



Background discussion note

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A: Biodiversity-related responsibility schemes

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Incorporating biodiversity into corporate responsibility schemes

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1. Introduction

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines biodiversity as "... *the variability among living organisms from all sources... - terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems – this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems*". The CBD defines three objectives related to biodiversity:

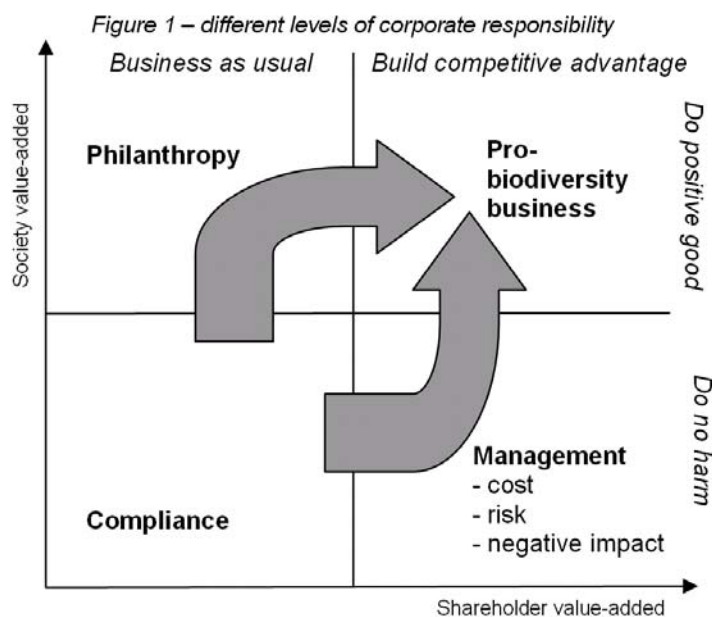
- the conservation of biological diversity (environmental dimension)
- the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (economic dimension)
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (social dimension).

Businesses can impact on biodiversity directly such as through *habitat change* and *overexploitation* of natural resources, or indirectly, such as through *climate change*, introducing *invasive species*, and *nutrient overloading*.

These five factors were all identified by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as the main causes of current and future biodiversity loss.

Biodiversity, as most other sustainability aspects, can be addressed by a company at different levels (see figure 1 below):

- **Compliance**, when a business focuses its efforts to comply with local and national legislation;
- **Philanthropy**, when a business responds to the challenges to biodiversity by making donations to external conservation organizations;
- **Management**, when corporate strategies, policies and operational responses are developed, based on biodiversity assessments to reduce, control and mitigate impacts;
- **Value Creation**, when a company fully integrates biodiversity into its business model and develops new business opportunities linked to biodiversity conservation.

Figure 1: different levels of corporate responsibility

Companies that have responded to the call for a more responsible approach to biodiversity management in their business operations – going beyond compliance and philanthropy and by pro-actively managing their impacts on biodiversity – have generally done so by adopting **responsibility schemes**. Hundreds of schemes related to corporate responsibility have been developed. Most of the existing responsibility schemes address one or all of the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, social and economic. Depending on the scheme, biodiversity is one of the specific aspects addressed within the context of environmental sustainability.

Responsibility schemes are generally non-legally binding in nature, although there are many examples where they are a prerequisite for membership in an association or initiative. With regards to their development, stakeholders' engagement is a key element of most corporate responsibility scheme. Stakeholders include groups, communities or individuals with an interest in a sector, such as environmental or humanitarian NGOs, civil society organisations, inter-governmental organizations, indigenous communities and academia. Schemes developed with business involvement have higher relevance and acceptance. However, when non business stakeholders are included in the process, the acceptance and credibility of the scheme is increased.

Some industry led initiatives have developed a range of schemes to support their members in the effective integration of sustainability principles in their operations. For example, the International Council for Mining and Minerals (ICMM) developed, in conjunction with stakeholders, a Sustainable Development Framework of principles for its members, good practice guidance for incorporating biodiversity within a mine's lifecycle, and the Mining Sector Supplement for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) sustainable reporting guidelines. Similarly,

independent organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), a world-wide federation of national standards bodies, have developed the ISO14000 series of environmental standards and guideline reference documents, covering from Environmental Management Systems to Eco Labelling, and Life Cycle Assessment.

If biodiversity is well incorporated into responsibility schemes, they can offer companies a credible and structured way forward for proactively integrating biodiversity into their operations on three key levels:

- **Commitments** – Schemes that establish a broad set of principles which an individual company can adapt and adopt for their own internal and/or public policies.
- **Implementation** – Schemes that provide a framework or methodology that enables a company to integrate commitments into their operations.
- **Communication** – Schemes that enable a company to communicate their performance at implementing commitments.

The focus of corporate responsibility has been on larger businesses, due to their size, resources and reach through subsidiaries and supply chains. However, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – companies with fewer than 250 employees – are major contributors to both income generation and resource use in much of the world. The EU's 23 million SMEs represent about 99 percent of all EU enterprises and 57 percent of the EU's total economic added value.

Though their impact is individually small, cumulatively SMEs have the potential to significantly impact on – and positively influence – biodiversity. Smaller companies often possess greater understanding of the dynamics of the ecosystem in which they operate and as a result can more easily achieve a win-win for income generation and biodiversity conservation. They are often located where they can readily see the impacts of their operation on biodiversity and livelihoods and hence the case to address those impacts is easier to make. SMEs' engagement with biodiversity issues has so far been limited to a select range of sectors and services where the financial case for biodiversity has been demonstrated, e.g. eco-tourism and organic agriculture.

A main barrier to wider adoption of corporate responsibility schemes is the lack of exposure of SMEs to wider pressure sources, such as consumers, advocacy NGOs, financial institutions. Additional barriers include fear of bureaucracy, time and cost and a lack of knowledge of the issues. Existing corporate responsibility schemes may also be seen as inaccessible – or indeed inappropriate – to smaller businesses.

To this end, the European Commission has proposed to create the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme, to help SMEs minimize the environmental impact of their activities and facilitate compliance with existing legislation. The programme aims to:

- Minimise the administrative burden on companies
- Help SMEs integrate environmental concerns into their businesses
- Support regional and national networks
- Buildup local know-how
- Improve communication.

For example, guides on energy efficiency, air emissions, soil and water and waste for SMEs are planned.¹

Other institutions have also developed support programmes for SMEs. Recognising that almost half of Global Compact business participants in Europe are SMEs, the Global Compact also has an outreach programme for SME capacity building. The UN Industrial Development Organisation has also launched a framework for measuring and reporting on social and environmental performance. Known as REAP (Responsible Entrepreneurs Achievement Programme), the programme aims to help SMEs to practice responsible entrepreneurship, by translating corporate social responsibility (CSR) principles into a commercially viable management approach, focusing on implementation of CSR principles rather than on reporting.

This paper aims at presenting the current status of biodiversity integration in corporate responsibility schemes. A sample of well-established and innovative schemes that could support the effective management of a company's impact on biodiversity has been analysed (Details and references in relation to the schemes analysed can be found in the Annex). Many more schemes exist beyond those referred to in this paper (in particular in the group of certification), but it was not the goal of this paper to have a comprehensive inventory of corporate social responsibility schemes.

In order to determine the effectiveness of different types of schemes, the following questions were taken into consideration: what they are, who is involved, whether they are binding or voluntary, and in particular the level and nature of biodiversity integration in the respective schemes. With regards to this element, and for the purposes of this review, the environmental section (where relevant) of the selected schemes was analysed for key words – including *biodiversity, species, ecosystems, specific ecosystems (such as marine, forest, wetland, protected areas, world heritage sites) and specific species, habitat, water, air, soil, flora, fauna, and generally "environment"*.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/sme/index_en.htm

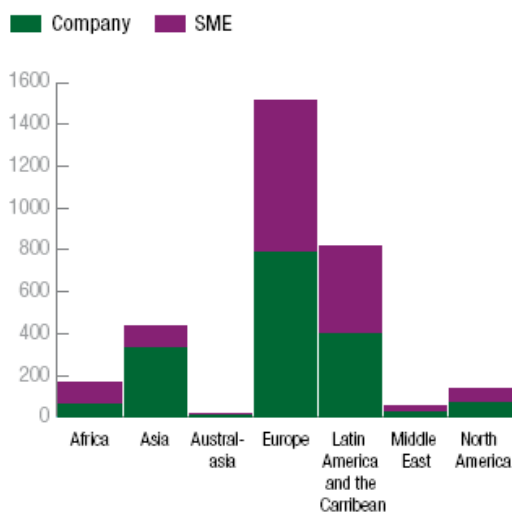
2. Schemes that support a corporate commitment to biodiversity management

Charters, codes of conducts, guidelines, statements of commitments are some of the type of schemes that support corporate commitment to social responsibility. Once endorsed, these schemes should be translated by the company in a company specific policy and strategy.

2.1. Cross-sector commitment schemes

Among the best known and adopted cross sectoral schemes there are the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the CERES principles.

Figure 2: Global Compact business participants by region and size (2007)



The **UN Global Compact** is the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative with more than 3,000 business participants from 116 countries worldwide (see figure 2). Despite criticism from some groups concerned about the UN engaging with business, the Compact was launched in 2000 thanks to the vision, commitment and idealism coupled with sound realism of Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General. He proposed a "global compact" of shared values to business leaders at the World Economic Forum in 1999.

