



Blue  
Planet  
Prize

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2016

**2016 BLUE PLANET PRIZE:  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZE WINNERS**

■ **Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India)**

■ **Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland)**

This year marks the 25th awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, the international environmental award sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Kazuhiko Ishimura. Two Blue Planet Prizes are awarded to individuals or organizations each year that make outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, and in so doing help to solve global environmental problems. The Board of Directors and Councillors decided the following recipients for this year.

**1. Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India)**

UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Founding Trustee of Green Indian States Trust (GIST), Founder & CEO of GIST Advisory, Associate Fellow of Davenport College, Yale University



Mr. Sukhdev is a pioneer in developing economic rationale and practical metrics for transition towards an inclusive green economy. He has drawn attention to the critical role of the Corporation in this transition. His work has shown how to mainstream the values of ecosystem services into improved public policies and business practises. By developing sustainability metrics for the corporate, provincial and national levels, he has driven momentum and capacity building to hasten the evolution to an inclusive green economy.

**2. Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland)**

Former Director of Frankfurt Zoological Society Africa Program, Honorary Professor of University of Glasgow, Adjunct Professor of The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania



Prof. Borner has been at the forefront of conservation and management initiatives to protect endangered wildlife and protected-area ecosystems in Africa over the past 40 years. He was among the first to recognize that the conservation of individual species requires comprehensive conservation of entire ecosystems and the contributions and commitment of the Tanzania people to the conservation of their ecosystems. A guiding principle has been that wilderness, biodiversity and beauty are essential for the survival and health of our planet.

Both recipients will be awarded a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and a supplementary award of 50 million yen.

The awards ceremony will be held on November 16, 2016 (Wednesday) at the Palace Hotel Tokyo (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on November 17.

\*This press release may also be viewed on our web site at [www.af-info.or.jp](http://www.af-info.or.jp) from 15:00, June 15, 2016. The photos of the recipients are available from the web site of the Asahi Glass Foundation.

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## Report on the Selection Process (25th Annual Prize, 2016)

A total of 680 nominators from Japan and 700 nominators from other countries recommended 109 candidates. The fields represented by the candidates, in order of number, were ecology (26), environmental economics and policy making (22), atmospheric and earth sciences (17), multidisciplinary field (12).

The candidates represented 33 countries; 29 persons, 27 percent of the total, were from developing countries.

After individual evaluation of the 109 candidates by each Selection Committee member, the committee was convened to narrow down the field. The results of their deliberation were examined by the Presentation Committee, which forwarded its recommendations to the Board of Directors and Councillors. The Board formally resolved to award the Prize to **Mr. Pavan Sukhdev**, and to **Prof. Markus Borner**.

### The Laureates

1992	Dr. Syukuro Manabe (USA) International Institute for Environment and Development (UK)	2005	Professor Sir Nicholas Shackleton (UK) Dr. Gordon Hisashi Sato (USA)
1993	Dr. Charles D. Keeling (USA) IUCN—The World Conservation Union (headquartered in Switzerland)	2006	Dr. Akira Miyawaki (Japan) Dr. Emil Salim (Indonesia)
1994	Professor Dr. Eugen Seibold(Germany) Mr. Lester R. Brown (USA)	2007	Professor Joseph L. Sax (USA) Dr. Amory B. Lovins (USA)
1995	Dr. Bert Bolin (Sweden) Mr. Maurice F. Strong (Canada)	2008	Dr. Claude Lorius (France) Professor José Goldemberg (Brazil)
1996	Dr. Wallace S. Broecker (USA) The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (India)	2009	Professor Hirofumi Uzawa (Japan) Lord Nicholas Stern of Brentford (UK)
1997	Dr. James E. Lovelock (UK) Conservation International (head-quartered in the USA)	2010	Dr. James Hansen (USA) Dr. Robert Watson (UK)
1998	Professor Mikhail I. Budyko (Russia) Mr. David R. Brower (USA)	2011	Dr. Jane Lubchenco (USA) Barefoot College (India)
1999	Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich (USA) Professor Qu Geping (China)	2012	Professor William E. Rees (Canada) and Dr. Mathis Wackernagel (Switzerland) Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy (USA)
2000	Dr. Theo Colborn (USA) Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt (Sweden)	2013	Dr. Taroh Matsuno (Japan) Professor Daniel Sperling (USA)
2001	Lord (Robert) May of Oxford (Australia) Dr. Norman Myers (UK)	2014	Prof. Herman Daly (USA) Prof. Daniel H. Janzen (USA) and Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)
2002	Dr. Harold A. Mooney (USA) Professor J. Gustave Speth(USA)	2015	Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS (UK) Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs (USA)
2003	Dr. Gene E. Likens (USA) and Dr. F. Herbert Bormann (USA) Dr. Vo Quy (Vietnam)	2016	Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India) Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland)
2004	Dr. Susan Solomon (USA) Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway)		

