



5th Asia Environment Lecture 2017
Birds, Humans and our Sustainable Future
Speaker: Ms Patricia Zurita
Chief Executive Officer of BirdLife International

Auditorium, Level 3, Blk B, NUS Faculty of Law (Bukit Timah Campus)
469G Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259776
Friday, 3rd November 2017
5.00 pm to 7.30 pm (Registration starts at 4.30 pm)

ABOUT THE LECTURE

Globalisation has made the world a smaller place. But today, we find our world gradually drifting apart again with walls and chasms dividing us. The result is a world that is becoming a lot more nationalistic and insular, and a lot less together – and that will have dire consequences for the health of our planet. The often self-inflicted threats we face are collective, and their resolution can only be achieved through concerted action across national borders and cross-learning.

In this respect, birds have always known what we humans are sometimes slow to understand – that the fate of the entire world is connected. There is no better illustration of the way our fates are entwined, than the miracle of bird migration. Twice a year thousands of species of birds embark on these epic journeys, spanning not just borders, but entire continents as they travel between their breeding areas and wintering grounds. In doing so, the birds travel through various countries, using tried-and-tested routes - or flyways - that see them pass through areas where they know they can rest and refuel. East Asia's migratory birds use one of the greatest of them all – the East Asian-Australasian Flyway - which connects over 20 countries, from Australia through to Singapore, Malaysia and China, onwards to Russia, Japan and even Alaska.

Their remarkable journeys can tell us a lot about the health of our planet – and the song they're singing isn't pretty. Many of the world's migratory birds are in sharp decline, as coasts are reclaimed, wetlands are drained, grasslands are built on, the pressures of hunting are not addressed and climate change alters our landscape and weather in ways that can be difficult to predict.

If we are to save them from extinction, it is clear that countries need to work together – there is little value working to protect birds in one country, if they are doomed to die of exhaustion in the next. And this is a truth that extends to every aspect of our world – only by working together, across borders, can we effectively build and maintain a happy, healthy planet.

In this lecture, BirdLife CEO Patricia Zurita discusses how birds and their flyways show us a common path to conservation and peace, and explains the critical role local action (underpinned by strong science) in support of a collective global agenda will enable us to better address the environmental challenges of our time, and help build lasting bonds between peoples based on shared heritage, human empathy and a collective vision of the future.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Patricia is the Chief Executive Officer of BirdLife International, the world's largest nature conservation partnership, bringing together 120 organizations worldwide. BirdLife is driven by the belief that people, working for nature locally, but connected nationally and internationally through a global partnership can deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

Patricia was previously the Executive Director of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) a global multi-donor fund enabling civil society to participate in and benefit from conserving some of the world's most critical ecosystems. During Patricia's tenure, CEPF granted more than US\$ 170 million in more than 80 countries and territories located in 23 biodiversity hotspots around the world, including in two Asian hotspots: Indo-Burma (China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar) and the Western Ghats of India.

Prior to leading CEPF, Patricia led the Conservation Stewards Program in CI, which is dedicated to the provision of economic incentives to local and indigenous communities in developing countries in exchange for their commitment to protect biodiversity through conservation agreements. Key portfolios in Asia included conservation agreements in Cambodia, China (Sichuan and Qinghai), and India. Before that, Patricia was the Policy and Economics Director of CI's Andes Program.

An Ecuadorian national, Patricia holds a master's degree in Environmental Management and Natural Resource Economics from Duke University, and has worked with the Ecuadorian Government, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute.

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PROGRAMME OUTLINES

- 4.30pm Registration of guests
- 5.00pm Welcome and Introduction to the Asia Environment Lecture, Assoc Prof Edward Webb, Chairman, NUS Bachelor of Environmental Studies [BES] Programme Management Committee & Director, BES
- 5.15pm 5th Asia Environment Lecture 2017 – "Birds, Humans and our Sustainable Future" Ms Patricia Zurita, CEO, Birdlife International
- 6.00pm Question and Answer Session Moderator: Professor Tommy Koh Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore
- 6.30pm Tea Reception
- 7.30pm End of Event

REGISTRATION

Registration is complimentary & seats are limited.

Your response by **2 November 2017, 2359hrs** would be much appreciated.

