



# Global Partnership

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## for Business and Biodiversity

### Information Newsletter – Volume 3, Issue III – October 2015

Welcome to the fall 2015 edition of the *Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity* newsletter. As expected, the fall is shaping up to be a very busy time with numerous conferences and events. This year is witness to two very significant events in the area of sustainability, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the upcoming 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21), which is expected to see movement in this very important area.

On the business and biodiversity front, partly because of the increased attention that sustainability issues are generating, we are seeing increased interest from businesses and other partners in this subject. We have therefore decided to create a new section in this newsletter titled “*Information from Partner Organizations*”. This will feature articles and events from the various global organizations that are involved in this area and that act as observers to the Global Partnership.

This fall will see two important global business and biodiversity related events. The first, on 11-12 November, will be the ***CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum***, which is being held in Helsinki, Finland (more on this below). The second event is the ***World Forum on Natural Capital***, being held in Edinburgh, UK, on 23-24 November. The World Forum on Natural Capital will bring together the leading players and the latest developments in this rapidly evolving field. Over two days, delegates will have a unique opportunity to engage in high-level discussions and examine how natural capital relates to their own long-term strategy. Breakout sessions will be mixed and matched across four streams: Understanding and managing risk; innovation and tools; focus on finance and investment; and, policy dialogues. Connecting with other leaders, learning from real-life case studies and helping to shape the emerging dialogue, delegates will be able to immerse themselves in a collective effort to manage risks and maximise opportunities. More information on this event can be found at: <http://naturalcapitalforum.com/>.

Finally, as usual, we would like to draw your attention to the various newsletters produced by the various initiatives in the Global Partnership that go into greater depth in describing their interactions with their membership. These include:

- *European Union*: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/newsletters/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/newsletters/index_en.htm)
- *Germany (Biodiversity in Good Company)*: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/)
- *India*: <http://eepurl.com/brLTB5>
- *South Africa*: [www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/news.html](http://www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/news.html)
- *Sri Lanka*: <http://business-biodiversity.lk/category/newsletter/>

If we have missed your newsletter, or if you are planning on launching one, please let us know and we will be sure to feature it in future editions.

We look forward to receiving your submissions for the next edition of this newsletter, to be released in December 2015.

*In this edition:*

- Executive Committee Corner
  - Update on the 2015 CBD Business Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Global Partnership
  - Information from Partner Organizations (*Birdlife, IUCN, RESP, WBCSD*)
  - Updates from National/Regional Initiatives (*Brazil, the European Union, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka*).
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## **Executive Committee Corner**

### *Message from the Chair*

The Global Partnership started life as a Conference of the Parties (COP) decision back in 2010, alongside a small handful of national business and biodiversity initiatives. At that time, none of us were quite sure how, or even if, this would develop into something useful. We went through a lengthy number of discussions, finally arriving, in 2013, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Partnership meeting in Montreal, where the Global Partnership governance document was approved and an Interim Executive committee was put in place. Two of the key responsibilities of the committee were:

- Draft a membership process for the Global Partnership
- Submit recommendations on the membership and structure of the inaugural Executive Committee. These tasks were completed and at the COP meetings in October, 2014, the first executive committee was established. The Global Partnership is now a formal entity to serve the needs of its members. I was very pleased and honoured to serve as both the interim Chair, and then the first formal Chair, of the Partnership.

The Executive Committee has been very active over the past year. We have designed and approved a Partnership logo and contributed to several COP 12 decisions including the drafting of a document which examines several business reporting schemes that have sections directly or indirectly addressing biodiversity and their applicability for use by the Partnership.

At the Helsinki meetings in November, several of the members' terms on the Executive Committee, including that of the current Chair, will expire. The new Committee will have an exciting and challenging year leading up to the 2016 COP 13 meetings in Mexico.

Tasks that need to be addressed by the Committee include:

- Promoting the Partnership (internally and externally) to enhance its value and help secure needed support, including funding.
- Developing internal processes and procedures for effectively administering the Partnership.
- Formalizing and streamlining the Partnership membership process.
- Drafting a document outlining business protocols and inputs for reporting on biodiversity.
- Drafting a preliminary document examining the potential role of the Partnership in delivering on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Re-establishing the goals and expected outcomes of the working groups, given the limited resources available.
- Preparing for the upcoming COP 13 meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016.

