



State of Sustainability Initiatives Project

Building Effectiveness in Market-based Approaches to Sustainable Commodity Production and Trade

Project Profile

WHAT IS THE SSI?

The "State of Sustainability Initiatives" or "SSI" is a global initiative that will research and report on the impacts, effectiveness and scope of market-based, voluntary approaches to sustainable commodity production and trade. The SSI is a knowledge-sharing platform that will improve information-sharing and transparency in voluntary supply chain initiatives through an independent annual reporting service and learning network.

SSI GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through regular reporting on developments, trends and performance among voluntary standard systems for sustainable commodities, the SSI will provide a rich source of information for business, consumers, producers, policymakers, and initiatives themselves. This resource will help stakeholders to navigate the field of voluntary approaches to sustainable markets more strategically and effectively. In this way, the SSI project aims to foster more informed decision making, greater transparency and improved governance within global commodity markets. Ultimately, the SSI will support stakeholders in their efforts to develop socially, environmentally and economically sustainable supply chains.



MAIN SSI ACTIVITIES

Reporting Services

1. Annual Report:

The State of Sustainability Initiatives Annual Review will provide a regular overview of the voluntary initiatives sector, including:

- Key statistics
- Market trends
- Performance metrics in development and use
- Forward looking strategies and trends

Each annual issue will focus on the relationship between voluntary sustainability initiatives and a key sustainable development theme. The first Annual Report will be published in early spring 2010.

2. Regular Initiative Reporting:

Journalistic updates on the latest developments in sustainable commodity markets and voluntary initiatives around the world.

3. Thematic Reports:

Printed briefings and a monthly online publication offering in-depth analysis on the relationship between commodity markets, voluntary sustainability initiatives and key themes such as poverty reduction, climate change, desertification and biodiversity preservation. The reports will target policymakers, the private sector and others.

Knowledge Sharing

The knowledge sharing activities mentioned above will be supported by a learning network that will undertake information-gathering, reporting and workshops. This network will provide a unique forum that will foster best practice by facilitating dialogue and collaboration among voluntary initiatives.

Research

SSI will conduct cross-cutting research and analysis on the performance of voluntary sustainability initiatives and the policy responses needed to support the continued growth and development of sustainable commodity markets, production and trade.



SSI – WHY NOW?

Over the past two decades a growing number of voluntary sustainability initiatives and other multi-stakeholder alliances have emerged to improve the livelihoods of the millions of commodity-dependent producers and manufacturers around the world. The growth of such initiatives represents an important opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the greening of global supply chains and improvement of producer livelihoods.

The multiplication of these initiatives makes it increasingly challenging for all stakeholders to stay abreast of the latest developments and best practices across the voluntary sector. Moreover, it is exceedingly difficult to assess their utility and performance, let alone the steps required to mainstream best practice. Through reporting activities, the SSI will enable stakeholders to interact with each other, helping them benchmark their performance and become more effective.

SSI PARTNERS

The SSI is coordinated under the auspices of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative by four organizations with a deep and long-standing history in the promotion of sustainable commodity production and trade:



The SSI is guided by a high level Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group that will provide a regular forum for inter-initiative and stakeholder information exchange.

Visit: www.sustainablecommodities.org for more information

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SSI CONTACT:

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The State of Sustainability Initiatives Project is the joint project of: AIDEnvironment, IIED, IISD, and UNCTAD, under the auspices of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative. Further information on SSI can be found at:

