IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and 10,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

IUCN’s work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union’s headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland. Its Asia Regional Office is based in Bangkok, Thailand.
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The year 2009 was marked by a beginning of global economic recovery driven to a large extent by Asian economies with China and India continuing their rapid pace of economic growth. This has lead us in Asia to reconsider the current growth paradigm not only with respect to free markets but also how economic growth impacts the environment and human well-being. Emerging from the Copenhagen Climate deliberations, global leaders, especially from the Asia region, recognised the importance of shifting to a low carbon economic path. Our forests, our wetlands, our coral reefs and other ecosystems are essential to provide the natural infrastructure based solutions upon which this new development paradigm rests.

IUCN as a science based, policy focused and membership driven organisation is uniquely placed to address these dynamic challenges and opportunities. In 2009, IUCN's member organisations in Asia established a Regional Committee to more effectively address regional environmental challenges and to guide IUCN's policies and practical actions.

IUCN continues its work from 11 country offices in Asia across the region with progress being made to establish a Secretariat presence in additional countries such as Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea, based on the request of their governments. In 2009, IUCN Asia welcomed one affiliate and two new NGO Members, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) Forestry and Biodiversity Group and the Small Fishers Federation (SFF).

This 2009 profile provides an overview of the IUCN Asia programme. The profile is structured to reflect IUCN's new programme, which was affirmed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona,
and spans the period 2009-2012. Serving the overall mission to support biodiversity conservation, we reflect on the work of the IUCN’s Members and Commissions and Secretariat to address the challenging issues of climate change, sustainable energy, human well-being and a greener economy under the overarching theme of biodiversity conservation.

2009 also saw the completion of several important initiatives. Strengthening Voices for Better Choices (SVBC) was a global project to test and promote improved governance arrangements that engender more sustainable and equitable forest management. Financed mainly by the European Union, in Asia, SVBC worked in Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, two countries with differing forest governance needs and challenges. The HKKH Partnership Project consolidated institutional capacity for systemic planning and ecosystem management in the Hindu-Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya region. HKKH worked with local, national and regional stakeholders on capacity building and decision support tools for ecosystem management on different temporal and spatial scales. The work undertaken in these two projects provides valuable platforms for future work in the sustainable management of natural resources.

IUCN’s regional role is becoming increasingly valuable in leveraging actions that address complex environmental challenges which transcend geographic and political boundaries. This can be seen in a new generation of regional transboundary initiatives. The Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative is a regional partnership to promote investments in coastal ecosystems. MFF continues to grow with Pakistan and Viet Nam joining the original six focal countries during Phase 2 (2010-2013) and with regional learning and knowledge sharing being seen as a critical added value. Similarly, the Mekong Water Dialogues is using a multi-stakeholder approach to promote informed water related decision-making in the Mekong Region, and we are very excited by a new initiative to broaden dialogues in addressing transboundary water issues between India and Bangladesh.

Looking ahead, IUCN works continuously to enhance strategic links between its Members and Commissions and Secretariat under a one programme model. The strength of this triple-helix is a powerful force to address the conservation challenges in this very dynamic and exciting region.

Aban Marker Kabraji
IUCN Asia Regional Director
Asia is one of IUCN’s largest regional programmes. With some 350 staff, IUCN operates country and liaison offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam and a regional office in Bangkok, Thailand.

IUCN is implementing nearly 100 conservation initiatives in the region together with its partners and members. Technical support to the Asia programme is provided by the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Groups (ELGs) based out of Thailand and Sri Lanka. The ELGs provides expertise in eight thematic areas – Business and Biodiversity, Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Economics, Environmental Law, Forests, Marine and Coastal, Protected Areas, Species Conservation, and Water and Wetlands. These thematic programmes work together as multidisciplinary teams in coordination with country offices and partners to ensure programme delivery in a comprehensive and holistic way.

In 2009, IUCN Asia had 160 active members from 19 of the 23 countries in the region, including 12 IUCN State members, 23 government agency members, three affiliates, four international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 118 national NGO members.

Out of the 10,000 members of IUCN’s six specialized commissions, about 1,700 are based in Asia. These include members from the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Regional Initiatives

IUCN works at the regional level by spearheading multi-country initiatives such as Mangroves for the Future, the Mekong Water Dialogues, and the Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystems which builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami, as well as extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutions involved in coastal zone management. It focuses on the countries worst-affected by the tsunami; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as well as dialogue countries in the region that face similar issues. MFF uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem but is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems. During Phase 2 which starts in 2010, Pakistan and Viet Nam will join MFF as full members.
MFF provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors and countries who are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues, to work towards a common goal. Through generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management, MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action. Learn more about MFF at www.mangrovesforthefuture.org.

The Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) works to improve cross-sector water governance of the Mekong River and its tributaries, with a view to improve livelihood security, human and ecosystem health in the region. The Mekong region geographically spans the fast-growing economies of Southeast Asia. Industries such as mining, agriculture, fisheries and renewable energy are dependent on the river systems. The Mekong Water Dialogues are a step towards a collaborative process of decision making that will ensure the equitable and sustainable use of water resources so crucial to livelihoods and economic development in the Mekong Basin. Learn more about MWD at www.iucn.org/asia/mekong_dialogues.

The Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS) addresses human and environmental needs simultaneously in large areas of land. Each strategy is different, but they all aim to deliver environmentally friendly, financially sustainable and socially equitable outcomes. In achieving multiple aims, planning decisions of different uses in different parts of a landscape often result in trade-offs that are negotiated between various groups that have interests in the landscape.

The LLS initiative represents a new way of thinking – from focussing on threats, to promoting negotiated plans for productive landscapes. To achieve this, LLS goes beyond forest management and links positively with other sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, health and the private sector. The initiative provides for immediate needs while supporting long-term changes that will improve human well-being and resilience. LLS is a global initiative with project sites in South and Central America, Africa and Asia. In Asia, LLS is working in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand.

Priority Areas

Conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN. We demonstrate how biodiversity is fundamental to addressing some of the world’s greatest challenges: climate change, sustainable energy, human well-being and greening the economy.

Biodiversity
IUCN gathers the latest knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystems and their contribution to human well-being; runs field projects around the world to better manage our natural environment and helps to develop environmental policy, laws and best practice.

Climate change
IUCN works to put nature at the centre of climate change solutions. Conserving nature can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation) and help us adapt to the impacts of climate change (climate change adaptation).

Sustainable energy
IUCN helps to accelerate society’s transition to energy systems that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically viable.

Human well-being
IUCN helps governments and other stakeholders understand that nature conservation and the well-being of their people are inextricably linked.

Green economy
IUCN works with governments to ensure that economic, trade and investment policies better integrate biodiversity considerations. It works with companies, industry associations and consumer groups to turn environmental concerns into action.

The following pages present some examples of IUCN’s work in Asia to address these priorities. To deliver conservation and sustainability, IUCN builds on its strengths — in the science of 10,000 experts setting global standards in their fields; by taking action through hundreds of conservation projects aimed at the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources; and through the collective strength of more than 1,000 government and non-governmental Member organizations, IUCN influences international environmental conventions.
Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth. It underpins the functioning of ecosystems from which we derive essential products and services such as oxygen, food, fresh water and medicines. Healthy biodiversity is essential to human well-being and sustainable development. We are facing a serious crisis in biodiversity. The rate at which animal and plant species are becoming extinct, and that ecosystems are being destroyed, is increasing every day.

Conserving biodiversity is the basis for IUCN’s four other priority areas of work: tackling climate change, sustainable energy, managing nature for human well-being and greening the economy. In Asia, IUCN is working to ensure that conservation policies, strategies and legislation take national and sub-regional development needs, social and gender equity, and financial viability into consideration. To support this, IUCN provides the latest knowledge, tools, and methods for sustainable natural resource management.
Conservation of medicinal plants in Bangladesh
IUCN Bangladesh together with Bolipara Nari Kalyan Samity (BNKS), an IUCN member active in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area, has facilitated access of local healers, communities and Buddhist monks to traditional health care, creating a demand for its use and, thereby, driving the conservation of local medicinal plants. Integrating local healers into the established medical centres has increased community access to traditional medicine, raised awareness of natural plant products and provided opportunities to record and preserve traditional knowledge of herbal treatments that was disappearing due to inadequate knowledge transfer between generations.

New tools for mountain ecosystems management in the Himalayas
The Hindu-Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKKH) Partnership project was completed in 2009. The project supported the exchange of data, knowledge and experiences across the region and the development of a management-oriented research framework. The project produced extensive documentation available at www.hkkhpartnership.org. HKKH’s flagship product, the Decision Support Toolbox (DST) features a knowledge base, spatial analysis, and scenario analysis modules. The Hindu-Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKKH) Partnership was supported by the Italian Cooperation (MAE-DGCS) and implemented by IUCN Nepal in partnership with ICIMOD and two Italian organizations (Ev-K2-CNR, and CESVI).

