



IUCN in Asia

2011



IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

IUCN's Asia Regional Office is in Bangkok Thailand. The IUCN Asia Regional Secretariat has over 300 staff located in country and liaison offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

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Youngbae Suh
IUCN Asia Regional Member's Committee Chair

Message from the Asia Regional Member's Committee Chair

2011 was an eventful year for IUCN and its constituency in Asia with many new members joining, the Regional Conservation Forum being held in Incheon, Korea and a draft programme being developed for the 2013-16 intersessional period.

IUCN Asia welcomed one State Member from the Royal Government of Bhutan, one Government Agency and one International NGO member from the Republic of Korea, 22 NGO members from various countries including one from Maldives as a new addition, and one Affiliate member from China. It is notable that there are many institutions in Asia who have expressed interest in applying for IUCN membership. We look forward to continuing growth and strengthening the integration of members in the region to support strategic and integrated action to ensure sustainable development in the Asia region.

The 5th Asia Regional Conservation Forum held in Incheon, Korea, September 27-30, 2011 supported by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and the Korean Organizing

Committee for the IUCN Congress (KOC) was the largest ever gathering of IUCN's Asian constituency. The events featured high level panel discussions and deliberations on some of the major environmental and related development challenges in Asia with recommendations emerging. The draft IUCN Asia component intersessional programme 2013-16 was presented and deliberated on by IUCN's membership in the region. In addition, there was a day devoted to membership business including preparing for effective participation of Asian members at the 5th Session of the World Conservation Congress to be held in Jeju, Korea in September 2012. Cross-learning and opportunities for partnership were fostered through a variety of events. Korea's natural and cultural heritage was showcased through a number of performances, art exhibits and eco-tours.

Looking ahead to 2012, the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and the Korean Organizing Committee for the IUCN Congress (KOC) will host IUCN's WCC in Jeju island, one of Korea's most spectacular natural

heritage sites. At this premier global conservation event distinguished colleagues and practitioners from around the world will come together to discuss and debate actions that respond to the world's most pressing environmental challenges. On behalf of the Korea National Members Committee and the Asia Regional Members Committee I welcome all to join us at this momentous event!

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'YB SCCH'.

Youngbae Suh
IUCN Asia Regional
Member's Committee Chair



Aban Marker Kabraji
Regional Director, IUCN Asia

Message from the Asia Regional Director

The Asia region continues to develop and expand with increasing influence on the global economy. It is imperative that the region works coherently to ensure that this growth is underpinned by sustainable natural resources management. A number of tragic natural disasters such as the Sendai Earthquake and floods in Southeast Asia and Pakistan occurred in the Asia region in 2011, emphasizing the intrinsic interdependence between our natural systems and development. In these events, the damage was local in nature but we also saw ripple effects impacting the globally integrated economy and especially production systems and supply chains.

This creates an opportunity for proposing nature-based solutions as one way to address development challenges in the region. A major programmatic event for IUCN in 2011 was the development of the extensively consulted draft IUCN Asia Intersessional Programme 2013-16. The underpinning of this programme remains true to IUCN's long-term vision of a just world that values and conserves nature. It also rep-

resents the culmination of many years of work developing IUCN's work in Asia as one programmatic and statutory region. The programme focuses on ecologically and equitably conserving biodiversity and provides a programmatic framework to roll out nature based solutions to address challenges such as climate change impacts, food insecurity and other emerging development challenges.

The IUCN Asia Secretariat assumed its new structure following the 2010 Asia External Strategic Review. The new management structure has a number of features which strengthen coordination and integration between the Members, Commissions and Secretariat across the Asia region to deliver the Intersessional Programme. Constituency, regional thematic experts, communications and programme coordination at the regional level are now united under one regional programme directorate to ensure synergies. This was evident from the successful outcomes emerging in terms of a pledge of collaboration between Members, Commissions and Secretariat at the

5th Asia Regional Conservation Forum held in Incheon, Republic of Korea. IUCN is extremely grateful to the hospitality shown by the Korean hosts to make this Asia regional event a great success.

The year 2012 will be marked by significant historical global environmental conferences where countries are expected to reflect on their development pathways and agree on concrete steps to ensure sustainability in their development. These include the Rio+20 Conference, the Convention on Biological Diversity 11th Conference of the Parties to be held in India and last but not the least the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in the Republic of Korea.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Aban Marker Kabraji".

Aban Marker Kabraji
Regional Director, IUCN Asia

Our work



Cauvery Bambootail (*Disparoneura apicalis*) ©Francy Kakkasery

IUCN in Asia implements initiatives aimed at saving species and ecosystems as well as providing the knowledge needed for successful conservation action.

