

# Protecting shareholder and natural value : “The role of the financial sector in the protection of biodiversity”

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006, 18:15

**Overview:** Recent years have seen increasing pressure on the finance sector to address environmental risks within their investment portfolios. Well-publicized cases such as the Three Gorges Dam and Asia Pulp and Paper have led to scrutiny of banking practices with respect to biodiversity issues. The launch of the Equator Principles in 2003 and the Collevocchio Declaration in 2003 have also raised the profile of environmental issues within the finance sector. A number of international banks now have specific policies addressing biodiversity impacts and within a few leading members of the mainstream finance sector, as well as a number of companies, biodiversity has been identified as one of a number of sustainable development issues that could impact on shareholder value.

This session considers the current trends for evaluating biodiversity risk within the finance sector and focuses on a specific tool developed by Insight Investment and Fauna & Flora International to benchmark 36 companies within the extractive sector on their biodiversity impact and risk identification processes, and the tools they have in place to manage them. It will examine the impact of such a tool within the companies subjected to the benchmark and its potential uptake within the finance sector as a whole. This event acts as a precursor to a more in depth analysis of the finance sector’s role in managing biodiversity on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Audience:** Financial institutions, governments, conservation groups who might be interested in participating in the future of the benchmark

**Objective:** To raise awareness amongst COP participants of the work currently being undertaken within the finance sector to evaluate investments with impacts on biodiversity

## Side event timetable

- 18:15 Session chair opening remarks  
**Isaura Frondizi**, Director, Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development
- 18:20 The Finance sector and Biodiversity – an overview  
**Christopher Wells**, ABN AMRO – Banco Real
- 18:45 Benchmarking company management of biodiversity impacts  
**Annelisa Grigg**, Director of Corporate Affairs, Fauna & Flora International  
**Kerry ten Kate**, Director, Insight Investment
- 19:15 Panel discussion considering the impact of such tools. Panelists include:  
**Dr. Arthur Eijs**, Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning & the Environment, Netherlands  
**Roy Hathaway**, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom  
**Andrew Parsons**, International Council for Mining and Metals  
**Deric Quaile**, Shell/IUCN  
**Marcio Macedo Costa**, BNDES  
**José Pedro de Oliveira Costa**, Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve  
**Rachel Biderman**, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Sustainability Studies Centre
- 19:45 Drinks, sponsored by **Deutsche Bank** 