



Weekly Headlines in World of Biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) (15-31, Dec-2015)

Theme	Title	Details	Press Media	Further Details
AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY	<i>The end of Agri research?</i>	ANAHEIM, California – UP president Fred Pascual had an unusual Christmas card he posted on Facebook during the holidays. He announced the gift of health that comes from a rice-corn blend. The Institute of Plant Breeding at UP Los Baños has come up with a 70:30 blend of rice and QPM (quality protein maize). By combining the superb taste of rice and the low glycemic index property of corn, the product can serve as a health-promoting staple in the Filipino diet.	<i>Philippine Star, 30 December 2015</i>	http://www.philstar.com/business/2015/12/30/1537408/end-agri-research
	<i>Why we're losing foods we love, why it matters, and how we can stop it.</i>	The following is about food, but it's really about love. It's about that moment when you find yourself savoring something so wholly and intently ,you never want to let it go. I thought this love, at least in the culinary sense, could be found only in superlative places: a secret supper club in London, a hidden bistro in Paris or a roadside dhaba in Mumbai.	<i>Washington Post, 29 December 2015</i>	https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/food/why-were-losing-foods-we-love-why-it-matters-and-how-we-can-stop-it/2015/12/27/3afb15a

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<i>The Top Agriculture Stories of 2015</i>	Many of the world's greatest challenges – climate change, poverty, natural resource depletion, and hunger – intersect on the fields of the world's farmers. These global challenges provide the backdrop to our top agriculture stories of 2015.	<i>World Bank (Washington, DC), 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/12/28/the-top-five-agriculture-stories-of-2015	
<i>Nourishment</i>	As we celebrate holidays defined by feasting, one question comes to mind: What truly nourishes us? The world is hungry. Amid staggering amounts of food waste (30-40 percent of what we cultivate) and increasing numbers of people suffering from health problems that are the result of being overweight, not under (2 billion people versus 795 million), we continue to suffer from malnutrition. We are, what author Raj Patel calls, "stuffed and starved."	<i>Huffington Post, 23 December 2015</i>	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/simransethi/nourishment_b_8856078.html	
<i>Bananas facing extinction, scientists warn</i>	Researchers from the Netherlands have published a study to show that the most widely consumed banana variety could be wiped out by a fungus in the near future.	<i>Deutsche Welle, 17 December 2015</i>	http://www.dw.com/en/bananas-facing-extinction-scientists-warn/a-18915262	
<i>Beekeeping Helps Pakistan Farmers Cope with Crop Losses</i>	CHAKWAL, Pakistan, Dec 15 2015 (IPS) - Farmers in the rain-dependent district of Chakwal in Punjab province of Pakistan are finding relief in beekeeping as the groundnut crop suffers a blow from shifting rainfall patterns.	<i>Inter Press Service News Agency, 17 December 2015</i>	http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/12/beekeeping-helps-pakistan-farmers-cope-with-crop-losses/	
<i>Beekeeping Helps Pakistan Farmers Cope with Crop Losses</i>	CHAKWAL, Pakistan, Dec 15 2015 (IPS) - Farmers in the rain-dependent district of Chakwal in Punjab province of Pakistan are finding relief in beekeeping as the groundnut crop suffers a blow from shifting rainfall patterns.	<i>Inter Press Service News Agency, 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/12/beekeeping-helps-pakistan-farmers-cope-with-crop-losses/	

CLIMATE CHANGE

	<i>From sea to rising sea</i>	Climate change is Americans’ most pressing existential threat, and no community will be immune from the transformations to come. Yet many don’t see the danger coming – and those that do have their work cut out for them	<i>Globe and Mail (Canada), 30 December 2015</i>	http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/climate-changes-challenge-for-americans-from-sea-to-risingsea/article27943529/
	<i>10 moments in 2015 that changed our environment</i>	It was an outstanding year for the environment - in good and in bad terms. These were the most important moments of 2015.	<i>Deutsche Welle, 30 December 2015</i>	http://www.dw.com/en/10-moments-in-2015-that-changed-our-environment/a-18946753
	<i>No Denying It, Climate Change Is Happening Now</i>	The leaves came off the last trees — a crabapple, a willow and a hardy Norway maple — during the first week of December this year, surely the latest I can remember seeing leaves on trees since we moved to the Philadelphia area 18 years ago. But it’s not just that.	<i>Counter Punch, 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/12/29/no-denying-it-climate-change-is-happening-now/
	<i>Can the Planet Be Saved?</i>	The two words “climate” and “change” are so routinely strung together that just saying them as a pair—“climate change”—seems to somehow obscure the full weight of the phenomenon they describe, to say nothing of its consequences. But in those moments when one pauses to consider the ramifications of human activity on the planet for generations and generations ahead, things can feel beyond bleak. And yet: This past year saw the nations of the world reached their first-ever agreement on an ambitious plan to rein in emissions, perhaps the most significant progress yet made on this issue.	<i>The Atlantic, 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/12/hope-despair-climate-change/421794/

