

## Private-sector initiatives for biodiversity

Development of the post-2020 global biodiversity and its subsequent implementation require catalyzing action from all sectors and stakeholders in support of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this context, this document presents a non-exhaustive list of private-sector initiatives targeting biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of its components and access and benefit-sharing. These include those led by business as well as those that aim to influence business but are led by governments or non-governmental organizations. Some of these have a global reach, whereas others have a regional or national reach.

Additional tools and mechanisms are listed under the CBD's Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity<sup>1</sup> and there are also other websites and resources available that compile business focused commitments, tools and resources.<sup>2</sup>

The Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity comprises of 21 national and regional initiatives<sup>3</sup> on business and biodiversity which all have government involvement. The Global Partnership is thus a network of networks linking the various initiatives so that they can share information and good practices, and cooperate on common projects with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into businesses.

The present document has been developed as a background document for participants at the ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, and it is for information only.

### **1. Examples of initiatives with global outreach**

#### Business for Nature coalition (BfN)

Business for Nature is a coalition of leading global organizations who have joined forces to elevate the business call to protect and restore the natural world. World leaders have an opportunity in 2020 to forge an international agreement which will reverse the loss of nature as part of a framework analogous to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Business for Nature will convene a united business voice at these international negotiations to clearly demonstrate that the protection of nature is an economic as well as a moral imperative, and to call on governments to adopt an ambitious new deal for nature and people that will protect and enhance the natural world that we all depend on for wellbeing and prosperity.

#### Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP)<sup>4</sup>

The Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP) was a partnership between companies, governments and conservation experts to explore biodiversity offsets. BBOP developed, tested and disseminated best practice on biodiversity offsets, including through pilot projects, and contributed to policy and corporate developments to meet conservation and business objectives. BBOP was discontinued at the end of 2018 but all their publications are still available on Forest Trends' website (see link above).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/business/organizations.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> <https://shift.tools/>; <https://www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Redefining-Value/Business-Decision-Making/Masurement-Valuation/Resources/Eco4Biz>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cbd.int/business/National\\_Regional\\_BB\\_Initiatives.shtml](https://www.cbd.int/business/National_Regional_BB_Initiatives.shtml)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.forest-trends.org/bbop/resources/>

## Natural Capital Impact Group<sup>5</sup>

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) aims to build individual and organisational leadership capacity and capabilities. It organises sector or system-specific business platforms to foster discussion, facilitate peer-support, and create industry-leading collaborations. CISL's interdisciplinary research engagement focuses on six cross-cutting themes: sustainable finance, economic innovation, inclusive development, natural capital, future cities and leadership. The Natural Capital Impact Group, convened by CISL, is a global network of companies aimed at identifying ways on which business can sustain the natural world and its resources through its strategies and operating practices.

## Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC)<sup>6</sup>

The Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) is a group of leading civil society organisations, private and public sectors financial institutions and academia working to deliver a material increase in private, return-seeking investment in conservation. CPIC aims to facilitate investment in conservation projects by creating delivery models (“blueprints”), connecting pipeline providers with deal structuring support, and delivery parties with investors.

## Consumer Goods Forum<sup>7</sup>

The Consumer Goods Forum is a CEO-led organisation consisting of retailers and consumer goods manufacturers aiming to drive positive change and efficiency across the consumer goods industry. Of relevance to biodiversity commitments are their Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI)<sup>8</sup> and their commitment to achieve zero net deforestation by 2020<sup>9</sup>

## Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI)<sup>10</sup>

The Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) is a partnership between three major industry associations (IPIECA - the international oil and gas environmental association, International Council on Mining and Metals and the Equator Principles Association) aiming to develop and sharing good practice related to biodiversity in the extractive industries. CSBI convenes the collective knowledge and expertise of practitioners working across the oil and gas, mining and finance sectors.

