



# NEWSLETTER

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May 2018

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## Sri Lanka Launches 'Life' Project

Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL), in partnership with the Forest Department of Sri Lanka, the IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office and selected private sector partners, launched its multi-sectoral, multi-partner collaborative project 'Life' on 7 February 2018 at the MJF Centre for Dignified and Sustainable Empowerment in Katubedda. Participants included representatives of top corporates, conservationists, undergraduate students from the Universities of Colombo, Moratuwa and Sri Jayewardenepura, and the media.

The project was initiated to establish a biodiversity baseline, and to restore a 10-ha block of degraded forest, within the Kanneliya Conservation Forest, through scientific principles of ecological restoration. The launch event consisted of four segments: the first was a guided tour for the university students around the One Earth Urban Arboretum established by Dilmah Conservation in the premises of the MJF Centre. The second segment of the event began with an introductory presentation to the project by Prof. Devaka Weerakoon and Advisor to BSL, Ms. Shiranee Yasaratne. Addressing the gathering, Conservator General of Forests, Mr. Anura Sathurusinghe, called the initiative "new and unique" for both Sri Lanka and the Forest Department. The official project MoU signing between BSL and eight project partner companies took place next in the Butterfly Garden of the MJF Centre. The event

was brought to a close with a demonstration of sustainable cuisine by world-renowned celebrity chef Peter Kuruvita.

This multi-sectoral, multi partner project signifies a fundamental change in the sustainability landscape of Sri Lanka; it suggests that multi-entity cooperation is the way forward to tackle multiple environmental challenges faced by the country.

A dedicated webpage to provide frequent updates on the project's progress can be viewed [here](#).



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## Video Message from Dr. Cristiana Paşca-Palmer on the Occasion of the German Annual Business and Biodiversity Dialogue Forum 2018

Dr Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, gave the opening speech via video message for the German Annual Business and Biodiversity Dialogue Forum 2018 (Dialogforum 2018 “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020”) on 13 March 2018 in Berlin. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across all economic sectors for a transformation towards sustainability and welcomed the comprehensive dialogue in Germany. Dr Paşca-Palmer noted that the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2018 would focus on actions in energy and mining, infrastructure, health and manufacturing. She addressed the business sector as an essential partner to achieve the necessary changes and encouraged stronger action. She also took the opportunity to congratulate the ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ Initiative on its 10th anniversary. The German-based platform, with members in Germany and Japan, is one of the pioneer networks in business and biodiversity.



[Video message on YouTube >](#)



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## ACB, HFI Fortify the Role of Business in Biodiversity Conservation

On 30 March 2017, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, with the HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI), the corporate social responsibility arm of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI).

The partnership aims to strengthen business and biodiversity efforts in the ASEAN region, as well as to enhance public awareness of the value of biodiversity and the need to conserve it. In addition, reinforcing global climate change efforts is included amongst their goals.

According to Atty. Roberto V. Oliva, former ACB Executive Director, the joint initiative will serve as a platform to generate awareness on the intricate link among biological resources, the economic well-being of industries, and the people who depend on these businesses for their livelihood.

[Read more >](#)

[Find out more about ACB >](#)



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## Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica Welcomes Three New Partners

Demonstrating a commitment to environmental sustainability, Macaw Lodge, La Tigra Rain Forest Lodge, and Puro Verde Forestal are the latest partners to join Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM).

For more information about BMO projects please contact the team:

[info@bpmesoamerica.org](mailto:info@bpmesoamerica.org)  
(506) 4052-2780



**Macaw Lodge** is a company dedicated to ecotourism, reforestation, ecological agroforestry and conservation. Located in Las Delicias de Turrubares, in the Central Pacific region of Costa Rica, Macaw Lodge is more than a hotel; it is a center for research and conservation. The lodge, built in harmony with the environment, aims to accommodate nature lovers who seek to get away from the routine to live an unforgettable experience. Macaw Lodge seeks to inspire environmental conservation through conscious and sustainable practices.

[Website >](#)



**La Tigra Rain Forest Lodge** is located just a couple of miles from the city of La Tigra, in San Carlos, about 30 minutes from the popular destinations of the Arenal Volcano and the city of La Fortuna. The Lodge concept consists of tent huts located on elevated platforms immersed in the magnificent rainforest on the outskirts of the famous “Eternal Forest of Children”, the largest private reserve in Central America. It is an area of environmental conservation, where each of its guests learns the importance of conservation.

