



ANNUAL REPORT
IUCN ASIA 2016

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

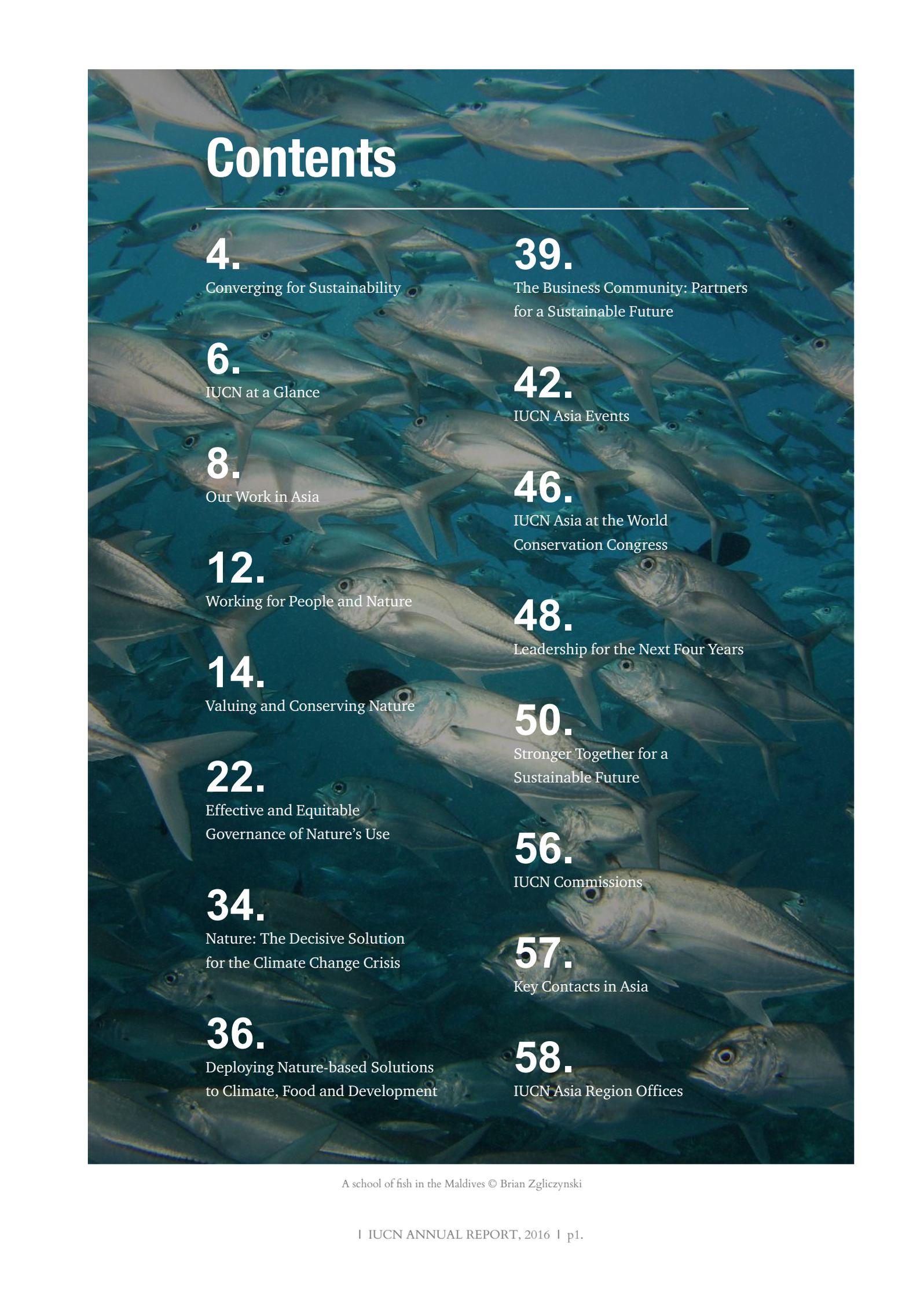
Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources, and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 16,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org/asia

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A school of fish in the Maldives © Brian Zgliczynski





Converging for Sustainability

Foreword by Prof. Ma Keping and Aban Marker Kabraji

2016 has once again brought us unprecedented global socioeconomic growth. While this has resulted in numerous benefits, including increased food security, employment, and improved standards of living, this progress comes with a grim price tag: our ecosystems are degrading – rapidly – and the evidence is overwhelming.

Global temperatures were the highest on record in 2016, preceded by 2015 and 2014 respectively. Half of the world's wildlife has been lost since the 1970s, and the world is set on a collision course with the stark reality of a 1 - 1.5 degrees centigrade increase in average global temperatures.

In Asia, rates of mangrove, wetland and forest losses are among the highest in the world. Almost all of the Southeast Asian coral reefs are at risk of irreparable damage. Nearly 1,400 plants and animals in the region are now listed as Endangered and Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The top five sources of marine plastic waste pollution are countries in Asia. China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam are responsible for 60% of that pollution, a number that may rise to 80% by 2025. At current estimates, there will be one tonne of plastic for every three tonnes of fish by 2025, and by 2050, the hundreds of millions of tonnes of plastic in the ocean will outweigh the entire biomass of fish if the situation remains unchecked.

But as the challenges that lie ahead may appear daunting, recent developments - such as the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 - fuel our efforts with the simple yet fundamental idea that the fate of our future lies in our hands.

The adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda is an integral milestone, as it holistically incorporates the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The Paris Agreement on climate change also came into force in 2016, bringing all nations into a common cause to undertake the ambitious efforts to combat climate change.

The past year was a fundamentally important one for us here at IUCN. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which is held once every four years and which took place in Hawai'i last September, the IUCN Membership unanimously adopted the Union's programme for 2017-2020 as a results-based programme directly aligned with the SDGs. The programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat, with and on-behalf-of IUCN Members.

The Hawai'i Congress was the largest one to be organised to date, and reaffirmed IUCN's position as the most powerful convening body in the realm of conservation.

Out of 10,000 participants, 2,144 were from IUCN Member organisations, and 391 of them came from Asia – the highest number ever to come from our region at any Congress.

The Hawai'i Congress asserted IUCN Asia's commitment to working with – as well as bringing together – all Member States in the Asian region, along with a myriad of partner institutions and IUCN Commissions to support progress on key sustainable development targets and to assist with the adoption of the SDGs framework at the regional and national levels. IUCN has already begun work in this area by collaborating with other international development organisations, and by supporting a number of countries with developing action plans rooted in the synergies between their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, biodiversity-related international conventions, and the SDGs.

At the regional level, global leaders came together at the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade last November in Viet Nam, with the goal of eradicating illegal wildlife trade and ensuring the protection of



Prof. Ma Keping

Chair, IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee

endangered wildlife from the looming threat of extinction. With its President Mr Zhang Xinsheng making a powerful statement at the event, IUCN reaffirmed, once again, its commitment to turning the tables on illegal wildlife trade.

Here at IUCN, nature-based solutions have long been regarded as the decisive solution to the existential climate change crisis. As you will read in the following pages, IUCN Asia has continued to work closely with its Members to implement the type of initiatives that effectively utilise the natural functions of ecosystems to combat climate change, while at the same time furthering socio-economic development agendas.

The Asia Regional Members Committee of IUCN Members in Asia (ARMC) has also been instrumental in providing strategic guidance to the Union in Asia, particularly in terms of contributing towards the development of IUCN's Programme for 2017-2020

In response to Resolution-010 adopted at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress, a programmatic strategy for strengthening the presence of IUCN in Asia is now being developed, through consultations with Members and Commissions in Asia. The strategy presents a clear direction for the Union in Asia to lead in areas that require specific conservation action, both thematically and geographically.

By building a collaborative platform for multiple stakeholders who work together locally, nationally and regionally, and by promoting investments in coastal ecosystems, IUCN Asia's Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative has shown that nature-based solutions can effectively support sustainable development. Now in its 12th year, the programme continues to provide support to 11 countries across Asia and the Indian Ocean, in the form of hundreds of small grant projects that harness the natural functions of ecosystems, and that contribute to improved coastal conservation practices at the local, national and regional levels. MFF also instituted waste management as an important component in its programme, to tackle the growing problem of waste pollution in our oceans.



Aban Marker Krabajj

Regional Director, IUCN Asia

Through the BRIDGE (Building River Dialogue and Governance) programme, IUCN Asia has continued to play a pivotal role in addressing integrated trans-boundary water resource- management efforts, by harnessing its strength as a convening body to bring together governments, international organizations and civil society institutions to address the conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems in Asia.

IUCN Asia also continued to work with a number of member countries to reiterate and put into action their commitments to the Bonn Challenge, specifically in relation to the restoration of forests.

As our world's environmental challenges become more complex, both the public and private sectors are becoming more active in conserving our natural resources. The private sector, in particular, has been increasingly involved in using nature's infrastructure sustainably in their business practices. In this connection, IUCN Asia has continued to work relentlessly towards helping companies assess and mitigate the impacts of their activity, by imposing sustainable directives to their supply chains and by exploring new and innovative green products and services which can benefit ecosystem-dependent communities.

As we look to the future, it becomes clearer than ever that conservation and sustainable development - as reflected in so many international commitments - will have to go hand-in-hand. Without nature, there can be no sustainability. All sectors of society need to converge and tread the path of this new paradigm – working with nature and not against it – to contribute to achieving sustainability in the near future.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our Members and Commissions, our donors, our communities and all of our partners in the public and private sectors, who have diligently played their part in this effort over the past year. We would like to reiterate our willingness and commitment to continue to work with you in the year ahead, on what can conceivably be considered the most important collective task that humanity has ever been entrusted with.

IUCN at a Glance



IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations.

It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions

dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management and education and communication.

The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to

forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

Combined, our knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools and international guidelines and standards. As the only environmental organisation with official United



Small-scale fisherman in Thailand © Ana Grillo/MFF

Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

IUCN's expertise and extensive network provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information which feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, voting for resolutions which drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme.

IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention and the

Ramsar Convention on wetlands. We continue to help these conventions strengthen and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN, meeting between sessions of the World Conservation Congress. Member organisations are represented by the Council.

The IUCN Secretariat has around 950 staff in more than 50 countries, with 70% of staff members from developing countries.

Our Work in Asia



Mangroves for the Future (MFF)

MFF is a partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems to support sustainable development. The project is active in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles (not in map), Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. MFF is led by IUCN and UNDP; works with institutional partners FAO, UNEP, Wetlands International and the Asean Centre for Biodiversity and is financially supported by Danida, Norad, Sida and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Thailand.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

CEPF is a funding mechanism that enables civil society to participate in the conservation of some of the world's most critical ecosystems. It is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (IUCN Member), the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. IUCN leads the Regional Implementation Team in the Indo-Burma hotspot. The project is active in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and parts of southern China.

