



BioBiz Exchange

Enabling civil society
to engage with business



The world's biodiversity is declining, at the same time the global population and demand on the earth's finite natural resources continue to increase. The need for action by all parties – governments, civil society and the private sector – has never been greater.



To address these challenges, the United Nations 2030 Agenda calls for civil society organisations (CSOs) to engage in new partnerships with business. Countries and multilateral organisations, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are also prioritising private sector engagement as a means to scale up the transformative change needed to achieve global goals for biodiversity and sustainable development.

CSOs can be a catalyst in driving this change by providing constructive input and technical guidance to business, as well as strengthening the enabling environment in which business operates through legal and financial levers.

Over the past decade, IUCN has developed a suite of tools and guidelines with companies in different sectors to help them develop and benefit from more sustainable business practices.

Why IUCN engages with business

In IUCN's experience, once companies are aware of the business case for adopting new approaches and measures, they are more likely to commit to mainstreaming biodiversity into their operations. However, to be truly effective, business engagement must be scaled up, particularly at the local and national levels to achieve the scale of change required.

Ultimately, IUCN's goal is for companies to improve their business practices by managing their operations in a more sustainable manner.

*“We need business if we want to realise our ambitions
... and business needs us to achieve theirs.
We are all in the same boat together.”*

Godwin Evenyo Dzekoto of A Rocha,
a CSO in Ghana

What is the BioBiz Exchange?

IUCN's BioBiz Exchange is a global network of CSOs and experts, who are inspired to learn from their business engagement experiences with the aim of enhancing biodiversity practices of businesses operating in critically-important landscapes.

More specifically, the BioBiz Exchange empowers CSOs to engage with business, provide a platform for sharing case studies and strategies that can be replicated and scaled up locally, and in other regions of the world.

Through training and capacity building, the BioBiz Exchange empowers CSOs to engage with business and produce more positive outcomes for biodiversity and communities. It offers CSOs a platform to collectively share knowledge and expertise, enhancing their learning and options for creating effective dialogues and partnerships with business, as well as with government and financial institutions. As a result, CSOs can create innovative models for business engagement and thus mobilise business to deliver on global goals for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Key elements

TRAINING Based on a regional needs assessment, the BioBiz Exchange helps CSOs gain a better understanding of how to effectively engage with business. It offers demand-driven, in-person training on the foundations of constructive business engagement and advanced business training, including on negotiations. It also facilitates active regional communities of practice that contribute to peer-to-peer learning, case studies and models for replication.

In addition, the BioBiz Exchange hosts “deep dive” modules on key issues, such as extractives, that have been identified by the CSOs as important, to synthesize knowledge in a way that is easy to access and integrate into their work.

MOBILISING KNOWLEDGE The BioBiz Exchange provides rapid feedback, analysis and documentation of lessons learned, encouraging CSOs to share their stories with their peers.

To facilitate this exchange, IUCN has joined forces with the PANORAMA-Solutions for a Healthy Planet partnership to promote inspiring stories about CSO-led business engagement.

“I learned so much sharing with the other participants. Together, we can create a real impact by working with business via our business strategies”

Andrew Miriki of the Kaengesa Environmental Conservation Society (KAESO) in Tanzania, who participated in the business engagement training.

JoinUs

The BioBiz Exchange initiative is committed to empowering CSOs to engage with business – as key partners in the sustainable development journey between now and 2030. As the BioBiz Exchange peer network and knowledge base grow, both CSOs and businesses involved will be able to demonstrate that they significantly contribute to the global goals on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

IUCN began the initiative in 2017, following its successful experience with the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions programme, which is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The initial phase of the BioBiz Exchange has been generously funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).



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Through the PANORAMA partnership, IUCN also collaborates with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), GIZ, GEF, GRID-Arendal, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), Rare and UN Environment.

Whether you are a CSO interested in receiving training or a donor interested in generating greater private sector engagement, IUCN's BioBiz Exchange initiative is interested to hear from you.

For more information, please contact:

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About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of more than 10,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.