[Website >](#)



**Puro Verde Paraiso Forestal S.A.** is a pioneer in the development of tropical mixed cultivation with native tree species. For BaumInvest, Puro Verde has been implementing sustainable afforestation in northern Costa Rica for 10 years. To date, Puro Verde manages 3000 hectares of predominantly native tree species in mixed forest cultivation.

Over the years, the holistic approach has added more fields and increased expertise in integrative land use. Today, Puro Verde has a comprehensive range of services and consultancy services in the areas of sustainable agriculture, livestock farming and further processing.

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## FOCUS-LK 2018: Managing the Oceans and Boosting the Blue Economy

FOCUS-LK, an annual event organized by the French Embassy in Sri Lanka, aims at sharing knowledge on themes of common interest to both Sri Lanka and France. The 2018 initiative, 'Managing the Oceans and Boosting the Blue Economy in Sri Lanka', aims to promote sustainability of the ocean around Sri Lanka and to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in implementing relevant actions. The French Embassy to Sri Lanka and the Maldives invited Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL), as the focal point for private sector entities with a focus on biodiversity/ environmental conservation, to come on board in implementing FOCUS-LK 2018.

A Preparatory Technical Workshop was held on 15 March 2018 with the participation of 30 individuals representing the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia all working on marine environment-related issues.

[Read more >](#)



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## Indian Business, Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference

Biodiversity loss and climate change are critical to sustainable business operations. To tackle these aspects businesses are trying to evolve their operations through valuation of natural capital, circular economy, resource efficiency and are making a move from geological energy sources to renewable energy sources. This conference is designed to encourage discussion and exchange of ideas on how to leverage existing technology, innovation and available tools from various platforms with cross-sector collaboration involving businesses, government, NGOs and academia in sustainable management of businesses. This could be achieved through managing our natural capital. The conference will provide a forum to showcasing best practices in businesses and bring out the positive effects of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in achieving sustainable development. It will take place 16, 17 May 2018 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. Members of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity are most welcome to join.

[Learn more >](#)



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## International Day for Biodiversity - 22 May 2018

Almost twenty-five years have passed since the world gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the Earth Summit, and adopted the ground-breaking agreement to protect all life on Earth - the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). On June 5th 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted and opened for signature. On December 29th 1993, the Convention entered into force. In 2018, the Convention on Biological Diversity will celebrate 25 years since its entry into force.

It is a chance to communicate the importance of biodiversity, and to urge strengthened efforts to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

We are at an important crossroads, at a time when global loss of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems continues at an unacceptably alarming rate. Thus, even as we celebrate this milestone, the 25th anniversary provides an opportunity to sound an alarm around the world, and highlight the importance of biodiversity - which provides food, fibre, jobs, climate mitigation and resilience, health and well-being - for people and the planet. The anniversary provides an excellent platform for Parties to show how they have implemented the Convention. Parties are submitting case studies of their achievements and successes under the Convention, for inclusion in a variety of

information products for the year.

Parties to the Convention are organizing and hosting local celebrations on 22 May 2018, the International Day for Biodiversity. These celebrations are an opportunity for each country to highlight their achievements and report on the progress made thus far towards the implementation of the Convention.

For more information on the celebrations and to contribute your own success stories [visit the website >](#)



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### **Launch of Guidelines on Business and KBAs: Managing Risk to Biodiversity**

The report outlines steps that businesses can take to actively safeguard biodiversity and avoid contributing to its loss. It recommends businesses of all sizes and across all sectors to adopt 15 guidelines to better manage their direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on places deemed critical for the conservation of species and ecosystems worldwide, known as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

The project was implemented with the KBA Partnership, which is made up of 12 of the world's leading international nature conservation organizations.

[Guidelines >](#)

[More information on the KBA partnership >](#)

### **International Day for Biological Diversity**

22 May 2018, Worldwide

### **Net Impact Approaches 2018**

22 May 2018, London

### **FIBS Natural Resources Development 2018**

29 May 2016, Helsinki

### **4th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity**

13-16 May 2018, Montréal

### **IAIA Annual Conference**

16-19 May 2018, Durban

### **EU Green Week 2018**

21-25 May 2018, Utrecht (Opening),  
Brussels (High-level Submit), Madrid (Closing)

### **SBSTTA 22 -Twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

2-7 July 2018, Montréal

### **SBI 2 -Second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

9-13 July 2018, Montréal

### **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

9-18 July 2018, New York



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