



PRESS RELEASE

2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum to focus on opportunities for business

- *The 2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum focus is on the ways businesses can contribute to the mainstreaming of biodiversity*
- *To date, 87 major businesses have signed a pledge committing to the goals of mainstreaming biodiversity*
- *Over 250 experts from businesses, governments and NGOs are participating in the Forum, being held immediately prior to the UN Biodiversity Conference¹ and in parallel with the High-Level Segment.*

2 December 2016 – Immediately prior to the UN Biodiversity Conference, and in parallel with the High-Level Segment, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Government of Mexico are hosting the 2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum in Cancun, Mexico, from 2-3 December 2016.

Bringing together more than 250 experts from businesses, governments and NGOs, the focus of the 2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum is on the mainstreaming of biodiversity within four specific sectors: agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. The topic is in line with the theme of the conference, to highlight the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

“The expectations for this year’s Business and Biodiversity Forum are high,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary.

“Achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is not possible without the active participation of the business community. We need to move from a scattered approach in engaging businesses to a truly inclusive one in order to achieve the broad mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across business sectors.”

Mainstreaming means the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in both cross-sectoral and sectoral plans such as sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation/mitigation, as well as trade and international cooperation. Mainstreaming also applies to sector-specific plans such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, energy, tourism and transport, among others, and, in all cases, it implies changes in development models, strategies and paradigms. Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into the way that productive sectors operate is essential for the long-term viability of businesses in such sectors.

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 meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, Cancun, 4 to 17 December 2016.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



The 2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum will focus on the concept of mainstreaming biodiversity from the business point of view, investment opportunities and legal frameworks that give more certainty to investments, as well as better decision-making which factors in the value of biodiversity and the services it provides to businesses. Other important issues relevant for businesses that will be addressed include natural capital accounting and financing, examining the links between climate change and biodiversity, and supply chain policies.

One of the outcomes of the 2016 event is a Business and Biodiversity Pledge. The pledge provides an opportunity for business leaders to acknowledge the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for businesses, and to state their commitment towards taking positive action on biodiversity.

“Conservation International supports the Business and Biodiversity Pledge because of its historic relevance, said Tatiana Ramos, Executive Director of Conservation International Mexico A.C. “It provides the opportunity to bring biodiversity as a subject into corporate sustainability agendas.”

To date, 103 businesses have pledged their support. These include large multinationals such as L’Oréal, Volkswagen and Nestlé.

A signing ceremony is taking place on 2 December 2016 for businesses participating in the Forum.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The list of businesses that have signed the pledge can be accessed here:

www.cbd.int/business/signatories-and-supporters.shtml

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 91 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.