Building River Dialogue and Governance in the Mekong Region (BRIDGE)

BRIDGE promotes a shared vision for sustainable use of water resources in the 3S river basin (the Sekong, Sesan and Sre Pok trans-boundary rivers of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam) through hydrodiplomacy, knowledge sharing and enhancing leadership capacity. The project, which involves several IUCN Members, is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

BANGLADESH

State Member since 1973

Office established 1992

Flagship initiatives

- Establishing pilot co-management system for the Tanguar Haor wetland ecosystem in Northern Bangladesh
- Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Ensuring the long term conservation of Asian elephants and their habitats
- Improved conservation of Gyps vulture species including the white-rumped vulture

Trans-boundary initiatives

- Mangroves for the Future, BRIDGE GBM, Water Diplomacy – Making Water Cooperation Work (WADI Project)

BHUTAN

State Member since 2012

Trans-boundary initiatives

- BRIDGE GBM, Water Diplomacy – Making Water Cooperation Work (WADI Project)

CAMBODIA

Office established 1992

Flagship initiatives

- Strengthening capacity of fishing communities in the Tonle Sap to manage their natural resources sustainably

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, BRIDGE, Dolphin Conservation, 3S Nexus Project

CHINA

State Member since 1996

Office established 2003

Flagship initiatives

- Restoring the Jiaquan Watershed by empowering local communities through public-private partnerships
- Undertaking the Gross Ecosystem Product assessment of Xishui County, Guizhou Province located in southern China
- Supporting the Government of the People's Republic of China with the effective management of protected areas
- Scoping of forest landscape restoration potential in China
- Supporting the Government of the Peoples Republic of China in identifying tentative sites for Green Listing as well as enhancing capacity on Green Listing

Trans-boundary projects

- CEPF, BRIDGE GBM

INDIA

State Member since 1969

Office established 2007

Flagship initiatives

- Developing robust biodiversity conservation and management standards for Tata Steel, Utrachtech Cement company of Aditya Birla Group and Tata Power Company Limited
- Assisting ITC Company Limited to establish sustainable agriscapes

- Stimulating companies to take the lead in creating a net positive impact on biodiversity and ecosystems
- Developing Toolkit for Management & Restoration of Mining Areas in India
- Implementing the CITES related Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants programme in South Asia initiative for supporting relevant Asian Elephant Range Countries to report on elephant mortality data

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, Water Diplomacy – Making Water Cooperation Work (WADI Project)

INDONESIA

Flagship initiatives

- Catalysing processes contributing to forest landscape restoration in line with the Bonn Challenge Commitments through applying the ROAM toolkit

Trans-boundary projects

- CEPF, BRIDGE GBM

JAPAN

State Member since 1995

Flagship initiatives

- Jointly working on expanding the scope of the Asia Protected Areas Partnership

KOREA (DPRK)

Members

National NGOs: 1

KOREA (ROK)

State Member since 2006

Framework donor to IUCN

Flagship initiatives

- The IUCN Asia Regional Office provided support to ROK's Presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- IUCN Asia Regional office is collaborating with ROK on the implementation of a number of World Conservation Congress Resolutions

LAO PDR

State Member since 1969

Office established 1992

Flagship initiatives

- Protecting globally significant Gibbon populations
- Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation strategies in Khammouane Province to enable communities to cope with climate change
- Supporting the Government of Lao PDR to update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and also to prepare the Provincial BSAP for Luang Prabang Province
- Supporting the Government of Lao PDR in effective conservation and management of wetlands to enable dependent communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change

Trans-boundary projects

- CEPF, BRIDGE, 3S Nexus Project

MALAYSIA

State Member since 1961

MALDIVES

Flagship initiatives

- Supporting the Government of Maldives to strengthen sustainable management of coastal resources, particularly coral reefs, thereby strengthening economic, social, and environmental resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in the Maldives

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF

MONGOLIA

State Member since 2015

MYANMAR

Flagship initiatives

- Piloting wetland co-management model in the Gulf of Mottama
- Supporting the Government of Myanmar in designing the GEF Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF

NEPAL

State Member since 1974

Office established 1995

Flagship initiatives

- Promoting sustainable restoration, conservation and management of mountain ecosystems for climate change adaptation
- Facilitating ways to enhance livelihoods and food security via improved agroforestry and community forestry systems
- Promoting sustainable restoration, conservation and management of mountain ecosystems for climate change adaptation
- Facilitating ways to enhance livelihoods and food security via improved agroforestry and community forestry

Trans-boundary projects

- BRIDGE GBM, Water Diplomacy – Making Water Cooperation Work (WADI Project)

PAKISTAN

State Member since 1975

Office established 1985

Flagship initiatives

- Addressing sea intrusion through restoration of mangrove ecosystems in the Indus Delta
- Assisting the private sector in Pakistan to support mangrove restoration and related sustainable livelihood initiatives
- Supporting the Government of Pakistan to promote sustainable forest management in Pakistan's Western Himalayan Temperate coniferous forests, Sub-tropical broad leaved evergreen thorn (Scrub) and Riverine forests for biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and securing of forest ecosystem services
- Supporting the Government of Pakistan in updating the national action programme to combat land desertification which is a requirement under the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD)

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF

PHILIPPINES

Members

National NGOs: 4

SINGAPORE

Members

National NGOs: 3

SRI LANKA

State Member since 1987

Office established 1988

Flagship initiatives

- Supporting the Government of Sri Lanka in revising the

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- Supporting the Government of Sri Lanka in developing comprehensive biodiversity management plans for large irrigation and water reservoir related projects including developing human-elephant conflict mitigation measures
- Reviving traditional tank irrigation systems in the face of climate change
- Conservation of the Dugong in the transboundary Gulf of Mannar area
- Coordinating efforts to improve the sustainable management of the Kelani River Basin in partnership with Government, civil society organisations and private sector

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF

THAILAND

State Member since 1962

Office established 2001

Flagship initiatives

- Advancing sustainable management of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site
- Supporting Marriott Hotels to enhance the sustainability of their supply chain
- Contributing to supporting the Government of Thailand in the conservation of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, nominated as a World Heritage Site in Thailand, by engaging local communities in participatory management processes and benefit sharing
- Demonstrating the role of ecological mangrove restoration in addressing resilience to climate

change of coastal communities

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, Dolphin Conservation, Mangroves and Markets

VIET NAM

State Member since 1993

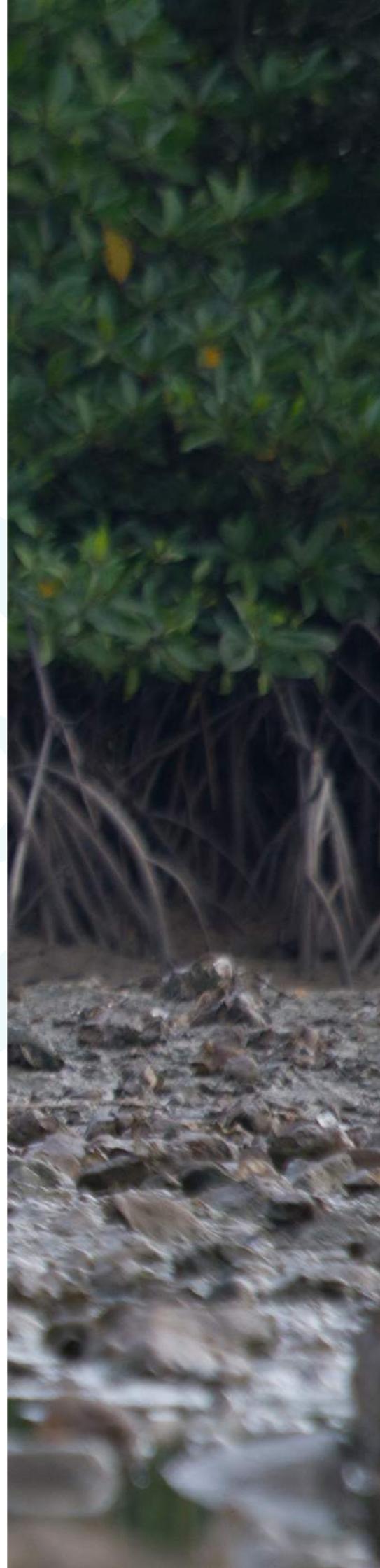
Office established 1993

Flagship initiatives

- Promoting community-based sea turtle conservation in Quang Tri Province
- Demonstrating mangrove shrimp sustainable polyculture models involving local communities and the private sector.
- Convening partnerships between government, business and civil society to catalyse action to improve environmental management of the Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba Archipelago
- Supporting the implementation of the Mekong Development Plan by enhancing capacity of stakeholders to optimize planning to support biodiversity and climate change adaptation objectives, including through the effective engagement of protected area systems.
- Supporting the Government of Viet Nam in identifying tentative sites for Green Listing as well as enhancing capacity on Green Listing

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, BRIDGE, 3S Nexus Project, Mangroves and Markets



Working for People and Nature

The IUCN Programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat, with and on behalf of IUCN Members.

