

# **GIZ Progress Report August 2013 – August 2015 on the Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative Leadership Declaration**

## **Leadership Declaration:**

The signatory companies acknowledge and support the three objectives of the international Convention on Biological Diversity:

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

and commit themselves to:

1. Analysing corporate activities with regard to their impacts on biological diversity;
2. Including the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity within their environmental management system;
3. Appointing a responsible individual within the company to steer all activities in the biodiversity sector and report to the Management Board;
4. Defining realistic, measurable objectives for the improved conservation of biological diversity and its sustainable use that are monitored and adjusted every two to three years;
5. Publishing activities and achievements in the biodiversity sector in the company's annual, environmental, and/or corporate social responsibility report;
6. Informing suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and integrating suppliers accordingly and step by step;
7. Exploring the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue and continuously improving the corporate management system vis-à-vis the biodiversity domain.

### **1. Analysing corporate activities with regard to their impacts on biological diversity**

GIZ produces an annual Environmental Audit which documents the environmental impacts of all its larger premises in Germany. The indicators are based on those of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and, in the case of the company sites which participate in the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (i.e. the head offices in Bonn and Eschborn and the representation in Berlin), they are based on the relevant EMAS indicators.

The tool used to analyse programmes implemented by GIZ in the partner countries on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is the environmental and climate impact assessment (ECIA). It consists of initial screening, which is

mandatory for all projects, to establish whether the project or programme has ECIA relevance. If so, an in-depth assessment is conducted.

The in-depth assessment examines a programme's impacts on biodiversity-related assets such as biological diversity, the landscape, areas requiring special protection, e.g. rare biotopes or wetlands, and functions meriting special protection such as ecosystem services and migration corridors. The assessment also considers whether modification of the measures could create additional positive potential for biodiversity. The results of the in-depth assessment are incorporated into the project design.

## **2. Including the protection of biological diversity within the environmental and sustainability management system**

GIZ launched the Biodiversity in Good Company initiative in 2008 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), as it is now known. The initiative contributes to integrating the private sector into the implementation process of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a member company, GIZ utilises the initiative as a platform for mutual learning and dialogue in order to continuously improve its performance in this area. GIZ has been a member of the initiative's Board since its launch.

For GIZ, the most important tools for the protection of biological diversity at company level are corporate environmental management and green procurement.

As regards environmental management, GIZ's own premises offer a good starting point from which to exert direct influence on biodiversity at the local level. A biodiversity strategy has been adopted for the new buildings at GIZ's main sites, ensuring that the grounds and roofs are planted with native species and that sealing of surfaces is kept to a minimum. The efficient use of resources – water, energy and paper – and the avoidance of waste and emissions are integral elements of environmental management.

In relation to procurement, the need for products to meet good environmental standards is recognised and safeguarded through compliance with the relevant criteria. Biodiversity conservation is considered in the procurement and purchasing of timber products in particular, and relevant international standards are applied.

Aspects which have an indirect bearing on biodiversity, such as protecting the climate and reducing the consumption of specific resources, have been integrated into the environmental management system at GIZ and its predecessor organisations since 1999.

## **3. Appointing a responsible individual within the company to steer all activities in the biodiversity sector and report to the Management Board**

At GIZ, sustainability is embedded at the highest management level. The Chair of the Management Board also chairs the GIZ Sustainability Board. This latter body, created in 2012, advises on sustainability objectives and sets the long-term strategic direction for the company's

progress towards sustainability. It also analyses and evaluates corporate performance in this area. The Sustainability Board is made up of the Chair of the Management Board and the heads of various company departments and meets two to four times a year. The Director of Corporate Sustainability reports directly to the Chair of the Management Board on all sustainability management issues, including those pertaining to biodiversity. Environmental management has formed part of the company's sustainability management regime since 2012.

Specialist advice on biodiversity is provided on an ongoing basis by the Sectoral Department and the Sector and Global Programmes Department.

#### **4. Defining realistic, measurable objectives for the improved conservation of biological diversity and its sustainable use that are monitored and adjusted every two to three years**

The company's current environmental targets were set by the Environmental Steering Group in 2011. They cover a five-year period and are monitored in an annual Environmental Audit. In addition, the forthcoming sustainability programme, now in preparation, will cover aspects of ecological balance and will form the basis for the next environmental programme. Specific aspects will be broken down and elaborated in more detail for the individual company sites. Here, regular reviews and modifications can be performed during mandatory reporting for the Global Compact and the GRI.

