

Statement from the Member Companies



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. What follows are the individual commitments from each participating company outlining their next steps in that process. A statement about the involvement of the member conservation organizations can be found in the accompanying document: Statement from the Member Conservation Organizations.

Each company has a different set of values, principles and policies, each is at a different point along the path of integrating biodiversity into its systems and operations, and each will progress at a different rate toward achieving effective consideration of biodiversity issues. Recognizing this, the EBI members will continue to update this page to reflect their progress.

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.

BP

BP has been an active participant in the EBI process since its inception. We recognized the lack of clarity in available guidance for the industry and the difficulties this created in management and communication of biodiversity issues. BP agreed that an open and challenging debate accommodating diverse viewpoints was needed—the EBI collaboration among companies, institutions and international NGO’s was the best way to achieve this. We value the close, constructive dialogue with other EBI members that has developed the products we have now.

We believe that the EBI products represent an effective framework for management of biodiversity within the oil and gas sector. The EBI products have been designed with the aim of making them relevant, applicable and easy to use. More learning will be gained from subjecting the guidelines and tools to peer review and thorough field-testing by the industry—if this is in conjunction with the EBI’s conservation organization participants, then we envisage even greater benefit. Incorporating this learning will enable EBI to make a more valuable contribution.

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BP has already gone some way in incorporating biodiversity into management systems and many of our practices are broadly consistent with the guidelines set out by EBI. BP will commit to using a variety of these products where appropriate at several sites to ensure that, following review and refinement, they can represent the best available guidance for the industry. We will disseminate the guidance within BP, recommending its use as good practice where applicable. Also, as active members of the IPIECA Biodiversity Working Group, we will jointly work with others to ensure that the use of EBI products is actively encouraged through the sector.

ChevronTexaco

Over the past several years, our understanding of the broad array of biodiversity conservation concerns and opportunities relevant to our business has greatly expanded. Our participation in EBI has been a very significant influence in promoting enhanced awareness and activity within the company. The relationships established and products developed through EBI will be very useful to us in addressing this very important issue.

ChevronTexaco has long been committed to conducting its operations in an environmentally responsible manner, including protecting biological resources. We have numerous examples of that commitment in practice throughout our worldwide operations, as described in our recently-issued Corporate Responsibility report and in industry publications dealing with operations in sensitive areas. We have also had a long-standing practice of providing financial support to a diverse spectrum of organizations engaged in efforts to understand, protect and enhance biodiversity.

Building on that foundation and EBI, we are pursuing efforts to assure more systematic management of our activities that potentially affect biodiversity, particularly as part of oil and gas exploration and development. These include explicitly integrating biodiversity into our Operational Excellence Management System, defining and understanding the implications of our operations in or near areas that are legally-protected and/or designated as highly biodiversity sensitive, enhancing attention to biodiversity in environmental and social impact assessments, understanding and engaging with relevant activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and generally promoting greater internal company awareness of the importance of biodiversity. As part of these efforts, we are identifying and pursuing opportunities to test some of the EBI products at the corporate and field level, to evaluate how they can be adapted or improved for company and industry use.

We are also very active in encouraging greater industry attention to biodiversity issues through our participation in the joint IPIECA-OGP Biodiversity Working Group. Working group activities include holding workshops that promote awareness of the EBI and exchange of best practices for managing impacts on biodiversity, collecting feedback on companies' use of EBI products, and developing new work products that address EBI focus areas.

Shell

Shell is proud to have been involved in the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI). EBI is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to develop best practice guidelines for integrating biodiversity conservation into oil and gas development.

We have now reached the end of the Initiative during which all the members have worked hard to produce a set of documents (guides, discussion papers, resources) that we hope will be of benefit to both EBI member companies as well as other interested parties. It is a great testimony to all the people involved that nine organizations from such different perspectives have been able to come together to develop consensus views. We believe the contacts made and the relationships built will last far into the future and deliver real on-the-ground contributions to conserving biodiversity.

We at Shell have placed great value in the EBI—it has provided a model for private sector-NGO partnerships, working together to find solutions to difficult and challenging issues. We have been able to contribute our own experiences on working in projects in sensitive environments and share some of the tools we have developed such as our ‘early warning’ system and our impact assessment guidelines into which biodiversity considerations have been integrated. Equally, we have learnt a great deal from EBI, particularly during development of a site selection decision-making framework and the development of indicators.

Indeed, we at Shell can expect to be implementing all of the EBI conclusions in one-way or another. Some are already in place such as the early warning system and impact assessment guidelines. We recognize that there are other areas such as biodiversity action plans and indicators where we still have more work to do and will see how the EBI products best fit into our existing management systems.

As Chair of the newly established joint IPIECA/OGP Biodiversity Working Group, we hope that the EBI documentation will provide the platform, for the development of guidance for the oil and gas industry as a whole.

Statoil

Statoil has participated actively in the EBI process, and we have found this cooperation and dialogue between the industry and conservation organization representatives very useful. The EBI process has contributed to a stronger integration of biodiversity into our environmental policy, and has significantly increased our awareness of biodiversity conservation as an integral part of sustainable development. Statoil is prepared to continue the EBI process, and is also participating actively in the IPIECA/OGP Biodiversity Working Group, promoting and testing the EBI products within the industry. We have organized the biodiversity work as a specific research and development activity in Statoil, and will as part of this work aim at further developing EBI products as internal guidance documents and strengthen biodiversity focus in our management system. We do also plan for testing relevant products in selected development projects where Statoil is operating.