Biodiversity

Conserving biodiversity and ensuring its sustainable management lies at the heart of IUCN's work. IUCN draws on the scientific knowledge of its expert Members, Commissions and partners and many years of experience running field projects around the world, to inform and improve biodiversity-related policies and laws. IUCN develops standards and tools for sustainable natural resource management and helps build capacity for their use to ensure good implementation.

No other aspect of the Earth has been so dramatically influenced by human activities, and it is often overlooked that biodiversity is an anonymous donor to human society, providing vital ecosystem goods and services. The majority of Asia's people, particularly the resource-dependent rural poor, benefit from these goods and services. But also in urban areas, nature-based infrastructure plays an important role in contributing to the resilience of Asia's economies and societies. Among the

world's 27 largest cities with a population of over ten million, 16 are in the Asia region. With increasing population densities and rapidly growing development pressures, large tracts of land in the immediate surroundings of urban areas are undergoing a process of urbanization with biodiversity being lost.

Halting the loss of plant diversity in Asia, for example, needs a regional approach, as called for by the Asian Plant Conservation Report 2010 which was launched at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The report is a collaboration between IUCN Councillor Professor Ma Keping and IUCN's Asia Regional Office. Spanning 40 countries in Asia, the report identifies areas where plant conservation has been more successful and explains why this is the case.

Also at the Asia Regional Conservation Forum, IUCN International NGO Member, the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC) and the Netherlands Development Organization

(SNV) released the *Natural Resource Governance Trainers' Manual*—the first of its kind in Asia. After six years of preparation and testing, the manual offers sound theory and good practical guidance for teaching and learning about natural resource governance. It includes 20 training module sessions and information on monitoring, self-assessment and evaluation.

IUCN and State Member, Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) collaborated on the development of its National Gibbon Conservation Action Plan, identifying priority locations for the endangered species and outlining the steps to achieving their protection. Out of 17 gibbon species globally, six are known to be from Lao PDR, and the country offers the best chance for long-term survival for at least two. Despite some degree of forest degradation, Lao PDR retains larger areas of intact forest than most of its immediate neighbours. The action plan is based on a combination of improved enforcement and raised awareness.

In Bangladesh, IUCN and its NGO Member in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bolipara Women's Welfare Association are working with ethnic minority communities to conserve medicinal plants and promote traditional healing knowledge. Besides developing an electronic database and on-the-ground work to improve local access to herbal health care services, IUCN's 2011 publication *Selected Medicinal Plants of Chittagong Hill Tracts* documented traditional knowledge, including key medicinal plant species and their traditional use. The project, supported by IUCN Japan Member, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), provided education and tools to healers, established a herbal treatment health care centre, an herbal healer network and permanent plots for rare medicinal plants.

In the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot, one of the Earth's most biodiverse areas running along western peninsular India, threats to freshwater species are alarmingly high. A publication on *The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in the Western Ghats, India* presents the results of a two-year assessment and illustrates that, being one of the world's most heavily populated Biodiversity Hotspots and supporting about 400 million people, the conservation needs of the Western Ghats freshwater ecosystem and the remarkably high diversity of species they contain are in most instances not adequately recognized. The report includes recommendations by more than 40 experts from IUCN's Species Survival Commission on, among others, the kind of studies and inventories which are most needed, the urgency of a national plan policy on alien invasive species, and workshops for local and regional stakeholders to identify and prioritize key biodiversity areas.

IUCN Lao PDR and government partners also worked together under The Agro Biodiversity Initiative (TABI)

to develop the country's 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as required by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The process of developing this document required engaging sectors that often have the largest impact on biodiversity but only limited involvement in biodiversity conservation efforts—such as the energy and infrastructure sectors and those involved in land use planning. These sectors will continue to be engaged as the government, with ongoing support from IUCN, implements this biodiversity conservation action plan.

In another unique and biodiversity-rich ecosystem, the Sundarbans UNESCO world heritage site, IUCN has entered into an agreement with the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh, IUCN State Member and formulated a Strategic Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan to fill information gaps, generate knowledge on biodiversity and explore conservation options that produce local benefits. The Sundarbans is the world's largest mangrove forest, a major Tiger habitat and home to an estimated 425 species of wildlife.



Pileated gibbon (*hylobates pileatus*), Dong Khanthong © IUCN/Phaivanh Phiapalath



Monitoring water quality, Rayong Province, Thailand © North Andaman Community Tourism Network

IUCN Lao PDR began working on a project to conserve the biodiversity and sustain the livelihoods along a 450 km stretch of the Mekong river between Luang Prabang and Vientiane, funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). The project is surveying one of the least-studied sections of the entire Mekong mainstream and shows the increasing pressure on its natural resources, especially due to over-fishing, hunting, and deforestation. Of the original riverside forests, only short stretches of so-called 'spirit forests' with high biodiversity remain. Some species seem to have disappeared completely, while others' populations have significantly decreased over the last decade.