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## **Profile of the 2016 Blue Planet Prize Recipient**

**Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India )**

### **Achievements of Mr. Pavan Sukhdev**

One of the most significant achievements of Mr. Sukhdev was to lead TEEB to success. He is a leading expert in environmental valuations, and the success of TEEB is primarily attributable to his unrestrained passion for mainstreaming valuation and green accounting as a means of making today's society recognize and respond to the values of nature. His activities toward implementing a sustainable economy are described chronologically below.

### **Foundation and development of GIST (The Green Indian States Trust) (From 2004)**

In 2004, he established GIST, an NGO to promote sustainable development. Initially the organization conducted state-level evaluation activities only in India, but now through its sister company "GIST Advisory" it contributes to the promotion of environmental accounting among national governments and corporations all around the world. The scope of these environmental accounting activities covers natural capital, such as forests, agricultural land, water resources, and also social capital and human capital (health and education). Through the establishment of environmental accounting, GIST aims to implement a green economy that reduces environmental risks and the destruction of ecosystems, while promoting human wellbeing and social fairness.

### **TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) (2007 – 2010, first and second phases)**

TEEB is a global project that was called for at the G8+5 environment ministers' meeting held in Potsdam, 2007. It is an initiative for establishing the economic and social rationale for conservation of biodiversity by evaluating biodiversity and ecosystem services in economic terms and incorporating these values into actual decision-making by policy-makers, businesses and citizens. Its activities consist of three phases (1) Interim Report released at CBD COP-9, Bonn (2) Final Reports released at CBD COP-10, Nagoya and (3) Implementation Phase, ongoing (See the table below.)

In recognition of his achievements in leading GIST and developments in environmental accounting, He was appointed as the Study Leader of TEEB, and ran the first and second phases. Giving priority to the eradication of poverty and intergenerational equity, he set these themes as one of the objectives of TEEB. In the third phase, the ideas established in the first and second phases are put into practice and organizations other than TEEB, including national governments, NGOs and corporations, are taking over implementation activities. Their combined efforts are expected to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets adopted at the Convention of Biological Diversity - COP10, which took place in Nagoya.

TEEB Reports have exerted a significant influence on the governments and business leaders in both developed and developing countries and on large ecological NGOs. The governments of Brazil, China, India, Georgia, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway (among others) in decided to continue or launch their own TEEB research projects after the Convention of Biological Diversity - COP10, and they have begun to integrate the values of ecosystem services into their policy-making frameworks. Moreover, with the aim of measuring the impacts and dependencies of businesses on Nature, and where possible publishing and controlling business externalities, ‘TEEB for Business Coalition’ was established in 2012 to define the framework and standards for business, by a number of global organizations including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Conservation International (CI), and by national agencies including the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the UK government, the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

The breakthrough achievements of TEEB were to teach us the values of the many benefits of ecosystem services and to make us aware of the true costs of over-exploiting their finite nature and of disrupting ecosystem services, and to present a specific visions of policy improvements and business transformations to better preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.

