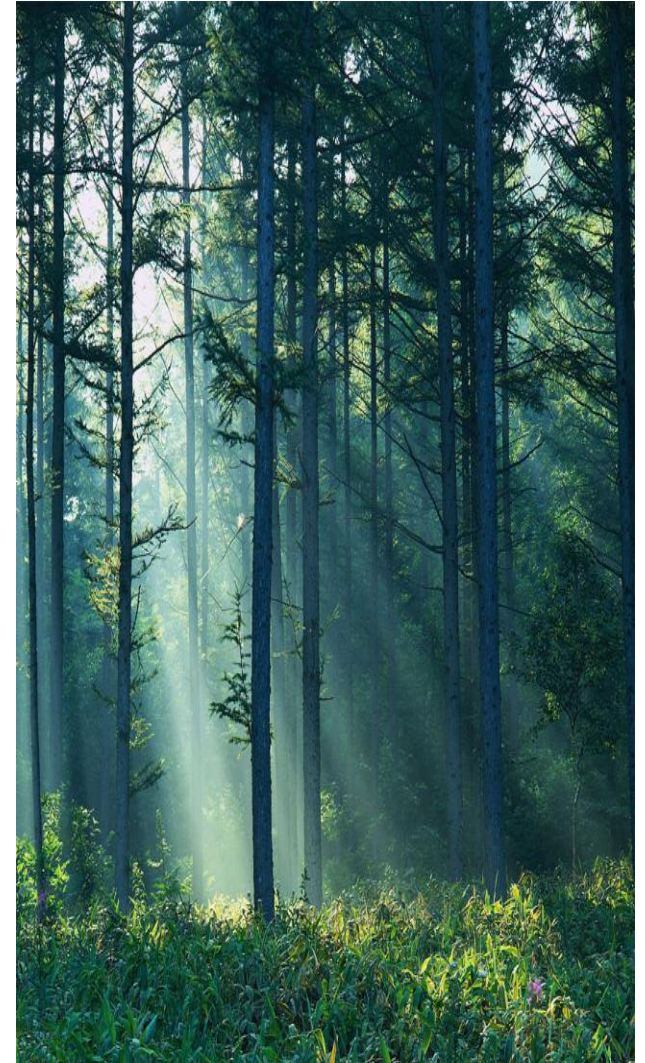




Biodiversity Reporting

Opportunities and Challenges for Business

Bonnie James
Business & Biodiversity Workshop
Guelph – Dec. 5, 2012



Reporting to the CBD

Guidelines for National Governments



Canada's 4th National Report
to the United Nations Convention
on Biological Diversity

Timing

- Every 4 years – next report due March 31, 2014

Purpose

- mid term review of Strategic Plan 2011-2020; input to Global Biodiversity Assessment; communication tool

Structure & Content

- Update on biodiversity status and trends; review of implementation of national biodiversity strategies & action plans; progress towards 2015 and 2020 Aichi targets

Process

- Involve stakeholders; link to other related conventions; communicate key findings





COP 11 Decisions Relevant to Business and Biodiversity Reporting

- Encourage supply chains to report progress in mainstreaming biodiversity
- Analyze impacts, dependencies, opportunities and risks of actions related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Consider covering in annual reports & corp. information platforms, the effects of business operations on biodiversity and their reliance on ecosystem services
- Consider use of voluntary standards and certification
- Align investments in support of conservation & sustainable use
- Collaborate with relevant organizations on the development of reporting standards
- Adopt practices and strategies to achieve goals & targets of the Convention & Aichi Biodiversity targets

Domestic Reporting on Biodiversity

Multi-layered & Synergistic

- National
- Federal
- Provincial and territorial
- Municipal
- Eco-system based
- Sector-based
- Organizational



Benefits to Business

The Drivers

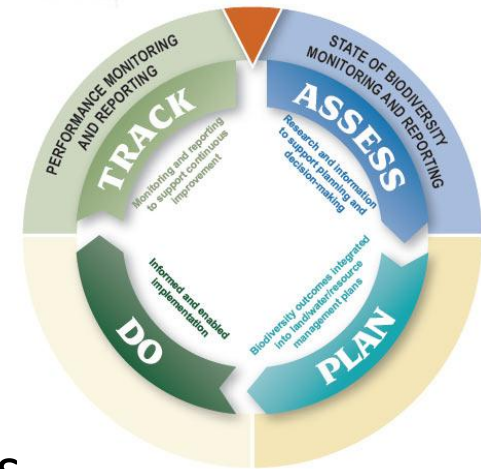
- Competitive advantage in global economy
- Responsible stewardship & corp. social responsibility
- Social license to operate, grow & innovate
- Access to markets and capital
- Improved client/stakeholder relations
- Employer of choice – recruitment & retention
- Resource efficiencies, continuous improvement
- new business opportunities
- Reduced ecological/developmental footprint
- Continued availability of ecosystem goods and services to support sustainable growth