Based on the finding of the surveys, IUCN will work with the local communities and local government on a livelihoods approach to conservation to co-manage small scale conservation projects. This will include preparing practical management plans for priority conservation sites such as spawning areas for endangered fish species, and the protection of bird and turtle nests; at the same time ensuring food security through small-scale aquaculture or

ecotourism projects.

Climate change

The threats posed by climate change to species, ecosystems and humans grow and their impacts are felt in more frequent and increasingly severe extreme weather events. Climate change is a global challenge, but a lot can be done at the local level to minimize impacts and to apply nature-based solutions to emerging issues. IUCN is working to put biodiversity into the heart of climate change policy and practice. Healthy and well-managed ecosystems are critical for absorbing or preventing carbon emissions, as well as helping people adapt to climate change, and recover more easily from extreme weather events, as well as providing a wide range of benefits upon which communities depend.

Recent evidence suggests that due to human-induced emissions of the last century, global average temperatures will continue rising and irreversibly impact water, ecosystems, food, coastal zones and human health. Nowhere in the world will more people

will be affected by climate change than in Asia, where over 60 percent of the world's population, around four billion people, live. Climate change will impinge on sustainable development of most developing countries of Asia as it compounds the pressures on natural resources and the environment associated with rapid urbanization, industrialization, population growth, changing consumption patterns and economic development.

In January 2011, IUCN started its project Building Resilience to Climate Change Impacts—Coastal South-east Asia (BCR), a four-year initiative supported by the European Union to strengthen local governments' and communities' capacities to plan for and adapt to future climate risks in eight coastal provinces of Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

In Thailand, the BCR project partner Sustainable Development Foundation has adopted a climate risk management approach to secure fisher-folk livelihoods, establishing target sites and identifying priority issues for the management of marine and coastal resources. In Cambodia, a training and field trip to IUCN's project sites for more than 30 radio, TV, newspaper and online media journalists was organized to raise awareness and interest on climate change in their professional work. If managed properly, mangrove ecosystems offer protection of coastal areas. Field assessments show that very often mangroves are cleared to make shrimp ponds, and even where they remain, they are mostly single-species plantations with low biodiversity and are susceptible to coastal erosion.

However, while the impacts of climate change have to be thoroughly studied, climate change is sometimes incorrectly blamed for impacts resulting from floods, droughts and other extreme weather phenomena, when in fact these impacts are due to insuf-

ficiently planned or improperly managed infrastructure interventions. For example, if construction of high dykes displaces floodwaters into populated areas or if urban expansion takes place in wetlands and other low lying areas, and ground water extraction for industry and agriculture causes subsidence, it is not weather phenomena per se that leads to a disaster, but results from human actions. In partnership with the Viet Nam Administration of the Seas and Islands (VASI) and an IUCN Europe Government Agency Member, German International Cooperation (GIZ), the BCR project has identified major challenges in the Mekong Delta, including dense population, high natural resource dependency and growing competition over fresh water. The BCR project promotes a strategy of building resilience through enhancing healthy ecosystems, as especially in developing countries, the people bearing the brunt of the impacts need a proven, accessible and affordable option – conserving and managing nature is such a solution.

Research and stakeholder assessments of the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) in the Indian Himalayan Region have shown that documenting traditional knowledge and strengthening local institutions are essential to cope with uncertainties of climate and water insecurity. IUCN and Nokia have partnered to identify opportunities to address climate change and natural resource loss in the Balkila watershed of Uttarakhand State, India. The funding is now used to establish watershed restoration and community resilience improvements working in collaboration with a number of organizations including IUCN Government Agency Member, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. Lying in the Himalayas, the watershed is home to small farming communities, whose way of life is rapidly changing. Through

collaboration on watershed management, local water problems can be addressed to ensure resilient livelihoods that can adapt to social, economic and environmental change.

IUCN in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), began a four-year BMU-funded project Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems. The initiative looks at the impacts of climate change on the integrity and functioning of mountain ecosystems in Nepal, Peru and Uganda. The three mountain ecosystems face similar challenges and opportunities in implementing ecosystem-based adaptation. The project will develop livelihoods options that build on ecosystem management, and provide communities with diversified income opportunities allowing them to adapt to a changing climate. In Nepal, IUCN and UNDP are coordinating project activities with the Government of Nepal, an IUCN State Member.

The work of IUCN member Women in Environment, Nepal, has demonstrated the impact of climate change on women in vulnerable regions in the

Climate change will impact most countries of Asia as it compounds pressures on natural resources and the environment associated with rapid urbanization, industrialization, population growth, changing consumption patterns and economic development.



Xe Champhone, Lao PDR © IUCN/Eliza Berry

Bio-fuels, wind, tidal, solar and geothermal power can all become part of the future energy mix. But the impacts on biodiversity from current and future energy sources must be better recognized and addressed, and the opportunities that energy conservation provides in meeting sustainable energy needs must be promoted.