To Register: Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AELregistration>

Please email to envhelp@nus.edu.sg for any enquiries

Co-organised by

THE LECTURE SERIES

Environmental issues are constantly in the media forefront today. Countries and cities across the world grapple with climate change, which has brought unseasonal floods, droughts and wildfires, and caused severe economic losses, adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecological disasters and much human misery. Cities continue to face the challenges of population growth, inadequate clean water and energy supplies, deteriorating public health and hygiene, environmental degradation, and the pollution of air, land and water. While Asian states have made considerable economic progress in rapid time, they are finding it increasingly challenging to balance development and environmental sustainability. The current imperatives for national development, industrialization and a market economy should not be compromised. There is a need for sound, stable and sustainable environmental management practices. These can be found in the right environmental policies and laws, translated and implemented through effective governance and management. A holistic approach involving partnerships among stakeholders is necessary to address these challenges.

The Asia Environment Lecture provides a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange and networking with world leaders with expertise and experience on environmental sustainability in Asia. Environmental sustainability is multi-faceted and this event is organized by the two multi-disciplinary programmes on the environment at the National University of Singapore (NUS) - the Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) and Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES); together with the Law Faculty's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), the National Parks Board (NParks), Ministry of National Development, Singapore and City Developments Limited (CDL).

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

NUS Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES)

NUS developed a multi-disciplinary undergraduate environmental programme in 2011, the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) drawing on the expertise of the many faculty members from diverse disciplines. [see <http://www.envstudies.nus.edu.sg/>]

Both the MEM and BES programmes recognize the need for a new breed of graduates, who will be better prepared with a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues and are well equipped to address environmental challenges with greater creativity.

NUS Law Faculty's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)

The NUS Law Faculty's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), was established in 1996 in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and UNEP, to serve as a regional centre for teaching and research in environmental law at the international, regional and national levels. APCEL members teach courses in environmental law at NUS and other universities, and also conduct training programmes on urban environmental management for government officers in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. APCEL is a member of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and plays an active role in the Academy's activities, including its training programmes for law professors in developing countries.

[see <http://law.nus.edu.sg/apcel/index.html>]

NUS Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM)

The NUS Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) programme was launched in 2001. It is a multi-disciplinary programme involving the collaboration of nine faculties/schools at NUS, hosted by the School of Design and Environment. The other contributing faculties are: Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Engineering, Law, Science; the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Business School, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. [see <http://www.mem.nus.edu.sg/>]

National Parks Board (NParks)

At National Parks Board (NParks), we are dedicated and committed to providing and enhancing the greenery of Singapore. Beginning with the first Tree Planting Campaign in 1963, NParks has come a long way in greening up our island city, with 4 nature reserves and more than 300 parks sprawled across Singapore to date and still growing. Adding to this is the extensive streetscape, or roadside greenery, that forms the backbone of our City in a Garden. An island-wide Park Connector Network is also being developed to link major parks, nature areas and residential estates.

Beyond building and rejuvenating green infrastructure, NParks is actively engaging the community to make green spaces an integral part of our lifestyle with initiatives such as the Community in Bloom project and volunteering opportunities at our parks and nature reserves.

NParks has also set up the Community in Nature (CIN) programme to reach out and engage the community with nature by providing a wide range of nature-related opportunities. Beyond encouraging understanding, appreciation, and protection of nature and biodiversity, we also hope to cultivate more champions within the community in protecting our natural environment in the long run.

As the lead agency in nature conservation, NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative ecosystems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

From Garden City to City in a Garden, we are dedicated to the greening of Singapore and we strive to make Singapore a lush green city to live, work and play in for all. [see <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/>]

City Developments Limited (CDL)

City Developments Limited (CDL) is a Singapore-listed international real estate operating company with a global presence spanning 97 locations in 26 countries. As one of Singapore's largest companies by market capitalisation, our income-stable and geographically-diversified portfolio comprises residences, offices, hotels, serviced apartments, integrated developments and shopping malls, totalling over 18 million square feet of floor area globally.

Since 1995, CDL has built on our ethos of "Conserving as we Construct" to fulfil our role as a developer of living spaces, lives and communities. We adopt a three-pronged sustainability strategy: developing green buildings, managing buildings in an energy- and resource-efficient way; and engaging stakeholders to support CDL's commitment to sustainability.

Building on our track record of over 50 years in real estate development, investment and management, CDL has been leveraging our stable of prime assets and growing our funds management business, with over S\$3.5 billion in funds under management currently. We also launched the first green bond by a Singapore company to tap on socially-responsible investors.

CDL is the first Singapore company to be listed on four of the world's leading sustainability benchmarks – FTSE4Good Index Series (since 2002), MSCI Global Sustainability Indexes (since 2009), Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations (since 2010) and Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (since 2011). [see <http://www.cdl.com.sg/>]