The Compact builds on the foundational spirit of the UN Charter in 1945, when there was universal consensus that commerce, investment and trade were indispensable pillars of a peaceful and prosperous world. It encourages companies to sign up to a set of universally accepted principles for sustainability and social responsibility. These are based on declarations associated with labour, environment, human rights and, more recently, anti-

Improving the OECD Guidelines?

The environment section of the OECD Guidelines, first established in 1976, was modified following a major review in 2000. The Guidelines now encourage businesses to “raise their environmental performance”. However, the principles refer generally to environmental management, disclosure of environmental information, and contingency planning for environmental impacts such as mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary principle. Biodiversity is not referred to either specifically or generally. Even an OECD Roundtable on Corporate Responsibility in 2004, which examined the positive contribution of business to the environment, did not explore opportunities for biodiversity conservation, focusing more on reducing impacts. Nevertheless, engagement with stakeholders and respect of intellectual property rights (IPRs) could be linked to access and benefit sharing element of the CBD’s objectives.

Reference: http://www.oecd.org/document/1/0,3343,en_2649_33765_31711425_1_1_1_1,00.html

corruption. The Environment Principles are derived from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The **OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises** establish specific recommendations, developed and promoted by governments, for multi-national enterprises operating in or from the 39 OECD adhering countries. They are used by businesses to develop their own individual codes of conduct, the result of which is adapted and relevant to the individual company.

Both the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines promote a precautionary approach to the environment. This is linked to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and translates as a “prevention is better than cure” approach, which encourages companies to assess any actual and potential environmental harm. Although neither scheme mentions biodiversity explicitly, biodiversity can be included when a company integrates the principles into their own business activities.

ICMM partnership for biodiversity

Extractive industries, with a highly visible and direct impact on biodiversity, have been leaders in this area. For example, the International Council on Minerals and Mining (ICMM), formed in 2001, developed its Sustainable Development Framework. The Framework’s foundations lie in the Mining, Minerals, and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project, an independent two-year process of consultation and research with representatives of a number of different stakeholder groups (including indigenous communities, NGOs, regulatory bodies, labour organisations, academia and the mining industry itself) at global, national, regional and local levels.

All member companies of ICMM are required to implement the 10 principles of the Sustainable Development Framework and comply with policy commitments made by the ICMM Council. Principle 7 states ICMM members’ commitment to: *Contribute to conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning*. To assist ICMM members to meet this commitment, ICMM in partnership with IUCN, developed relevant guidance based on best practice.

Reference: <http://www.iied.org/mmsd>

2.2. Sector-specific commitment schemes

Aside from the examples highlighted above, commitment schemes tend to be developed by industry-led sector-specific initiatives on a consensus basis. Though commitments are not legally binding, in many instances their adoption is a pre-requisite to becoming part of an initiative, or roundtable or even a business association such as the International Council on Minerals and Mining (ICMM) (see box). Similarly, members of the Cement Sustainability Initiative's have to implement the six areas of commitments, though they have up to four years from joining the initiative to do so. The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) takes a less binding approach to their code of conduct, which establishes a common base for sectoral responsibility through effective self-regulation, and demonstrates the considerations of the production sector towards the fish it rears, the environment and the consumer. These schemes often form the platform upon which companies develop their own individual set of principles and policies to address sustainability and specifically biodiversity management. There are many examples where companies went beyond the principles stated by the inspiring scheme.

In general commitment schemes are developed in a multi-stakeholder fashion. The roundtables on Sustainable Palm Oil and Responsible Soy are multi-stakeholder initiatives, therefore NGOs and other interested groups actively participate throughout the development of commitment principles. In the cases of the Tour Operators' Initiative or the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, although not included in the membership, non-business stakeholders were consulted before finalising commitment principles to improve their relevance and acceptance.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels² is a key multi-stakeholder initiative, established in 2006. Using modern technologies such as wikis and videoconferencing, the Roundtable's aim is to quickly develop draft standards for sustainable biofuels by mid-2008 in conjunction with NGOs, companies, governments and inter-governmental groups from all over the world. The sustainability criteria – greenhouse gas emissions, environment, social, and implementation – will be based on existing principles where possible, such as those developed by the Forestry Stewardship Council and the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil.

Focus on finance

The International Financial Corporation (IFC) developed the **Equator Principles**, launched in 2003 and revised in 2006 – screening criteria used by the financial industry for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental risk in project financing for projects with capital costs over \$10m (reduced from \$50m under the 2006 revisions). They apply across all industry sectors but split into high and medium impact groups. The Equator Principles are not a detailed set of enforceable legal norms but a general, voluntary framework of ten broad principles applicable to project finance transactions only.

The **UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** have been developed by the UNEP Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact. The Principles for Responsible Investment aim to help investors integrate consideration of environmental, social and governance issues into investment decision-making and ownership practices, and thereby improve long-term returns to beneficiaries. There are no legal or regulatory sanctions associated with the Principles. They are designed to be voluntary and aspirational. The current 245 signatories, who comprise of asset owners, investment managers and professional service partners, have more than \$10 trillion dollars-worth of assets under management.

Biodiversity is not referred to explicitly within the 10 Equator Principles; however, the Principles are underpinned by International Finance Cooperation (IFC) Performance Standards, guidelines and policies: biodiversity is included under IFC Performance Standard 6, which was strengthened and adopted in 2006. Similarly, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment do not mention biodiversity per se. However, the recent launching of the UNEP FI working group on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Workstream reflects a demand from investors to further understand this issue and potentially incorporate these issues into the principles.

The financial sector has led the way in terms of corporate responsibility commitments (see box below). The continuing growth of responsible investment has played a significant role in persuading more companies to respond to sustainability concerns. The Equator Principles, developed by the International Financial Corporation, are not legally enforceable but signatory financial institutions are encouraged to apply them when financing projects over \$10m. Similarly, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment are voluntary.

Principle 2 calls for “an environmental and social assessment that addresses mitigation and management of impacts”. Issues to be covered under the social and environmental impact assessment include biodiversity and natural resource management. Principle 3, Applicable Social and Environmental Standards, suggests that where a project is located in a non-OECD country or a low income OECD country, IFC Performance Standards³ should apply (see Annex). As of September 2007, the Equator Principles have been adopted by 54 financial institutions from 21 countries, including 10 in Europe.

The responsibility schemes considered within this paper include environmental principles and as such, represent an appropriate leverage point for incorporating biodiversity. Though cross-sectoral schemes reach out to a wide range of business types and sizes, they are less likely to include biodiversity within their principles, consequently reducing the incentive for individual businesses to firstly understand the importance of biodiversity, and secondly to consider integrating biodiversity within their own commitments.

Sector-specific initiatives often incorporate biodiversity if not in the main principle, at least in the detail. Such initiatives importantly tend also to put pressure on member organisations to

³ <http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/Content/PerformanceStandards>

actually incorporate the common principles within individual company commitments. However, the level of interpretation of biodiversity varies between the schemes.

The sector-specific schemes that include biodiversity tend to include the conservation/*environmental dimension* of biodiversity. This often includes references to “reduce impact”, “protect”, “conserve” and in the cases of The Energy and Biodiversity initiative, the RSPO and the SAI Platform to “enhance” and “improve” conservation opportunities. Key indicators of biodiversity referenced in the principles examined in this paper include “endangered species”, “protected areas” or “high conservation value areas” and habitats. The agricultural-based initiatives profiled in this paper all refer to soil as an element of biodiversity too.

The sustainable use/*economic dimension* of biodiversity – is only referred to by the SAI Platform and the Tour Operators’ Initiative. The issues to be considered under Equator Principle 2 also explicitly refer to the *sustainable management and use of renewable natural resources (including sustainable resource management through appropriate independent certification systems)*.

In the sample of schemes, the inclusion of the fair and equitable sharing/*social dimension* of biodiversity often coincides with that of the economic dimension. Again, Equator Principle 2 is more advanced, referring to socio-economic impacts, communities and indigenous groups and associated cultural values. The SAI Platform and the Tour Operators Initiative also include reference to enabling local communities and cultural values.

The **Tour Operators' Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development** is a voluntary, non-profit initiative, open to all tour operators, regardless of their size and geographical location. To move towards sustainable tourism, tour operators in the Initiative have to commit themselves to sustainable development as the core of their business activity by integrating the commitment in their own policies. With reference to biodiversity, principle 2 suggests that companies will “*strive to pursue the best practices in all our activities ... especially with regard to: responsible use of natural resources, reducing, minimizing and preventing pollution and waste and conserving plants, animals, ecosystems and protected areas (biodiversity), and conserving landscapes, cultural and natural heritage*”. The members of the Initiative also work together through common activities to promote and disseminate implementation methods and practices compatible with sustainable development.

3. Schemes that support the implementation of a corporate commitment to biodiversity management

The implementation of a commitment to sustainable development, and more specifically to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits, requires companies to assess and manage their impacts along the mitigation hierarchy (see figure 3). Depending on the step in the mitigation hierarchy, different schemes are more appropriate. Many schemes have been developed to support companies in undertaking these steps in a credible and systematic way.

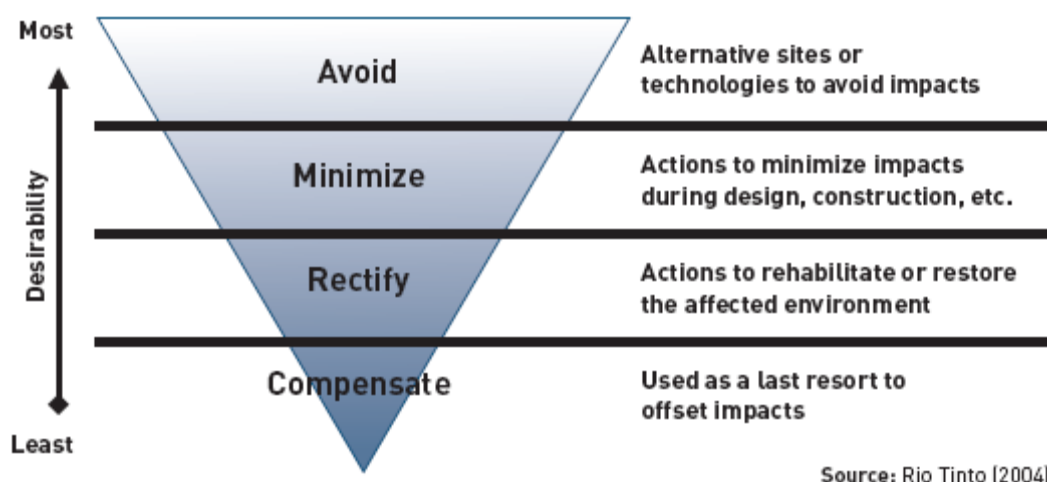


Figure 3: The mitigation hierarchy

3.1. Impact assessments

Impact assessments are a hierarchy of steps designed to ensure consideration of environmental (and social) impacts as well as appropriate avoidance, mitigation and management measures. Key types include:

- Environment impact assessment (EIA) – assessment of a project level
- Strategic environment assessment (SEA) – policy/strategy level assessment for cumulative effects assessment
- ESIA – specifically incorporates social as well as environmental impacts.

Impact Assessment in its various forms has been identified as having an important role in implementing international environmental policy and law. In 1992, both Agenda 21 and the Rio Summit Declaration contained provisions calling for EIAs to be undertaken for activities likely to impact adversely on the environment. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development went further, calling for using EIA procedures “at all levels”. Similarly, the European Directives 97/11/EC (amended in 2003 following the 1998 signature by the EU of the Aarhus Convention⁴ on public participation in environmental matters) states that an environmental assessment must be carried out for certain projects before development consent is granted. Article 4 determines whether the EIA is mandatory (known as “Annex 1”) or discretionary (“Annex II”). Member States can set criteria or thresholds for Annex II projects.

Article 14 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) identifies impact assessment as a key instrument for achieving the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing objectives of the Convention. The article – Impact Assessment and Minimising Adverse impacts – requires Contracting Parties to introduce appropriate procedures for EIA of proposals that might have effects on biological diversity, and to provide mechanisms for taking the biodiversity impacts of programmes and policies into account. Such multilateral initiatives do not directly involve businesses; rather it is government parties who are required to take action.

Despite this objective, EIAs have historically been criticised for their lack of biodiversity related aspects. Though impact assessment processes are in place and applied in many countries, biodiversity considerations are often poorly addressed. Barriers commonly identified include:

- A low priority for biodiversity
- Lack of awareness of biodiversity values and importance
- Lack of capacity to carry out assessments
- Lack of adequate data.

To address this, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) created a Biodiversity and Ecosystems Section in 1998. Later, the IAIA produced a supporting document⁵ to the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity-inclusive EIA.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands developed a handbook⁶ on incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and processes (see box below). Priority areas for action include initial screening lists.

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarhus_Convention

⁵ <http://biodiv.org/doc/reviews/impact/information-guidelines.pdf>

⁶ http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_handbooks2006_e13.pdf

Leverage points within the EIA process for integrating biodiversity (*adapted from Ramsar, 2007*)

- **Screening** – Positive, and negative, lists are used to determine whether an EIA is required or not. If screening criteria do not include biodiversity measures, there is a risk that proposals with potentially significant impacts on biodiversity will be screened out. Based on the three levels of biodiversity, fundamental questions should be addressed here, include:
 - Does the intended activity affect the physical environment in such a manner or cause such biological losses that it influences the chance of extinction of cultivars, varieties, populations of species, or the chance of loss of habitats or ecosystems?
 - Does the intended activity surpass the maximal sustainable yield, the carrying capacity of a habitat/ecosystem or the maximum and minimum allowable disturbance level of a resource, population, or ecosystem?
 - Does the intended activity result in changes to the access to and rights over biological resources?
- **Scoping** The expected impacts of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, should be compared with the selected reference situation and with the autonomous development (what will happen with biodiversity over time if the project is not implemented). There should be awareness that doing nothing may in some cases also have significant effects on biological diversity, sometimes even worse than the impacts of the proposed activity (e.g. projects counteracting degradation processes).
- **Assessment** – EIA should be an iterative process of assessing impacts, redesigning alternatives and comparison. Assessing impacts usually involves a detailed analysis of their nature, magnitude, extent and effect, and a judgement of their significance, i.e., whether the impacts are acceptable to stakeholders, require mitigation, or are just unacceptable. Biodiversity information available is usually limited and descriptive and cannot be used as a basis for numerical predictions. There is a need to develop or compile biodiversity criteria for impact evaluation and to have measurable standards or objectives against which the significance of individual impacts can be evaluated. The priorities and targets set in the national biodiversity action plan and strategy process can provide guidance for developing these criteria. Tools will need to be developed to deal with uncertainty, including criteria on using risk assessment techniques, precautionary approach and adaptive management.
- **Monitoring and auditing** – used to determine what actually occurs after project implementation has started. Predicted impacts on biodiversity should be monitored, as should the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed in the environmental impact assessment. Proper environmental management should ensure that anticipated impacts are maintained within predicted levels, and unanticipated impacts are managed before they become a problem and the expected benefits (or positive developments) are achieved as the project proceeds.

Biodiversity Offsets are conservation actions intended to compensate for the residual, unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by development projects, so as to ensure *no net loss of biodiversity*. Some governments including the US, Brazil, Australia, have introduced laws requiring biodiversity offsets within the mitigation hierarchy. An important element for the effective and credible biodiversity offset action is the determination of the baseline, the quantification of the impact of the development as well as of the conservation actions, in order to demonstrate no net loss to biodiversity. Following misunderstandings and misuse of the term “biodiversity offsets”, the Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme (BBOP), a partnership of businesses, NGOs and governments, is currently developing a scheme to support companies in implementing a corporate commitment to net loss of biodiversity to enable a coherent, transparent and credible approach to biodiversity offsets.

Direct impacts are relatively straightforward to identify, but the assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts is more complex and the determination of magnitude (size and extent of the impact) and significance (the importance for decision making) is difficult. Social impacts are often the most difficult to predict, due to the lack of a clear cause-effect relationship when working with human responses to change, meaningful baselines, etc. Many sector-specific initiatives, such as ICMM and the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI), have developed their own, adapted **social and environmental impact assessment scheme**, specific to the needs of their sector – including the integration of biodiversity.

Conventional impact assessments are also limited in that they only identify and assess direct, and to a less extent, indirect impacts; other factors that may affect the long-term prospects of successful outcomes for biodiversity are not considered. As ICMM concede in their Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity⁷, conventional ESIA techniques are designed to identify and assess potential impacts of mining projects, but they do not touch on some of the key factors that profoundly influence both the analysis or interpretation of baseline data and the longer-term prospects of successful outcomes for biodiversity from either mitigation or conservation efforts. Having an informed understanding of the maturity of the conservation context should enable companies to ‘design’ biodiversity action plans and initiatives that stand a better chance of success.

Similarly, the International Finance Corporation asserts, while an individual project’s impacts on biodiversity or similar environmental issues may not be significant, when taken together with impacts created by other human activities, they can become nationally, regionally or globally significant.

Strategic environmental assessments can address these issues, ideally, before an EIA is conducted. The Strategic Environment Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC was introduced to

⁷ <http://www.iucn.org/themes/business/mining/Good%20Practice%20Guidance.pdf>

address the shortcomings of EIAs and establishes a mix of mandatory and discretionary procedures for assessing environmental impacts on a broader, landscape or national level. This will mean that information on the environmental impact of a plan will be able to cascade down through the tiers of decision making and be used in an EIA at a later stage, thereby reducing the amount of work that needs to be undertaken. Indirect impacts can also be addressed through Strategic Impact Assessments, with a view to mitigating overall impact of a project. Similarly, a life cycle assessment incorporates third-party risks on biodiversity for projects, such as through the supply chain.

Any activity aimed at the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into national EIA systems should be accompanied by appropriate capacity development activities. Despite the considerable progress that has been made in strengthening impact assessment as a tool to further the aims of the CBD and related conventions, the 183 parties to the CBD and the governments that have signed up to other biodiversity-related conventions and processes need to further build their capacity to develop and apply EIA and SEA procedures for the benefit of biodiversity. To this end, the IAIA initiated a project for capacity building in biodiversity and Impact Assessment in Developing Countries. This is designed to support countries in their implementation of CBD and Ramsar through the establishment of networks of trained impact assessment professionals, capacity-building, and the provision of training materials for integrating biodiversity into impact assessment processes.

