ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all the IUCN Councillors, Country Representatives and their staff who made this publication possible.

Editor: Dhunmai Cowasjee

IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Pakistan
1, Bath Island Road, Karachi 75530

© 1998 by IUCN-The World Conservation Union
All rights reserved

Design by Creative Unit (Pvt.) Ltd.
Printed by Dyna Print Ltd., Thailand
IUCN
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABBREVIATIONS &amp; ACRONYMS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREWORD</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSPECTIVES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRENDS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTRY PROGRAMMES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Coordination Office</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL PROGRAMMES</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Conservation</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Use Initiative</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Assessment</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN MEMBERS</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMZ</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry for Economic Collaboration and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Danish International Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCS</td>
<td>National Conservation Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDA</td>
<td>Netherlands Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORAD</td>
<td>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTFPs</td>
<td>Non-timber Forest Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNE</td>
<td>Royal Netherlands Embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development &amp; Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDA</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>The World Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We live in interesting times. Nowhere does this resonate more forcefully than in South and Southeast Asia as we move towards the end of a millennium.

The focus of IUCN's programme in the region is one of security, be it the security of people's livelihoods, food security or environmental security, all within increasingly endangered biodiversity resources: in essence, our security in Asia's changing environment. It is an immense challenge to not only orient people to the essential role the environment plays in their lives, but to shift the priorities of governments and institutions to reflect this urgent reality. The IUCN South and Southeast Asia programme attempts to rise to this challenge by using the strengths of its members, its secretariat and its commissions, all of whom are aware and concerned about the shape of this region's changing economic and environmental parameters.

The programme is administered through an Asia Regional Directorate, composed of the heads of all the offices and the officers of the regional programmes. The S&SE programme, today, has activities with and through members in almost all of the 17 countries in the region, and covers a range of issues and interests that are of relevance to the environment body politic of the region.

The growth and development of the programme place continued demand on capacity and resources. Our financiers, the donor community, who also represent member governments of IUCN, have been important and reliable partners in IUCN's progress, and increasingly are dialogue partners in its development.

The Councillors, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commissions operating in the region are strong and effective proponents of the programme's focus and direction. As part of the Biodiversity Advisory Group they assist in steering and guiding the programme's course through a challenging time in a complex region.

The S&SE Asia programme is the programme of IUCN's members, its secretariat and its commissions, and as we follow the consensus and direction of the Montreal Congress to regionalise and decentralise, governance structures are being designed to represent the necessary amalgam of these three worlds of IUCN. The document you hold in your hand is a progress report of sorts; a snapshot of an ambitious and evolving scenario in a region of immense challenge, conflict, opportunity and contrast. The people of this region represent the world's brightest and best, and also its most impoverished and ill educated. The world's highest standards of living and per capita income as well as its lowest can be found here, as can biodiversity and natural resources in both their most pristine and their most degraded states. The members and staff of IUCN who face these challenges daily, and still find the optimism and creative ability to address the challenge, no matter what the odds, find expression in the snapshot you hold. They are an admirable group of people, and with them there is a chance of ensuring our security and that of Asia's changing environment as we forge our way forward and together into the next millennium of IUCN in Asia.

Ms Aban Marker Kabraji
Regional Director
As long as most economies of the region still depend on natural resources, the greatest challenges will continue to be the growing imbalance between an increasing population and the availability of natural resources to meet the basic needs of people; and the limited financial, technical and administrative capacity of individual countries in solving common environmental problems.

We are witnessing, and suffering from, changes in climate that can lead to an increased frequency in storms, more protracted droughts, longer and hotter than ever before heatwaves, serious forest fires, and more severe rainy seasons leading to devastating floods. In addition to this, poor economic growth, the need for improvement in social services, the pressing demand for jobs, and soaring military expenditures could divert the attention of decision makers and the public from conservation besides limiting fund raising opportunities. Inequity in sharing benefits from the use of genetic resources among countries and communities, conflict between the international policy of free trade and the national policy of incorporating environmental costs in price of goods, especially when countries are embarking on an export-oriented growth path, all these are issues that can weaken the common efforts for sustainable development.

Since there are serious challenges to reconciling conservation and development, both theoretically and in practice, IUCN, as the initiator of the concept of sustainable development, needs to expand it to an even broader meaning, covering a wide ranging of natural, economic, social, cultural and even ethical issues. This will help contribute to major changes in the living pattern of people, in the manner communities’ function and in the method of governance of states and organisations.

In South and Southeast Asia, there is both the need and the possibility of adopting regional approaches to problems that concern shared ecosystems, transborder reserves, migratory species, marine fisheries and waste dumping, and to strengthen linkages between IUCN’s Programmes and Commissions, global and national level programmes. A way forward for the Union to think globally and regionally, to broaden its partnerships, to link conservation and the economy more closely and to integrate strategies and policies with implementation and action, to turn concepts and ideas into action before it is too late, for any delay in action can increase the irreversible loss of nature and jeopardise our common future.

Dr Le Quy An
Regional Councillor
Our part of the world, South and Southeast Asia, is one of the biggest and most complex areas of the globe. It covers more countries, cultures, population, habitats and ecosystems than any other region. It is at the centre of an on-going debate between the north and south in all matters of environment, biodiversity and climate change, as well as population and gender.

We have the world’s richest marine and terrestrial biodiversity – our oceans, seas and forests are both abundant and bountiful. Having said this, I am sad to say that our environment is being destroyed, and to halt this trend will take much time. In the last hundred years, these natural resources have been exploited, first by the colonising powers and now, regrettably, with the advent of global treaties such as GATT and WTO by the developed nations.

We were a region where people practiced sustainable use. So much so that even today, in some areas like the Cordilleras mountain range, these practices are still being carried out: we have the example of rice terracing along steep mountain slopes. There was fish in our rivers and our forest teemed with life. Poverty was not a reality then. Later on, with colonisation, we began to lose our natural riches. Our ecosystems were plundered and our people began to feel the loss of our environment. We became the sufferers as well as the contributors to the state of the world’s environment.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the situation began to change somewhat. This was the decade of the NGO movement and when the fight for the protection of our environment began. This escalated as people began to feel the pressure of a degraded environment. Today, our region has more NGOs than any other region in the world. But there is much to be done if we are to try to recover the natural and cultural heritage we once had.

As we enter the next millennium, our region is suffering from the worst environmental and economic crises in its history: the forest fires of Indonesia, the drought, the effect of El Nino, the economic scenario that has brought Southeast Asia to its knees. But, we are not giving up. We are trying to restore our environment and to protect our natural and cultural heritage. The great empires of Asia, gone for a while, are experiencing a renewal, a revival of some sorts. From now onwards, we have no choice but to protect ourselves, protect our environment for our survival and for the generations still unborn.

Mr Antonio Claparols
Regional Councillor
These have been challenging times for South and Southeast Asia. On the one hand, there has been the economic meltdown of some of the world’s fastest growing economies; on the other, there has been rampant environmental degradation epitomised by the forest fires of Indonesia. The impact on people has, by all accounts, been devastating. In Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand, 70 million were affected in one way or another by the forest fires, while the financial crisis has pushed sustainability, both of people's livelihood and the environment, further to the margins.

To add to these woes, market based systems have progressively emerged as supreme in recent years and have left the less developed states, as well as the disadvantaged within those countries, powerless and vulnerable. Principles of social justice and equity have been by-passed in this setting; ordinary people, and particularly women and children, are the losers – in Indonesia, 48% have reportedly fallen below the poverty line, earning as little as US$ 4 per month. For the environmental community these forces have meant further enhancement of the pace of over-exploitation of natural resources, be they shrimp or forests. In the same context, the new regulatory arrangements have triggered the race for patenting species indigenous to the area. Acase in point is the patenting of basmati rice – to the utter disbelief of South Asian farmers who have been growing this species for over generations. Mechanisms are being put in place that are not likely to remove the North-South inequality.

IUCN members in the region, both government and non-government, like their contemporaries in other parts of the world, are being confronted with a situation that is beyond their control. Not surprisingly there is deep scepticism of international financial institutions, development agencies, governance structures and above all of the now failing development models.

Yet, parallel processes are also at work – though disparate and fragmented – creating a rich pool of grass roots experience, sensitive to nature’s biodiversity, linking the like-minded; in seeking and finding appropriate solutions. IUCN represents one such process. But for the IUCN network to become central to development negotiations, it needs to ask of itself a number of questions.

How should the network operationalize its governance structures to become a legitimate negotiator with UN agencies, governments, the corporate sector, and donors on behalf of diverse societies, communities and interests? How can it best mediate between the priorities of the poor vis-à-vis their government and of the developing world versus those of the industrialised countries? And to do this, is IUCN prepared to engage at the political level to push its agenda forward? Does it have the wherewithal to do so?

IUCN, in fact, has posited some of these questions and is seeking answers. Indeed it leads in many areas but it still needs to internalise the link between people’s economic well-being and environmental conservation; to be the bridge between the contending interests of its own community and those outside.

Ms Khawar Mumtaz
Regional Councillor
IUCN-The World Conservation Union began its work in 1948. Its global mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The Members
The World Conservation Union brings together states, government agencies and a diverse range of non-government organisations in a unique global partnership. It is among the few international organisations that both government and non-government bodies can join. This has brought together 927 members in all, spread over 138 countries.

IUCN provides a neutral forum where people from different sectors can share ideas, knowledge, values and concepts and convert them into policies and strategies that work. IUCN helps build partnerships between government and civil society, bringing them together to work on issues of environment and sustainable development.

The Commissions
Unique to IUCN are the six Commissions, permanent standing groups of volunteers, experts on specific issues. Presently, these are on: Ecosystem Management; Education and Communication; Environmental Economic and Social Policy; Environmental Law; Protected Areas; and Species Survival.

