



**Championing  
Biodiversity  
Conservation in  
the ASEAN  
Region**



Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, is the variety of life on Earth – from the smallest microorganism to the biggest mammal. Biodiversity is called the “Web of Life” as it encompasses all species and their interaction among themselves and with their habitats which we call ecosystems. Biodiversity and ecosystems provide us with air, water and food; materials for clothing, medicine and shelter; livelihood; and a host of services that are basic to human survival. This “Web of Life”, however, is fast becoming endangered.

## Biodiversity in the ASEAN Region

The ASEAN Region occupies only three percent of the world’s total land area, but it is home to 19 percent of all plant and animal species assessed by the IUCN (*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2012.2*).

The region has three of the 17 known mega-diverse countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines), but it has four of the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots (Indo-Burma, the Philippines, Sundaland, and Wallacea).

The ASEAN region is home to 28 percent (almost 70,000 square kilometers) of all known coral reef areas. About 95 percent are at risk from local threats, with almost half in the high and very high threat categories (*Burke, et.al, 2011*).

Out of 14,760 species assessed in the region, 3,077 are threatened (*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2016-1*).

The ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) continue to lose many of their plant and animal species due to climate change, deforestation, habitat change, illegal wildlife trade, pollution, invasive alien species, habitat conversion, overexploitation, population growth, irresponsible human activities, and other drivers of biodiversity loss.



## Who Manages ACB

The Centre is managed by a Governing Board, which is composed of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) and the ASEAN Secretary General. Headed by the Chairman of the ASOEN, the Governing Board has overall responsibility and accountability for the operations of the ACB.

The ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity provides technical guidance to The ACB by recommending the key areas of focus for its work.

The ACB is headed by an Executive Director who is assisted by highly skilled professionals with international and national experiences in the areas of environment and biodiversity conservation, policy and programme development and coordination, finance and administration, information and knowledge management, and communication.



## Who We Are

The **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)**, established in 2005, is ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss. It is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and with regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures. The Philippines serves as the host country of the ACB.

## Our Vision

An ASEAN region whose biodiversity is conserved, sustainably managed and used, and equitably shared for the well-being of its peoples.

## Our Mission

To effectively facilitate regional cooperation and deliver capacity building services to the AMS in conserving biodiversity.

## Our Goals

- Facilitate coordination and cooperation on regional biodiversity conservation programs.
- Deliver capacity-building services.
- Develop regional mechanisms to sustainably manage and protect biodiversity and ecosystems and strengthen ASEAN regional positions in negotiations and in compliance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
- Impart and deliver to AMS the knowledge and tools on managing biodiversity.
- Enhance the linkage between science and policy on biodiversity.
- Promote multi-stakeholder and leadership awareness of the values of biodiversity and the actions they can take to conserve it.
- Undertake resource generation and mobilization measures for impact activities that will enhance biodiversity conservation in the region.
- Enhance the ACB's capacity and sustainability as a regional centre of excellence on biodiversity.

## What We Do

- ASEAN-EU Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project
- German Cooperation (CARE4BioDiv Programme)
  - Small Grants Programme (SGP)
  - Biodiversity-Based Products (BBP) as an Economic Source for the Improvement of Livelihoods and Biodiversity Protection
  - Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN (ISB)
- Access and Benefit Sharing (ASEAN-India Partnership)
- Global Taxonomy Initiative (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Projects)
- Invasive Alien Species
- ASEAN Heritage Parks: The Best Protected Areas in the ASEAN Region
- ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook (ABO)
- Biodiversity Information Management
- ASEAN CHM: One-Stop Shop for Biodiversity Information in Southeast Asia
- Business and Biodiversity
- ACB Resource Mobilization Strategies
- ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP)
- ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes
- ACB Experiential Learning Programme
- ACB Internship Programme



For more information, log on to  
**[www.aseanbiodiversity.org](http://www.aseanbiodiversity.org)** or  
**[chm.aseanbiodiversity.org](http://chm.aseanbiodiversity.org)**

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