



PRESS RELEASE

Mexico launches biodiversity and business alliance

- Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity and Business aims to promote the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Involvement of business sector crucial to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Conserving species and ecosystems essential for the long-term prosperity and viability of society and business.

26 OCTOBER 2016 – The Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity and Business, with the aim of promoting the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, was launched 17 October 2016 in Mexico City.

Comprised of 15 institutions and 12 companies, the Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity and Business, seeks to generate constructive dialogue between conservation organizations, cooperation agencies, institutions and businesses to develop investment mechanisms and projects to protect natural resources and ecosystems, not only as an altruistic action, but as an integral element of the business strategy of businesses.

“I am very pleased that Mexico has established its national business and biodiversity initiative, thereby demonstrating its support for the ongoing work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to strengthen the engagement of business,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary. “The involvement of the business sector is crucial to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

Attending the launch on behalf of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources for Mexico, H.E. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, the Undersecretary of Development and Environmental Regulation, H.E. Cuahtémoc Ochoa Fernández, praised the commitment of Mexico’s private sector in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the country’s natural capital.

Members of the Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity and Business emphasize that biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth, and therefore sustains economic activity and human welfare, and that conserving and sustainably using genetic resources, species and ecosystems is essential for the long-term prosperity and viability of society and business.

The announcement of the alliance is especially timely. Mexico is hosting the United Nations Biodiversity Conference¹ in Cancun between 2 and 17 December 2016 and, as a parallel event, the 2016 Business and

¹ Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the

Biodiversity Forum will take place on 2 to 3 December 2016. In line with the theme of the UN Biodiversity Conference – the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the plans, programmes and sectoral and intersectoral policies with emphasis on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors – the Business and Biodiversity Forum will highlight the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors for the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity and Business will actively participate in the Business and Biodiversity Forum. It is also expected to join the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity established by Parties to the CBD, which allows for the sharing of information and best practices amongst the various member initiatives as well as their constituent organizations. The creation of the Global Partnership is a concrete signal by Parties to the Convention of their growing understanding that business needs to play a critical role in addressing the global challenge of biodiversity loss.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The members of the Mexican Biodiversity and Business Alliance (Alianza Mexicana de Biodiversidad y Negocios) are: Kanan Kay Alliance; Commission of Private Sector Studies for Sustainable Development; Mexican Center for Environmental Law; the Mexico City Chamber for Commerce, Services and Tourism (Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo de la Ciudad de México); Citibanamex; BASF; Grupo Bimbo; Bio-PAPPEL; CEMEX; Conservation International; Comunidad Y Biodiversidad; Ecovalores; Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature; French Development Agency; German Development Cooperation; Grupo Financiero Banorte; Grupo México; Masisa; Nestle; Pronatura Mexico; The Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme; Proteak; Rainforest Alliance; Reforestamos México; Syngenta; Televisa Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; and, Walmart of Mexico and Central America.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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 196 Parties so far, 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 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 87 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.