Integrating biodiversity into cement impact assessments

The Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) determined that the most useful tool for evaluating and managing the impacts of a cement site is a through Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), undertaken with rigorous scientific analysis and stakeholder engagement. The CSI Taskforce, in conjunction with key stakeholders, developed Guidelines for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

The ESIA will need to cover the following aspects related to biodiversity throughout the lifecycle of a cement site or quarry:

- **Scoping phase**
Biodiversity resources and cultural heritage assets, especially protected areas and species, and the geology, hydrology, soil quality, water resources, climatology and meteorology of the region, as well as alternative locations for plants and quarries.
- **Construction phase**
Traffic impacts on air, soil and water quality, and health and safety. Wastes from construction and overburden, soils and other materials.
- **Operations phase**
Environmental impacts, especially from land use and quarrying, the use of fossil fuels and raw materials, emissions, noise and vibration, solid wastes, liquid effluents and storm water, and traffic. The ESIA should also describe the *environmental management system* (EMS) to be implemented.
- **Closure of the site**
Rehabilitation across the whole area affected by the cement manufacturing footprint, with special emphasis on managing hazardous areas and materials, and End of life monitoring, particularly to measure diffuse low level contamination in soil or ground water (required by legislation in some locations).
- **Mitigation**
Mitigation measures aim to avoid, minimize, remedy or compensate for the predicted adverse impacts of a cement facility on site; offset has similar aims but remedial actions are focused off site. Measures need to take into account potential impacts close to the site and those some distance away (e.g. impacts on water supply), and to ensure the avoidance of sites that are formally protected (especially for biodiversity and cultural heritage).

With specific reference to data collection, the ESIA Guidelines list the types of data that need to be collected on Biodiversity, with recommendations on how this should be collected, and areas that might require special attention.

- Locations of protected areas
- Locations of sensitive or important habitats or ecosystems
- Distributions of protected species
- Distributions of protected habitats
- Experts in biodiversity, including taxonomic specialists / wildlife biologists
- Uses of biodiversity resources (e.g. data, information, organizations, etc)
- The geology and hydrology, soil quality, water resources and water quality, climatology and meteorology of the area.

The Guidelines reference the Framework for integrating biodiversity into the site selection process developed by the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative.

Reference: <http://www.theebi.org/products.html>

3.2. Environmental management systems

Environmental management systems (EMS) should be part of a company's overall management system and include the organizational structure, responsibilities, policies, procedures and practices, and resources. All management systems have a common approach – plan-do-check-act – which ensures a process of continual performance improvement. Many companies require their environmental management systems to be at least compliant or even certified with the ISO14001 or EMAS series, which provides an over-arching framework for operations.

Management systems are not subject to the legal requirements. Though the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) was initially established by European Regulation 1836/93 and replaced by Council Regulation 761/01, it is actually a voluntary initiative designed to improve companies' environmental performance on a continual basis. The use of the EMAS logo guarantees the reliability of the environmental information provided through independent verification. Many organisations progress from ISO 14001 to EMAS and maintain certification/registration to both. Despite not being mandatory, a good management system is desirable as both business and stakeholder value is created through continuous improvement of a company's/project's social and environmental performance, and can lead to improved economic, financial, social and environmental project outcomes.

The ISO14001 standard for EMS encourages a business to reduce their negative impact on the environment, within which biodiversity is implicit but not identified as a key component. However, the standards and accompanying certification scheme are process based, and do not take into account minimum environmental performance. Furthermore, the focus is more on reducing impact rather than making an overall positive contribution to conservation.

Businesses are encouraged to include biodiversity within their EMS yet there is no clear guidance on how to do this. Lafarge produced an internal document⁸ about how to integrate

Management systems for biodiversity

The UK-based Wildlife Trust established a Biodiversity Benchmark that, similar to other standards for management systems (such as ISO 14001), is composed of a set of detailed requirements that an organisation needs to meet and clearly demonstrate. The Benchmark is the first recognised scheme to award continual biodiversity improvement of land. The Benchmark is flexible and adaptable, so that it can be applied to any organisation managing land, from businesses through to local authorities, service utilities, NHS, developers and charities. It integrates biodiversity into an organisation and, as a result, improves biodiversity performance. It complements existing environmental systems but can also be used as a stand-alone management system.

Interestingly, the scheme encourages business to develop their own biodiversity action plan in line with the relevant national biodiversity action plan, linked to the conservation element of biodiversity. However, the focus remains on reducing impacts on land owned by the company and there is no clear inclusion of the dimensions of sustainable use and access and benefits sharing.

biodiversity into their EMS process. Responding to this need, a Biodiversity Benchmark was established by the Wildlife Trust.

3.3. Life Cycle Management and Assessment

One scheme that encompasses aspects of both impact assessment and management is **Life Cycle Management (LCM)**, which has been developed as an integrated concept for managing the total life cycle of products and services towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. The underlying analytical tool is the **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**; an environmental methodology that assesses the environmental aspects and potential impacts across the life cycle of products, processes and services, known as “cradle to grave”. The life cycle encompasses extraction and processing of raw materials, manufacturing, transportation and distribution, use, reuse, maintenance, recycling and final disposal.

LCA can be used in an array of applications such as product and process improvement, strategic decision-making, eco-design, product comparisons, eco-labelling, marketing, and public policy development. Increasingly LCA provides valuable intelligence to guide strategic and tactical decision making in regards to technology evaluation, product development, industry benchmarking and ecological profiling.

The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has standardised this framework within the series ISO 14040 on LCA to provide credibility to the approach. Other key initiatives include UNEP’s Life Cycle Initiative. The four step LCA process outlined in the ISO 14040 standards includes the following:

1. Goal and scope of the study are defined;
2. An inventory of relevant inputs and outputs occurring across the life cycle are collected and compiled;
3. The potential environmental impacts of these inputs and outputs are evaluated (impact assessment); and
4. The results of the previous three stages are interpreted.

Environmental impacts considered in LCA include greenhouse impacts, resource depletion, human and eco-toxicity, eutrophication, photochemical oxidation, water, land use and biodiversity. With the overall framework of the LCA identified by UNEP’s Life Cycle Initiative, biodiversity was identified as high priority, particularly in non-OECD where it is less likely to be considered.

LCA is not suitable for evaluation of very local impacts as it aggregates impacts across the whole production and usage life cycle. For local environmental impact assessment, material flows analysis and risk assessment are still needed to determine if production activities are going to have adverse effects on the local environment in which they are situated.

4. Schemes that support the communication of corporate performance in biodiversity management

In response to demands from civil society, consumers as well as investors for greater transparency on performance as well as on products and services sustainability impacts, more and more companies have adopted certification and reporting schemes to communicate their corporate responsibility commitments. Social responsible investment indices and benchmarks also provide greater transparency in communication of performance focused specifically to individual and corporate investors.

4.1. Certification

Certification schemes are increasingly being used to communicate the implementation of corporate responsibility commitments. Consumer, retailers and farmers rely increasingly on logos and certifications to help them identify and distinguish sustainable goods and services. Most schemes have specific guidelines for individual sectors. Examples include the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and GlobalGAP. A recent trend towards networks of cross-sector certification groups has enabled greater brand development linked to certification such as through Rainforest Alliance and the EU Flower.

EU Flower

The Flower is a certification scheme and is a symbol of superior environmental quality and is available to a range of products and services. The scheme, which has been designed and is overseen by the European Commission, sets out specific ecological criteria that products must comply with to be certified as environmentally friendly. The award of the label is independently verified and endorsed by the European Commission. Criteria have been produced for 24 different product groups, covering 12 major manufacturing and 1 service area. The relevant ecological issues and the corresponding criteria are based on comprehensive studies of the environmental aspects related to the entire life cycle of the relevant product. An individual product must comply with all criteria (key, best practice and performance) in order to be awarded the EU Eco-label.

Business-to-business certification for agricultural products

GLOBALGAP (formerly known as EUREPGAP) is a private sector body that sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products around the globe. Their aim is to establish one standard for Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) with different product applications capable of fitting to the whole of global agriculture. It is a pre-farm-gate standard, meaning that the certificate covers the process of the certified product from farm inputs like feed or seedlings and all the farming activities until the product leaves the farm and is open to all producers worldwide. Importantly, GlobalGAP is a business-to-business label and is therefore not directly visible to consumers. The GlobalGAP Compliance Criteria and the Checklist provide guidance for continuous improvement and the development and understanding of best practice.

A wide range of certification schemes currently operate in Europe and their number continues to increase. The agricultural sector has more certification schemes: 380⁹ were identified in Europe alone. The large number of schemes has, in certain sectors, been addressed by the creation of certification networks, a group of scheme that shares a common set of baseline criteria (and takes advantage of common services such as marketing). For example, VISIT (“Voluntary Initiatives for Sustainability in Tourism”) is a joint European initiative for the promotion of Ecolabels and sustainable tourism development. In 2000, VISIT identified about 40 regional, national and international Ecolabels for tourism. Their limited effectiveness due to their diversity required a joint effort. In 2001 VISIT, started to co-operate with 10 leading ecolabels in Europe and to develop Common Basic Standards for their criteria and verification procedures. In 2002 this VISIT standard enabled the identification of those Ecolabels which guarantee a high environmental quality of their certified hotels, campsites, beaches or marinas. Though biodiversity is not specifically referred to in the certification criteria; of 21 principles, 8 refer to environmental legislation, life-cycle analysis, local to regional environmental impacts and environmental management systems.

Many certification schemes provide the framework for certification, but require independent organizations to accredit participating businesses. This maintains independence between the group that determines standards and requirements, and operations seeking certification. For example, GLOBALGAP have more than 100 such bodies in more than 80 countries, and the Alliance of the Americas is the accreditation agency for the proposed Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council, which supports the creation of networks.

