

**EBI Phase III Final Report
June 2007**

I. Introduction

The Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI) was created to develop and promote practices for integrating biodiversity conservation into upstream oil and gas development. The Initiative has sought to be a positive force for biodiversity conservation by bringing together leading energy companies and conservation organizations to share experiences and build on intellectual capital to create value and influence key audiences. The EBI began in January 2001 and has successfully developed and promoted best practices in the oil and gas industry for biodiversity conservation. After 6 years, the EBI members have decided to cease formal activities and affiliation as the EBI group while continuing to allow the products to be publicly available so they may be utilized and promoted as widely as possible. This report outlines the final year of progress the Initiative has had in promotion and application of the EBI guidelines and expresses members commitments towards the EBI moving forward.

II. History of EBI (Phases I and II)

The EBI was first conceptualized at the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business at Conservation International. Recognizing the overlap between areas of interest for oil and gas development and areas identified as priorities for biodiversity conservation, CI convened several companies and conservation organizations in a single forum to develop and promote ways to integrate biodiversity conservation into oil and gas development. Out of this, the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative was created by five energy companies – BP, Chevron, Enron,¹ Shell and Statoil – and five conservation organizations – Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Smithsonian Institution and The Nature Conservancy.

The first phase of the EBI was dedicated to the development of guidance and resources for integrating biodiversity conservation into oil and gas development. A collaborative report, *Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil & Gas Development*, was produced. The report is intended to be a practical guide for building biodiversity protection into the entire spectrum of oil and gas operations, from exploration to decommissioning. In addition to this report, guides, discussion papers and resources were developed (as shown below in Table 1). Full text of the EBI report and associated products can be found on the website: www.theebi.org.

Table 1: Products of the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative

Guides	Discussion Papers	Resources
Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental Management Systems	Negative Secondary Impacts from Oil and Gas Development	Good Practice in the Prevention and Mitigation of Primary and Secondary Biodiversity Impacts

¹ In December 2001, Enron ceased to be a part of the Initiative.

Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental and Social Impact Assessments	Opportunities for Benefiting Biodiversity Conservation	Online Biodiversity Information Sources
Framework for Integrating Biodiversity into the Site Selection Process		International Conventions
Biodiversity Indicators for Monitoring Impacts and Conservation Actions		Glossary PowerPoint Presentation on Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil and Gas Development

The second phase of the EBI was designed to promote the ideas and practices outlined in the EBI products. The main goal was for industry to adopt, disseminate, apply, and gather feedback on, the EBI report and products. Over a two-year period, EBI Phase II included activities by organizations (members and non members) to adopt and apply the results and recommendations of the Initiative to their own systems and operations. In addition, efforts were made to disseminate and promote the products throughout the oil and gas sector. The main EBI report was translated into multiple languages (French, Spanish, and Portuguese) to allow for even broader dissemination in key regions of oil and gas development. At the end of Phase II, the EBI published a report entitled the *Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI): Report on Progress* (September 2005). It provides a comprehensive account of how member and non member organizations adopted and applied the results and recommendations of the Initiative to their own systems and operations and details efforts made in its promotion and dissemination.

The report published in 2005 noted that public reaction to the EBI products were quite positive. Companies interviewed for the report note that the EBI products were valuable in structuring discussions in their companies about biodiversity and what companies should be doing to manage risk to biodiversity from their activities. The EBI has been helpful in raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and why biodiversity loss should be addressed by the energy sector. In this way, the EBI has helped raise the status of biodiversity as a corporate issue and has triggered corporate policies and standards on biodiversity.

III. Phase III

Application

The objectives of the final phase of the EBI were to apply the EBI guidelines at the corporate level and at projects of EBI members and other energy companies and report back on progress. In addition, the members committed to disseminating and promoting the EBI guidelines with strategic audiences; and monitor emerging issues surrounding biodiversity and the development and transport of oil and gas in order to identify possible joint projects for the EBI members.

The EBI has proven to be a successful model for public-private partnership collaborations. The EBI was recognized by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as one of the winners of the 2002 World Summit Business Awards for Sustainable Development Partnerships. Based on recent feedback from EBI members, the collaborative multi stakeholder engagement process has provided valuable lessons to members on how to engage in other global partnerships, as is the case with the IUCN in building its Business and Biodiversity Programme.

