

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Information Newsletter – Volume 2, Issue I – February 2014

Welcome to this year's first edition of the Global Partnership newsletter. Since the last edition we have seen a lot of progress in the Partnership, with the formalization of the structure of the group and formal membership applications starting to arrive. We are also finalizing the main report from the Partnership meeting in Montreal (October 2013) and beginning initial preparations for the business programme at COP 12. All in all, 2014 promises to be a busy year and we look forward to working with all of you over the coming months in this important area.

In this edition:

- Summary of the Third Meeting of the Global Partnership
- Membership application information for the Global Partnership
- Updates from National/Regional Initiatives (European Union, Finland, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland).

Results of the Third Global Partnership Meeting:

The third meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, held 2-3 October 2014 in Montreal, Canada, was well received. Over 180 participants preregistered, with additional walk-ins arriving during the two-day event. The Canada-International participant mix was about equal or slightly swayed towards the international, and included a good cross section of business sectors mixed with government, NGOs and academia. There were about 60 speakers and over 25 countries represented. All of the nine concurrent sessions (which included panels on ABS, Safeguards, Supply Chain Management, Agrifood, Retail/Consumer Goods, Extractive Industries, Sustainable Public Procurement, Standards and Engagement of Stakeholders) were well attended, with final discussion groups providing excellent ideas and recommendations. The feedback received, both during and after the event, was very positive, with offers of support and involvement in future events.

A full meeting report was prepared, soon to be distributed and placed online.

Following the main meeting, a closed session was held for National/Regional Initiatives (and observers). The following is a summary of these discussions (the full minutes are available upon request):

Terminology (based on the COP 10 decision):

- Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity: The global network of national and regional initiatives
- Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity: The website that will service the Global Partnership and act as repository for tools, mechanisms and case studies (hosted by the CBD Secretariat (SCBD))
- National/Regional Initiative: The organization of members dealing with business and biodiversity at the national/regional level which can include businesses, business associations, government, NGOs, etc.



Global Partnership Governance Document

- The purpose of the document is to establish a governance structure and process for the Global Partnership.
- The membership requirements to the Global Partnership as laid out in the document were approved.
- All initiatives that meet the requirements set out in the governance document can become a member of the Global Partnership. Members of each initiative are automatically part of the Partnership.
- The decision as to which specific national/regional initiative will serve as the representative for that country/region in the Global Partnership, and how this decision will be made, will be up to the respective individual countries/regions, and that decision will be respected by the other partners in the Global Partnership.
- Regional initiatives can be established in areas where there are also national initiatives (i.e. EU, ASEAN, etc.) and both the regional and national initiatives can be equal members of the Global Partnership.
- It is anticipated that governments will be involved in the various initiatives (COP 10 and 11 decisions) but the specific role of government in the initiatives will be at the discretion of the individual initiatives.

Structure and Members of the Executive Committee

- For the Global Partnership to move forward and be recognized, both within and outside of the Partnership, an executive structure is required.
- The executive committee will provide direction and support to the Partnership.
- The executive committee will be responsible for making decisions pertaining to the development and management of the Partnership.
- The executive committee may act as an observer at COP meetings on behalf of the Partnership.
- An interim committee comprising Daan Wensing (Netherlands), Edgar Endrukaitis (Germany/India), Eduard Muller (Mesoamerica), Elisa Romano (Brazil) and Sonia Castaneda Rial (Spain) and chaired by Reg Melanson (Canada) was created to work on the establishment of an inaugural executive committee.



