

## ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, 16 Oct 2013, SBSTTA17 am session

Thank you, Madamme Chair.

As this is the first time we are taking the floor, we are providing our intervention on strategic Goal D and later will provide our statements related to the other Goals and the role of ACB as a regional organization that supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets.

On Strategic Goal D (*Enhance benefits of all from biodiversity and ecosystems services*), **Target 16**, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity continues to support ASEAN Member States in developing national roadmaps on access and benefit sharing, towards national ABS framework and policies. Our Centre has conducted a series of capacity building workshops for ASEAN stakeholders (with support from UNEP GEF and in partnership with UNU-IAS and ASEAN Secretariat) to understand the Nagoya Protocol, raise understanding of the procedural aspects of Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), and issues such as ownership of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

We will continue to undertake this in the ASEAN region to facilitate addressing capacity constraints to implement the Nagoya Protocol and contribute to achieving the third objective of the CBD, on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to help document and protect traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and its interface with science and policy development.

ACB, through the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, has likewise been supporting initiatives on biodiversity and climate change (in support of Target 15) through German Cooperation with ASEAN, to increase resilience of protected areas to adapt to climate change. Soon, we will embark on providing on the ground interventions through the Small Grants Programme

(in support of Target 14) to support biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in selected ASEAN Heritage Parks and adjacent areas.

ACB, together with other regional organizations and partners such as PEMSEA, is embarking on an initiative that will identify a regional network of marine protected areas intended to increase the resilience of coastal and marine environments of the region.

**On our General Statement and statement to share our experiences on the other Goals, Madame Chair,**

On Strategic Goal A, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity has established a regional clearing house mechanism to enable sharing of biodiversity data in the region. ACB likewise assists the development of national CHMs in the region by facilitating stakeholder meetings, orientation of CHM managers and staff on their roles in data organization. ACB's participation in GBIF and GEOBON has enabled the preparation and availability of tools to expedite data curation in the region. Since 2010, ACB has established the species and protected areas database structures with some 25,000 unique species entries including detailed descriptions and maps of all 33 ASEAN Heritage Parks.

As an intergovernmental organization mandated to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Member States on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, our Centre has likewise continued to promote public leadership and awareness of the values of biodiversity. This was done through key CEPA programs engaging various stakeholders, such as the ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity where business, media and youth groups were recognized as Champions of Biodiversity in ASEAN region in ACB's first awarding in 2011 and which we continue to undertake for the next rounds of finding champions to lead the cause of reducing the loss of biodiversity for sustainable development.

On strategic Goal B, Target 11, The ASEAN region has declared 33 ASEAN Heritage Parks, sites of unique biodiversity and cultural significance to ASEAN people. We recently concluded the 4th ASEAN Heritage Parks conference which highlighted the need to further support the park managers

and key stakeholders to address their capacity constraints to enable effective conservation and management measures and provide benefits, through livelihood opportunities to indigenous and local communities in and around these heritage parks. The AHP Conference likewise highlighted the need to promote these parks as ecotourism destinations to increase sources of support to effectively manage these protected areas and support local communities. Also highlighted in the AHP Conference is the need to provide more focus on conservation of aquatic ecosystems, in particular of inland and peatland ecosystems.

Our Centre has likewise facilitated a number of regional workshops to address capacity constraints in ASEAN related to the Global Taxonomic Initiative and Invasive Alien Species management, including economic valuation and payment for ecosystems services, among others.

Next year, in August 2014, ACB will conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (ACB2014) to provide a venue for AMS and partners to discuss and take collective and bolder actions to implement the CBD Strategic Plan in the ASEAN region. ACB has mobilized the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook (ABO-2) for 2015, which will assess the state of biodiversity in the ASEAN region and present ACB's policy analysis and programme response to achieve the Aichi Targets

Our Centre stands ready to provide support to the ASEAN Member States, through new partnerships to further carry out the Strategic Plan and achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.