

Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council

Canadian Business & Biodiversity Leadership Declaration

Preamble

Considering Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, 2010, encouraged businesses to pursue successful approaches for integrating biodiversity considerations into business operations;

Accepting Canada is a Party to the CBD and agreed with this outcome in support of achieving its own *Biodiversity Outcomes Framework* and in order to conserve Canada's biodiversity and the ecosystem services biodiversity provides;

Understanding representatives of the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council (CBBC) participated in the *Third Business and Biodiversity Challenge Conference*, Jakarta, in 2009 and assisted to develop the *Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity*¹;

Appreciating the CBBC, by engaging Canadian businesses from all sectors, seeks to support the efficient and effective implementation of the CBD and the achievement of Canada's *Biodiversity Outcomes Framework*;

Acknowledging business engagement in biodiversity conservation is key to increasing awareness and education of governments, consumers, investors and other stakeholders regarding biodiversity and to achieving no-net-loss of biodiversity;

Knowing Canadian businesses have already developed and implemented biodiversity conservation approaches in their management strategies and practices, and such practices need to be documented, shared and encouraged;

Emphasizing the need to incorporate assessments of biodiversity risks and opportunities into business corporate social responsibility strategies and to incorporate an understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem services into business policies and practices;

Given CBBC members can demonstrate that business operations can contribute to improving both biodiversity and have a net-positive impact for business;

Recognizing the progress made in recent years in integrating biodiversity conservation in business strategies and commending companies that have demonstrated commitment and leadership in this regard, and

Also recognizing that each business has unique experiences in managing and conserving biodiversity, and that this Declaration will be undertaken by each business individually by setting its own objectives, plans, timelines and procedures for contributing to the achievement of the overall objectives of the Declaration.

Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/business/jakarta-charter-businness-en.pdf>

Canadian Business & Biodiversity Leadership Declaration

On behalf of my organization, I hereby:

1. Acknowledge and support the implementation of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and Canada's *Biodiversity Outcomes Framework*, which aim for the:
 - Conservation of biological diversity;
 - Sustainable use of its components; and
 - Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that arise out of the utilization of genetic resources;

2. Agree that the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services needs to be meaningfully reflected in corporate and national economic models, policies and plans, understanding that the conservation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services is a necessary condition for effective, competitive business operations, contributes to new business opportunities and markets, and is fundamental to a sustainable economy; and

3. Commit to:
 - i. Identify a responsibility center or individual within the organization to oversee and report on biodiversity conservation-related activity within the next year;
 - ii. Analyze business activities with regard to their direct and indirect effects on biological diversity and ecological services in order to understand associated risks and opportunities;
 - iii. Develop a plan that integrates resulting biodiversity performance goals into appropriate corporate strategy, business plans and operations.

Name of Business: _____

Authorised signature: _____

Name & title: _____

Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council: _____

Date: _____

IMPLEMENTATION

All members will be recognized officially on the CBBC web site. To be able to refer to being a member of CBBC publicly (in a publication, web site or report), the member will have signed the CBBC declaration and provided that to CBBC. To receive additional acknowledgement for performance, the business will forward to the CBBC Executive Director evidence relating to each of the points listed for each level, outlined below, which will be assessed by the CBBC.

IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL A

1. Integrate the conservation of biological diversity into corporate environmental management systems.
2. Develop corporate action plans to address biodiversity-related risks and opportunities for corporate operations.
3. Take stakeholder perspectives into account by identifying, informing and engaging with those whose biodiversity-related interests may be impacted by corporate decisions and actions.
4. Define realistic, measurable biodiversity targets to be monitored, assessed and adjusted regularly.
5. Report publicly on biodiversity-related activities and achievements.

IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL AA

1. Require accountability in all corporate operational units for setting and achieving biodiversity objectives within the context of corporate biodiversity policies and report on progress to the senior executive and/or management Board.
2. Integrate biodiversity issues into investment decision-making and ownership practices, including business opportunities, such as cost-efficiencies, new products and new markets, thereby improving long-term returns to beneficiaries.
3. Inform suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and create incentives for suppliers to implement biodiversity conservation programs throughout product supply chains and life cycles.
4. Explore the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations, communities and governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue, enhancing knowledge on ecological services, determining conservation priorities, fostering collaboration and continually

improving the company's management system in respect of biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

5. Share, including through the CBBC, lessons learned in the implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use activities among businesses of all sectors, including small and medium enterprises.

IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL AAA

1. Demonstrate and report on measurable progress in biodiversity conservation arising from normal business operations as a result of implementing the corporate biodiversity action plan.
2. Demonstrate successful, measurable achievement of "no-net-loss" of biodiversity from business operations, or net biodiversity enhancement, through offsets, restoration, or other corporate actions.
3. Develop formal relationships, such as through partnerships, advisory groups, financial support, etc., with appropriate institutions, local or national NGOs, communities, indigenous groups or other stakeholders or advisors with the aim of independent review of progress, enhancing ecological knowledge, formal collaboration, or reassessing conservation plans and priorities.
4. Require suppliers to undertake the key commitments of the CBBC Business and Biodiversity Declaration, including implementation at Level A.