGOs. Cross-sectoral collaboration is a crucial step to drive transformational change; hence industry associations and local governments will play an important role. Additionally, CEOs, SMEs, and the financial sector need to join the conversation. Messaging should be tailored to the target audience using relevant language that conveys biodiversity risks and opportunities throughout the supply chain;
- Biodiversity should be viewed as an economic issue and linked to other sustainability issues (i.e. SDGs, climate change, water scarcity). Biodiversity investments can create direct financial benefits in addition to environmental and social co-benefits, especially for natural infrastructure projects. Case studies identifying the revenue stream in biodiversity projects should be well-documented and widely shared to raise awareness;
- Governments need to improve environmental regulatory frameworks to level the playing field among businesses. There is a need for biodiversity standard-setting, monitoring and enforcement. Voluntary standards and pressure from society can play a crucial role in pushing this agenda;
- Standardized sector-specific impact indicators should be established to manage and improve biodiversity. Available science can be better utilized through development of open source databases;
- Exchanging information on best practices is needed for continuous improvement of valuation methods. The development of the Natural Capital Protocols will be important in this process;
- The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity is a good catalyst to form national partnerships and initiatives. Discussion from the forum should continue at other biodiversity events in 2016 (e.g. IUCN World Conservation Congress) to influence COP 13 decisions.

Other Activities and Partners

16. The Global Partnership has also been working with the Secretariat on a number of COP mandated projects including business reporting and making the business case for the Aichi Targets. The Partnership has contributed to these projects through the gathering of information and case studies, reviewing drafts and helping with dissemination as required.

17. There has been a growing level of interest in the Partnership from various global organizations, including BirdLife International, WBCSD, IUCN, and Flora and Fauna International, to name but a few. They have contributed to regional events, such the Pan African Forum on Business and Biodiversity (October 2015: Senchi, Ghana) and the Business and Biodiversity Workstream in the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (February 2016: Bangkok, Thailand) that have helped to raise awareness of, and strengthen, the Partnership. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has been undertaking a project designed to draw together lessons and experiences from the existing initiatives into a report to inform the development of future national initiatives as well as to support peer-to-peer learning between existing initiatives. This project was initiated by the Government of China (the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO)) as a way of furthering the development of the China Business and Biodiversity Partnership, and should be available in mid-2016.

18. There has also been significant activity and progress in the engagement of business on the part of other actors with respect to biodiversity since COP12. The IUCN World Parks Congress (November 2014, Sydney, Australia) featured an extensive “business journey” with a number of events held by various National and Regional Initiatives (this business journey will also be a feature of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016. Other major sustainability related events in this period, including the conclusion of negotiation for, and adoption of, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the successful completion of the Climate Change conference held in Paris, France in December 2015 (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 21), as well as the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan March 2015) and the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification’s COP 12 (Ankara, Turkey October 2015), have all emphasized the importance of engaging with business in order to achieve long-term sustainability goals. The work of CBD Secretariat and the Global Partnership and its associated National and Regional Initiatives has built upon the

momentum generated by these events and is acting to increase awareness and understanding of the issues, through the strengthening of the business case for biodiversity, as well as continuing to assist businesses in their mainstreaming efforts.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

19. **The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN):** In the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) engages with the business sector, encouraging them to make investments on programmes that will promote the links of business and biodiversity through corporate social responsibility initiatives, direct investments to specific biodiversity programmes, and other support mechanisms that promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity by business through meetings, workshops and exhibits in various business communities. Specific activities in this area have included the following:

- A Round Table on Business and Biodiversity with 50 Filipino corporations held in Subic, Zambales, Philippines on 27 November 2015;
- Lecture on Business and Biodiversity to 30 American companies with operations in the Philippines, held in Makati City, Philippines in August 2015;
- Series of lectures on business and biodiversity with Rotary Clubs in the Philippines during 2014;
- The ACB, in cooperation with the ASEAN Member States and other partner organizations, organized the Second ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (ACB2016) with the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" on 15-19 February 2016 in Bangkok. This event was hosted by the Royal Thai Government. One of the major streams in this conference was a two-day workshop on business and biodiversity and featured sessions on various sectoral and thematic issues.

20. **Australia:** The **Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (ABBI)** was formed on 19 February 2014. ABBI is an alliance of organizations and individuals from business, government, academia and civil society. ABBI members are committed to exploring and promoting the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation and sustainability into business policies and practices in Australia. ABBI's mission is twofold: to raise awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services loss and degradation as a critical risk and opportunity for Australian Business; and to support the development of practical solutions that integrate consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into business decision-making and ultimately improve the health and resilience of the Australian environment and economy. ABBI has undertaken a number of activities in 2015 as follows:

- Development of an ABBI logo to help maintain consistency across marketing materials and improve brand recognition;
- Finalization of the ABBI Value Proposition and continued efforts to build the profile of ABBI and encourage growth in membership;
- Commencement of two projects. The ABBI hopes to have these projects completed in 2016.
- Facilitation of communication between members regarding consultation opportunities, news and events of mutual interest;
- Consideration of a forward work plan for the ABBI.

21. **Brazil:** The **Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Platform** comprises three organizations in Brazil: CNI – the Confederation of Industries in Brazil (which acts as the Secretariat); CEBDS – the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development; and the LIFE Institute. Since its inception, the Platform has undertaken a number of activities including the following:

- *Publications:* Industry and Biodiversity: information for a sustainable management (Oct 2012); Impact Study of the Adoption and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on the Brazilian Industry (May 2014)
- *Capacity Building:* Workshop Industry and Biodiversity-Building a sustainable relationship (8 editions in different country regions between April 2013 and October 2015; Capacity building on

Industry and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, aimed at technical staff of state industries (October 2015); Capacity building on Industry and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, aimed at small and medium size companies in different country regions. November - December 2015

- *International Events*: International Congress Business and Natural Capital: dialogue for a sustainable partnership (May 2014); CBD COP Side Events; VIII CBUC (International Congress on Protected Areas)- International Symposium on Business and Biodiversity (Brazil, 2015)
- *Business and Biodiversity - communication tools*: Produced videos showcasing five examples of companies and their relationship with biodiversity.
- *Biodiversity Aichi Targets*: CNI represents the business sector in the group (PainelBio) coordinated by IUCN and the Environmental Ministry to discuss the indicators for the implementation of the Brazilian biodiversity targets.
- *Business and Biodiversity Survey*: The Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Initiative conducted in mid-2015 a survey with a number of companies and sectorial associations of industries to understand their engagement with biodiversity, focusing on the Aichi Targets.

In 2015 the Brazilian Platform became the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

22. **Canada**: The **Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council (CBBC)** is a business-government-NGO-academia partnership that was initiated by business and government leaders following a Business and Biodiversity Planning Conference in Montreal on June 8, 2008. In 2015 the CBBC examined new ways, in light of the changing environment for Canadian business, to address current conservation needs on both a national and global basis. It has become more apparent that the linkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change need to be further explored and incorporated into the conservation planning and actions of Canadian business, and this will be an important focus for CBBC in 2016. Some specific CBBC initiatives in 2015, both nationally and globally, included:

- *Support for a Business and Biodiversity Initiative in Peru (Canada-Americas Trade Related Technical Assistance – CATRTA)*: The objective of the project was to help build capacity for the Peruvian Initiative "Biodiversidad y Empresas" (ByE). Some key activities in this project included: a National Workshop To Include Aspects Of Biodiversity In Business Management (March 2015); an International Forum on Biodiversity and Business (July 2015); the production of a Strategic document setting out the key strategic directions and alternatives resulting from all activities of the project and building upon the ideas and work already undertaken by Peru;
- *Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity*: The CBBC completed its second year of a two year term as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. The CBBC will remain as a member of the Executive Committee for an additional year (2016) as an advisor to the new Chair. The CBBC also took part in the 2015 CBD Business Forum including two associated technical workshops on business reporting and Impact Indicators for Commodity Production;
- *Ontario Biodiversity Summit*: This summit took place in May 2015 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. CBBC attended and acted as panelists on the Engaging People: Business and Biodiversity Session;
- *Peruvian Barcode of Life*: Attended National Workshop On Barcode DNA and presented Canadian business perspective;
- *Biodiversity ScoreCarding*: A draft biodiversity ScoreCarding technique was developed and is ready for testing. A trial run was completed with the energy sector (hydroelectricity) in Peru and will be followed up with a an in-depth project that will includes several businesses, government departments and academia in 2016.

23. **Chile**: The **Chilean Initiative on Business and Biodiversity** was launched during a workshop held in Santiago on 18 July. The Chilean Initiative has started to prepare a proposal that will be addressed in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment of Chile, Fundación Chile and a group of private companies who are seeking to incorporate the concepts promoted by CBD in their work. In this way, the initiative is working on the consolidation of a technical-administrative staff to conduct and lead the

activities involved. These activities included promoting the knowledge about natural ecosystems through training of the emerging themes related to biodiversity to captivate the active role of companies, by promoting the implementation of various joint projects that benefit biodiversity and generate higher visibility for companies in different industries and sectors. During 2015 the main activities conducted by the Chilean Initiative were related to creating awareness among companies in relation to the importance of natural capital. Some meetings were conducted with the mining association (SONAMI) to showcase projects developed by Fundación Chile. The following are three of the main projects developed by Fundación Chile related to Business and Biodiversity:

- *Valuation of ecosystem services*: The objective of the proposed research is to enhance the value of a private land area by quantifying the importance of natural capital of ecosystem services. The result of the study will give relevant information to compare, communicate and incorporate the valorization into business decisions, generating benefits for the company and the communities.
- *Guide for developing biodiversity offsets in the Tarapacá region*: This project will generate a Guide for implementation of Biodiversity offsetting focus on mining activities in the region of Tarapacá; Provides a legal study of the Chilean context to implement the recommended actions and, presents a design of methodologies for the Tarapacá region
- *Carbon sinks and Securitization Project (World Bank)*: Fundación Chile has been working in recent years on a project to generate carbon credits obtained through the growth of forest plantations in small and medium land owners, located in the Maule and Biobío regions.