Himalayas. When the impacts of climate change occur, it is women who often stay in their communities to care for their families, while men migrate in search of new livelihoods. IUCN and the Government of Nepal are formulating a gender and climate change strategy which stresses the need of gender-responsive policies and strategies in combating climate change impacts.

Energy

Harnessing the energy needed to grow economies and lift people out of poverty, while not contributing further to greenhouse gas emissions or the destruction of the world's biodiversity, is one of the greatest challenges facing societies around the world. Asia is showing very high levels of energy poverty, with electrification rates especially low in rural areas. At the same time, rapid economic and population growth is generating considerable demand for energy in Asia, with the bulk of this demand currently being met from fossil fuel sources.

Without a significant shift towards alternative renewable energy, this high demand will have severe impacts on ecosystems. Resources and technologies to overcome our energy challenges are available: bio-fuels, wind, tidal,

solar and geothermal power can all become part of the future energy mix. But the impacts on biodiversity from current and future energy sources must be better recognized and addressed, and the opportunities that energy conservation provides in meeting sustainable energy needs must be promoted.

One of the most complex socio-economic and environmental issues in the Mekong region is the proposed cascade of dams on the lower Mekong mainstream in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Hydropower is seen as an option to meet rising demands of energy in the fast-growing nations of the Mekong region. Experts from Mekong River Commission (MRC), WorldFish, IWMI and other organizations who have embarked on research into the environmental impacts of these dams warn that any one of them can inflict permanent and irreversible damage on ecosystems and livelihoods, as they will affect biodiversity, natural fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture especially in the Tonle Sap lake and the Mekong Delta. The debate over the proposed Xayaburi dam in Lao PDR led to the Vietnamese government recognizing that the environmental impacts of hydropower development are real and cannot be ignored. To address issues related to energy demands, many have called for a thorough assessment of future power supply and demand options including identification for savings through energy efficiency and conservation; support for more wide scale adoption of other forms of renewable energy in the Mekong region; and the reform of energy markets and their regulation. Together these changes would provide decision makers with equally viable but less harmful alternatives. Through The Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) initiative, funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, IUCN is promoting knowledge exchange among all governmental and



Mussel harvest, Thailand © IUCN



Himalayas © Ganesh Pangare

civil society stakeholders and conducting local dialogues of riparian communities along the Mekong mainstream. Due consideration needs to be given to strengthening the legal basis for management of trans-boundary energy and water issues within the Mekong Basin, including establishment of fair and accessible mechanisms for trans-boundary recourse and compensation for affected parties.

In Pakistan, supported by the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IUCN is trying to reduce the negative impacts of livestock grazing and energy production in the juniper forest ecosystem of Ziarat district. Ziarat is extraordinary, with 2,500 year old juniper trees, the Suleiman Markhor, a wild goat species, and many medicinal plant species. Ziarat is famous as a tourist destination with some 150,000 visitors each summer. Community-based activities include pilot initiatives to reduce cutting of juniper trees for fuel wood or timber and reducing land conversion for cultivation, housing and other uses. Distributing fuel efficient stoves among communities, solar water geysers and solar electricity panel systems as alternative energy sources in remote and inaccessible areas are

some of the measures taken by the project. IUCN in collaboration with the Pakistan Council for Renewable Energy Technologies has helped reduce energy cost and conserve ancient juniper trees by establishing plant nurseries and promoting social forestry. More than 60,000 plants have been distributed among local communities, and green clubs have been organized in local schools and colleges to increase environmental awareness.

Human well-being

Natural ecosystems underpin life on Earth. Livelihoods depend on healthy ecosystems, which through their services contribute positively to human security, providing vital materials for good life, good health and good social relations. If the world's ecosystems are degraded or depleted—for example through collapse of fisheries, loss of fresh water or deforestation—nature will not be able to provide these services, resulting in more poverty, insecurity and increased vulnerability.

IUCN works to better manage nature for human well-being and promote an understanding that conservation and livelihoods are inextricably linked.

It does this by developing policies and strategies to help vulnerable and poor people, especially women, to sustainably manage ecosystems for improved livelihoods, and by helping to implement sustainable environmental management practices to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and conflicts.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), the partnership-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystems, concluded its first Small Grants Facility (SGF) with projects in India, Indonesia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand in 2011. National coordinating bodies in each country manage these grants and are supported by the MFF Secretariat. Since the launch of the SGF in 2008, 79 projects with a maximum allocation of US\$25,000 were completed, focusing primarily on supporting NGOs and community-based organizations working to meet the needs of coastal communities. However, through linking these projects to government agencies, officials in many places started to be more interested in scaling up their learning to other agencies and to policy makers.

