



**CITY
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**Singapore
Botanic Gardens**



MEDIA RELEASE

Melting Ice, Sinking Cities – An Exhibition on the Interconnectedness of Climate Change, Melting Glaciers, Our Ocean and Singapore’s Coastal Resilience

- *Jointly organised by City Developments Limited, the National Parks Board and Ocean Geographic, the third installation of the Climate Action Exhibition series aims to support global and national climate goals in the transition to a greener future*
- *World-renowned marine biologist Dr Sylvia Earle shares her journey in marine conservation and protection at the exhibition launch*

23 June 2023 – City Developments Limited (CDL), the National Parks Board (NParks) and Ocean Geographic (OG) launched the third edition of the Climate Action Exhibition series, themed “Melting Ice, Sinking Cities: An Urgency to Change the Present and Save Humanity”. Held at the refreshed CDL Green Gallery, Singapore’s first net-zero gallery located at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the exhibition will run from 23 June 2023 till March 2024, in support of global and national climate action. Visitors are invited on a journey to the Antarctic, where climate change, rising temperatures and melting glaciers threaten the well-being of life across the globe. It also highlights Singapore’s commitment to preserving our rich marine biodiversity and coastal resilience. By showcasing the interconnectedness of climate change and the health of our ocean, people, and the planet, CDL, NParks and OG aim to raise awareness and inspire action for positive change. The Gallery, which has been recently refurbished by CDL to improve energy efficiency and enhance visitor experience, has hosted several exhibitions on biodiversity, climate and sustainability-related subjects since its opening in 2013, with “Melting Ice, Sinking Cities” being its 20th exhibition.

The exhibition was officially launched by Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in Prime Minister’s Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development. She was joined by world-renowned marine biologist and oceanographer Dr Sylvia Earle, who led the Antarctic Climate Expedition (ACE) 2023, which involved thought leaders in the fields of science, art, education and economics alongside teenagers and corporate executives, to develop creative strategies to protect our environment and oceans. During the event, CDL and NParks representatives prepared two letters each on their wishes for the planet and future generations



and placed them in a time capsule alongside letters written by 120 ACE 2023 members. The letters will be opened in the years 2050 and 2099 respectively, as a progress marker for achieving collective net zero goals by 2050 and a glimpse into the hope for a better planet for future generations by the end of the century.

The exhibition features five zones:

1. **A Global Climate Emergency: Spotlighting the Antarctic** – The perspectives and aspirations that 120 ACE 2023 members are committed to raising awareness for and rallying transformative actions for ocean-focused climate solution
2. **An Urgent Call for Collective Action: A Blue and Green Planet** – Key learning highlights from ACE 2023 to illustrate the interconnectedness between the blue and the green economies
3. **Local Action: Marine Conservation in Singapore** – Exemplifies what each state actor, the public and private player can do, including NParks' commitment to marine conservation and efforts to enhance coastal resilience
4. **CDL's Climate Action: Advancing A Low-Carbon and Resilient Built Environment** – CDL's pioneering sustainability efforts and track record in the race towards Net Zero Carbon
5. **The Remains of the Antarctic 2023: Splendour and Hope** – Showcases breathtaking photos and videos from ACE 2023 members, OG and partners, underscoring the threats to the ocean and marine life from the ACE expedition (please refer to **Annex A** for visuals and details)

Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, Group Chief Operating Officer of CDL, said, “As a developer, CDL has helped shape our nation’s cityscape with sustainable developments, in line with our ethos of ‘Conserving as We Construct’. For nearly 30 years, we have been creating innovative green spaces, including this CDL Green Gallery – Singapore’s first net-zero public gallery, promoting climate action through education. As we celebrate CDL’s 60th Anniversary this year, we remain dedicated to supporting Singapore’s vision to be a City in Nature by engaging our stakeholders and the community. Through our participation in the recent ACE 2023, we witnessed first-hand the acute impact of climate change and the urgent need for businesses and the community to take collective action to protect our planet.”

Held in conjunction with CDL's 60th anniversary celebration and in commemoration of 60 years of greening Singapore, this exhibition signifies a strengthening of NParks and CDL's decade-long partnership for the CDL Green Gallery, which will remain as a platform, free for all visitors to learn about global climate and nature-related issues. CDL has committed to extend the partnership with the Garden City Fund for another 10 years, with a \$1.5 million donation for the refurbishment of the gallery, and to enable more exhibitions and related engagement programmes for the Singapore Botanic Gardens visitors.

Professor Leo Tan, Chairman of the Garden City Fund, NParks' registered charity and IPC, said, "CDL's support and friendship over the last decade has provided us with an environmentally-friendly space, as well as exhibitions like 'Melting Ice, Sinking Cities' that create greater awareness of the need for greater coastal resilience; and how we can all be part of the solution by making small lifestyle changes. Over the last decade, the CDL Green Gallery has become a well-used educational facility that has attracted over 350,000 visitors. As we commemorate 60 years of greening Singapore this year, we are happy to continue our partnership with CDL and thank them for contributing \$1.5 million (in cash and in-kind) towards refreshing this Gallery for visitors and enabling quality exhibitions and programmes to be held here."