24. **China**: The **China Business and Biodiversity Partnership** joined the Global Partnership in early 2015. The Ministry of Environmental Protection, through its affiliated agency the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO), is responsible for the management and day-to-day operation of the partnership in China. On May 22, 2015, the Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat Mr. Braulio Dias came to Beijing and participated in the commemoration event for the "International Day for Biological Diversity" and reiterated the significance of China's joining the Global Partnership. FECO also organized the Workshop on Biodiversity and Green Development as a side meeting on the occasion of Guiyang Eco Forum on June 26, 2015. Ms Li Pei, Deputy Director General of FECO led a delegation comprised of 6 delegates to participate in the CBD's 5th Forum on Business and Biodiversity in Helsinki, Finland in November 2015. Since May 2015, the task of drawing on international experience to carry out in-depth research into the mechanisms, operational modes, and sustainable development of Chinese enterprises engaging in biodiversity has been internally discussed and currently is being embarked upon looking at the criteria in particular:

- Organizational (How the Chinese Partnership should be appropriately built up, with software and hardware in place, institutions established such as council and secretariat, ways of management and operation developed, members of business, local government, NGO, academia enrolled, etc.);
- Technological (How the Chinese Partnership should be practically operationalized in a commercial fashion, in order to cater to various needs from the members varying from corporate, industry association and governmental units, to local government, NGO and academia); and
- Financial (How the Chinese Partnership should maintain financial sustainability).

Apart from these considerations, the national partnership is also looking at issues involving membership development; service system development; and financial balance.

25. **The European Union**: The **EU Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform** allows the European Commission to work directly with companies and financial institutions, giving them the opportunity to showcase and develop their work related to biodiversity. The Platform is also a powerful tool for making the business case for investments for biodiversity, which is in line with the Commission's green growth objectives. So far, after one year of activity the Platform has attracted over 250 organizations including +20 multinational companies, +100 SMEs and numerous NGOs from over 10 Member States. The Platform has divided its work into three workstreams as follows:

- *Accounting for Natural Capital*: The Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) workstream aims to help companies identify best practice guidance and tools available to support informed business decisions

related to the environment and the development of natural capital accounting systems. In 2015, the workstream explored the links between public sector and private sector NCA. A workshop was organized bringing together Member State representatives, financial institutions and businesses to discuss NCA applications and cooperation on data links and data sharing.

- *Innovation for Biodiversity and Business:* The Innovation for Biodiversity and Business workstream's objective is to promote innovations that contribute to nature protection by sharing best practices of innovative companies – including SMEs – and business models and identifying opportunities for fostering new business models. In 2015, the Innovation workstream collected additional cases of innovation to add to those collected in year 1, with a focus on Public Private Partnerships and other partnership models.
- *Access to Finance and Innovative Finance Mechanisms:* The Finance workstream seeks to demonstrate the benefits to business of biodiversity-related investment. In 2015, the Financing workstream developed a more detailed analysis of financial needs and opportunities in key areas of biodiversity action (certified products, offsets, green infrastructure, Payment for Ecosystem Services, biodiversity friendly businesses). The role of different sources of private and public sector finance, including EU funds, in addressing these needs and opportunities were also examined.

26. **Finland:** In 2014, the leading Finnish Corporate Responsibility Network (FIBS) launched a Business & Biodiversity (B&B) programme in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. The aim of the programme is to increase the awareness of biodiversity and its importance. Moreover, the programme helps enterprises to manage their impacts on the environment. During the first year, the programme encouraged the enterprises to identify the key dependencies and impact on ecosystem services. The programme included open seminars and workshops. In addition, nine selected enterprises participated in Master Class 2014 training, which offered deep understanding of ecosystem services. More about the outcomes of the programme “*Added Value from Nature*” was published in November 2014. Since the outcome and the feedback had been so good, Finland has carried on the B&B work and the programme during 2015. In 2015, the B&B programme also included open seminars and workshops, and Master Class training for selected enterprises. Ten enterprises from different sectors were selected for the training. The training is based on the WBCSD's Business Ecosystem Training model and includes four workshops on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and two workshops on communications. The B&B programme organized a seminar for investors and corporate responsibility specialists in September 2015. The seminar focused on taking biodiversity and ecosystem services into account in the investments. At the end on December 2015, the programme interviewed the Master Class enterprises. The results and experiences from the Master Class 2015 will be published in the beginning of 2016, after the training has finished. The annual Business & Biodiversity seminar was held at the beginning of 2016. Finland also hosted the 2015 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum in Helsinki in November 2015.

27. **France:** The **French Initiative for Business and Biodiversity** brings together all the interested French organizations working on business and biodiversity including “programs” (non-profits, NGOs, think tanks, research organisms, etc.) and public and private organizations. A platform was designed at the end of 2013 in order to organize this network, the French Platform for Business and Biodiversity, which is dedicated to the presentation of the different actors, the linkage between them, and the highlighting of the best case studies and practices. Orée, which is the focal point for the French Initiative, is a French non-profit organization created in 1992 which brings together about 150 companies, local authorities, institutions, non-profit and academic organizations, in order to develop a collaborative reflection on best environmental practices and to implement practical tools for an integrated management of the environment across the territories. Activities in 2015 have included the following:

- *New publications:* “Climate and biodiversity: stakes and solutions” (This publication aims to achieve an understanding of the *interdependencies between climate, biodiversity and human societies*. It highlights the close links between the climate and biodiversity by developing the feedbacks that govern them)

