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2015 HERO AWARD WINNER

ASANA (FRIENDS OF NATURE, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST, COSTA RICA) IS NAMED BEST NON-PROFIT ACT

*ASANA to be Presented Award by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel in Monte Carlo
14 June 2015*

Dominical, Osa, Costa Rica – 21 June 2015 – The PeaceJam Foundation's "One Billion Acts of Peace" campaign officially awarded ASANA (Friends of Nature, Central and Southern Pacific Coast, Costa Rica) the 2015 Hero Award for outstanding service in the Best Non-Profit Act category.

The Hero Awards campaign, which boasts supporters like His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is designed to inspire average citizens around the world to work together to create one billion high quality projects that address the most important issues facing humanity, such as rights for women and children, access to clean water for all, global climate change and alleviating extreme poverty. All of the high quality projects nominated for this award address one of these core issue areas.

Being recognized with a Hero Award is one of the highest accolades for service in helping to drive positive change. The awards are for outstanding service that has literally changed the world.

"Our judges recognized ASANA as a true agent of change in helping to solve some of the biggest global issues around the world," said Dawn Engle, executive director of the Hero Awards and co-founder of PeaceJam. ASANA has led the establishment and management of one of Costa Rica's biggest and most successful biological corridors – The Path of the Tapir. It has also led efforts to establish the Savegre River Watershed Biosphere Area. Taken together, these two areas represent some of Costa Rica's highest priority habitat to conserve biodiversity and combat climate change. Working with the Costa Rican government, and local communities, other non-profits, and businesses, ASANA has been able to mobilize support to ensure the long-term conservation of these unique areas not only for their intrinsic value, but also to continue meeting the needs of local residents.

Winners were announced on May 21 and will be officially recognized at the Hero Award ceremony on June 14, 2015 in Monte Carlo. This year's award ceremony will be led by Nobel Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel of Argentina, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980 for his leadership for human rights and true democracy for the people of Latin America.

For more information on the Hero Awards and winning projects, visit:

<http://www.1billionacts.org/hero-awards/>



About PeaceJam

The PeaceJam Foundation is an international organization whose mission is to create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates who pass on their spirit, skills and wisdom. The PeaceJam Foundation was launched in February 1996 by co-founders Dawn Engle and Ivan Suvanjiëff to provide the Nobel Peace Laureates with a programmatic vehicle to use in working together to teach youth the art of peace. To date, 13 Nobel Peace Laureates, including the 14th Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, President Oscar Arias, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Betty Williams, José Ramos-Horta, Aung San Suu Kyi, Sir Joseph Rotblat (Emeritus), Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee serve as Members of the PeaceJam Foundation.