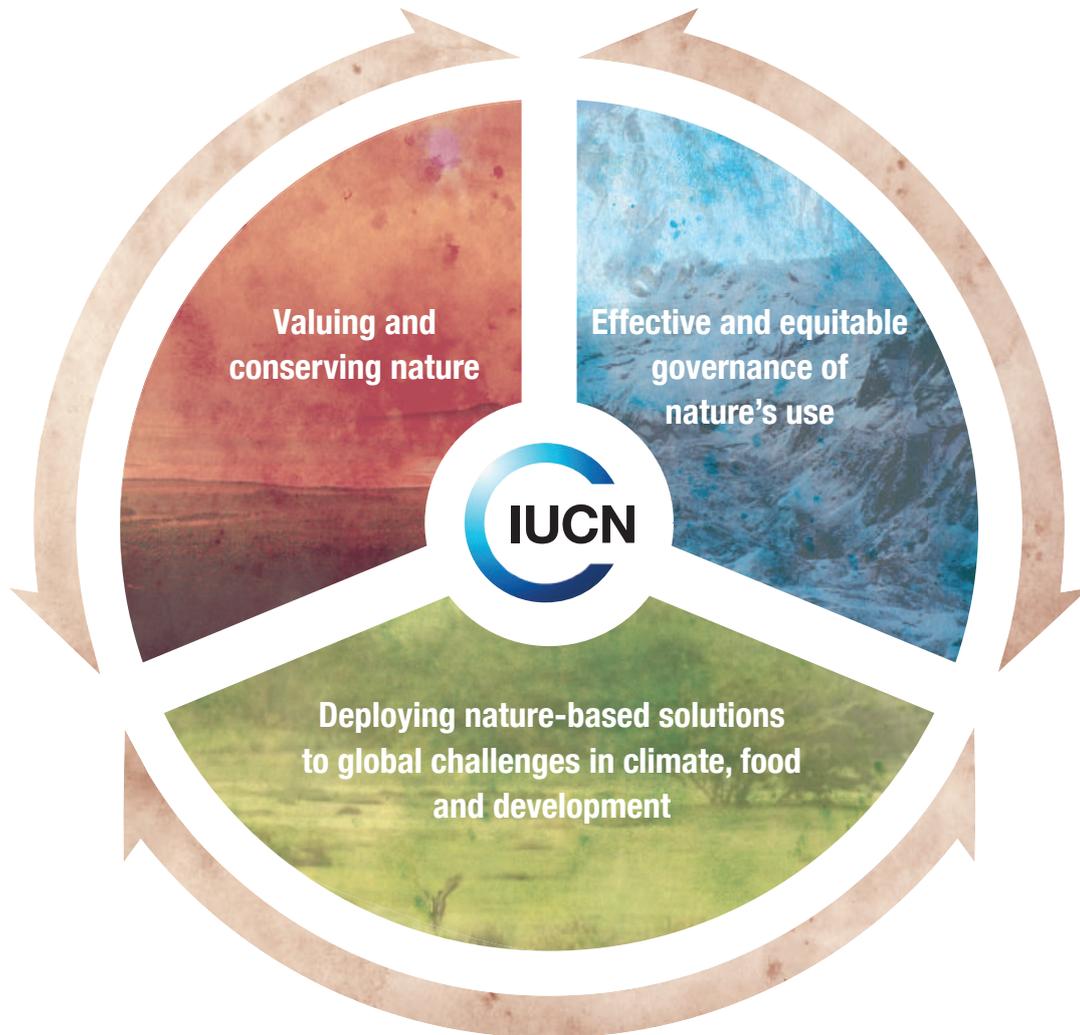
The IUCN Membership endorses a new Programme every four years during the World Conservation Congress (WCC), the world's largest conservation event, which aims to improve how societies manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The IUCN Programme (2013-2016) was approved in September 2012 at the WCC in Jeju, South Korea. It aimed to mobilise communities working for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty reduction in common efforts to halt biodiversity loss and apply nature-based solutions to conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience, strengthen equity, reduce poverty and so improve the wellbeing of people on this planet.

The Programme builds upon IUCN's niche as the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and related environmental governance. It has three Programme Areas:

- **Valuing and Conserving Nature** enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both tangible and intangible values of nature
- **Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use** consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities and the political economy of nature
- **Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food and Development** expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development

The IUCN Programme



The Programme is implemented through the combined efforts of six IUCN commissions, more than 1,300 Members (representing State actors and civil society organisations at all levels) and the Secretariat (950 staff in global thematic programmes and nine regional programmes). This report provides an update on progress in Asia within each of the three Programme Areas.

In September 2016, the IUCN Programme for 2017-2020 was approved by the WCC in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Building on the 2013-2016 Programme, the new programme arose through a five-month consultation process across IUCN Members and Commissions. It will be implemented beginning in 2017.

Valuing and Conserving Nature

East Asia and the Pacific accounts for 40% of global economic growth, bringing benefits to its communities through higher incomes and living standards.

This growth has been accompanied by increasing threats to the region's ecosystems through habitat destruction and biodiversity loss. Rates of mangrove, wetland and forest loss are among the highest in the world; 95% of Southeast Asian coral reefs are at risk and almost 1,500 plants and animals in the region are listed as Critically Endangered.

IUCN has been working at the regional, national and local level on initiatives that tackle biodiversity loss while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of ecosystem services.

Strength in biodiversity: Protected areas

Protected areas showcase the value of biodiversity conservation – providing food, clean water, medicines, protection from the impacts of natural disasters

and contributing to livelihoods of local communities. Protected areas are at the heart of IUCN's efforts to preserve nature and the services it provides.

In 2014, the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), co-chaired by the Government of Japan and IUCN, was established to serve as a key platform to help governments and other stakeholders share experience on protected area management.

A major milestone in the development of APAP was the adoption of the Partnership's constitution at the APAP Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting in Bangkok in July 2016. Also known as the "Partnership document," the constitution identifies the objectives of APAP, its governance structures and its membership criteria.

This will guide the future activities and growth of APAP as a leading network to promote regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas.



Woman drying fish in Surin Island, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram/MFF Thailand

On the brand identity front, the Partnership finalised its logo in August after members voted for their favourite design concept. The emblem features fluid lines in green and blue, representing both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.



There has also been significant growth in APAP's membership, having doubled from seven in mid-2015 to a total of 14, from 12 countries, by the end of 2016. The newest members include government agencies from India and Sri Lanka. In 2017, continued emphasis will be placed on expanding the membership. IUCN has also worked at site level to demonstrate successful approaches to protected area management.

In Thailand, for example, IUCN contributed to the conservation of Kaeng Krachan National Park

(KKNP), a nominated World Heritage Site. With a focus on capacity-building, the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex project facilitated a three-day training on Community Engagement in Sustainable Protected Area Management for 36 KKNP staff in September 2016. The following month, an exchange visit to Chaloe Rattanakosin National Park was held.

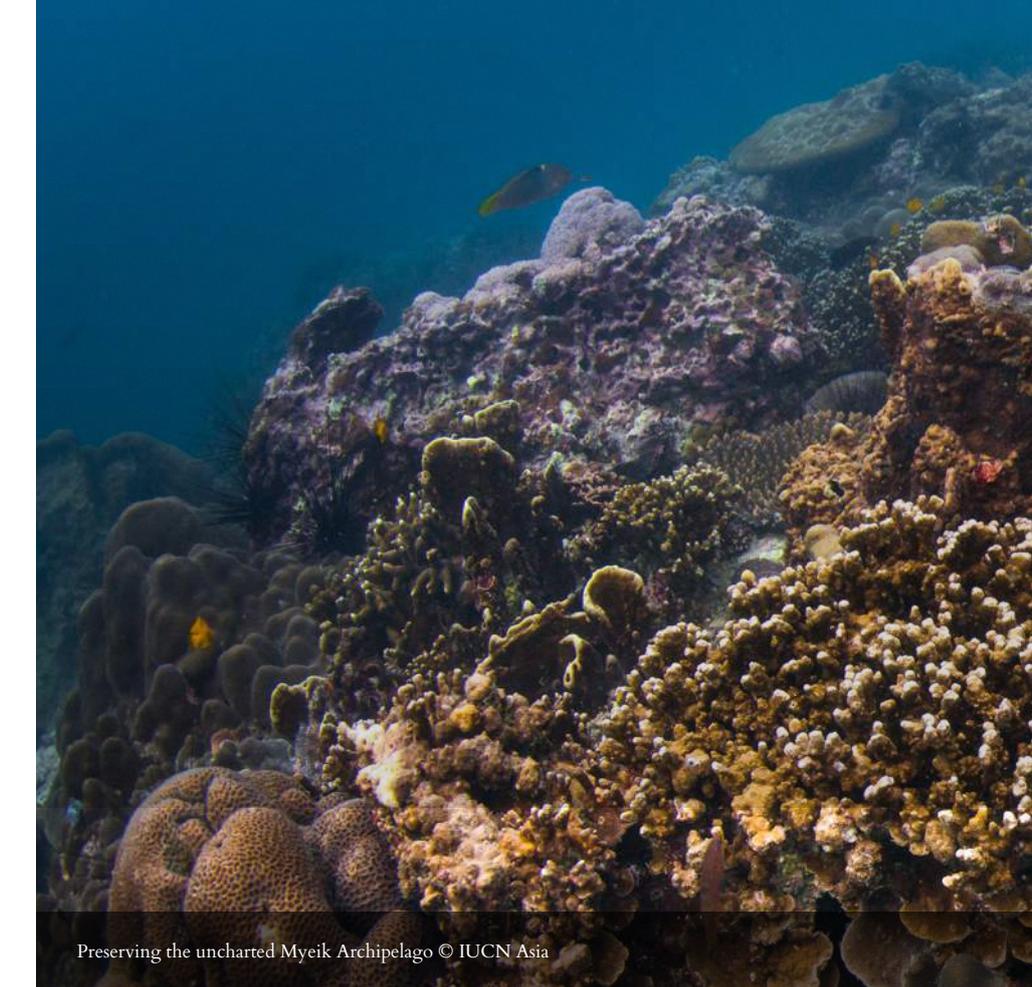
IUCN will continue to contribute to the conservation of the park by engaging local communities in participatory management processes and benefit sharing.

Conserving Indo-Burma's rich biodiversity

Indo-Burma is one of the most threatened of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. Only 5% of its natural habitat remains in relatively immaculate condition. In 2013, together with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and regional partners the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden and the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-Conservation Network, IUCN launched a regional US\$ 10.4 million, five-year investment in biodiversity conservation, focusing on awarding small and large grants to civil society organisations.

In 2016, CEPF awarded 33 grants, with a total value of over US\$ 2.8 million, to 29 different grantees including 21 local groups.

These projects include initiatives supporting the conservation of the globally endangered Cantor's giant softshell turtle in Kratie, Cambodia, implemented by Conservation International (IUCN Member); supporting the development of a grass-roots civil society network around Thailand's Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, implemented by Freeland Foundation (IUCN Member), and supporting sustainable trade in wild medicinal



Preserving the uncharted Myeik Archipelago © IUCN Asia

and aromatic plants in Guangxi and Yunnan provinces, China, implemented by TRAFFIC, a joint IUCN-WWF programme.

Many of these projects emphasise the importance of participatory approaches through the empowerment of local communities, and of engaging them in the management of their natural resources.

With continued focus on building the technical and managerial capacity of local civil society organisations to successfully apply for grants and effectively implement projects, CEPF organised several capacity building events in 2016. These included a two-day workshop on proposal writing and project implementation for 30 representatives of Thai civil society organisations and a series of six training

courses on the role and importance of civil society networks, natural resources management and project development and proposal writing for representatives of Myanmar civil society organisations.

In November, CEPF grantees TRAFFIC, WWF (IUCN Member), Freeland Foundation (IUCN Member), Wildlife Conservation Society (IUCN Member), Friends of Wildlife (IUCN Member), Mlup Baitong (IUCN Member), Wildlife Alliance (IUCN Member), Non-Timber Forest Products and Project Anoulak participated in a learning event organised alongside the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

IUCN will be working with CEPF to evolve the Regional Implementation Team into a "long-term



implementation structure” able to guide civil society in the region towards the goals and objectives of the Indo-Burma Ecosystem Profile and Long-term Vision.

Preserving the uncharted Myeik Archipelago

Consisting of over 800 islands surrounded by coral reefs and diverse marine resources, the Myeik Archipelago off the coast of Myanmar in the Andaman Sea has been identified as a key priority in addressing issues affecting transboundary coastal and marine ecosystems within the broader Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem.