## Equator Principles Association (EPA)<sup>11</sup>

The Equator Principles Association (EPA) is a group of 96 financial institutions in 37 countries applying a risk management framework called the Equator Principles, to determine, assess and manage environment and social risk in project financing. This framework is applied to about 80% of global project financing and contains specific safeguards over biodiversity impacts.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/business-action/natural-capital/natural-capital-impact-group>

<sup>6</sup> <http://cpicfinance.com/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/initiatives/sustainable-supply-chain-initiative/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/initiatives/environmental-sustainability/key-projects/deforestation/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.csbi.org.uk/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://equator-principles.com/>

## Farming First<sup>12</sup>

Farming First is a coalition of over 180 organisations representing farmers, scientists, engineers and other industry stakeholders. It aims at identifying and promoting practices for sustainable agriculture development, highlighting the importance of improving farmers' livelihoods.

## Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN)<sup>13</sup>

The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) is a partnership led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) linking more than 100 companies, communities and governments in over 15 countries to create market incentives for responsible forestry and trade practices. GFTN aims at expanding responsible and credibly certified forest management, including through technical assistance throughout the certification process and by building understanding of market opportunities.

## Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)<sup>14</sup>

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) is an organisation gathering, among others, international and governmental agencies, and leading travel companies, hotels and tour operators. GSTC aims at developing best practices in sustainable tourism by establishing global standards for tourism business or destination.

## Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)<sup>15</sup>

The Initiative for Responsible Mining (IRMA) was founded in 2006 by a coalition of nongovernment organizations, businesses purchasing minerals and metals for resale in other products, affected communities, mining companies, and labor unions. IRMA's approach to responsible mining is to certify social and environmental performance at mine sites globally using an internationally recognized standard that incorporates requirements related to biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected areas.

## Good Growth Partnership<sup>16</sup>

The Good Growth Partnership convenes a wide range of stakeholders and initiatives to reduce deforestation and enable sustainable development in three global commodity supply chains: soy, beef and palm oil. The Partnership is funded by the Global Environment Facility, led by the United Nations Development Programme and implemented in collaboration with Conservation International, the International Finance Corporation, UN Environment and World Wildlife Fund

## The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)<sup>17</sup>

IDH convenes companies, CSOs, governments and others in public-private partnerships to create positive impact on deforestation, living incomes and living wages, working conditions, toxic loading and gender. IDH is supported by multiple European governments, including our institutional donors: BUZA, SECO and DANIDA and we work together with over 600 companies, CSOs, financial institutions, producer organizations and governments in 12 sectors and 12 landscapes in over 40 countries worldwide.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://farmingfirst.org/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://gftn.panda.org/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gstcouncil.org/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://responsiblemining.net/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://goodgrowthpartnership.com/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/>

### International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM)<sup>18</sup>

The International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) is the mining industry association, bringing together 26 mining and metals companies and 35 regional and commodities associations. ICMM provides principles and a best practice framework for the sustainable development of the industry. One of the ICMM 10 Principles requires member companies to contribute to conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning (Principle 7). Members have made commitments not to operate in World Heritage Sites.

### International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation Association (IPIECA)<sup>19</sup>

The International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation Association (IPIECA) is the oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, including both upstream and downstream actors. IPIECA develops, shares and promotes good practices and solutions through member engagement and partnership with key stakeholders. IPIECA has working groups addressing the following areas: biodiversity, climate change, health, oil spill preparedness, fuel and projects, reporting, social responsibility, and water.

### International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA)<sup>20</sup>

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) is an industry group representing research-based biopharmaceutical companies, and regional and national associations. IFPMA has established guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization.

### Multilateral Financial Institutions' Working Group on Environmental and Social Standards (MFI-WGESS)

The Multilateral Financial Institutions' Working Group on Environmental and Social Standards (MFI-WFESS) is a platform of multilateral banks and national development institutions promoting responsible financing. MFI-WGESS focuses on the practical issues of developing and applying a methodology for assessing the impact of funded projects on the environment and society, ensuring accountability and productive dialogue of MFIs with stakeholders, environmental information disclosure, and harmonisation of the MFIs' activities with key global environmental initiatives.