The overall outputs of the SGF have been substantial, with over 230,000 trees being planted, over 12,500 hec-



Fisher from Tanguar Haor, Bangladesh © Ganesh Pangare

Mangroves for the Future small grants resulted in over 230,000 trees being planted, over 12,500 hectares being demarcated, brought under protection or community management, over 5,000 people taking part in awareness-raising programmes, and over 700 people being directly trained in alternative income-generating activities.

tares being demarcated or brought under protection or community management, over 5,000 people taking part in awareness-raising programmes, and over 700 people being directly trained in alternative income-generating activities. MFF is constantly reaching out to new countries facing similar coastal issues. Pakistan and Viet Nam, both IUCN State Members joined as MFF member countries in 2011 and will take part in the second round of small grants and medium sized projects in 2012. MFF is also closely working with Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste as outreach countries as well as Kenya, Malaysia and Tanzania as dialogue countries.

Building on the success of 2010 when The Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) initiative supported Lao PDR's designation of its first two Ramsar sites, MWD continued its Ramsar work in the Mekong region throughout 2011

– including a regional training workshop held in Vientiane together with the Ramsar Secretariat and the Lao Government, management planning for the two Lao Ramsar sites, and supporting the Vietnamese government in designating two additional Ramsar sites in Viet Nam.

In Bangladesh and India, IUCN's Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative (E4L), supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka, is promoting better understanding of natural resource management among multiple stakeholders. Bangladesh and India have very complex river systems, and the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna, along with their tributaries, directly support around 620 million people. The initiative has brought together researchers from both countries developing a joint approach and methodology for exploring issues related to food security, wa-

ter productivity and poverty, climate change, environmental security, inland navigation and biodiversity conservation. IUCN has also organized trainings on environmental flows and trans-boundary water resource knowledge sharing.

In the drylands of Balochistan, Pakistan, one indigenous approach to water management is the karez or sub-surface water management structure, which is very often the only source of water for irrigation and human needs in remote, mountainous areas. Since the drought of 1998-2002 and the devastating earthquake of 2008, water discharge from karez structures in Balochistan had significantly dropped. In response, IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) working with the Government of Balochistan, IUCN Government Agency Member helped to rehabilitate the water supply with the support of the community, cleaning the underground water channels, fixing them with perforated UPVC pipes and reducing conveyance losses. Consequently, water flows from karez structures increased fourfold, allowing restoration of lands and more agricultural activities. As an integrated solution to food security, IUCN also established a plants' tunnel nursery where indigenous bushes are promoted for the rehabilitation of degraded rangeland to support livestock and introduction of crops such as almond, pistachio, olives and pomegranate.

Greening the economy

At the heart of economic development thinking is the green economy,

with environmental values playing a key role. IUCN works on the links between the environment and the economy. In particular, IUCN assesses the economic values of biodiversity and helps integrate these into economic policy, finance, markets, and trade and investment policies. IUCN also promotes voluntary action by companies, industry associations and consumer groups to integrate biodiversity values into their decision-making.

Asia accounts for some of the largest economies in the world, including China, India and Japan. To date, in many parts of Asia there is still under-investment in ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation by both the public and the private sectors. Water, food, shelter and energy are the building blocks upon which not only life but whole economic systems are built. The conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity is the foundation of a sustainable economy, and investments coming from governments now, more than ever, should be investing in nature to drive sustainable economic and social growth.

In collaboration with UNDP and UNEP's Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and the National Economic Research Institute (NERI), IUCN Lao PDR has presented its assessment of the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of investments in two provinces. The investigations provided baseline information for the development of provincial investment strategies and also assisted in further building the capacity of the authorities

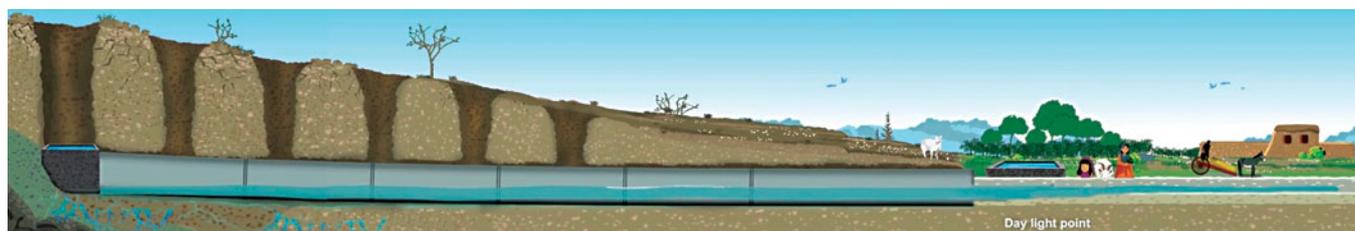
to analyze and monitor investments.