Although this list may seem daunting, I am confident that we will have the right team to pull this off. However, to accomplish this work will require commitments from the general membership as a whole. The Partnership is gaining momentum and our membership is expected to exceed 30 countries – a better

than 50 per cent increase – by COP 13. As the membership grows, so will the work load, but if each member contributes, it will be manageable and we will not only meet our goals, but be able to achieve much more than we would individually.

As the outgoing Chair, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past two years. It has been an exciting experience – but both interesting and rewarding. I am grateful for the opportunity and the privilege of working with such a great group of dedicated experts on biodiversity issues. I want to wish the new Chair and Executive Committee the best for the next year and extend an offer for support in areas where I may be of assistance.



Reg Melanson

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## Update on the 2015 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum

*Date: 11-12 November 2015*

*Location: Finlandia Hall, Mannerheimintie 13e, 00100, Helsinki, Finland*

Preparations for the Forum are almost complete. We have a strong programme with an excellent roster of speakers who will cover a wide variety of topics, including natural capital, agriculture and forestry, extractive industries, supply chains and procurement, and biodiversity financing. The current programme can be accessed here: [www.cbd.int/business/2015%20Business%20Forum-Draft-Agenda\\_28.10.15.\(CLEAN%20COPY008\).pdf](http://www.cbd.int/business/2015%20Business%20Forum-Draft-Agenda_28.10.15.(CLEAN%20COPY008).pdf)



Some 270 participants have presently registered for the Forum. If you wish to receive more information, or would like to register, please visit: [www.cbd.int/business/bc/2015forum.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/business/bc/2015forum.shtml) or the host government site (Finland): [www.ym.fi/BBDF2015](http://www.ym.fi/BBDF2015).

### **The Fifth Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity**

The agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the Global Partnership has been set and is reproduced below. The meeting will take place on **12 November 2015 at the Ministry of Environment offices** in Helsinki (exact room location will be provided during the forum). As in previous years is a closed session for members and observers only. If you have any questions, please contact [gpbb@cbd.int](mailto:gpbb@cbd.int).

Given the number of items on the agenda, an informal **“pre-meeting” will be held on the evening on 10 November (at approximately 19:30) at the Crown Plaza hotel (lounge)** to try to work through some issues in advance of the main meeting. All members of the Partnership and observers are welcome to attend.

***Fifth Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity  
Closed Session, 12 November 2015***

- 16:00 Welcome: Reg Melanson, Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council (CBBC)  
16:05 Introductory Remarks: David Steuerman, SCBD  
16:10 Approval of Agenda / New Business  
16:15 Introductions
- Introductions will be limited to individual's names and the initiative they represent. Initiatives are requested to supply a one-page brief on their organization prior to the meeting so that attendees will be versed on the initiative.
    - List tbc
- 16:25 Formalization of procedures for accepting new members  
16:45 Discussion of Programme of Work for the Global Partnership
- Developing new programme of work
  - Working Groups (designate specific objectives and deliverables)
    - Communication/Strategy
    - Capacity Building-Mapping Exercise
    - Financial Resources
    - Inputs to future COPs
    - Mainstreaming
  - Other areas of priority (i.e. Managing Partnerships)
  - Reporting on Activities of Initiatives
  - COP mandates (projects and other tasks)
  - Other
- 17:10 Resources for Global Partnership and Initiatives  
17:30 External Briefing(s) (looking at possibilities)  
18:00 Upcoming Meetings/Event  
18:10 Introduction to Members of the New Executive Committee  
18:20 Other Business  
18:30 Closing

We look forward to seeing you all in Helsinki.

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## **Information from Partner Organizations**

In this new section, we invite submissions from all global partners who are observers to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

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### **Birdlife International**



### ***Pan-African Business and Biodiversity Forum***

On 9-10 October 2015 a first-of-its-kind forum in Ghana pushed natural capital thinking into the sustainable development of Africa to benefit nature, people and business. Some 200 participants from 41 countries, including business, governments, civil society, academia, development organisations and financial institutions all gathered together to exchange ideas and practices at the first Pan-African Business and Biodiversity Forum (PANBBF). With the theme “*Investing in Natural Capital for Inclusive Development*”, the aim was to promote increased sustainability within Africa’s development agenda through mainstreaming of natural capital, and improved business-civil society cooperation. The Forum featured constructive dialogue in four





thematic sessions: Extractive Industries, Renewable Energy, Natural Capital Accounting and Sustainable Agriculture. “*This forum is just the beginning*”, said Patricia Zurita, Chief Executive of BirdLife International. “*We have started a process and open dialogue to really discuss how to enhance better development, successful businesses and the conservation and proper management of natural capital.*”

