



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are currently witnessing an increasingly powerful debate on valuing natural capital, both on the politico-economic level as well as regarding business decision-making and corporate accounting. It is certainly not a flash in the pan, but it is difficult to assess at this point whether this will lead to a paradigm shift.

On the one hand there is hope to do something against the economic invisibility of nature, biodiversity and ecosystem services as this invisibility is a major reason for the neglect of natural capital. Current business models and our lifestyle create significant environmental externalities that are not priced. At the same time, there is also the legitimate concern that we are ending up in monetization and commodification of nature so that it gets at risk of becoming a new target of speculation in international financial markets. As a contribution to this important debate, 'Biodiversity in Good Company' together with the German NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) and two scientific partners, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and iDiv, is kicking off a new discussion forum on valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

This issue of our series of brief newsletters portrays a project of our member company ForestFinance. Have you heard about the Mamoní Valley in Panama?

We wish you a wonderful summer!

Yours sincerely,

'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative



»The Mamoní Valley Preserve is one of the most precious areas within the biological corridor of Mesoamerica, stretching from Mexico southeastward through most of Central America, connecting several national parks, national and private nature refuges and private wild lands. As a founding member of the Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica, an international organization platform in Central America concerned with biodiversity, sustainability and climate change, it is our company's goal to make the Mamoní Valley Preserve an initiative involving neighboring organizations and private forest owners in order to have a real impact on the area while creating local jobs.«

Petra Kollmannsberger, CEO ForestFinance Panama

BIODIVERSITY ... the Mamoní Valley Project

How ForestFinance and Earth Train save a key biodiversity hotspot in Panama

The ForestFinance Group disposes of nearly 20 years of experience in forest investments, the development and operation of sustainable forest products. ForestFinance has planted ecological mixed forests in Panama since the 90ies and for some years also in Peru, Colombia and Vietnam. It is our goal to convert the value of these certified and sustainably managed forests into economic and ecological investment products. A relatively new project is the Mamoní Valley Preserve in Panama.



The forests of Mamoní Valley in Panama are home to endangered animals such as jaguars, tapirs, tucans and harpy eagles. Moreover, they are a vital source of potable water in the rapidly developing Province of Panamá. The watershed of the upper Rio Mamoní - approximately 12 miles long and covering a total of 36 square miles - is located only 25 miles to the east of Panama City on the Southwest border of Guna Yala, the semi-autonomous region of the indigenous Guna.

However, this natural treasure has suffered from the destruction of primary forest and soil degradation caused by illegal logging and wood burning for the gaining of timber and farm land – a major threat to the biodiversity and water security in the region.

In 2004, the NGO Earth Train and Rainforest Capital have created the Mamoní Valley Preserve to counteract this negative development. Since 2013, ForestFinance is part of the team, taking care of the forest management and reforestation activities in the preserve, helping to expand the project.

A newly planted and sustainably managed mixed forest will serve both the locals' interest, bringing economic progress, and nature's interest by creating new habitats for numerous plants and animals. The long-term jobs created by the company will benefit approximately 400 people living in this region.

With nearly two decades of experience in sustainable forestry, ForestFinance has demonstrated how economically viable reforestation projects and forest protection can go hand in hand. Together with Earth Train and Rainforest Capital, ForestFinance is now setting an outstanding example for a green capital management in Mamoní Valley.

Learn more about the [Mamoní Valley project](#) in the [ForestFinest magazine](#) in English and Spanish.



ForestFinance
Wir machen Wald.

+++ Biodiversity Pieces +++ Biodiversity Pieces +++ Biodiversity Pieces +++

Save-the-date: 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Starts Discussion Forum on Valuing Nature on 24 September in Berlin



The „Diskussionsforum Ökosystemleistungen“ (Discussion Forum Ecosystem Services) is a new series of events that is launched in Germany by the environmental NGO Deutschen Umwelthilfe (DUH), 'Biodiversity in Good Company' and two partners from academia, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). The new series offers an open discussion forum where interested stakeholders from business, politics and society are invited to debate the opportunities and risks of the ecosystem services and approach and of valuing natural capital.

For the first meeting on
24 September 2014, 06:00 p.m.
at *Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., Berlin*

we are pleased to be able to welcome two renowned speakers with different views on this topic:

Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director IASS Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e. V. and former executive director of UNEP

and

Barbara Unmüßig, President Heinrich Böll Foundation.

We hope to help achieve more clarity on where the economic valuation of nature, ecosystems and their services makes sense and where it has its limits or would even be counterproductive and dangerous. The follow-up events will each have a thematic focus.

Registration for the evening event will start in mid-August.

German save-the-date [on our website](#).

51 Ratifications: The Nagoya Protocol Can Enter into Force on 12 October



The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will enter into force on 12 October 2014 following its ratification by 51 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

"Practical tools such as the Nagoya Protocol are critical for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity. I commend the Member States that have ratified this important international legal instrument. By fulfilling the promise made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, they have made a significant contribution to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda," said Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General.

The Nagoya Protocol was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, and wants to significantly advance the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol intends to create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

[Read the full CBD press release from 14 July 2014](#)

Natural Capital Coalition Selects Two Consortia to Develop the "Natural Capital Protocol"

The Natural Capital Coalition (NCC), formerly TEEB for Business Coalition, announced on 8 July to have selected two consortia to develop what will be known as the Natural Capital Protocol (NCP). The NCP intends to be an open source, global multi-stakeholder framework for understanding, measuring and valuing the impacts and dependencies on the natural environment, as well as understanding the risks and opportunities presented for businesses when natural capital is accounted for in business decision making.

The work on the Protocol brings together leading institutions on this subject, in the form of two consortia from business, accountancy, consultancy, financial institutions, and NGOs. The two consortia are managed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The consortium managed by the WBCSD, will bring together the various methodologies, systems and ideas currently in the market into a single harmonised measurement and valuation framework for natural capital. The consortium managed by the IUCN, will translate the Protocol into two sector specific guides on food & beverage and apparel.

It is expected that a fully tested first version of the Protocol can be presented by December 2015.

Further reading:

[Press release NCC from 8 July 2014](#)

NCC recently published a study giving an overview of existing initiatives and methods: "[Valuing Natural Capital in Business - Taking Stock: Existing Initiatives and Applications](#)" (2014)

The Global Nature Fund has published an overview in German: "[Wie Unternehmen ihr Naturkapital](#)"

ökonomisch erfassen: Bestandsaufnahme und Handlungsempfehlungen"

In May, WWF Germany issued a report that explores recent trends and developments in natural capital accounting with a focus on national accounting by governments (as opposed to corporate accounting):
[Accounting for Natural Capital in EU Policy Decision-Making](#)

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