Strengthening environmental policy in Pakistan
IUCN has continued to support the development of national environmental policy in Pakistan and its devolution to the provincial and district level. A highlight in 2009 was support to the development of Pakistan’s first National Wetlands Policy for protection and rehabilitation of wetlands across the country. Complementing this was development of ‘Integrated District Development Visions’ for Quetta, Pishin, Mastung, Lasbela and Ziarat districts that prioritize a long-term sustainable development agenda at the lowest administrative layer. IUCN has also been advocating for the adoption of IUCN’s new protected areas categories. Exemplifying real progress in 2009, the government of Balochistan declared the Juniper forest of Ziarat as a protected area – the first step towards being declared as a World Heritage Site.

Last chance to save the Saola from extinction
The Saola (Pseudoryx nghetinhensis) inhabits remote valleys of the Annamite Mountains along the border of Lao PDR and Viet Nam. The Saola resembles the desert antelopes of Arabia, but are more closely related to cattle. Its prominent white facial markings and long tapering horns lend it a singular beauty, and its reclusive habits in the wet forests of the Annamites an air of mystery. It was discovered to the world of science only in 1992. At the time of its discovery, it was already rare and restricted to a small range. Largely due to hunting, Saola numbers appear to have declined sharply since then, dangerously approaching the point of disappearance. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. In 2009, the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s (SSC) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group convened an emergency meeting in Lao PDR with a wide range of agencies and organizations from four countries. The group committed to taking specific action to save the Saola, including efforts to reduce hunting, improve tracking methods to better understand the species, and awareness-raising among the local and international community.

Community biodiversity monitoring in Thailand
Assessing and monitoring the great biological wealth in Asia is a challenge for biologists due to limited resources. An IUCN project in Thailand on coastal ecosystem management recognized that ultimately it is the community members who value the biodiversity most and so it taught them techniques to assess and monitor their biological assets. Among many other species documented, the group named 30 species of orchids in the swamp forests of the Kuraburi watershed. Because of these efforts, Dendrobium cruentum - a species that is commercially exploited and whose trade is internationally prohibited under CITES - has been targeted for conservation actions.

Promoting nature conservation in China
To raise awareness on biodiversity conservation in China, films, art, performances, speaker nights and debates were organized at the Beijing Zoo and at the Sony Explora Science Museum. Exhibitions included biodiversity documentaries, a green handkerchief campaign to reduce use of paper napkins, a 71 metre long traditional painting of China’s bird species by a famous young Chinese artist Li Li and posters depicting Chinese provincial animals and plants. The events were widely attended by leading biodiversity and conservation experts, students and the general public. The events were organized by IUCN Countdown 2010, in partnership with the EU-China Biodiversity Program (ECBP), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Global Village Beijing (GVB).

Communicating Biodiversity
IUCN’s Commission for Education and Communication (CEC) held a capacity development workshop for ASEAN countries on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) and media relations. About 60 participants from 10 Southeast Asian countries gathered for the event to exchange knowledge and learning among civil servants responsible for CEPA activities on biodiversity and media practitioners who report on biodiversity. Information officers and members of the media gained practical insight into “communicating biodiversity” at a workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).
Changing the climate forecast

Whether for mitigation or adaptation to climate change, conserving nature is a vital safety net. IUCN’s work puts nature at the centre of climate change solutions. Healthy natural systems are critical for absorbing and storing carbon and helping us adapt to climate change. It is estimated that 17% of greenhouse gas emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation. Better managing forests, peatlands or mangroves can store substantial amounts of carbon. The management, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems can ensure that they will continue to provide the services that enable people to adapt to climate change impacts.

In Asia, IUCN is working to integrate ecosystem-based solutions with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. At a national level IUCN brings the latest conservation thinking on biodiversity conservation into national climate change action plans. IUCN also works to ensure that natural resource management tools or approaches include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. At a community level, IUCN is working to enhance their resilience to mitigate and or adapt to climate change impacts.

National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in Bangladesh

IUCN Bangladesh has first hand experience of working with communities impacted by the changing climate, from fishermen in Noakhali to farmers in Gazipur. In 2009, IUCN worked closely with the government to bring this knowledge and expertise to the preparation and dissemination of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Under a project specifically designed to enhance Bangladesh’s capacity to participate in the Copenhagen negotiations, IUCN Bangladesh supported national delegations to participate in strategic international climate change negotiations. The Bangladesh contingent to Copenhagen included almost ninety representatives from members of Parliament, government and non-government organizations, civil society organizations and journalists. IUCN is striving to ensure that nature-based solutions are incorporated into an agreement to mitigate climate change and adapt to the impacts that cannot be avoided. In further efforts to strengthen Bangladesh’s capacity to respond to the impacts of a changing climate, IUCN is facilitating the development of a monitoring protocol for tracking climate variability in the country.