The opening ceremony was graced by eminent personalities, including His Majesty Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Hon. Mahama Ayariga, Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. HM Ofori Pinyin Amotian gave a passionate speech that urged Africa to invest in natural capital: “*Generation-thinking leaders buy insurance [in nature] before the accident.*” Keynote speaker Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias noted, “*Biodiversity needs to be on the table as part of the solution. We need partnerships at all levels.*”

The Forum was organised by BirdLife International in partnership with the Government of Ghana, African Centre for Technology Studies, African Development Bank, Alliance for Green Revolution in



Africa, Conservation International, Convention on Biological Diversity, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Fauna and Flora International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Olam, Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Biodiversity Consultancy, UNDP, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, World Bank Group, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and World Wide Fund for Nature. Outcomes of the Forum include the Senchi

Statement that outlines follow-up actions from the Forum and commitments by nine African countries (Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) to establish National Business and Biodiversity Initiatives. In addition, the Ghana Wildlife Society (BirdLife Partner in Ghana) signed an ecosystem restoration partnership agreement with Ghacem (subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement in Ghana) - an inspiring and successful opportunity that epitomises further outcomes to develop from this event. For more information: [www.panbbf.org/](http://www.panbbf.org/).

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## **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**



### ***Raising the bar on biodiversity offsets***

Following a global consultation process, IUCN is now finalizing a draft policy on biodiversity offsets, which will be presented for approval at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i in September 2016. Biodiversity offsets and other mechanisms in the mitigation hierarchy have the potential to be a driver for enhanced conservation. However, the stakes are high with several potential pitfalls. If offsetting biodiversity gains currency and is translated into corporate, financial and regulatory policy with unresolved but fundamental knowledge gaps, it could undermine established approaches to managing biodiversity risk. At present, many governments are already using offsets as part of their development strategies, and some of IUCN’s member organizations have been involved in advising government and industry on offsets for several years. But with the rapid emergence of offsets, both voluntary and regulatory, there is lack of clarity on what they mean, how to design and implement them, and what mechanisms can be put in place to ensure they are used properly, and even more importantly, when offsets cannot or should not be used. Thus, there is a pressing need for more authoritative, balanced guidance that can help conservation organizations, governments and companies reach common ground on the associated risks and opportunities. In response to these challenges, IUCN created a working group to

develop a policy on biodiversity offsets. In 2014, a technical study paper was prepared, which informed the development of the Draft Biodiversity Offsets Policy. Earlier this year, IUCN held a global public consultation on the draft policy. A policy working group has now finalized the draft policy on biodiversity offsets, which will be submitted to IUCN Members for consideration at the IUCN World Conservation Congress meeting in Hawai'i in September 2016. For more information, please visit: [www.iucn.org/offsets](http://www.iucn.org/offsets).

### ***IUCN at the World Forum for Natural Capital***

IUCN is supporting the World Forum on Natural Capital, which will be held 23-24 November in Edinburgh. IUCN's Director General Inger Andersen will be one of the keynote speakers and IUCN is also overseeing one of the four main streams titled "*Understanding and Managing Risks*". The conference's streams have been organised to showcase the latest developments in natural capital work, with real case studies and outstanding presenters from across the globe. The others streams will explore Innovation and Tools, Finance and Investment and Policy Dialogues. See more at: <http://naturalcapitalforum.com/>.

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### **The Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP)**



#### ***Meeting of the International Working Group on Reptile Skins, 11 January 2016, Geneva, Switzerland***

This meeting will take stock of the current progress being made in preparations to CITES COP 17 and provide a platform for engagement of the reptile skins industry to contribute towards strengthening the implementation of CITES, in particular through the work being advanced on traceability, non-detriment findings, and sustainable use and livelihoods. Results of the meeting will be shared with Parties meeting in Geneva that same week at the 66th Meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES.

#### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Global Meeting of the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform, 19-20 May 2016, Paris, France***

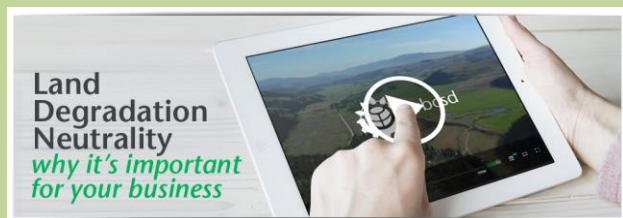
The third global meeting of Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform will mark an important milestone in the advancement of work being undertaken by the cosmetics, fashion and jewellery industries to contribute to the creation of positive impacts through the promotion of sustainable use of natural capital. During the meeting, issues on the improvement of production systems, the development of biodiversity-level quantifiable impact and monitoring indicators, and the development of traceability and information systems will be discussed.

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### **World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**



The world now recognizes the need to reverse land degradation, as evidenced in the newly released SDG 15.3. This important goal calls upon all governments to "by 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world." During the month of October, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at its COP12 adopted this new goal as an official target, encouraging countries at the national level to make concrete commitments to land degradation neutrality (LDN). The WBCSD brought the collective voice of business to COP 12 and



encouraged discussion between policymakers and business, while exploring the role the private sector can play in achieving LDN. On 20-21 October at the COP 12 Sustainable Land Management Business Forum the WBCSD facilitated discussion between national governments, policymakers and business in reversing global land degradation. The discussions led to a “Business Ankara Declaration”, which aimed to capture and synthesize business perspectives on LDN. Following a previously published LDN Issue Brief for Business, two further publications developed by the WBCSD were also launched at the Business Forum aiming to spread the message among business and government representatives about the critical role of business in reaching LDN.

- Land Degradation Neutrality: A Business Perspective.
  - Messages for Policy- Makers: Engaging Business in Shaping a Land Degradation Neutral World.
- To help business understand the importance of land degradation neutrality and highlight the related opportunities, the WBCSD produced a short video with the support of UNCCD. The publications and the video can be found at: <http://ankara.wbcsdserver.org/resources>.

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## Updates from Initiatives

*(We invite submissions from all members and those developing national initiatives)*

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### **Brazil**



On 22-23 September 2015, the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) working with the Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, and in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, held the International Symposium on Business and Biodiversity, during the VIII CBUC - Brazilian Congress on Protected Areas. The event was attended by the CBD's Executive Secretary, Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias and promoted multi-sectoral debate between the Ministry of Environment, academia and businesses. Topics covered on the first day included natural capital and the business sector, and the valuation of ecosystem services instruments. On the second day, the main themes centred on discussion of the business case for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the contribution of different sectors towards their achievement. Additional information on the Congress can be found here: <http://eventos.fundacaogrupoboticario.org.br/CBUC>.

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### **The European Union**



*EU Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform output for 2015 Workstreams on NCA, Innovation and Finance are now available online*

The final outputs of the EU B@B Platform workstreams for 2015 are available in the links below:

- Natural Capital Accounting – links between public and private sector NCA  
([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream1-natural-capital-accounting/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream1-natural-capital-accounting/index_en.htm))
- Innovation – rapid assessment of 21 case studies on innovations and business models that contribute to nature protection  
([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream2-innovation-for-biodiversity-and-business/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream2-innovation-for-biodiversity-and-business/index_en.htm))
- Finance – five thematic papers on certified goods and services, biodiversity offsets, Green Infrastructure, Payments for Ecosystem Services and pro-biodiversity businesses

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream3-access-to-finance-and-innovative-finance-mechanisms/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/workstreams/workstream3-access-to-finance-and-innovative-finance-mechanisms/index_en.htm)

The EU Annual B@B Conference was held in Brussels on 27 October 2015. The conference summary will be published by mid-November. Please visit the EU B@B Platform homepage for more information about the Conference and the Workstream Objectives for 2016.

