



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
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LEADERSHIP DECLARATION

For the Implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity – An Initiative of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and Leading Companies

Preamble

The 9th UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) Conference in May 2008 aims to visibly integrate the business sector -- engaging companies from all sectors in undertaking concrete activities to support and implement the objectives of the UN CBD Convention.

We acknowledge that some companies are more experienced with biodiversity than others. Furthermore, different sectors may require different plans and approaches. From this standpoint, signatory companies are expected to initiate an internal reflection process and signal their willingness to integrate biodiversity considerations into their business objectives. Signatory companies are expected to present their current and future engagement at the 9th UN CBD Conference.

The Leadership Declaration will be fulfilled through an individualized approach. In this respect, companies will be offered the possibility to determine their own steps and objectives regarding the integration of biodiversity objectives within corporate policy and activities.

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety plans to support the Business and Biodiversity Initiative during its CBD presidency until 2010 by establishing a service platform. Although primarily aimed at German companies, the platform will be internationally linked and provide services e.g. consultancy, identification of experts according to the needs of signatory companies, organization of annual workshops and roundtables to facilitate the exchange of information and experience; provide access to international organizations and non-governmental organizations, etc.



Declaration

All signatory companies acknowledge and support the Convention's three objectives:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that arise out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Signatory companies furthermore commit themselves to:

1. Analyze corporate activities with regard to their impacts on biological diversity.
2. Include the protection of biological diversity within their environmental management system, and develop biodiversity indicators.
3. Appoint a responsible individual within the company to steer all activities in the biodiversity sector and report to the Management Board.
4. Define realistic, measurable objectives that are monitored and adjusted every 2 to 3 years.
5. Publish activities and achievements in the biodiversity sector in the company's annual, environmental, and/or corporate social responsibility report.
6. Inform suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and integrate them accordingly.
7. Explore the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and/or governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue and continuously improve the corporate management system vis-à-vis the biodiversity domain.