Climate change advisory panel in Pakistan

A Technical Advisory Panel on Climate Change (TAP-CC) was established in Pakistan to provide advice to national institutions, facilitate research and share knowledge for informed decision-making. The panel has undertaken a range of activities to bring climate change concerns into the national agenda and ultimately strengthen Pakistan’s delegation at UNFCCC’s COP15. The panel has spearheaded policy planning in sectors most susceptible to climate change - agriculture, water and disaster management. A range of climate change related knowledge resources have been produced including: a Study on community coping strategies in dryland areas of Balochistan; Gap analysis of government of Pakistan’s agriculture and water policies with respect to climate change; Vulnerabilities in agriculture in Pakistan; Disaster management in Pakistan; Water vulnerabilities in Pakistan; and Droughts and floods.

Adapting to climate change in the Mekong Region

IUCN facilitated a series of learning events in 2009 to create awareness and encourage idea sharing on climate change adaptation and mitigation. In Viet Nam, some 150 National Assembly members, leaders of line ministries and local-level stakeholders were brought together in a conference on climate change and sea level rise to review the latest information on climate change and natural disasters and discuss their implications for the nation’s development progress and strategies. “Climate Change Adaptation in the Mekong Region,” organized in collaboration with SEA START RC, WWF and Can Tho University continued the conversation on regional strategies for adapting to the cross-boundary effects of climate change.

Tropical forests and climate change

IUCN Member, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Indonesia brings critical research to discussions on forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation. CIFOR’s dedicated website www.forestsclimatechange.org offers comparative studies on tropical forests, climate change and REDD. The site provides
detailed studies on rights and tenure, financing, benefit sharing, governance, measurement and monitoring and co-benefits. CIFOR is a non-profit, global facility dedicated to advancing human well-being, environmental conservation and equity. CIFOR conducts research that enables more informed and equitable decision-making about the use and management of forests in less-developed countries.

Carbon financing and community forestry
IUCN Thailand based International NGO Member RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests held a regional forum on carbon financing and community forestry, to analyze the risks, opportunities, and constraints that carbon financing presents for Asia-Pacific’s forest-dependent people. The forum recognized that carbon financing may provide promising new opportunities for maintaining and even improving the health of the world’s forests and, if designed well, to reduce rural poverty. It called on national governments and civil society to learn from three decades of community forestry experience and recognize the role that local people play in securing healthy forests in the region. Communities have the closest direct stake in forest resources and will affect the outcome of any forest management strategy, including those aimed at climate change mitigation. The forum was attended by country decision-makers and over 80 participants from 12 Asia-Pacific nations. Learn more at www.recoftc.org.

Programme of Work on Protected Areas strengthened
A diverse range of participants formed recommendations aimed at strengthening the future of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The recommendations address challenges posed by climate change and will feed into decisions at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 10 in Nagoya Japan in 2010. IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas was asked by the CBD Secretariat to collaborate in drawing up proposals for enhanced action. The recommendations were formed at a workshop in Jeju, Korea that brought together representatives from 43 countries from 6 continents and 20 different international organizations. Representatives from the CBD, Ramsar Convention, World Bank, UNDP, governments and protected area agencies attended along with three IUCN commissions – the World Commission on Protected Areas, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, and the Species Survival Commission.
Sustainable energy

Demand for energy continues to soar. Population growth and economic development means that energy demand will continue increasing. We need solutions that drastically cut carbon emissions, but still provide safe, reliable and cheap energy without damaging natural biodiversity. New and emerging energy technologies such as clean coal, and alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, tidal, geothermal and bio-energy can all play a role.

IUCN is promoting a rapid transition to sustainable energy sources by providing knowledge about the impacts of different energy alternatives on nature and biodiversity and how to limit them. IUCN works to ensure energy strategies of governments, companies and communities are less harmful to biodiversity. In Asia, IUCN works to mainstream nature-based principles into energy policies and promote fair access to clean energy through market mechanisms. This is a new priority area for IUCN, the work and experience of members play a key role in IUCN’s implementation strategy in the region.
of Nature has introduced a range of clean technologies for household use. These include solar powered dryers, water heaters, cookers, a number of improved stoves and water harvesting and irrigation systems.

Reducing impact on Juniper forests in Pakistan
In Pakistan, IUCN is working to make production activities in the Juniper forest ecosystem of Ziarat biodiversity friendly. Among the project’s many community based activities, it is undertaking pilot initiatives to reduce cutting of Juniper trees for fuel wood, timber, forage and conversion of land to cultivation, housing and other uses. The project also aims to reduce the negative impacts of livestock grazing and energy production.