In 2016, IUCN was engaged in the development of the area by participating in the Andaman sub-region meeting organised by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development

Center, providing input for the development of phase 2 of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems Project. IUCN is also engaged in Marine Protected Area (MPA) development with Fauna and Flora International, organising a Marine Spatial Planning workshop for the Myeik Archipelago in August and MPA network development training in February.

In terms of transboundary cooperation, the Department Of Marine And Coastal Resources, Thailand, will be organising an international transboundary MPA symposium in the second quarter of 2017.

Supporting national commitments

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the main vehicles for national

implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2016, IUCN, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), assisted Lao PDR and Thailand in developing action plans on synergies between their NBSAP, the biodiversity-related conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IUCN also supported the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Population and Environment, in developing the National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan. The framework aims to provide overall direction and approaches for pollution control in Nepal for the next 15 years.



Conserving wildlife

Victory for vultures

While hardly cute or cuddly, vultures provide a significant ecological service as carrion feeders and disposers of disease-carrying carcasses. Unfortunately, vultures are some of the fastest declining bird species in the world, and their absence in the Indian sub-continent has significantly increased the risk of diseases in South Asian countries. A main threat to the vulture population in the region is the use of veterinary drugs such as diclofenac and ketoprofen, which have been proven to be fatal for vultures that consume the carcasses of cattle treated with either drug.

In a victory for vultures, the government of Bangladesh has recently banned the use of ketoprofen in two Vulture Safe Zones. The banning of the drug is the result of two years of research conducted by IUCN and the Bangladesh Forest Department,

which looked into the use of the drug in veterinary practice and alternative safe options.

IUCN and the Forest Department also organised a workshop during which international vulture conservation experts and the veterinary community presented to the country's policy makers and government officials the harmful effects of the drugs. Both organisations also worked together to prepare the Bangladesh Vulture Conservation Action Plan to ensure long-term conservation of vultures and vulture habitats.

Additionally, IUCN established a temporary vulture rescue center in northern Bangladesh to assist the Bangladesh Forest Department in the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, weak and injured vultures.

In May 2016, IUCN and the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan (IUCN Member), organised a regional

symposium on conservation of vultures in Asia in Karachi, Pakistan. The event brought together vulture experts from India, Bangladesh and Nepal with the aim of exchanging experiences, knowledge and learnings on the conservation of these essential birds.

Protecting dwindling dolphins

Harmful fishing practices, pollution, climate change and habitat destruction are threatening dolphin populations globally.

In Thailand and Cambodia, an 18-month long transboundary dolphin conservation project has made significant progress in strengthening dolphin conservation networks in both countries. Some of the project's achievements include the establishment of a transboundary Marine Mammal Management Committee and technical working groups in Koh Kong province, Cambodia, and Trat province, Thailand, as well as the development of best practices



Elephants in Bangladesh © Sultan Ahmed

for dolphin watching activities, and the organisation of training for boat drivers and tour operators. Research also found that the transboundary population of globally threatened Irrawaddy dolphins, listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species™, is the second largest in the world.

In Nepal, an integrated dolphin data census study, conducted by IUCN and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (IUCN Member), concluded that there are 52 Ganges river dolphins remaining in the country. The study was conducted as part of a project that aims to conserve the endemic and endangered dolphin.

Reducing Human-Elephant Conflict

Once found in large numbers across Asia, Asian elephants are now in fast decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of human activities. The elephants are listed

on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered and are regarded to be a keystone species due to their important ecological role and impact on the environment.

Effective elephant conservation plans require data on current trends of illegal wildlife trade and deaths. The Monitoring the Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme

“there are 52 Ganges river dolphins remaining in Nepal”

in South Asia, coordinated through the IUCN India office, facilitated the reporting of elephant carcasses in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka from 2007 to 2016.

This information has helped governments support their commitments to international conventions such as CITES. A report documenting trends in illegal killing of elephants, based on data from 14 MIKE sites across South Asia, was also tabled at the CITES COP 17 in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2016.

In Bangladesh, innovative measures are being undertaken to reduce the amount of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the country. HEC has resulted in the deaths of both elephants and humans. Since 2013, IUCN has been piloting a range of programmes in HEC zones to identify effective mitigation measures and reduce HEC occurrences.

One of the mitigation measures includes the establishment of elephant response teams. As of 2016, 28 teams have been established. These teams are made up of volunteers who patrol and protect the community by ensuring that elephants stay away from the human community. As another conflict mitigation tactic, in 2016, IUCN introduced solar electric fences, which use electric shocks to deter animals from crossing a boundary without harming the elephants in any way. As a result, these fences have helped save not only crops and property but also human and elephant lives.



Baby turtle, Pakistan © Jamshyd Masud/IUCN

Taking action for turtles

Of the seven species of marine turtles in the world, three are classified as Critically Endangered, while another three are classified as Endangered. With over 3,000 km of coastline and thousands of offshore islands, Viet Nam is home to a wide range of marine turtle species. Despite being protected by both national and international legislation, threats to marine turtles have increased in the country.

To support marine turtle conservation work in Viet Nam, IUCN supported the Directorate of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), in developing and implementing the Viet Nam Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan 2016-2025.

In March 2016, the Action Plan was signed by the Vice Minister of MARD, and IUCN will now assist all relevant implementation agencies to move the plan forward.

Additionally, IUCN has been implementing the Marine Turtle Conservation Volunteer programme, in partnership with Con Dao National Park, Hon Cau Marine Protected Area and Nui Chua National Park since 2014. The programme has helped raise awareness about the value and importance of sea turtles, as well as the existing laws protecting them. It has also trained volunteers to assist marine turtle conservation area staff. As of 2016, the programme has over 300 volunteers.



Coral reefs in Maldives © Brian Zgliczynski

Sustaining seagrass

The dense underwater meadows created by seagrasses are a vital part of the marine ecosystem. They not only provide a habitat for fish and various other organisms, but they also stabilise the sea bottom and maintain water quality. Competing demands for fisheries, aquaculture, urbanisation and industrial development have put great pressure on seagrass ecosystems in India.

Based on valuations of seagrass ecosystem services, IUCN, through a partnership with GIZ, developed and designed strategies for community-based conservation management of seagrass in Palk Bay, India, for the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu in 2016. IUCN also organised the first national stakeholder workshop on the status of seagrass in India in partnership with IUCN Members, GIZ and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in July 2016.

IUCN Red List

The IUCN Red List is widely recognised as the most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of thousands of biological species that follows precise criteria to evaluate their extinction risk. The list plays a prominent role in guiding conservation activities of governments, NGOs and scientific institutions.

In Bangladesh, the IUCN Red List of Threatened species was first published in 2000. Fifteen years later, the list was updated after a 30-month assessment process which was completed in 2015, and the completed list launched at an event in 2016. More than 160 experts from Bangladesh were involved in analysing over 1,600 wildlife species in Bangladesh. The newly published list illustrates that a large number of species have recently undergone a rapid decline in numbers.

Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use

Improved governance and management of natural resources contributes to human and economic development by strengthening rights and delivering equitable conservation. Over the past year, IUCN has built on its ongoing work in Asia, by collaborating with Members, Commissions and partners, to deliver on our mission of a just world that values and conserves nature. Our initiatives provide benefits for biodiversity as well as for human communities, with a particular focus on ensuring the equitable governance of shared water resources.

Going with the Flow: transboundary river management

Under the umbrella of the global Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) programme, IUCN, in partnership with the IUCN Global Water Programme and the IUCN Environmental Law Center, is supporting Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam in the establishment of frameworks for long-term water resources management strategies for their shared rivers.

In 2016, BRIDGE focused on empowering stakeholders by equipping them with knowledge and leadership skills to bring about change in trans-boundary river management. Through a series of workshops, meetings and studies, the programme strengthened technical cooperation between key stakeholders and increased their understanding and awareness of water cooperation frameworks such as the International Water

Law, with a focus on the United Nations Watercourses Convention (UNWC).

In further progress, the BRIDGE Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) programme was launched in 2016 to develop a regional civil society organisation vision for cooperative transboundary water resource management in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna River Basins in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal. The initiative also aims to establish a roadmap for sustainable transboundary inland navigation and fisheries management between Bangladesh and India. In November, IUCN organised a Bangladesh-India Joint Dialogues session to support the development of the strategy.





Sarus cranes in Anlung Pring, Cambodia © Nguyen Duc Tu/IUCN

“The Kelani river ecosystem supports over 10,000 businesses, 40 highly populated local authority areas and agriculture plantations.”

Water wise

The Kelani River is home to 25% of Sri Lankans and provides drinking water for a rapidly expanding population of over three million. At the same time the river ecosystem supports over 10,000 businesses, 40 highly populated local authority areas and agriculture plantations.

Unfortunately, deteriorating water quality and quantity issues in the basin, along with various climate impacts, pose threats that require urgent policy and ground-level intervention. To ensure the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the basin, IUCN, UNDP and UNICEF launched a project to support the development of a Strategy and Action Plan for the basin, involving over 40 government

ministries and 14 local agencies in the process.

Key project developments in 2016 include the signing of an agreement with Brandix Lanka Limited, the largest apparel exporter in Sri Lanka, to put the Kelani River Multi-Stakeholder Partnership into operation. The initiative focuses on preparing relevant information for stakeholder-led watershed planning and implementation. The project will also facilitate the sharing of experiences on real-time water quality monitoring in selected locations of the Kelani River Basin.

In December 2016, a report on the health of 67 watersheds, including their water quality, was completed.



Joining forces for sustainable growth

In Asia, a number of trans-boundary economic trends present both challenges and opportunities for IUCN's work on promoting more effective and equitable governance of nature's use. Among these are the development of China's One Belt One Road initiative, which is focused on reviving trade routes and infrastructure development along the old Silk Road.

