



L-R: Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment, Estonia, President of UN Environment Assembly; Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary; and Facilitator Jorge Laguna-Celis, UN Environment

Innovative Solutions to Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Economic Sectors

Presented by UN Environment, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC

Facilitator **Jorge Laguna-Celis**, UN Environment, opened the event, highlighting the importance of creating “spaces where an open, transparent dialogue can take place.” He emphasized the need for concrete steps to take the biodiversity agenda forward by identifying and adopting joint solutions that allow fostering innovation and embracing sustainability.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt, emphasized the need to integrate sustainability concerns in other sectors, noting that “there is a cost for inaction.” She underscored that voluntary action alone will not be adequate to address biodiversity concerns and urged to “raise the bar,” building robust regulatory and legislative frameworks. Fouad further called for “education, information, knowledge, and communication,” directly involving women and youth.

Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment, Estonia, President of UN Environment Assembly, stressed the need for concrete suggestions and solutions, noting current fragmentation in environmental multilateral negotiations. He addressed, *inter alia*: the creation of green markets, increasing the share of green public procurements; ways to change behavioral patterns; the importance of environmental data for better assessments of environmental impacts; and resource efficiency.

Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary, stressed the need to “put down the segmentation and fragmentation barriers, and bring everybody at the table.” She highlighted new solutions and innovative business models that take into account environmental protection, noting the generation of co-benefits. She further emphasized that “scaling up does not mean more of the same, we need a pragmatic transformation,” and underscored that a set of valuable tools are already in place in that respect.

A discussion ensued, including on ways to: move the business case of mainstreaming biodiversity from impact to opportunity; and use innovation to mainstream biodiversity into business operations.

Mark Gough, Natural Capital Coalition, stressed understanding of the value - monetary and otherwise - of impacts and dependencies on nature was essential for businesses to mainstream biodiversity, and that the problem is not lack of data, but their flow.

Underscoring the urgency to address environmental issues and calling for science-based biodiversity targets, **Jonathan Ekstrom**, The Biological Consultancy, highlighted work integrating biodiversity into natural capital and assessing loss of natural habitats. **Peter White**, World Business Council For Sustainable Development, called for a systemic approach based on collaboration, an effective multi-stakeholder platform, and clear targets.

Brian Sullivan, IPIECA, noted the need for a detailed understanding of impacts and a holistic apprehension at site level of the effects of human activities. He further stressed the need for balancing energy transition, security, and access. **Marco Lambertini**, WWF, highlighted the need for a new narrative, a more compelling vision for biodiversity conservation that will bring nature loss at the center of the development agenda. **Steven Dickinson**, Total, underscored the need provide a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Framework to simplify data-sets, avoid the silo effect, and enact funds for networks of protected areas, including through public-private partnerships. **Carolyn Margaret Jewell**, Heidelberg Cement AG, noted the role of SDGs to induce sustainable activities and highlighted sector-led associations and platforms.

Gilles Kleitz, French Development Agency, emphasized the need to understand the economics of mainstreaming and the importance of national, sectoral, inclusive platforms that can link with and positively influence national biodiversity activities. **Claire Tutenuit**, Entreprises pour L'Environnement, called for the establishment of new business models, highlighting the role of regulation in creating an enabling environment and noting that “voluntary action by businesses is important, but not sufficient.” **Daniel Calleja Crespo**, Director General for the Environment, European Commission, stressed that “we don’t ask the private sector for philanthropy, the most successful businesses integrate sustainability concerns in their models.” He highlighted: the development of business and biodiversity platforms; the need for more effective financial instruments; the need to define sustainable investments; work to develop a kind of an eco-label for financial products; and meaningful pledges and commitments.

Francisco Javier Cachón, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Spain, emphasized that the circular economy is “the only way forward, there is no plan B,” underscoring the need to reduce consumption and waste generation. **Patricia Zurita**, BirdLife, highlighted the importance of a single, compelling message from the conservation community, noting the wealth of existing information and data on Key Biodiversity Areas is now providing this. **Helen Crowley**, Kering, stressed that the last two years have seen amazing successes in the fields of climate change and biodiversity, adding that natural capital accounting offers a brilliant framework to articulate and prioritize actions.

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Tita Korvenoja, Ministry of the Environment, Finland, emphasized the need for an integrated approach “to break the silos,” noting that the 2030 Agenda offers a great tool in that respect. **Theresa Mundita Lim**, Asean Center for Biodiversity, addressed regional initiatives to coordinate on economic, political, and socio-cultural levels, noting the need for harmonization of indicators across the financial and biodiversity sectors. **Andre Weidenhaupt**, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg, discussed his country’s experience as a hub for the finance industry, noting relevant knowledge could be useful in attracting private money to leverage public funds. **George Jaksch**, Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica, urged for more dialogue with the business community, highlighting joint ventures supported by enabling policies.

Facilitator **Laguna-Celis** summarized the discussion, noting the need for governments, businesses, and relevant organizations to: work together and aim higher; integrate better; move forth in the Business and Biodiversity Forum fostering solutions; and address existing priorities, including data use to improve the management of natural resources.



Cristiana Pașca-Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary



Facilitator Jorge Laguna-Celis, UN Environment



Brian Sullivan, IPIECA



Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment, Estonia, President of UN Environment Assembly



L-R: Francisco Javier Cachón, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Spain; Jonathan Ekstrom, The Biological Consultancy; and Patricia Zurita, BirdLife



Mark Gough, Natural Capital Coalition



Marco Lambertini, WWF



Nigel Topping (center), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), We Mean Business, and Mark Johnston (right), BP, during the event discussions



George Jaksch, Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica



Claire Tutenuit, Entreprises pour l'Environnement



Participants during the event



Patricia Zurita, BirdLife



Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt



L-R: Gilles Kleitz, French Development Agency; Clarissa Arida and Theresa Mundita Lim, Asean Center for Biodiversity



Helen Crowley, Kering



Andre Weidenhaupt, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg



A view of the room during the event



Theresa Mundita Lim, Asean Center for Biodiversity



Steven Dickinson, Total



Participants during the event

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.unenvironment.org/>

<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/mainstreaming-biodiversity-well-being>