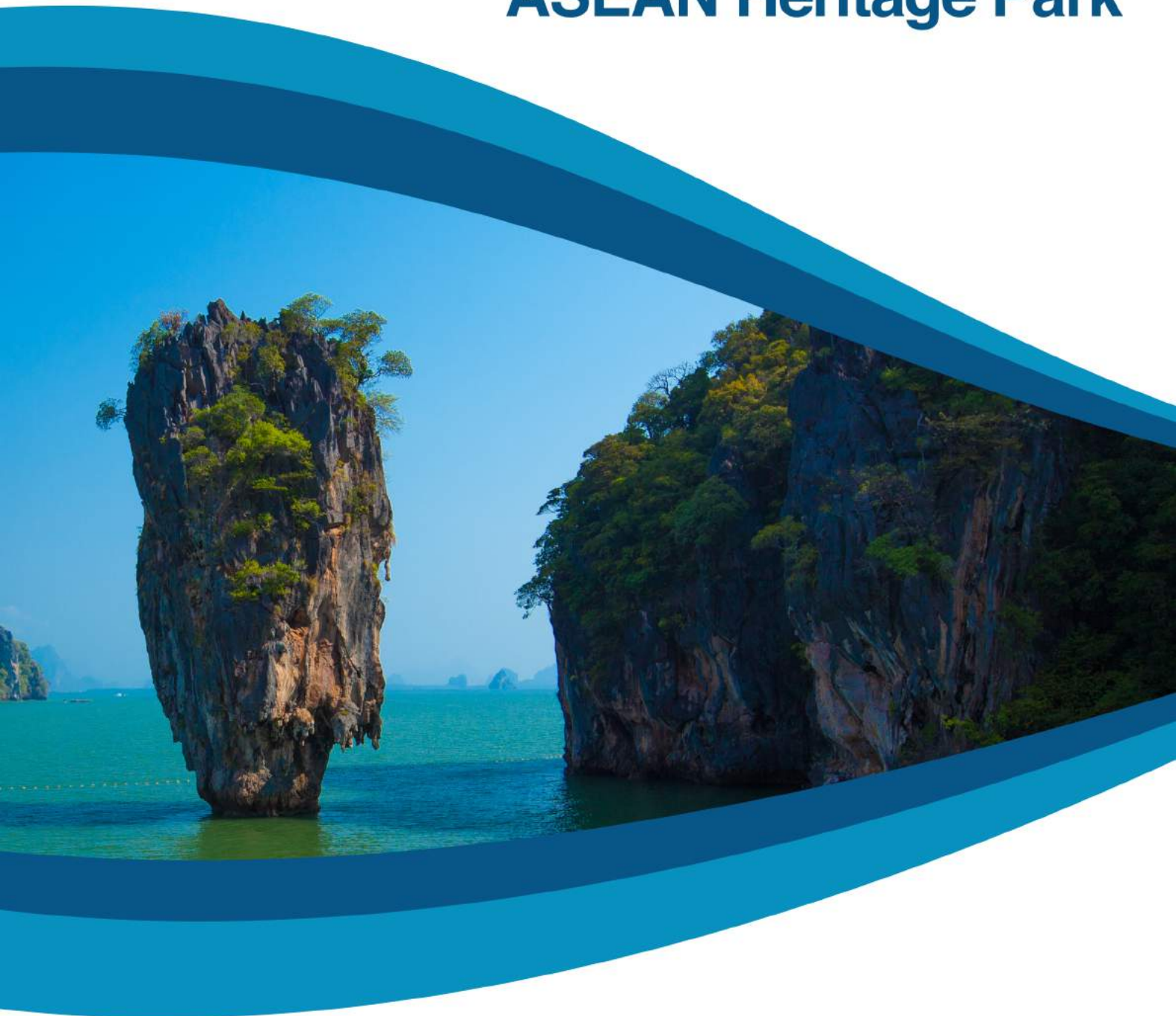




The ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme
**How to Nominate an
ASEAN Heritage Park**





How to Nominate an ASEAN Heritage Park

The ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) Programme is a flagship initiative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that manages a regional network of representative protected areas created to generate greater collaboration between ASEAN Member States in preserving their shared natural heritage.

The AHP Programme started in 1984 when the first 11 ASEAN Heritage Parks were declared by the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The declaration recognized "the uniqueness, diversity and outstanding values of certain national parks and reserves of ASEAN Member States that deserve the highest recognition so that their importance as conservation areas could be appreciated regionally and internationally". The declaration stated that the ASEAN Heritage Parks "shall be managed to maintain ecological processes and life support systems; preserve genetic diversity; ensure sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems; and maintain wilderness that have scenic, cultural, educational, research, recreational and tourism values".

The ASEAN Heritage Parks are "protected areas of high conservation importance, preserving in total a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems of the ASEAN region". ACB acts as Secretariat of the AHP Programme. As of 2013, there are 33 ASEAN Heritage Parks in the entire Southeast Asia.

Nomination Procedures

The nomination procedures start in the ASEAN Member State where the concerned national agency/ministry identifies a protected area for nomination as an ASEAN Heritage Park. The agency/ministry prepares the required documents and submits them to the National Contact Point (NCP) of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). The NCP evaluates and ensures that the nomination meets all criteria and documentary requirements, and then endorses the nomination to ACB as the Secretariat of the AHP Programme.

ACB evaluates the nomination and if it qualifies, an evaluation report and recommendation will be submitted to the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) or ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME). The AWG concerned will further evaluate the nomination and recommends the qualified nomination to the ASEAN Senior Officials of the Environment (ASOEN) Meeting for endorsement to the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on the Environment (AMME), where it is approved for declaration as an ASEAN Heritage Park.

Criteria

- 1. ECOLOGICAL COMPLETENESS.** The site demonstrates a wholesome ecological process and the capability to regenerate with minimal human intervention.
- 2. REPRESENTATIVENESS.** The site embodies a variety of ecosystems or species representing or typical of the particular region.
- 3. NATURALNESS.** The site, for the most part, is in a natural condition.
- 4. HIGH CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE.** The site has regional significance for the conservation of important or valuable species, ecosystems or genetic resources. It creates or promotes awareness of the importance of nature, biodiversity, and the ecological process. The site evokes respect for nature when people see it and a feeling of loss whenever the natural condition is lost.
- 5. LEGALLY GAZETTED CONSERVATION AREAS.** The site, primarily designated as a protected area with well-define boundaries, has been identified, defined, and designated by law or any legally accepted instrument of an ASEAN Member State.
- 6. APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN.** The site has a management plan duly approved by the concerned agency/ministry of the ASEAN Member State.
- 7. TRANSBOUNDARY.** The site plays a role in the natural processes that contribute to the maintenance of species or ecosystems that often goes beyond natural boundaries.
- 8. UNIQUENESS.** The site possesses special features that are not seen in other sites.
- 9. HIGH ETHNO-BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE.** The site demonstrates harmonious relationships between culture and ecology.
- 10. IMPORTANCE FOR SPECIES.** The site could provide habitats for important or endangered flora and fauna.

The nomination must contain detailed information on each of the elements of the criteria, including the following information:

1. Details of legal gazettelement
2. Details of size, together with a location map of the site
3. Details of land ownership and use rights within the site
4. Description and map of the natural vegetation of the site, including description of the main features of each vegetation type
5. Description of physical details such as geology, hydrology, soils and climate
6. Description and list of fauna and flora of special interest
7. Description of special cultural sites, customs or prehistoric remains of the site
8. Review of the potential of the site for educational, research and recreational uses
9. Details of human use levels in the site
10. Details of current management facilities and staff
11. Summary of Management Plan for the site
12. Independent evidence of high conservation importance of the site (recognition in international reviews, e.g. recognized biodiversity hotspot, centre of endemism or recognized in Protected Area Systems Review of Indo-Malayan Realm, or in International Union for Conservation of Nature-WCPA or equivalent body reviews as a site of international significance)
13. Argument as to why the site should be regarded as the best example of the particular ecosystem/s that it contains
14. Photographs, illustrations, maps, etc. to back up the descriptions

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