4.2. Reporting

Non-financial, sustainability reporting is a way for companies to communicate their commitment, strategy and sustainability performance to interested parties. Key schemes

⁹ http://www.itfoodtrace.de/dateien/EFITA_Theuvsen_Plumeyer.pdf

include the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines and sector supplements as appropriate.

The Global Reporting Initiative aim to help companies with their management and particularly their reporting phases through a common set of sustainability performance indicators. In the third version of the GRI Guidelines - the G3 guidelines, launched in October 2006 - biodiversity indicators focus on reducing negative impacts (relating to endangered species and protected areas). These were complemented in 2007, by a Biodiversity Reporting Resource¹⁰, with the aim of assisting business in on of the areas that remains one of the most challenging to report.

Some sectors face unique needs that require specialized guidance in addition to the universally applicable common Guidelines and Indicators: Sector Supplements, developed by GRI. They are designed to complement the Guidelines, and should be used in addition to, not in place of, the Guidelines. Ten supplements have been developed or are in development. Key sectors that relate to biodiversity are highlighted below.

- The Sector Supplement for Mining & Metals were developed with ICMM was published in February 2005 and contains biodiversity indicators that were later added to the updated general G3 guidelines, including number of IUCN Red list species and Protected Areas affected by operations.
- The Financial Services supplement, under development with UNEP FI, does not provide additional indicators for impacts on biodiversity. However, they refer to positive impacts on biodiversity under the definition for the indicator that addresses “Total monetary value of specific environmental products and services broken down according to the core business lines” i.e. Products and services designed with an explicit aim to address an environmental issue(s). For example, products designed to provide renewable energy, address water scarcity, enhance biodiversity, improve energy efficiency, etc.
- The Tour Operators supplement guidelines refer to biodiversity conservation under the indicator describing key environmental, economic and social issues identified in destinations and types of information gathered.
- The Electric Utility supplement is currently under development. The draft version refers to biodiversity extensively to biodiversity under its own section, as well as with reference specifically to water – under managing watersheds for biodiversity. It is being developed by a multi-stakeholder working group comprised of individuals from a range of geographical regions and a number of different constituencies including electric utilities, civil society organizations, trade unions, and mediating institutions.

¹⁰ http://www.globalreporting.org/NR/rdonlyres/07301B96-DCF0-48D3-8F85-8B638C045D6B/0/BiodiversityResourceDocument.pdf?bcsi_scan_EC783A0C3C997A81=0&bcsi_scan_filename=BiodiversityResourceDocument.pdf

In some countries, reporting laws exist that require companies to publicly disclose certain of their practices and activities. In the European Union, Directive 2003/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2003 (amending Directives 78/660/EEC, 83/349/EEC, 86/635/EE and 91/674/EEC), named the "Accounts Modernisation Directive", amends accounting requirements to enable companies to follow modern, more transparent accounting practices that are consistent with international accounting standards. The Directive requires that " ... the analysis should include both financial and where appropriate non financial key performance indicators relevant to the particular business, including information relating to environmental and employees matters".

4.3. Social responsible investment

Sustainable indexes and ratings are powerful communication schemes to inform investors (individual or institutional) about companies' performance in addressing sustainability in their operations.

The Dow Jones Sustainability index and FTSE4Good are two of the leading sustainability indexes. In the Dow Jones Sustainability index, companies are assessed in cooperation with Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) Group. An individual company completes a general sustainability assessment in addition to a specific questionnaire (one of the 60 industry specific ones) that include trends and challenges derived from economic, environmental and social current as well as future developments. Within the general assessment, the environmental dimension refers to targets to reduce GHG emissions, water use, energy consumption and waste generation, with no biodiversity relevant targets. Codes of conduct and environmental reporting are also analysed. Companies are asked to identify what Charters or Frameworks they have publicly endorsed, which includes the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises but no reference to equivalent environmental declarations. Although, the Dow Jones Sustainability index has an environmental dimension, this is given a smaller weighting (10%) compared to social (22.5%) and economic (17.5%) dimensions. Within environment, performance has a weighting of 7.0, reporting 3.0 and industry specific criteria has weighting dependent on the industry. Biodiversity loss is referred to under sector criteria for food and the tobacco industry.

The FTSE4Good index series was launched in July 2001. The environmental criteria were strengthened in May 2002 by introducing new requirements for all companies in the index (e.g. beyond "high impact" companies to include "medium" and "low" impact companies as well). As a result, 12 companies were deleted from the index as they did not comply with the reporting. However, in general FTSE4Good find that companies continue to respond positively to FTSE's evolving engagement, and have improved practices in order to remain in the Index.

FTSE4Good Environmental Leaders Europe 40 Index¹¹ is designed to identify European companies with leading environmental practices. These are the companies that are doing more than the minimum to manage their environmental risks and impacts whilst reducing their environmental footprint. Except with reference to the uranium sector, there is little direct reference to biodiversity, though opportunities arise to showcase best practice through this group.

Some non-financial institutions have developed their own rating systems. Covalence for example has produced an Ethical Quote rating. The system tracks a business's historical contribution to human development objectives, as measured against a framework of 45 criteria based on six international declarations. The UN Global Compact, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are included and provide the basis for three environment-related criteria, concerning management, product risks and eco-innovation, though not biodiversity directly.

The **biodiversity benchmark**, developed by Fauna & Flora International, originally with Insight Investment and later with UNEP FI, is a comprehensive framework that enables investors to examine the comparative biodiversity risk exposure and management of companies, in addition to an objective and consistent basis for shareholder engagement. Similar to Covalence, publicly available data is complemented with additional information provided by the companies on the main elements of governance structures, policy and strategy, management and implementation; assurance and reporting; and leadership.

The benchmark initially targeted three key sectors with direct impacts on biodiversity: mining & metals, oil & gas, and utilities. Results of the 2005 benchmarking exercise suggest that, even if significant areas of weakness remained, 2004 scores were improved for all sectors. Insight Investment, with FFI, used the results as a basis for engagement with the companies that they invest in. Companies involved in the scheme suggest that the benchmark is a powerful driver of improved biodiversity performance, strengthening the business case and providing a logical framework in both the development and audit of their biodiversity management processes.

A second version of the benchmark has been developed for sectors with supply chains that depend on, as well as impact on, biodiversity. The Food and Beverage Biodiversity Benchmark has been developed by a multi-stakeholder process by FFI and is a tool for the finance sector that can be used to evaluate biodiversity and ecosystem services risks within food and beverage company investments.

¹¹ http://www.ftse.com/Indices/FTSE4Good_Environmental_Leaders_Europe_40_Index/index.jsp

5. Conclusions

One of the clear findings of this research is that numerous schemes to support companies in shaping their commitments, implement it and communicate on it have been developed in the past decades. But are these schemes effectively used by companies? It seems so.

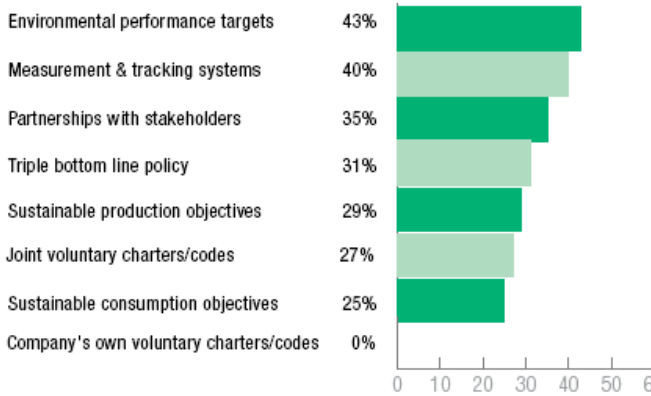
The recent surveys conducted by the Global Compact (which surveyed 400 Global Compact corporate participants) and by the Ethical Investment Research Services (which surveyed 3.000 companies, all from the FTSE All-World Developed Index) highlight that in general there is an increased commitment to responsible business practices.

The Global Compact survey reveals the types of environmental commitments businesses put in place, as well as the implementation policies and practices (see graphs below).

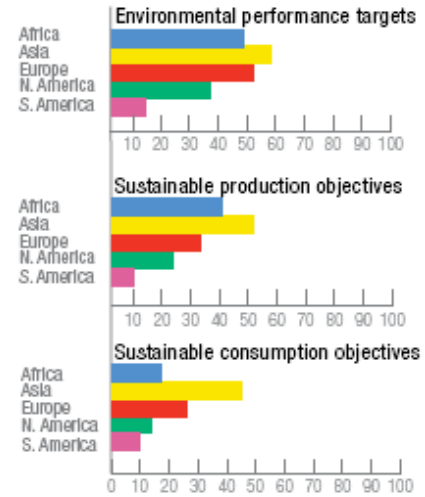
The EIRIS survey points out that at the global level, 57% of all companies have publicly available environmental policy statements, 58% companies have implemented environmental management systems, while only 29% reports on their environmental performance. However, focusing only on companies with high impact on the environmental, 78% of them have policies, 81% have environmental management systems and 57% reports. The level of commitment in Europe is however higher than in the rest of the world (excluding Japan). In Europe, over 90% of high impact companies have developed basic or advanced policies for managing environmental impacts.

