

Conservation Organization Statement



The Energy & Biodiversity Initiative

The report produced by the Energy & Biodiversity Initiative (EBI) is a collaborative effort by the energy companies and conservation organizations participating in this process. In addition to presenting the results to the industry at large, each participating company will work internally to determine how they can apply the recommendations to their own operations. Individual commitments from each participating company outlining their next steps in that process can be found in the accompanying document, Statement from the Member Companies.

Interested parties can also watch the “News” section at www.TheEBI.org to learn the latest news about EBI, actions of the Biodiversity Working Group jointly formed by International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), as well as commitments from new companies who are integrating the EBI recommendations into their operations.

Statement from the member Conservation Organizations

Biodiversity, the complex web of genes, species, ecosystems and ecological processes that sustain life on Earth, provides human society with food, medicines, natural resources, ecological services and spiritual and aesthetic benefits. This biodiversity is under greater threat than ever before from human activities including oil and gas development.

Oil and gas operations can have a wide range of serious negative impacts. We believe that oil and gas development companies should not only mitigate the damaging effects of their activities, but also seek opportunities to benefit biodiversity conservation, particularly when operating in areas of high biodiversity values.

For us, participation in the EBI is an opportunity to engage energy companies in a dialogue regarding the protection and management of biodiversity values in areas where they conduct oil and gas development projects. We welcomed the companies’ willingness to engage in this dialogue, and we all recognized that the findings and recommendations of the EBI would not be intended to measure past or current environmental performance of any member. All EBI partners recognized from the beginning that participation in the initiative would not be construed as an endorsement of policy or environmental performance of any member.

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We recognized that our dialogue with the oil and gas industry would be controversial for some people. We chose to engage in dialogue with selected oil and gas companies that had indicated an interest in integrating biodiversity considerations into oil and gas operations. At the same time, we recognize the value and legitimacy of organizations that choose to raise voices of protest against operations that harm biodiversity. We recognize that a combination of approaches is likely to be the most productive in the long run, seeking to express in the clearest possible language the interests of civil society in how our energy requirements will be met.

The EBI report is a collaborative work that sets out recommendations and guidelines for energy companies to address biodiversity issues in their operations. We recognize the important commitment made by the company members of the EBI (BP, ChevronTexaco, Shell and Statoil) to begin work to incorporate the EBI guidelines into their individual organizations and to integrate biodiversity concerns into their environmental management systems and on-the-ground practices. We look forward to continuing the dialogue and working with the EBI member companies to advance this commitment.

The juxtaposition of energy needs and biodiversity values has and will lead to some difficult challenges for both the energy industry and the conservation community. To that end, the EBI member conservation organizations recognize that integrating biodiversity conservation into oil and gas systems and operations will require a collaborative effort among companies, conservation organizations, governments, communities and other stakeholders.

We have chosen in the EBI report to focus on oil and gas development and biodiversity issues. We recognize that biodiversity cannot and should not be considered in isolation from other issues, however, and that there are vitally important issues surrounding oil and gas development and its environmental and social impacts. These include, but are not limited to, the rights of indigenous people, the dependence of local communities on biodiversity, overlaps between lands set aside for legal protection and lands customarily owned or used by indigenous people, the role of governments, and the impact of oil spills associated with shipping.

While the direct footprint of energy development on biodiversity can be significant in specific ecosystems, the long-term effects of oil and gas have wider impacts for the global environment as a whole. One of the most significant aspects of the continued growth in the use of oil and gas products is the contribution to global climate change. We recognize the importance of the issue of climate change, including its implications for biodiversity. We support all efforts to develop energy alternatives that would reduce the need to exploit areas of high biodiversity value and contribute less to climate change. However, given the limited resources available for the EBI and the fact that climate change is being addressed in other forums, we have not addressed specifically in the EBI report the issue of climate change and the related policies and practices of energy companies.

We believe that if the EBI guidelines are adopted by a large number of private and state owned energy companies, considerable progress can be made towards addressing some of the current impacts on biodiversity from oil and gas development. At the same time, we believe that the EBI framework of guidelines can be further expanded and improved. We are committed to continuing the EBI spirit of collaboration through our work with companies to test and refine the EBI products, looking for opportunities to pro-

mote the integration of biodiversity conservation into corporate decision-making, operations and management systems, and identifying ways to contribute to conservation outcomes.

In the coming months, we will be actively consulting with the broader conservation and development community to gain further feedback on the EBI products and process. Additionally, we hope to work closely with the Biodiversity Working Group jointly established by two global industry trade associations—the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP)—as well as other interested organizations, to further test and refine these products.