As part of the EMAS environmental management system, the local environmental teams have set environmental targets for the company's registered offices in Bonn and Eschborn and the representation in Berlin. These targets have been approved by the environmental affairs manager. Implementation of the measures is monitored in the annual Environmental Audit. However, these targets give greater weight to environmental aspects that have an indirect impact on biodiversity, such as climate neutrality (bearing in mind that there is a large amount of travel, as the company operates internationally) and reducing resource consumption (especially paper consumption in offices) than to the direct environmental aspect of biodiversity.

#### **5. Publishing activities and achievements in the biodiversity sector in the company's annual, environmental, and/or corporate social responsibility report**

GIZ's first Integrated Company Report in 2014, the 2015 Environmental Audit and GIZ's updated environmental declaration for EMAS (2015) all report on GIZ's participation in the Biodiversity in Good Company initiative and on cooperation and actions relating to the biodiversity sector.

We showcase our expertise in biodiversity on our company website (<https://www.giz.de/fachexpertise/html/2091.html>), which includes more than 154 pages of information about our projects and programmes ([https://www.giz.de/de/html/suchergebnisse.html?doctypes=html&query=biodiversit%C3%A4t&send\\_button\\_search.x=0&send\\_button\\_search.y=0](https://www.giz.de/de/html/suchergebnisse.html?doctypes=html&query=biodiversit%C3%A4t&send_button_search.x=0&send_button_search.y=0)). GIZ's transparency pages also offer access to

information about biodiversity in our projects and programmes  
(<https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action>).

**6. Informing suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and integrating suppliers accordingly**

Invitations to tender for the supply of goods and services are an important lever in efforts to mainstream the issue of biodiversity. GIZ has drawn up a green procurement report for this purpose. It replaces the green procurement strategy and expands the criteria to include all dimensions of sustainability. It also provides practical guidance. For example, it defines 10 terms of reference to be used when issuing invitations to tender for new framework contracts, e.g. for energy supplies, vehicle purchases and architectural services for new GIZ buildings.

When awarding the contract to operate GIZ's canteen, one of the factors considered was whether the operators offer organic, local and seasonal produce and sustainably caught fish (MSC-certified; ASC for aquaculture products) and whether they provide organic fair trade coffee at conferences and in the coffee machines. In Eschborn, the caterer has also undertaken to promote agrobiodiversity by procuring a wide range of varieties. As a further indication of his commitment, the caterer also leases a traditional mixed orchard near Frankfurt. In October 2015, some of the crop was picked by children from the company kindergarten in Eschborn and taken to a local processing company. The freshly pressed juice was available for purchase at GIZ's Eschborn site for an entire day. The revenue from this initiative went to the Neu-Isenburg food bank, which distributes food to people on low incomes every Friday.

**7. Exploring the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue and continuously improving the corporate management system vis-à-vis the biodiversity domain**

To further improve our environmental management system, we exchange knowledge and information through the Rhine-Main Environment Forum, the German Association of Environmental Management (B.A.U.M.) and the annual conference of environmental officers from institutions at federal and *Land* level. In recent years, biodiversity has become an increasingly important aspect of this exchange. GIZ is also a member of the Bonn Biodiversity Network (BION) (<http://www.bion-bonn.org/de/partner>) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): <http://www.iucn.org/>.

Staff awareness-raising is an integral component of our in-house biodiversity strategy. Communication is of key importance in this context. The Environment Initiative in Eschborn, which is organised by GIZ staff volunteers, runs campaigns on biodiversity for our employees and the children at the company kindergarten. The Environment Initiative manages beehives and builds nest boxes and insect hotels at the GIZ site in Eschborn.

For the new Meander Building in Bonn, a biodiversity action plan was developed in conjunction with the Lake Constance Foundation. The action plan ensured that the grounds and roofs were planted with native species and that surface sealing was kept to a minimum. Biodiversity will also become a priority for GIZ's new Academy for International Cooperation in Röttgen near Bonn as soon as the initial building plans are submitted. The building is scheduled for completion in 2016/17.

### **GIZ's biodiversity advisory services**

GIZ's **biodiversity advisory services** are aimed mainly at partners in developing countries and emerging economies and are based on the targets set in the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Key issues include:

- Mainstreaming: integrating ecosystem services into politics and society with approaches such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)
- Biodiversity and climate: adaptation to climate change (ecosystem-based adaptation), vulnerability analyses, biodiversity standards in REDD+
- Development-oriented nature conservation: governance of protected areas and protected area systems (terrestrial and marine/coastal), co-management schemes, indigenous and community-conserved areas (ICCAs), spatial planning, biosphere reserves, anti-poaching measures
- Promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity: sustainable forest management and forest policy, agrobiodiversity, biotrade
- Access and equitable benefit sharing in the use of genetic resources: legal and policy advice on access and benefit sharing, traditional knowledge, technology transfer, incentives for sustainable use
- Environmental communication: education and public relations, awareness-raising.