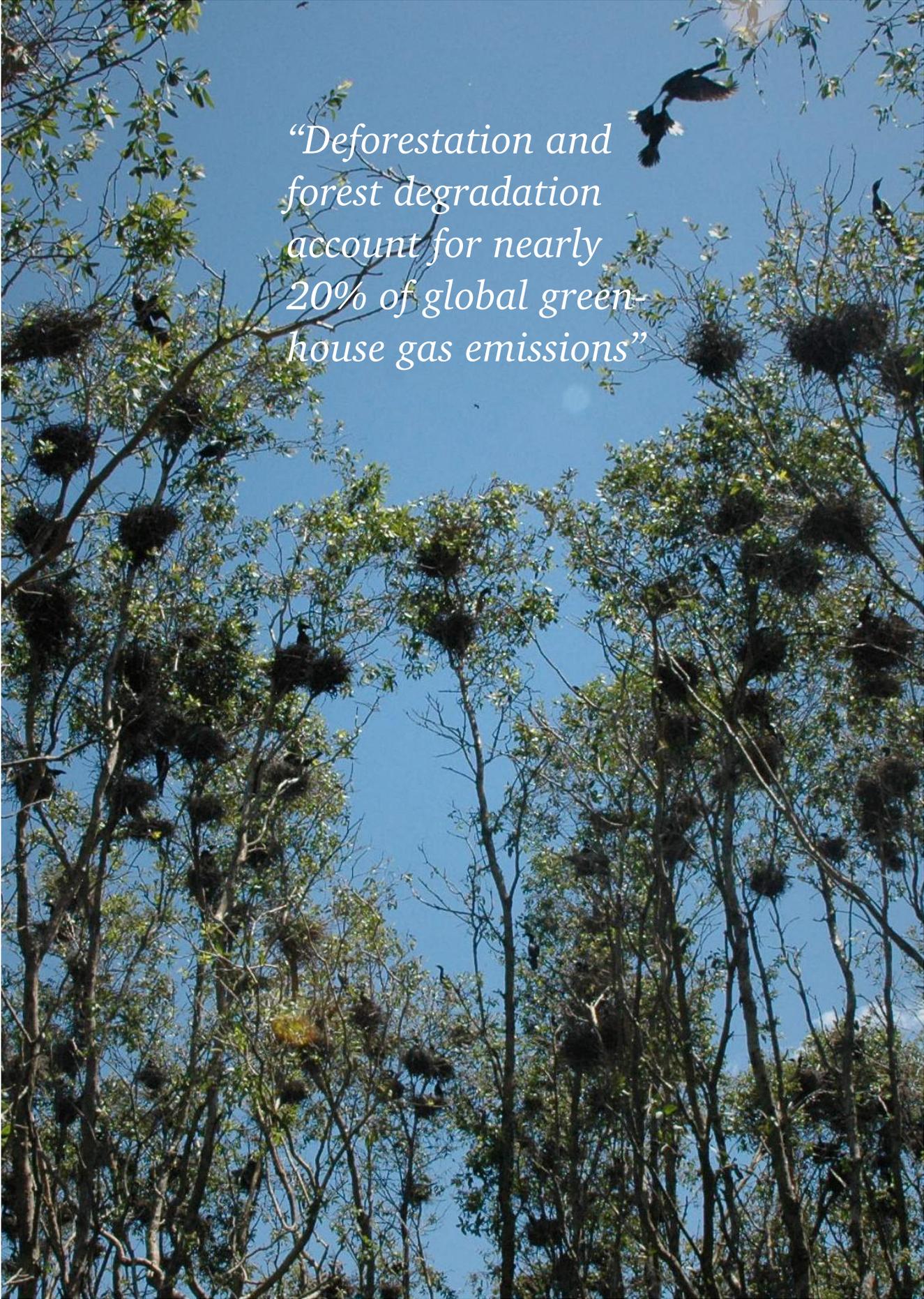
Through a focus on the US\$ 46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement, which was signed between China and Pakistan in April 2015, IUCN made progress on supporting one aspect of the One Belt One Road initiative. The corridor aims to connect Gwadar Port in south-western Pakistan to China's north-western autonomous region of Xinjiang via a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

CPEC picked up pace in 2016 with IUCN striving to ensure that environmental safeguards are put in place in areas where megaprojects are being implemented. In October, IUCN Pakistan signed an agreement with the Port Qasim Electric Power Company to carry out a scoping study to assess the environmental and social

impacts of an infrastructure project currently underway in Pakistan under CPEC.

To further discuss the way forward for safeguarding CPEC in the environmental context, IUCN Pakistan led a delegation from the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, to Guiyang, China, to participate in the Eco-Forum Global (EFG) Conference, one of China's most high-profile forums for sustainable development debate. At the event, government officials from Pakistan met with representatives from China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Environment.

In September, a delegation from China's Ministry of Environment met with IUCN representatives in Islamabad to discuss IUCN's potential role in CPEC. The meeting concluded that given IUCN's expertise, IUCN could focus on contributing to the restoration of wetlands and the conservation of biodiversity and water. An overview of the laws and practices which govern the development of infrastructure projects in both countries was also discussed.



“Deforestation and forest degradation account for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions”

Melaleuca forest, Tram Chim National Park, Viet Nam © Nguyen Van Hung

Seeing the forest as more than trees

Forest landscapes are much more than just trees. They play a vital role in preserving the water cycle, controlling soil erosion and protecting biodiversity. Forests are among the world's best defences against climate change because of their ability to store huge amounts of carbon.

Despite these fundamental benefits, forest cover around the world continues to shrink. Deforestation and forest degradation account for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This is more than the greenhouse gas emissions from the entire global transportation sector.

In Asia, IUCN and partners are piloting the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in six countries: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Supporting the building of sustainable landscape governance at national and sub-national levels, ROAM is a tool that provides a framework for countries to rapidly identify and analyse areas that are primed for forest landscape restoration, and to identify specific priority areas for restoration at a national or sub-national level.

In 2017, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IUCN will launch The Restoration Initiative (TRI) in China and Myanmar. The initiative will help countries to find nature-based solutions in restoring degraded and deforested landscapes using the Forest Landscape Restoration Approach.

In its role as implementing agency for GEF, IUCN successfully launched a GEF-funded project: 'Strengthening Capacities for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal.

The project will support the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. The initiative will also support the government of Nepal to ensure that the draft ABS law meets constitutional requirements and adequately incorporates agro-biodiversity and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and will also advocate for its enactment.

Also in Nepal, through the global Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) programme, which involves several IUCN Members, has used the Policy dialogues platform and Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach to inspire local producer groups and organisations to conceive, develop and implement sustainable businesses. Additionally, IUCN worked to administer small grants to qualified candidates in order to further develop the forest and farm production sector. By working with small producer groups which are most often comprised of women and disadvantaged groups, many people have been given the opportunity to generate income through the development of products from forest materials.

Also as part of the FFF programme, IUCN has helped the Viet Nam Farmer Union to set up seven smallholder forest and farm producer organisations in Yen Bai and Bac Kan Provinces. These organisations now understand the importance of grouping farmers to achieve economies of scale and raise the capital to invest in value-added processing. Three organisations have opened workshops to saw wood, produce wood veneer and distil star anise oil. The other four, though still producing raw materials, enjoy greater market power by selling in bulk.



Wise use of wetlands

In 2016, IUCN strengthened its support for the implementation of the Ramsar convention, an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and equitable use of wetlands and their resources, by becoming the Secretariat of the Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative (IBRRI). The initiative aims to support the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam by supporting the coordinated implementation of the Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan. IBRRI will play an important advisory role in the implementation of wetlands-related projects in the region.

In Viet Nam, IUCN continued to support the Biodiversity Conservation Agency in preparing Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for the Van Long Sites and

U Minh Ha Ramsar sites. The RIS for Van Long was prepared after consultation with stakeholders at national and provincial levels. It has also been translated into English and will be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat in 2017. For U Minh Ha, the first draft of the RIS was prepared and is waiting for comments and endorsement from the relevant provincial agencies in Ca Mau Province.

IUCN also supported FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment in Lao PDR (IUCN Member) to develop a Climate Change Adaptation project, which will enhance the resilience of the Xe Champhone Ramsar site.



*“The Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar...
is home to over 150,000 water birds, of
which four species are globally threatened”*

Great stone-curlew in Rajshahi, Bangladesh © Muntasir Akash

In Nepal, IUCN supported the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation to improve livelihoods and enhance biodiversity restoration and management of the Jagadishpur Reservoir Ramsar site by mobilising grass-roots-level organisations as well as local household members who are directly dependent on the wetland resources for their livelihoods. This involves supporting income-generating activities and income diversification for local residents, and gaining community support and assistance in promoting eco-tourism.

Gulf of Mottama: Myanmar

The Gulf of Mottama (GoM) in Myanmar, covering the coastal parts of the Yangon Region, Bago Region and Mon State down to Chaungzon Township, is a globally unique wetland. It is one of the world’s most dynamic estuaries and is home to over 150,000 water birds, of which four species are globally threatened. It

is a wetland of extreme significance as it is the wintering ground for the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper. It also provides spawning grounds for many commercially important fish species, and provides nutrients and supports fisheries far into the Bay of Bengal. The rich ecosystems support the farming and fishing activities of over 150 villages around the gulf.

In November 2016, IUCN, HELVETAS, Network Activities Group and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (IUCN Member), organised a workshop in Mawlamyine with the aim of adopting a wetland management committee. This is the first step before developing a draft management plan for the whole GoM in line with the Ramsar Convention’s ‘wise use’ principle. The workshop also attracted national and international attention on the importance of the area.



Sea turtle in Maldives ©Brian Zgiczyński

Reef regeneration in the Maldives

The Maldives, a low-lying atoll nation in the Indian Ocean, is highly dependent on its world-renowned coral reefs for its tourism and fishing industries.

Recognising that sound coastal resource management is critical to sustainable development and climate adaptation in the country, IUCN and the Government of Maldives is developing and implementing policies to protect coral reefs and support marine management through the Regenerate project. The project works towards building capacity for marine management and climate change adaptation of ecosystems, local communities and government in the Maldives.

In 2016, Regenerate achieved several important outputs related to citizen science and scientific discovery, capacity-building, environmental education and public awareness, and the development of conservation management plans for important areas in North Ari Atoll, Maldives.

The project also provided critical support to the Government of Maldives in monitoring and managing the 2016 coral bleaching event. In a series of workshops organised in collaboration with the Maldives

Marine Research Centre, 82 citizen scientists from around the Maldives were trained on a national coral bleaching protocol in preparation for the event. Furthermore, a scientific research expedition surveyed the coral reefs of North Ari Atoll during the bleaching event, and papers with findings are currently being produced for peer-reviewed scientific literature. Project Regenerate helped to collate and analyse bleaching data to produce a national bleaching report, which identified that approximately 73% of corals bleached across the country.

The project also provided training in problem-based learning for science teachers from around the country in order to improve the delivery and quality of science curriculums in public high schools. A public awareness campaign was launched to build awareness of the interlinkages between healthy coral reefs and healthy societies.

The management plan identifies areas of particular ecological and social value, as well as potential conflict areas that need management. Zoning plans and management plans were developed using ecological and



Boats in Trat, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram

social data collected from surveys for North Ari Atoll and Madivaru Channel, the latter having been identified as being of particular ecological and social importance, which the Government of Maldives is currently considering for protection.

Building resilience across coastal communities in Asia

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Starting as a disaster response programme working in the six countries most affected by the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the initiative has since evolved into a strategic programme building resilience in ecosystem dependent coastal communities in 11 member countries.

MFF's portfolio now includes 294 small grant projects, eight medium grant projects, 10 large grant projects and five regional grant projects worth over US\$ 4 million spread across Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles,

Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Currently 55 projects are active, while 159 have been completed.

As Asia continues to experience exponential growth, sustainability must be an integral concern. In this connection, MFF is constantly innovating and contributing to sustainable development. The initiative's strategic focus areas: coastal rehabilitation; livelihood support; and resilience-building and empowerment, with climate change and gender as key cross-cutting issues, all contribute to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development'.

Partnerships are central to the success of MFF. In 2016, IUCN and the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support ASEAN countries in achieving biodiversity targets and building on their shared objectives in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. ACB has joined the MFF Regional Steering Committee, and will work with MFF members in ASEAN countries to ensure ASEAN principles are reflected in MFF initiatives.

*“more than 80% of MFF projects
resulted in a measurable increase
in women’s income”*



Promoting gender equality

MFF also contributes to achieving SDG Goal 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. At the national level, countries worked on gender sensitisation through capacity development events aimed at strengthening regional institutional capacity and gender integrated planning skills.

Since its inception, 38% of MFF's projects have contributed to addressing women's needs. Through the provision of education and skills development training and livelihoods development initiatives for women's groups, more than 80% of these projects

resulted in a measurable increase in women's income. This trend is continuing in 2017 with MFF's Cycle 5 projects.

Gender integration in water governance policies also received a boost in the Lower Mekong Region through a workshop co-organised by IUCN and OXFAM in July. Held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the workshop provided a platform for knowledge-sharing and dialogue for over 50 representatives from government and civil society organisations across Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.



Children planting mangroves in Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram

Nature: The Decisive Solution for the Climate Change Crisis

Near the Sundarbans, Bangladesh, home to the largest mangrove forest in the world, Promila makes her living by making mats out of a grass-like wetlands plant called 'reed'. Depending on size, these mats are sold at US\$1 to \$7 through a community enterprise established by Promila and her friends.

Thanks to the reed mat business, Promila and over 100 other women in her community no longer have to rely on collecting shrimp and fish – hence reducing pressure on the Kholpetua river.

Besides playing a role in mitigating climate change, the mat business has also brought about social benefits. The women now have a new-found confidence that enables them to negotiate prices directly with customers, while maintaining fruitful working relations with shopkeepers.

Implemented through Mangroves for the Future (MFF), an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) partnership-based coastal programme, this alternative livelihoods initiative in Bangladesh is an example of a conservation intervention designed to conserve biodiversity by substituting one livelihood activity that causes harm to a species or a habitat with another activity that causes less harm.

In just a few decades, reoccurring heat waves, rapidly rising sea levels, and more intense droughts, wildfires,

and floods, are clear signs that our planet is experiencing a serious upsurge in climate change.

To tackle this existential crisis, there are two solutions that we can consider: the first is climate change mitigation, which includes swift reduction of global carbon emissions. The second is climate change adaptation, like Promila's story above, which refers to increasing our capacity to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

At IUCN, we believe that the best way to achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation is to utilise the natural functions of healthy ecosystems. Such nature-based solutions help protect the environment, and provide economic and social benefits. Mangroves for example, are plants that have the ability to absorb very large amounts of CO₂ – making them a fundamental asset in our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Mangrove swamps also provide a more effective buffer that protects coastal regions from storm surges and tsunamis than man-made dykes. Sustainably managed mangrove forests further provide firewood, food as well as spawning grounds for fish.

Empowerment and community ownership

As we combat climate change, forgetting to engage local communities and empowering them in the process would be a major faux pas. These communities have,

over centuries, developed practices that protect the natural resources on which they rely for their survival.

Using such knowledge will increase our chances of protecting ecosystems, which in turn will help us mitigate the impacts of climate change, and cope with its effects. Building on existing traditional knowledge not only satisfies local communities' expectations, but also provides a solid basis to address current and upcoming challenges.

It is therefore important to provide the right conditions for local communities – with a particular focus on women – to manage natural resources within and surrounding their territories.

Gender equality: the silver bullet

In many countries, women play a dominant role in natural resource management, and have traditional responsibilities such as growing food, collecting water, and being the primary caregivers for their families.

But, despite the fact that women play such a critical role in the conservation of ecosystems, their contribution is, unfortunately, often overlooked and undervalued.

The good news though, is that within the climate change paradigm, contributions of women are receiving increased attention, with more and more conservation experts calling for women to have greater ownership of the ecosystems on which they rely. With their knowledge of sustainable

resource-management at the household as well as the community level, women play a fundamental role in our collective response to climate change.

In Viet Nam, an MFF initiative to strengthen national park management has engaged local women to co-manage mangrove forests. Not only has enlisting community participation in caring for important areas proven to be an effective strategy for protected area management, it has also created momentum for effective climate change adaptation.

By increasing awareness on the importance of mangrove forests and sustainable fishing methods, this initiative has also helped empower women, by giving them the opportunity to have their voices heard in policy-making processes.



Women entrepreneurs, Shyamnagar, Bangladesh. © Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique/IUCN Bangladesh

In Sri Lanka, another MFF initiative established a community-based model for the conservation of the Vankalai wetlands. Through training on climate-smart livelihoods such as sustainable aquaculture and ecotourism, the project has increased awareness on the threats posed by climate change, and how these could be mitigated.

The project also enabled the development of women-led entrepreneurship endeavours through training on community-based alternative livelihoods. - But there is still a lot to do. With nature-based solutions at the heart of its agenda, MFF will continue to focus on empowerment, gender equity and good governance as it applies participatory methods to ensure the desired impact of its projects.

by Ann Moey, Head of Communications, IUCN Asia
Location: Bangkok, Thailand. 11th Jan 2017

This blog, authored by Ann Moey, Head of Communications, IUCN Asia, was originally published in Thomson Reuters Foundation News in December 2016.



Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Climate, Food and Development

Terraced fields near the EPIC pilot project, Kaski, Nepal © Amit Poudyal

Mega-cities and their watersheds

Development challenges abound in Asia's large and rapidly-growing economies and its least-developed countries alike. Climate change adaptation, food and water security and reduction of the impacts of natural disasters are areas in which IUCN is assisting local communities by exploring ways to utilise nature to provide solutions.

The Mega-cities and their Watersheds: Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Drinking Water Sources Project, which involves IUCN Members including the Beijing Forestry Society and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, aims to safeguard the drinking water supply of downstream megacities through ecological restoration and protection of upstream drinking water

sources in Miyun and Jiaquan Watersheds in China. The project outcomes will help secure long-term drinking water supply for 30 Chinese mega-cities as a blueprint for current and future development options for China's urban growth.

To promote stakeholder engagement between financiers, communities and knowledge partners of the project, the China Mega-City Water Fund was also established. In 2016, the Fund developed standards and bylaws to ensure that the project runs legally and efficiently, so as to achieve its desired objectives, maintain the Fund and ensure the legitimate rights and interests of donors and beneficiaries.

EPIC progress

IUCN Asia country offices are implementing the global Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) pilot sub-projects in China, Nepal and Thailand.

In Thailand, IUCN is supporting its partner, Mangroves Action Project (MAP), in establishing a community-based ecological mangrove restoration demonstration site in Krabi estuary in southern Thailand. The site is a pilot case to demonstrate community-based natural restoration of abandoned shrimp farms that were created after clearing mangrove areas.

In 2016, IUCN Thailand collaborated with MAP and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) at the policy level, presenting the Community based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) framework to DMCR Bangkok. Field trips were organised for Thai government officials and IUCN to further discuss the effectiveness of the CBEMR approach at a demonstration site in Nakon Si Thammarat province. The approach was subsequently integrated into the DMCR work plan for 2017.

In Nepal, IUCN has worked with the University of Lausanne and the Department of Social and Water Conservation at the district level to integrate the concept of Eco Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and Bioengineering into the Forestry Sector Strategy, sharing best practices such as planting stabilising grass

species into sloped ridges, managing water along roadways to prevent erosion and other innovative techniques that have been adopted by the local demonstration communities.

In October 2016, IUCN organised a two-day national workshop on 'Eco-DRR for Improving Community

Resilience' to promote institutional change towards integrating Eco-DRR into development planning at national and sub-national levels.

The workshop was jointly organised with the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM) and University of Lausanne with the objective

of facilitating an exchange of scientific knowledge between international and Nepali landslide scientists, students, practitioners and NGOs working in this field.

There has been considerable interest in upscaling and replicating this demonstration model across Nepal from the Ministry of Forest and Social Conservation.

In China, IUCN has supported its partner, INRA, a French research agency, to demonstrate soil and water conservation measures as being appropriate for reducing risks to natural hazards. In 2016, the project published scientific studies focusing on how plant root systems can help mitigate natural disaster risks. Chinese disaster risk reduction authorities also participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress and related Eco-DRR events.

“The project outcomes will help secure long-term drinking water supply for 30 Chinese mega-cities”



Seagrass Conservation, Nakorn Srithammarat, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram

The Business Community: Partners for a Sustainable Future

Sustainable economic development and nature conservation are natural partners. As Asia's dynamic economies grow and its companies invest beyond its shores – potentially impacting ecosystems around the globe – engagement is critical to protect biodiversity and support sustainable growth.

Partnering with sector leaders: IUCN and Tata Group companies

In keeping with IUCN's global business and biodiversity strategy, the primary focus of our efforts in Asia is to influence businesses to incorporate biodiversity considerations into business planning, and to develop standards and best practices that work towards achieving a net positive impact on business operations. In 2016, IUCN continued its extensive engagement with Tata Group companies. Although engagements have been focused nationally, they have worldwide implications thanks to Tata's global presence.

IUCN and Tata Steel first partnered in 2007 to minimise the impacts of the Dhamra Port on a globally important olive ridley turtle nesting site. In recent years, IUCN has developed a corporate biodiversity policy for the company, with guidelines for achieving no net loss of biodiversity. A first of its kind for a large Indian mining company, the policy was formally adopted in April 2016. Since then, IUCN has been supporting the further implementation of biodiversity management plans in eight Tata Steel mining sites.

IUCN is also providing guidance to Tata Power in aligning its approach to addressing international standards for biodiversity management. One example is the development of site-specific biodiversity and ecosystem service protocols for Coastal Gujarat Power Limited's (a Tata Power subsidiary) Mundra Ultra Mega Power Plant site.

Since 2015, IUCN and Tata Chemicals have collaborated, with equal co-financing, to develop a community-led science-based management plan for Chandrabhaga wetlands in India. In 2016, IUCN, Wetlands International (IUCN Member), and local communities began piloting wetland monitoring mechanisms and laying the foundation for a local knowledge centre on wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity. The project, which integrates development and conservation needs, is a noteworthy example of the power of public-private partnerships.



Boueng Chhmar Ramsar Site, Cambodia © Pheakdey Sorn/IUCN

Allies in conservation

Pollution is a significant threat to marine and aquatic life across Asia. Implemented by IUCN, the Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance, which includes Coca-Cola, Grant Thornton, Bhaya Cruise, Hospitality Tourism Management and others, supported research that led to a historic government ban on polystyrene in Viet Nam's Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Alliance is continuing to work with the government to implement a mobile wastewater treatment system to handle discharge from over 500 boats that operate in the bay.

In India, the Leaders for Nature initiative brings together private sector companies that are committed to becoming more sustainable and supports them through awareness raising, capacity building and the development of company-level Natural Capital Roadmaps. In 2016, IUCN provided Natural Capital Protocol training to over 150 executives from sector leaders including Rio Tinto, Hindustan Unilever Ltd., Tata Steel, Appollo Tyres and Veolia. Particular focus was made towards furthering joint action to address cumulative threats to marine and coastal ecosystems and urban biodiversity.

IUCN and Brandix Lanka Limited, Sri Lanka's biggest apparel exporter, partnered in 2016 to strengthen the ecological restoration of the Kelani River Basin. Brandix will finance the project and collaborate with IUCN to design a mechanism for online monitoring of pollution discharge into the river at investment promotion zones and develop a baseline for minor-watershed water quality status.

Valuing and conserving ecosystems

In Pakistan, IUCN worked with Engro Elengy Terminal Pvt. Ltd. to restore mangrove plantations on 500 hectares of the Port Qasim area of Karachi. This was proposed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as an offset to mitigate the impacts of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal being built by the company. In April 2016, IUCN organised a ceremonial spring tree plantation at Engro Elengy mangroves plantation site on Ahsan Island involving over 60 university students.



As part of the IUCN Danone China engagement, a roadmap combining community development needs and sustainable management of the Jiaquan watershed was created based on multi-stakeholder engagements. More than 20 hectares of natural forest was restored to secure water resources for Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and associated regions.

With support from HSBC, IUCN in Sri Lanka is facilitating the ecological restoration of the Kapiriggama Cascade Tank System in Anuradhapura, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 2016, 18 small irrigation reservoirs which form part of the cascading system were rehabilitated, directly benefitting more than 600 families through increased access to water for agriculture. In recognition of their work, HSBC won the Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Awards programme (AREA) award under the category of Social Empowerment.

The IUCN-Marriott partnership in Thailand has raised over US\$ 60,000 in donations from guests, since the

engagement began over three years ago, towards support of community-based mangrove restoration and plantation. Over 13 hectares of mangroves have been restored. Marriott has purchased sustainable seafood (lobster, black crab and shrimp) from local fisher communities worth more than BHT 4.5 million (US \$128,000), and handicrafts worth over BHT 2.47 million. Over the next five years, IUCN and Marriott Hotels will continue to address conservation and development needs in contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Business and the economics of biodiversity

In China, IUCN has been contributing to the mainstreaming of the Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) accounting standards in Xishui County, with the support of the Xingzhitianxia Media Company, since March 2016. IUCN will be providing technical services for the development and mainstreaming of GEP methodologies and evaluations in the county.

IUCN Asia Events

IUCN regularly organises events that bring our vast network of conservation experts, practitioners and partners together.

Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction

Organised on both national and regional scales, these events act as valuable platforms where representatives of civil society, government, NGOs, INGOs and local community members can come together and discuss best policy practices and new ideas in conservation.

Asia is highly biodiverse, from the Himalayas to the Indo-Burma hotspot, the Borneo rainforests and Coral Triangle. Five of the world's most mega-diverse countries are in Asia: China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and the Philippines. The region is also characterised by natural disasters high in both magnitude and intensity.

In November, representatives from government agencies responsible for Disaster Risk Management and the environment came together at a workshop in New Delhi to discuss the role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction. The workshop was organised as part

of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and was supported by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

Discussions centred on the Regional Assessment on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and Biodiversity in Asia, a report that highlights national experiences of Eco-DRR with specific emphasis on biodiversity conservation. The assessment includes a review of policy and practice related to the application of ecosystem-based approaches to addressing disaster risk reduction, including the impacts of climate change.

IUCN engaged with partners and experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam to develop the assessment report.



China-Africa Wildlife Conservation Forum, Beijing, China © IUCN China



Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, Hanoi, Viet Nam © IUCN

Management of intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea

The Yellow Sea ecosystem of tidal wetlands, associated habitats and the biodiversity that depends on them is one of the ecological wonders of the world. The ecosystem represents the largest muddy tidal area on the planet, and is the most important staging site for migratory waterbirds in the greatest of all flyways, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF).

In north-east Asia, cooperation between countries was strengthened to support the conservation and management of intertidal wetlands and migratory shorebirds of the Yellow Sea. A triple-country membership meeting of China, Japan and Republic of Korea was held in

June, and a regional capacity-building event in China was organised in August.

At the workshop, participants recognised that the Yellow Sea's intertidal and estuarine areas are of global importance, in particular, for sustaining the migration of millions of waterbirds; the vital ecosystem services provided by intertidal and estuarine wetlands are fundamental for sustainable socio-economic development; and because of their strategic importance, effective conservation and restoration of the intertidal and estuarine wetlands along the Yellow Sea requires the government of the Republic of Korea's commitment, as well as significant international collaboration.



“the Yellow Sea’s intertidal and estuarine areas are of global importance, in particular, for sustaining the migration of millions of waterbirds”

Taking place prior to the Hanoi international Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, the event provided an opportunity for wildlife conservationists, particularly those working directly with rural communities, to share experiences and case studies that explore improved ways of supporting, motivating and engaging the people who live close to wildlife in protecting and conserving it.

China-Africa Wildlife Conservation Forum

Discussions surrounding China-Africa cooperation development opportunities through green finance, green supply chain and cooperation between government and private sectors took place in July 2016 at the China-Africa Wildlife Conservation Forum.

Organised by IUCN in collaboration with IUCN Members the China Wildlife Conservation Association and the Natural Resources Defence Council, the event was attended by over 50 participants from the State Forestry Administration, UNEP, wildlife conservation NGOs, research institutions and private sector entities. Embassy officers from Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania also attended the forum.

At the event, participants investigated the challenges of China-Africa wildlife conservation and shared the successful experiences of China’s domestic and international conservation work.

Combating illegal wildlife trade

In November 2016, conservationists met in Hanoi to participate in a regional workshop for Southeast Asia with a focus on the Lower Mekong Region.

The ‘Beyond Enforcement: Involving indigenous peoples and local communities in combating illegal wildlife trade’ workshop was jointly coordinated by IUCN, the IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, the International Institute of Environment and Development and the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, as well as the ICCA Consortium, which supports Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas.

IUCN Asia

at the World Conservation Congress

Member participation

Every Congress brings together IUCN's government and civil society members for the Member's Assembly, the highest decision-making body of IUCN, to approve a new programme for IUCN and to elect a new Council and President for the Union. At the Hawai'i Congress in 2016, the member participation from Asia was the highest ever.

Highest number ever of member participation from Asia



(18.2%)
391 of 2144

Motions passed related to Asia

IUCN Members propose new motions every Congress to set priorities for IUCN's work. This year, 85 motions were adopted by IUCN Members, nine of which were directly related to Asia.

- Conservation of the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)
- Conservation of Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) and Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) in Northeast Asia
- Closure of domestic markets for elephant ivory
- Conservation measures for vultures, including banning the use of veterinary diclofenac
- Protection, restoration and sustainable use of urban water bodies in India
- Declaration of Pakistan's Astola Island as a Marine Protected Area
- Strengthening pathway management of alien species in island ecosystems
- Conservation of intertidal habitats and migratory waterbirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, particularly in the Yellow Sea
- Synchronising the integrated management of overlapping Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks

Over 50 events, relating to conservation issues in Asia, were held at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Regional initiatives such as Mangroves for the Future and the Asia Protected Areas Partnership were also represented at workshops and various sessions.

IUCN Asia at the Congress

- The unique role of protected area partnerships – including the [Asia Protected Areas Partnership \(APAP\)](#) – was highlighted at the “Benefits of Protected Area Partnerships: Fostering Innovative Solutions for a Planet at the Crossroads” workshop. The importance of developing joint knowledge products was emphasised, along with the need to have a shared vision and commitment at both personal and political levels.
- [Mangroves for the Future](#) shared how it incorporates gender into the resilience analysis process in the ‘Closing the gap: Enhancing data, analysis and awareness for gender equality and environmental sustainability’ workshop. The programme also shared its experiences in the field on how to use nature-based solutions for adaptation and resilience-building and mainstream them into policies in the ‘Scaling up nature-based solutions for adaptation and building resilience: Linking practice and policies’ workshop.
- The [BRIDGE 3S](#) project shared its experiences on trans-boundary water management in the Mekong region, and how it creates spaces for cooperation through multi-level dialogue and capacity building between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam at the ‘BRIDGE: Learning from River Dialogues and Governance’ Water Pavilion event.

Leadership for the Next Four Years



IUCN President

Every Congress, the Member's Assembly elects Regional Councillors, Commission Chairs, Treasurer and President for the next four years. Zhang Xinsheng was re-elected as IUCN president, while the following officials representing Asia were elected or re-elected as IUCN Regional Councillors for South and East Asia:

Mr.
Xinsheng
Zhang

China

IUCN Regional Councillors for South and East Asia



Prof.
Amran
Hamzah

Malaysia



Ambassador
Masahiko
Horie

Japan



Mr.
Malik Amin
Aslam Khan

Pakistan



Mr.
Mangal
Man Shakya

Nepal



Prof.
Youngbae
Suh

Republic of Korea



Award winners from Asia

A number of awards were presented at the Congress. These are some of the winners from Asia:

IUCN Heritage Hero



**Dr.
Bibhuti Lahkar**

Voted as IUCN Heritage Hero by the public for his dedication to the conservation of India's Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, a World Heritage site.

Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot Hero



**Dr.
Dao Thi Nga**

Recognised as one of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's 15 'Hotspot Heroes' for outstanding conservation efforts through her NGO, Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development.

Kenton Miller Award for Innovation in Protected Areas Management



**Mr.
Ashiq Ahmad Khan**

Recognised by IUCN's World Commission for his efforts in contributing to a more secure and sustainable Khunjerab National Park in Pakistan.



Stronger Together for a Sustainable Future

Jake Brunner, Head of the IUCN Indo-Burma Group at the Beyond Enforcement workshop © Thuy Anh Nguyen/IUCN Viet Nam

IUCN's strength lies in its membership, and over the past five years the Asia region has seen a significant growth in organisational membership with over 260 members today.

By becoming part of the world's largest environmental network, IUCN Members work together to help find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. They act collectively to lead, govern and set the organisation's strategic agenda. In turn, Members benefit from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base and convening power, extensive networking opportunities and access to high-level political, economic and social decision making.

By joining us, Members are able to advance their own causes, strengthen their credibility and capacity through association and add to our collective strength in overcoming barriers to a sustainable future.

To find out how your organisation can be a part of IUCN, please contact Membership Manager Mr Raj Kumar.

Tel: +66-2-6624029, Ext 117;

Email: raj.kumar@iucn.org

Our Members in Asia

BANGLADESH

No. of Members: 22
State Member

Ministry of Environment and Forest

National NGOs

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
Bangladesh POUSH
Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad BRAC
Brotee Samaj Kallyan Sangstha
Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
Center for Natural Resource Studies
Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation
Centre for Sustainable Development
Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association
Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conservation Centre
Environment and Social Development Organization
Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh
Nature Conservation Management
Prokriti O Jibon Foundation
Sbushilam
Unnayan Onneshan
WildTeam

Indigenous Peoples

Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity
Gram Unnayan Sangathon

BHUTAN

No. of Members: 3
State Member

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

National NGOs

Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation
Royal Society for Protection of Nature

CAMBODIA

No. of Members: 2
National NGOs

Culture and Environment Preservation Association
Mlup Baitong

CHINA

No. of Members: 30
State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government Agency

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

National NGOs

All-China Environment Federation
Beijing Forestry Society
Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge
Chengdu Bird Watching Society
China Association for NGO Cooperation
China Association of National Parks

and Scenic Sites
China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
China Green Carbon Foundation
China Mangrove Conservation Network (legal name: Putian Green Sprout Coastal Wetlands Research Center)
China Wildlife Conservation Association
Chinese Society of Forestry
Eco Foundation Global
Elion Foundation
Friends of the Country Parks
Friends of Nature
Guangzhou Green City Environmental and Cultural Development Center
Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection
Shan Shui Conservation Center
Shangri-La Institute for Sustainable Communities
Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation
Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology
The Jane Goodall Institute China
Xiamen Green Cross Association
World Wide Fund for Nature - Hong Kong

Affiliates

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens
Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee

INDIA

No. of Members: 43 State Member

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Government Agencies

Attappady Hills Area Development Society

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development

Indian Institute of Forest Management

National Board for wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Wildlife Institute of India

National NGOs

Aaranyak

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Applied Environmental Research Foundation

Association for Rural Area Social Modification, Improvement and Nestling

Balipara Tract & Frontier Foundation

Bombay Natural History Society

Centre for Environment Education - Nehru Foundation for Development

Centre for Media Studies

Conservation Action Trust

COORG Wildlife Society

Development Alternatives

Foundation for Ecological Security

Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation

Gujarat Ecology Society

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

InsPIRE Network for Environment

Institute for Integrated Rural Development

International Society of Naturalists

Jal Bhagirathi Foundation

Keystone Foundation

MSSRF - Biju Patnaik Medicinal

Plants Garden & Research Centre

MSSRF - Community

Agrobiodiversity Centre

Nature, Environment and Wildlife Society

OMCAR Foundation

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation

Sahjeevan

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

Society of Hill Resource

Management School

TERI's Forestry and Biodiversity Group

TERRE Policy Centre

The Corbett Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Trust

Wildlife Protection Society of India

Wildlife Trust of India

World Wide Fund for Nature - India

Zoo Outreach Organisation Trust

INDONESIA

No. of Members: 6 Government Agency

Directorate General Ecosystem and Natural Resources Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

National NGOs

Coral Triangle Center

The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation

The Samdhana Institute

Incorporated

World Wide Fund for Nature - Indonesia

Affiliate

Center for International Forestry Research

JAPAN

No. of Members: 18 State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Government Agency

Ministry of Environment, Japan

National NGOs

Japan Center for Human

Environmental Problems

Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Kamehameha Okoku

Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation

Nagashima-no Shizen-wo Mamoru Kai

Nature Conservation Society of Japan

Nihon Gan-wo Hogo suru Kai

Nihon Umigame Kyougikai

Ramsar Network Japan

Save the Dugong Campaign Center Seibutsu Tayosei Japan

(Biodiversity Network Japan)

Shizen Kankyo Kenkyu Senta

The Asahi Glass Foundation

Wild Bird Society of Japan

World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan

Yasei Seibutsu Hozenron Kenkyukai

KOREA (DPRK)

No. of Members: 1 National NGO

Nature Conservation Union of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

KOREA (ROK)

No. of Members: 33 State Member

Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea

Government Agencies

Cultural Heritage Administration
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Bureau of Environment
Korea Forest Service
Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation
Korea National Park Service

International NGO

Environmental Action Association

National NGO

Citizen's Institutes for Environmental Studies
DaeJayon
Gotjawal Trust of Jeju
Jeju City Project 21
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Agenda 21
Korea Association of Environmental Planning & Landscape Architecture
Korea Environmental Education Network
Korea Green Club
Korea Society of Environmental Restoration Technology
Korea Wild Animal & Plant Service
Korean Association for Conservation of Nature

Korean Environmental Law Association
Korean Society for Atmospheric Environment
Korean Society of Environment and Ecology
Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment
Korean Society of Nature Conservation
Korean Society of Restoration Ecology
Korean Wetlands Society
Local Agenda21-Seogwipo City
National Nature Trust
Sah-dahn-beob-in Jeju Gukje Noksaek-Seom Forum
Sustainable Environmental Education Center of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
The Ecological Society of Korea
The Korean Society of Conservation Biology
The Korean Society of Oceanography
The Korean Society of Plant Taxonomists

LAO PDR

No. of Members: 2 State Member

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

National NGO

Lao Biodiversity Association

MALAYSIA

No. of Members: 7 State Member

Department of Wildlife and National Parks - Peninsular Malaysia

Government Agencies

Sabah Wildlife Department
Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd
The Sabah Parks Board of Trustees

National NGOs

Malaysian Nature Society
Marine Research Foundation
World Wide Fund for Nature - Malaysia

MALDIVES

No. of Members: 1 National NGO

Live & Learn Environmental Education

MONGOLIA

No. of Members: 2 State Member

Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism

National NGO

Hustai National Park Trust

MYANMAR

No. of Members: 2 National NGOs

Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association
Friends of Wildlife

NEPAL

No. of Members: 20 State Member

Department of National Parks and
Wildlife Conservation

International NGO

International Centre for Integrated
Mountain Development

National NGOs

Association for Protection of the
Environment and Culture

Bird Conservation Nepal/Nepal
Panchhi Samrakchyan Sangh

Centre for Rural Technology

Environmental Camps for
Conservation Awareness

Green Governance Nepal

Himali Prakriti

Hoste Hainse

Khoj Tatha Bikas Kendra, Nepal

Manab Kallyantatha Batabaran
Samrak Kendra

National Trust for Nature
Conservation

Nepal Forum of Environmental
Journalists

Relief Fund for Wildlife Victims

SAVE THE PLANET Mission2020
NEPAL

Service, Empowerment, Positive
Action and Applied Research for
Communities in the Himalayas

Wildlife Conservation Nepal

Wildlife Watch Group

Women in Environment/Mahila
Batabaran Samooha

Yuwa Jagaran Paryabaraniya
Munch

PAKISTAN

No. of Members: 42 State Member

National Council for Conservation
of Wildlife, Ministry of Climate
Change

Government Agencies

Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

National Institute of Oceanography
Planning and Development
Department, Civil Secretariat
FATA

Planning and Development
Department, Government of
Balochistan

Planning and Development
Department, Government of
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Sindh Coastal Development
Authority, Planning &
Development Department,
Government of Sindh

Sindh Wildlife Department

International NGO

Aga Khan Rural Support
Programme

National NGO

AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Center
for Development Services

Baanhn Beli

Balochistan Rural Support
Programme

Centre for Peace and Development

H.E.J. Research Institute of
Chemistry

Haashar Association

Health and Nutrition Development
Society

Human Resource Development
Network

Indus Earth Trust

Institute of Rural Management

Khwendo Kor

Leadership for Environment and
Development

Legends Society

National Rural Development
Program

New World Hope Organization

Pakistan Institute of Labour
Education and Research

Participatory Village Development
Programme

Research and Development
Foundation

SACAN Foundation

Sarhad Rural Support Corporation
Scientific and Cultural Society of
Pakistan

Shehri: Citizens for a Better
Environment

Shirkat Gah - Womens Resource
Centre

Society for Empowering Human
Resource

South Asia Partnership - Pakistan
Strengthening Participatory
Organization

Sungi Development Foundation
Sustainable Development Policy
Institute

Taraqee Foundation

Thardeep Rural Development
Programme

Trust for Conservation of Coastal
Resources

Water, Environment and Sanitation
Society

World Wide Fund for
Nature- Pakistan



Wetlands play a vital role in climate change mitigation by sequestering carbon dioxide. © Munshidha Ibrahim/IUCN

PHILIPPINES

No. of Members: 4

National NGOs

Ecological Society of the Philippines
 Foundation for the Philippine Environment
 Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources
 World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines

SINGAPORE

No. of Members: 3

National NGOs

Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law
 Nature Society (Singapore)
 Singapore Zoological Gardens

SRI LANKA

No. of Members: 12

State Member

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Government Agencies

Central Environmental Authority
 Department of National Zoological

Gardens
 Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Forest Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Product & Health, and Agrarian Development (Western Province)

National NGOs

Environmental Foundation Ltd.
 Federation of Wildlife Conservation
 Green Movement of Sri Lanka
 Sevalanka Foundation
 Small Fishers Federation
 Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka

THAILAND

No. of Members: 9

State Member

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation

International NGO

International Network of Engaged Buddhists
 Regional Community Forestry Training Center

National NGO

Freeland Foundation
 Good Governance for Social Development and the environment Institute Foundation
 Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation
 Seub Nakhasathien Foundation
 Thai Conservation of Forest Foundation
 Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

VIET NAM

No. of Members: 6

State Member

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

National NGO

Action Center for City Development
 Center for Environment and Community Research
 Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environment Studies
 Centre for Marinelifelife Conservation and Community Development
 Viện Kinh tế sinh thái

IUCN

Commissions

IUCN's six Commissions unite over 15,000 volunteer experts, 2,000 of whom are from Asia, from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with a sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues.



Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

CEC drives change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community.

www.iucn.org/cec

Members in Asia: 277

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Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

CEM provides expert guidance on integrated ecosystem approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems.

www.iucn.org/cec

Members in Asia: 236

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Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

CEESP is an inter-disciplinary network of professionals that provides expertise and policy advice on the environmental, economic, social and cultural factors that affect natural resources and biological diversity.

www.iucn.org/ceesp

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Species Survival Commission (SSC)

SSC provides information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. SSC also advises the Union on the technical aspects of species conservation and mobilizes action for those species that are threatened with extinction.

www.iucn.org/ssc

Members in Asia: 1496

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World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

WCEL advances environmental law by developing new legal concepts and instruments, and by building the capacity of societies to employ environmental law conservation and sustainable development.

www.iucn.org/cel

Members in Asia: 295

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World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

WCPA promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

www.iucn.org/wcpa

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Published by

IUCN Asia, Bangkok, Thailand

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Cover Photograph

© IUCN/Sorn Pheakdey

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