REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH, SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA ON UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Xi’an, China, 9-16 May 2011
The ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook (ABO) is a modest attempt to show how the ASEAN countries are faring in achieving the biodiversity target by capturing and presenting the progress made by the 10 member states.

The outlook is envisioned as a tool to generate awareness on the status of biodiversity in the region, the obstacles faced by countries in their efforts to conserve biodiversity, and the next steps that have to be undertaken to fare better.
The ASEAN BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK Framework

DRIVERS of biodiversity loss

Simultaneous impact could intensify pressures

Appropriate response could alleviate the drivers

Policy RESPONSES

PRESSURES upon biodiversity

Intensity and expanse of pressure defines the state

Conditions could elicit the response

STATE of biodiversity
The ASEAN BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK Outline

Responding to the challenges of Biodiversity conservation: the ASEAN approach

Drivers

Pressures

State of Ecosystem

Impacts

Protected areas: Conserving the last frontier

ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network

ASEAN Capacity for Taxonomy

ASEAN Framework Agreement on ABS

ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint

Fulfilling ASEAN commitments to the MEAS

Establishment of ACB

BISS, CHM, and awareness raising partnerships
The Relevance of Southeast Asia’s Biodiversity

Occupies only 3% of the earth’s surface but...

Home to 3 mega diverse countries
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Philippines

Spans several biogeographical units
- Malesia
- Wallacea
- Sundaland
- Indo-Burma
- Central Indo-Pacific

Home to 18% of plants and animal species assessed by IUCN

Has 1/3 of the coral reef areas in the world
The Southeast Asia Region: Confronted with massive habitat and species loss

Four of the world’s 34 biodiversity hotspots

2,517 out of the 47,915 species are threatened, as assessed by IUCN
The 2010 Biodiversity Target: How did the ASEAN region fare?

Achieved progress in:

- expanding coverage of terrestrial and marine protected areas
- network of protected areas (i.e. ASEAN Heritage Parks)
- developing capacities and expanding the network of wildlife law enforcers

Remains slow in:

- preventing invasive alien species
- addressing the impact of biodiversity to species and ecosystems
- abating pollution and exploitation of forests and wetlands
Drivers and Pressure Points
Habitat Change

Forest (terrestrial and mangroves) conversion

Infrastructure development

Forest fires

Marine and coastal habitats modified through the use of destructive fishing gear and practices

Use of explosives

Use of bottom trawls

Hotels, Housing

Roads

Large scale planting of high value crops

Large scale intensive coastal aquaculture
Invasive Alien Species

Intentional introductions
- Import of species to increase food production (e.g. Aquaculture industry)
- Aquarium industry

Unintended introductions
- Ballast water
- Hitch hikers
Over-exploitation

- Over-exploitation
- Overharvesting for natural stocks
- Hunting for bush meat
- Wildlife trade
- IUU Fishing
- Poaching
- Use of destructive means of fishing
- Overfishing
Pollution

- Industrial waste
- Domestic waste
- Agriculture
- Livestock waste
- Insecticide/fertilizer run-off
- Increase in CO₂
- Climate change
- Ocean acidification
- Temperature increase
- Variability in precipitation
- Sea level rise
The State of ASEAN Biodiversity

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS: An overdrawn natural wealth
AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS: An emerging hotspot
PEATLANDS: An increasingly valuable ecosystem
INLAND WATERS: The next flashpoint
MANGROVES: A critical support ecosystem
CORAL REEFS: The marine forest
SEAGRASSES: The least understood of the coastal canaries
FOREST ECOSYSTEMS: An overdrawn natural wealth

Increasing per capita consumption of forest products

Decreasing forest area

Wood-based panels

Paper and paper board

Critical pressure points

- Logging and timber harvesting
- Fires
- Conversion for agricultural use, human settlement and infrastructure development
- Mining and mineral resource extraction
- Invasive alien species
- Poaching/illegal wildlife trade
- Slash and burn farming
AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS: An emerging hotspot

Increasing trends in production and consumption of major agricultural commodity products

- Eggs
- Milk
- Meat
- Cereals
- Vegetables
- Fruits

8% of the major livestock breeds extant in the ASEAN region are at risk

Critical pressure points
- Replacement of indigenous varieties/breeds
- Globalization of agricultural products
- Habitat destruction
- Pest infestation and diseases

Increasing trends in trade of agricultural products
PEATLANDS: An increasingly valuable ecosystem

- About 250,000 sq. m. of peatlands, (60% of the world’s tropical peatlands, and about 1/10 of the total global peatland resource)

- Majority of the peatlands located in Indonesia, which has over 70% of the total peatland cover of Southeast Asia

Critical pressure points:

- Conversion for human activities (e.g. oil palm plantation)
- Vulnerability from fires
- Climate change
INLAND WATERS: The next flashpoint

- Indo-Malaya Realm and the Australasia Realm
- Indo-Malaya Realm has 29 freshwater ecoregions
- Australasia Realm has three freshwater ecoregions with tropical and subtropical coastal rivers located in Sulawesi and the East Timor subregion

Critical pressure points:
- Land conversion for infrastructure development
- Highly dense population
MANGROVES: A critical support ecosystem

- Mangroves occupy over 60,000 sq. km.

- Decreasing trend in the size of mangrove areas all over Southeast Asia

- Critical pressure points:
  - deforestation due to domestic demand for fuel and materials for housing
  - conversion of mangrove forests to either fish or prawn ponds for commercial consumption

- Home to 52 true mangrove species; two are listed as critically endangered and endangered
CORAL REEFS: The marine forest

- spans 86,025 square kilometers
- accounts for 1/3 of the global total, which is 11 times larger than the aggregate coral reef area of China, India and Japan
- hard coral diversity high in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam, where a total of almost 600 species may be found
CORAL REEFS: The marine forest

Critical pressure points
SEAGRASSES: The least understood of the coastal canaries

- 18 of the world’s 60 seagrass species
- 129 and 33 % of all seagrass areas on earth
- Seagrass areas cover a range from 46,748 to 58,071 square kilometers

Critical pressure points:

- Bottom-trawling
- Extensive coastline destruction and modification
- Decline in coastal water quality
- Human-induced development
10% Target for Seagrass Conservation in ASEAN was not met

Sources:
Responding to the Challenges of Biodiversity Conservation: The ASEAN Approach
Protected Areas: Conserving the last frontiers

Designated protected areas have increased by 98 per cent in terms of area, and by 89 per cent in terms of number.

792 KBAs identified in the ASEAN region

Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) where vast marine resources exist
Protected Areas: Conserving the last Frontiers

- Establishment of 28 ASEAN Heritage Parks
- The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security
- Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion
- The Heart of Borneo Initiative
- Greater Mekong Subregion

Transboundary Protected Areas Initiative
- Transboundary Management in the Heart of Borneo
- Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area
- Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion
- Transboundary Law Enforcement: ASEAN-WEN
ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network

- World’s largest wildlife enforcement network
- Integrated network of law enforcement agencies (CITES authorities, customs, police, prosecutors, specialized governmental wildlife-law enforcement organizations, and other relevant national law enforcement agencies)

Building ASEAN’s Capacity on Taxonomy

Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Project

- Aims to develop and enhance capacities in taxonomic knowledge for strengthening scientific bases in decision-making which are vital for environmental governance, business and technological developments.
ASEAN Framework Agreement on Access and Benefit Sharing

- acknowledges the need to ensure the uniformity and consistency of regulations on access to genetic resources and its equitable benefit sharing in the ASEAN region
- recognizes that access to biological and genetic resources are currently unregulated – thus, the urgent need to protect ASEAN interests against biopiracy, as provided for in the CBD
The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint: Ensuring environmental sustainability

Ensuring environmental sustainability while aggressively pursuing economic development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Roadmap for an ASEAN Community

- sustainable management and conservation of forest, soil, water, coastal and marine resources
- improvement of water and air quality
- active participation of the ASEAN to address global environmental issues such as climate change, ozone layer protection and the promotion of environmentally sound technologies
The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Promoting the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity
Joint Research/Initiatives on Biodiversity

- Supports worthy biodiversity research and policy initiatives from ASEAN-based research, academic, and both non-government and government institutions and agencies.

Course Programmes for Protected Area Workers

- Aims to enhance human capacities and institutional building initiatives in the region.
Biodiversity Information Sharing Service
A web-based information sharing platform for the ASEAN Member States on biodiversity information
Clearing House Mechanism for Southeast Asia

A single entry point to regional biodiversity information and the national CHM websites of the ASEAN Member States

Welcome to ASEAN’s Biodiversity Information Gateway

Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) is envisioned to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders; develop a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and develop the necessary human and technological network. Parties to the Convention are to comply with this provision and should establish their national CHMs.

Likewise, relevant partners are encouraged to contribute to the establishment of regional, sub-regional or thematic clearing-house mechanisms, with a view to provide support to national clearing-house mechanisms, to share knowledge and to facilitate cooperation on science and innovation as well as the transfer of technology.

The ASEAN regional Clearing House Mechanism for biodiversity information (ASEAN CHM) will facilitate consolidation, access, analysis and promotion of regional biodiversity information, issues and initiatives of the ASEAN Member States (AMS).

The ASEAN CHM is envisioned to capture, organize and harmonize the common information that is publicly available in the CHMs of the AMS and provide the regional overview of biodiversity information. It will contain the following features:

1. Links to the CHM sites of the AMS news and events;
2. Publications;
3. Links to other relevant sites and databases like Biodiversity Information Sharing Service (BISS);
4. Tools like RSS, Report Net, Search, Policy tools, brokering, aggregation, communities of practice tools, early warning system (EWS) DSS and maps; and
5. Use of other technologies.

The ASEAN CHM forms a key component of the digital knowledge management initiative of ACB and will provide the primary access and single portal to all AMS biodiversity information resources and applications.

The ASEAN CHM will fully support the Convention’s thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work by promoting cooperation, supporting exchange of information, and developing a regional network of partners on biodiversity.
Moving Forward
Learning from Lessons Past:
The ASEAN Experience
Sustaining current efforts on ecosystems approach to biodiversity conservation: capitalizing on political support to large regional programmes

Taking pride on the natural and cultural heritage of the ASEAN Member States: sustaining the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme
➢ Preaching to the unconverted: engaging a greater number of biodiversity stakeholders in conservation initiatives and mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral development plans

➢ Valuing biodiversity and ecosystems services: translating biodiversity into economic terms
- Access and Benefit sharing: learning from global negotiations

- The business of biodiversity: engaging the private sector to invest in ecosystems services

- Championing biodiversity: communicating and educating society at large