



# ASEAN Biodiversity Plan

## Background

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) or the Biodiversity Plan provides the general direction of priorities on the vision for 2050, that is, "biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people". It will take urgent actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation.

The ASEAN region stands as a centre of rapid economic growth, fostering prosperity among its populace. The richness of biodiversity is also one of the ASEAN region's best features. In fact, the region only occupies more than 3% of the world's total land area but it is globally significant as it contains more than 25 percent of the known flora and fauna species on Earth. With over 660 million individuals dependent on its natural resources for their livelihoods and well-being, decisive action is warranted. The KM GBF offers an opportunity to collectively address this challenge, allowing for the region's economic advancements while ensuring environmental sustainability.

ASEAN is in a strategic position to foster collective action among its Member States towards the conservation and sustainable use of its biological resources. The anticipated adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan further cements the road towards sustainable development, as committed by the ASEAN Leaders through the ASEAN Concord IV, *to fully implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as work towards ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its attendant documents in order to build a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN that is able to anticipate opportunities and address emerging and future challenges*. It further commits as the epicentrum of growth to *strengthening ASEAN's cooperation in addressing environmental challenges, including, among others, climate change, transboundary haze pollution, marine debris, biodiversity loss, and the sustainable use and management of water resources*.

In line with ongoing global and regional developments, it is an opportune time to develop the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan (ABP) to ensure synergy between the global biodiversity targets and the new ASEAN vision. The ABP<sup>1</sup> will identify priorities demanding regional action and take a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government-approach to sustainability.

## Objectives

The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan seeks to enhance coordination among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in conserving, sustainably managing, and using biodiversity, as well as equitably sharing the benefits from the utilisation of the region's rich biological resources. Specifically, the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan will:

1. Address ASEAN community-wide concerns related to biodiversity through region-wide approaches; and
2. Complement the ASEAN Member States' efforts in implementing their respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

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<sup>1</sup> The ABP will be updated to align with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Post 2025 Strategic Plan when adopted in early 2025; and the outcomes of 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16).

## ASEAN Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030

The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan aims to contribute to the implementation of the KM GBF through regional interventions, and complement the efforts of the AMS in carrying out their respective NBSAPs, through capacity development, sharing knowledge and best practices on addressing common challenges and emerging issues affecting the region's natural wealth. The ABP also highlights the ASEAN's contributions to the implementation of the KM GBF.

KM GBF Targets	Regional Target	Strategies and Key Actions to Support the Achievement of Regional Targets
TARGET 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss	Integrated management, spatial planning, and ecosystem-based management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Integrated management, spatial planning, and ecosystem-based management within <a href="#">ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs)</a> and other regionally important conservation areas.</li> </ul>
TARGET 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	Promoted science and knowledge-based terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystem restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitate the enhancement and exchange of scientific knowledge on ecosystem restoration in the region, focusing on promoting species-site matching.</li> <li>● Recognise and provide incentives for best practices on terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystem restoration in the region including the <a href="#">ASEAN Green Initiative</a>.</li> <li>● Support the establishment of nurseries and enhancement of natural propagation sites across the region as source of seedlings and propagules for native plants and trees.</li> </ul>
TARGET 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	Strengthened governance and management of ASEAN Heritage Parks contributing to 30% of global target for protecting marine and terrestrial areas by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the AHP Regional Action Plan 2023-2030 and <a href="#">ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2023-2030</a>.</li> <li>● Identify and manage biodiversity corridors that connect ASEAN Heritage Parks and other regionally important conservation areas.</li> <li>● Expand protection of biodiversity beyond AHPs, through various governance mechanisms and other effective area-based conservation measures, including the ASEAN Urban Wetlands Network, and the ASEAN Flyway Network Sites.</li> <li>● Promote the implementation of management effectiveness of AHPs using existing tools, including guidelines and management planning for transboundary AHPs.</li> </ul>
TARGET 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Interactions	Improved species conservation, protected area management systems and wildlife enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the AHP Regional Action Plan 2023-2030.</li> <li>● Implement the Conservation Action Plan for Threatened Vertebrate Species in ASEAN when adopted.</li> <li>● Enhance collaboration between with ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement.</li> </ul>
TARGET 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal	Increased protection of species in AHPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share experiences among the AMS on non-detriment findings (NDFs) and develop science-based quotas for wildlife collection and trade.</li> </ul>

