



Asia Review

2013-14



About IUCN

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

IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings 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 over 15,000 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 200 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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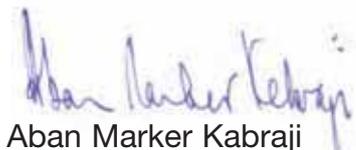
Mount Huangshan World Heritage Site, China
Credit: Mount Huangshan National Park

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Partnerships




Aban Marker Kabraji
Regional Director, IUCN Asia

There is no question that Asia's global influence is growing rapidly.

Many of the countries in the region are experiencing dynamic economic growth. While this growth has meant better living conditions for many, the reality is that 800 million people still live below the international poverty line. And this growth is exerting unprecedented pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems.

When ecosystems degrade this further exacerbates the vulnerability of the poor—many of whom are still directly dependent on natural resources and environmental services for their lives and livelihoods. With the world's top 10 most disaster-prone countries located in Asia-Pacific, climate change threatens to make their lives even more precarious.

At the same time, there are also many signs of hope. New solutions, often based on the history and culture of ancient societies are emerging from Asian countries: Eco-Civilization in China, the Sufficiency Economy in Thailand, Low Carbon Growth in Japan and Inclusive Growth in India. Asia is now leading global efforts to generate renewable energy, with China being the top investor. And on the political front, the movement towards sub-regional integration, with the renewed focus on ASEAN and SAARC, is creating new opportunities for trans-boundary collaboration—critical to addressing many of our sustainable development challenges.

IUCN's activities are keeping close pace with these challenges and opportunities, and indeed in some cases, leading and defining them, especially when we bring IUCN's unique convening strength to address issues around the big ecosystems of Asia: the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna, the Himalayas, the Mekong, the coastline from Pakistan to China, and the island countries of Asia. Over the last two years we have strengthened our involvement in a number of significant large-scale trans-boundary efforts, such as: Mangroves for the Future, which works on enhancing resilience of coastal communities across 10 Asian countries and the Seychelles; Ecosystems for Life, which has led unprecedented civil-society dialogue processes on shared water resource concerns in India and Bangladesh; and the Mekong Water Dialogues and BRIDGE projects, which are focusing on building a shared understanding of water resources in the Mekong region.

These projects have succeeded because of a new approach to governance and to partnership—one that ensures ownership by the countries involved of project management and direction, and that brings together players from many different sectors—government, civil society and the private sector—to build solutions together.

for Change

As you will read in the following pages, IUCN Asia has also continued to work closely with our Members to deliver change through partnership. We have supported a number of countries in implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan, including the revision of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). We have also enhanced our collaboration with Members and Commission Members on species conservation efforts, addressing Siamese Rosewood, South Asian vultures, Asian rhinos and tigers, to name just a few. We have worked together to create a number of important firsts—among them the first Asia Parks Congress which was held in Sendai, Japan in November 2013. The Congress led to the formation of the first Asia Protected Areas Partnership which will provide a platform for governments to share best practices for protected area management.

The IUCN family represents an extraordinary partnership of states and civil society. We find strength in our numbers and in our diversity—allowing us to bring both breadth and depth to our understanding of country-specific, regional and global challenges. Over the past few years this strength has continued to grow with membership in the Asia region increasing from 150 organisations and agencies in 2009 to 250 today. We are proud to say that 21 of 23 countries in the region are now represented in our membership, and that we have 13 State Members. New initiatives have been launched in Myanmar and in Bhutan, and in 2014 we signed our first host country agreement with Indonesia.

Given that Asia is a key driver of global economic growth, there is also an imperative for us to work with Asian companies to support their efforts to achieve net positive impact on biodiversity, and to harness their energy and entrepreneurial spirit in finding solutions. Over the past two years a number of new partnerships with the private sector have emerged which are highlighted toward the end of this document.

As we look to the future, it is clear that there is only one way forward—a future of partnership. Partnerships among nations and among sectors; true partnerships that recognize the need to include all sectors of society and that bring value to the contributions of women and of local communities.

On behalf of IUCN, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our partners—our Members, our donors, our community and our private sector partners—who have made the successes of the past two years a reality. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this journey toward realizing a more equitable and a more sustainable future for us all.



A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'YS SCX'.

Youngbae Suh
Chair, IUCN Asia Regional
Members Committee

Asia by the Numbers

10,900

protected areas are found in Asia Region^{1, 2}

9

Asian protected areas on the IUCN Green List³

5

Asian countries considered among the world's 17 mega-diverse

8

of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots are in Asia⁴

13.9%

of Asia Region's terrestrial and inland waters and **1.4%** of marine and coastal areas are protected¹

3,000

tigers remaining in the wild⁵

95%

of Southeast Asia coral reefs 'especially at risk'¹

266

World Heritage Sites (natural and mixed) and Ramsar Sites in Asia¹

6

Asian countries among the top 10 most affected by climate change in 2013⁶

80%

decline in population of Mekong giant catfish over past 20 years⁷

97%

decline in Gyps vulture populations in South Asia since 1990s⁸

1,413

plants and animals in Asia Region Critically Endangered⁹

60

million rely on Lower Mekong Basin for water, food and livelihood¹⁰

10

countries in Asia experiencing high or very high water stress¹¹

800

people attended the 2013 Asia Parks Congress

2,381

scientists and experts in Asia are IUCN Commission Members

250

IUCN Members in Asia

238

grants given out to community organizations through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Mangroves for the Future (MFF) over the past two years

8

countries assisted by IUCN with new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans¹²

References are on page 29.

The IUCN Programme

Working for people and nature

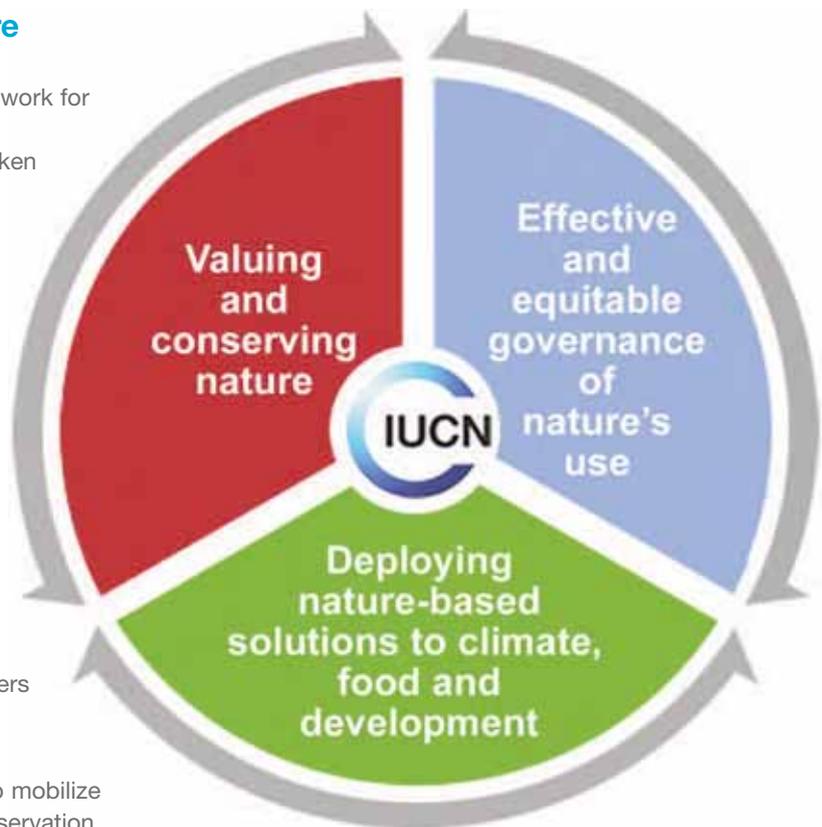
The IUCN Programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat, with and on behalf of, IUCN Members.