<i>Climate change forcing Ontario's wild turkeys further north</i>	Ontario's wild turkeys, sometimes seen feeding on farmers' fields or grazing dinner tables, are on the trot thanks to climate change. Although hunted to extinction in this province more than 100 years ago, the birds were reintroduced in 1984 and flourished in the forests and fields of Southern Ontario, even venturing into urban areas.	<i>The Star (Canada), 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/12/29/climate-change-forcing-ontarios-wild-turkeys-further-north.html
<i>COP21: Building peace by linking responses to climate change and security</i>	Last weekend, the world cheered as negotiators secured the best possible deal on climate change. It's an historic agreement tackling what The Observer called "the greatest existential threat to life on Earth."	<i>Devex, 23 December 2015</i>	https://www.devex.com/news/cop21-building-peace-by-linking-responses-to-climate-change-and-security-87541
<i>Climate change is coming for the Southwest's forests</i>	Southwest folks, prepare to wave farewell to your beloved pines. A new study predicts that 72 percent of the Southwest's needleleaf evergreen forests will die off by 2050, and nearly all of them will disappear by the end of the century.	<i>Grist, 23 December 2015</i>	: http://grist.org/climate-energy/climate-change-is-coming-for-the-southwests-forests/
<i>Climate change, El Nino bring balmy December in parts of Canada, scientists say</i>	If climate change is weighing on your mind this holiday season, especially after the signing of the Paris agreement, you're not alone. There's an image that's been slowly circulating on the internet. It's of an older, bearded man, his smile tentative, his eyebrows furrowed. The caption reads, "When ur enjoying the warm weather in December, but deep down u know it's because of global warming."	<i>CBC (Canada), 23 December 2015</i>	http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/balmy-december-canada-climate-change-effects-1.3374932
<i>What you need to know about Indonesian fires that are affecting global climate change</i>	Raging fires in Indonesia's forests and peat lands since July this year are precipitating a climate and public-health catastrophe with repercussions across local, regional and global levels, said experts. Acrid smoke and haze have enveloped Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, and have reached Thailand, choking people, reducing visibility and spiking respiratory illnesses, according to Susan Minnemeyer, Mapping	<i>Firstpost, 23 December 2015</i>	http://www.firstpost.com/world/what-you-need-to-know-about-indonesian-fires-that-are-affecting-global-climate-change-2557024.html

		and Data Manager for Washington-based World Resources Institute's (WRI) Global Forest Watch Fires initiative.		
	<i>'Worthless words' or 'diplomatic triumph'? Climate scientists weigh in on Paris agreement</i>	The general view of the Paris agreement reached last week among climate scientists seems to be that while it won't halt global warming, it is an important step in that direction.	http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/climate-scientists-paris-1.3366751	<i>CBC (Canada), 21 December 2015</i>
	<i>BALDREY: Paris climate change goals a long way from reality</i>	There was a lot of high-fiving and celebratory handshakes when the world's countries reached that "historic" deal last weekend to fight climate change, but the harsh truth is that the ambitious goals of the deal are going to be hard to reach.	<i>Global News (Canada), 21 December 2015</i>	http://globalnews.ca/news/2412544/baldrey-paris-climate-change-goals-a-long-way-from-reality/
	<i>New climate change agreement a historic win for human health</i>	For the first time in history, nearly every country in the world has agreed to take action to combat the defining issue of the 21st century – climate change.	<i>WHO, 18 December 2015</i>	http://who.int/mediacentre/commentaries/climate-change-agreement/en/
	<i>The Paris Agreement Is Just the First Step in Fighting Climate Change</i>	On November 29, over 1 million people in 175 nations took to the streets, in the largest protest demanding immediate action on climate change in history.	<i>Newsweek, 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.newsweek.com/paris-agreement-just-first-step-fighting-climate-change-406655
	<i>A Weapon Against Climate Change May Be Right Under Our Feet</i>	Scientists battling to slow climate change and cope with its effects are harnessing an overlooked, yet potentially powerful partner -- one that happens to be right beneath our feet.	<i>Huffington Post, 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/soil-climate-change_567217e3e4b0648fe3023ad0
	<i>Island states slam climate fund red tape</i>	[PARIS] Small island nations are frustrated over difficulties in accessing funds for technology and climate change adaptation from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), SciDev.Net can reveal.	<i>SciDev.net, 17 December 2015</i>	http://www.scidev.net/global/funding/news/pacific-island-states-climate-fund-red-tape.html