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Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthen ASEAN coordination to advance common positions on threatened species listing in the region (e.g. CITES)</li> </ul>
TARGET 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimise Their Impact	Improved management, control, and prevention of invasive alien species (IAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the <a href="#">ASEAN Action Plan on IAS</a>. The eight goals of the plan are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthen legal frameworks and coordination;</li> <li>- improve public awareness and education;</li> <li>- increase capacity and resources;</li> <li>- risk assessment and prioritisation;</li> <li>- maintain strong border control and develop an inter-island biosecurity programme;</li> <li>- improved prevention and control measures;</li> <li>- improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting system; and</li> <li>- sustainable financing for IAS management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
TARGET 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity	Averted plastic wastes and reduced pollution in AHPs and protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support the AWGCME on the implementation of the <a href="#">ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris</a>.</li> <li>● Promote bio-circular-green economy models through community enterprises to reduce and recycle plastics in ASEAN Heritage Parks.</li> <li>● Stocktake and identify case studies on nutrient pollution control and management.</li> </ul>
TARGET 8: Minimise the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	Enhanced understanding of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and their contributions to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stocktake on nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches in the ASEAN, including ASEAN Heritage Parks.</li> <li>● Develop an e-learning course on nature-based solutions.</li> </ul>
TARGET 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People	Promoted the sustainable use of wild species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote and upscale biodiversity-based products.</li> <li>● Develop and promote regional standards, taking into account national circumstances, on sustainably sourced biodiversity-based products.</li> </ul>
TARGET 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry	Enhanced engagement with the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors to mainstream biodiversity conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote and upscale the e-learning course on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture in ASEAN.</li> <li>● Promote ecosystem-based fisheries management as a contribution to the <a href="#">ASEAN Blue Economy Framework</a>.</li> <li>● Integrate biodiversity considerations in the plans and processes of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors.</li> </ul>
TARGET 11: Restore, Maintain	Enabled mechanisms to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compile case studies and best practices on the economic valuation of biodiversity, nature, and</li> </ul>

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and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	advance discussions on natural capital and economic valuation of natural resources	<p>ecosystem services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Integrate natural capital in regional knowledge platforms such as the <a href="#">ASEAN Clearing House Mechanism</a>, among others.</li> </ul>
TARGET 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity	Increased actions by ASEAN cities to enhance green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the ASEAN Work Programme on Urban Biodiversity and Greenery. The 3 key action areas are to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the development and implementation of local biodiversity strategies and actions plans in line with NBSAPs;</li> <li>- awareness of nature-based solutions – its benefits, challenges and considerations; and</li> <li>- the use of monitoring tools such as the City Biodiversity Index, and reporting platforms such as CitiesWithNature.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
TARGET 13: Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and Traditional Knowledge	Increased awareness and enhanced capacities on ABS, DSI, and Traditional Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the status and implementation of national ABS policies; and share experiences on its implementation.</li> <li>● Raise awareness and conduct capacity needs assessment on DSI.</li> </ul>
TARGET 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level	Enhanced collaboration with key sectors to mainstream biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify entry points for mainstreaming biodiversity through a regional biodiversity mainstreaming framework and approaches.</li> <li>● Enhance cross-sectoral and cross-pillar awareness and coordination to mainstream biodiversity in key sectors (such as those identified in Target 10).</li> <li>● Support implementation of the <a href="#">ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action</a>.</li> </ul>
TARGET 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts	Promoted biodiversity values and their consideration in financing strategies of the private sector and financial institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the ASEAN Business and Biodiversity Initiative. The three goals of the initiative are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build capacities and empower businesses to become environmental leaders through Biodiversity mainstreaming and NbS integration;</li> <li>- Foster innovation and sustainable business practices within the ASEAN business community to mainstream biodiversity; and</li> <li>- Drive collaboration and knowledge sharing across businesses, governments, and non-government organisations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Document good practices on environmental, social and governance reporting.</li> </ul>
TARGET 16: Enable	Promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote environmental education (including eco-</li> </ul>