### Natural Capital Coalition<sup>21</sup>

The Natural Capital Coalition is a collaboration of more than 300 organisations, falling into seven broad stakeholder groups: conservation and civil society, science and academia, business, membership organisations, standard setters and disclosure, finance, and government and policy. The Coalition aims to embed natural capital thinking and assessments within organizations and governments, and launched the internationally accepted [Natural Capital Protocol](#) in 2016 as a decision making framework. The Protocol enables organisations to identify, measure and value their direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on natural capital in order to inform their decisions.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.icmm.com/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.ipieca.org/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ifpma.org/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/>

### Natural Capital Finance Alliance (NCFA)<sup>22</sup>

The Natural Capital Finance Alliance (NCFA) is a collaboration between the UN Environment Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Global Canopy Programme (GCP) and over 40 financial institutions. It aims at integrating natural capital considerations in financial decision making, financial products and services, and including them in financial accounting, disclosure and reporting.

### Natural Infrastructure for Business<sup>23</sup>

The Natural Infrastructure for Business is a platform developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the private sector to introduce business leaders and practitioners to natural infrastructure as an alternative to grey infrastructure.

### New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) Global Platform<sup>24</sup>

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) Global Platform is a partnership of governments, multinational companies, civil society and indigenous peoples aiming to halve deforestation by 2020 and to end it by 2030. The NYDF Global Platform convenes and facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration to advance global advocacy and policy changes.

### Proteus Partnership<sup>25</sup>

The Proteus Partnership is a collaboration between the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and 12 leading extractives companies, aiming to make global information and tools on biodiversity and ecosystems available to support decision making.

### Rainforest Alliance<sup>26</sup>

The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-profit organization working at the intersection of business, agriculture, and forests. It focuses on the issues of forests, food and farming, wildlife, climate and people. It awards certification to farms forests and businesses through its Rainforest Alliance certified seal that is based on environmental and social standards, including those provided by other sector specific certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council<sup>27</sup>.

### Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)<sup>28</sup>

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative is a network of over 100 companies aiming to advance sustainable agriculture practices throughout the food chain. SAI facilitates pre-competitive sharing of knowledge and initiatives to reach a competitive understanding of concepts and their long-term implications.

### UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)<sup>29</sup>

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a partnership between the United Nations Environment and over 240 financial institutions, including banks, insurers, and investors. UNEP FI promotes the integration of sustainability concerns into mainstream financial

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<sup>22</sup> <https://naturalcapital.finance/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.naturalinfrastructureforbusiness.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://nydfglobalplatform.org/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.proteuspartners.org/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://ic.fsc.org/en/choosing-fsc/fsc-labels>

<sup>28</sup> <https://saiplatform.org/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.unepfi.org/>

systems through capacity building, sharing best practices, pioneering research and tools, setting global standards and principles, and engaging stakeholders.

### Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT)<sup>30</sup>

The Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT) is an association promoting the sustainable sourcing of natural ingredients by companies and suppliers. UEBT sets good practices for the conservation of biodiversity, respect of traditional knowledge, and equitable sharing of benefits along the supply chain.

### World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)<sup>31</sup>

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development is an organisation of over 200 businesses aiming to maximise impact for shareholders, the environment and societies by developing practical tools for businesses reflecting all aspects of sustainable development. WBCSD runs a number of initiatives including the Soft Commodities Forum (SCF) which is a global platform for soft commodities companies, to advance collective action on common sustainability challenges, including the land use change associated with commodity production<sup>32</sup>.