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**Germany** 

### ***'Biodiversity in Good Company' elects new board***

The delegates at the annual members meeting of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative on 22-23 September 2015, hosted by the company Knauf Gips in Iphofen, Germany, elected a new board for a two-year term. The board, comprised of seven members, assumes strategic leadership of the Initiative. The new Chairwoman is Stefanie Eichiner from UPM. Ms. Eichiner replaced Alexander Bartelt, Otto Group, who after four successful years decided not to be a candidate for the chair again. Mr Bartelt was elected a member of the board. The Deputy Chairman of the Board, Gisbert Braun, Faber-Castell Aktiengesellschaft, and the Treasurer, Detlef Matz, were confirmed in office. In addition, Edgar Endrukaitis, GIZ, continues to be a board member. Holger Biller from Weleda as well as Pascal Bunk, Knauf Gips, were newly elected. A special thanks goes to two very committed colleagues who after four years decided to not run for re-election: Michael Garvs, Bionade, and Michael Scholing-Darby, Volkswagen. Dr. Michinori Kutami, Fujitsu, remains the spokesman of the Japanese member companies. An overview of all members is available at: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/about-us/board/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/about-us/board/).

### ***Have a Look: Basic Knowledge for Companies – Information Modules***

What do companies have to do with biodiversity and how should they get involved? "Basic knowledge: companies and biodiversity" is a series of short, cross-industry information modules for companies interested in finding out more on this topic. The modules offer guidance, suggestions and advice, which are helpful for both large and smaller businesses. 'Biodiversity in Good Company' originally published a German version of these publications in the framework of a project promoted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. The English edition of the series, slightly adapted for international use, can be accessed here: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/basic-knowledge-for-companies-information-modules/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/basic-knowledge-for-companies-information-modules/).

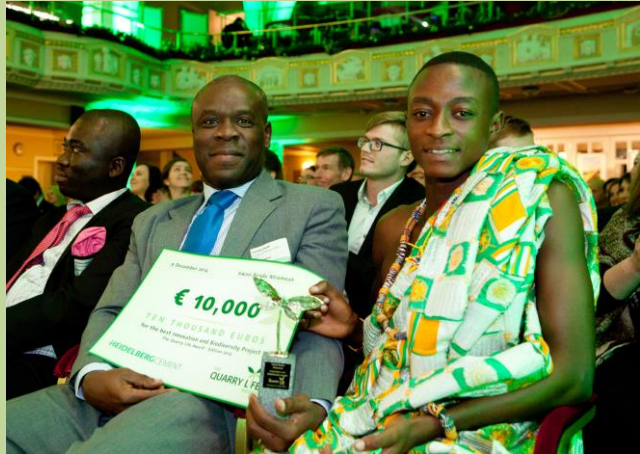
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**Ghana** 

### ***The impact of quarry life in Ghana***

The third edition of our international research and education competition, dubbed the "Quarry Life Award", seeks to promote new research projects in order to raise awareness about the biological value of mineral extraction sites worldwide. In its first edition, the competition gave rise not only to extraordinary scientific results, but also to innovative projects and educational concepts. The official kick-off of the application phase for the Quarry Life Award has started and will end on 1 March 2016. Project proposals in five different categories can be submitted in any of the now 21 participating countries – with Togo, Congo, Turkey and the US joining for the first time. The individual categories are: "Raising Public Awareness", "Promoting Biodiversity", "Innovation and Biodiversity", "Biodiversity and Education" and a new category, "Pupil and Student Projects". The additional category is meant to make the Quarry Life Award more accessible for the younger generation. Mr. Kwesi Boadu, a 23-year-old student of the



University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa won the second edition of Quarry Life National Award in Ghana and was the 1<sup>st</sup> runner up of international awards held last year in the Czech Republic. His project explored the potentials of using vermicompost as treat for top soil in a mine site. From the submitted proposals, the jury in each country will select five projects, which must be completed by September 2016. Then, three winners will be chosen by each national jury. Irrespective of their placement in the national competition, all five completed projects will compete simultaneously for the International Quarry Life Award. In the broader competition, the best projects in the five categories will be selected in December 2016 and awarded €10,000 each. The best overall project will receive prize money of €30,000. The Quarry Life Award is organized by Ghacerm Limited, the largest cement manufacturer in Ghana, and part-owned by Heidelberg Cement.



As part of efforts to demonstrate Ghacem’s readiness to promote biodiversity it has instituted various strategies aimed at improving biodiversity conservation at its site. These include the establishment of a nursery to raise seedlings for its reclamation project as well as encouraging tree planting in the communities. Additionally, Pilot Biodiversity Projects under the Quarry Life Awards have also been implemented. These projects completed as part of Ghacem’s global Quarry Life Award programme instituted by Heidelberg Cement to improve biodiversity around its quarry sites include:

- Examining the potential of *Pennisetum purpureum* as a biological geotextile and topsoil application to promote biodiversity in quarry site reclamation
- Integration of beekeeping development as a tool for sustainable eco-management of the Yongwa Quarry site
- Protecting communities from quarry dust using *Pennisetum purpureum* as a dust barrier to promote biodiversity in a mining site
- Composting for quarry site rehabilitation
- Re-greening of degraded landscapes, the role of herbal medicine (*alchonea cordifolia*) as a tool for sustainable ecological and socio-economic development
- Implications of edge effects as a tool in assisting ecological succession
- The use of vermi-compost from organic food waste as a potential treat for topsoil in restoring biodiversity at quarry site reclamation.

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**India** 

***CII-IBBI Certified Training on Managing Natural Capital***

A two-day CII-IBBI (Confederation of Indian Industries – Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative) certified training programme on Managing Natural Capital took place in Mumbai and Bengaluru in August 2015. The course was designed to improve the understanding of employees across business functions about their company’s dependencies and direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services that may result in business risks and opportunities. The programme included site visits (Godrej in Mumbai and Wipro in Bengaluru) designed to give a practical understanding of inter-dependencies between business and biodiversity and the way these are managed.



## *10th Sustainability Summit*

In September, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainability celebrated 10 years of sustainability work in India. The flagship event 10th Sustainability Summit included two sessions on biodiversity, with



a further workshop on biodiversity finance also organised. The Value and Economic Benefits of Biodiversity, moderated by Markus Lehmann of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), looked particularly at the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services from an economic point of view and considered how the economy as a whole benefits from the services provided by ecosystems. Edgar Endrukaitis, GIZ, moderated a session on the Fair and Equitable Sourcing in Reputation Economy, highlighting the case of sustainable use of natural

ingredients, while ensuring that all contributors along the supply chain are paid fair prices and share in the benefits derived from the use of biodiversity. The workshop by the CBD on “The Role of Private Sector in Achieving National Biodiversity Finance Targets: Identification of Policy Initiatives & Further Requirements” explored the larger issue of resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation as well as various aspects of biodiversity finance mechanisms.

### *Natural Capital: Let’s Rethink Growth with Additional Indicators and Not Only GDP*

A session on “Natural Capital: Let’s Rethink Growth with Additional Indicators and Not Only GDP” was organised by the IBBI at the World Forum for a Responsible Economy, held October 2015 in Lille, France. The session was moderated by Sachin Joshi from CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and was comprised of three speakers.

Pavan Sukhdev, GIST Advisory spoke of the corporation and its externalities, linking the alarming state of crossed planetary boundaries and prevalent unsustainable business practices. The experience of UPM (a member of German business and biodiversity initiative Biodiversity in Good Company) was shared by Daniel Bozonnet, who spoke of positive externalities corresponding to ecosystem services provided by forests. Finally, Sandeep Shrivastava, Ambuja Cements (an IBBI signatory company) brought forward Ambuja’s experience in natural and social capital assessment.



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## **Japan**



### *JBIB has started to share good practices by member companies*

The Japan Business Initiative for Biodiversity (JBIB) is a group of 49 companies actively engaged in conserving biodiversity. JBIB regularly gathers once a month to develop management tools such as guidelines. Besides such collective efforts, individual members have their own initiatives in their business or in communities. In order to share such leading initiatives, JBIB has just launched a new series of articles in its web site. We hope these examples of our best practices can serve as inspiration for others.

The companies providing biodiversity conservation practices are:

- Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Food, bioscience & fine chemicals, pharmaceuticals, wellness)
- Fujitsu Limited (Technology solutions, ubiquitous product solutions, device solutions)

- Kao Corporation (Chemicals, consumer products)
- Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd. (Non-life insurance)
- Mori Building Co., Ltd. (Real estate)
- Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (Gas distributor)
- Saraya Co., Ltd. (Detergent, hygiene products)
- Sekisui House, Ltd. (Housing construction)
- Toppan Printing Co., Ltd. (Printing).

The new webpage (as of 1 November) can be accessed here: <http://jbib.org/english/goodpractice/>.

## Peru



Following the successful “Second International Forum on Biodiversity and Business”, the Peruvian Initiative “Business and Biodiversity” has continued to work along with partner companies aiming to involve business sector actions in public sector efforts for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. To this end, four thematic groups were activated last August:

- Economic instruments for conservation from the public sector
- Information management
- Tools and guidelines of best business practices
- *In-situ* conservation of biodiversity (Natural Protected Areas).



In addition, in cooperation with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), an information platform for the Peruvian Initiative has started to be implemented. The platform will promote knowledge about the management and relationship between business and biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as providing an interactive link to of proposals and activities and initiatives within the Initiative.

For further information, please visit [www.minam.gob.pe/bye/](http://www.minam.gob.pe/bye/) or contact Ms. María Luisa del Río ([mldelrio@minam.gob.pe](mailto:mldelrio@minam.gob.pe)) or Ms. Patricia Juárez ([pjuarez@minam.gob.pe](mailto:pjuarez@minam.gob.pe)).

## South Africa



### *Investment in Ecological Infrastructure Seminar*

On 1 October 2015 the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN), in partnership with the uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Programme, presented the NBBN’s first ever event in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on investment in ecological infrastructure. The objectives of the event were as follows:

- To introduce business to the concept of investment in ecological infrastructure
- To communicate the business case for investment in ecological infrastructure
- To profile what is currently being done by business in KZN in collaboration with government and NGOs
- To facilitate a discussion on the need for investment in ecological infrastructure and the role of business in this context
- Highlight opportunities for further collaboration.

Speakers were from a wide variety of companies and associations. The presentations and proceedings from the event can be found here: [www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/events.html](http://www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/events.html).

## ***8th World ESP Conference***

The Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) is a worldwide network, founded in 2008, to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services. In order to facilitate the needed dialogue between scientists, policy makers and practitioners, ESP organises an annual international conference in different parts of the world. The 8th World Ecosystem Services Partnership conference will be held in South Africa from 9-13 November 2015 and is to be hosted at Spier Wine farm and Conference Centre in Stellenbosch. The National Biodiversity and Business Network will be contributing to the conference as follows:

- Ecosystem services in business – 10 November 2015: The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), the South African Department of Environmental Affairs, the Natural Capital Coalition, the WBCSD, Conservation International, Hemporium, and the EWT – National Business and Biodiversity Network of South Africa are co-hosting the special session: “S5 - Ecosystem services in business” at the 8th World ESP conference. Session details can be read at: [www.aanmelder.nl/i/doc/aa2a8ebc2d2c20e8ecd3b3eee45534a0](http://www.aanmelder.nl/i/doc/aa2a8ebc2d2c20e8ecd3b3eee45534a0)
- Natural Capital Protocol – 8th November 2015: The NBBN has also partnered with a number of other organisations to present an exciting pre-conference workshop on the draft Natural Capital Protocol and sector guides, before they are released for consultation. The Natural Capital Protocol aims to improve decision-making by including the impacts and dependencies we have on nature. More information on the workshop can be read at: [www.es-partnership.org/esp/83702/9/0/50](http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/83702/9/0/50). To register please contact [conference@es-partnership.org](mailto:conference@es-partnership.org)

For more information about the ESP 8 conference and to register:

[http://espconference.org/espconference2015#.VVc-c\\_mqqko](http://espconference.org/espconference2015#.VVc-c_mqqko).

## ***Second Biodiversity Economy Indaba***

South Africa, through its Department of Environmental Affairs, will be hosting the Second Biodiversity Economy Indaba, scheduled to take place at the Durban International Convection Centre, KwaZulu-Natal Province on 5 - 7 November 2015. The theme of this second Indaba is ‘*Biodiversity is good for Business, Business is good for Biodiversity*’. The Indaba will seek to promote how the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources could promote socio-economic development and alleviate livelihoods, while these activities increase awareness and allocate resources integral for sustainable use of the biodiversity. The Second Biodiversity Economy Indaba will bring together over a two and a half day period, multiple and diverse stakeholders in the biodiversity economy, including the hunting, game farm, and related activities industries, as well as the bioprospecting and biotrade industries. Similar to the first Indaba approach, a number of parallel sessions will be held during this event.

The anticipated outcome of the Second Biodiversity Economy Indaba will be to consider the scope and extent of utilization of indigenous biological resources and the contribution of the wildlife and bioprospecting sectors to the country’s economy as well as understanding the role that these two sectors play in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. In addition, the Minister of Environmental Affairs will impart a shared vision for biodiversity economy in South Africa, through the launch of the recently cabinet adopted Biodiversity Economy Strategy. This is a 14-year strategy for the wildlife and bioprospecting sector, which will guide the sustainable growth of the sector and provide a basis for addressing constraints to its growth. The strategy will not only assist South Africa’s transition to a green economy, but will play a bigger role for livelihoods in job creation and poverty reduction, especially for rural communities, as most of the indigenous biological resources surrounds these communities. Furthermore, this strategy will play a major role in the transformation of the economy by motivating marginalised individuals to start their own biodiversity-based enterprises, as well as enhancing



the entrepreneurial spirit of current players in the sector, thus, creating an appreciable and sustainable economic presence.

The event has gained the attention of the president of South Africa, President JG Zuma, who will donate five Rhinos to the Nambiti Private Game Reserve. The event will also see the launch of the National Bioprospecting Forum. This is a newly established forum that will serve as a formal communication channel between industry, communities, research institutions (academic and commercial), communities, and knowledge holders within the different spheres of government. In addition, the Department of Environmental Affairs will release a report on the “Scope and extent of utilisation of indigenous biological resources in the bioprospecting industry in South Africa”. Finally in addition to important deliberations, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biodiversity Economy Indaba will see the launch of the Scoping Report on the Overview of Current Approaches and Practices of South African Businesses to the Mainstreaming Of Biodiversity.

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**Spain**



***Public-Private Consensus: A Practical Guide for Ecological Restoration***

The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative (SBBI) offers member companies a forum for debate and joint initiatives. In July 2015, six member companies (Ferrovial, OHL, LafargeHolcim, Endesa, Gas Natural Fenosa and Iberdrola) decided to share common views for improved biodiversity performance on habitat restoration. This working group identified the need for a practical tool that would showcase best practices in ecological restoration and compiled useful resources for the conservation of our natural capital. To that end an interactive guide was proposed. The process will involve experts from companies, the scientific community, a third sector (to be determined) and the government. Six member SBBI companies and three partners of the initiative (Fundación Global Nature, Forética and Club de Excelencia en Sostenibilidad) are directly involved in this working group. Various meetings are planned in 2015 to explore the vision of the different stakeholders. This should ensure a consensus position on what principles should guide ecological restoration in Spain. Based on real case studies and success stories, the guide aims to become a reference document for all parties involved in a restoration process that considers natural capital in all the stages of a site restoration.

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**Sri Lanka**



***Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform Rebranded as “Biodiversity Sri Lanka”***

Initiated in August 2012 by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and Dilmah Conservation, the Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform completed three years of operations, gaining to date the support of 30 Patron Members and 25 General Members representing six different industry sectors: Banking and Finance; Engineering and Construction; Information and Communications Technology; Plantations and Agribusiness; Production and Manufacturing; and Tourism and Hospitality. In order to rebrand itself as Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL), the Second Meeting of Members and CEO Forum was organized on 6 October 2015.





BSL strives to expand its current status as a private sector-led, member-driven, nationally-owned initiative serving promoting dialogue, exchanging knowledge, and linking networks both locally and globally, to a body that would be identified directly with Sri Lanka's private sector leadership in biodiversity conservation. Three new initiatives were also launched at this event.

- A Biodiversity Project Ranking Scheme: This is a set of criteria which can be applied to systematically rank biodiversity projects encouraging the private sector to incorporate well-defined scientific approaches in projects, devise action plan-based operations including community involvement, and achieve core objectives, thereby recognizing the importance of these projects in addressing national biodiversity conservation priorities.
- A Biodiversity Credit Accrual System for Sri Lanka: This is a novel concept to enable biodiversity conservation project owners to accrue credits from the enhancement and protection of biodiversity on their land. BSL, with the expertise of a specialized sub-committee will work towards establishing a modality for such a mechanism on par with the requirements and standards already available in other parts of the world.
- An Online Project Bank: A collection of project identification documents in line with national priorities was also unveiled at the evening event. This project bank features numerous ideas in various thematic areas such as assessment of biodiversity, biodiversity and communities, education, awareness and culture, inland waters conservation, marine conservation, coastal and resource conservation, reforestation, species conservation and terrestrial ecosystems and habitat restoration. These proposals are available for development and implementation by the private sector. The online project bank can be accessed at: <http://business-biodiversity.lk/project-bank/>.



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