Date: The workshop is planned to be organized on 16th (Thu) & 17th (Fri) of June. [17th June is World Day to Combat Desertification. This year’s World Day to Combat Desertification advocates for the importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and contribute towards achieving the overall Sustainable Development Goals]. There will be a field exposure on 17th June 2016.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:15</td>
<td>Inaugural Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:45</td>
<td>Understanding Urban Biodiversity Issues: Perspective of Stakeholders</td>
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<td>11:45 - 13:00</td>
<td>What State Agencies are doing? Efforts and Challenges.</td>
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<td>14:00 -15:30</td>
<td>Plan of Naturalizing Delhi</td>
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<td>16:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Closing Plenary</td>
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Program on 17th June (World Day to Combat Desertification)
Nature Walk and Plantation in Aravali Biodiversity Park

Proposed Invitees: Delhi Government, MoEFCC, DDA, Municipal Corporations in Delhi, Indian Army, Businesses, Business associations and Conservation organizations from IUCN and IFHD network.

Expected Outcome: Delhi government takes up the plan for naturalizing the Delhi and stakeholders from other cities of India, work towards formulating their plans to promote urban biodiversity in their cities, with support from Government and businesses.

For Queries please contact
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Background: Urbanization is progressing at an unprecedented and rapid rate in Asia. FAO quotes a UN report (1991) to indicate that in 1990 only 37% of the total population of developing countries were urbanized, however, it is predicted that by the year 2025 the proportion will be 61%.

In India, the Census of India alerts us that the ‘decadal rate of change in Census towns’ between 2001 and 2011 was 185.9%, which still fell short of meeting the 2012 requirements of 26 million homes. The national population of over 1.2 billion, supplemented by rising urbanization, nuclearization of families and economic growth is expected to further accentuate the housing and associated real estate demand. However, the change in spatial patterns caused by such rapid real estate development will entail processes such as land clearing, construction of roadbeds, buildings, utility construction and installations et al., bearing temporary and permanent impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems---excessive noise, air pollution (dust), habitat destruction/removal, water table, water quality, wetland hydrology, flora, fauna and health, are to name a few.

Healthy and interconnected ‘Green spaces’ and different ecosystems – lakes, wetlands, urban forests and parks, as part of ‘Urban Biodiversity’, can play critical role to solve our material (water stress, air pollution, heat islands, pest control, natural disaster mitigation) and spiritual (place to relax and understand us and the world) issues, naturally. Understanding the role of

Proposed Workshop:
Leaders for Nature, in partnership with ICLEI- South Asia INTACH, The Climate Reality Project and ESPA (British High Commission, India) proposes to organize a workshop to highlight different issues of urban biodiversity and their association with pollution levels, water stress, urban heat islands, impact on local micro-climate as well as its association with health and wellbeing of citizens.

Objective: The objective of this workshop is “to create and an opportunity for businesses and relevant stakeholders to understand the urban biodiversity issues to be able to jointly work for naturalizing the Indian Cities, starting from Delhi.

Methodology: Multiple stakeholders will present and discuss their perspectives- touching upon Urban Biodiversity issues, programs, challenges and proposed way out, to address these issues in their cities. Towards end, plan to naturalize Delhi, a readymade plan, will specifically be discussed so as to sensitize the Delhi Government and concerned departments to take up a major program where corporates can also contribute to conserve and restore biodiversity, to address many problems, including pollution and water stress.

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1 "By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable." CBD Aichi Target 14

2 Composite Indicators for National Biodiversity Target 8, as identified by MoEF are (a) Level of toxic contaminants in wetlands, rivers / aquatic fauna (b) Extent of restored forest cover in India (c) Extent of Ground water Pollution and ground water levels (d) Trends in use of chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture / organic products (e) Trends in wetlands significant for delivering fresh water being brought under integrated management (f) Trends in proportion of people using improved water services (g) Trends in availability of Urban green spaces (h) Human development Index—std of living in India