- *Working groups: Businesses & Biodiversity* (Working on the dynamic of ecosystems and encouraging stakeholders to reconsider their strategies on affected territories); *Construction & Biodiversity* (Impact assessment and dependencies of the construction sector on biodiversity)
- *Thesis work*: A thesis (2012-2015), co-supported by Yves Rocher, LVMH, Veolia and the French Government, is being developed by Ciprian Ionescu on the topic “Biodiversity and organizations’ strategies: Developing tools for managing multiple and inter-temporal interactions. This work will be completed by March 2016.
- *Events*: Our common future (On July 8, 2015 the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB) and ORÉE organized a side-event in the framework of the International Scientific Seminar on “Our common future in a context of climate change”); World efficiency: (13-15 October 2015 in Paris. ORÉE organized a workshop “Climate and biodiversity: Enterprises and organizations”); ORÉE (co-) organized several events in the context of the COP21 which took place in Paris from 4 -11 December 2015. These included: a seminar on “Climate, Oceans & Biodiversity”; a seminar entitled “Change Mode for Climate”; a seminar on “Climate and Biodiversity”; and a Conference on Climate and biodiversity (“actors of today and tomorrow, at the interface of climate and biodiversity stakes”. ORÉE also took part in working groups at International (CBD), and National level (FRB, IPBES). It has been actively involved in the working groups to frame the French National Strategy for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and will participate in the National Strategy Follow-up Committee.
- *Business & biodiversity platform in 2015 and next steps*: The Business and Biodiversity Platform for the French initiative is currently under construction, and ORÉE is working to enrich the contents including: bibliographic resources; methods and assessment tools for biodiversity; and enterprises initiatives.

28. **Germany**: In 2008, the company network ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ was founded as a pioneering business and biodiversity initiative and later on became a member in the newly established Global Partnership. In 2013, "**Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020**" ("Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020"), initiated by the Federal Environment Ministry, was set up as a broader dialogue and action platform for business federations, nature conservancy organizations and authorities in order to encourage exchange, cooperation and tangible action. ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ is both one of the partners and the coordination office for this round table and represents the platform in the CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. One of the other partners especially focussed on business and biodiversity projects is the **Global Nature Fund** who in the past initiated the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign. A summary of the activities of ‘**Biodiversity in Good Company**’ is as follows:

- *Various Committees and working meetings with members;*
- *Progress reports of member companies for reporting period 2013/2014;*
- *New members (2 in 2015);*
- *Events*: “Diskussionsforum Ökosystemleistungen“ (Discussion Forum Ecosystem Services) is a new series of events, launched in autumn 2014 in Germany by the environmental NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ and two partners from academia, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). Three events were held in 2015 in Berlin and Frankfurt)
- *Projects ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’*: Overall coordination of “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020“; Publication "Basic knowledge: companies and biodiversity" (a series of short, cross-industry in-formation modules for companies); Sectoral dialogue and new German brochure (What water sector companies can do to protect biodiversity); Sectoral dialogue with DIY sector (responsible: Global Nature Fund-in progress); As a contribution to “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020”: Planning and organization of German Annual Business Dialogue Forum 2016 on Biological Diversity (15 March 2016, Berlin); Finalization of Project NATURWERT - Biodiversity at Companies' Sites; Strategic dialogue with NeFo, the German science-policy interface for biodiversity research, with a focus on IPBES
- *General communications*: Approximately 100 Mailings to Members with information on business and biodiversity; Website in German, limited version English, basic information Japanese; 7 newsletters (German and English edition) with company portraits and further news

- *Participation in networks:* Germany: „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020“ (UBi 2020) – partner, coordination office; Europe: EU Business@Biodiversity Platform – member, participation in annual meeting 27 October 2015, Brussels, Belgium; Global: CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity – member of the Executive Committee, participation in CBD Business Forum/5th Meeting of the Global Partnership, November 2015, Helsinki, Finland

Activities and information for “**Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020**” include the following:

- *Committee meetings:* Committee members are a sub-group of all supporting partners (four meetings held in 2015)
- *Supporters:* 4 new supporters acquired in 2015 (Now 22 partners on board)
- *Action platform:* Showcasing good practices: 7 new projects on the platform in 2015 (Now 29 projects featured--The activities comprise research and awareness raising projects, communication, but also strategic dialogues on selected issues like “biodiversity and regulation”)
- *Network of chambers of industry and trade (IHK)/chambers of craft (HWK)/ local and regional industry federations/Länder ministries (ministries of the Federal States):* The aim of the network is to create an infrastructure for exchange of information and mainstreaming on the regional and local level. Participants meet once or twice a year.
- *Further events:* 11 February 2015, Bonn: Workshop on communication of biodiversity; 26 March 2015, Frankfurt: Annual dialogue forum 2015, documentation in German; Under preparation: Dialogue forum 15 March 2016, Berlin

29. **India:** By invitation by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) launched the **India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)** with the support of the German International Cooperation (GIZ). The IBBI has a broad-based multi-stakeholder approach involving business, government, non-government organizations and academia. IBBI at present has 25 signatories, who have accepted to work on 10 declaration points. IBBI consists of an Advisory Group, Expert Group on Biodiversity Policy (EGBP) and Working Group(s). IBBI has undertaken some of the following activities:

- *Knowledge:* Release of “Bridging Business and Biodiversity: Innovative Approaches” on International Day for Biological Diversity; 10th Sustainability Summit; IBBI Guidebook for Biodiversity Management: Sectorial Outlook and Roadmap for Implementation; Publications on Interrelation between biodiversity act and other environmental acts; Publication on Best practices of biodiversity management by Indian Industries
- *Action:* Capacity Building of IBBI Member Companies (Since mid-2014 a capacity building programme was initiated to support signatory companies on their commitments made on the IBBI Declaration); Advisory Group (The advisory group met three times in year 2015 to discuss on various topics and how to take the initiative forward and also formed 3 working groups); Launch of IBBI Western Region Chapter (IBBI launched the first regional chapter in Mumbai on the occasion of the World Environment Day, 5th June 2015); Working Groups (Working groups were established by the IBBI advisory group at the launch of Western Region Chapter in June 2015. Presently three working groups have been constituted to work on Biodiversity Award, Biodiversity Valuation and IBBI reporting); Expert Group on Biodiversity Policy (EGBP): Roundtable on Access and Benefit Sharing (IBBI organized a project planning workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing in July 2015); CII-IBBI Certified Training on Managing Natural Capital (a 2-day CII-IBBI certified training programme on “Managing Natural Capital” took place in Mumbai and Bengaluru in August 2015); Natural Capital: Let’s Rethink Growth with Additional Indicators and Not Only GDP (IBBI organized event at the World Forum for a Responsible Economy in October 2015 at Lille, France); IBBI at CBD Business & Biodiversity Forum (IBBI is a member of the Executive Committee of Global Platform); Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth (Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth on 17th November 2015 in New Delhi); Biodiversity Management in Supply Chain (planned); SME Development Program (planned); Natural Capital Valuation (planned); CII-IBBI Certified Training program (CICT) (planned); IBBI training on Green Belt Development (planned); Biodiversity Indexing (City and Factory premises where green belt

development is undertaken) (planned)

- *Recognition:* CII-ITC Sustainability Awards; Biodiversity Award

30. **Japan:** There are two initiatives in Japan that are independent members of the Global Partnership, but that collaborate on a variety of issues. The two initiatives share the Japanese seat on the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership. **The Japan Business Initiative for Biodiversity (JBIB)** is a group of Japanese corporations committed to biodiversity conservation. The initiative was launched in 2008 with 14 companies. It has grown to a group of over 50 leading companies representing many different business fields. Some of its recent activities have included the following:

- *Formulation of guidelines:* “The Guidelines for Forestation for Harmony with Nature” (November 2015). The aim of the guideline is to promote and guide best practices in biodiversity-rich forests as a CSR strategy. It will be published in 2016.
- *Sharing good practices:* Organizing symposiums (Annual symposium “Business Talking Biodiversity” (February 2015)); JBIB supported Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company holding its 8th Business and Biodiversity Symposium; A symposium at The Eco-Products Exhibition (December 2015) the largest environmental trade fair held annually in Japan. JBIB organized a symposium titled “How we should promote conservation of biodiversity within the newly revised ISO14001?”; Launching a new English webpage showcasing good practices of member companies (November 2015);
- *Educational efforts:* Educational series for member companies to promote biodiversity conservation practices composed of six lectures, which provide member companies with most recent news and the know-how to promote biodiversity conservation practices; Study visits to learn about good practices (Okunota Winery; Initiatives to restore and protect biodiversity at Atago Green Hills and Toranomon Hills by Mori Building Company; Advanced greenery of business sites; FSC certified forest and timber mill; and a tea farm designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) in Shizuoka prefecture);
- *Informal meetings for executives of member companies (July 2015):* JBIB conveyed recent news about their activities and business and biodiversity, as well as how businesses could embed biodiversity in their daily management;
- *Collaborations with stakeholders:* Dialogue sessions with the Ministry of Environment (January, July, October 2015).

31. **Japan (cont.):** The **Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership (JBBP)** was launched at COP10 in 2010 to promote wider participation from the private sector so as to promote issues pertaining to biodiversity. JBBP presently consists of 447 businesses, 19 economic organizations, 33 NGOs, and 15 public organizations. JBBP generally holds annual meetings in December of each calendar year, but the meeting scheduled for December 2015 was postponed to February 2016. However Symposium and Business-NGO exchange meetings were held together in May 2015, with 150 attendees. A survey to grasp member organizations' efforts on biodiversity in 2014 was initiated in July 2015. The results were reported during the annual meeting in February 2016.

32. **Korea:** The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment is currently hosting the **Korean Business and Biodiversity Initiative (BNBP)**, which was initiated on 26 September 2013. Membership currently consists of the Korea Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Korean Business Council for Sustainable Development, other businesses that signed the “Joint Communiqué on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity” in September 2013, and members of the Green Company Council that signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on Voluntary Action for Biodiversity Conservation” in October 2014. Activities of the BNBP to date have included:

- Participation and engagement: encouraging knowledge sharing, participation and engagement with BNBP to all stakeholders;
- Assistance: providing technical assistance to businesses such as a toolkit to mainstream biodiversity; generating knowledge about biodiversity and businesses; research, survey, and advisory mission; and

legal advice to help businesses comply with biodiversity-related laws and regulations;

- Information sharing: sharing best practices with other national-level or regional-level business Platforms;
- Encouragement: helping members better understand the goals and objectives of CBD and increase their sustainability of biodiversity, and to encourage them to take actions to reduce their biodiversity footprint

BNBP's Workplan for 2015-2020 is as follows:

- 2015-2016: Opening of the BNBP Secretariat February 2016; creating the Secretariat's website, organizing the first BNBP Member's Meeting and an opening ceremony for the Secretariat; membership solicitation; seeking Members' assistance in responding to CBD and Nagoya Protocol
- 2017-2018: Expansion of BNBP; identifying and distributing best practices, and organizing the best BNBP competition; providing education about the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol; monitoring business activities
- 2018-2020: Increasing BNBP's profile and visibility; distributing best practices of members in other countries, setting up booths of best practices at major international meetings; preparing booklets, brochures, leaflets, or other forms of material that showcase businesses who implement biodiversity conservation and benefit sharing.

