



PRESS RELEASE

The Convention on Biological Diversity declares *Natural Capital Declaration* a Biodiversity Champion

11 November 2013, Montreal/Oxford – The *Natural Capital Declaration* (NCD) has been declared a Biodiversity Champion by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in recognition of its important contribution to the implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020.

The NCD is a finance-led and CEO-endorsed initiative committing financial institutions to integrating natural capital considerations into financial products and services, accounting and reporting.

More than 40 financial institutions, and over 30 supporter organizations, are signatories to the Declaration, bringing with them a range of expertise and capabilities. The NCD is convened by the Global Canopy Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, said “The NCD and its activities provide an important and strategic platform for the CBD to engage with the financial sector in order to help address the critically important issues of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use. We are delighted to declare them a Biodiversity Champion and look forward to actively engaging with them on several key issues with respect to natural capital and biodiversity-related considerations.”

Adopted in 2010, the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 aims to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across government, society and business. The strategic plan includes a series of goals and targets (the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”) which include:

- Raising awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity;
- Integrating these values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, reporting systems, and, as appropriate, national accounting and other frameworks;
- Reforming incentive measures towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and eliminating or phasing out those which are harmful to biodiversity; and
- Taking steps or implementing plans for sustainable consumption and production plans, including by business, and keeping the impacts of the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Natural
Capital
Declaration
Financial sector leadership
on natural capital

Secretariat:



UNEP Finance Initiative
Innovative financing for sustainability



Ivo Mulder, Programme Officer with UNEP FI and founder of the Natural Capital Declaration states, “We are extremely pleased to consider the Convention on Biological Diversity as our newest official supporter of the NCD. The Aichi Targets are an important roadmap to advance conservation of biodiversity. Aichi Target 2 is especially relevant, as it calls upon governments to integrate biodiversity values into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”

The Biodiversity Champions campaign, launched at the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD held in Hyderabad, India, in 2012, an initiative of the Government of India and the CBD Secretariat, allows countries and organizations to make pledges to support one or more of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Biodiversity Champions: www.cbd.int/champions/list/

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Global Canopy Programme

Rachel Mountain, Head of Communications, Global Canopy Programme. Email: r.mountain@globalcanopy.org Tel: +44 (0)1865 724 333

UNEP Finance Initiative

John Domkins, Communications Officer, UNEP FI. Email: john.dombkins@unep.org Tel: +41 22 91 78 134

Convention on Biological Diversity

David Ainsworth, Information Officer, Convention on Biological Diversity. E-mail: david.ainsworth@cbd.int Tel: +1 514 287 7025

Notes to editors

Convention on Biological Diversity Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 166 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. www.cbd.int.

Natural Capital Declaration The Natural Capital Declaration (NCD) is a global finance-led and CEO-endorsed initiative to integrate natural capital considerations into financial products and services, and to work towards their inclusion in financial accounting, disclosure and reporting. The NCD is the cumulative result of in-depth consultations with the finance community and other stakeholders and was launched at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in June 2012. In phase II, which started in 2013, signatory financial institutions are setting about implementing the commitments in the Declaration through the NCD Roadmap. The initiative is jointly convened by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the Global Canopy Programme (GCP). www.naturalcapitaldeclaration.org

UNEP Finance Initiative UNEP Finance Initiative is a global partnership of over 200 institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers, working with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance. www.unepfi.org

Global Canopy Programme The Global Canopy Programme (GCP) is a tropical forest think-tank, working to demonstrate the scientific, political and business case for safeguarding forests as natural capital that underpins water, food, energy, health and climate security for all. www.globalcanopy.org