Future Directions of the Global Partnership

- Inform other UN biodiversity-related conventions (Ramsar, CITES, etc.) of the purpose and activities of the Global Partnership.
- Communication and Marketing:
 - Revamp Global Platform website
 - Create Global Partnership Wikipedia page
 - Strongly encourage all members to include link to Global Platform website

Annual Meetings

- COP year
 - Meeting held in conjunction with COP
 - COP host country responsible for organizing meeting but member initiatives encouraged to host side events
 - COP off-year
 - Meetings to be hosted by country of incoming Chair
 - Opportunities to provide input to draft recommendations for upcoming COP
 - Annual closed sessions will address Global Partnership admin/technical issues
 - Funding sources for the Global Partnership annual meeting will be the responsibility of host country but SCBD may be able to provide some seed funding for meetings and selected activities.
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Membership Applications

As discussed during the Montreal meeting, we are looking to give the Global Partnership a bit more structure. Part of this will be through the actions of the executive committee, but as a first step, we need to ensure that the Partnership actually has members to conduct these activities. To address this issue, the ad-hoc executive committee has developed a membership application package. This is a fairly simple form which you will need to send back to the CBD Secretariat for processing. Please note that we require a couple of pieces of supplemental information. As verification of National/Regional Scope, one of the following must be included with the application:

- Incorporation document
- Endorsement of governments
- Membership basis.

We are also requesting information about your initiative's organizational structure:

- Board/Steering Committee/Other (please provide list as separate document).

We have currently received approximately a dozen application packages, and we expect to receive additional forms shortly. If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at: gpbb@cbd.int (this will be the new centralized Global Partnership email address used by the Secretariat).

Updates from Initiatives

(We invite submissions for the next newsletter from all members and those developing national initiatives)

European Union



Phase 2 of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform

The European Commission is in the process of launching the second Phase of the EU Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform. Members can participate in one or more of the following three workstreams:

- Accounting for Natural Capital
- Innovation for Biodiversity and Business
- Access to Finance and Innovative Finance Mechanisms.

There are four types of membership, with different levels of commitment and associated benefits:

- **Full membership** for businesses who want to actively participate in the Platform's workstreams
- **Observer status** for businesses who only wish to be kept informed of the work of the Platform
- **Representative status** for industry associations, NGOs, NPOs and other organisations
- **Member State participants** engaged in B@B activities or interested in engaging in B@B activities.

For further information and to apply, please fill in the application form on the B@B website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/>.

Finland



Business and Biodiversity Finland Launched

A Finnish cross-sectoral business and biodiversity initiative was launched in Helsinki on 28 January, 2014. The initiative, managed by the Corporate Responsibility Network FIBS, the leading CR network in Finland, and financed by the Finnish Ministry of Environment, aims to bring biodiversity into the

responsibility agendas of Finnish enterprises. By launching the initiative, FIBS seeks to create public awareness about biodiversity and its importance, as well as help companies identify and manage their own influence on nature. The initiative encourages companies to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into their environmental and sustainability management systems and practice.

Besides providing companies with information, Business and Biodiversity Finland is also seeking to include a variety of companies from different industries to advocate for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. By the launch of the initiative, eight companies had signed up for a year-long Biodiversity Master Class Programme, which the initiative is offering in Finland. These companies are provided with tools and specialist support to help them develop their own knowledge and practices in biodiversity management. Companies participating in the Finnish Biodiversity Master Class in 2014 include *Fazer, Fingrid, Fortum, NCC Roads, Nokia Tyres, Rudus, TVO and YIT*. To support the newly launched initiative, the Ministry of Environment has established an extensive national working group. One of the goals is to strengthen the dialogue between different stakeholders and the biodiversity sector, and to ensure that the process will help in achieving the 2020 biodiversity goals. Business and Biodiversity Finland is looking to cooperate with other international business and biodiversity initiatives and processes. For more information please contact: Mikko Routti, Director, FIBS (Mikko.routti@fibsry.fi).

Netherlands



7th Leaders for Nature Forum in Amsterdam on 13 February 2014

Three hundred business representatives of Leaders for Nature member companies will work on tangible projects and programmes to integrate natural capital in their core business. The six-step Leaders for Nature natural capital road map will guide the companies across their global value chains. In cooperation with business representatives, IUCN member organizations and government representatives from the Netherlands and EU will participate to set the agenda for 2014.

