

# Workshop B

## **Business-related biodiversity assessments**

Our contribution to the 2010 action agenda



# Workshop B

- 1. State of the art in biodiversity assessment**
- 2. Biodiversity benchmarking**
- 3. Governance and accountability**

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# Recognising .....

- The considerable number of effective BA tools and methods currently in place.
- That many of these have been developed by many business partnerships and are already being used effectively.
- But there are misunderstandings (even confusion) on what is best practice

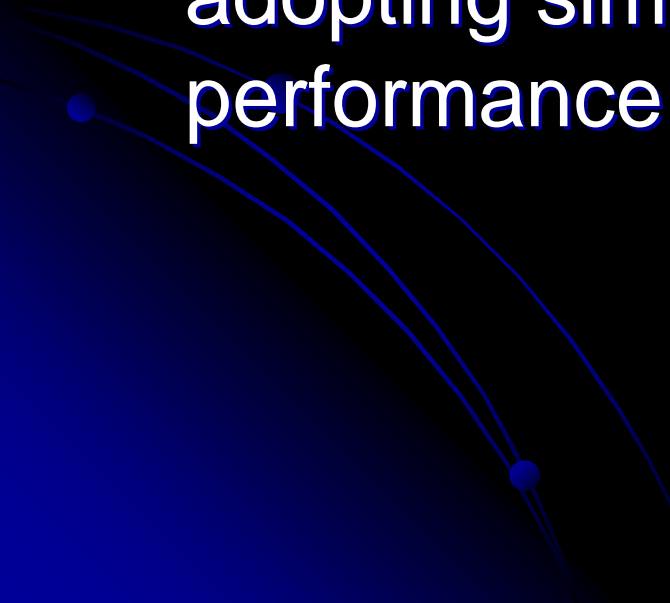
# Further recognising...

The leadership shown by a number of companies that have BA as their core activities – especially in the extractive sector.

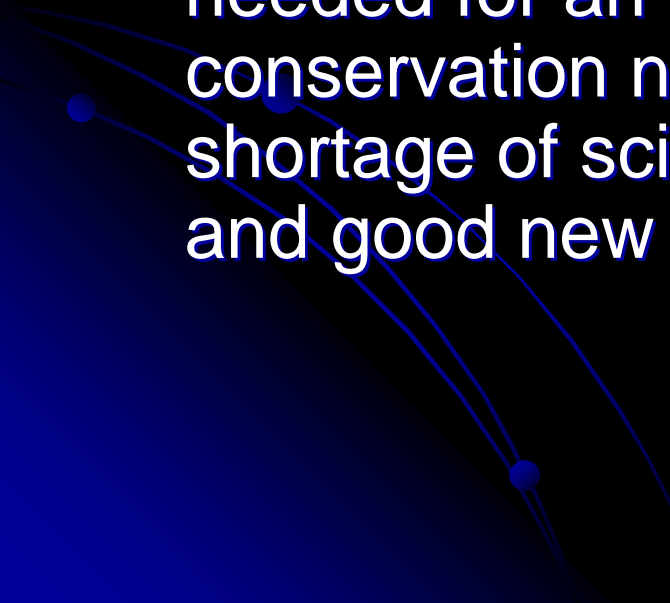
Here, there is an opportunity to enhance the application of existing assessment indicators and tools, expanding the efforts to other sectors.

# The role of SME's.

The role of SME's is critical – and a start could be made by making the existing work more relevant to SME's - even by adopting simplified biodiversity performance measures.



# Assessment process....

- The assessment process operates at many levels – and is complex, especially when trying to assess **ecosystem performance**.
  - The need for further **biodiversity expertise** needed for an expanded business effort in conservation needs further thought (there is no shortage of science advice and information – and good new business opportunities here)
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## ... as an aside ...

- That there are already considerable assessment indicators in place - and to quote one SME – ‘I don’t need any more indicators’. (*but recognition would nice*)
- ‘Assessments’ and ‘benchmarking’ are not clearly defined ..... herding cats

# The role of the consumer

.... an emerging theme

- the role of citizens as consumer, reporter (GRI) as a citizen scientist, mass observer (biodiversity you tube), benefactor (nature)
- the value of engaging effectively with stakeholders on biodiversity (tension between fair trade and food miles)

... as an aside

...a growing voice about reviewing how best to engage government, business, NGOs and individuals --- so there can be robust and trusted dialogue - more small workshops that meet and discuss...

# What can EU businesses do

- Continue to share best practice – eg ICMG Good Practice Guide
- Invest in public research and development for robust assessments
- More businesses new to demonstrate commitment and action (islands of excellence are not enough)
- Take accountability for their supply chain
- Undertake more BA !

# What can the EU do

- Create an incentive framework based on priority areas – eg legislation and financial frameworks
- Create support and set uniform standards
- Create enabling frameworks
- Reward and differentiate leadership
- Hold non performance to account
- Educate the consumer – create demand

## ..... strong message

- For the EU to develop technical frameworks that enable SMEs to undertake BA using the existing and new (more appropriate ) tools
- For the EU to encourage other sectors to develop and institute effective BA systems (eg agriculture, fisheries)

# ‘ to quote’

The EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative can provide the much need space and momentum to augment the participation and fulfilment of obligations of the private sector in conserving the world’s biodiversity.

Creation of the corresponding technical facility is a welcome means to give practical meaning to this aspiration.

# A word of thanks

To the drummer

The three shepherds

The three bands

Those who came and contributed



Also thank you to the  
teams from

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in Lisbon



See you in Bonne !  
May 2008