The IUCN Membership endorses a new Programme every four years during the World Conservation Congress (WCC), the world's largest conservation event which aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development. The current IUCN Programme (2013-2016) was approved by IUCN Members at the WCC in Jeju, South Korea in September 2012. It was developed as a result of a five-month consultation process across IUCN Members and Commissions.

The IUCN Programme 2013–2016 aims to mobilize communities working for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty reduction in common efforts to halt biodiversity loss and apply nature-based solutions to conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience, strengthen equity, reduce poverty and so improve the wellbeing of people on this planet.

The Programme builds upon IUCN's niche as the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and related environmental governance. It has three Programme Areas:

- **Valuing and Conserving Nature** enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature.
- **Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use** consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.



- **Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food and Development** expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.

The Programme is implemented through the combined force of the Secretariat (1,000 staff in global thematic programmes and nine regional programmes, of which 283 are in Asia) working together with six IUCN Commissions.

This report provides an update on progress in Asia on each of the three Programme Areas.



Conserving Asia's Unique

Natural Assets

Helping countries and communities protect and manage biodiversity is IUCN's main area of expertise. In Asia—home to 60 per cent of the world's population, and where it is estimated that many households derive as much as 50 to 80 per cent of their income from non-timber forest products—pressures on the natural environment are particularly intense and rates of biodiversity loss are accelerating rapidly. Over the past two years, IUCN Asia has worked on a number of initiatives designed to slow this loss while also ensuring benefits for human communities.

Homes for life: protecting vital habitat

Protected areas are at the heart of IUCN's efforts to conserve nature and the services it provides us, including food, clean water, medicines and protection from the impacts of disasters. The past two years have seen a number of important achievements for protected areas in Asia. In November 2013, IUCN and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, organized the first ever Asia Parks Congress in Sendai—bringing together more than 800 participants from a wide range of sectors to discuss the special challenges facing Asia's protected areas and to chart a course for their future management. Taking place at the site of the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 2011, the Congress had a major focus on protected areas and disaster risk reduction, and also on the uniquely Asian philosophy of protected areas which seeks to harmonize spiritual values with nature and a wide range of socio-ecological approaches to managing protected areas in different cultural settings.

A major outcome of the Congress was the launch of a new Asia Protected Areas Partnership co-chaired by the Government of Japan and IUCN. The partnership brings countries together to promote best practices, share lessons learned and develop innovative solutions to the region's conservation challenges. To date, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan,

Nepal, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam have formally joined the partnership, and there have been expressions of interest from several others.

The Asia Parks Congress also produced the Sendai Charter and a detailed set of recommendations which fed into the planning for the World Parks Congress, held on November 2014 in Sydney, Australia. This once every 10 years gathering brought together more than 6,000 people from over 170 countries who committed to an ambitious agenda to safeguard the planet's natural assets.

Another landmark was the production of the first-ever Asia Protected Planet Report. Produced by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, together with IUCN and other partners, the report reveals that Asia has made significant progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on protected areas. There are now more than 10,900 protected areas in Asia, and approximately 13.9 per cent of the terrestrial environment is protected. Protection of marine and coastal habitats, however, remains critically low; only 1.8 per cent of the marine and coastal areas within national jurisdiction are currently within protected areas. The report also found that there are major conservation challenges to overcome in the region, including addressing urgent threats such as deforestation and illegal poaching, and improving protected area management effectiveness.

Protecting Indo-Burma's rich reservoirs of biodiversity

Recent scientific studies done in Asia have helped shed new light on the status and distribution of biodiversity and addressed knowledge gaps on poorly documented species and regions. In the Indo-Burma hotspot—two million square kilometres of tropical Asia that ranks among the world's most biologically diverse regions—IUCN and partners have carried out assessments of 2,515 freshwater species, 13 per cent of which were assessed as globally threatened mainly due to pollution and large-scale development of hydropower. As the majority of the 300 million people living in the hotspot rely on the services provided by its natural ecosystems, balancing development objectives and biodiversity conservation is of paramount importance.