With the support of Dilmah Conservation, the IUCN Asia Regional Office produced a Public Service Announcement video clip *Interdependence Frog*, linking online viewers to the IUCN website to learn more on biodiversity conservation. The clip was distributed through the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), which has members in 58 countries in the region and reaches 3 billion potential viewers.

IUCN collaborated with its State Member, the Government of Pakistan in greening its development planning. Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consultations with local governments, citizens and other stakeholders were completed in 2011. Integrated district development visions for six districts in Balochistan have been published, including population settlement patterns, disaster management and preparedness, education, health, natural resource management, agriculture and livestock, poverty alleviation and specific steps towards future implementation.

In China, IUCN is working with Danone Waters and other institutions including IUCN China Members to support the design and development of a watershed restoration plan for the Jiaquan spring watershed which faces multiple environmental stresses including soil erosion and loss of original forest cover and biodiversity. Initial project activities included a feasibility study to address information gaps and produce a five-year road map for investing in the restoration of this watershed.

In India, IUCN continued its work



Karez water system, Pakistan © IUCN



Miyun watershed, Beijing, China ©IUCN

Asia accounts for some of the largest economies in the world, including China, India and Japan. The conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity is the foundation of a sustainable economy, and investments coming from governments now, more than ever, should be investing in nature to drive sustainable economic and social growth.

with The Dhamra Port Company Limited (DPCL). The Dhamra port is close to the Gahirmatha Sanctuary nesting grounds of the olive ridley turtle, and IUCN has advised on measures to mitigate impacts on the turtles during port construction, including impacts from dredging and lighting. IUCN has continued to work through the Secretariat and the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group with DPCL to ensure long-term conservation of olive ridley turtles in the area and has advised on an Environmental Management Plan to address direct and indirect impacts of the port development on the surrounding environment.

IUCN and Holcim continued cooperation in Asia and elsewhere. The Swiss-based Holcim is one of the world's largest suppliers of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, gravel and sand), ready-mix concrete and asphalt as well as related services. In Sri Lanka, IUCN is working with Holcim

on conserving biodiversity at Holcim Lanka's limestone quarry, rehabilitating mined coral reefs and adding value to the development of bio-fuels. In Viet Nam, IUCN and Holcim have agreed on establishing and implementing optimum ecosystem conservation standards and working towards improvements in environmental performance of the Holcim Group, the cement sector and related sectors in the country. At the global level, IUCN and Holcim have renewed their agreement for three years. After developing a Biodiversity Management System during Phase I (2007-10) of the collaboration, Phase II (2011-13) is now focusing on effectively implementing the system in the company's operations, influencing policies and legal instruments for better biodiversity outcomes in the building material sector, influencing sector-wide standards for biodiversity conservation as well as strengthening Holcim's approach to water management.

IUCN 5th Asia Regional Conservation Forum

IUCN organised its 5th Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 27 to 30 September 2011 at the Songdo Convensia in Incheon, Republic of Korea (ROK). IUCN holds such RCF every four years – ahead of IUCN's World Conservation Congress (WCC), the next to be held in Jeju, ROK, from 6 to 15 September 2012. The Asia RCF was co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment, ROK, and the IUCN National Committee of Members in Korea.

The RCF was organized with the support of the Korean Organizing Committee for 2012 WCC (KOC) and brought together representatives from IUCN's Membership, Commissions, Secretariat, Council, donors, and partners in Asia. The RCF facilitated the identification of critical conservation issues facing the region and built consensus on how these concerns can best be addressed.

The 2011 Asia RCF was the largest ever in the history of IUCN. A total of 683 participants of more than 30 nationalities attended the event. These included the Chair of the KOC, the Minister of Environment, ROK, the Governor of Jeju Special Self Governing Province, who is host of the 2012 WCC, the President and the Director General of IUCN, and many other important stakeholders in conservation and environment in the region, including ministers and top bureaucrats from a large number of Asian countries.

The first two days of the event were featured an inauguration ceremony, high-level panel discussions, programme discussions, various fora, and a number of side events. The third day was devoted to members' business and to familiarize and prepare members for the WCC. The Korean co-hosts organized field excursions to various places of interest on the fourth day.



