

From: CBD-Headlines
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AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Crop biodiversity: The key to ending hunger

Aljazeera, 22 May 2017

As people in four countries - Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria - teeter on the brink of famine, it seems our progress towards ending hunger is sadly inadequate. We are once again confronted with the question: how can we do more for vulnerable communities?

More: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/05/neglecting-major-ally-hunger-170521103802043.html>

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

New natural capital metric a 'powerful lever for change', says Kering

edie news centre, 22 May 2017

A new natural capital biodiversity metric will act as an "internal change management tool" that allows companies to define and translate what environmental footprints look like in a business context, Kering's head of sustainable sourcing innovation has claimed.

More: <https://www.edie.net/news/12/New-natural-capital-metric-a--powerful-lever-for-change---says-Kering/>

CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION

Plastic Waste Knows No Bounds

EOS, 22 May 2017

Despite the vastness of Earth's oceans, human plastic pollution overwhelms even remote corners. It's like the island of misfit toys, only less endearing. Way out in the South Pacific Ocean, more than 5000 kilometers away from any large land mass, tiny, uninhabited Henderson Island carries the highest density of plastic debris reported anywhere on the planet.

More: <https://eos.org/articles/plastic-waste-knows-no-bounds>

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Harry Potter spider and Game of Thrones ant among 'best' new species

Silicon Republic, 22 May 2017

Always aided by pop culture, a list of the top-ranked new species discovered in the past year include one *Eriovixia gryffindori* – recognise the name? What have an omnivorous rat, a Harry Potter hat and a Game of Thrones ant got in common? They each feature on this year's list of 'best' new species of 2017.

More: <https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/new-species-discovery-environment-harry-potter-game-of-thrones>

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Police using drones to protect birds of prey

BBC News, 22 May 2017

Police in Northern Ireland are using drones to patrol the nest sites of protected birds of prey. They have been used to monitor areas where the birds are being persecuted.

More: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-39996932>

Conservation and nameless earthworms: Assessors in the dark?

EurekAlert, 22 May 2017

Species that live exclusively in a single region are at a particular risk of extinction. However, for them to be protected, thorough assessments of the environmental impacts need to be performed.

More: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-05/pp-can052217.php

Cat Ba, a sanctuary for endangered species

VietNamNet Bridge, 22 May 2017

With unspoiled beaches, ancient fishing villages, hundreds of serene islands covered with dense greenery and a national park with a diverse range of wild species, the Cat Ba Archipelago is truly a hidden gem for those in love with natural beauty. Hong Van reports.

More: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/travel/178832/cat-ba--a-sanctuary-for-endangered-species.html>

FOREST BIODIVERSITY

Cacao tourism and an unexpected partner in forest landscape restoration in Guatemala

IUCN, 22 May 2017

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is simultaneously boosting tourism, creating jobs and enhancing biological connectivity in the Guatemalan highlands with the help of the diverse membership of the national FLR roundtable.

More: <https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/201705/cacao-tourism-and-unexpected-partner-forest-landscape-restoration-guatemala>

GENERAL

22 May 2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Climate Change Endangers the World's Biodiversity

UN Climate Change Newsroom, 22 May 2017

May 22 is the International Day for Biological Diversity. This year's theme is "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". Diversity in species, ecosystems and landscapes attracts tourism and promotes economic growth. In turn, a well-managed tourist sector can help reduce threats to key wildlife populations, and can maintain or increase biodiversity, through tourism revenue. The biggest threat to biodiversity comes from climate change, caused by heat-trapping greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

More: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/international-day-for-biological-diversity-2017/>

The World Celebrates International Biodiversity Day

Prensa Latina (Cuba), 22 May 2017

The International Day of Biodiversity is celebrated today in all nations with the aim of increasing understanding and awareness of its protection. In this sense, the activities of this journey, under the motto: Biological diversity and sustainable tourism, try to highlight the results that can be obtained from this alliance.

More: <http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=13166&SEO=the-world-celebrates-international-biodiversity-day>

Aizawl Celebrates International Biodiversity Day

Zoram Observer, 22 May 2017

Aizawl: Mizoram today joined the world community in observing the International Day for Biological Diversity with a theme 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism'. The observance of International Day for Biological Diversity organized jointly by Mizoram State Diversity Board and Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department held at Conference Hall, Assembly Annexe Building in Aizawl was graced by deputy speaker R. Lalrinmawia as Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla, who was invited to be the chief guest on the occasion could not attend due to illness.