33. **Mesoamerica:** Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM) is based in Central America, a region of small countries and great tropical biodiversity, ranging from Southern Mexico to Panama. BPM's core conviction is that without the intervention of farmers, other land users, and businesses of all kinds, the decay of biodiversity will continue unabated, with grave damage to the economy and to the quality of life of the region's inhabitants. BPM's role and responsibility is to encourage and enable businesses in the region to play a role in conserving, and where possible restoring, the biodiversity of Mesoamerica. BPM was founded in 2012 and has 27 members, supported by the intergovernmental institutions of Central America. BPM's membership is diverse, including government institutions, businesses, NGOs, universities and individual citizens. In addition, BPM is receiving support from GIZ. There have been a number a activities in 2015 including:

- To ensure a high level of cooperation and transparency in the BPM-GIZ alliance, an Agreement of Collaboration has been signed between the two organizations;
- Expansion of regional activities to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. In each case BPM has developed valuable contacts with the government authorities, the business sector and relevant local organizations, discussed opportunities for biodiversity partnerships, provided information on BPM's aims and purpose, and created a solid foundation to build on in 2016. New members have joined. A highlight was the conference on Tourism and Biodiversity in the Dominican Republic organized by the GIZ-DABIO team;
- To refresh BPM's purpose and implementation strategy, commissions of members have developed an action plan, a 5-year vision, services to members, and improvements to organization and finances;
- BPM participated at the Business and Biodiversity conference in Helsinki, and became a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership.

2016 Priorities include:

- Administration;
- Planning and Coordination;
- Results: Services for members (Communication & Information, Co-Financing for leadership projects); Regional development (building on foundations in Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic and evaluation of Panama and Nicaragua); Alliances and agreements;
- Global Partnership: Executive Committee; Leading Knowledge Exchange working groups; participation in COP 13 events.

34. **The Netherlands:** There are several Business and Biodiversity Initiatives in the Netherlands which are all linked together and work collectively on this issue. Their activities were as follows:

- *Leaders for Nature*: The Leaders for Nature Forum on 17 April 2015 in Eindhoven saw over 150 participants from member companies, the Dutch government, the IUCN NL members and special experts. They worked towards solutions for 10 “natural capital” challenges presented by the members;
- *Natural Captains*: As part of the activities under the Platform on Biodiversity, Ecosystems & Economy, the Natural Captains initiative has been launched with companies that want to work with natural capital in a more sustainable manner. They have developed a digital working environment called the NatCap, which includes a website with practical information, showcasing tools, case studies, challenges and a list of participants. Furthermore, a special smart phone app has been created for the involved companies;
- *DAWCA (Dutch Agro-Water Climate Alliance)*: The DAWCA brings together Dutch companies, NGOs, knowledge institutions and governments to develop business cases around climate change adaptation and mitigation. With new climate funds being mobilized, DAWCA helps organizations to navigate the climate finance landscape, connect people and organizations with partners in developing countries, and help develop new promising climate projects. In 2014, DAWCA informed around 80 companies. In 2015, this number increased to about 150 companies. In addition, 2015 saw 10 trajectories launched with organizations that are being helped in establishing the business case around climate change-related projects;
- *Green Finance Academy*: The newly launched Green Finance Academy trains project managers to design their green project based on business model thinking. The Green Finance Academy is an initiative of IUCN NL, Alterra Wageningen UR and Nyenrode Business University. The five day masterclass offered by the Academy consists of interactive sessions with experts in business development, marketing and private sector finance;
- *Climate Finance Information Desk*: DAWCA and the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) have launched the climate finance information desk. The information desk provides companies and organizations in the Netherlands information and support related to climate finance;
- *Campaign 'Fairtrade Coffee and Clean Air'*: With DAWCA's support, the website of the climate campaign of Max Havelaar – FiKs foundation was launched in the beginning of November 2015. The campaign aims to increase climate-resilience of small-holder coffee farmers in Ethiopia;
- *COP21-Paris Accord*: At COP21, IUCN NL organized three events. On 3 December 2015 a forum discussion was organized in the Dutch Pavilion with the REDD+ Business Initiative of Platform BEE, FMO, Desso, Essent and Eneco. On 4 December 2015 IUCN NL, Nyenrode Business University and Alterra presented the Green Finance Academy in the Dutch Pavilion. On 5 December 2015 they organized a high-level breakfast session ahead of Global Landscapes Forum with Althelia Climate Fund to discuss steps that should be taken to make greater collaboration possible between Governments, private sector organizations and CSOs to reduce global tropical deforestation.