Dr. Lee Hong-Koo, Chair of the KOC and former Prime Minister of the ROK with Dr. Ashok Khosla, IUCN President © IUCN



Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, IUCN Director General with RCF participants © IUCN



Javed Jabbar, IUCN Vice-President and Councillor © IUCN

IUCN Partners in Asia

MULTILATERAL

Asian Development Bank
European Union
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Global Environment Facility
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Development Programme, Bangladesh
United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan
United Nations Development Programme, Lao PDR
UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Geneva, Switzerland
United Nations Office for Project Services
World Bank, Bangladesh

BILATERAL

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bangladesh
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Pakistan
Endangered Species Field Office, Fish & Wildlife Service - US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Netherlands - Directorate General for International Co-operation
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
UK Department for International Development (UKAID)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ministry of Commerce, US Government (NOAA)
USAID Mission, Sri Lanka
UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

GOVERNMENT

Bureau of Environment, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Republic of Korea
Coastal Development Authority, Government of Sindh, Pakistan
Environmental Protection Department, Government of Punjab, Pakistan
Korea National Park Service, Republic of Korea
Ministry of Environment, Japan
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Wildlife Institute of India
Cultural Heritage Administration, Republic of Korea

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Seub Nakasathien Foundation
World Wide Fund for Nature, China

PRIVATE SECTOR

Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production Limited
Dilmah Conservation
Holcim Ltd
HSBC Sri Lanka
Nokia Corporation
Six Senses Resorts and Spas
Standard Chartered Bank – Sri Lanka
Tata Steel (Thailand) Public Company Limited
The Dhamra Port Company Limited
The PTT Exploration and Production Company Limited (PTTEP)
Total Foundation

OTHERS

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME)
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
Ramboll Natura AB
Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation
The J.M. Kaplan Fund

IUCN Members in Asia

IUCN membership in Asia continued to grow in 2011 from 177 to 202. IUCN Asia welcomed one State Member from the Royal Government of Bhutan, one Government Agency and one International NGO member from the Republic of Korea, 22 NGO members from various countries, and one Affiliate member from China.

BANGLADESH

State Member

Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)

National NGO

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association

Bangladesh POUSH

Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity

BRAC

Brotee Samaj Kallyan Sangstha

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services

Center for Natural Resource Studies

Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation

Centre for Sustainable Development

Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association

Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conservation Centre

Environment and Social Development Organization

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh

Nature Conservation Management

Shushilan

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

BHUTAN

State Member

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

National NGO

Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)

CAMBODIA

National NGO

Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)

Mlup Baitong (MB) / Green Shade

CHINA

State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government Agency with State Member

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

National NGO

All-China Environment Federation

Beijing Forestry Society

Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

China Association for NGO Cooperation

China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites

China Wildlife Conservation Association

Chinese Society of Forestry

Civic Exchange

Friends of Nature

Friends of the Country Parks

Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, SEPA

Shan Shui Conservation Center

Shangri-La Institute for Sustainable Communities

World Wide Fund for Nature - Hong Kong

Xiamen Green Cross Association

Affiliate

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee

INDIA

State Member

Ministry of Environment and Forests

Government Agency with State Member

Attappady Hills Area Development Society

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development

Indian Institute of Forest Management

National Board for Wild Life, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Wildlife Institute of India

National NGO

Aaranyak

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Applied Environmental Research Foundation

Bombay Natural History Society

Centre for Environment Education - Nehru Foundation for Development

Conservation Action Trust

Development Alternatives

Foundation for Ecological Security

Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation

Gujarat Ecology Society

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

Institute for Integrated Rural Development

International Society of Naturalists

Jal Bhagirathi Foundation

Nature, Environment and Wildlife Society

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

TERI's Forestry and Biodiversity Group

Wildlife Protection Society of India

Winrock International India

World Wide Fund for Nature - India

INDONESIA

Government Agency without State Member

Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry

National NGO

The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation

The Samdhana Institute Incorporated (Samdhana)

Affiliate

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

JAPAN

State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Government Agency with State Member

Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

International NGO

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

National NGO

Elsa Nature Conservancy

Japan Center for Human Environmental Problems

Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation

Kamehameha Okoku

Nature Conservation Society of Japan

Nihon Gan-wo Hogo suru Kai

Nihon Kankyo Kyoiku Forum

Nihon Shicchi Nettowaku

Nihon Umigame Kyougikai

Okinawa Daigaku Chiiki Kenkyusyo (Okidai Chiikiken)

Save the Dugong Campaign Center

Seibutsu Tayosei Japan (Biodiversity Network Japan)

Shizen Kankyo Kenkyu Senta

Wild Bird Society of Japan

World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan

Yasei Seibutsu Hozenron Kenkyukai

Yaseidoubutsu Kyuugo Juuishi

KOREA (DPRK)

National NGO

Natural Conservation Union of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (NCUK)

KOREA (RK)

State Member

Nature Policy Division, Ministry of Environment

Government Agency with State Member

Cultural Heritage Administration

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Bureau of Environment

Korea Forest Service

Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation

Korea National Park Service

International NGO

Environment Action Association

National NGO

DaeJayon

Gotjawal Trust of Jeju
Jeju City Project 21
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Agenda 21
Korea Green Club
Korea Society of Environmental Restoration Technology
Korean Association for Conservation of Nature
Korean Society for Atmospheric Environment
Korean Society for the Protection of Wild Animals
Korean Society of Environment and Ecology
Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment
Korean Society of Nature Conservation
Korean Wetlands Society
Local Agenda 21 - Seogwipo City
National Nature Trust
Sustainable Environmental Education Center of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
The Ecological Society of Korea
The Korean Society of Oceanography
The Korean Society of Plant Taxonomists

