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Business Leaders launch new approaches to better manage natural resources

LONDON: At an event at The Royal Society in London today, the University of Cambridge Natural Capital Leaders Platform launches a suite of innovative web-based tools to help global businesses better manage the goods and services from nature upon which they rely.

The event - 'Second Nature: Embedding the Platform's shared innovation into business' - brings together Platform members, academics, thought leaders and the wider business community to discuss how measuring and managing natural capital can become second nature in companies.

Speakers from Anglo American, Olam International and SABMiller join Dr Alan Knight OBE, Senior Associate of the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL) to share the journey they have taken in producing the tools and how they propose to use them. They will also discuss the challenges to taking natural capital into account when making business decisions.

Andy Wales, Senior Vice President Sustainable Development at SABMiller said: "The inter-connectedness of all resources means that issues such as water scarcity, food and energy security cannot be addressed in silos. As global populations continue to grow, managing the relationships between water, food and energy is only going to become more critical."

Martin Roberts, Director of the Cambridge Natural Capital Leaders Platform said: "The tools we are launching today are the culmination of 18 months of collaboration between companies, business experts and academics. They are designed to advance businesses' understanding of the growing pressures on global natural resources and enable companies to respond to resource challenges with approaches that mutually benefit the environment, business and other stakeholders."

Platform members include: Anglian Water; Anglo American; ASDA Stores Ltd; Grupo André Maggi; Kingfisher; Ingredion Incorporated; Mondelez International; Mars Incorporated; Nestlé S.A; SABMiller; Olam International; and Volac International.

The work of the Platform and of CPSL as a whole is designed to transform public and private sector policies and practices and build greater understanding of our interdependence with one another and the natural world.

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Editors' Notes:

The University of Cambridge Natural Capital Leaders Platform, set up in 2010, brings together global business leaders from a cross-section of EU and international businesses who see an urgent need to develop new and longer-term policies that address risks posed by the loss of natural capital and promote the protection and efficient use of natural capital.

The Platform provides a unique forum where business leaders develop their insight into and understanding of natural capital issues, and benefit from the latest academic research. The Platform is managed by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL).

Natural capital includes vital services under threat that range from crop pollination to carbon storage and freshwater provision and from wood production to the renewal of soil fertility and fisheries.

Communications from the University of Cambridge Natural Capital Leaders Platform benefit from the input of the entire group but do not necessarily require the formal agreement of all members companies.

About the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL)

In 2013, the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL) celebrates its 25th anniversary of working with leaders on the critical global challenges faced by business and society.

CPSL contributes to the University's mission and leadership position in the field of sustainability via a mix of executive programmes, business platforms and strategic engagements, informed by world-class thinking and research.

HRH The Prince of Wales is the patron of CPSL, which is a member of The Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which His Royal Highness is President.

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