

## **GIZ Progress Report 2011/2012 on the Leadership Declaration of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative**

### **Leadership Declaration:**

All 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**

Since 1999 GIZ and its predecessor organisations have been producing environmental audits that document the impacts that its offices in Germany have on the environment. The indicators are based on those of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and, in the case of the company sites that participate in the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme EMAS (the head offices in Bonn and Eschborn and the representation in Berlin), on the EMAS indicators. However, we regard the specific EMAS indicator for biodiversity, with use of land expressed in m<sup>2</sup> of built-up area, as unsatisfactory. We plan to extend the indicator set in future.

The tool for analysing GIZ's projects in the public-benefit business area is the Environmental and Climate Assessment, which explores both impacts and potentials. It consists of an initial screening to establish the environmental significance of the project and an in-depth assessment. The initial screening is compulsory for all projects.

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

The results of the in-depth environmental assessment are incorporated into the project design.

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

In December 2011 the Environmental Steering Group approved GIZ's voluntary commitment to joining the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' initiative and instructed the Environmental Affairs Manager and the Commercial Affairs Department to draw up a strategy for implementation.

Indirect aspects of biodiversity, such as climate change mitigation and reductions in specific resource consumption, have formed part of the environmental management system of GIZ and its predecessor organisations since 1999.

## **3. Responsibility in the company for steering all activities in the biodiversity sector and reporting to the Management Board**

Activities relating to biodiversity are coordinated by GIZ's Environmental Affairs Manager. The Environmental Affairs Manager was assigned this task in December 2011 by the Environmental Steering Group of the time, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Management Board.

Since the spring of 2012 environmental management has been integrated into sustainability management. The Sustainability Officer reports directly to the Chair of the Management Board on all sustainability management activities, including activities relating to biodiversity. The Chair of the Management Board receives advice from the Sustainability Board (the members of which are the directors of the departments and corporate management units).

The Biodiversity Competence Centre within GIZ's Sectoral Department drives the development of GIZ's specialist advisory services.

## **4. Defining realistic, measurable objectives for the improved conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity 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.

As part of the EMAS environmental management system the local environmental teams have set environmental targets for the company registered offices in Bonn and Eschborn and the representation in Berlin. These targets have been approved by the Chief Sustainability Officer and implementation of the associated 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 (there is a large amount of travel, as the country 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**

Information on participation in the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' initiative and on measures and partnerships in the area of biodiversity is contained in the Sustainability Report 2013 and in GIZ's environmental statement for EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) 2013.

GIZ's environmental reports have focused on a range of different issues. The 2009 report of GIZ's predecessor organisation GTZ focused on biodiversity, while the 2010 environmental audit highlighted issues relating to sustainable forest management.

## **6. Integrating suppliers and informing on biodiversity objectives**

Invitations to tender for the supply of services and goods are an important lever for anchoring biodiversity. A green procurement strategy has been drawn up for this purpose.

When awarding the contract to operate our canteen, we considered whether the operators offer organically grown, regional or seasonal foods and sustainably caught (MSC) fish 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 taking diversity of varieties into account. This caterer has pledged to lease a traditional fruit-tree meadow near Frankfurt by the start of 2014; the meadow will help raise awareness of biodiversity.

In addition to buying certified environmentally friendly paper, we also aim to buy office furniture and building materials made of FSC-certified wood whenever possible and specify this in framework contracts.

## **7. Exploring the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations and/or governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue and continuously improving the corporate management system**

We are a member of the BioFrankfurt network, which supports the conservation of biodiversity. Through this network we have helped organise events and prepare publications, mainly in the field of environmental education. Our partners include the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Senckenberg Nature Research Society, the WWF, Frankfurt Zoological Society, Tropica Verde, the Palmengarten botanical garden, the Senckenberg Natural History Museum, Zoo Frankfurt and the University Botanical Garden.

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 *Länder* level. In recent years biodiversity has become an increasingly important aspect of these meetings.

Awareness-raising and environmental communication are key components of our biodiversity strategy. The environmental initiative in Eschborn, which is organised by GIZ staff volunteers, runs campaigns on biodiversity for in-house personnel and the children at the company kindergarten in Eschborn. The environmental initiative manages beehives on the GIZ premises in Eschborn.