	<i>'Spirit of Paris': Cities take climate action to local level</i>	Cities have massive carbon footprints, and how they develop is crucial for addressing climate change. The Paris climate summit allowed cities to unify - and post-Paris, cities' collective action is breeding green hopes.	<i>Science Daily, 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.dw.com/en/spirit-of-paris-cities-take-climate-action-to-local-level/a-18919268
	<i>Rising temperatures could put saltwater crocodiles in hot water</i>	Young saltwater crocodiles take shorter dives and put their safety at risk when faced with long-term exposure to rising water temperatures, according to new research.	<i>ABC News (Australia), 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-16/saltwater-crocodiles-unable-to-adapt-as-water-temperatures-rise/7029780
	<i>'At time of great division,' unity on Paris climate accord must be built upon – UN Assembly President</i>	15 December 2015 – The President of the 193-member United Nations General Assembly today vowed to begin the hard work of carrying out the Paris Agreement on climate change, reminding the world that at a time of great division, the unity, leadership and collective responsibility demonstrated in the French capital should not be forgotten.	<i>UN News Centre, 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.un.org/app/s/news/story.asp?NewsID=52823#.VnGVO2eFOUk
	<i>How a 'typo' nearly derailed the Paris climate deal</i>	A debate over the words 'should' or 'shall' in the final draft was passed off as an undetected error thanks to some timely French diplomacy	<i>Guardian (UK), 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2015/dec/16/how-a-typo-nearly-derailed-the-paris-climate-deal
	<i>Caribbean welcomes the new climate change agreement</i>	Caribbean Community governments and regional organisations have welcomed the new climate change agreement concluded in Paris at COP21. We join in that accolade.	http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/editorial/Caribbean-welcomes-the-new-climate-change-agreement_45876	<i>Jamaica Observer, 16 December 2015</i>

