



HCL and UNLEASH Partner to Develop Solutions for Aquatic Ecosystem Conservation

The year-long partnership will enable talent across the globe to develop innovative solutions from Source to Sink

May 20th, 2022 - HCL Group and UNLEASH, a global innovation program for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), announced a year-long collaboration to mobilize youth and develop innovative solutions to promote aquatic ecosystem conservation. These solutions will aim to tackle challenges from Source (mountains & glaciers) to Sink (oceans and seas) and their links to terrestrial ecosystems.

Nature and ocean conservation play a critical role in our survival. Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems provide us with food, water, oxygen, energy, and medicines. They regulate our climate, provide pollination to crops, and reduce the impact of natural hazards.

Despite the vital importance of our planet's ecosystems, we are experiencing a human-caused deterioration of our natural habitats: human activity has altered almost 75% of the Earth's terrestrial surface, squeezing wildlife and nature into an ever-smaller corner. Furthermore, ocean heat is at record levels and every year up to 12 million metric tonnes of plastic enter the ocean, damaging ecosystems around the world. Without maintaining healthy and biodiverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the progress on the remaining United Nations' SDGs is at critical risk.

To tackle such challenges, UNLEASH and HCL will collaborate to establish a year of youth-led action. Specifically, the partnership will allow youth to develop solutions encompassing SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on land), and explore synergies with other SDGs as well. During the process, they will be guided by industry experts and receive hands-on support to ensure that solutions are relatable to the context and feasible in practice.

HCL Group with its large presence in business through HCL Technologies, HCL Infosystems and HCL Healthcare; and its social development organizations including the philanthropic Shiv Nadar Foundation and The Habitats Trust, and its CSR arm – HCL Foundation, has been tackling real on-ground issues related to the SDGs. The Group with its breadth of experience across different sectors and its holistic and powerful sustainability charter is the perfect partner for UNLEASH to successfully push its SDGs innovation efforts.

"Innovation, entrepreneurship, humanity and a people-centric culture are part of HCL's core, and it is important to us that our progress is reflected in the development of a better world. Our various entities have already been driving important projects to help create a positive impact for the people and the planet. HCL's collaboration with UNLEASH in bringing innovation to the SDGs, and specifically to the preservation of nature and ocean conservation is an essential step in our overall sustainability efforts", said **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, CEO of HCL, Chairperson of HCL Technologies, Trustee of Shiv Nadar Foundation & Founder of The Habitats Trust.**

With HCL's continuous support on the thematic track *From Source to Sink*, UNLEASH Talents will have the opportunity to work on localized challenges through joining an [UNLEASH Hack](#) at the Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR (part of the HCL Group). Earlier this year, UNLEASH Talents participated in three other UNLEASH Hacks related to this theme, exploring challenges of water ecosystems from the Mediterranean, the Danube, Haiti and Hawaii and defining solutions that can drive positive local impact on those regions. The partnership will help scale an existing early-stage solution in the biodiversity space through enrolment in an incubation program, [UNLEASH Plus](#). Thematic insight



sessions will be organized throughout 2022, providing inspiration and key learnings on the essence of the theme. These year-long efforts will culminate in the [Global Innovation Lab in India](#) that will witness a gathering of 1000+ talented youth for a week long innovation process and help them develop solutions for Indian and global challenges within aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem conservation. The best solutions from the Lab will take home grant prizes to kick-start implementation of the developed solutions. Through the course of this partnership, HCL will enable access to its celebrated business leaders, technical experts, and faculty and academicians of global repute to serve as facilitators, mentors and experts that will help participants across the various programs to develop innovative solutions.

The partnership enables UNLEASH to dive deep into SDG14 and SDG15, and truly establish a community of changemakers, working with nature challenges.

“HCL’s journey in innovation and development is an inspiration for the entire UNLEASH Community. We are very grateful for their partnership on an important matter such as the aquatic conservation of our planet and finding solutions for its preservation through our different programs during the course of this year”, said UNLEASH Chairman Flemming Besenbacher.

About HCL Group

Founded in 1976 as one of India’s original IT garage start-ups, HCL is a pioneer of modern computing with many firsts to its credit, including the introduction of the 8-bit microprocessor-based computer in 1978 well before its global peers. Today, the HCL Group has business presence across sectors including technology and healthcare and comprises three group companies –HCL Technologies, HCL Infosystems and HCL Healthcare. The Group generates annual revenues of over US\$11.5 billion with more than 209,000 employees operating across 52 countries.

The Group also includes one of India’s most prolific philanthropic foundations – the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Established in 1994, the Foundation is committed to the creation of a more equitable, merit-based society by empowering individuals through transformational education. Over the last 27 years, it has invested over US\$1billion in seven landmark institutions and initiatives across education and art. The Habitats Trust, also a philanthropic Foundation within the HCL Group, specifically works towards protecting natural habitats and their indigenous species of flora and fauna. Established in 2018, the young foundation is undertaking important initiatives that will help secure a positive future for wild species and their habitats.

HCL Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of HCL, has instituted flagship programs and initiatives to contribute towards SDGs. Its work is helping bring about lasting positive impact on the people and planet, through long-term sustainable programs, and ensure equitable access, opportunities, and holistic development for all.

For further information, visit www.hcl.com

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