Together with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and regional partners the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-Conservation Network, IUCN has launched a regional USD10.4 million, five-year investment for conservation of biodiversity which focuses on awarding small and large grants to civil society organizations. More than 60 grants have been made so far for a wide range of projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and parts of southern China. Examples include projects focused on the conservation of threatened species such as the Saola, research to support fish conservation and efforts to build the capacity of local civil society organizations to manage protected areas.

Supporting national commitments

IUCN has a long history of providing support to the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) which guide country efforts to implement commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

This has included the provision of assistance to the design of stakeholder consultation processes; the formation and operation of thematic working groups; the implementation of specialist studies; and the drafting of NBSAP documents. IUCN has also promoted regional capacity building workshops

'The establishment of this group represents a new commitment from governments across Asia to work together on protected area issues, and demonstrates a growing recognition of the critical place of protected areas in multiple realms that are vital to human survival.'

Co-chairs of Asia Protected Areas Partnership
Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia and
Prof. Yoshitaka Kumagai, Regional Vice Chair, East Asia for IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas



Hilsa fish
Credit: Zobaidur Rahman



One-horned rhinoceros in Chitwan National Park, Nepal
Credit: IUCN Nepal

and South-South exchange and learning. Notable engagements include: supporting Viet Nam’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as the lead technical agency in the revision of the NBSAP; supporting the revision of Lao PDR’s NBSAP and developing a pilot Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; working with the Government of Bangladesh to update the NBSAP that was first developed in partnership with IUCN; and most recently working with the Government of Myanmar to revise its NBSAP and incorporate new biodiversity information that has become available over the last several years.

Spotlight on species

Hilsa fish

Species protection efforts are often associated with the cuddly and the critically endangered, but in many parts of Asia, ensuring the sustainability of the region’s key food species is also of critical importance. In Bangladesh and India, there has been a major focus on ensuring the sustainable management of Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) stocks. About 420,000 metric tonnes of the fish are caught annually, but unsustainable harvesting practices and growing demand have put unprecedented pressure on the species. Through the trans-boundary Ecosystems for Life programme, IUCN is working to deploy nature-based solutions to address potential food security issues associated

with the rapid decline in Hilsa numbers—from helping build a strong policy framework to consumer awareness campaigns.

Irrawaddy dolphin

The Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) population in the Mekong River of Cambodia and Laos is identified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ as Critically Endangered. A series of estimates of total population size in the first decade of the 21st century were all below 150 and there is reason to believe that numbers have been declining steadily. IUCN has been conducting research in Cambodia’s Koh Kong province with the goal of improving management and establishing trans-boundary collaboration for dolphin conservation between Koh Kong Province in Cambodia and Trat Province in Thailand.

Rhinoceros on the brink

Asia’s rhinoceros populations in Sumatra and Java are on the brink of extinction, with fewer than 100 Sumatran rhinos and an estimated 50 Javan rhinos surviving in the wild. The Greater one horned rhinoceros, with an estimated 3,339 individuals, is listed as Vulnerable. The threats continue to mount. In 2013, IUCN and TRAFFIC reported escalating levels of poaching and illegal trade in

rhino horns, pushing the trade to the highest levels in over 20 years.

In 2013, IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) facilitated a major breakthrough in the form of the Bandar Lampung Declaration which came out of a landmark meeting hosted by Indonesia. Signed by Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal, the declaration creates a concrete plan of action, and commits the signatories to increase the Asian rhino population by 3 per cent annually by 2020. The agreement was reached based on the latest knowledge on the status and trends of the three species provided by the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group.

Vulture culture

After a catastrophic decline in Gyps vulture populations across South Asia, the carrion-feeders' role in the ecosystem has been assumed by feral dogs, increasing the risk of rabies. Veterinary use of the anti-inflammatory drug Diclofenac, which has been identified as the single most important cause of the decline of vulture populations, has now been banned in all four countries.