Research and development centre to address energy issues in China
IUCN Member The Institute of Botany in China and partners opened a new research and development centre for energy crops. The centre conducts research into energy crops using interdisciplinary approaches including photosynthesis, physiology, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, and ecology and environment. The centre is developing molecular breeding technology and related theories for high-yield, anti-adversity plants by using high-biomass energy crops such as sweet sorghum and wild yam. Research is aimed at breeding new energy crop varieties suitable for growing in marginal lands.

Bio-diesel and biodiversity in India
IUCN Member The Applied Environmental Research Foundation in India is exploring the inter-relationships between biodiversity and energy through research and community based initiatives. In one such project, the Global Village Energy Program is using renewable energy to address energy needs in rural areas in Maharashtra. The project established decentralized bio-diesel resource centres to support use of indigenous bio-diesel yielding tree species - *Pongamia pinnata* and *Madhuca indica* - for satisfying the village energy needs.

Rural electrification in India
IUCN Member Winrock International India’s renewable energy focus is commercialization, enterprise development, financing, institutional linkages and capacity building. The Rural Electrification Policy of the Government of India provides for development of a Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) model as one of the approaches for rural electrification. Currently several pilot DDG projects have been initiated, but questions still remain whether the scheme is suitable to be implemented in thousands of villages. Winrock International India has used the pilot projects to learn about the suitability of generation technology, the costs involved and implementation challenges, and based on this, develop Guidelines for Decentralized Distributed Generation.

Solar energy for rural households in Bangladesh
IUCN Member BRAC has been promoting solar energy in Bangladesh for rural households in the 50,000 villages outside of the national power grid. Through micro-enterprise loans, villagers choose from a selection of home packages that can provide up to four hours of power each night and are capable of running a television, a couple of light bulbs and mobile phone chargers. The system includes a solar panel, battery, charge controller, inverter, cable, switch and accessories. The programme is currently financed by the World Bank through the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL). To date, it has successfully installed 36,830 solar panels, bringing renewable energy to 180,000 rural people.

Women, water and energy in Bhutan
IUCN Member The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature in Bhutan is working to ensure gender participation in alternative energy technologies. Through its Women in Water and Energy project, the Royal Society for the Protection
Managing nature for human well-being

Improving people’s lives and reducing poverty is only possible if we look after nature. Most of the services nature provides for free, such as fertile soil and clean water, are increasingly coming under stress from human activity. As a result, the natural world is becoming steadily less able to support human life. Fewer people will be lifted out of poverty, some will sink back into poverty, and there will be more conflicts over the shrinking availability of vital resources such as water.

IUCN is working to make sure governments fully understand that nature conservation and the future of their people are inextricably linked. IUCN mobilizes the best available science and harnesses the traditional knowledge of local communities to identify and fix the causes of natural ecosystem damage. We work with farmers, fisheries and the development sector to better manage natural environments and provide cost-effective solutions for food security and helping the poor. IUCN promotes dialogue to reduce conflict over natural resources, helps restore nature in post-conflict areas, and works with humanitarian organizations to integrate environmental components in relief efforts.

Improving watersheds in China
The Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS) addresses human and environmental needs simultaneously in large areas of land. The global LLS initiative works in nine landscapes in seven countries across Asia. There is great diversity in the landscapes and each strategy is unique. In China, the Miyun Reservoir provides the main source of drinking water for the 17 million residents of Beijing, a city that faces a serious water crisis. The Miyun Reservoir catchment area has significant forest cover, but the forest is unhealthy and does not deliver effective watershed functions or optimize benefits to local people. The initiative aims to restore the watershed landscape through a participatory process that addresses both forest management and the livelihoods and fuel wood collection needs of local communities. A priority result is the relaxation of the 30 year old logging ban in the watershed area and improving forest management practices that serve watershed functions, improve biodiversity and enhance the livelihoods of local residents, particularly poor households. It is also critical to promote cross-sector, cross-boundary cooperation among a variety of government agencies, as well as exploring financial mechanisms for forest landscape restoration and governance. Success in this watershed is relevant to more than 5,000 other drinking water protected zones in China.

Sea Bass Cage Culture in Sri Lanka
The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami devastated a large number of valuable ecosystems, including the Pala Kuda Lagoon, Sri Lanka. The fishing village depended on the lagoon for livelihood, but even after recovery from the tsunami, poor fisheries management were further depleting the resource. IUCN introduced an experimental project to improve ecosystem management and provide fishing communities with a sustainable source of income. A sea bass cage culture operation was initiated in April 2008 to reduce pressure from over fishing. Sea bass fetch high market prices around the world and are ideal for aquaculture due to their fast growth rate, toleration of crowded conditions, growing well in turbid water, tolerant to salinity variation, resistance to rough handling, and attaining marketable size within four to six months. The practice benefits fisher folk at the market and provides affordable animal protein source at home. The project was seen as a great success and has spread to other areas.

Water dialogues in the Mekong region
The Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) programme works in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam to improve livelihood security, human and ecosystem health in the Mekong Region through participatory water governance. Its purpose is to mainstream participation by multiple stakeholders including governments, communities, civil society and the private sector in decision-making related to management of water resources. The MWD focuses on priorities identified from situational analysis studies, which were ratified in multi-stakeholder meetings in each country. Priority areas for the Mekong Water Dialogues are to support community participation in River Basin Organizations, promote policy legislation for community-based management and protect freshwater wetlands, strengthening rural...
Institutions, support service providers and participation of farmers in planning and management of irrigation systems. The MWD addresses climate change by integrating adaptation strategies within its work on River Basin Organizations, wetlands governance and irrigation.

Investing in coastal ecosystems
In 2009, Mangroves for the Future (MFF) moved towards the successful completion of its first phase and the design of Phase 2 (2010-2013). MFF is guided by 15 programmes of work, which are prioritized at a national level by National Coordinating Bodies. Actions, outputs and results are delivered through a series of on-the-ground activities comprised of small grants and large projects. During the year, MFF’s small grants facility had nearly 80 projects under implementation or completed across the region. In addition, the MFF initiative had six large projects approved with several others in the pipeline. Both the small grants and large projects have significant livelihoods components. Looking ahead, MFF sees substantial knowledge to be drawn from its activities through a monitoring, learning and evaluation framework. The analytical and adaptive nature of the framework enables emerging trends and issues to be identified and shared among MFF partners and relevant coastal resource management networks.

Leopard-friendly communities
A leopard conservation project has advanced human-feline relations through education and training for local communities in Northern Pakistan. The Leopard Conservation Project, which is supported by the IUCN’s Sir Peter Scott Fund for Conservation Action and Foundation Ensemble, aims to combat the current negative perception of leopards and reduce the risks of leopard attacks on humans and livestock. The action included a variety of training sessions with topics ranging from precautionary and protective measures against leopard attacks, to the importance of leopards in the ecosystem and leopard behaviour. For the younger members of the community, nature clubs were established with IUCN’s Species Survival Commission involvement, which have proven to be a great success.
Greening the economy

The conservation of nature is the foundation of a sustainable economy. Water, food, shelter and energy are the building blocks upon which life and economic systems are built. Billions of people work in the private sector, and business is a key driver of social and economic development. Some are beginning to see the value of biodiversity, the need to protect it, and the need to invest in it. In the current global recession, with huge stimulus investments coming from governments, now, more than ever, we should be investing in nature to drive sustainable economic and social growth.

IUCN helps guide market decisions and persuades policy makers that economic policies and markets should be reformed to support nature conservation. The Union also works to ensure that the impacts of economic decisions, trade and investment on biodiversity are considered, assessed and better managed. In Asia, IUCN works to incorporate ecosystem values into national fiscal policies, trade and investment initiatives, and to promote corporate social and environmental responsibility principles.

Where is it coming from and where is it going? This roll of veneer for plywood production might originate in Africa, be built into a table in China and sold to a family in Europe to eat on. Better management of supply chains is essential to ensure lasting sustainable markets for all. © Jorgen Udvang
Improving global forest products trade in China

China is now the second largest timber consumer in the world, and plays an important role in the global forest products trade supplying growing demand mainly in the United States, Europe and Japan. China is also increasingly engaged in national, regional and international efforts to address illegal trade in forest products. A new guide book for sustainable forest management for Chinese enterprises working overseas was published in 2009 by the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and Ministry of Finance (MOFCOM).

The guide book includes information on law and regulations, requirements for forest management and utilization including wood processing and transportation, personnel training, technical guidance, establishment of multi-stakeholder consultation, ecological protection and biodiversity conservation, as well as community development and rights of local residents. This guide was produced in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Forest Trends and IUCN. It is a positive step toward China’s sustainable forest trade industry, showing government departments’ commitment in raising its business standards in the international arena.

Forest law enforcement and governance in Lao PDR

How forests are governed and protected is of growing importance in Lao PDR. Not only are forests home to a rich diversity of plants and wildlife, they support the livelihoods of a large proportion of the Lao population, and play an important role in mitigating climate change. Ensuring the proper management and protection of forests will be a prerequisite for participation in new initiatives like REDD – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation – and ensuring the access of Lao timber products to environmentally sensitive international markets.

The Department of Forestry Inspection (DoFI) in Lao PDR and IUCN are working to promote Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG). The FLEG process aims to address the threats posed to forests by illegal logging and associated trade, poaching of wildlife, and other unsustainable forest activities. IUCN is supporting DoFI to improve regional cooperation on participating in sustainable forest management, regional forest products and wildlife trade, engagement with the Vietnamese and Chinese forestry agencies, and provincial level technical trainings on inspection procedures. The collaboration between DoFI and IUCN is intended to be a first step toward a long term partnership to combat illegal and unsustainable forest practices, in order to protect the country’s valuable forest resources and to promote good governance.

Six Senses and mangrove conservation in Thailand

Six Senses is a leading hotel and tourism company, providing high-quality leisure services with a strong focus on environmental sustainability. Six Senses is building on its position as a market leader by pursuing new sustainable initiatives, with an aim to influence change in biodiversity performance standards in the hotel and tourism sector and its supply chains. As part of these efforts, Six Senses in Hua Hin, Thailand has been working with the adjacent Srinart Rajini Mangrove Ecosystem Learning Centre to engage hotel guests and local communities in mangrove rehabilitation efforts. Six Senses was joined by the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) programme and IUCN to strengthen the conservation management of the learning centre using adaptive techniques in partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders.

Oil spill response plan developed in Viet Nam

A Geographic Response Plan (GRP) is a location-specific oil and chemical spill contingency plan that identifies resources at risk and prioritizes response strategies to protect environmental and economic resources. In Viet Nam, IUCN worked with over 50 sea administrators, environmental resource management and marine commerce and access experts to develop a geographic response plan to oil spill risks for the sea and coastal areas bordering Quang Ninh and Hai Phong. Utilizing detailed maps, data tables and specific guidelines, the GRP documented spill risks, protection priorities and response strategies for selected sites in Ha Long Bay, Cat Ba National Park, Bai Tu Long National Park, Cua Luc – Cai Lan Port, Hai Phong Port and Do Son coastal areas.

Dilmah Conservation unveils elephant education centre in Sri Lanka

Human-elephant conflict is a little known consequence of development and expansion into elephant habitats in parts of Sri Lanka. Each year it is estimated that 150 elephants are killed in these conflicts. Often it is the result of their entering human settlements and causing damage while in search of food. While these conflicts have continued since the 1950s, it is made worse by a lack of knowledge and can be eased with better understanding of the nature of the majestic and gentle elephant and a more aggressive search for appropriate solutions.

Dilmah Conservation has partnered with IUCN Members the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Ministry of the Environment to address this issue with the establishment of the Elephant Information Centre. The centre was constructed and equipped by Dilmah Conservation at the Elephant Transit Home adjacent to the Udawalawe National Park, with the objective of sharing information about the elephant while explaining the conflict and fuelling debate on how it might naturally be circumvented with students, researchers and tourists alike. Dilmah Conservation was established by Dilmah Tea and serves as an extension of the company’s commitment to making its business a matter of human service. With the involvement and support of IUCN, Dilmah Conservation is working towards more sustainable and responsible human interaction with the environment.
IUCN donor partners in Asia

**Multilateral**

Asian Development Bank
European Commission
European Commission, EuropeAid Cooperation Office
Global Environment Facility Secretariat
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International Fund for Agricultural Development
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific
United Nations Development Programme - Pakistan
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - France
United Nations Office for Project Services, LAO PDR

**Bilateral**

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Dutch Ministry of Agriculture
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Pakistan
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sri Lanka
Endangered Species Field Office, Fish & Wildlife Service - US Fish and Wildlife Service
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Cooperation
Ministry of the Environment, South Korea
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce
Netherlands Climate Action Programme
Netherlands - Directorate General for International Cooperation
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation, Sida-SAREC
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Swiss Development Cooperation Nepal Office
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
UK Department for International Development (DFID)
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Virginia

**Government**

Coastal Development Authority, Government of Sindh
Korea National Park Service
Ministère de l’Environnement et des Forêts, Lao PDR

**International/National NGOs and Organisations**

CARE Bangladesh
World Wide Fund for Nature - China
World Wide Fund for Nature - Indochina
World Wide Fund for Nature - Nepal

**Private Sector**

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Dialog Telekom PLC, Sri Lanka
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Plant a Tree Today Foundation, Thailand
Six Senses Resorts and Spas
The J.M. Kaplan Fund

**Academic and Research Networks and Institutions**

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research

**IUCN Membership Committees**

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Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association BELA
Bangladesh POUCH
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee BRAC
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Center for Natural Resource Studies CNRS
Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation
Centre for Sustainable Development CFSD
Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association CARDMA
Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conservation Centre DEBTEC
Environment and Social Development Organization ESDO
Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh FEJB
Ministry of Environment and Forest MoEF
Nature Conservation Management NACOM
Shushilan
Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh WTB