The Secretariat
In South and Southeast Asia, the administrative region of IUCN extends from Pakistan in the west to the Philippines in the east, 17 countries in the zone geographically south of China. IUCN has secretariat offices in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Lao PDR and a presence in Cambodia. It has a regional coordination office with additional country responsibility in Thailand. Based on programme requirements, it is likely that a secretariat presence will be established within the next triennium in Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia.
COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
Commitment to the conservation of nature and natural resources is best manifested through action: Bangladesh joined IUCN as a State Member as far back as 1972, the year following Independence; and once it endorsed the World Conservation Strategy, Bangladesh began work on a National Conservation Strategy.

This effort to prepare an NCS, in the mid 1980s, heralded the start of a good working relationship between the government and IUCN, leading to the establishment of a Country Office in Bangladesh in October 1991. Since then there has been work on forging environmental policies; institutional capacity building; environmental planning and assessment; sustainable management of natural resources; ecosystem management and habitat conservation; biodiversity conservation; demonstration through field projects; environmental awareness and education; and environmental law.

Of these endeavours, the most notable were the provision of technical support to formulate a National Environmental Management Action Plan, the development of a management approach for freshwater wetlands, the preparation of public education materials for nature awareness and conservation and technical assistance to IUCN partners in various areas.
IUCN Bangladesh’s programme has four principal objectives:

- To integrate sustainability and conservation principles into economic planning and development.
- To assist in establishing and effectively managing a national protected areas system that would contribute to the country’s economic development.
- To develop national capabilities for promoting and managing the sustainable use of biodiversity resources, including habitats, species and genetic stock.
- To build IUCN’s constituency of members and partners in Bangladesh and to involve them in defining the national programme, in delivery and in monitoring.

To maximise impact, IUCN Bangladesh has decided to put its weight behind work in biodiversity conservation; environmental awareness and education; environmental planning, legislation and assessment; NGO support and capacity building; and monitoring and evaluation. To this end, IUCN is involved in a number of projects, some of which are given below.

NCS Implementation Project: The Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing this five-year project, launched in 1995, with the objective of implementing the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) for Bangladesh.

Case Study

A First: the Bangladesh Red Book of Threatened Animals

Bangladesh is located in the delta of three major river systems of the world, with a wide range of ecological zones that support a rich biodiversity of both plants and animals. But a growing population is adversely affecting this biodiversity and any effort to conserve this rich resource needs information: fairly accurate and up-to-date data on flora and fauna. The scientific information on Bangladesh’s fauna is considered incomplete and accessible to only a few experts.

With this in mind, IUCN initiated the preparation of a Bangladesh Red Book of Threatened Animals in June 1997. This will cover five major classes of animals – mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish – with a short description of each species and illustrations for easy identification. It will also include an explanation as to why the species is threatened, endangered or even extinct, and present and future threats that would lead to a further...
with technical and logistical assistance from IUCN and financial support from NORAD.

Regional Project to Build Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Asia: Bangladesh is one of 12 countries under this BMZ-supported project that will help define the urgent actions needed to conserve biodiversity in the country and to catalyse the expertise needed for implementation.

Wetlands Policy and Management Project: This aims to develop an outline for a national wetland policy; prepare draft rules and regulations related to wetlands management; and EIA guidelines for the assessment of developments proposed for wetland areas.

Bangladesh Red Book of Threatened Animals: The Dutch Government is supporting this project. It will provide information on the status of animal species; draw attention to the importance of threatened animals and extinct animal biodiversity; and raise awareness among policy makers within and without government of the need for conserving threatened species.

Green Accounting Project: This is designed to raise awareness and interest in a broad group of people and institutions in

deterioration of their status. The book will be published both in Bengali and English.

A team of four professionals with practical field level experience carried out the work with the help of a 10-member advisory committee. The latter suggested guidelines for the collection of data and for the analyses that would be done according to IUCN’s global criteria of whether a species is threatened, endangered or extinct.

The findings? Some important species have been identified as extinct – for example, marsh crocodile, wild buffalo, swamp deer, hog deer, Indian peafowl, pink-headed duck and Bengal florican. A sample of critically endangered species include slow loris, hoolock gibbon, Indian pangolin, Bengal tiger, golden cat, Asiatic elephant, sambar, white winged duck, some species of hornbills and cranes, spoon-billed sandpiper, spot-billed pelican, Indian courser, white-tailed lapwing, gharial, bostami turtle, Asian giant tortoise and Russell’s viper.

The drafts were presented to the community of experts and conservationists through several workshops, and based on their feedback, a list of threatened animals was developed. A recent IUCN review mission evaluated the work and recommended some modifications in the procedures adopted to categorise the animals. Preparation of the final draft is in full swing and Bangladesh will soon have its first Red Book of Threatened Animals.
integrating environmental economics into policy and decision making in Bangladesh.

Population and Environment: Bangladesh is among the most densely populated countries of the world, with both government and NGOs playing a role to decrease the population growth rate and improve the living environment. One of the main objectives of this project is to network environment and population professionals and organisations to encourage the integration of environmental concerns into population planning.

IUCN Bangladesh is not only providing a neutral forum where organisations with diverse agendas can meet but is catalysing the participation of different sectors in conservation initiatives. The Ministry of Environment and Forest, as the State Member, and a number of high profile NGOs are part of the 10 IUCN members in Bangladesh and several country experts have joined the Commissions. Under the IUCN umbrella, the Bangladesh National Biodiversity Group, the Forum of Green Accounting, the National EIA Association, Bangladesh have all been set up.

In the future, besides the current projects, IUCN will be implementing a number of field projects, e.g. demonstrating the ‘wise use’ of wetland and flood plain sites with significant biodiversity resources, and strengthening the environmental management capacity of NGOs.
Since 1992, IUCN has been supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia’s efforts to define and implement its policies on biodiversity conservation, through a liaison office working principally with the Ministry of Environment.

The first step was an attempt to develop a national protected areas system. IUCN provided the assistance necessary to evolve an overall policy; it led to the government issuing a Royal Kret in 1993 on the Creation and Designation of Protected Areas. This was subsequently ratified by the 1996 Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management law. The Ministry of Environment has since prepared a subdecrees on Protected Area Management that will be considered by the Government and adopted in 1998.
To assess the country’s biodiversity, IUCN developed a National Biodiversity Prospectus for the Government and UNDP. Through this work, seven Biodiversity Management Regions have been identified on the basis of the character, distribution and utilisation of biological resources. To conserve and sustainably use these resources, IUCN has developed an approach – adopted by the environment ministry and receiving support from the international donor community – under which a number of protected areas within a given region are to be planned and developed in an integrated manner.

In 1998, two new projects are to be implemented: Training for Conventional and Participatory Vegetation Surveys supported by BMZ as part of IUCN’s Regional Biodiversity Programme; and Capacity Building for the Assessment of Plant Resources in Phnom Bokor and Preah Sihanouk (Ream) National Parks in southern Cambodia through the IUCN Netherlands Committee. Both projects have been designed to be implemented together and will be managed as one project, contributing to work undertaken earlier as well as providing a basis for the planned Parks, People and Biodiversity Project – Pilot Activities in Phnom Bokor and Ream National Parks.

In the near future, the central focus of the programme will continue to be support for biodiversity conservation. The goal, however, is to establish an effective country programme along the same principles as the growing IUCN programmes in neighbouring Lao PDR and Vietnam.
LAO PDR

Lao PDR retains one of the highest levels of biodiversity in Southeast Asia with its extensive forests and ecosystems providing habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The importance of this biodiversity has been understood for the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been a State Member since 1969. Today, the country is at a critical point in its national development as it seeks to provide social and economic benefits for its people: for much of its proposed development is dependent on the sustainable use of its natural resources.
IUCN established a presence in the country in 1988, by providing technical assistance to the Lao-Swedish Forestry Cooperation Programme. Though this support is continuing, IUCN’s programme in Lao has expanded much beyond this, as in the last 10 years it has worked to ensure that environmental needs and concerns become more widely understood and accepted throughout government and the community. In government, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (specifically, the Department of Forestry) has been IUCN’s main partner for many years, though the scope has expanded to include the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction and the Science, Technology and Environment Organisation also.

The goal of the IUCN programme is to assist the government and people of Lao PDR to achieve long term sustainable development through the wise use and management of their natural resources and unique biological diversity. This is to be achieved through four objectives.

- To assist the government in defining and implementing its policies on biological diversity conservation.

### Case Study

**Nakai-Nam Theun: Integrating Conservation and Development**

The Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area is the largest protected area in the country: currently over 3,000 sq. km in size, it will be more than 4,000 sq. km when the proposed northern extension is added. In many ways, the NNT area symbolises the challenges facing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Lao PDR. It is an area of great biodiversity significance and outstanding natural beauty, particularly along the Sai Phou Louang (Annamite) Range in the Khammouane and Bolikhamsai provinces bordering Vietnam. Its montane forests provide habitat for most of the mainland Southeast Asian fauna, including the tiger and elephant. But the area is now best known for the discovery of one new large mammal genus, the Saola, and a new species of Muntjak deer in the past four years. In addition, new species of small mammals have been discovered and the known range of others extended. The Nakai-Nam Theun is also an...

■ To assist the government in achieving the integration of conservation and environmental management with national and local development.

To assist the government in achieving the integration of conservation and environmental management with national and local development.

Major current and proposed activities: Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan for Nakai-Nam Theun Catchment and Corridor Areas (Government/World Bank: 1997-1999); SIDA Road Sector Environmental Assessment and Training Project (1997); SIDA Environmental Inventory of Khammouane Province (1997).

■ To assist the government and people in the management and sustainable use of critical habitats.

area of remarkable ethnic diversity, with more than 20 languages identified. However, many of the people are impoverished and face annual food shortages.

