



WILDLIFE
HABITAT
COUNCIL®

United Nations Global Compact

Communication on Engagement (COE)

June 2021

Part 1 | President's Statement

June 27, 2021

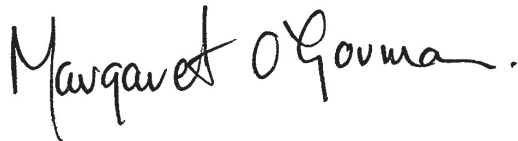
H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017 USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General, and WHC Stakeholders:

Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), an international non-profit organization that has for three decades enabled the private sector to engage in meaningful biodiversity action across the world, today submits this Communication on Engagement (COE), stating our continued support of the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.

In the sections that follow, this COE details the ways in which WHC has followed through on the pledges made in our Letter of Commitment, submitted June 2019, as well as the additional actions taken to drive proactive, locally appropriate environmental stewardship efforts on corporate lands. We commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders, to continue empowering corporate conservation, and to submitting an updated COE within the next two years, and every two years thereafter.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret O'Gorman
President
Wildlife Habitat Council

Part II | Description of Actions

For over 30 years, WHC has been promoting and certifying ecological stewardship action on corporate lands through partnerships and education. Since only 10-15% of the world's land surface is protected, private lands provide an essential opportunity for restoring and protecting biodiversity. As the only international conservation NGO focused exclusively on the private sector, WHC provides a framework for voluntary conservation action on a wide variety of corporate lands. WHC corporate members represent some of the leading national and multinational corporations seeking to support sustainable ecosystems and the communities that surround them.

As an organization uniquely positioned at the intersection of business and nature, WHC empowers companies to take proactive steps to address the global biodiversity crisis on a daily basis, upholding Principles 7 and 8 in all interactions, and has promoted additional principles to businesses worldwide as documented throughout this *Description of Actions*.

In the initial WHC *Letter of Commitment*, submitted in June 2019, WHC President Margaret O'Gorman pledged that the organization would commit to the following actions in support of the Ten Principles:

Support the business members of the Global Compact who are seeking to implement and report on their biodiversity action.

Promote the work of the Global Compact at our annual Conservation Conference.

Distribute our white paper on the connection between conservation action and the SDGs to private sector businesses.

Convene corporate members around climate change and biodiversity to create an alliance of nature-based action on corporate lands.

In the past two years, WHC has not only followed through on these actions, but has inspired corporate conservation in a myriad of other ways. Since June 2019, WHC has:

- Provided conservation support and high-profile recognition to WHC member organizations, including the following Global Compact Participants:

<u>Albemarle</u>	<u>DuPont</u>
<u>Arcadis</u>	<u>Enbridge</u>
<u>BASF</u>	<u>Freeport-McMoRan</u>
<u>Bayer</u>	<u>General Motors</u>
<u>BP</u>	<u>Ramboll Environ</u>
<u>Bristol-Myers Squibb</u>	<u>Shell Oil Company</u>
<u>CEMEX</u>	<u>Solvay</u>
<u>Chemours</u>	

- Published the WHC white paper *The Conservation Connection: How On-the-Ground Actions for Biodiversity and Education Can Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals* on our website, and promoted the paper via email, social media and personalized outreach.



Part II | Description of Actions *CONTINUED*

- Delivered high-impact consulting documents to companies worldwide, equipping companies with the technical knowledge and partnerships needed to make a meaningful impact on biodiversity. Among these **WHC Consulting** deliverables were:
 - » *Customized indicator species toolkits for Toyota Motor North America sites*
 - » *Location-specific native landscaping guides for Phillips 66*
 - » *A multi-faceted biodiversity toolkit for Google Data Centers nationwide*
 - » *A green design-oriented toolkit for General Motors sites worldwide*
- Inspired conservation action through curated workshops and speaker sessions during the events **WHC Connect 2020** and **Conservation Conference 2021**. In addition to addressing the environment-themed principles of the Global Compact, many sessions address socioeconomic, cultural and racial barriers in conservation activities, fostering a more inclusive conservation community (Principle 6).
- Convened three communities of interest (corporate sector, conservation sector and climate initiatives) through the **WHC Climate Action Works** initiative, which helps corporate landowners utilize nature-based climate change solutions that are corporate-driven, community-minded and biodiversity-based. This initiative is ongoing, and the development of a Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) catalog, which will be made available to the public, is underway.
 - » *The first meeting of the Climate Action Works initiative, on October 10, 2019, signified the first time the three communities had come together for a meaningful conversation on how nature and climate change intersect.*
 - » *This meeting led to a panel at the 2020 Climate Leadership Conference, hosted by Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, in which Margaret O’Gorman and other environmental leaders discussed the important role of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in climate action.*
- A recently published WHC white paper, ***Leveraging the Power of Nature: Private Sector Potential for Community-First Climate Action***, presents NCS as a critical counterpart to engineered climate mitigation and resiliency solutions and provides actionable guidance on incorporating NCS into workplaces (Principle 9).
- With funding from the U.S. Forest Service, launched the **WHC Across Fence Lines** initiative, which connects corporate conservation, urban forestry groups, community members and leaders, and employees to local, state and national canopy and forestry goals. This work addresses local resiliency challenges and provides opportunities for workforce