### World Economic Forum (WEF)<sup>33</sup>

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a platform for the world's 1,000 leading corporations to engage in the improvement of the economic, social and environmental state of the world. The WEF seeks to encourage public-private cooperation and to bring together political, business, academic and other societal leaders to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

### Corporate Consultative Group (CCG)<sup>34</sup>

The Corporate Consultative Group is a platform of 40 Fortune 500 companies, established by the World Resources Institute (WRI), aiming to advance business practices that mitigate risks and support sustainable growth. CCG members have access to WRI's research and data-driven tools to inform decision making processes.

## **2. Examples of initiatives with regional or national outreach**

While there are a wide range of initiatives with regional and national outreach, some examples are presented below.

### Act4Nature<sup>35</sup>

Act4Nature is an initiative launched by Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE), with the aim of mobilising companies to protect, promote and restore biodiversity. Partnering companies have committed to promote progressive integration of biodiversity into decisions throughout their value chains, with a focus on no net loss and on potential positive impacts for biodiversity.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.ethicalbiotrade.org/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.wbcd.org/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.wbcd.org/Programs/Food-Land-Water/Food-Land-Use/Soft-Commodities-Forum>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.wri.org/business/join-corporate-consultative-group-ccg>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.act4nature.com/>

### Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative<sup>36</sup>

The Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative is a cross-sectorial collaboration of over 40 German companies to protect and sustainably use biodiversity, and halt the dramatic loss of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

### CDC Biodiversite<sup>37</sup>

CDC Biodiversité is developing, through the B4B + Club, a methodology to measure the biodiversity footprint of businesses and financial institutions. The objective is to propose an innovative methodology allowing companies, in all sectors, to quantify their impacts on ecosystems through a synthetic indicator, the Global Biodiversity Score (GBS).

### CERES<sup>38</sup>

Ceres is a sustainability nonprofit organization working with investors and companies to tackle sustainability challenges including deforestation, water, climate change and human rights among others. They manage the Investor Initiative for Sustainable Forests (IISF), a shared working group of the Ceres' Investor Network and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment that supports investors in engaging companies on the material financial risks of deforestation for companies sourcing commodities such as cattle, soy, palm oil and timber.

### Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO)<sup>39</sup>

The Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) is a group of Dutch financial institutions and listed companies looking to contribute to the sustainable development of the capital market. VBDO benchmarks practices and organises seminars and conferences for knowledge sharing and networking in the area of sustainable investment and entrepreneurship.

### Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE)<sup>40</sup>

Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE) is a platform of about 40 French and international companies aiming at knowledge sharing, planning for regulatory and market changes, and publishing literature on lessons learned. EpE's current areas of work are biodiversity, climate change, health and the environment, ocean, and natural resources.

### EU Business and Biodiversity Platform (EU B@B)<sup>41</sup>

The EU Business and Biodiversity Platform (B@B) is a forum set up by the European Commission to work with and help businesses integrate natural capital and biodiversity considerations into their practices. EU B@B is made of three thematic work streams: natural capital accounting, innovation and finance.

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.cdc-biodiversite.fr/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.ceres.org/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.vbdo.nl/en/>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.epe-asso.org/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/>

### European Business and Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC)<sup>42</sup>

The European Business and Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC) is a consortium of European non-governmental organisations and companies aiming to inform the private sector about the importance of biodiversity and tools available to assess dependence and mitigate impact on biodiversity.

### European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (ESIA)<sup>43</sup>

The European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (ESIA) is an alliance of industry organisations in France, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, United Kingdom and Austria, aiming to develop and promote sustainable farming systems. It promotes “Integrated Farming” as a farming management system which includes biodiversity standards.

### European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)<sup>44</sup>

The European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) is a federation of national industry associations from 29 countries, representing construction enterprises of all sizes. The FIEC has made recommendations on the role of construction in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and have developed principles that include environmental and biodiversity considerations.

### Eurosif<sup>45</sup>

Eurosif is a partnership of Europe-based national Sustainable Investment Fora (SIFs), with a network spanning over 400 organisations from the sustainable investment industry value chain. Eurosif promotes sustainable and responsible investment (SRI), integrating environmental, social and governance factors in the research, analysis and selection process of securities within an investment portfolio.