### **“Corporation 2020” and Yale University (From 2011)**

In 2011, Mr. Sukhdev was appointed McCluskey Fellow at Yale University, School of Forestry and Environment. There he created and taught the first graduate course on TEEB (TEEB@Yale). The book he wrote while at Yale university, “Corporation 2020”, was simultaneously launched as an international initiative by Mr. Sukhdev, to implement sustainable corporate activities, supported by “micro-policy” driven changes such as more controlled leverage, a shift in taxation away from profit taxation to resource taxation, higher responsibility and accountability in advertising, and integrated financial reports <IR>. It promotes a range of important strategies based on his idea of delivering an environmentally and socially sound “economy of permanence” through leadership models by corporations which can be replicated, scaled and helped by right regulations and policies. Launched at the Rio+20 meeting in 2012, this initiative has proposed well-researched solutions to the problem of corporate sustainability. Mr. Sukhdev is now an Associate Fellow of Davenport College, Yale University.

Table: Background of the establishment of TEEB and details of its activities

Item	Initiated by	Details
Founded in March 2007	G8+5 Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At the meeting held in Potsdam in March 2007, G8+5 environment ministers called for an initiative to study the loss of the ecosystems and biodiversity, equivalent to the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change.</li> <li>● Sigmar Gabriel, the Minister for the Environment in Germany, agreed to undertake this research with the support of Stavros Dimas, the European Commissioner for the Environment.</li> <li>● Pavan Sukhdev was appointed by the Minister for the Environment in Germany and the Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas as the project leader.</li> </ul>
First phase (Foundation – May 2008)	TEEB Initiative (headed by Pavan Sukhdev, consisting of over 500 members including scientists, business leaders and policy makers) (*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study of recognition values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the huge cost of their loss due to “business-as-usual”</li> <li>● TEEB Interim Report was presented at the High-Level Segment of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-9) in May 2008 at Bonn, Germany.</li> </ul> <p>(*) Source: Website <a href="http://www.teebweb.org">www.teebweb.org</a></p>
Second phase (2009 - 2010)	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstration of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services (evaluation in economic and social terms, including measuring “GDP of the poor” for some developing countries) and study of how to integrate these values into policy making, administration and business</li> <li>● Full suite of four Final TEEB Reports presented at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10), October 2010, Nagoya, Japan.</li> </ul>
Third phase (2011 – Present)	Organizations other than TEEB project (national governments, NGOs and projects, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ideas learnt in the first and second phase are being put into practice. TEEB Country Studies supported by European Commission (Bhutan, Ecuador, Liberia, the Philippines and Tanzania) and numerous TEEB-inspired Country Studies (Japan and 20 other countries consider participation)</li> <li>● Natural Capital Coalition (NCC) and many other activities are being carried out utilizing the ideas of TEEB. NCC is an international coalition for recognizing and integrating the values of natural capital in business decision-making, &amp; will launch a universal “Natural Capital Protocol” (NCP) in July 2016 in London</li> <li>● TEEB for Agriculture &amp; Food (‘TEEB-Agri-Food’) project launched in 2014, with support of Norway and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, USA. Pavan Sukhdev was appointed Special Adviser to the project, and its Interim Report was launched at the Global Landscapes Forum, COP-21, in Paris, December 2015.</li> </ul>

## Biographical Summary

### Academic background

1976 Collège du Léman (Switzerland)

1978 Dover College (UK)

1981 Oxford University (UK)

1983 Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (UK) Diploma in economics, accounting and law

## **Finance Background**

1983 - 1994	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (India and London)
1994 - 1998	Head of Global Markets division of Deutsche Bank AG (India)
1998 - 1999	Chief Operating Officer of Deutsche Bank's Asian Global Markets business (Singapore)
1999 - 2003	Head of Deutsche Bank's Asia-Pacific Global Markets Finance division (Singapore)
2003 - 2005	Chief Operating Officer of Deutsche Bank's Global Emerging Markets division (Singapore)
2005 - 2006	Deutsche Bank's Global Markets Central Office (London)
2006	Established Deutsche Bank's GMC (Global Markets Centre), Mumbai
From 2008-2011	Sabbatical leave & secondment from Deutsche Bank to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mr. Sukhdev resigned from Deutsche Bank and from UNEP in March 2011 to take up an offer as McCluskey Fellow, Yale University, 2011-2012

## **Green economy-related activities**

2004	Founding Trustee, GIST (The Green Indian State Trust)
2008 - 2010	Study Leader of TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity)
2008 - 2011	Head of UNEP's GEI (Green Economy Initiative)
From 2011 -	Founder and CEO of GIST Advisory
2012	Campaign and book "Corporation 2020"

## **Awards**

2010	Personality of the Year (from "Environmental Finance")
2011	McCluskey Fellowship (at Forestry & Environment School, Yale University)
2011	Medal from the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM, London)
2012	UNEP Goodwill Ambassador
2012	Salim Ali International Award for Nature Conservation (Bombay Natural History Society, BNHS)
2013	Gothenburg Award for Sustainable Development (Gothenburg city)
2015	KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek-Preis (The foundation KfW Stiftung, Frankfurt)

## **Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland )**

### **Achievements of Prof. Markus Borner**

From 1983, Prof. Borner carried out activities as the Director of Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) Africa Program from his base in the Africa Regional Office in the Serengeti National Park. Prof. Borner developed a collaborative relationship with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), establishing and implementing a system of ecosystem conservation and management based on scientific investigative research over many years into the wildlife and ecosystem of the Serengeti National Park. Prof. Borner's major accomplishments are detailed below.

FZS launched its ecosystem conservation program in the Serengeti National Park from 1958 under Professor Grzimek and sent Prof. Borner over in 1977 to carry on the legac and work as Dr. Grzimek's right-hand man. Today, the Africa Program can attribute its ongoing reputation of achievements due to Prof. Borner's successes.

From the early days, he collaborated with TANAPA on numerous pioneering research studies on the ecology of wildlife, in particular the changes in the numbers of elephants and rhinoceros, and the habitats and migration paths of zebras and wildebeest. These research studies elucidated in detail for the first time the true state of wildlife, and revealed how poaching and development by human beings was bringing wildlife to the brink of extinction. Prof. Borner conducted wide-ranging and vigorous research studies including aerial observations made from a panoramic view of the ecosystem flying his own plane as much as 100,000 km per year. These studies later helped to avert two major threats to the National Park, (1) The building of a major hydroelectric dam on the Mara river and, (2) The construction of a highway through the heart of the National Park.

The closure of the border between Tanzania and Kenya in 1977 resulted in a heavy blow to Tanzania's tourism industry including ecotourism. Conservation activities for the Serengeti National Park were on the brink of financial crisis. Prof. Borner created a fund within FZS to address this crisis, resuming systematic management of the park through measures such as reinstating the payment of salaries to park wardens and rangers, carrying out road maintenance, and renewing vehicles. He later helped establishing a General Management Plan for the protected area, which greatly opened the road for ecotourism. Tourism has now become Tanzania's leading foreign exchange earner, contributing more than \$2 billion dollars annually to the nation. Prof. Borner's achievements in implementing a new management scheme for tourism were instrumental for furthering conservation in the area.

Additionally, Prof. Borner invited administration officials, diplomats, journalists, environmental activists and scientists into his home to explain the magnificence of nature in the Serengeti ecosystem while providing cordial hospitality. He also collected money from administration officials and private individuals to maintain and implement conservation programs.

A well-known initiative implemented during this time was the breeding and conservation program for rhinos, which were at the edge of extinction. Prof. Borner implemented the rhino conservation program in the Ngorongoro conservation area, and the black rhino conservation program in the Moru region of the Serengeti and the Mara hunting region of Kenya. Rhinos were airlifted from South Africa and released in the Ngorongoro conservation area in order to safeguard the conservation of rhinos throughout Africa as a whole.

The Serengeti is considered to be the only place where the ecosystem conservation program has been put into practice on such a large scale. Prof. Borner, and his partners have published over 2000

scientific publications on the Serengeti, making it the most widely researched natural area in the world today.

Prof. Borner was instrumental in organizing conservation-related activities for the Serengeti ecosystem. He helped establish Wildlife Management Areas adjacent to the park to provide adequate buffer zones for wildlife and income for locals and a Serengeti Ecosystem Forum to engage all stakeholders in the ecosystem.

As described above, Prof. Borner formulated a system geared toward the protection of the natural environment and the sustainable development of the local economy, a system that included the comprehensive protection and management of a scientifically based ecosystem, the creation of a framework of cooperation with the local people, and the development of the local economy through ecotourism. He has proved the correctness of this method by putting it into practice. The correctness of this method has also been demonstrated in neighboring countries in addition to the Serengeti, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Today, Serengeti National Park is the mainstay of tourism in Tanzania, and Prof. Borner's activities have a major impact on ecosystem conservation activities worldwide as a pioneering successful model of the practice of ecosystem conservation.

Prof. Borner retired from his post as Director of the FZS Africa Program in 2012. However, he continues to engage in education and research for the conservation of wild animals and ecosystems as Visiting Professor at the University of Glasgow. At the same time, he remains committed to the conservation of the ecosystem in Serengeti National Park and has continued providing detailed research to oppose plans to build a highway through the Serengeti National Park.

## **Biographical Summary**

### **Academic background**

1972 University of Zurich (Marine Biology)

1979 PhD, University of Basel (Zoology)

### **Career**

1972 Research on rhino and tigers in Sumatra (WWF)

1977-1983 Staff member of the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS). Supported Professor Grzimek. Dispatched to Africa by FZS and moved with his family to Rubondo Island on Lake Victoria.

1983 Director of the FZS Africa Program. Dispatched by FZS, which had for a long time been focusing its efforts on the improvement and conservation of Serengeti National Park, and commenced activities from its Serengeti National Park base.

1984 Founding Member, Tanzania Wildlife Protection Fund

1984 - 2003 Board Member Mweka Wildlife College, Tanzania

1989 - 2004 Board Member and Head of Conservation Committee, Tanzania National Parks

1991 - 2001 Board Member, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Tanzania

2012 Retired from his post as Director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society Africa Program

### **Awards**

1994 Bruno H. Schubert Foundation Awards (The Bruno H. Schubert Foundation, Frankfurt)

2000 Special Conservation Award Tanzania National Parks (Tanzania National Parks)

2009 IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Awards (International Economic Development Council)

2012 The Indianapolis Prize Finalists (The Indianapolis Zoo)



## **Remarks from the Award Recipients upon Notification of their Selection**

### **Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India)**

I wish to thank Asahi Glass Foundation for the great honour of being awarded the Blue Planet Prize. I am humbled by this recognition, and for being included in a list of pioneers from whom I draw inspiration and guidance.

I dedicate this moment to all the people who contributed to the body of work recognized by this prize. In particular, members of the large and growing 'TEEB' community, colleagues and collaborators of GIST, my students at Yale University, and several distinguished advisers who have given generously of their time towards this work.

The Blue Planet Prize motivates me to continue my work on making nature's economic values visible and better responded to by policy makers and business leaders, on redesigning the corporation, and on improving and implementing metrics and accounting systems for sustainability. These are all critical areas for transforming today's defunct yet dominant economic model into an inclusive and green economy of permanence.

### **Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland)**

I am deeply humbled to receive this years Blue Planet Prize. It is a great honour to have been considered worthy of this prestigious award and to be standing in the company with the illustrious recipients who have received this prize from the Asahi Glass Foundation over the last 25 years.

Throughout my career, I have been very fortunate and privileged to have been able to do something that has had great meaning for me, and that has contributed towards the conservation of the iconic Serengeti National Park and other important conservation areas in Africa. Mine is only a small contribution, and credit is due to the people of Tanzania who have declared 25% of their land area for conservation and - as one of the poorest countries in the world - continue to do their best to preserve their natural heritage.

Wilderness, biodiversity and beauty are important for each of us and essential for the survival and health of our blue planet.

Many thanks to the Asahi Glass Foundation for helping us find ways into the future, a future where there will be room for elephants and rhinos and where lions can still roar in the morning light.