Part II | Description of Actions *CONTINUED*

development and biodiversity uplift.

The initiative will culminate in a suite of guidances to help corporations form partnerships to partake in local, community-first forestry projects.

- Served as an active partner in **Business for Nature**, a global coalition that mobilizes companies to act for nature and to advocate for governmental and intergovernmental biodiversity action. Business for Nature was highlighted during WHC Connect 2020 and Conservation Conference 2021.
- Provided guidance on equitable hiring practices via the column *Narrowing the Gap*, written by WHC COO Josiane Bonneau and published in leading trade magazine *UAA Newsline*. (Principle 6).



Part III | Measurement of Outcomes

At WHC, we believe that every act of conservation matters®. Since submitting our Letter of Commitment to the Global Compact in June 2019, we have continued to support and recognize conservation efforts of all sizes, in a variety of ecological and geographic contexts.

These actions have produced a wide array of outcomes, among them:

WHC Consulting

WHC Consulting delivers customized, comprehensive services that help companies align conservation efforts with business needs. In the past two years:

- WHC employees have spent 8,615 hours supporting the design, planning, implementation and retention of on-the-ground conservation work.
- WHC Consulting has completed 411 interventions, contacting our member organizations regularly to ensure the success of their conservation efforts.

WHC Certification

WHC's certification program, Conservation Certification®, is the only voluntary sustainability standard designed for broad-based biodiversity enhancement and conservation education activities on corporate landholdings. As of Spring 2021, 634 conservation programs are WHC-Certified.

- These certifications recognize the conservation and conservation education efforts of 96 companies in 20 countries on four continents.
- Certification recognizes the conservation efforts of a variety of industries. Companies within the Construction and Materials, Energy, Waste Management, and Automobiles and Parts sectors hold the highest number of certified programs as of Spring 2021.

Readership

- The SDG-oriented white paper, *The Conservation Connection*, has been downloaded 359 times since its publication in June 2019, providing guidance on sustainable development to readers in a wide range of industries, including aggregates/building materials, chemical manufacturing and auto manufacturing, as well readers from universities and NGOs with aligned values.
- *UAA Newslines*, in which the WHC COO has published the equitable hiring column *Narrowing the Gap*, is a bimonthly publication distributed to the 5,000+ members of the Utility Arborist Association.



Part III | Measurement of Outcomes CONTINUED

Membership

As of Spring 2021, WHC has 96 members, 75 of which are corporations. These corporations represent 21 different sectors, with the most common industries being construction materials (23% of corporate members), oil and gas production (17%), chemicals (11%) and electricity (11%). As of Spring 2021, 634 conservation programs are WHC-certified.

Event Attendance

WHC has historically held an annual, in-person Conservation Conference. Amid the global pandemic, however, the organization pivoted to hosting successful virtual events: WHC Connect (October 2020) and WHC Conservation Conference (June 2021).

- 586 individuals registered for WHC Connect. 70% of the registrants represented the corporate world, and these registrants came from 71 different corporations.
- WHC welcomed 535 registrants for WHC Conservation Conference 2021. 73% were from the corporate world and represented 66 different corporations.
- Each year, approximately 90% of surveyed attendees were very likely or somewhat likely to recommend future events to a friend or colleague, and 93% were very likely or somewhat likely to attend future events themselves.

Positive feedback on WHC Connect and Conservation Conference included:

"I would like to compliment the WHC staff and panelists for a very professional meeting. The presentations and topics were very relevant to our time."

"It was a wonderful event. Really liked the ethnic diversity of the speakers and they perspectives they shared!"

"Thank you all for everything you do to connect sustainability stewards across so many industries. It's great to come together - even virtually - to relate, learn and evolve."

"I loved how you recognized projects [through awards]. It's a great way to celebrate sites while encouraging others to be the next winners."

Moving forward, WHC will continue to empower corporate conservation acts worldwide. We will detail future actions in our next Communication on Engagement, to be submitted in June 2023.

For more information on WHC, please visit wildlifehc.org.