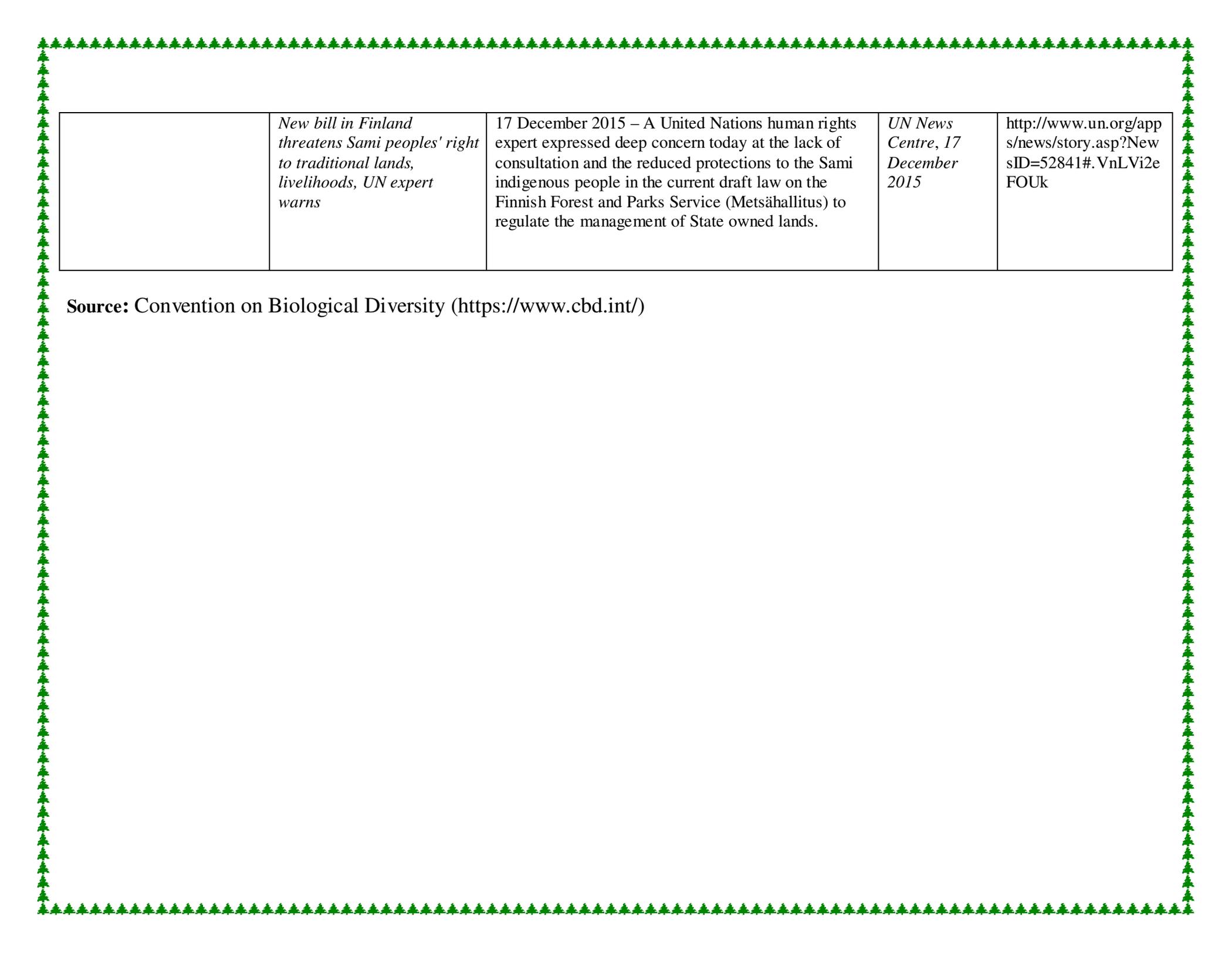
FOREST BIODIVERSITY	<i>Setting the record straight on the Paris Climate Agreement</i>	World leaders call it a historic climate pact. Others say the agreement does not go far enough and might remain an empty shell. DW takes a closer look.	<i>Deutsche Welle, 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.dw.com/en/setting-the-record-straight-on-the-paris-climate-agreement/a-18916544
	<i>Climate change puts Venezuelan amphibians at risk of extinction</i>	Venezuelan frogs and toads are in critical danger due to climate change as rising temperatures complicate reproduction and spread a deadly fungus, say scientists, who liken the species to canaries in a coalmine warning of imminent danger.	<i>Reuters, 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-environment-idUSKBN0TY2M020151216
	<i>California drought could kill tens of millions of trees</i>	As many as 58 million large trees in California are threatened by a record drought that has afflicted the state since 2011, says a study published Monday. Even if the weather phenomenon called El Nino produces more precipitation, California's forests could suffer irreversible change, the report said.	<i>Japan Times, 30 December 2015</i>	http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/30/world/science-health-world/california-drought-could-kill-tens-of-millions-of-trees/#.VoPhvGeFOUk
	<i>To save rare forest, farmers try a new crop: butterflies</i>	The colourful butterflies fluttering through Zanzibar's Jozani forest are beautiful to look at, but for farmers and charcoal producers in the region, they mean something more: a paycheck.	<i>Thomson Reuters Foundation, 30 December 2015</i>	http://www.trust.org/item/20151230121243-429vu
	<i>2015: Biodiversity's Year Of Integration</i>	Biodiversity and endangered habitat have always been difficult to finance, because their economic value isn't as readily-apparent as that of water, air, and food. In 2015, proponents managed to embed biodiversity protection in major climate-change and development packages, but there's still a long way to go.	<i>Ecosystem Marketplace, 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/articles/2015-biodiversitys-year-of-integration/