35. **Peru: The Peruvian Biodiversity Initiative and Enterprise (ByE)**, was created to gather and inform business leaders who want to take the challenge of ensuring that the risks and opportunities for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services are understood, addressed and turned into a long term competitive advantage. Since its inception meeting in 2014, ByE has been working on its implementation and consolidation hand in hand with a group of leading companies (the "Driving Group"). In addition, there are several thematic work streams including: public economic instruments for conservation; information management; tools and guidelines of good socio-environmental practices; and in situ conservation of biodiversity (Protected Areas). At present, beside the drive group, which is made up of 8 companies and 2 associations, an additional 9 companies have stated their interest in participating in the actions of the ByE Initiative. Some additional activities of note include the following:

- Development of a digital information exchange platform for the Biodiversity Initiative and Peruvian companies;
- Promotion of tax incentives for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. ByE has formed alliances with institutions responsible for realizing these incentives and the business group has participated in workshops and meetings to meet and discuss their applicability;

- ByE has developed six legislative proposals on which they are generating alliances with strategic sectors. These proposals include: Credits against income tax of 50% for investment in environmental activities; Exemptions for companies engaged principally engaged ecotourism; Additional deduction of 20% of expenses for consumption of cleaner fuels made by companies; Accelerated depreciation for fixed assets for use in environmental projects; Return of GST (general sales tax) paid on imports of capital goods and inputs for use in environmental projects; and Exemption from customs duties on imported goods that are included in environmental projects;
- ByE has developed “Guidelines for the formulation of public investment projects in biodiversity and ecosystem services” and the inclusion of environmental component for the creation of Public Private Partnerships (PPP);
- Adaptation of the corporate ecosystem service tool and pilot study: this is a Business strategy to manage risks and opportunities.
- Dissemination of successful conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity from business sector cases.

36. In undertaking this work, ByE is looking to engage small and medium enterprises with regard to social and environmental (specifically biodiversity) issues as well as implement policies throughout various supply chains. These objectives relate to corporate participation in realizing the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

37. **Poland:** The **Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform** (*the Polish Platform*) was officially launched in June 2015. The Polish Platform is operated by the Polish Foundation on Business for Biodiversity, a Polish non-governmental organization based in Warsaw, Poland. The primary purpose of the Polish Platform is to promote, encourage and integrate business for the implementation of international, EU and national programmes and strategies for the protection of biodiversity. Activities in the Platform since the launch have included the following:

- *National and international cooperation and memberships:* The Polish Platform managed to start cooperation at the national level with the most important Polish institutions responsible for the implementation of the biodiversity strategies in Poland. The Polish Platform has been granted the honorary patronage of the Minister of the Environment and is officially supported by the General Director for Environmental Protection. In 2015 the Polish Platform became an official member of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform as well as a member of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. In 2015 representatives of the Polish Platform participated in the second Annual Conference of the EU B@B Platform (27 October 2015 in Brussels). The Polish Platform also participated in the 2015 CBD Business & Biodiversity Forum;
- *Organization of the First Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum:* The First Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum entitled "Ecological Intelligence in Business" took place on 16 June 2015 in Warsaw. The Forum was organized by the Polish Platform under the patronage of the European Commission as a 2015 Green Week satellite event. The Forum officially inaugurated activities of the Polish Platform;
- *Projects of the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform for 2016:* The Polish Platform is working on future projects. As part of the capacity-building campaign for 2016 addressed to Polish business the Polish Platform is working on a set of projects aiming at achieving three targets for 2016. Some of the upcoming projects include: the Second Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum (June 2016---It will be addressed to representatives of the boards and executives of the biggest Polish and foreign companies); Strategic legal opinions and analysis (the Polish Platform works on legal analyses that are aimed to address the issue to what extent specific industries and companies are prepared for the upcoming legislation changes and further, how they can benefit from the existing or future legislation regarding biodiversity); Business and Biodiversity Report on five industry sectors (the Polish Platform plans to finalize its work on a detailed analysis of the existing and proposed regulations and legal restrictions relating to the use of biodiversity resources in business, and an indication of the specific risks and opportunities for various sectors/industries).

38. **South Africa: The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN)** is primarily business focused, and as such is primarily aimed at, and managed by, the business community. The aim of the network is to facilitate the engagement with various business sectors, industries and related stakeholders to facilitate and assist the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity into business agendas and operations. The Network presently has the same six corporate founding partners as well as approximately 550 people on its mailing lists. Some of the recent activities and objectives of the Network are as follows:

- *Approach new partners for NBBN:* The NBBN has approached a total of 25-30 companies;
- *Ensuring sustainability of the NBBN:* Currently working with IUCN and ACTS on developing concept notes to secure funding for three key activities in the NBBN strategy. NBBN is also committed to developing a communication strategy;
- *Develop the business case for mainstreaming biodiversity:* The IUCN, ACTS and NBBN will be working together to develop an online South African business and biodiversity mainstreaming toolkit which will include a number of SA specific case studies;
- *Develop a monitoring and performance framework:* The IUCN, ACTS and NBBN will be working together to develop and test a biodiversity performance monitoring framework;
- *Disseminate business and biodiversity information:* Business and biodiversity related information is being shared through NBBN newsletters (distributed on a monthly basis) and through events presented by the NBBN including: the Indaba which took place in Johannesburg in February 2015 with over 150 people attending; a seminar on the latest developments on natural capital, which took place in Johannesburg in June 2015 with over 40 attendees; a seminar on ecological infrastructure in Durban on 1 October 2015;
- *Scoping report:* The DEA asked the NBBN to conduct an assessment of the extent to which South African business has mainstreamed biodiversity. This assessment was conducted by the NBBN in early 2014 and the resulting report has recently been finalized;
- *Pam Golding Biodiversity Guide:* The NBBN was also involved in developing a biodiversity guide for the real estate industry in South Africa. This document was finalized and launched at an event in November 2015;
- *Other Events:* The NBBN was present at the ESP conference in Stellenbosch in November 2015. The NBBN participates in the South African Biodiversity and Mining Forum on a quarterly basis. The IUCN, ACTS and NBBN are also looking at developing accredited biodiversity training courses in partnership with a South African university;
- *Facilitate biodiversity mainstreaming into partner organizations:* The NBBN has engaged with each of the partner companies on the proposed scope of work for this. The process of the NBBN assisting partner companies to mainstream biodiversity will be completed by June 2016;
- *Ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed into policy and regulatory framework:* The NBBN, IUCN and ACTS propose to look at existing South African policy documents and legal requirements to identify opportunities to facilitate private sector investment in natural capital management, stewardship and restoration;
- *NBBN Strategic objectives:* These include: Ensuring the sustainability of NBBN; Developing the business case for mainstreaming biodiversity; Developing a monitoring and performance framework; Disseminating business and biodiversity information; Facilitating mainstreaming into partner organizations; Ensuring biodiversity is mainstreamed into policy and regulatory framework.

39. **Spain: The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative** was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in 2013, coinciding with the International Day for Biological Diversity. The Initiative provides a solid cooperation framework for large businesses, NGOs, associations and the government to join efforts towards improving and maintaining Spain's natural capital.

- *Workstreams:* Habitat Banking (To show the Spanish government an agreed business position on the future regulation of habitat banking at Spain); Ecological Restoration (To develop a Practical Guide to Ecological Restoration to provide guidelines to all stakeholders in order to promote a restoration based on ecological functions. The Guide will be available in late 2016. During 2015, several working sessions were held with companies, public administrations and restoration experts to

determine its usefulness, approach and content; Transport and distribution of electricity infrastructures (To develop a joint project that allows energy companies to improve and add value to the biodiversity management in areas affected by transport and distribution electricity infrastructures)

- *Other actions under the IEEB:* Member companies and partners are supported by the IEEB to develop concrete projects on biodiversity. Examples include Decathlon; Yves Rocher; Fundación Global Nature; Mahou San Miguel
- *Related projects:* The Biodiversity Foundation offers SBBI member companies and partners collaboration tools to contribute to the integration of biodiversity in business management. These include grants; LIFE Projects; and others (Monitoring network of Global Change on the National Parks Network)
- *International link-ups:* The SBBI actively collaborates on international platforms that work on establishing a closer relationship between business and biodiversity. The SBBI is member of the Global Partnership Business and Biodiversity, the European Business and Biodiversity Platform, and the Natural Capital Coalition
- *Key figures and milestones:* 4 new member companies in 2015, making a total of 22; 3 workstreams open; Annual meeting of member companies and partners; 2 corporate environmental volunteering projects; 1 training project for companies subsidized; SBBI participation in 9 initiatives, including 4 international; Channel private funds to preserve biodiversity (€61,200+ aimed at conservation of biodiversity initiatives)

40. **Sri Lanka:** The Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform was initiated in August 2012 by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, IUCN and Dilmah Conservation. The legal process for formalizing the status of the Platform under the Companies Ordinance, as a not-for-profit entity, was completed in October 2015. The Platform then was re-branded as **Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL)**. Currently, 30 leading corporates have backed the Platform by becoming its invited Patron Members. The doors are now open to General Membership with 26 companies confirmed to date. BSL is a member of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity and has forged linkages with bodies such as the United Nations Global Compact and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. BSL was represented at the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum held in Helsinki, Finland in November 2015. Four sector based standing committees cater to the specific biodiversity needs of the Plantations and Agribusiness, Tourism and Hospitality, Construction and Banking and Finance sectors. A small Secretariat is staffed by a part time Advisor, a Coordinator and a full time Projects and Communications Coordinator. The BSL Secretariat operates within an annual budget and activity plan approved by its Board of Directors. Specific activities have included the following:

- The Secretariat carried out scoping surveys in 2014 and 2015 amongst its members to explore ongoing and planned activities with regard to biodiversity conservation, leading to the establishment of an on-line project bank focusing on national biodiversity priorities;
- Special Learning Events for the Plantation Sector; Banking and Finance Sector and the Tourism and Hospitality Sector were well attended and well received;
- BSL's flagship event to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity was held on 22 May 2015 and was supported by the Hatton National Bank;
- An event to mark World Environment Day on 5 June 2015, was held in partnership with the University of Colombo and the Institute of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka;
- Partnerships have been forged with the UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka, the Forest Department, UNDP, the Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Federation of Environmental Organizations with which events were held with large member participation;
- Phase I of a project on the 'Estimation of Sloth Bear Population Densities in the Wilpattu National Park' which was initiated in June 2013 with Biodiversity Education and Research, supported by CIC Holdings PLC and the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) was successfully concluded and phase II is now ongoing;
- BSL is facilitating additional projects with its Members some of which include: the conservation of the Knuckles watershed in partnership with HSBC Sri Lanka and IUCN Sri Lanka; the enhancement

of the environment around the Tea Trails Bungalows for Resplendent Ceylon with the support of Dilmah Conservation and CEA; and the conservation of the Bolgoda Wetland ecosystem for Sampath Bank in partnership with the Sri Lanka Water Partnership;

- BSL is also undertaking its own internal projects such as: the creation of a biodiversity credits accrual mechanism; the compilation of a compendium of best biodiversity practices in the Plantations sector; and the formulation of a biodiversity-related project ranking scheme;
 - BSL's website launched in 2013 was completely revamped and redeveloped with a more interactive interface, in March 2014 and September 2015;
 - BSL also produces a bi-monthly newsletter dedicating them to pre-selected themes of critical biodiversity importance.
-