

'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative

Mission Statement



We, a coalition of small-, medium- and large-scale enterprises, joined forces to create the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative in partnership with political and societal stakeholders for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. The fulfilment of the objectives of the "Convention on Biological Diversity" (CBD) is a crucial requirement for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a major task of our time, akin to climate protection.

We aim to contribute to the preservation of the earth's natural resources which are the foundation of human existence and all economic activities. We consider it an important entrepreneurial responsibility to operate successfully in accordance with the needs of nature.

We support the economy's voluntary commitment to protecting biodiversity and aim to create space for innovation and investment in order to pave the way for ecologically sound technologies, products and services to be successfully introduced into the marketplace. We commit to managing the benefits derived from the economic use of natural resources in favor of a sustainable development, and to sharing these benefits equally among all parties concerned.

This Initiative serves us as a platform for mutual learning and dialogue in the continuous process of enhancing our biodiversity management. We aim to set a good example for other enterprises and economic actors by communicating best practice. In order to increase awareness about our common responsibility to catalyse ecologically sound solutions and foster environmental alliances, members of the Initiative cultivate and engage in an open dialogue between business, politics, science, non-governmental organizations and society on a national as well as international level.

We use our expertise and experience to advocate for our employees, clients and the general public on the benefits of ecologically-sound living and consumption which we consider necessary. We seek to contribute to more profound knowledge creation surrounding how economic activity impacts the complexity of nature.

As a voice of business, the companies affiliated with the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative advocate

reliable political frameworks that support the potential benefits of entrepreneurial commitment to protecting biodiversity under the conditions of global competition. We invite those businesses and organizations willing to integrate the protection of biodiversity into their sustainability management and to transparently report on their progress in establishing ecologically compatible modes of operation to join the Initiative.

All companies can become members provided that they:

- support the goals and values of the Initiative as outlined in this Mission Statement;
- sign the Initiative's Leadership Commitment;
- contribute actively, for instance by participating in the Initiative's working meetings taking place 2-3 times a year; and
- demonstrate a willingness to support the joint activities of the Initiative by paying an annual membership fee.

New members must be approved by the Initiative's Board of Directors.

HISTORY OF THE INITIATIVE

In 2008 Germany hosted the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In recognition of this, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety launched the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative with the objective to visibly engage businesses in supporting the Convention, as well as to initiate and share experiences related to entrepreneurial biodiversity management. In order to implement these objectives, the Initiative was funded by the Ministry within the scope of the German chairmanship of the CBD. When government funding was phased out in March 2011, the member companies, paying tribute to the importance of biological diversity, decided to continue and sustain the Initiative on their own and founded a registered association in summer 2011.