KM GBF Targets	Regional Target	Strategies and Key Actions to Support the Achievement of Regional Targets
Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption	sustainable consumption and production in the ASEAN	<p>school practice), awareness, and capacity to adopt sustainable consumption and green lifestyle at all levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote the bio-circular-green economy model towards sustainable consumption and production.</li> </ul>
TARGET 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology	Increased awareness and enhanced capacities on biosafety and biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct seminars/ workshops to increase awareness and capacity development on biosafety in the region.</li> <li>● Share experiences on advancing biotechnology in the region and how it can promote benefit-sharing across the ASEAN Region.</li> </ul>
TARGET 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity	Increased awareness on the benefits of positive incentives for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify and document case studies on positive incentives to increase awareness of incentives for biodiversity.</li> </ul>
TARGET 19: Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance	Increased financial resources for biodiversity conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund as a sustainable financing mechanism for nature and biodiversity conservation in the Region.</li> <li>● Forge strategic partnerships with ASEAN partners, private sector and philanthropists through the ASEAN Cooperation Projects and other funding modalities.</li> <li>● Explore partnerships towards alternative forms of financing biodiversity conservation at the regional level, such as green bonds and sustainability bonds, among others.</li> </ul>
TARGET 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity	An effective ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity as a subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote capacity development, among others, on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ecosystem restoration;</li> <li>– management effectiveness of protected areas, ASEAN flyway sites, and other conservation areas;</li> <li>– human-wildlife interaction management, wildlife enforcement and species conservation;</li> <li>– invasive alien species control and management;</li> <li>– nature-based solutions;</li> <li>– ecotourism management including spatial, ecological, and socio-cultural carrying capacities;</li> <li>– mainstream biodiversity in health, infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry;</li> <li>– natural capital and biodiversity conservation in business operations, including MSMEs;</li> <li>– digital sequence information on genetic resources;</li> <li>– enhance biodiversity databases and platforms;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– knowledge management and communication, education, and public awareness; and</li> <li>– monitoring systems for NBSAP implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>TARGET 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action</p>	<p>Ensured that biodiversity data, information, and knowledge are accurate and updated, communicated, and accessible to target stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Convene consultative meetings and exchanges among scientific experts through Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings, and Science Fora.</li> <li>● Integrate, maintain and promote biodiversity knowledge-sharing platforms, including the <a href="#">ASEAN Environment Knowledge Hub</a>, <a href="#">ACB website</a>, the ASEAN Clearing-house Mechanism, <a href="#">ASEAN Biodiversity Knowledge Management Platform</a>, and the <a href="#">ASEAN Biodiversity Dashboard</a>.</li> <li>● Develop, disseminate, and communicate regional biodiversity knowledge products such as policy and technical briefs, and case studies, including the <a href="#">ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook</a>.</li> <li>● Transform existing networks into a regional knowledge network composed of youth, experts, academia, and champions of biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN (for example, <a href="#">ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes</a>).</li> </ul>
<p>TARGET 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all</p>	<p>Increased participation of non-state actors in biodiversity-related dialogues, discussions, and meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Empower and enhance capacities of the youth in developing their skills in biodiversity conservation through the <a href="#">ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme</a>.</li> <li>● Engage the youth, women, and IPLCs in biodiversity conservation programmes, projects, and activities, and decision-making processes.</li> </ul>
<p>TARGET 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action</p>	<p>Mainstreamed gender considerations in all biodiversity-related initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure gender and inclusion considerations into proposal development, and programme and project implementation.</li> <li>● Promote the training materials on Gender and Biodiversity in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.</li> </ul>

**Implementation Mechanisms**

The ASEAN Member States, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), will take the lead in the implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan.

*ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)*. The AWGNCB shall be the lead working group in guiding the implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, in line with its strategic objective to conserve and sustainably manage ASEAN’s rich biological diversity toward enhancing social, economic and environmental well-being. The AWGNCB reports to the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN).

Further, the AWGNCB, guided by the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, shall serve as a consultative forum to enhance coordination and collaboration among various ASEAN sectoral bodies and dialogue partners in the promotion of the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the ASEAN region.

*ASEAN Secretariat.* The ASEAN Secretariat will support the AWGNCB and relevant institutional bodies on the implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, provide advice and policy support and coordination of regional activities and programmes among the implementing agencies as well as the AWGNCB's partners, ensuring policy coherence with the anticipated ASEAN Community Vision 2045, ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and other regional and global frameworks on biodiversity conservation.

*ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.* The mandate of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the members of ASEAN, and with relevant national governments, regional and international organisations, on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such biodiversity in the ASEAN region. The ACB has a Governing Board, comprising members of the ASOEN or their representatives and the Secretary-General of ASEAN or his representative, which assumes overall responsibility, and is accountable for the operations of the Centre.

The ACB is recognised as one of the regional/subregional support centres for the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. This puts the ACB in a better position to advance the interests and priorities of the ASEAN Member States related to the conservation and sustainable use of the region's natural resources. It will also provide the region with more opportunities to leverage support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and their networks to mobilise conservation projects and programmes.

*ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Other Working Groups.* Given that biodiversity is a cross-cutting issue and as reflected in the thematic areas and activities, coordination with concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN Working Groups will be enhanced. The plan will be communicated to the identified sectoral bodies and corresponding working groups to facilitate consideration of relevant ABP strategies and actions in crafting their respective action plans to further enhance synergies and collaboration across sectors and pillars of the ASEAN.

*Other stakeholders.* The implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan will involve relevant stakeholder engagement to ensure collaborative actions with organisations and groups that share common interests with the plan. These will include ASEAN's Dialogue and Development Partners, as well as non-state actors such as civil society organisations, and academia, among others to foster a whole-of-society approach in biodiversity conservation.

### **Funding and Resource Mobilisation**

The primary implementers of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan will identify suitable networks and avenues for funding its implementation. Collaboration with Dialogue and Development Partners within the auspices of the ASEAN can be facilitated through the ASEAN Project Cooperation Mechanism, or through external channels in partnership with other international organisations, enhancing contributions to the plan's fulfilment.

The ACB's recent designation as one of the regional/subregional scientific and technical support centres for the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan in Asia puts it in a strategic position to leverage financial and technical support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, from ASEAN dialogue and development partners and other sources to mobilise conservation projects and programmes.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

Regular reporting of progress and achievements will be made at the meetings of the AWGNCB, ACB Governing Board and ASOEN, and CBD COP.