<i>Entire forests are under threat from drought: Nearly 60 million trees could be wiped out due to a lack of water in California</i>	As many as 58 million large trees in California are under threat due to the droughts that have ravaged the state since 2011. Even if the weather improves, and El Nino produces more precipitation as is expected, California's forests could suffer irreversible change, a report has revealed.	<i>Mail Online, 29 December 2015</i>	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3377150/Tens-millions-California-trees-threatened-drought.html
<i>Is zero deforestation possible for the Brazilian Amazon?</i>	From 2005 to 2014, the rate of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest went from 19,014 square kilometers (7,342 square miles) to 5,012 square kilometers (1,935 square miles): a reduction of about 70 percent. Impressive, to be sure, but the rate still remains high. Additionally, when the effects from deforestation are combined with changes in climate, the near-term trend is still severe degradation of the Amazon.	http://ensia.com/voices/is-zero-deforestation-possible-for-the-brazilian-amazon/	<i>Ensia, 23 December 2015</i>
<i>How does the global commodity collapse impact forest conservation?</i>	Since early 2014, prices for most commodities produced in the tropics have plunged. Palm oil is down by 40 percent, logs from Malaysia and Cameroon are off by roughly a fifth, while soybeans have fallen by a third and beef a tenth.	<i>Mongabay (India), 22 December 2015</i>	http://news.mongabay.com/2015/12/how-does-the-global-commodity-collapse-impact-forest-conservation/
<i>Na Hang protects biodiversity</i>	Covering an area of more than 21,000 ha, facing the Gam river, Na Hang special-use forest, located in the uppermost Na Hang District of north-eastern Tuyen Quang Province, is ranked the 223rd most diverse eco-system in the world , according to the district's Forest Ranger Department.	<i>Viet Nam News , 21 December 2015</i>	http://vietnamnews.vn/environment/280140/na-hang-protects-biodiversity.html
<i>Forests gain long-awaited recognition in Paris climate summit</i>	The climate change agreement adopted by 195 countries in Paris last week raised the profile of forests in ways never seen before.	<i>The Conversation, 18 December 2015</i>	http://theconversation.com/forests-gain-long-awaited-recognition-in-paris-climate-summit-52238

	<i>Reykjavik adopts policy on biodiversity</i>	Reykjavik is the first Nordic capital to adopt a specific policy for the promotion of biodiversity in the city.	<i>Iceland Monitor, 18 December 2015</i>	http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/nature_and_travel/2015/12/18/reykjavik_adopts_policy_on_biodiversity/
PROTECTED AREAS/ IN- SITU CONSERVATION	<i>Open borders make way for pollution in Myanmar</i>	Researchers warn that Myanmar's Mergui archipelago should be made a protected area before the signs of human-caused pollution reach its unspoiled waters.	<i>Deutsche Welle, 22 December 2015</i>	http://www.dw.com/en/open-borders-make-way-for-pollution-in-myanmar/a-18933710
	<i>Rare Philippine eagle chick born in captivity; boosts hope for the species</i>	On December 7, a tiny Philippine eagle hatchling was born at the Philippine Eagle Foundation's (PEF) conservation center in the Philippines. This is the twenty sixth eaglet born at the center in 23 years, and the first offspring of a female named Go Phoenix and a male named MVP Eagle.	<i>Mongabay.com, 18 December 2015</i>	http://news.mongabay.com/2015/12/rare-philippine-eagle-chick-born-in-captivity-boosts-hope-for-the-species/
	<i>What Are We Actually Protecting In The Ocean?</i>	One of the great recent success stories in conservation is the rapid increase in the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs). Since 2006, there has been a staggering growth of 10 million km ² of new MPAs globally, a nearly four-fold increase over the past decade.	<i>National Geographic, 17 December 2015</i>	http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2015/12/16/what-are-we-actually-protecting-in-the-ocean/
ENDANGERED SPECIES	<i>US adds African lions to endangered species list after Cecil controversy</i>	The US government has sent a powerful message to lion sports hunters, announcing that it will amend its Endangered Species Act to include protections for African lions and tighten laws to restrict the importation of wildlife trophies.	<i>Science alert, 23 December 2015</i>	http://www.sciencealert.com/us-adds-african-lions-to-endangered-species-list-after-cecil-controversy
	<i>US places Indian lion in endangered species list</i>	WASHINGTON: The US will place a breed of lion found in India and Africa in the endangered species list in a bid to curb the dramatic decline of their population.	http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/us-	<i>Economic Times (India), 22 December 2015</i>