Reporting Prerequisites

Considerations

- Clear goals, objectives, targets
- Understanding relationship between business objectives, & maintaining biodiversity – impacts, dependencies, opportunities
- Understanding the needs & expectations of each stakeholder
- Baselines and standards
- Corporate commitment to transparency and reasonable risk tolerance & stakeholder engagement
- Governance structure to ensure timely, reliable and systematic reports



Challenges to Biodiversity Reporting

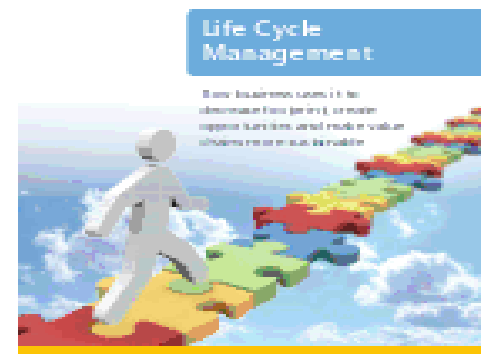
- Common lexicon and nomenclature
- Access to spatially referenced, reliable data
- Meaningful indicators/metrics
- Long term monitoring syst. –e.g. ABMI
- Assessing risk & establishing baselines
- Access to resources & expertise
- Making the link to business planning and value chain
- Transitioning to ecosystem services approach
- Natural capital accounting and valuation methodology
- Engaging stakeholders & sustaining commitment over time



No Single Approach to Biodiversity Reporting

Elements & approach determined by nature of the business

- Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Mitigation, conservation, restoration activities
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Lifecycle Mgmt. & value chain analysis
- Eco-certification & greening the supply chain
- Biodiversity offsets and markets
- Case studies
- Employee education, training, incentive programs
- Community outreach
- Public/private partnerships
- Ethical investment





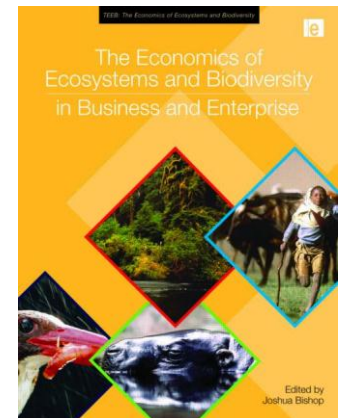
Measuring and Reporting the Contribution of Business to the CBD Strategic Plan

- Business traditionally incorporated in national reports along with governments and a variety of other stakeholders
- An integrated report on business and biodiversity might provide platform to give greater profile to the efforts and achievements of the business community
- Target audience would be both domestic and international
- Federal government could use business report as a source document for national report to CBD
- CBBC could pilot test a Canadian B&B report for the mid-term review of the Aichi targets in 2014
- A proposal for the 2014 report including possible format, themes, critical path etc., could be presented to the CBBC Board in early 2013 and posted on the CBBC web site for reaction and feedback.



Resources for Business Reporting on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

- CBD – Global Business and Biodiversity Platform (www.cbd.int/en/business/home)
- Business Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BBES) www.unep-wcmc.org/business-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-services
- The TEEB Report for Business (www.teebweb.org)
- TEEB for Business Coalition (www.teebforbusiness.org)
- World Bank - Wealth Accounting & the Valuation of Ecosystem Services – WAVES) (www.wavespartnership.org)
- Global Reporting Initiative (www.globalreporting.org)
- Global Footprint Network (www.footprintnetwork.org)
- Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council (www.businessbiodiversity.ca)
- Federal & provincial governments – (www.biodivcanada.ca)
- Canadian System of Environmental & Resource Accounts (www.statcan.gc.ca)
- NGO's – DU, Nature Conservancy, WHC etc.
- Universities and Research Institutes
- NatureServe Canada (www.natureserve-canada.ca)
- Canadensys (www.canadensys.net)
- Deloitte (www.Deloitte.com)



Questions for Discussion

- What are some of the barriers and issues related to reporting on biodiversity & ecosystem services? Would businesses benefit from workshops or webinars on biodiversity reporting?
- Would an integrated Canadian B&B report help to make the efforts and achievements of the business community more visible both at the national and international levels?
- How can business reporting on biodiversity be better integrated with broader biodiversity reporting at national, provincial, municipal and regional levels?

Thank You

