ESG Cooperation projects of private arboreta and enterprise in Korea for the promotion of biodiversity

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Private arboreta in Korea, compared to national arboreta, face challenges in fulfilling legal requirements and public needs due to restricted budgets. In response to global imperatives such as mandatory ESG disclosure, climate change mitigation, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a novel model for ESG collaboration between Korean corporations and private arboreta has been devised and implemented through corporate partnerships. This collaborative model, developed with consideration for global disclosure standards and ESG evaluation criteria, reflects the perspectives of both companies and arboretum stakeholders. It adjusts the weight and importance of industry sectors concerning forest productivity, wild plant diversity, soil quality, forest disasters, diseases, and landscape factors, influenced by both corporate operations and arboretum activities. With these collaboration opportunities, private arboreta in Korea can run more projects aimed at restoring endangered plants listed in the Red List, developing community education programs on endangered plants, and initiating campaigns aligned with global plant conservation strategies under the CBD. Integration of such collaborations into a company's ESG management disclosure and reporting will enhance its reputation among investors, while private arboreta can leverage corporate funding to sustainably execute plant conservation initiatives. Still, many corporations see ESG practices as a non-priority mission, assigning annual budgets ranging 20,000–30,000 USD. The primary future objective entails transitioning towards sustainable projects and expanding budgets to contribute effectively to national biodiversity promotion goals.