			places-indian-lion-in-endangered-species-list/articleshow/50278374.cms	
<i>Giant African snail eats crops and homes, and it's moving our way.</i>	There's a new, slow-moving threat inching its way onto California's shores that's so serious it has attracted the attention of the Department of Homeland Security		<i>San Francisco Chronicle, 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/ohns/article/Giant-African-snail-eats-crops-and-homes-and-6706070.php
<i>Researchers just proved that attacks on the Endangered Species Act are not based on reality</i>	Though it would reportedly end the United States' decades-old oil export ban, an omnibus funding bill passed by the US Congress today also contains some victories for environmental conservation.		<i>Mongabay.com, 17 December 2015</i>	http://news.mongabay.com/2015/12/researchers-just-proved-that-attacks-on-the-endangered-species-act-are-not-based-on-reality/
<i>Some Forests Have Outsized Impacts on Local Water</i>	A comprehensive new report emphasizes the importance of upland forests for providing clean water, mitigating storms and reducing erosion		<i>Smithsonian, 17 December 2015</i>	http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/some-forests-have-outsized-impacts-local-water-180957562/?no-ist
<i>MapBiomass: New mapping platform will track annual deforestation in Brazil</i>	A network of over 20 organizations, in collaboration with Google, has launched a new open-access platform called MapBiomass that will map land use and land cover change in Brazil from 1985 to present. MapBiomass was released on November 26		<i>Mongabay.com, 17 December 2015</i>	http://news.mongabay.com/2015/12/mapbiomas-new-mapping-platform-will-track-annual-deforestation-in-brazil/

	<i>Relocation of finless porpoises in China boosts hopes for species' survival</i>	Conservationists celebrate after four critically endangered Yangtze porpoises are successfully relocated to a secure reserve	<i>Guardian (UK), 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/16/relocation-of-finless-porpoises-in-china-boosts-hopes-for-species-survival
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS	<i>New report highlights how business can support sustainable development goals</i>	Innovative partnerships can provide solutions to environmental, social and ethical challenges	<i>Guardian (UK), 16 December 2015</i>	http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/dec/16/new-report-highlights-how-business-can-support-sustainable-development-goals
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES – ARTICLE 8(J)	<i>A meal without an agenda</i>	The Garos, resplendent in feathered headdresses and bright beads, would have stood out in any other crowd. Over here they fit in perfectly. A dozen representatives from this North Eastern tribe enter in a solemn line, and sit in the row right ahead of me. I diligently try squinting at the stage from between their feathers before giving up with a sigh. On my right, a gang of chatty Native Americans absent-mindedly adjust their jewellery, after which one helps the other redo his hair in a neat plait. On my left a bunch of animated Todas take selfies. When the first speaker clambers on stage, the air is rent with whoops from the African tribes, swathed in crimson shawls at the back.	<i>Hindu (India), 21 December 2015</i>	http://www.thehindu.com/thread/arts-culture-society/article8013761.ece
	<i>Experts: Paris Agreement falls short on indigenous rights</i>	When world leaders announced a historic climate deal in Paris after years of negotiations, many participants and observers touted it as a triumph marking the beginning of the end of the fossil-fuel era	<i>Thomson Reuters Foundation, 18 December 2015</i>	http://www.trust.org/item/20151218150658-a9zes/



	<i>New bill in Finland threatens Sami peoples' right to traditional lands, livelihoods, UN expert warns</i>	17 December 2015 – A United Nations human rights expert expressed deep concern today at the lack of consultation and the reduced protections to the Sami indigenous people in the current draft law on the Finnish Forest and Parks Service (Metsähallitus) to regulate the management of State owned lands.	<i>UN News Centre, 17 December 2015</i>	http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52841#.VnLVi2eFOUk
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Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (<https://www.cbd.int/>)