Peru



Peruvian International Business and Biodiversity Forum

An innovative partnership between the public and the private sector was strengthened on 22 January 2014 in Lima, Peru with the International Forum on "Business and Biodiversity". Organized by the Ministry of Environment, the forum included Peruvian companies and associations whose activities relate directly or indirectly to biodiversity and ecosystem services. In opening the forum, Deputy Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources, Gabriel Quijandría, explained the need to harmonize future business initiatives with proper management of natural resources.

"While some companies have already incorporated into their production processes the issue of biodiversity, they are still isolated cases," said Mr. Quijandría. "Therefore, at the end of this forum, we hope this becomes an inseparable part of business practice". Mr. Diego La Torre, representing the Private Enterprise Institutions National Confederation, said there is no dichotomy between green economy and development, suggesting that it is possible to generate a corporate business model that includes taking care of biodiversity. An example of this was provided by Eleonora Silva, Representative Director of the Development Bank in Latin America, who referenced one of the biotrade projects that has been running in three countries. She also stressed the importance of this



forum, as Peru is organizing the COP 20 Climate Change Conference in 2014. Following the event, the Ministry of Environment said it will work closely with the various businesses that have shown an interest in developing ideas together. This will be done not only to help implement methodologies that allow enterprises to reduce their impacts on nature or identify business opportunities in biodiversity, but also to gather opinions and suggestions from the private sector about laws and best practices regarding these issues. In this way, both the private and public sectors can improve their work and enhance their reach in this important area. For more information: ByE@minam.gob.pe

Portugal



Biodiversity Check for companies in Portuguese TV

Biodiversity Check, developed under the LIFE-funded European Business and Biodiversity Campaign, is a tool that allows companies to assess their performance vis-à-vis biodiversity. It has already been applied, with the cooperation of Portuguese NGO Quercus, to a Portuguese tourism facility called the Almaa Sintra Hostel. It has also been promoted on national and private TV channels:

- Program: "Green Economics", broadcast on SIC channel:
<http://sicnoticias.sapo.pt/programas/economiaverde/2013/04/05/hostel-ecologico>
- Program: "Green Minute", broadcast on national channel RTP1 (English sub-titles):
www.business-biodiversity.eu/default.asp?Menue=3D49&News=3D1517

Green Minute is a TV program that provides environmental advice for general audiences. It is a weekday daily show on the national and international Portuguese public TV (RTP1, RTP International, RTP Africa, and RTP-News). Quercus is responsible for the content and for the presentation. The show has an estimated audience of 500,000 people in Portugal, with more watching abroad. Each episode is repeated three times a day. For more information: Paula Silva, Project Coordinator, Enterprises and Biodiversity, Quercus ANCN: www.empresasebiodiversidade.org.

Spain



The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative, launched in May 2013, has added a new member.

Decathlon, the world's biggest sportswear retailer, with 100 stores in Spain, has signed the Biodiversity Pact. The event, held at its main store in Madrid, featured the presence of the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, the Director of the Autonomous Authority for National Parks, and the Chairman - Managing Director of Decathlon in Spain. Within the framework of this strategic partnership, Decathlon launched an awareness campaign on the National Parks Network of Spain and biodiversity conservation, with communication in-store and promotional material in bags, with the slogan "Decathlon with the National Parks and Biodiversity". Training sessions will be provided for employees and the general public over the coming year, in addition to other actions aimed at dissemination and fostering biodiversity awareness. The campaign aims to emphasise the importance of biodiversity and the conservation, knowledge and understanding of the value of protected areas. With Decathlon, 16 large Spanish-based companies are presently committed to integrating biodiversity protection into their management policies.



Switzerland 

Switzerland has initiated a study aimed at allowing and encouraging Swiss companies to value Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services as part of their business risks and opportunities, to internalize BES-related externalities and to elaborate methods to better integrate BES into their strategies, operations and communication frameworks and tools. A Swiss business case including different sectors and sizes (from multinationals to SMEs) will be developed by using and adapting existing methodologies and experiences. The project will be conducted in collaboration with various international platforms and forums.