Our analysis shows, however, that biodiversity is included in some, but not all corporate responsibility schemes. One of the reasons for this gap is the fact that the business risks and opportunities linked to biodiversity are still not clearly understood in many sectors. It is foreseeable however that biodiversity will also become one of the pillars upon which the many corporate responsibility schemes, that have supported companies in responding effectively to other sustainability challenges, are built. The development of a new ISO standard (26000) for corporate social responsibility, currently on-going, is also indicative of the trend towards harmonization and globally relevant guidelines. In the (draft) guidance, environment is included as one of the seven key social responsibility principles and goes beyond the ISO14000 series. Though biodiversity is not referred to explicitly, the guidelines promote a precautionary approach as well as the integration of environmental standards in supply-chain management. Conservation or sustainable use are not mentioned but the guidelines explicitly encourage companies to "share benefits equitably", in line with the social dimension of biodiversity.

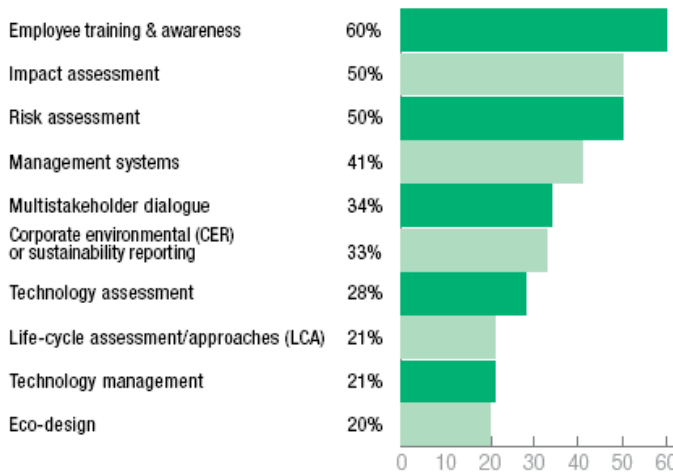
Tools to implement environmental polices or practices employed by respondents to Global Compact 2007 Implementation survey



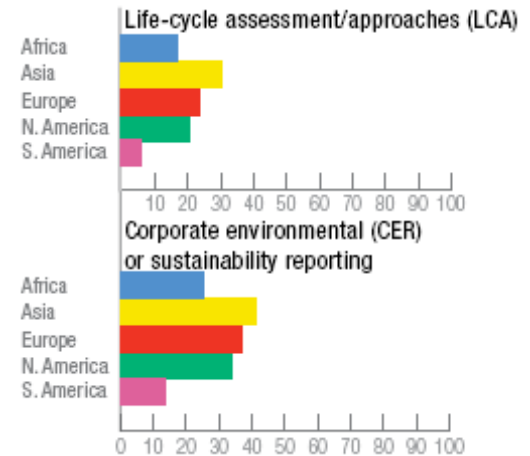
Breakdown by region



Environmental polices or practices in place by respondents to Global Compact 2007 Implementation survey



Breakdown by region



With regards to specific corporate responsibility schemes to support companies in defining, implementing and communicating on their commitment towards the integration of biodiversity in their business practices, the two main questions are:

- Should biodiversity be integrated in existing scheme or should ad hoc scheme(s) be developed to support the effective integration of biodiversity?
- Should the approach be sector specific or cross sectoral?

The adapted or newly created schemes will also have to take into account the needs and aspirations of Small & Medium Enterprises.

To conclude, a number of assessment (and in particular the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Biodiversity) have shown that biodiversity plays a key role in ensuring healthy businesses in the long-term. The results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment identified six interconnected challenges that are of particular concerns for businesses as these affect the integrity of ecosystems and their capacity to provide their key services. These challenges are water scarcity, climate change, habitat change, biodiversity loss and invasive species, overexploitation of oceans, nutrient overloading. Private sector companies by addressing their footprint will also be able to manage risk and open new opportunities. In particular they will increase revenue by responding to an increased consumers' demand for responsible products; obtain the license to operate by addressing civil society's (at local and global levels) concerns; preserve and enhance the « natural » capital (including the capacity to provide ecosystem services); retain staff by engaging them and generating pride; improve the quality of products and services; pre-empt regulations and public pressure; make cost savings by a more efficient use of natural resources and improve access to financial capital.

6. Annex: Analysis of biodiversity content in a sample¹² of corporate responsibility schemes

6.1. Commitments

Name of scheme and initiative	Biodiversity-related element of scheme
CROSS-SECTOR CHARTERS/CODES	
The UN Global Compact www.unglobalcompact.org	3 out of 10 principles on environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; – Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and – Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies. <p><i>No specific mention of biodiversity.</i></p>
Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises OECD www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines	Of 9 recommended principles related to business ethics, principle V concerns the environment. Split into 8 parts, the recommendations cover EMS, EHS, intellectual property rights, precautionary principle, mitigation hierarchy, promotion of environmentally-friendly technologies, employee and consumer awareness-raising, and partnerships to improve public policy. <i>No specific mention of biodiversity.</i>
2010 biodiversity target Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity cbd.int/2010-target	Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. Now incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals.
CERES Principles www.ceres.org	10 point code of corporate environmental conduct. Two of the ten principles relate to biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – sustainable use of natural resources – protection of the biosphere

¹² The list of schemes analyzed for this report is **not exhaustive**. A sample of schemes was selected to allow for a general assessment of the level of integration of biodiversity aspects.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC CHARTERS/CODES	
<p>The Equator Principles International Finance Corporation - IFC www.equator-principles.com based on IFC Performance Standards www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/Content/PerformanceStandards</p>	<p>Though developed for financial institutions, the principles cut across project sectors.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed, as appropriate under the SEIA (principle 2):</p> <p>f) protection and conservation of biodiversity, including endangered species and sensitive ecosystems in modified, natural and critical habitats, and identification of legally protected areas.</p> <p>g) sustainable management and use of renewable natural resources (including sustainable resource management through appropriate independent certification systems)</p> <p>l) socio-economic impacts</p> <p>n) impacts on affected communities, and disadvantaged or vulnerable groups</p> <p>o) impacts on indigenous peoples, and their unique cultural systems and values</p> <p>For non-OECD countries or low income OECD countries, IFC Performance standards apply: Biodiversity is included under Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p>
<p>UN Principles for Responsible (PRI) Investment UNEP Finance Initiative and UN Global Compact www.unpri.org</p>	<p>6 principles for incorporating Environment, Social and Governance issues into assessment portfolios and signatories' own policies and practices.</p> <p><i>No specific reference to biodiversity.</i></p>
<p>Sustainable Development Framework International Council for Mining and Minerals - ICMM www.icmm.com</p>	<p>The Sustainable Development Framework comprises three elements – a set of 10 Principles, public reporting and independent assurance.</p> <p>Principle 7: Contribute to conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Respect legally designated protected areas. – Disseminate scientific data on and promote practices and experiences in biodiversity assessment and management. – Support the development and implementation of scientifically sound, inclusive and transparent procedures for integrated approaches to land use planning, biodiversity, conservation and mining.
<p>Principles of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform Private sector initiative, founded by Danone, Nestlé and Unilever www.saiplatform.org</p>	<p>SAI Platform supports sustainable agricultural practices that embody the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide the base for ensured food safety by producing high-quality agricultural products and by supporting innovations to improve their quality and safety. – Secure adequate food supplies to meet current and future food demand, by producing high yielding and healthy crops and animals, while increasing efficiency and keeping resource and external input requirements as low as possible. – Protect and possibly improve the natural environment and

	<p>resources, by minimising any adverse effects from agricultural activities on soil, water, air and biodiversity, optimising the use of renewable resources and caring for animal welfare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support economically viable and responsible farming systems, enabling local communities to protect and improve their livelihood, safeguard their environment and improve their well-being.
<p>RSPO Principles and Criteria Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) www.rspo.org</p>	<p>Principle 5: Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.</p> <p>Criterion 5.1 Aspects of plantation and mill management that have environmental impacts are identified, and plans to mitigate the negative impacts and promote the positive ones are made, implemented and monitored, to demonstrate continuous improvement.</p> <p>Criterion 5.2 The status of rare, threatened or endangered species and high conservation value habitats, if any, that exist in the plantation or that could be affected by plantation or mill management, shall be identified and their conservation taken into account in management plans and operations.</p> <p>Criterion 5.3 Waste is reduced, recycled, re-used and disposed of in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.</p> <p>Criterion 5.4 Efficiency of energy use and use of renewable energy is maximised.</p> <p>Criterion 5.5 Use of fire for waste disposal and for preparing land for replanting is avoided except in specific situations, as identified in the ASEAN guidelines or other regional best practice.</p> <p>Criterion 5.6 Plans to reduce pollution and emissions, including greenhouse gases, are developed, implemented and monitored.</p>
<p>RTRS Principles Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) www.responsiblesoy.org</p>	<p>RTRS Principles</p> <p>Environmental Principles: 4 of 9 principles relate to environment.</p> <p>6. Water as a key resource</p> <p>The soy value chain recognizes the importance of water as a key resource for agriculture and human development and should evaluate and address all qualitative and quantitative hydrological changes induced by or related to soy production, with a view to maintaining available water resources in quantity and quality.</p> <p>7. Soil as a key resource</p> <p>The soy value chain recognizes that soil quality is key to maintaining agricultural productivity and should adopt agronomic practices that avoid soil erosion and degradation, in addition to maintaining and enhancing overall soil quality.</p> <p>8. Protection of Biological diversity</p> <p>The soy value chain recognizes the importance of biological diversity at all levels and should adopt management practices that conserve biological diversity and fragile ecosystems in order to minimize and avoid loss of natural habitat.</p> <p>9. Responsible use of agrochemicals</p>