GIZ is implementing more than 150 global, regional and bilateral programmes and projects on the conservation of biological diversity in more than 60 countries around the world. Priority regions are Central America and the Caribbean, the Amazon countries, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, COMIFAC (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) and South-East Asia. The main commissioning parties are the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Other clients include, for example, the EU, Norway, Denmark and France.

The following table shows the total volume of contracts for current projects which contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (as at: August 2015).

	<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>Asia and Pacific</b>	<b>Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia</b>	<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b>	<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	<b>Supra-regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bilateral	131,280,522	126,525,133	45,634,755	177,049,868	25,150,000		505,640,278
Regional	54,095,668	46,434,881	13,529,949	67,300,000			181,360,498
Global						60,142,563	60,142,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,376,190</b>	<b>172,960,014</b>	<b>59,164,704</b>	<b>244,349,868</b>	<b>25,150,000</b>	<b>60,142,563</b>	<b>747,143,339</b>

**Project examples:**

**(1) Joint protection of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)**

*German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)*

*Overall term: 2012 to 2017*

Very few regions in the world are as rich in species as the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME). It is part of the Coral Triangle region in the Pacific, which spans a total of 640 million hectares between Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. It is home to more than 3,000 species of fish, twice as many as in any other region of the world. Some critically endangered species such as the hawksbill sea turtle are able to find a habitat and an opportunity to reproduce here.

These natural resources are at risk from severe over-exploitation due to population growth, destructive fishing practices, rapid coastal development and other human activities. This situation is further exacerbated by climate change and its impacts, such as water temperature and sea level rise, ocean acidification and an increase in the intensity and frequency of storms.

The six Coral Triangle states have established a multinational partnership, known as the Coral Triangle Initiative, as a joint forum in which to address the impacts of climate change. In order to tackle the challenges in the Coral Triangle region effectively, GIZ, on behalf of the BMUB, provides advisory services and training to support the action plan adopted by SSME states Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The plan forms the basis for cross-border projects on marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries and species conservation.



The Coral Triangle Initiative and the three states of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion share the successes and best practices emerging from their work at regional workshops for representatives of governments and research institutes. The results are thus disseminated to staff in public authorities and institutions, who can then incorporate them into their local and national planning guidelines.

## **(2) Preserving the world's second largest contiguous tropical rainforest (Congo Basin)**

*German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

*Overall term: 2011 to 2018*

The Congo Basin forests cover more than 180 million hectares, approximately five times the area of Germany. This is the world's second largest contiguous tropical rainforest after the Amazon. The forests provide a livelihood for 65 million people and a habitat for more than 400 species of mammal, more than 1,000 species of bird and more than 20,000 plants, of which 10,000 are endemic. GIZ is supporting the management of protected areas, with a particular focus on anti-poaching measures, promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity, including fair and equitable sharing of benefits (ABS) and sustainable forest management. The aim is to protect the region's forest ecosystems and harness their potential for poverty reduction and economic development. Germany is a member of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and, through GIZ, has been assisting the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) to implement its action plan on regional forest conservation and biological diversity since 2002. At the national level, the German Government supports efforts to scale up regional guidelines into national strategies, combined with practical action aimed at protecting and sustainably managing the forests. The results achieved to date include the following: 10 new transboundary protected areas have been established; an additional 18 million hectares of forests have been protected; a total of 12.5 per cent (50 million hectares) of land in the COMIFAC member states have been designated as protected areas under various conservation regimes; and more than five million hectares of forest have been certified. Seven COMIFAC member states have signed, and five have ratified, the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, a regional ABS strategy has been developed, and two countries have expanded the regional strategy into a national ABS policy. Civil society participation in planning and decision-making processes has also improved. Through the preparation of regional monitoring reports on the status of the Congo Basin forests, changes in the vegetation cover can now be recorded. The COMIFAC countries are increasingly coordinating their contributions to the international forest policy dialogue. With two new regional projects in the Congo Basin, one focusing on anti-poaching measures and the other on fair and equitable benefit sharing, Germany is helping to solve some of the problems currently facing the COMIFAC countries.

**Contact:**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Sustainability Office  
Email: [sustainabilityoffice@giz.de](mailto:sustainabilityoffice@giz.de)