BHUTAN
Royal Society for Protection of Nature RSPN

CAMBODIA
Culture and Environment Preservation Association CEPA
Mlup Baitong MB (Green Shade)

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Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK)
China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)
China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites (CNPA)
China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA)
Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens (HKZBG)
Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, SEPA (NIES)
World Wide Fund for Nature - Hong Kong WWF

INDIA
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Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
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Development Alternatives
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
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Gujarat Ecology Society (GES)
Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE)
Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD)
International Society of Naturalists (INSONA)
Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF)
Ministry of Environment and Forests
National Board for Wild Life, Ministry of Environment and Forests
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
TERI’s Forestry and Biodiversity Group
Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)
Winrock International India
World Wide Fund for Nature - India WWF

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Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry
The Samdhana Institute Incorporated Samdhana

JAPAN
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Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Japan Center for Human Environmental Problems
Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA)
Kamehameha Okoku
Kokuritsu Koen Kyokai (National Parks Association of Japan)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
Ministry of the Environment (MOE)
Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J)
Nihon Gan-wo Hogo suru Kai JAWGP (Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection)
Nihon Kankyo Kyokai (The Japan Environmental Education Forum)
Nihon Shicchi Nettowaku (Japan Wetlands Action Network)
Nihon Umigame Kyougikai (Sea Turtle Association of Japan)
Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation
Okinawa Daigaku Chiiki Kenkyusyo (Okidai Chiikiken) - Research Institute of Regional Studies, University of Okinawa
Save the Dugong Campaign Center
Seibutsu Tayosei Japan (Biodiversity Network Japan)
Shizen Kankyo Kenkyu Senta (Japan Wildlife Research Centre)
Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ)
World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan WWF
Yasei Seibutsu Hozenron Kenkyukai (Japan Wildlife Conservation Society)
Yaseidobutsu Kyuugo Juuishi (Wildlife Rescue Veterinarian’s Association)

KOREA (DPRK)
Natural Conservation Union of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (NCUK)
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Department of Wildlife and National Parks - Peninsular Malaysia (DWP)</td>
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<td>Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER)</td>
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<td>Planning and Development Department, Civil Secretariat FATA P&amp;DD (CSF FATA)</td>
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<td>Shehri: Citizens for a Better Environment</td>
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<td>Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)</td>
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<td>Ecological Society of the Philippines</td>
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<td>Nature Society (Singapore)</td>
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<td><strong>SRI LANKA</strong></td>
<td>Central Environmental Authority (CEA)</td>
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<td>Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka (WNPS)</td>
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<td><strong>VIET NAM</strong></td>
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<td>Viên Kinh tê sinh thái ECO-ECO (Institute of Ecological Economy)</td>
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</table>
IUCN Commissions in Asia

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
CEC champions the strategic use of communication and education to empower and educate stakeholders for the sustainable use of natural resources. Website: www.iucn.org/cec

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Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
CEESP provides expertise and policy advice on economic and social factors for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Website: www.iucn.org/ceesp

Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Chair
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Commission on Environmental Law (CEL)
CEL advances environmental law by developing new legal concepts and instruments, and by building the capacity of societies to employ environmental law for conservation and sustainable development. Website: www.iucn.org/cel

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Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
CEM provides expert guidance on integrated ecosystem approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems. Website: www.iucn.org/cem

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Shoichi Kawano, North East Asia Regional Vice Chair
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Species Survival Commission (SSC)
SSC advises the Union on the technical aspects of species conservation and mobilizes action for those species that are threatened with extinction. Website: www.iucn.org/ssc

General inquiries
Email: species@iucn.org

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
WCPA promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas. Website: www.iucn.org/wcpa

Prof. Seong-II KIM, Asia Regional Vice Chair and IUCN Councillor
Email: seongil@snu.ac.kr
Asia Secretariat contacts

IUCN’s Asia Regional Office (ARO) oversees 10 country offices and is home to the thematic Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group. Regional and global initiatives are also coordinated from the ARO including Mangroves for the Future (MFF), the Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) and the Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS) among others.

Director General

Regional Director

Administration, Constituency, Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Regional Programme Coordination

Country Group 1 (CG1)
- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Viet Nam

Country Group 2 (CG2)
- Nepal
- Pakistan

Country and Liaison Offices
- Bangladesh
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand

Ecosystems and Livelihood Groups (ELGs)
ELG 1: Bangkok
- Forests
- Environmental Law
- Protected Areas
- Water and Wetlands
- Business and Biodiversity

ELG 2: Colombo
- Species and Biodiversity
- Conservation
- Environmental Economics
- Marine and Coastal
- Disaster Risk Reduction

Country Group 1 (CG1)
- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Viet Nam

Country Group 2 (CG2)
- Nepal
- Pakistan

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