More: <https://www.zoramobserver.com/mizoram/international-biological-diversity-day-observed-in-aizawl/>

Day of Biological Diversity observed

Tribune India, 22 May 2017

The Society Natural Biodiversity and the PU Staff Club collaborated with the Punjab Biodiversity Board and the UNESCO Network Chair to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 20 and 21 at Panjab University.

More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/day-of-biological-diversity-observed/410805.html>

An effort to document flora and fauna

Hindu (India), 22 May 2017

Walk today at Kambalakonda Reserve Forest to highlight species of birds, butterflies and animals

More: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/an-effort-to-document-flora-and-fauna/article18518528.ece>

How will you celebrate Biodiversity Day 2017?

Earth Watch, 22 May 2017

Wildlife is declining at an alarming rate due to pollution, habitat loss, invading non-native species, human activity and climate change. We can help you make a difference by taking action on Biodiversity Day, whether big or small, at home or abroad

More: <http://mail.earthwatch.org/earthwatcheuropelz/lz.aspx?p1=T051S3422818&CC=&p=0>

International Day for biological biodiversity: celebrate by protecting biodiversity, not promoting tourism.

Friends of the Earth International, 22 May 2017

22 May 2017 is International day for biodiversity and this year's theme is tourism. The UN Convention on biodiversity (CBD) is using this opportunity to promote the value of tourism in significantly reducing threats to, and maintaining or increasing key wildlife populations and biodiversity through tourism revenue. It does mention the need to reduce the negative impacts of tourism but, whereas it sings the supposed values of tourism, it merely whispers the negative impacts.

More: <http://www.foei.org/news/international-day-biological-biodiversity-celebrate-protecting-biodiversity-not-promoting-tourism>

IDB – International Day for Biological Diversity

The Blue Reporters, 22 May 2017

Biodiversity provides an important foundation for many aspects of tourism. Especially our coastlines and seas are an attraction point for tourism and each year a large percentage of holiday-makers head to coastlines around the world.

More: <http://www.thebluereporters.com/2017/05/idb-international-day-biological-diversity/>

UNU-IAS Event Celebrates Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

United Nations University - IAS, 22 May 2017

On 13 May, UNU-IAS, the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ), Association for Interpretation Japan, and Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC) jointly organized the Symposium on Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism: Discussing Interpretation of National Parks. Every year, UNU-IAS celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) by holding an event.

More: https://ias.unu.edu/en/news/news/biodiversity-sustainable-tourism.html?utm_content=bufferdcb5a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=unutwitter&utm_campaign=buffer

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WITH BAMBOO AND RATTAN

Inbar News, 22 May 2017

On this International Day for Biological Diversity, INBAR celebrates bamboo and rattan's indispensable role in biodiverse landscapes across the world.

More: <http://www.inbar.int/celebrating-international-day-for-biological-diversity-with-bamboo-and-rattan/>

From my Hide: Global biodiversity under threat...

South Coast Herald, 22 May 2017

HIS Monday, May 22, is International Day of Biodiversity, but sadly I must report that one of the last true wildernesses and centres of biological diversity is under severe threat. It is the Leusar eco-system on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

More: <http://southcoastherald.co.za/207043/from-my-hide-global-biodiversity-under-threat/>

Smartphones and drones launch ConservationFIT on the International Day for Biological Diversity.

National Geographic, 22 May 2017

Today, May 22, is the 2017 International Day for Biological Diversity. In the beautifully-phrased words of E.O. Wilson, world-renowned conservationist, biodiversity is "the assembly of life that took a billion years to evolve. It has eaten the storms, folded them into its genes, and created the world that created us. It holds the world steady."

More: <https://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2017/05/21/smartphones-and-drones-launch-conservationfit-on-the-international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

World Biodiversity Day observed at Tata Steel's Sukinda unit

Odisha Sun Times, 22 May 2017

An awareness session on snakes was organised by Sukinda Chromite Mine (SCM) of Tata Steel, at Jajpur district in Odisha, on the occasion of World Biodiversity Day or International Day of Biological Diversity today.

