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16 December 2015

NOTIFICATION

Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides: Launch of Consultation Process

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to inform you about the recent launch of the Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guide Consultation Launch developed by the Natural Capital Coalition, and to encourage you to take part in the consultation process.

The Natural Capital Coalition is a global, multi stakeholder open source platform to support the development of methods for natural and social capital valuation in business. Its aim is to achieve a shift in corporate behaviour to preserve and enhance, rather than deplete, the earth's natural capital. It is made up of early adopters from the business, policy, accounting and NGO communities.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been following, and contributing to, the work of the Natural Capital Coalition as part of its implementation of decision XII/10/3f which requested the Executive Secretary: *“To compile information, and analyse best practices, standards and research on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and the valuation of those services, to facilitate assessments of the contributions by business to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to assist in the dissemination of this information to various relevant forums”*.

On 23 November 2015, the draft Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides were launched for consultation at the World Forum on Natural Capital. The purpose of the draft protocol and sector guides is to help businesses systematically integrate their relationship with nature into their strategy and operations. The protocol is intended to encourage those companies that may not have yet fully realized the benefits of valuing natural capital to get started, and ultimately empower all businesses to understand their natural capital risks and opportunities so that they can help reduce environmental decline and start rebuilding the precious natural capital upon which we all depend.

The Protocol and Sector Guides have been developed through a collaborative process with more than 60 authors from the field of Natural Capital contributing to their development. Building on this process, the consultation will give member and non-member organizations the opportunity to provide input into the process. Alongside the consultation, a business engagement program has been set up to pilot the Protocol. Over 50 businesses are testing and validating that the Protocol is useful in helping to improve business decision making and also to gain endorsement.

To: CBD National Focal Points



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For more information on how to take part in the consultation, please visit www.naturalcapitalcoalition.org/consultation. The draft Protocol and Sector Guides can be accessed through this site.

More information on the Natural Capital Coalition can be found at: <http://www.naturalcapitalcoalition.org/>.

Any inquiries with regard to this notification should be communicated to the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Brulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary