

WCC-2016-Res-066-EN

Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting

RECOGNISING civil society's interest in better understanding the way that businesses take into account and act to promote biodiversity conservation;

RECALLING that the 12th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP12, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 2014) adopted decision XII/10 *Business engagement* encouraging businesses to integrate biodiversity considerations into their reporting frameworks;

RECOGNISING the fact that more and more non-financial rating agencies are including elements of biodiversity in their reports;

WELCOMING the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, entitled 'The future we want', which calls on the private sector to engage in responsible business practices and also welcoming the United Nations General Assembly document 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development';

RECALLING with interest the common framework and set of indicators, four of which concern biodiversity directly, proposed by the Global Reporting Initiative in order to measure the progress of businesses' sustainable development programmes;

CONGRATULATING France for introducing in 2001 the obligation for large businesses to disclose non-financial information, and for having identified in 2012 biodiversity as being one of the topics to address;

WELCOMING the initiatives on this topic developed by the IUCN French Committee, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the CBD Secretariat;

WELCOMING the efforts made by certain businesses that have collaborated with experts to develop methodologies for measuring, valuing and reporting on biodiversity, as well as those committed to disclosing more information on biodiversity;

RECOGNISING the importance of business reporting on biodiversity in a consistent way for civil society, that efforts could still usefully be made to help; and

ALSO RECOGNISING the challenges associated with developing a generally-accepted approach and set of indicators for business to measure, value and then report on biodiversity;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. ENCOURAGES businesses, irrespective of their size or sector of activity, to strengthen measurement, valuation and reporting on impacts on biodiversity, and, in particular, when biodiversity is identified as material to the business, (whether the biodiversity impacts and dependencies are direct or indirect)¹, to provide information on the relevant following thematic areas:
 - a. the direct and indirect dependencies of their activities on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services;
 - b. the direct and indirect impacts of their activities on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services;
 - c. their commitment and their action plans for acting to promote, enhance and protect biodiversity, e.g. ecological corridors for landscape connectivity;
 - d. the sites that are of highest priority in terms of biodiversity conservation, and which thus require particular attention from businesses, to endeavour to provide their georeferenced maps

¹ Material Aspects are those that reflect the organisation's significant economic, environmental and social impacts; or that substantively influence the assessments and decisions of stakeholders. To determine if an Aspect is material, qualitative analysis, quantitative assessment and discussion are needed. GRI (2013) G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.

and associated conservation values, and to mitigate the impacts of their activities on biodiversity;

e. the process taken to comply with legal obligations in the appropriate jurisdiction;

f. the voluntary measures that go beyond legal obligations; and

g. the change in biodiversity conservation obtained through the implementation of their commitments and their action plans;

2. ENCOURAGES businesses to provide information and to publish regularly, for each thematic area, related indicators, explaining the method used, and to maintain these over the long term in order to identify the progress made;

3. ENCOURAGES governments, in accordance with national and international law and within their competencies, to establish legal frameworks or similar requiring business reporting on biodiversity in line with the thematic areas above; and

4. CALLS ON the Director General to facilitate Members to join forces and collaborate with businesses to develop a common framework and set of principles on how to measure, value and report on biodiversity in order to improve, standardise and promote corporate biodiversity reporting.