More: <http://odishasuntimes.com/world-biodiversity-day-observed-at-tata-steels-sukinda-unit/>

Dollars and 'Sense': Paying for Our Planet

UNDP, 22 May 2017

Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity today serves as a strong reminder of the value of nature and ecosystems to human life and the well-being of our societies.

More: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2017/5/22/Dollars-and-Sense-Paying-for-Our-Planet.html>

Nature tourism

My Republica, 22 May 2017

With 71.5 million tourists, tourism in the Hindu Kush Himalaya plays a potentially significant role in addressing poverty. Biodiversity is the basis for many tourism activities in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). Scenic landscapes, forests, lakes, mountains, and farmlands attract many tourists to the region. Iconic bird and animal species are also major attractions.

More: <http://www.myrepublica.com/news/20484/>

South Africa joins the world in observing the International Day for Biological Diversity

Independent Online (South Africa), 22 May 2017

The theme of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity is "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism", and was chosen to coincide with the observance of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

More: <http://www.iol.co.za/mercury/environment/south-africa-joins-the-world-in-observing-the-international-day-for-biological-diversity-9278207>

UAE celebrates World Biodiversity Day

Emirates 24/7, 22 May 2017

The UAE is joining the world in celebrating World Biodiversity Day, marked annually on 22nd May, with this year's celebration coming under the theme of "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

More: <http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/uae-celebrates-world-biodiversity-day-2017-05-22-1.653272>

Children display concern for biodiversity

Hindu (India), 22 May 2017

In a move to raise awareness on biodiversity among schoolchildren, the National Green Corps and TS Pollution Control Board, in collaboration with Jawahar Bal Bhavan, conducted painting competitions on the eve of International Day of Biological Diversity on Sunday.

More: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-telangana/children-display-concern-for-biodiversity/article18522142.ece>

India is spending 100 cr to save 4 critically endangered species

Hindustan Times, 19 May 2017

On World Biodiversity Day a look at what India is doing to save some of its most endangered species. India is one of the richest countries in terms of biodiversity, and hosts about 8% of all the documented species in the world, harbouring 4 of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots.

More: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/health/india-is-spending-100-cr-to-save-4-critically-endangered-species/story-EnsoGIqu841L9KraeGWMgM.html>

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Ecologist Special Report: The battle for the 'mother of rivers'

Ecologist (UK), 22 May 2017

Scientists are praising the discovery of new species and rare dolphins in the Mekong region, but overfishing and dams loom to disrupt habitats writes NOSMOT GBADAMOSI in this special Ecologist report

More:

http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2988972/ecologist_special_report_the_battle_for_the_mother_of_rivers.html

MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has regrown

USA Today, 22 May 2017

These are busy times of recovery at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The half-million-acre park — the most-visited of the 59 national parks — straddles the Tennessee-North Carolina border through the rolling green mountains of Southern Appalachia.

More: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/nation-now/2017/05/22/great-smoky-mountains-national-park-recovery/101859138/>

SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

Policy restricting development on two of Seychelles' islands revoked

Seychelles News Agency, 22 May 2017

A Seychellois policy which restricted development above the 50-metre contour line on Praslin and La Digue, the second- and third-most populated islands, has been revoked, a top government official said.

More:

<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/7304/Policy+restricting+development+on+two+of+Seychelles%27+islands+revoked>

TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY

Budget aims to boost tourism industry as visitor numbers continue to grow

Maori Television, 22 May 2017

The government plans to spend \$178mil on tourism infrastructure as part of Budget 2017, including \$76mil on new and upgraded Department of Conservation (DOC) infrastructure. Conservation Minister Maggie Barry says, "The new funding will allow DOC to better manage the impact of visitor growth, while also protecting our biodiversity and threatened species.

More: <https://www.maoritelevision.com/news/regional/budget-aims-boost-tourism-industry-visitor-numbers-continue-grow>

GOA TO BAN PLASTIC AT DUDHSAGAR WATERFALLS

Mumbai Mirror, 22 May 2017

Goa may put a cap on the number of tourists visiting the popular Dudhsagar waterfalls, while also banning use of plastic at the popular tourist site, Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar said on Monday.

More: <http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/goa-to-ban-plastic-at-dudhsagar-waterfalls/articleshow/58790125.cms>

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