Increasing pressure is being placed upon the conservation values of the area through shifting cultivation, gathering of non-timber forest products and hunting. In the latter case, the illegal trade in high value wildlife and NTFPs is increasing, especially across international borders. For example, the shell of the Golden Turtle is reputed to be selling for US$ 700 per kilogram. There is an urgent need for effective management action that addresses not only biological conservation but also the human development needs of the resident communities.

The NNT NBCA is also playing a role in the Government’s national development plans, specifically the use of catchment waters for hydropower. In March, the Theun-Hinboun Dam was commissioned and planning has been underway for a number of years for the Nam Theun 2 (NT2) Dam. In the case of NT2, IUCN was approached by the World Bank in 1995 to undertake management planning studies of the NBCA to assist in the Bank’s deliberations on providing international loan guarantees for the development consortium. Before accepting, IUCN undertook an independent review of the relationship between conservation management and the proposed NT2 dam and was satisfied that, provided commitments were fulfilled by the various parties involved, the conservation area and the people living in it could benefit from the proposed development.

The underlying principle for IUCN was that dams are not necessarily incompatible with conservation goals, though they can be and there are many examples where the resulting environmental degradation and social disruption have been unacceptable. The NT2 was a case in point. The adherence to the standards and procedures established by the WB in the planning and assessment of the dam, and the commitment of the government and the development consortium to channelling hydroelectric revenue back into management of the conservation area, provided the opportunity to develop a positive link between major infrastructure projects and environmental conservation and social benefits. In 1997, IUCN prepared the Environmental and Social Management Plan for NNT for the Government and in 1998 will commence implementation of on-ground community development and conservation management activities.

Nakai-Nam Theun is, in many ways, one of the most important test cases for the integration of conservation and development objectives not only in Lao PDR, but also in Southeast Asia. Its success will set a precedent for sustainable development.
Major current and proposed activities: Netherlands
Sustainable Use of Non-Timber Forest Products Project
(1995-2000); co-ordination of the Asian Development Bank
RETA Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management in

To assist the government in developing environmental
education, communication and awareness programmes and
activities.

Ongoing activities: Continuing development of the
Environmental Resources Centre in the IUCN Country Office;
cooperation with government counterparts in the production
of conservation awareness activities and materials and
assistance with national and international environmental
events.
Nepal joined IUCN in 1973 and was one of the first countries in Asia to set up a field office. By 1985, IUCN had a team in place to prepare a National Conservation Strategy, adopted as government policy in 1988. The focus then shifted to implementation of the NCS, carried out in collaboration with the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal. At the same time, IUCN itself undertook programmes in Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation and NGO Environmental Management to backstop NCS implementation.
Nepal is now in its ninth year of NCS implementation, which places it ahead of any other country in the region. After the establishment of a Country Office in 1995, fresh challenges and opportunities have emerged. Today, the goal is to strengthen the institutional capacity for the conservation and use of natural resources in Nepal through a number of objectives:

- To identify needs for conservation and develop appropriate strategies to address them.
- To educate and raise awareness among people regarding the need for environmental conservation.
- To develop human resources to meet immediate and future needs for environmental management.
- To establish linkages and work in partnership with institutions, communities and resource user groups.
- To mobilise support and resources for environmental management.

To this end, IUCN Nepal is active in seven thematic areas. These areas and a brief description of selected activities are given below.

In Environmental Education, a curriculum development project is taking place. ‘Green’ curricula for grades one to ten have been developed. Since most of Nepal lacks motorable roads and electricity, people do not have access to newspapers, magazines and television – the everyday means of communication. But even if they could receive the written word, more than 60% of them would not be able to read it. Given this situation, alternative ways of communicating are needed to create awareness and to encourage action to resolve the problems facing Nepal’s rural population.

Hence, the Street Theatre Project – a joint effort of the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Population and Environment, UNFPA Nepal and IUCN. Implemented between 1994 and 1997, this three-year project aimed at raising awareness of environment, population and health issues, especially among the more vulnerable of society: women and children.

Advertisements in the national papers were used to encourage...
developed to ensure that today’s youth and the future generations are well aware of environmental issues. In addition, instead of separate texts on the subject, the strategy has been to integrate environmental concepts into topics such as health, population and science.

In the area of Environmental Law and Policy, the Government of Nepal has constituted a six-member Biodiversity Trust Fund for Nepal (BTFN) Design Working Group. IUCN Nepal is one of the members of the working group and has been taking the lead in developing legal instruments for the establishment of a BTFN.

IUCN Nepal has made its mark in Environmental Impact Assessments. So much so that the Upper Bote Koshi Hydropower Project has requested IUCN to undertake the environmental monitoring and auditing (EMA) of its construction. It is the first systematically designed EMA programme in Nepal, that is actually monitoring the environmental impact of a dam during its construction.

In the thematic area of Institutional Development and Environmental Planning, the development of conservation action plans for 3 lakes in Pokhara Valley, a popular tourist destination
in Nepal, have been undertaken – IUCN will be preparing, endorsing and initiating implementation of conservation plans for the scenic Phewa, Rupa and Begnas lakes.

Mapping of critical biodiversity areas is a project being carried out for the Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management theme. A simplified map indicating critical areas of high biodiversity value such as old growth forest, concentrations of endemic species, migration routes and breeding areas of birds and fish, and natural areas of cultural value such as sacred forests, lakes and river banks is being prepared in collaboration with the Tree Improvement Programme.

In the Wetlands and Heritage Conservation section, the Lumbini Heritage Conservation project is being undertaken. Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, is a World Heritage Site. This archaeological-cum-natural heritage site is an important pilgrimage destination for Buddhists. IUCN Nepal, for the past three years, has been restoring the wetlands and the natural habitat around Lumbini.

One project in the Environmental Economics theme area is assessing the status of work on the economics of biodiversity in the South Asia region: to identify the gaps, weaknesses and strengths of work done in this area and to identify future priorities.

There are six IUCN members in Nepal. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the State Member, while the other five are NGOs. IUCN has been assisting DNPWC set up a National Biodiversity Unit and has been providing technical and financial assistance to NGO members in areas such as the preparation and publication of reports and brochures.

The seven thematic areas that constitute the major work of IUCN Nepal were identified as the country’s priority needs by policy documents and by responsible individuals in national forums and log frame exercises. With timely modifications, IUCN Nepal will continue to facilitate consolidation and expansion in these areas. It will also embark upon new areas as the need arises.
Pakistan is the tenth most populous country in the world and as such, its environment is being rapidly degraded by an ever-increasing population. To take some steps to remedy matters, the Government of Pakistan requested IUCN’s help to develop a National Conservation Strategy. In 1986, a one-person Country Office was established in Karachi to begin work on the NCS. This was eventually approved in 1992, and defines the context for IUCN’s work in Pakistan as does its global membership and mandate.
IUCN Pakistan aims at capacity development for the environment through the following objectives:

- Integrating environment issues with development.
- Creating a supportive policy and legal framework.
- Increasing support for the environment among key sectors of civil society.
- Institutional and human resource development.

As an approach, IUCN is working closely with the government as well as with the larger civil society. Following a two-pronged approach, IUCN advocates and technically assists the development of the conservation strategies at the national and sub-national levels; and supports the strategies’ implementation by providing assistance in policy and legislative reforms, capacity development, environmental assessment, awareness and education, and by implementing selected field projects.

IUCN Pakistan maintains core capacity in the form of thematic programmes – Communications, Business and Law, Environmental Education, NGO Support, Environmental Assessment Services, Coastal Ecosystems and the Biodiversity programmes. They form an institutional feedback loop – the units

With a landscape of some of the world’s highest mountains, interspersed with valleys, gorges, meadows and rivers, the Northern Areas of Pakistan are richly endowed with biodiversity. The area is home to wild animals such as the snow leopard, markhor and ibex. But for some recent conservation efforts, wildlife has been steadily declining. One of the reasons is the ownership of common land and resources. Most Pakistani law presumes wild lands to be state property. In certain cases, even if the land is privately or communally owned, the products are subject to state regulation. In practice, this has meant alienation of the local people from their lands and eventual loss of interest in their management. There is also the problem of the lack of awareness of natural resources and their links to maintaining ecosystems. The result has been a conflict of interest: while the state machinery has been seeking to conserve wildlife by excluding any substantive use, local
communities have been favoring poaching or unrestricted hunting of animals for either food or income. The combined effect has been a rapid decline in wildlife populations.

The last few years have seen a change: the World Wide Fund for Nature and IUCN, through separate initiatives, have sought to test the premise of ‘conservation through use’ in the Northern Areas. They have done this by enhancing the understanding of natural resources among people, organising the local communities for collective action; changing state laws that would allow the local people to reap the benefits of conservation; and finding a market for wild products, in this case, a managed trophy hunting programme.

The start was through GEF/UNDP support for a pilot project in 1995. It was a timely move. The Prime Minister of Pakistan had just approved a policy that allowed 75% of the revenues from the trophy hunting to go to the communities; previously they were entitled to none. Communities in the Northern Areas had been mobilised by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and were looking for economic opportunities. IUCN used this opening and over the next three years, undertook wildlife surveys in several valleys and, in collaboration with AKRSP, further organised the local communities to address conservation issues.

By 1997, government approval for six international hunting permits was obtained – and four were to be managed by the project. Three of the four permits were successfully marketed with hunters from the US arriving in early 1998. Two succeeded and returned with prized trophies; the third’s health unfortunately did not permit him to continue despite being in the vicinity of ibex herds. However, he was so impressed with the community-managed programme that he contributed US$ 3,000 for the Village Conservation Fund that has been set up under the project.