In line with the thematic focus on climate action, all the energy required to run the exhibition and its energy-efficient multimedia fixtures is offset by on-site solar generation and off-site renewable energy. To extend its outreach, a virtual exhibition is also available on the CDL Sustainability website (www.cdlsustainability.com) for overseas visitors.



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About City Developments Limited (www.cdl.com.sg)

City Developments Limited (CDL) is a leading global real estate company with a network spanning 143 locations in 28 countries and regions. Listed on the Singapore Exchange, the Group is one of the largest companies by market capitalisation. Its income-stable and geographically diverse portfolio comprises residences, offices, hotels, serviced apartments, student accommodation, retail malls and integrated developments.

With a proven track record of 60 years in real estate development, investment, and management, the Group has developed over 50,000 homes and owns around 21 million square feet of gross floor area in residential for lease, commercial and hospitality assets globally.

Along with its wholly-owned hotel subsidiary, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Limited (M&C), the Group has over 150 hotels worldwide, many in key gateway cities.

For more information on CDL, please visit www.cdl.com.sg.

For details on CDL’s sustainability journey, please visit www.cdlsustainability.com.

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About the CDL Green Gallery

Developed and donated by CDL in 2013 in celebration of the company’s 50th anniversary, the 3,380 sq ft CDL Green Gallery @ SBG Heritage Museum is an eco-friendly building sited on Holttum Lawn in the Singapore Botanic Gardens. It was conceptualised as an extension of the Heritage Museum and features botanical or green-related exhibits that are changed every six to nine months.

Designed to be sustainable right from the start, the project introduced two eco-features for the first time in Singapore: the use of Hempcrete, a bio-composite material; and a pre-fabricated modular system that reduced on-site construction time to under 24 hours. Rooftop solar panels



harvest solar energy to generate an annual energy yield of over 31,000 kWh. This is greater than the gallery's estimated annual energy consumption of about 30,000 kWh/year, making the CDL Green Gallery Singapore's first purposefully built zero-energy Green Gallery.

Other eco-friendly features at the CDL Green Gallery @ SBG Heritage Museum include:

- Green walls. The east and west facades are clad with fauna-attracting plant species to enrich biodiversity.
- Green roof. Selected drought-resistant plant species help to lower the Urban Heat Island effect around the building.
- Energy-efficient interior fittings. The gallery is fitted with LED lights and energy-efficient air-conditioning systems.

About National Parks Board (NParks)

The National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for enhancing and managing the urban ecosystems of our City in Nature. We are the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare and management. We are also working closely with the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages around 400 parks, 3,347 hectares of nature reserves, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Jurong Lake Gardens, Pulau Ubin and the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Adding to this is the extensive network of Nature Ways, and the over 300 km Park Connector Network that links major parks, nature areas and residential estates island-wide. Every year, we run over 3,500 educational and outreach programmes across our various green spaces.

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.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape, horticulture, veterinary and animal sectors to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a City in Nature.

For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg and www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz.

About Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG)

Established in 1859, the Singapore Botanic Gardens played an important historical role in the introduction and promotion of many plants of economic value to Southeast Asia, including the Para rubber tree. Over the years, the Gardens has continued to introduce and rejuvenate its horticultural attractions while continuing its mission of connecting plants and people.

Today, the 82-hectare Gardens is a key civic and community space, and an international tourist destination. Attracting an annual visitorship of more than 4.7 million, it is also an important institution for tropical botanical and horticultural research, education and conservation.



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The Gardens showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora, including more than 10,000 types of plants and the region's most significant living collection of documented palms, orchids, cycads and gingers. Its historic 19th-century garden landscape is well preserved and includes the earliest ornamental designed lake in Singapore. Home to numerous heritage trees and a tract of primary rainforest, the Gardens is less than a 10-minute walk from the shopping belt in Orchard Road. The Gardens was inscribed as Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015.

The Gardens was ranked the number one park in Asia in TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards for attractions in 2014. In 2012, it clinched the inaugural Garden of the Year Award by the Canadian Garden Tourism Council. In 2008, it was awarded the Michelin three-star rating and selected by Time Magazine as Asia's Best Urban Jungle.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens is managed by the National Parks Board. For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/SBG and www.facebook.com/singaporebotanicgardens.

About Ocean Geographic (OG)

Ocean Geographic explores the dynamics of our ocean – the source and cradle of all life on Earth. Ocean Geographic also looks at human cultures which have been dependent on the sea, and delves into deep and shallow sea exploration. Ocean Geographic Society inspires awareness, beauty and the importance of preserving the health of our ocean using arts and sciences supported by imagery from the world's leading underwater artists and photographers. Ocean Geographic was launched in 2007 by OceanNEEnvironment Ltd, a charity organisation registered with Environment Australia.

Annex A: Melting Ice, Sinking Cities.

Photographs	Description
	<p>The exhibition comprises five zones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Global Climate Emergency: Spotlighting the Antarctic
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. An Urgent Call for Collective Action: A Blue and Green Planet
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Local Action: Marine Conservation in Singapore



4. CDL's Climate Action: Advancing A Low-Carbon and Resilient Built Environment



5. The Remains of the Antarctic 2023: Splendour and Hope



The exhibition can also be viewed virtually on the CDL Sustainability website:
www.cdsustainability.com.