<p>Draft Principles Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels http://www.bioenergywiki.net/index.php/Roundtable_on_Sustainable_Biofuels</p>	<p>4 sustainability criteria – GHG, environment, social, implementation. Draft Environment principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biofuel production should not directly or indirectly endanger wildlife species or areas of high conservation value. – Biofuel production should not directly or indirectly degrade or damage soils. – Biofuel production should not directly or indirectly contaminate or deplete water resources. – Biofuel production should not directly or indirectly lead to air pollution. – The use of biotechnologies for biofuels production should improve their social and/or environmental performance, and always be consistent with national or international biosafety protocols.
<p>CSI Charter Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) run by WBCSD www.wbcdcement.org</p>	<p>CSI Charter includes six commitment areas, one of which (5) focuses on Local Impacts on Land and Communities and requires CSI members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – adopt the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment guidelines and develop tools to integrate them into decision making processes. – draw up rehabilitation plans for our operating quarries and plant sites, and make them available to local constituencies.
<p>Statement of Commitment to Sustainable Tourism Development The Tour Operators' Initiative www.toinitiative.org</p>	<p>Principle 2.6: We will strive to pursue the best practices in all our activities - internally and when forming business relationships with partners, suppliers and sub-contractors - especially with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – responsible use of natural resources (e.g. land, soil, energy, water) – reducing, minimizing and preventing pollution and waste (e.g. solid and liquid waste, emissions to air) – conserving plants, animals, ecosystems and protected areas (biodiversity) – conserving landscapes, cultural and natural heritage, respecting the integrity of local cultures and avoiding negative effects on social structures – involving, and co-operating with, local communities and people – using local products and skills
<p>Code of Conduct European Federation of Aquaculture (FEAP) www.feap.info</p>	<p>Code of Conduct developed by FEAP which establishes and recommends guiding principles for those in Europe who are producing live fish species through aquaculture. 12 guiding principles developed. Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – husbandry and welfare – the environment (water use and quality, site selection, inc. ecological function, and management) – social and economic relationship – the consumer

6.2. Implementation

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
<p>ISO 14001 – environmental management systems</p> <p>www.iso14000-iso14001-environmental-management.com</p>	<p>ISO 14001 is an internationally accepted standard for an environmental management system (EMS). It specifies requirements for establishing an environmental policy, determining environmental aspects and impacts of products/activities/services, planning environmental objectives and measurable targets, implementation and operation of programs to meet objectives and targets, checking and corrective action, and management review.</p>
<p>Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)</p> <p>ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm</p>	<p>The EMAS Regulation (761/2001) was officially adopted by the Council of the European Union and by the European Parliament on 19 March 2001. EMAS requires participating organisations to implement an environmental management system (EMS). Since 2001, the EMS must meet the requirements of the International Standard BS EN ISO 14001.</p>
<p>Social and Environment Management Systems (IFC Performance Standard 1)</p>	<p>A Social and Environmental Management System is part of the client's overall management system for the project. It includes the organizational structure, responsibilities, policies, procedures and practices, and resources, and is essential for successfully implementing the project-specific management program developed through the social and environmental assessment of a project.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Benchmark</p> <p>The Wildlife Trust</p> <p>www.biodiversitybenchmark.org</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Benchmark, based on similar management systems, has ten components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment 2. Survey 3. Assessment 4. Legislation 5. Planning 6. Implementation 7. Measurement 8. Partnerships 9. Communication 10. Review
<p>Guidelines for Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil & Gas development</p> <p>The Energy and Biodiversity Initiative</p> <p>www.theebi.org</p>	<p>The Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI) produced practical guidelines, tools and models to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – improve the environmental performance of energy operations – minimize harm to biodiversity, and – maximize opportunities for conservation wherever oil and gas resources are developed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
EU Impact Assessment Directive	<p>EC Directive 97/11/EC¹³ states that “the environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 11, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – human beings, fauna and flora; – soil, water, air, climate and the landscape; – material assets and the cultural heritage; – the interaction between the factors mentioned in the first, second and third indents.
IFC Equator Principle 2: Social and Environmental Assessment	<p>For each project assessed as being either Category A or Category B, the borrower has conducted a Social and Environmental Assessment process to address, as appropriate and to the Equator Principle Financial Institution’s satisfaction, the relevant social and environmental impacts and risks of the proposed project (which may include, if relevant, the illustrative list of issues as found in Exhibit II). The Assessment should also propose mitigation and management measures relevant and appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposed project.</p>
Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC	<p>SEA is a system of incorporating environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes.</p> <p>The structure of SEA is based on the following phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – "Screening", investigation of whether the plan or programme falls under the SEA legislation; – "Scoping", defining the boundaries of investigation, assessment and assumptions required; – "Documentation of the state of the environment", effectively a baseline on which to base judgments; – "Determination of the likely (non-marginal) environmental impacts", usually in terms of Direction of Change rather than firm figures; – Informing and consulting the public; – Influencing "Decision taking" based on the assessment; and – Monitoring of the effects of plans and programmes after their implementation. <p>The EC directive also includes other impacts besides the environmental, such as material assets and archaeological sites.</p>
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Guidelines Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=MTk3NDU	<p>Guidelines for environmental and social impact assessment studies for the cement sector, which cover both cement plants and associated quarries.</p> <p>Biodiversity and ecosystems covered under Scoping Phase.</p>

¹³ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/full-legal-text/9711.htm>

<p>Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP)</p> <p>http://www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram</p>	<p>Biodiversity offsets are conservation actions intended to compensate for the residual, unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by development projects, so as to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. BBOP is developing a practical tool kit for managing social and environmental risks and liabilities.</p>
LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT	
<p>Life cycle assessment and management</p> <p>UNEP Life Cycle Initiative</p> <p>http://lciinitiative.unep.fr</p>	<p>The Natural resources and land use (TF LCIA 2)¹⁴ task force aims at establishing recommended practice and guidance for use for natural resources and land use categories, i.e.: water resources, minerals resources, energy carriers, soil resources and erosion, land use, salinisation and desiccation and biotic resources. It will address both midpoint categories and their relation to damage categories such as the biotic and abiotic natural environment (focus on water).</p> <p>There is no mention of biodiversity in “Life Cycle Management Guide to Sustainability for Business” (resource extraction as part of life cycle).</p>

¹⁴ <http://www.estis.net/sites/lciatf2>

6.3. Communication

CERTIFICATION – SECTOR-SPECIFIC	
<p>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) www.fsc.org</p>	<p>These Principles and associated criteria form the basis for all FSC forest management standards.</p> <p>Principle 1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles</p> <p>Principle 2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</p> <p>Principle 3: Indigenous People's Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. – Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. <p>Principle 4: Community Relations and Workers' Rights</p> <p>Principle 5: Benefits from the Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained. <p>Principle 6: Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest. <p>Principle 7: Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated. <p>Principle 8: Monitoring and Assessment</p> <p>Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach. <p>Principle 10: Plantations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plantations should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests <p>There are two types of FSC certificates available from certification bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forest Management (FM) Certificate – Chain of Custody (COC) Certificate
<p>Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)</p>	<p>MSC's fishery standard, are based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international conservation instruments</p>

<p>www.msc.org</p>	<p>and reflect the results of eight regional workshops and two expert drafting sessions. The three MSC principles also include 23 criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations and, for those populations that are depleted, the fishery must be conducted in a manner that demonstrably leads to their recovery – Fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem (including habitat and associated dependent and ecologically related species) on which the fishery depends – The fishery is subject to an effective management system that respects local, national and international laws and standards and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require use of the resource to be responsible and sustainable
<p>Common Standards for Ecolabels for Tourism in Europe</p> <p>Voluntary Initiatives for Sustainability in Tourism (VISIT)</p> <p>www.yourvisit.info</p>	<p>21 principles and requirements for the Ecolabels' development, criteria and procedures, in accordance with the general ISO 14024 standards for Ecolabels. Biodiversity -related principles include:</p> <p>The VISIT Ecolabel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – has considered product life cycle issues when setting product environmental criteria; – requires attainable levels and give consideration to relative environmental impacts ("per unit"), measurement capability and accuracy; – is based on sound scientific, engineering, management and social principles. The criteria are derived from data that support the claim of environmental preferability (high environmental benefit and/or efficiency); – took into account during the process for establishing the criteria relevant local, regional, and global environmental issues, available technology, and economic and social issues avoiding compromising service quality; – declares that compliance with environmental and other relevant legislation is a pre-condition for the applicant to be awarded and to maintain the label; – selected product environmental criteria which are expressed in terms of impacts on the environment and natural resources or emissions to the environment. Such performance criteria shall be expressed in absolute (numbers) or relative (%) figures and measure units (e.g. kWh, litre, volume, weight per product, room, bed, overnight stay, m²) and may also recommend the exclusion / non-use of special materials or substances; – requires criteria in the following environmental fields as far as relevant in its area of operation and as far as relevant for the specific product group : purchasing, transport and mobility, energy, water, waste, chemical substances, air, noise, nature/landscape; and – for accommodation shall have the following management criteria which complement other Environmental Management Systems: Environmental commitment, Environmental co-ordinator, communication and training: guests, staff, public; Monitoring regularly energy, water, waste consumption/overnight.