LAO PDR

State Member

Ministère des Affaires étrangères / Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MALAYSIA

State Member

Department of Wildlife and National Parks - Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP)

Government Agency with State Member

Sabah Wildlife Department

Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB)

The Sabah Parks Board of Trustees

National NGO

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)

Marine Research Foundation (MRF)

World Wide Fund for Nature - Malaysia (WWF)

MALDIVES

National NGO

Live & Learn Environmental Education

MONGOLIA

National NGO

Hustai National Park Trust

Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and the Environment (MACNE)

NEPAL

State Member

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

International NGO

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

National NGO

Association for Protection of the Environment and Culture

Bird Conservation Nepal/Nepal Panchhi Samrakchyan Sangh

Centre for Rural Technology

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness

Himali Prakriti

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development

Manab Kallyantatha Batabaran Samrak Kendra

National Trust for Nature Conservation

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists

Wildlife Conservation Nepal

Wildlife Watch Group

Women in Environment/Mahila Batabaran Samooaha

Yuwa Jagaran Paryabaraniya Munch

PAKISTAN

State Member

National Council for Conservation of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment (NCCW)

Government Agency with State Member

Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

National Institute of Oceanography

Planning and Development Department, Civil Secretariat FATA

Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

Planning and Development Department, Government of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Planning and Development Department, Government of
Punjab
Sindh Wildlife Department

International NGO
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)

National NGO
Baanhn Beli
Belour Advisory and Social Development Organization
H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry
Haashar Association
Indus Earth Trust
Khwendo Kor
Leadership for Environment and Development
National Rural Support Programme
Pakistan Environmental Protection Foundation
Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research
Sarhad Rural Support Corporation
Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan
Shehri: Citizens for a Better Environment
Shirkat Gah - Womens Resource Centre
South Asia Partnership - Pakistan
Strengthening Participatory Organization
Sungi Development Foundation
Sustainable Development Policy Institute
Taraqee Foundation
Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources
World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan

PHILIPPINES

National NGO
Ecological Society of the Philippines
Foundation for the Philippine Environment
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural
Resources (HARIBON)

SINGAPORE

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

SRI LANKA

State Member
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Government Agency with State Member
Central Environmental Authority (CEA)
Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC)
Forest Department

National NGO
Environmental Foundation Ltd.
Federation of Wildlife Conservation
Sewalanka Foundation
Small Fishers Federation
Sri Lanka Haritha Wiyaparaya / Green Movement of Sri
Lanka (GMSL)
Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka

THAILAND

State Member
National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department

International NGO
Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC)

National NGO
Good Governance for Social Development and the
Environment Institute Foundation (GSEI)
Seub Nakhasathien Foundation (SNF)
Thailand Environmental Institute (TEI)

VIET NAM

State Member
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)

National NGO
Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
(CRES)
Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community
Development (MCD)
Viên Kinh tế sinh thái (ECO-ECO) / Institute of Ecological
Economy

IUCN Commissions in Asia

The six Commissions unite 10,000 volunteer experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues.



COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is a network driving change for sustainability. More than 800 members volunteer their professional expertise in learning, knowledge management and strategic communication to achieve IUCN goals.

www.iucn.org/cec



COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), is an inter-disciplinary network of professionals whose mission is to act as a source of advice on the environmental, economic, social and cultural factors that affect natural resources and biological diversity and to provide guidance and support towards effective policies and practices in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

www.iucn.org/ceesp



COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) is a network of environmental law and policy experts from all regions of the world who volunteer their knowledge and services to IUCN activities, especially to those of the IUCN Law Programme. CEL functions as an integral part of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme, which includes the Commission and the Environmental Law Centre.

www.iucn.org/cel



COMMISSION ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) is one of IUCN's six scientific Commissions. CEM is a network of volunteer experts from around the world working on ecosystem management related issues. The Commission works closely with other IUCN Commissions, regional offices and global thematic programmes. CEM and its individual members are involved in a wide range of Ecosystem Management activities. CEM is supported by the Ecosystem Management Programme as its Secretariat, which is located at the IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

www.iucn.org/cem



SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of some 7,500 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together towards achieving the vision of, "A world that values and conserves present levels of biodiversity." Most members are deployed in more than 100 Specialist Groups and Task Forces. Some groups address conservation issues related to particular groups of plants or animals while others focus on topical issues, such as reintroduction of species into former habitats or wildlife health.

www.iucn.org/ssc



WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

www.iucn.org/wcpa

IUCN Secretariat in Asia



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Asia Regional Office
International Union for
Conservation of Nature

