



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

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered at the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits in Vientiane on 9 October 2024;

RECALLING the recent ASEAN Joint Statements on Biodiversity to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) and ASEAN Leaders’ Vision Statements and Declarations;

EMPHASISING the need to strengthen existing bonds of regional solidarity to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible in order to effectively respond to current and future challenges and opportunities, including the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, particularly plastic pollution;

REAFFIRMING our commitment for concerted actions to contribute towards the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the *Biodiversity Plan*), including through the development of a Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan or the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, in support of implementing our respective updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans or their equivalent action plans and initiatives, consistent with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity as a regional and sub-regional technical and scientific centre to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING** the ACB’s role to mobilise resources to support the implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan through the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund; and to facilitate support for the implementation of ASEAN Member States’ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

RECOGNISING that mainstreaming biodiversity provides a multitude of opportunities for livelihoods and economic development, and noting that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the first free trade agreement among the largest economies in Asia, which include the AMS, takes into account the rights and responsibilities of the Parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

HIGHLIGHTING our progress in developing the ASEAN Community’s Post-2025 Vision as envisioned in the Ha Noi Declaration of the ASEAN Community’s Post-2025 Vision, including through the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community’s Post-2025 Vision, as an opportunity to promote cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration and to mainstream biodiversity across all sectors, in line with the region’s collective efforts in narrowing the development gap and strengthening our sustainable development agenda towards realising an inclusive, and participatory community where no one is left behind;

REITERATING our strong commitment to promote ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions to address biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and climate change, as well as existing and emerging zoonotic diseases and future pandemics, consistent with the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework](#) and the [ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on One Health Initiative](#)

ENVISIONING a region with enhanced connectivity and resilience that is bolstered by its judicious stewardship of a healthy and abundant terrestrial and marine biodiversity, contributing to an inclusive and sustainable future and resilience to climate change through a thriving blue, green, and bio-circular economy in conjunction with the [Framework on Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community](#) and [ASEAN Blue Economy Framework](#), consistent with the core elements of the ASEAN 2045 Vision moving towards more cross-sectoral initiatives;

BUILDING on the achievements of the ASEAN in meeting the global biodiversity targets through the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as, mainstreaming biodiversity through its programmes - the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme and the ASEAN Green Initiative, with the support of and in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);

HIGHLIGHTING the need to effectively manage human and wildlife interactions, including through strengthening networks among law enforcement and other stakeholders, curbing the illegal harvesting, use, and trade of wildlife, and understanding how this can help address zoonoses, taking into account the ASEAN Strategy for Preventing Transmission of Zoonotic Diseases from Wildlife Trade;

UNDERLINING the importance of the ASEAN Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species Management aimed at promoting a regional approach to the prevention, control, and management of invasive alien species, considering the interconnectedness of the region's ecosystems and need for a coordinated response to its threats;

ACKNOWLEDGING that adequate resources are required by developing countries to actualise, update, and fully implement their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in conjunction with their implementation of the Biodiversity Plan;

DO HEREBY AGREE to undertake the following with the support of and in collaboration with the ACB:

INTENSIFY our efforts to fulfil the objectives of Goal A of the Biodiversity Plan and its attendant Targets, such as the achievement of the global 30 per cent target of conserving, restoring terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas, while reducing threats to biodiversity, including illegal wildlife trade and invasive alien species, taking into account that past and on-going efforts in the region are already contributing to the achievement of said goal, through ASEAN flagship programmes such as the AHP Programme, the ASEAN Green Initiative, and the ASEAN Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species Management, including the development of the Threatened Species Action Plan for the ASEAN;

ADVANCE the realisation of Goal B of the Biodiversity Plan and its associated Targets through the facilitation of the implementation of the [Framework on Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community](#) and the [ASEAN Blue Economy Framework](#) and the ASEAN Business and Biodiversity Initiative, highlighting as well, the promotion and upscaling of the management and use of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services, the development of the ASEAN Work Programme on Urban Biodiversity and Greenery to ensure sustainable use of biodiversity and to protect nature's contributions to people, including increasing resilience and addressing climate change impacts through ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions;

PROMOTE the attainment of Goal C of the Biodiversity Plan by enhancing initiatives towards the attainment of fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through the implementation of appropriate national frameworks on access and benefit-sharing in all ASEAN Member States.

ENHANCE efforts to carry out Goal D of the Biodiversity Plan to ensure adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology within the ASEAN region, including through ASEAN cooperation and partnerships with many countries and organisations outside the region toward shared objectives and mutual benefits;

CALLS UPON THE PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES, AND INVITES GOVERNMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, OTHER ORGANISATIONS, AND PRIVATE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO:

PROVIDE financial and technical support to implement ASEAN Biodiversity Plan and the ASEAN Member States' NBSAPs to contribute towards achieving the global biodiversity targets through national, regional, and global mechanisms, particularly the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for regional and sub-regional centres.

PROMOTE AND FACILITATE the development and transfer of biodiversity-related technologies and innovations, including biotechnology, as well as recognising locally designed solutions and indigenous technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan.

SUPPORT enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels in the planning, monitoring, reporting, and review of NBSAPs.

ADOPTED on the Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.
