



**ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT
TO THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD COP 13)**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of 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 and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the occasion of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 6 September 2016;

RECOGNISING ASEAN's rich biodiversity is important in providing ecosystem services such as food, water, climate regulation, soil formation, recreation and education which contribute to the region's socio-economic well-being;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular Goals 14 and 15 on the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, and terrestrial ecosystems respectively;

RECALLING our commitments to the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, in particular to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025; and the Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda;

RECOGNISING that concerted efforts are required to address the challenges of biodiversity conservation and the impacts of climate change in the region, and inclusive green growth/ low carbon strategies would promote sustainable management practices of industries and reduce the threats to biodiversity;

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in facilitating cooperation among the ASEAN Member States, and with other national governments, regional and international organisations to achieve the three objectives of the Convention;

WELCOMING the recommendations of the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity with the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" held on 15-19 February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand which included the need to accelerate actions, mainstream biodiversity issues, strengthen partnerships and increase financing to address the region's biodiversity-related challenges;

NOTING the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services aims to strengthen the science-policy interface through assessing the state of the world's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the services they provide and the development of knowledge and policy support tools;

NOTING that the theme for CBD COP13 from 4-17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico is "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being"

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

Accelerate efforts to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020; and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of support from the Global Environmental Facility and other possible sources of funding to implement the ASEAN Member States' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

Enhance regional cooperation and partnerships to support national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its SDGs and targets in particular, Goals 14 and 15 for sustainable development in the region; as well as to support other biodiversity-related multi-lateral agreements and frameworks;

Recognise the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into relevant national, sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies and sectoral plans; and call upon Parties to the CBD, other Governments and relevant organisations to share their experiences and practices to mainstream biodiversity;

Strengthen efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on conserving areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services to ensure that the region's natural capital is sustained to deliver the ecosystem benefits essential for its well-being through for example, enhancing the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme and cooperation with other regional transboundary initiatives;

Enhance actions to address climate change impacts by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and minimise activities that may increase the vulnerability and reduce the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems;

Improve actions to address the threat of invasive alien species, including identifying pathways of introduction through among others, sharing of experiences and lessons learned, capacity development and partnerships;

Promote the effective implementation of legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit sharing to support the third objective of the Convention, as appropriate;

Promote cooperation on species conservation and wildlife management, ecosystem restoration and where relevant, agricultural biodiversity, health and biodiversity and urban biodiversity to further support mainstreaming of biodiversity activities in the region;

Support collaborative efforts to address transboundary conservation challenges including trafficking of wildlife and timber, through for example the ASEAN Working Group on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network;

Enhance actions to implement national and regional communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies, including engagement with the public and private sectors, local communities, youth and women, to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 1;

Urge developed Parties to the CBD, other Governments and relevant organisations to provide adequate financial and technical resources to complement national efforts to implement the NBSAPs, especially to support capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation, to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao PDR on the Sixth day of September in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen.