In all, the communities received US$ 16,000 from two trophy-size ibex. More important, they realised the value of their resource and the potential gains of conservation. The climax of the expedition was a celebration in the villages of the local people and the hunters: the latter were made honorary residents of the village, and offered life membership of the village organisation! The result is that poaching has almost ceased in the project’s partner communities. Even the government is finding it difficult to allow hunting without the approval of the conservation committees. This makes the case for inverting the conservation logic: go for sustainable use rather than protection.

What are the projects? IUCN manages a diverse project portfolio which includes:

- Pakistan Environment Programme – capacity building for NCS implementation.
- Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy – assisting in sub-national implementation.
- Biodiversity Conservation through Community Development – biodiversity resource use.
- Environmental Rehabilitation in the NWFP and Punjab – environmental rehabilitation of degraded watersheds.

The Country Office has four components: (a) Membership Affairs, (b) Thematic Programmes (described above); (c) Directorate of Finance and Operations; and (d) Programme Directorate. Besides the Country Office itself, IUCN maintains three programme offices and three field offices in other parts of...
Pakistan. These offices support and oversee the work of the various projects in their respective areas. Compared to a staff of 35 in 1990, IUCN Pakistan now employs over 250 persons: 170 are professional staff and about 75 are support staff.

Just as the office has grown, so too has membership, from 8 in 1990 to 24 today. These include the Government of Pakistan as a State Member, 7 government organisations and 16 NGO members. About 54 volunteers from Pakistan work with IUCN’s Commissions. IUCN Pakistan’s work with the membership and the commissions takes various forms: participation in programme planning; joint projects; collaboration on advocacy around key issues such as protected areas, and support in fund raising. The relationship with the members has strengthened with the formation of a Pakistan National Committee, which is the executive body of members. IUCN also works with a number of other partners. These include research and teaching institutions, government departments, chambers of commerce and industry, law networks, media, and NGOs.

The current size of IUCN’s operations in Pakistan is about US$ 3.66 million per annum, compared to US$ 1.95 million three years ago. This growth is a factor of the Pakistan office’s performance and donors and partners’ confidence in its work. CIDA, GEF, NEDA, NORAD, SDC, UNDP and Japan are among the major IUCN Pakistan donors.

IUCN’s most important achievement has been the Pakistan NCS and its contributions to the development of all key environmental policies including the new Pakistan Environment Act 1997; and the National Environmental Quality Standards; it has helped in developing the Biodiversity Action Plan for Pakistan, and has successfully advocated a greater space for the civil society in public policy and decision making.

In 1997, IUCN Pakistan undertook a constituency-wide consultation as to its future direction. Generally, IUCN will focus on consolidation, meeting commitments under the existing projects, and seeking financial sustainability. New opportunities will be selectively undertaken in areas of policy, economics and urban environment. The organisation will continue to invest in learning and prepare itself for the future in order to maintain its ability and reputation as a competent, quality conscious and reliable organisation.
IUCN’s role in Sri Lanka started in 1988. As embodied in the mission of the global IUCN, the Sri Lankan programme reflects the will and the needs of this country to enhance national initiatives in environmental conservation and in the sustainable management of biodiversity.

Building on the strengths of wide national expertise, IUCN plays a catalytic role in a spectrum of activities that include policy formulation, protected area management, habitat and species conservation and environmental awareness, besides strengthening institutional capacity. The programme also seeks to draw on the capability of IUCN worldwide in strengthening local participation in global initiatives for biodiversity conservation.
IUCN Sri Lanka has been providing policy support to the government to carry out national initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation. Sri Lanka’s first Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) was prepared by IUCN through GEF/World Bank funding to fulfil the government’s obligation to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Prepared through an intensely participatory process, the BCAP proposes actions to ensure that the nation’s rich biological heritage is conserved and used sustainably in the course of development. Other activities include technical assistance to a GEF-funded project Conservation and Sustainable Use of Sri Lanka’s Medicinal Plants being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine, assistance to the Ministry of Environment in implementing the CBD, and facilitation of regional collaboration in biodiversity conservation in South and Southeast Asia.

Another important area which IUCN has focussed on is Protected Areas Management. IUCN provided technical assistance to the highly successful, multi-faceted Environmental Management Component of the Forestry Sector Development Project. There was preparation of Conservation Management Plans for the Sinharaja forest, the Knuckles forest, Peak Wilderness Sanctuary and 13 other conservation

---

**Case Study**

Managing the Fabled Forests

The 1980s were a crucial decade for Sri Lanka’s natural forests as, faced with the ever-increasing demand for land for agricultural development and human settlements, the government was forced to open up hitherto unused forestlands. For example, under the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project, one of Asia’s largest agro-irrigation projects, thousands of hectares of forests were cleared for new settlements and farmlands.

There was a similar situation with Sri Lanka’s wet zone forests, which rank highest among the country’s biodiversity heritage. Until the 1980s these forests were viewed as a resource to be exploited – large scale timber extraction activities continued unhindered in the Sinharaja, the country’s only natural World Heritage Site. As an initiative to conserve the remaining wet zone forests, the Government undertook the preparation of a Forestry Master Plan meant to identify the major issues facing...
the forestry sector in Sri Lanka and to prepare a strategy that would guide the nation in addressing these issues.

To further the plan, the Government of Sri Lanka, with the assistance of FAO/CP, developed a Forestry Sector Development Project (FSDP). In 1988, IUCN was requested to conduct a preliminary environmental impact assessment of the forestry operations proposed by FSDP, in order to encourage a more positive approach towards forest conservation issues. IUCN conducted this assessment and suggested the creation of an Environmental Management Component (EMC) within the FSDP.

The EMC started in 1991 and ran for five and a half years – its multi-faceted programme was seen as highly successful. It was meant to strengthen the Forest Department, and the then Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry, to enable both agencies to deal effectively with forest environment management opportunities and problems.

It not only achieved this objective, but was successful in carrying out several other activities that were crucial to the management of Sri Lanka’s forest sector. Among these were the establishment and functioning of an Environmental Management Division within the Forest Department to facilitate environmental management, and the development of training programmes for the EMD and Forest Department staff. Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines for forestry sector operations were also compiled.

In addition, a National Conservation Review was conducted – which carried out a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of the hydrological value and biodiversity of natural forests in the country. It proved to be a landmark study resulting in the preparation of a framework for the development of a representative protected area network in Sri Lanka. There was also a National Survey of Traditional Forest Use – that for the first time investigated forest use by rural communities and their degree of forest dependence. And reflecting the importance of information, a computerised database known as the Environmental Information Management System, that allowed for the storage, retrieval, analysis and reporting of a wide range of forest and biological information, was developed. All these spin-offs, that have added considerably to the forestry sector, emerging from one project.

As an island state, Sri Lanka accords high priority to the conservation of its coastal and marine resources. IUCN has recently developed a Marine and Coastal Programme strategy that addresses critical issues and sets forth objectives and activities for the period 1998-2001. As part of this strategy, in 1998, IUCN commenced activities on a Ramsar-funded project to create conservation awareness about the Bellanwilla-Attidiya Marsh – a suburban wetland. By acting as a catalyst, IUCN aims to motivate other organisations to make a concerted effort towards the future protection of wetlands.

Sri Lanka’s offshore territorial waters are home to over 20 species of small cetaceans which, despite legal protection since 1993, are under increasing threat due to over-exploitation. The Netherlands-funded project on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, several state agencies and concerned individuals aimed at awareness creation and training.
of law enforcement authorities and state sector officials concerned with the conservation of marine resources.

In recognition of the central role that Education and Awareness play in fostering public attitudes, IUCN has prepared an education and communication strategy designed to promote the conservation of the nation’s biodiversity. Some activities carried out have been creation of awareness of threatened species and ecosystems through the preparation of the National List of Threatened Species for Sri Lanka with WWF funding and the promotion of biodiversity conservation among administrators and professionals in the state and private sector through the Biodiversity Skills Enhancement project. This pioneering project was carried out in collaboration with the Sri Lankan government and March for Conservation, a member NGO.

The education and awareness components of the Small Cetaceans project were successful in creating awareness of the need to conserve these species among a wide segment of society. Besides several professional training workshops, IUCN conducted community level workshops to effectively reach the families of fishermen engaged in harpooning dolphins for commercial use. The project was also instrumental in the production of a video documentary, a poster, a pamphlet and several newspaper reports.

As the world approaches the twenty-first century, IUCN Sri Lanka can reflect on a decade of service. IUCN’s future agenda focuses on a range of activities that include capacity building for biodiversity conservation in tropical Asia, ecosystem and species conservation, environmental education and awareness, and initiating activities in the fields of environmental assessment and law. In order to succeed IUCN will seek greater collaboration within the region to conserve biological resources, link up activities with global themes and continue to strengthen its partnership with local institutions and NGOs.

Considering the projected population increases and a high land to person ratio, needless to say, concerted action towards striking a balance between conservation and development are becoming more and more meaningful. We at IUCN Sri Lanka are proud to be a part of that effort.
VIETNAM

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam joined IUCN as a State Member in 1993 and since then one local Vietnamese NGO has become a member: the Institute of Ecological Economy. The Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, another NGO, will soon become the second member.

IUCN, however, began work in Vietnam as far back as 1984, assisting in the preparation of a National Conservation Strategy, adopted in 1985, and a National Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development approved by government in 1991. In 1992, IUCN was given office space in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and in 1993, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed which permitted IUCN to establish a permanent Country Office. This agreement was reviewed in 1996, and expanded to enable the appointment of a Country Representative in Hanoi.
Case Study

The National Environment Agency in Vietnam

The war left the environment in a critical condition and Vietnam is now facing the challenge of managing its natural resources. The government sees this task of environmental management and protection as a priority, illustrated by the number of international environmental treaties that have been ratified, by the environmental plans and strategies developed and being implemented, and by a number of policy decisions which have been taken in favour of environmental protection during the past years.

Within government, environment related work is carried out by the National Environment Agency (NEA), created in 1993, within the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. It is headed by a Director-General with nine divisions that cover: review of environmental impact assessments; monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment; pollution control; environmental inspection; biodiversity conservation, especially of wetlands and marine resources; sustainable use of natural resources and forest conservation; pollution prevention; environmental economics; environmental awareness; integrated planning.

The priorities for IUCN Vietnam are based on a synthesis of key environmental issues in the country, historical interventions by the Union, the global priorities of IUCN and the involvement of other international conservation organisations in Vietnam. IUCN Vietnam has adopted a strategic approach towards the development of its technical programme. The main focal areas are:

- Biodiversity conservation, especially of wetlands and marine resources.
- Sustainable use of natural resources and forest conservation.
- Pollution prevention.
- Environmental economics.
- Environmental awareness.
- Integrated planning.
Vietnam is party to ASEAN and the Mekong River Commission and has signed a large number of international treaties. The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1993, the same year Vietnam began developing a Biodiversity Action Plan. This was undertaken as a component of Vietnam’s first UNDP/GEF project. Working through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, IUCN was sub-contracted to coordinate the preparation of the Plan. The Government ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 and approved the Biodiversity Action Plan in December 1995.

IUCN is actively working with the Nature Conservation Division in the National Environment Agency on a number of activities including a review of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Funds for these activities are provided through a BMZ-funded regional biodiversity programme and a SIDA-backed project Strengthening the Environmental Management Authority of Vietnam. The latter is a long term capacity building programme with all of NEA and IUCN is providing technical advice through two long-term advisors based in the National Environment Agency. A major component of the project is to help the Agency and six provincial environment divisions establish and implement provincial environmental inspection procedures.
IUCN Vietnam is working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries to develop a national system of Marine Protected Areas with funds from GEF/World Bank. In addition, it is helping Government develop a national programme for wetlands conservation in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Bureau. IUCN is also involved in the development of on-the-ground management plans for the Mekong Delta and the largest coastal wetland in Vietnam, the Tam Giang Cau Hai Lagoon.

A major concern of the Government is the sustainable use of natural resources and particularly non-timber forest products. With support from the Dutch Government, IUCN is running an institutional support programme with the NTFP Research Centre of the Forest Science Institute in Hanoi and will develop two demonstration projects in north and central Vietnam.

Tourism in Vietnam is growing rapidly and this is adding to impact on the environment. To address this issue, a project was developed with input from a number of concerned organisations and IUCN is now running it. The project aims to establish a framework for sustainable tourism in Vietnam. Funding is provided by the Ford Foundation, Interchurch Organisaton for Development Co-operation and Oxfam International.

All nature conservation activities need awareness raising and education not only to build institutional capacity but to raise the understanding of people about the environment. A programme of environmental awareness interventions will be developed in collaboration with IUCN’s Commission for Education and Communication and IUCN HQ’s Communications Division.

Vietnam is in need of integrated planning and policy development, IUCN has assisted with key strategies and plans for many years and this area of support is to be developed more strategically with efforts targeted at the ministries responsible for environment and planning.
OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

The Regional Coordination Office in Thailand is responsible for communicating with members in countries without an IUCN Office: in Brunei, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Of these, India, Malaysia and the Philippines are State Members of IUCN, while Indonesia and Brunei have Government Agency membership.

To improve the level of communication with members in these states, a number of activities have been undertaken: membership meetings have been organised in several of these countries in the past one year; and IUCN staff on duty travel to these countries, routinely meet and consult with IUCN members.

Members are also being encouraged to constitute IUCN National Committees in these countries. In India, members have discussed how to revitalise the National Committee. Likewise preliminary discussions have been held on the formation of committees in the Philippines and Malaysia.
There are few IUCN programmes under implementation in countries without an IUCN office. This is primarily because of the Secretariat’s lack of resources and capacity to initiate or support programme development efforts. Having said this, a number of small sized activities have been initiated in these countries by the regional biodiversity, sustainable use, and monitoring and evaluation programmes of IUCN where an office does not exist.

An example is the National Biodiversity Conservation Network in Malaysia. In order to promote consultation, coordination and sharing of experiences among the many different agencies and organisations involved in biodiversity-related activities in Malaysia, this Network was established with approximately 50 members. In addition to organising members’ meetings on a regular basis, the network is establishing a home page, preparing an annual newsletter, and creating a database of biodiversity professionals. IUCN’s regional biodiversity programme is providing support for the Network’s core activities (through the Malaysian Nature Society), including members’ meetings, and the preparation of position papers and publications.

These activities will grow, as with the recruitment of a number of thematic programme specialists and a regional programme coordinator, the Secretariat is now in a position to enhance interaction with members on programme related matters.
Based at the Asian Institute of Technology campus about 50 kilometres north of Bangkok, Thailand, the Regional Coordination Office presently acts as the secretariat of the Regional Director and carries out a number of functions. It provides administrative and logistical support to the Country Offices, and is responsible for financial coordination in the region. Eventually the entire administrative and human resources function of the Asia region will be handled through the RCO. So too will be the financial management of the region, which includes donor liaison and reporting.
More important, the office is gradually taking over the role of coordinating and backstopping programme development in the region. The regional forest conservation and monitoring and evaluation programmes are also based in the Regional Office as is responsibility for the UNDP/GEF project on Biodiversity Conservation in the Wetlands of the Mekong Basin countries.

The office is responsible for membership coordination and for support to all the members in the region. This includes answering new membership inquiries, addressing queries and requests from current members and organising country and regional level meetings.

The office maintains liaison and provides support to different Commissions and their Specialist Groups. This ranges from assistance in routine matters, to arranging workshops/seminars and publishing documents on behalf of the Commissions. It also facilitates the participation of individuals from the region in different fora arranged by the Commissions.

The future? From a Regional Coordination Office to gradually becoming a Regional Directorate Secretariat as the South and Southeast Asia programme grows.

### Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Thailand

Tortoises and freshwater turtles in Thailand, and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, are known to be under threat from collection for consumption, the pet trade, and from habitat destruction. Some species do occur in protected areas and most are subject to a variety of national and international protective legislation. Nevertheless, accurate data on present distribution, population size and trends are lacking for nearly the entire region.

Turtle populations generally take a long time to recover from exploitation. The young are vulnerable to drought, fire, predators and other natural impacts; nevertheless environmental conditions and luck will be right often enough for some juveniles to survive and reach adulthood. Nature's way usually works well in the animal's natural habitat, but when humans tamper with the system or breach the defensive armor of adult tortoises with fire and steel, valuable mature adults are
Support to the IUCN Constituency in Thailand

Thailand joined IUCN in 1962 and state membership lies with the Royal Forestry Department. There are two additional members, the Wildlife Fund of Thailand and the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre.

The Office has been assisting the Royal Thai Government on accession to the Ramsar Convention and the CBD. IUCN has been involved from almost the start in the Thai Government’s preparations to ratify the CBD – providing the technical and legal inputs. The Philippines, Indonesian and Malaysian experience of the CBD was shared with the Thai stakeholders, as was the measures put in place to ensure that undue advantage cannot be taken of the country’s accession to the CBD.

The Royal Forestry Department was assisted in developing a National Wetland Policy, which is currently being approved by the government and in forming the guidelines on which to re-classify its existing protected areas. Once this is complete, technical support will be provided during the actual reclassification process as will capacity building for managing the new areas. IUCN has also been involved in training programmes in nature conservation and reporting. A concise illustrated identification guide to regional tortoises and freshwater turtles is in preparation; and biologists, customs officers and others can use this to identify the turtles they encounter in the wild or in trade. Finally, a regional database to collect and analyze historical and recent records of turtle distribution and abundance is being developed, permitting an assessment of historical trends of species distribution and abundance.

quickly removed from the population. Consequently, fewer are born and those that do survive face increased human-related hazards such as forest fires, fishing nets or road traffic.

This situation led to a project to assess the status of tortoises and turtles in Thailand, where all species have been legally protected since 1992. It was found that collection of turtles for local and/or foreign consumption or the pet trade has declined to modest levels in recent years. Better still, several species of tortoises and freshwater turtles are to be found in Thailand’s protected areas, and as long as human impact on these areas is minimized, the survival of these species appears assured. For species that are not found in the protected areas in sufficiently large populations, the future is more uncertain. The latter group includes species of large clear-water rivers and of mangrove creeks, habitats that are not well represented in the Thai protected areas system. One way forward is to identify the remaining populations and find means to ensure their survival, which may involve the designation of additional protected areas, enforcement of restrictions on capture, and captive breeding and other options.

Another spin-off from the project is a set of guidelines that can be used to assess the status of tortoises and freshwater turtles anywhere in the Southeast Asian region. These cover standards for turtle surveys, data recording and reporting. A concise illustrated identification guide to regional tortoises and freshwater turtles is in preparation; and biologists, customs officers and others can use this to identify the turtles they encounter in the wild or in trade. Finally, a regional database to collect and analyze historical and recent records of turtle distribution and abundance is being developed, permitting an assessment of historical trends of species distribution and abundance.

**Manouria impressa**
related subjects conducted by the Department, the Asian Institute of Technology, the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre and Mahidol University.

The office is currently conducting a field assessment of the conservation status and utilization of tortoises and freshwater turtles in Thailand, and was extended to Peninsular Malaysia. The study is in its second and final year and is designed to make an assessment of different species and their utilization.

Thailand is in the process of gaining new members and developing its own programme.

Financial Operations

When the regional coordination office was created in early 1995, the Asia region was a collection of small, stand alone country programmes with few staff and a limited number of activities. Today, the programme is more cohesive, the portfolio has increased substantially and staffing has increased.

This has been possible due to the financial support of a large number of donors and partners, with Country Offices raising funds for country-specific programmes or projects. Regional initiatives are raising interest too. Norway has picked up the cost of the forest conservation programme. The governments of Germany and Switzerland are funding two regional biodiversity projects.

All this has been possible because of the high quality output that the programme has been able to deliver to the satisfaction of its partners, target beneficiaries and the donors.

Funds Turnover, 1995-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,338,055.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,179,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1,045,170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donor-Wise 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1,045,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN System</td>
<td>359,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>97,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>464,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>427,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>460,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>246,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>136,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>86,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>118,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4,768,933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donor-Wise 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1,118,056.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN System</td>
<td>1,021,408.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>861,717.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>727,110.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>446,738.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>38,135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>38,135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>38,135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4,403,305.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UCN's regional biodiversity programme has been evolving rapidly since its inception in 1996. In collaboration with members, the Commissions and IUCN Country Offices, and with the financial assistance of Germany and Switzerland, the Biodiversity Programme is currently supporting activities in 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia. Using the Convention on Biological Diversity as its guiding framework, the programme is focusing upon the following seven thematic areas.

Identification and Monitoring of Important Components of Biodiversity: Article 7 of the CBD calls upon the parties to identify important components of their biodiversity, such as threatened species, endemics, and wild relatives of domesticated crops and animals. The regional biodiversity programme has been providing support for the development of new, cost-effective biodiversity assessment and monitoring tools in Nepal, the preparation of a National Red Book of Threatened Species in Bangladesh, and the development of national species Action Plans in Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In-Situ Conservation (Article 8): As pressures on the region's protected areas continue to mount, there has been a growing recognition of the need for more participatory approaches to conservation which actively involve local communities as partners. Following a major workshop in 1998 at the Chitwan National Park in Nepal, involving government and NGO representatives from 11 countries, the biodiversity programme is now assisting with the design of a regional initiative to support collaborative management of protected areas and their buffer zones.

National Biodiversity Policies, Strategies, and Action Plans (Article 6): To assist with the coordination of biodiversity policies and to promote the implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans, the regional programme is providing support to the recently established national Biodiversity Units in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam. The programme also seeks to encourage broad stakeholder involvement in the development of national biodiversity policies and plans. To this end, it is supporting a number of consultative fora and groups, including the National Biodiversity Conservation Network in Malaysia, the Consultative Group on the CBD in India, and the National Experts' Committee on Biodiversity in Sri Lanka.

Legislative and Regulatory Mechanisms: Effective implementation of the CBD will, in many instances, require the development of new legislative and regulatory mechanisms. The regional programme is particularly concerned with the issues surrounding access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and the equitable sharing of benefits (Article 15 and 8). In an effort to catalyse national planning processes on access and benefit sharing, IUCN and the Swaminathan Foundation organised the South and Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in early 1998, in Madras. The workshop provided an important opportunity to learn from regional experiences — such as
Executive Order 247 in the Philippines – and contributed to the development of access and benefit sharing initiatives in several countries.

Education and Awareness (Article 13): In order to increase awareness of, and support for, biodiversity, the regional programme is providing assistance to a number of education and awareness activities. These include the preparation of educational materials on the CBD in Malaysia, the publication of Sri Lanka’s Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan in all three national languages, and the translation of the Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity into Nepali. The programme is currently in the process of developing a Regional Communications Strategy, which will identify key messages, target audiences, and approaches in greater detail, and highlight priorities for future action.

The Economics of Biodiversity: Although conservationists have traditionally tended to shy away from economics, the regional biodiversity programme is seeking to ‘mainstream’ the use of economics within IUCN’s work, as a tool to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Particular attention is being accorded to valuation studies that highlight the economic value of biodiversity, and to the analysis of ‘perverse incentives’, that encourage biodiversity loss.

CBD Processes: The CBD provides a strategic and comprehensive framework in which to pursue IUCN’s global mission at the regional level. Not only has virtually every country in the region now ratified the Convention, but also, the CBD’s three principal objectives – conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits – are central to the Union’s own mandate. In recognition of these potential synergies, the programme is working to strengthen the ‘voice’ of South and Southeast Asian countries at key CBD events, including meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). Activities have included the organisation of a CoP preparatory workshop in Pakistan, involving key government officials, NGOs, IUCN members, IUCN Commissions and partners; and the provision of support to enable government and NGO representatives from the region to participate in sessions of the Global Biodiversity Forum.

In carrying out its activities, the regional biodiversity programme places particular emphasis on capacity building and working in partnership with IUCN’s members, Commissions, and Country Offices. Programme activities are also designed to draw upon IUCN’s special strengths, particularly its networks, its scientific expertise, and its ability to bring government agencies and NGOs into common forum. As the programme matures, there will also be increased opportunities for regional exchanges and learning.

The activities of the programme are coordinated by a regional biodiversity officer, based at IUCN Sri Lanka, and are overseen by a Steering Committee composed of IUCN’s Regional Director, the Chief Scientist, and other senior staff. To provide additional guidance and technical support, a Regional Biodiversity Advisory Group is also being established, with representatives from the Commissions and IUCN’s Council.
FOREST CONSERVATION

Much of IUCN’s work in the region has been associated with the development and implementation of conservation strategies and associated policy instruments, mainly at the national level. Contributions have been made to the development of regulatory mechanisms, national planning procedures, protected area systems and management, species action plans, environmental impact assessment procedures and education curriculum. These activities have an impact on forest conservation by improving the general circumstances for recognising the biodiversity and ecosystem values of forests and addressing forest conservation issues in various countries.

In the past, the dominant technical area of the regional programme has been the identification and assessment of forest conservation values and the protection of endemic and endangered species. This has included flora and fauna surveys, assessments of conservation status, updating lists of rare and threatened animals, and the development of indicators for habitat conservation. Currently, IUCN is involved mainly in the development of conservation management plans for specific forest areas of high priority and in testing other approaches for promoting the sustainable management of critical forest habitats. Such projects are underway in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR and Vietnam, involving partnerships with government and NGO members. New projects for supporting the management of protected areas have been formulated for Cambodia, and a large regional project for promoting and supporting collaborative management of protected areas and buffer zones in Asia is under development. These projects are designed to contribute to the establishment and effective management of forested protected areas.

A field project in Lao PDR is testing incentives and management systems for supporting the sustainable use of non-timber forest products. Similar activities are planned to start in Vietnam in 1998, and resume in the Philippines in 1999. These field projects are designed to explore the development and implementation of socially beneficial and economically viable forest management outside protected areas. IUCN also co-ordinates a small network of development practitioners, academics and business people in the region who are engaged in NTFP initiatives. The network has been engaged in sharing information and experience about research and planning methods and the role of NTFPs in forest conservation and rural development. A small project has been developed in response to the need to encourage the development of environmentally sound, economically viable and equitable reforestation and forest ecosystem restoration programmes. The project will assess the policy and practice for restoring degraded forests in Southeast Asia, and will identify and promote desirable principles and criteria for guiding forest restoration programmes.

To date, IUCN’s forest conservation activities in the region have been largely country specific, relatively few in number and limited in their...
coverage. There is a need and opportunity to build on IUCN’s experience and strengths as a union and develop an expanded and cohesive regional programme for addressing key forest conservation issues in the region.

The forest conservation programme in South and Southeast Asia is in transition, reflecting the strengthening of IUCN’s regional structures, and the objectives and priority activities identified in IUCN’s triennial programme; forest policy; and global strategy for forest conservation. A strategic framework for IUCN in the region is now required to guide the further development of forest conservation activities, and this needs to be developed in consultation with IUCN’s secretariat, members, partners, relevant commissions and other stakeholders in forest conservation.

The central themes of the current forest conservation programme are the establishment and management of protected areas; sustainable use of forests outside of protected areas, including developing models for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products; and the restoration of forest ecosystems. These themes are likely to be incorporated into the strategic framework for the programme. However, there is need to consider what other themes should be addressed by the programme and included in a strategic framework. For example, there are numerous cross-sector impacts, such as those associated with over-consumption, land-use changes, pollution, climate change and perverse economic incentives, which may need to be addressed in an expanded forest programme.

Within the general themes, new activities need to be developed and implemented in various geographic locations. New activities might include assisting with the integration of forest conservation into rural development planning; mitigation of the negative impacts of logging, forest fires and mining; development of forest policy; collecting and disseminating experience in forest conservation; development and extension of monitoring and assessment methods; and supporting trans-boundary forest and watershed management. The programme could also expand geographically to include activities involving members and partners in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, India and the Philippines.

All of these activities will require additional funding, the enhanced involvement of members and commissions, and the harnessing of new partnerships.
Many people believe that the best strategy to conserve nature is to leave it alone and not use it at all. However, it is a well-known fact that natural systems include people, and that people use natural resources. As the global population grows, the non-sustainable exploitation of our planet’s remaining wild living resources is intensifying, natural resources are diminishing and the pressure on ecosystems is increasing. Currently, exploitation of wild living resources is driven mainly by actions designed to achieve short-term goals. When all that is exploitable has gone, what then?

Using renewable natural resources sustainably – including plants, forests, fishes, and other wildlife – means doing so in a way that does not threaten a species by overuse, yet optimises benefits to both the environment and human needs. Sustainable use is an important conservation tool and this importance is reflected in the Convention on Biological Diversity under Article 10 that states use “in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations”.

In response, IUCN established the Sustainable Use Initiative (SUI) in 1995. Its mission is to conserve biological diversity for the benefit of people. It is doing this by first, developing an understanding of sustainable use; second, by transmitting those findings through a global network and third, by demonstrating sustainable use through a number of pilot projects. SUI has established a global network of Sustainable Use Specialist Groups (SUSGs) whose role is to investigate environmental and sociological factors relevant to sustainable use. SUSGs, founded in 1995, have established themselves as a resource for analysis and information at the local/regional level. Examples of studies already produced are: “The American Alligator” (North America), “Mangroves of Meso America” (Central America) and “Artisanal Fisheries” (West Africa). All regions use a common analytical framework to undertake these analyses, facilitating inter-regional and global communications.

So far, 13 regional SUSGs have been formed who decide their own memberships, leadership, activities and priorities within a global framework adopted by a steering committee. The groups are currently at varying stages of development.

The SUSG East Asia Region (SUSGEAR) was formed in March 1997 with the following membership: India 1, Malaysia 3, Philippines 1, Japan 1, and Bangladesh 1. Pakistan is part of SUSG Central Asia.

SUSGEAR has carried out a number of activities which include:

- “Success Stories in Coastal Zone Management in Asia: Implications in the Sustainable Development of the Region" aims to identify the most successful integrated coastal area management efforts in the Philippines, Bangladesh and Malaysia. It will document the most important biophysical,
socio-economic, cultural and institutional factors responsible for their success in relation to sustainability, and will make recommendations that can be applied regionally and that will provide guidance for improving policy and management of coastal resources.

- “Sustainable Commercialised Utilisation of Renewable Natural Resources in their Natural Environment: the Case of Matang Mangroves in Malaysia”. As the name implies, activities that have sustained the renewable use of mangrove resources in their natural environment and factors that have contributed towards mangrove sustainability are to be identified.

- “Tiger Conservation in the Sundarbans Forest of Bangladesh”. This report will assess the population status and trend of tigers in the Sundarbans; determine the pattern of interactions of the tiger in respect of human activities, prey animals and in different habitat types; document protective devices towards minimisation of man-eating behaviour of tigers; make recommendations towards the management of eco-tourism in the Sundarbans; and create awareness among the people living in the buffer areas.

- An article on the haze problem in Southeast Asia to appear in the third issue of “Sustainable”.

In Pakistan, SUSG Central Asia is working closely with IUCN Pakistan to create an enabling environment for sustainable use, mainly through engaging in policy and legal reform.

Sustainable use holds the key to future conservation needs. SUSG in South and Southeast Asia will continue to document and disseminate good practices throughout the region, develop its membership base, and undertake field projects that demonstrate that conservation objectives can be achieved by empowering and building the capacity of local people to manage their own natural resources.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Asian Regional Environmental Assessment Programme (AREAP), based in Kathmandu, has the responsibility of assisting members and partners in environmental assessment capacity building. IUCN’s current thrust is on promoting national and regional networks of EA stakeholders; enhancing in-country EA systems and programmes; and facilitating training workshops.

Prior to the launch of the EA programme in South Asia, a workshop on Participatory Strategic Planning for Strengthening EA Capacity in South Asia was held in Kathmandu in late 1996. Networking was identified as a priority to be realised through the establishment of a national EIA association in each country and the creation of a South Asian Regional Environmental Assessment Association (SAREAA) at the regional level, which would function as a consortium of all the national associations.

At the same workshop, training was identified as another priority. Instead of developing expertise in EA, it was thought better to introduce the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. Regional EA stakeholders lack expertise in assessments that appraise sector policies rather than individual projects at a time when there is increasing and fast paced development in areas such as oil and gas, minerals and tourism. At a three-day workshop in September 1997 in Kathmandu, 35 participants from South and Southeast Asia were familiarised with strategic assessment and the need to integrate it within the wider context of economic development planning.

In the same year, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka managed to launch national EIA organisations while the other countries of South Asia are in the process of doing so. Each national association will operate as a professional, non-government, non-profit-making body that will facilitate government and non-government sectors in EIA implementation, and be affiliated with other regional and international EIA centres. It would primarily: provide a common platform for EIA stakeholders; assist the government in developing guidelines and rules for EIAs; act as a national focal point for professional advice on EIAs; maintain an information database; and act as a ‘watchdog’, auditing implementation as required.

At the regional level, SAREAA aims to share practical experiences on environmental assessment by holding EIA workshops and seminars, organise exchange visits, provide expertise and other capacity building assistance. IUCN’s AREAP acts as its secretariat and there is a two-fold advantage in this. First, SAREAA is collaborating with AREAP to implement the latter’s regional programmes. And second, AREAP is providing assistance in terms of programming, project proposal development and donor liaison, taking advantage of IUCN’s technical competence and unique institutional position in the region.

In the future, as IUCN’s Asia membership grows, it is hoped that this will support SAREAA’s growth too. In addition, IUCN’s programming experience in SAREAA’s member countries will enable it to leverage support for key functions of the associations as well as to pursue specific projects activities for members and partners.
A usefully broad definition of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is: “an ongoing process that involves generating knowledge and insight from reflective analysis for the purpose of informing action”. This definition highlights the fundamental role that M&E plays in providing the means for an organisation to observe, learn and plan. In this way, it becomes an integral part of action and not just an add-on. Indeed, M&E activities should address the most basic questions such as:

- What should the organisation do?
- How should it do it?
- How does it know if its objectives and mission are being achieved?
- Are resources being used effectively?

IUCN recognises that it needs a comprehensive and practical M&E system if it is to continue to improve its performance and accountability as an institution, and the efficiency, effectiveness, relevance and impact of its external actions. Such a system has not yet been established, hence there is a need to expand and strengthen IUCN’s current capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

The region has adopted a set of broad objectives for strengthening M&E within the ARD programme. These are to:

- Develop a common understanding of M&E.
- Improve the use of specific M&E methods and tools.
- Develop a reflective culture.
- Improve project/programme design and implementation.
- Improve the policy-practice feedback loop where practice informs policy and policy informs practice.
- Improve communications and reporting, that is, the capacity to synthesise and communicate learning.

These objectives form the basis of a modest regional M&E programme that will assist the secretariat to secure the skills and knowledge for various M&E needs. A small team has been established to develop and implement the M&E support programme during 1998 and 1999.

IUCN MEMBERS IN
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA

BANGLADESH

Comilla Proshika Centre for Development
Mr. Rahat Uddin Ahmed
Executive Director
House 38, Road 9A, Dhanmondi R/A
Dhaka 1209, Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 811235, 323088-9
Fax: 880 2 813095
E-mail: cdl@drik.dgd.toolnet.org

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
Dr. Saleemul Huq
Executive Director
House 620, Road 10A, Dhanmondi,
Dhaka 1205
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 815829, 9113682, 9119823 (Off), 505512 (Res)
Fax: 880 2 863379, 863170
E-mail: bcas@bdonline.com

Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society of Bangladesh
Mr. Salahuddin Imam
Honorary Secretary
House 26, Road 4, Dhanmondi RA
Dhaka 1205
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 9553429 (Off), 502665 (Res)
Fax: 880 2 863879

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh
Mr. Quamrul I. Chowdhury
General Secretary
c/o Jatiya Press Club
18 Topkhana Road
Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2.882676 (Off), 871677 (Res)
Fax: 880 2.9565478
E-mail: presclub@bangla.net

Wildlife Society of Bangladesh
Prof. K.Z. Husain
President
c/o Department of Zoology
University of Dhaka,
Dhaka 2
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 868333 (Off), 502528 (Res)

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
Mr. F.H. Abed
356 Mohakhali C.A.
Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 884180-87
Fax: 880 2 883542, 883614, 891845
E-mail: Salmed@bdmail.net

Bangladesh POUSH
Mr. Haroun Er Rashid
President
5/7 Sir Syed Road, Block A
Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 812430 (Off), 9884498, 9881681, 9881917 (IUB) 9332801 (Res)
Fax: 880 2 863060
E-mail: herashid@iub.agni.co
rashid@bangla.net

Coastal Area Resource Development & Management Association
Mrs. Hasna J Moudud
President
159 Gulshan Avenue
Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 882676 (Off), 871677 (Res)
Fax: 880 2 9565478
E-mail: hmcardma@drik.bgd.toolnet.org

Ministry of Environment and Forest
Bangladesh Secretariat
Mr. Ahbab Ahmed
Secretary
Dhaka 1000
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 860551 (Off), 408229 (Res)
Fax: 869210

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
Ms. Rizwana Hasan
Director Programme
No. 5, House No. 47, Dhanmondi R/A
Dhaka 3015
Bangladesh
Tel: 880 2 864283/868706 (Off), 9115321 (Res)
Fax: 880 2 862957
E-mail: bela@bangla.net
BRUNEI

Brunei Museums
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
Director
Kota Batu
Bandar Seri Bagawan 2018 Negara Brunei

INDIA

Wildlife Institute of India
Mr. S.K. Mukherjee
PO Box No. 18, Chandrabani
Dehra Dun 248 110
Uttar Pradesh, India
Tel: 91 135 640112
Fax: 91 135 640117
E-mail: wii.giasd101.vsn1.net.in
wii.isnet@axcess.net.in

Bombay Natural History Society
Dr. Asad R. Rahmani
Director
Hornbill House, Dr. Salim Ali Chowk
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road
Mumbai 400 023, India
Tel: 91 22 2821811
Fax: 91 22 2837615
E-mail: envis@bnhs.wprobt.ems.vsnl.net.in

Centre for Environment Education, Nehru Foundation for Development SASEANEE
Secretariat
Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai
Director
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054
India
Tel: 91 79 442642, 51
Fax: 91 79 6420242, 468201
E-mail: cee@adl.vsnl.net.in

Development Alternatives
Dr. Ashok Khosla
B-32 Tara Crescent
Qutub Institutional Area
New Delhi 110 016, India
Tel: 91 11 656370/6967938/6851158
Fax: 91 11 6866031
E-mail: tara@sdalt.ernet.in

The Environment Society of India
Mr. S. K. Sharma
President
Karuna Sadan, Sector 11-B
Chandigarh 160 011 India
Tel: 91 1 72546832
Fax: 91 1 72546832

Indian Ecological Society
Dr. G.S. Dhaliwal
President
c/o College of Agriculture
Punjab Agricultural University
Ludhiana 141004
India
Tel: 91 161 401960 ext. 320
Fax: 91 161 400945

Orissa Social Service Institute
Dr. Dilip Ch. Samantaray
Post Box 1
AT/PO Baramba
Dist. Cuttack
Orissa 754 031
India
Tel: 91 67 213276

WWF-India
Mr. Samar Singh
Secretary General
172-B Lodi Estate, P.O. Box 3058
New Delhi 110 003
India
Tel: 91 11 4693744
Fax: 91 11 4626837
E-mail: root.wffинд@unv.ernet.in

Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage
Mr. Ashis Banerjee
Secretary
Bharatiyam Gram,
Nr. Humayun’s Tomb
Nizamuddin 110 013 New Delhi
India
Tel: 91 11 4631818, 4632267, 4632269
Fax: 91 11 4611290

International Society of Naturalists
Dr. G. M. Oza
General Secretary
Oza Building,
Salatwada
Baroda 390 001, India
Tel: 91 26 5558759
Fax: 9126 5424799

Institute for Integrated Rural Development
Dr. A. Vethackan Daniel
President
P.O. Box 582
Kanchan Nagar, Nakashatrawadi
Aurangabad 431 022,
Maharashtra, India
Tel: 91 240 332336, 91 240 322828
Fax: 91 240 322866
E-mail: iirdind@bom4.vsnl.net.in
Indian Board for Wildlife,
Department of Environment,
Forests and Wildlife
Mr. S.C. Dey
Member Secretary
Parayavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India
Tel: 91 11 389288
Fax: 91 11 4362285

Ministry of Environment and Forests
Mr. Vishwanath Anand
Secretary
Parayavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodi Road New Delhi 110 003, India
Tel: 91 11 4360492
Fax: 91 11 4360678
E-mail: envfor@delhi.nic.in

INDONESIA

Forest Protection & Nature Conservation
Mr. Z. Listya Kusumawardhani
Ministry of Forestry
Gedung Manggala Wanabakti,
Block VII/7th Floor Jl.
Jend Gatot Subroto, Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: 62 21 5734818
Fax: 62 21 5734818
E-mail: listya@dephut.cbn.net.id

LAO PDR

Department of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mme Kanika Phommachanh
Director
Vientiane LAO PDR
Tel: 586 21 414023
Fax: 586 21 414009

MALAYSIA

Dr. M N Salleh
Level 2, Enterprise 2,
Technology Park Malaysia
57000 Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel: 60 3 9682004 (Direct Line)
Fax: 60 3 9682888

Department of Wildlife & National Parks
Mr. Musa Bin Nordin
Km 10, Jalan Cheras
Kuala Lumpur 56100, Malaysia
Tel: 60 3 9052872, 9052875, 9052878
Fax: 60 3 9052873
E-mail: kpw@jphltn.sains.my

WWF Malaysia
Dr. Mikaail Kavanagh
Locked Bag No. 911, Jalan Sultan P.O.,
Petaling Jaya 46990
Malaysia
Tel: 60 3 7033772
Fax: 60 3 7035157
E-mail: wwfmal@pop.jaring.my

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
Mr. Chen Hin Keong
Locked Bag No. 911, Jln. Sultan P.O.,
Petaling Jaya 46990
Malaysia
Tel: 60 3 794 7220
Fax: 60 3 791 3159

NEPAL

Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation
Dr. Uday Raj Sharma
Director General
PO Box 860, Babar Mahal,
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: 977 1 220912, 220850
Fax: 977 1 227675
E-mail: maskey@gausala.wlink.com.np

Association for Protection of the Environment & Culture
Mr. Govinda Luitel
Program Coordinator
Hatkhola Road, Biratnagar 10,
Morang
Nepal
Tel: 977 2121176
Fax: 977 2121176, 24099
Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness
Mr. Prachet K. Shrestha
Program Coordinator
PO Box 9210,
Kathmandu,
Nepal
Tel: 977 1 475210
Fax: 977 1 224627

King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
Mr. Jaya Pratap Rana
Member-Secretary
PO Box 3712
Sakya Kunj, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 977 1 526571, 573
Fax: 977 1 526897

Nepal Batabaran Patrakar Samuha
Nepal Forum of Environment Journalists
Mr. Tirtha Koirala
President
Thapathali, PO Box 5143
Kathmandu,
Nepal
Tel: 977 1 211891
Fax: 977 1 227691
E-mail: nefej@env.mos.com.np

Nepal Heritage Society
Lt. Gen Shreedhar SJB Rana
President
GPO Box 12005
Kathmandu,
Nepal
Tel: 977 1 248610

PHILIPPINES

Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Wilfrido S. Pollisco
Director
Quezon Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City 1100
Philippines
Tel: 63 2 9246031-35
Fax: 63 2 9240109
E-mail: pawb-plan@psdn.org.ph

International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
Dr. Roger S.V. Pullin
P.O. Box 2631, Makati City 0718
Philippines
Tel: 63 2 8175255
Fax: 63 2 8163183
E-mail: iclarm@cgnet.com

Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Prof. Blas R. Tabaranza, Jr.
Executive Director
9-AMalingap cor. Malumanay Streets
Teachers Village,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: 63 2 925 3332/435 3208
Fax: 63 2 925 3331
E-mail: director@haribon.org.ph

SINGAPORE

Singapore Zoological Gardens
Dr. Bernard Harrison
80 Mandai Lake Road
Singapore 729826
Tel: 65 2693411/3
Fax: 65 3672974, 3652331
E-mail: singzoo@pacific.net.sg

The Nature Society (Singapore)
Mr. Andrew Tay
601, Sims Drive# 04-04/05,
Pan - I Complex,
Singapore 387382
Tel: 65 7412036
Fax: 65 7410871
E-mail: natsoc@mbox2.singnet.com.sg

SRI LANKA

Department of Wildlife Conservation
Mr. Berty Jayaskera
Director
No. 18, Gregory’s Road
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 698066
Fax: 94 1 698556

Forest Department
Mr. H.M. Bandaratillake
Conservator of Forests
Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 866631/32
Fax: 94 1 866633
E-mail: forest@slt.lk

Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL)
Algama
Chairman
3 Campbell Terrace
Colombo 10
Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 697226
Fax: 94 1 697226
E-mail: e-law-sl@ef.is.lk
March for Conservation
Dr. Nirmalie Pallewatta
General Secretary
c/o University of Colombo
Thurstan Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 580246

Organization for Resource Development and Environment
Mr. A.H.M.R. Abeyratne
Chairman
No. 193 Welewewa, Nawagattema 5815 Kurunegala, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 612442
Fax: 94 1 663267

Organization to Safeguard Life & Environment
Mr. D.R. Gunaratne
General Secretary
10/5 Walter Gunasekara Mawatha Nwala, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 107440516
Fax: 94 1 865855
E-mail: oslen@lanka.gn.apc.org

Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum
Mr. Dharman Wickremaratne
Chairman
174/4 Stanley Tilakaratne Mw
Nugegoda 10250, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 827810, 829519, 826607
Fax: 94 1 869340, 826607
E-mail: slejf@sri.lanka.net

Ministry of Forestry and Environment
K.A.S. Gunasekera
Secretary
6th Floor, Unity Plaza Building
Colombo 4
Sri Lanka
Tel: 941 868048
Fax: 941 866656

Worldview Sri Lanka
Mr. Lal Hewapathirana
Director
36 Nawala Road, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 828607
Fax: 94 1 854778

SLEC
Mr. Mendis Padumasena
Administrative Officer
778 1/1 Asiri Uyana Pelawatta Sri Lanka
Tel: Off: 94 1 433128
Res: 94 1 867286
Fax: 94 1 867119
E-mail: dougsons@slt.lk

Wildlife & Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka
Mr. N.T. Ariyaratne
President
Chaitiya Road Marine Drive, Fort, Colombo 1
Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 1 325248
Fax: 94 1 590824

THAILAND

Regional Community Forestry Training Centre
Dr. Somsak Sukwong
Kasetsart University
PO Box 1111
Bangkok 10903
Thailand
Tel: 662 5790108
Fax: 662 5614880
E-mail: ftcsss@nontri.ku.ac.th

Royal Forest Department
Mr. Sathit Suwinthon
Phahonyothin, Chatuchak,
Bangkok 10900
Thailand
Tel: 662 5794842
Fax: 662 5798611

Wildlife Fund Thailand
Mr. Pisit na Patalung
251/88-90 Phaholyothin Road
Bangkhen Bangkok 10220
Thailand
Tel: 662 5213435
Fax: 662 5526083
E-mail: pisit@mezart.inet.co.th

VIETNAM

Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
Prof. Chu Tuan Nha
Minister
39 Tran Hung Dao Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 84 4 8269261/8252970
Fax: 84 4 8251730/8252733

Institute of Ecological Economy
Prof. Nguy Van Truong
Director
898 Tay Son,
Dong Da
Hanoi Vietnam
Tel: 84 4 8574400
Fax: 84 4 8572697
IUCN COUNCILLORS
S&SE Asia, Administrative Region

Mr. Antonio Claparols
c/o Ecological Society of the Philippines
53 Tamarind Road, Forbes Park
Makati City 1200, Philippines
Tel: 63 2 6339626
Fax: 63 2 6317357
E-mail: jrs@easy.net.ph

Dr. Le Quy An
c/o IUCN Vietnam,
13, Tran Hung Dao Street
PO Box 60, International Post Office
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 84 4 8263387
Fax: 84 4 8252733

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz
IUCN Councillor
Shirkat Gah, Women’s Resource Centre
208 Scotch Corner, Upper Mall
Lahore, Pakistan
Tel: 92 42 5713718, 5759372, 5760764
Fax: 92 42 6363393, 6668323
Email: khawer@sgah.brain.net.pk
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA