



**ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT ON BIODIVERSITY
TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

UPHOLDING the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, in particular the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan, which advances a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN and strengthens regional cooperation towards biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience, and sustainable development;

REAFFIRMING our commitment towards the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), particularly through the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan (ABP) and our respective updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or equivalent action plans and initiatives, including the contributions of ASEAN Member States to the Global Review on Collective Progress in the implementation of the KMGBF;

REITERATING our commitment to implement ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions to protect, restore, and enhance the integrity, connectivity, and resilience of ecosystems, halt human-induced species extinction, and safeguard genetic diversity, while ensuring the sustainable use and management of biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people, including fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources in support of sustainable development for present and future generations;

ENVISIONING a resilient and connected ASEAN region underpinned by healthy terrestrial and marine biodiversity, where the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources, including digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge, contributes to conservation and sustainable use, in line with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing frameworks;

RECOGNISING that mainstreaming biodiversity across relevant sectors provides a multitude of opportunities for livelihoods and sustainable economic development;

REITERATING the importance of strengthening means of implementation through enhanced regional cooperation, including financial resources, capacity-building, and technical and scientific collaboration.

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in mobilising resources, including through the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, to support the implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan (ABP) and ASEAN Member States' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the ACB as a Regional and Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre for Asia in promoting and facilitating, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and the effective utilisation of science, technology, and innovation to implement the KMGBF;

FURTHER EMPHASISING the importance of strengthened cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration, in line with regional efforts to address development gaps and advance a sustainable development agenda towards an inclusive, participatory, and resilient ASEAN Community where no one is left behind;

DO HEREBY AGREE to undertake the following with the support of and in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity:

SCALE UP our efforts to fulfil Goal A of the KMGBF to ensure that the integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, through ASEAN flagship programmes and regional frameworks, such as the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, ASEAN Green Initiative, ASEAN Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species Management, and the development of the Conservation Action Plan for Threatened Vertebrate Species in the ASEAN Region;

STRENGTHEN the realisation of Goal B of the KMGBF, through sustainable management practices across ASEAN's natural resource sectors, integrating the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into national planning, and enhancing urban green and blue spaces. This will be supported, for example, by the Small Grants Programme by the ACB, the ASEAN Work Programme on Urban Biodiversity and Greenery, and the newly established ASEAN Urban Wetlands Network;

ADVANCE the attainment of Goal C by strengthening measures that support the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including digital sequence information (DSI), and associated traditional knowledge, through the maintenance of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, and the integration of traditional knowledge systems in ASEAN projects;

ACCELERATE efforts to achieve Goal D of the KMGBF to ensure adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, access to and transfer of technology, communication, and knowledge management through the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, ASEAN Clearing-House

Mechanism, ASEAN Biodiversity Dashboard, ASEAN Flyway Network, ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes, and ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme;

CALL UPON THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO:

ENHANCE the capacity of ASEAN Member States in national monitoring and reporting, in line with decision 16/31, and streamline online reporting tools, ensuring they are simple, user-friendly, interoperable, and with timely and explicit guidance on data format requirements, for Parties to efficiently track, assess, and report on their national progress without compromising data quality or diverting scarce resources from implementation on the ground.

CALL UPON THE PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES, TO:

FULFILL their commitment to Target 19 of the KMGBF, in particular, to increase total biodiversity-related international finance resources to USD 30 billion per year by 2030, while highlighting the urgent need for a predictable biodiversity finance plan, as well as funding that is adequate, predictable, and easily accessible, including through more accommodating approval processes to ensure timely access for eligible parties, such as under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

ENABLE the development, transfer, and application of biodiversity-related technologies and innovations, including biotechnology with adequate safeguards, while recognising locally developed solutions and indigenous technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior, and informed consent, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing arising from the use of DSI, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments;

SUPPORT enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels, including transboundary cooperation, and recognise that technical and scientific cooperation is a critical mechanism for supporting the effective implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the Framework, emphasising that continuous monitoring and evaluation of these cooperation mechanisms are critical to ensure their effectiveness in supporting the NBSAPs, while leveraging regional and international partnerships to promote mutual learning and knowledge exchange among Parties.

ADOPTED on the Fourteenth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.