

The latest news on how businesses work to help conserve biodiversity in the EU

Dear B@B Members and Observers,

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the EU B@B Platform.

In this issue you will find information on:

- ❖ B@B Platform: Only a few days left to respond to the three calls for evidence for 2015!
- ❖ State of Nature: Largest ever assessment draws a mixed picture for Europe's habitats and species
- ❖ Success of the Natural Capital Financing Facility Information event
- ❖ Upcoming events

Yours sincerely,

The EU B@B Platform

- ❖ **B@B Platform: Only a few days to submit your proposals!**

Natural Capital Workstream

A new call for evidence has been launched as part of the [Natural Capital Workstream](#). This year, the workstream will seek to investigate natural capital accounting linkages between businesses, governments and financial institutions. A particular focus will be on applications (i.e. uses), approaches (e.g. methodologies and tools), data requirements and data sources. The intention of the call for evidence is to elicit information and views on the topic to feed into the planned workshop and end of year report.

All B@B Members, Observers and Representatives are invited to participate by completing the [Questionnaire Survey](#). They are also encouraged to circulate this call to any companies they believe may be interested to respond. Other interested parties are invited to contribute but must first [join the Platform](#).

The response deadline has been extended until **Wednesday 10 June 2015**.

Innovation Workstream

The [Innovation Workstream](#) released a new [call for evidence](#) to collect additional case studies of innovations that contribute to nature protection. This year's focus will be on innovations that involve partnership models. The topics that will be explored and the specific questions that will be addressed can be found in the call for evidence.

All B@B Members, Observers and Representatives are invited to participate by completing a [response template](#) and returning it **by Monday 15 June 2015**. Companies which submitted innovation case studies in 2014 do not need to re-submit their cases unless there have been, in the interim, substantial developments in the innovation. Other interested parties are also invited to contribute to this call, but must first [join the Platform](#).

Finance Workstream

A new [call for evidence](#) has been issued inviting all participants to provide additional case studies capable of showcasing successful investments in key areas of biodiversity action (e.g. certified products, offsets, green infrastructure, payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity friendly businesses). This call for evidence introduces the various topics that the [Finance Workstream](#) aims to explore this year, and sets out some of the questions that will be addressed further, namely the scale of market opportunities, the financing challenges and the sources of finance.

Further details of the range of opportunities we are examining are presented in a more detailed [Discussion Paper](#) which accompanies this call.

The closing date for the submission is **26 June 2015**.

❖ State of nature: a snapshot on EU biodiversity conservation status and trends

The "[State of Nature in the EU](#)" report is the first assessment to cover both the Birds and Habitats Directives, and it results from the largest collaborative data-collection and assessment of nature ever undertaken across the Member States in the period 2007-2012.

The report offers a mixed picture of the state of biodiversity across the European Union. Overall, the EU status of species and habitats has not significantly changed over the last six years, with many habitats and species still in unfavourable status and a significant proportion of them continuing to deteriorate.

However, some positive trends, supported by success stories across the EU, are indicating that the legislation may well be starting to have a positive impact and that targeted conservation action, if done on a large enough scale, can deliver substantial results on the ground.

The report concludes by saying that conservation efforts will need to be improved and expanded for the situation to improve significantly into the future.

❖ Success of the NCFF Introductory event

The [Natural Capital Financing Facility](#) (NCFF) held its first introductory workshop on 8 May 2015 with the participation of a broad range of public authorities, civil society groups and private organisations across the EU. The objective of the event was to present the main characteristics of this new and innovative financing instrument in presence of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission (EC). It also offered an opportunity for the participants to directly ask their questions to the EIB and the EC. The minutes and presentations regarding the application process, terms, conditions and eligibility criteria of the Facility will soon be available on the on the [NCFF website](#).

❖ Upcoming events related to biodiversity and natural capital

- The [1st Polish Forum Business & Biodiversity "Ecological Intelligence in Business"](#) organised by the Polish Business@Biodiversity Platform on 16 June 2015 in Warsaw, Poland;
- The [1st European Urban Green Infrastructure Conference](#) taking place in Vienna on 23-24 November 2015, and;



- [World Forum on Natural Capital](#), 23 – 24 November 2015, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, United Kingdom.

For full overview of forthcoming events, [click here](#).

For a full list of Member Companies to the Business and Biodiversity platform see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/list-of-members/full-members/index_en.html

The European Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform provides an EU level forum for sustained and strategic dialogue about the links between business and biodiversity. Through three separate thematic workstreams, the Platform delivers tangible results by working with businesses to develop tools and approaches that integrate biodiversity considerations into business practice. The B@B Platform also helps to coordinate and to raise awareness of innovative national and international initiatives, and showcase business best practices at EU level. More information is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business>