### **GIZ's consulting services in the domain of biodiversity**

GIZ's **consulting services in the domain of biodiversity** are aimed mainly at partners in developing and newly industrialising countries; they are based on the targets of the Strategic Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Key issues include:

- Mainstreaming: integrating ecosystem services into politics and society, 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 protected areas), co-management schemes, indigenous and community-conserved areas (ICCAs), spatial planning, biosphere reserves, prevention of poaching)
- 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 work, awareness-raising

Worldwide, GIZ is implementing more than 90 projects for the conservation of biological diversity. These global, regional and bilateral projects operate in more than 60 countries. The principal regions in which projects are being undertaken are Central America and the Caribbean, the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region, COMIFAC (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) and South-East Asia. Particularly large-scale programmes are currently under way in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The main commissioning parties are the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature

Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The following table shows the total commission volume (in € million) of current projects, broken down by region (as at: September 2012).

Region Level	Mediterranean, Europe, Middle East and Central Asia	Sub- Saharan Africa	Asia and Pacific	Latin America and Caribbean	Total
Bilateral cooperation	25.98	120.69	123.16	124.21	394.04
Regional programmes	38.97	23.92	17.51	55.25	135.65
Global programmes					65.92
<b>Total</b>					<b><u>595.61</u></b>

**Project examples:**

**(1) Conserving biodiversity in forest ecosystems (Viet Nam)**

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

*Overall term: 2010 to 2013*

Viet Nam is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Its natural forest – covering over ten million hectares – provides essential environmental services. The acute threat to these ecosystems requires urgent action. The loss of biodiversity has a wide range of causes:

- insufficient planning, funding and management of the conservation of forest ecosystems;
- lack of awareness among politicians and business leaders of the economic, ecological and cultural value of natural forests, biodiversity and environmental services;
- imprecise formulation and inadequate implementation and enforcement of legislation;
- increasing national and international demand for natural forest products and hence increased incentive for illegal use;
- increased pressure on protected areas as a result of demographic and economic growth;
- changes in climatic conditions.

On behalf of BMZ, GIZ is helping the partners develop an overarching legal and institutional framework at national level and is running pilot schemes to introduce regulations and innovative management and financing approaches in selected protected areas. The lessons learned feed into policy advice and the ongoing development of existing policies. At all levels, the capacities of the players involved in the management of protected areas and maintenance of biodiversity are being developed.

As a result of successful cooperation with the Vietnamese partners, the results of the analyses carried out to date are gaining attention and having a positive impact on the development of biodiversity conservation. The analyses give us a clear picture of the existing diversity and the capacity of natural resources as well as the institutional and legal framework and the financial situation in the protected areas. Reforms are currently being implemented, both within institutions and in the management of protected areas, and

strategic plans are being drawn up. In addition, the project is supporting the skills enhancement of project partners in the relevant areas, and the Vietnamese Government has recognised the need to anchor in-service training at institutional level. Innovative financing mechanisms to facilitate payments for environmental services and a benefit-sharing mechanism are being tested in the pilot regions.

## **(2) Monitoring climate-relevant biodiversity in protected areas (Brazil)**

*Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)*

*Overall term: 2010 to 2014*

Brazil is home to between 15 and 20 per cent of global biodiversity, making it the country with the greatest species diversity worldwide. This biological wealth needs to be protected since the local and global population are dependent on ecosystem services such as drinking water supply, climate regulation and carbon storage. Brazil has established a national protected area system comprising approximately 700 state and 900 private protected areas that together are about four times the size of Germany. A local monitoring system is needed in order to gather information on the general situation and on the impact of changing climate conditions, and subsequently to support the management of these protected areas. The precise observation of local climate-relevant biological diversity with the involvement of local people yields information that can be used for successful climate and diversity protection in the protected areas of the Amazon region, the Cerrado and the Mata Atlântica.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), GIZ works together with the Brazilian Environment Ministry and the Brazilian institute for managing federal protected areas (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade, ICMBio). The project is supporting the partners in setting up a participatory system for monitoring climate-relevant biodiversity in Brazilian protected areas.



With this aim, it develops methods to monitor biodiversity and carbon sinks, integrates climate and biodiversity information systems and promotes expertise and resources for biodiversity monitoring and the dissemination of knowledge.

Together with various Brazilian institutions, the project has developed climate scenarios up to the year 2100; indicators and methods for local monitoring have been drawn up and agreed. The lessons learned in pilot initiatives is being transferred to other areas in Brazil. The knowledge gained of the link between biodiversity and climate protection has been presented at national and international congresses and conferences. These events are raising awareness among professionals and policymakers of the importance of intact ecosystems for climate change mitigation.

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