### Japanese Business Initiative for Biodiversity (JBIB)<sup>46</sup>

The Japanese Business Initiative for Biodiversity (JBIB) is a group of 55 Japanese corporations committed to biodiversity conservation. JBIB’s work includes exploring the links between business and biodiversity, promoting dialogues and collaborations, sharing good practices, and undertaking educational efforts.

### South Africa’s National Business Initiative (NBI)<sup>47</sup>

The National Business Initiative (NBI) is a coalition of South African and multinational companies working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa through partnerships, practical programmes and policy engagement.

### UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)<sup>48</sup>

The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) is an organisation for financial institutions committed to growing sustainable and responsible finance in the United Kingdom.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/welcome>

<sup>43</sup> <https://leaf-eisa.frb.io/>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.fiec.eu/>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.eurosif.org/>

<sup>46</sup> <http://jbib.org/english/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.nbi.org.za/>

<sup>48</sup> <http://uksif.org/>



## We Value Nature<sup>49</sup>

We Value Nature is a partnership with the Natural Capital Coalition and supported by the European Commission. It collaborates with businesses, networks, platforms and other interested stakeholders to mainstream approaches such as Natural Capital Assessment, Natural Capital Accounting, Nature-based Solutions, Green Infrastructure and related ecosystem-based approaches. It has recently been launched and will provide practical support to business aimed at catalysing uptake of the Natural Capital Protocol and targeted to particular sectors. Focussed research on barriers to uptake of the natural capital approach will be carried out. Training programmes and materials will be developed to build capacity amongst business leaders across Europe.

### **3. Examples of product-specific associations and initiatives**

There are also a wide range of commodity focused sustainability initiatives including a certification and verification schemes. A number of these are members of the ISEAL association and further information is available there<sup>50</sup>. Some single commodity examples are given below.

#### Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI)<sup>51</sup>

The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) convenes producers, users and stakeholders in the aluminium value chain for standards setting and certification. ASI is committed to maximising the contribution of aluminium to a sustainable society by defining globally applicable standards and promoting measurable and continual improvements in the key environmental, social and governance impacts of the industry.

#### Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA)<sup>52</sup>

The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) is a platform of over 20 cement producers with operations in more than 100 countries, aiming to promote sustainable construction and innovation.

#### Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)<sup>53</sup>

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a platform uniting stakeholders from the seven sectors of the palm oil industry: oil palm producers, processors or traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, investors, and environmental and social non-governmental organisations. RSPO aims at developing and implementing global standards for sustainable palm oil, including through a voluntary certification scheme.

#### Bonsucro<sup>54</sup>

Bonsucro is a global multistakeholder non-profit organisation that exists to promote sustainable sugarcane production, processing and trade around the world. Bonsucro supports a community of over 500 members in over 40 countries, from all elements of the sugarcane supply chain, including, farmers, millers, traders, buyers and support organisations.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://wevaluenature.eu/>

<sup>50</sup> [https://www.isealliance.org/community-members?f%5B0%5D=community\\_status%3A176](https://www.isealliance.org/community-members?f%5B0%5D=community_status%3A176)

<sup>51</sup> <https://aluminium-stewardship.org/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://gccassociation.org/>

<sup>53</sup> <https://rspo.org/>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.bonsucro.com/>

### Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)<sup>55</sup>

The Round Table on Responsible Soy is a civil organization that promotes responsible production, processing and trading of soy on a global level. Its members include the main representatives of the soy value chain and members of civil society from around the world.

### Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB)<sup>56</sup>

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative consisting of five constituencies: producers and producer associations, the commerce and processing sector, retail companies, civil societies and national or regional roundtables. It aims to advance continuous improvement in sustainability of the global beef value chain through leadership, science and multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

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<sup>55</sup> <http://www.responsiblesoy.org/?lang=en>

<sup>56</sup> <https://grsbeef.org/>