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BIODIVERSITY FOR BUSINESS: UNDERSTANDING IMPACTS AND THE NEED FOR ACTION

PROGRAM DETAILS

FACULTY	DATE/TIME	FEE
Gopalasamy Reuben Clements	19 May 2025 9.00AM - 5.00PM	RM2,750 before SST*

*Fee excludes accommodation at ASB Residential for outstation/ overseas participants but can be arranged at additional cost.

Program Overview

Like climate risk, biodiversity and nature-related risks have financial consequences to businesses. For example, the European Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) now requires producers, importers, manufacturers and retailers within the European Union to ensure that they are selling, importing and exporting deforestation-free cocoa, coffee, palm oil and beef, to begin with, by December 30 2024. This has significant financial implications for ASEAN businesses especially those with huge business dealings with the EU. With the establishment of the Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), businesses will increasingly be asked to disclose the impact of their activities on biodiversity.

While it is laudable that many businesses have taken steps to assess and report their climate-related dependencies, they also need to urgently take concrete steps to reduce or offset their impacts on nature and ultimately, become more active and effective stewards of the environment.

In this 1-day program, the program will provide practical insights and tips to help companies improve their ESG policy and strategy around biodiversity and nature-related risk.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the program participants will be able to:

- Explain why biodiversity matters to businesses;
- Understand the status of biodiversity and how businesses can mitigate their loss;
- Assess biodiversity risk in their business portfolios;
- Develop business strategies to invest in nature;
- Take steps to improve their ESG standing with stakeholders.

Who Should Attend?

- Board of Directors
- Senior Management
- Sustainability Professionals
- Anyone who might find this program helpful

Program Outline

Session 1: Why Should Biodiversity Matter to Businesses?

- Defining biodiversity and why it is important
- Dependence of businesses on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Expectations from stakeholders

Session 2: Status of Biodiversity

- Status of biodiversity in Malaysia and other ASEAN countries
- Key drivers of biodiversity loss
- Case studies of businesses helping to mitigate biodiversity loss

Program Outline

Session 3: Assessing Biodiversity Risk - Where to Start?

- Case studies of biodiversity risks to businesses
- Accounting for biodiversity risk within your business
- Regulatory frameworks related to biodiversity impacting businesses

Session 4: Investment Opportunities in Nature: How Can Businesses Participate?

- Nature-based solutions
- Nature-related investment options for businesses
- Case studies of businesses investing in nature

Session 5: Group Discussion & Wrap-Up

- Group exercise to strengthen the 'E' component of ESG strategies
- The Way Forward

Faculty



Dr. Goplasamy Reuben Clements has 18 years of experience as a conservation scientist in Southeast Asia. He received an MSc and BSc in Biology from the National University of Singapore, and a PhD in Conservation Science from James Cook University, Australia. During an 8-year career in academia where he finished as a full Professor and served as an Associate Dean and Chief Scientist, Reuben published over 100 articles that include nature, and his work has been featured in the BBC, New York Times and National Geographic.

Before that, Reuben served as the Species Manager of WWF-Malaysia's tiger and rhino programs, and co-founded a Malaysian non-profit known as Rimba, which raised more than USD4 million over 10 years to help conserve threatened species and ecosystems in Peninsular Malaysia. In one of Rimba's conservation projects in Kenyir, Terengganu, Reuben's team helped nab 36 poachers, removed over 300 snares, and helped create a 30,000-hectare protected area known as the Kenyir State Park. By 2020, Rimba successfully incubated four new organizations, one of which is Nature Based Solutions Sdn Bhd, which currently aims to develop conservation finance mechanisms to conserve threatened landscapes in Malaysia.

Reuben is currently a Sustainable Finance Specialist with the Zoological Society of London in the UK, where he is not only engaging with ASEAN finance institutions to assess biodiversity and deforestation risks in their portfolios, but also developing projects harnessing nature-based solutions in ASEAN and Central Africa.

Formerly a Consultant with the World Bank, Reuben still serves as an Editorial Board Member with the Elsevier journal *Climate Change Ecology* and the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*, and is a Biodiversity Expert with Climate Governance Malaysia, and a consultant with the Asia Foundation. Reuben recently reached the finals 2023 Rolex Award for Enterprise, which awarded him a grant to continue his conservation endeavors.



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Biodiversity for Business: Understanding
Impacts and the Need for Action