<p>GlobalGAP (formerly EurepGAP until September 2007) (Global Good Agricultural Practice)</p>	<p>GlobalGAP, the global partnership for safe and sustainable agriculture, is an industry owned and controlled initiative working for the consumer (i.e. retailers and suppliers). A Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) framework for benchmarking existing Farm Assurance Schemes and standards including traceability and certification. The GlobalGAP Protocol for fresh fruit and vegetables addresses 13 issues.</p> <p>Under 13.b. Wildlife and Conservation Policy, enhancement of biological diversity is included as a 'minor MUST'. A key aim must be the enhancement of environmental biodiversity on a farm through a conservation management plan.</p>
<p>Rainforest Alliance Certification http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/certification</p>	<p>Rainforest Alliance certification ensures that goods and services were produced in compliance with strict guidelines protecting the environment, wildlife, workers and local communities. The comprehensive process promotes and guarantees improvements in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forestry (through Smartwood, they are an accreditor of FSC standards); – Tourism (currently through Sustainable Tourism Certification Network of the Americas, with the aim of setting up a Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council); – Agriculture (including bananas, citrus, coffee, cacao, flowers & ferns, tea forthcoming).
<p>"The Flower" – EU Eco-label scheme http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm</p>	<p>The EU Flower has developed Criteria for 24 different product groups, covering 12 major manufacturing and 1 service area. These include relevant ecological issues and the corresponding criteria based on comprehensive studies of the environmental aspects related to the entire life cycle of the relevant product. Each product must comply with all criteria (key, best practice and performance) in order to be awarded the EU Eco-label</p>

REPORTING	
<p>Directive 2003/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2003 (amending Directives 78/660/EEC, 83/349/EEC, 86/635/EE and 91/674/EEC)</p>	<p>In the European Union, Directive 2003/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2003 (amending Directives 78/660/EEC, 83/349/EEC, 86/635/EE and 91/674/EEC), named the “Accounts Modernisation Directive”, amends accounting requirements to enable companies to follow modern, more transparent accounting practices that are consistent with international accounting standards. The Directive requires that “the analysis should include both financial and where appropriate non financial key performance indicators relevant to the particular business, including information relating to environmental and employees matters”</p>
<p>Performance Indicators Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) www.globalreporting.org</p>	<p>Environmental indicators relating to biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EN11 (core) - Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. – EN12 (core) - Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. – EN13 (additional) - Habitats protected or restored. – EN14 (additional) - Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity. – EN15 (additional) - Number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk.
<p>Mining & Metals Additional Criteria GRI Sector Supplement www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/SectorSupplements</p>	<p>Additional indicators</p> <p>In addition to EN11 (formerly EN6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EN23. Total amount of land owned, leased, or managed for production activities or extractive use. – EN24. Amount of impermeable surface as a percentage of land purchased or leased. <p>In addition to EN12 (formerly EN7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EN25. Impacts of activities and operations on protected and sensitive areas. (e.g., IUCN protected area categories 1-4, world heritage sites, and biosphere reserves). – EN26. Changes to natural habitats resulting from activities and operations and percentage of habitat protected or restored. Identify type of habitat affected and its status. – EN27. Objectives, programmes, and targets for protecting and restoring native ecosystems and species in degraded areas. – EN28. Number of IUCN Red List species with habitats in areas affected by operations. – EN29. Business units currently operating or planning operations in or around protected or sensitive areas.

<p>Financial Services Additional Criteria GRI Sector Supplement www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/SectorSupplements</p>	<p>Additional indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – F12. Total monetary value of specific environmental products and services broken down according to the core business lines. <p>Definition of “Environmental products and services”: Products and services designed with an explicit aim to address an environmental issue(s). For example, this could include products designed to provide renewable energy, address water scarcity, enhance biodiversity, improve energy efficiency, etc.</p>
<p>Tour Operators Additional Criteria GRI Sector Supplement www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/SectorSupplements</p>	<p>Additional indicators</p> <p><u>Product Management and Development</u></p> <p>PMD3. Describe key environmental, economic and social issues identified in destinations and types of information gathered.</p> <p>Issues may include:</p> <p>Environment: water, wastewater, energy, and transport infrastructures; hazardous and solid waste disposal; air and water quality; land-use and biodiversity conservation; local environmental management structures.</p> <p><u>Supply Chain Management</u></p> <p>SCM9. State types of information requested from suppliers, by type, on their:</p> <p>(a) Environmental practices and performance.</p> <p>Include: Materials, water, energy, purchasing, solid waste, hazardous waste, effluents, emissions, transport, land-use and biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Cooperation with Destinations</u></p> <p>D6. Provide evidence of benefits generated (in D4 and D5), particularly at destinations, in support of community development, biodiversity conservation and other social, economic and environmental improvements at destinations.</p>

<p>Electric Utility Additional Criteria GRI Sector Supplement www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/SectorSupplements</p>	<p>Additional indicators</p> <p><u>Water</u></p> <p>CommENDMA. Water: Watershed management in order to balance water supply for multiple uses (e.g., irrigation, drinking water, ecosystem conservation, tourism, etc.). Include approaches for managing watersheds for biodiversity and siltation of dams.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>CommEN13. Describe criteria and management approaches for assessing biodiversity of compensatory ecosystems. Report on how the biodiversity of compensatory ecosystem is compared to the biodiversity of the area it is replacing. Report also on provisions for facilitating fish passage around existing dams. (<i>Commentary on EN13: Habitats created or restored [Additional]</i>)</p> <p>CommEN14. Report on the impacts and mitigation measures to the following where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forested areas (e.g., alterations to crown density) – Landscape (e.g., impacts of wind farms) – Freshwater and wetland ecosystems (e.g., downstream water quality including turbidity, sedimentation, siltation and water quality of the lakes behind hydro-electric dams) Assessment and mitigation should consider alterations in the migration, breeding, or habitat of animals from the reporting organization's infrastructure (e.g., power lines and dams) and its maintenance. <p>(<i>Commentary on EN14: Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity [Additional]</i>)</p> <p>EU14. Percentage of area under Integrated Pest Management. (<i>New Performance Indicator</i>) <i>Explanation</i> Integrated Pest Management includes management of both flora and fauna.</p> <p>EU15. Ratio of compensatory ecosystem area to total area of land acquired with high biodiversity value. (<i>New Performance Indicator</i>) <i>Explanation</i></p> <p>Refer to EN11 Indicator Protocol for the definition of areas of high biodiversity value.</p>
<p>AccountAbility's AA1000S Series Assurance Standard</p>	<p>Launched in 1999, AccountAbility's standards, the AA1000 Series, are principles-based standards that provide the basis for improving the sustainability performance of organisations. They are applicable to organisations in any sector, including the public sector and civil society, of any size and in any region. Over 150 companies use or refer to the AA1000 Assurance Standard in their reporting to date. The AA1000 Framework was developed to help organisations build their accountability and social responsibility through quality social and ethical accounting, auditing and reporting. It addresses the need for organisations to integrate their stakeholder engagement process into their daily activities. The Framework provides guidance to users on how to establish a systematic stakeholder engagement process that generates the indicators, targets, and reporting systems needed to ensure to ensure greater transparency, effective responsiveness to stakeholders and improved overall organisational performance.</p>

SOCIAL RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	
Dow Jones Sustainability Index www.sustainability-index.com	3 dimensions, including Environmental Dimension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Environmental performance (eco-efficiency) (weight 7.0) targets relate to reductions in GHG emissions, water use, energy consumption and waste generation. – Environmental reporting (weighting 3.0) evaluation of company's appropriate sustainability report. – Industry specific criteria (weighting dependent on industry) (tobacco and food refer to biodiversity loss)
Sustainability Assessment criteria (for the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices) SAM Group www.sam-group.com	<u>Code of Conduct</u> 19. Corporate codes of conduct have been defined at a group level (including subsidiaries), Environment, health and safety <u>Environmental Dimension</u> 25. Environmental Performance (Eco-efficiency) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – including targets for GHG emissions, water use, energy consumption and waste 26. Environmental Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Content, context and coverage of the environmental reporting included in other reports or on your website <u>Talent attraction and retention</u> 37. Please indicate your company's pre-defined corporate indicators relevant for the variable compensation of all employees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Environmental metrics (e.g. corporate Emission reduction)
FTSE4GOOD Index Series www.ftse.com/Indices/FTSE4Good_Index_Series	"Working towards environmental sustainability" Companies are classified as high, medium or low impact based on the environmental footprint of their activities. The higher the environmental impact of the company's operations, the more stringent the inclusion criteria based on core and desirable indicators linked to the policy, management and reporting of a company's environmental footprint.
Rating Criteria Covalence www.covalence.ch/docs/CovalenceCriteria.pdf	26. Environmental impact Has the company adopted programs of management of the environmental impact of its activities? What can be said about the effect of these programmes on local economic and social development? 31. Product environmental risk Has the company taken particular measures relatively to environmental risks of certain products, c.f. reference to international agreements, cooperation with international agencies, NGOs, universities, local communities? 33. Eco-innovative Product Has the company launched a new product or service environmentally friendly while contributing to human development?

<p>Biodiversity benchmark scheme (developed by FFI and Insight Investment)</p>	<p><u>Companies engaged and actively managing (Score >66%)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity is acknowledged as a potential business risk and opportunity - Biodiversity risk has been formally assessed - Specific related policy commitments and management tools in place <p><u>Companies aware and mobilizing (Score 33% - 66%)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness demonstrated through acknowledgement of company's impact on biodiversity, its inclusion within certain aspects of risk management and/or some reference within policy documents and/or management tools <p><u>Companies in early stages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little or no evidence that potential risks relating to biodiversity have been formally assessed - No publicly expressed rationale provided for any conclusion that biodiversity is not a business risk - Policy for biodiversity risk management is limited in geographical and/or business function scope or does not exist at all
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7. Acknowledgements

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