Members have utilized and expanded upon aspects of the EBI guidance in the development of their environmental management systems and planning tools. For example, Chevron drew on the EBI products to develop their biodiversity guidance document that supports several mandatory corporate-wide standard processes within the company's HSE management system that deal with new projects and ongoing operations. As part of its partnership with ENI (a major integrated energy company), FFI is helping them to understand and address the biodiversity impacts of their operations and have used the EBI products in the development of indicators for primary and secondary impacts and site monitoring protocols. In addition, FFI has used them as reference materials for the development of a risk assessment tool to identify and understand biodiversity impacts with a corporate partner with an agriculturally based supply chain. Shell has been able to integrate the EBI documentation into their environmental, social and health impact assessment process as well as develop an internal guide on how to integrate biodiversity into their health, safety and environment management system. The Smithsonian Institution in partnership with Shell Gabon used EBI products as a reference to integrate biodiversity conservation into managing primary and secondary impacts in the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas in Gabon. As a result a Biodiversity Action Plan was developed and site-based indicators were identified and have been monitored to achieve conservation. Smithsonian is also using the EBI guidelines to assist several energy companies in Peru for a large scale energy project in the Amazon. In a joint project between FFI, the University of Basilicata, ENI and Shell the EBI guidelines provided the framework to develop procedures for improved environmental management and continued monitoring in the Upper Val D'Agri joint ENI – Shell Joint Venture.

The findings of the EBI have proven useful in biodiversity-related activities for non EBI members and in other sectors, as well. For example, The Biodiversity Working Group established by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), supports the EBI objectives and products and worked with the EBI to increase awareness of the EBI products within the oil and gas industry. Within the mining sector, the EBI was used as an input into the Mining and Biodiversity Dialogue, convened by IUCN and the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM). More recently, the EBI recommendations and guide on "Negative Secondary Impacts from Oil and Gas Development" are being referenced in the development of methodology documents for CI's Initial Biodiversity Assessment and Planning (IBAP) approach and the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program (BBOP) both industry cross cutting initiatives.

Most users of the products have found them particularly useful in informing corporate and project-related decision-making to support more effective consideration of biodiversity-related concerns. One of the main criticisms of the EBI products is that they were not detailed enough to provide operational “how to” guidance.

Promotion

During phase III of the EBI, members have worked to disseminate the goals, ideas and conclusions of the EBI and its products worldwide, to stakeholders in industry, the conservation community, government and academia. The two primary methods of outreach and dissemination have been through workshops/meetings/presentations and through the EBI website. The translation of the report into multiple languages prior to Phase III allowed for even wider dissemination (translations were completed in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Mandarin).

EBI members have promoted the partnership and its products in meetings and workshops when discussing how effective public-private collaborations can be, or when explaining the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation into the energy sector.

- In the fall of 2006, CI promoted the EBI at a workshop in China on biodiversity assessment in the ESIA process for major developments which was organized by Shell and the State Environmental Protection Administration.
- FFI made reference to the EBI in a presentation to British American Tobacco, during an internal workshop to look at the development of biodiversity indicators.
- FFI and Shell made reference to the EBI process within a workshop on biodiversity performance indicators conducted by Earthwatch in 2005.
- FFI made reference to the EBI process within a report to Lafarge on measuring biodiversity performance.
- Chevron gave a presentation on industry biodiversity initiatives, including the EBI, at a WBCSD workshop on "Assessing Ecosystems for Business" in early 2007.
- Chevron also gave a presentation on the IPIECA-OGP Biodiversity Working Group aims and activities, including the links with EBI.
- IUCN made presentations referencing the EBI to Shell, ENI as well as other stakeholders of projects with the oil and gas sector in the UK, Italy and Ecuador.
- Smithsonian made presentations and used the EBI information in meetings and projects in Canada, Cameroon, China, Ecuador, Gabon, Peru, South Africa, and the US.

In the past year (June 2006 – May 2007) the EBI website received over 10,000 visits. The English version of the EBI Report received over 4,000 hits. Of the translated versions of the EBI report, the Spanish was the most downloaded followed by the French and Portuguese versions. The Guide on Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Processes (ESIA) consistently drew the most visitor attention. The ESIA guide is closely followed in number by the Biodiversity Indicators guide, and then Environmental Management Systems guide. Compared to last year, many more internet users are exploring EBI resources, discussion papers, and guides.

Emerging issues

During the course of Phase III, the EBI members agreed to monitor emerging issues surrounding biodiversity and the oil and gas sector in order to identify possible joint projects for the EBI members to undertake. While no specific projects were developed, biofuels were identified as an emerging issue for the sector and some members explored the issue within their respective organizations. IUCN, for example, began a new initiative called the “Energy and Biodiversity Leveraging Initiative”, the goal of which is to support and accelerates the transition to energy systems (like biofuels) that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable, and economically efficient while making use of the best available technologies and governance arrangements. Conservation International also began to tackle the issue and organized a workshop in Brazil in early 2007 to discuss the opportunities and risks associated with biofuel use.

IV. Moving Forward

After more than six years of collaboration, the EBI members have decided to cease formal activity as the EBI group. While the group will no longer be working as a whole, each member continues to be committed to looking for opportunities to apply the recommendations set forth in the EBI and promoting its messages to relevant audiences around the globe. The Energy and Biodiversity Initiative has been instrumental in helping companies understand and address biodiversity conservation and it provides an effective framework for the management of biodiversity across multiple industries.

The EBI report and products will continue to be publicly available online at the EBI website (www.theebi.org).