IUCN Asia facilitated a groundbreaking Regional Declaration by four South Asian vulture range states in 2012. A steering committee comprised of government and NGO representatives from each of the four range countries was subsequently established to drive forward the recommendations. Amongst other measures, a regional project proposal has been drafted, seeking funding to strengthen the legal and policy framework, create Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs), enhance captive

breeding programs and raise awareness about vultures and the important ecosystem services they provide. In Bangladesh, IUCN has been working closely with the Department of Forest to establish two VSZs—the first in the world to be legally gazetted. Similarly, in Pakistan, IUCN has been assisting Baanhn Beli, an NGO member, to promote the creation of a VSZ in the Thar Desert. In India, an economic valuation of the ecosystem services that were once provided by vultures has been initiated, in partnership with Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi. The study is being funded by GIZ under their The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for India initiative.

Tiger cooperation

Once distributed across a vast swath of Asia, the tiger has vanished from much of its range and is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. In August 2014 IUCN signed an MoU with the Global Tiger Forum in an effort to help bring this magnificent predator back from the brink of extinction. The MoU is expected to contribute to more effective management of tiger habitats by improving cooperation between the two organisations in the tiger range countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Projects and activities will include enhancing the management of protected areas and tiger habitats through policy and practice and increasing cooperation for trans-boundary landscape management.

The Red List: Building knowledge and capacity

The Red List marked its 50th anniversary in 2014, continuing to be a catalyst for conservation action and invaluable as a 'barometer of life on Earth'. To reduce knowledge gaps on the status of Asian species for better conservation action, IUCN is helping governments build capacity to assess the status of species as well as to properly document existing and newly discovered plant and animal life.

In Bhutan, IUCN recently trained 26 officials from a wide range of organizations on using the IUCN Red List criteria and categories. In 2014 and 2015, this is being followed up by a project to assess the status of Bhutan's endemic plants, with the aim of publishing a National Red List of Bhutan's Endemic Flora.

In Bangladesh, IUCN is currently supporting the government to revise and extend the current Red List of 1,700 species. The two-year project will update assessments undertaken more than a decade ago and bring to light the most accurate and current status, trends and threats to wildlife species in the country. The country's crustaceans and butterflies will be assessed for the first time.



Cast-net fishing in Ashtamudi Lake, Kerala, India
Credit: MFF India

Ensuring Fair and Just Use of Nature

Improved governance over natural resources and their management strengthens rights and delivers equitable conservation with tangible human benefits. Over the past two years, IUCN has built on its ongoing work in Asia to ensure that we truly deliver on our mission of a just world that values and conserves nature—providing benefits not just for biodiversity but also for human communities.

Trans-boundary approaches

As natural ecosystems do not recognize national borders, effective management and governance of natural resources often hinge on improving trans-boundary cooperation.

Under the Ecosystems for Life—A Bangladesh India Initiative (E4L), IUCN has been working to promote better understanding and improved management of natural resources in Bangladesh and India, with a focus on trans-boundary river systems. The project

works to develop a shared understanding of food, livelihood and water security issues through collaborative India-Bangladesh research and by enhancing the capacity of civil society stakeholders to participate in the management of natural resources.

Over the past four years, E4L convened a number of stakeholder engagement sessions and brought together joint research teams to look into a wide variety of topics such as inland navigation, wetland connectivity and the management of Hilsa fish stocks, providing inputs to policy that will ensure better management of these natural resources. At the same time, the project has worked hard to involve all sectors in the discussion—from academics to NGOs, even engaging young professionals and students in a Water Futures Dialogue.

Under the umbrella of the global Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) project,

IUCN is supporting Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam in establishing frameworks for long-term water resources management strategies for their shared rivers. In September 2014, a hydro-diplomacy workshop organized by IUCN and the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV) in Hanoi, Viet Nam, focused on the legal and institutional aspects of trans-boundary water resources and looked at the opportunities deriving from the application of international water law—in particular, the Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. Viet Nam ratified the Convention in May 2014, becoming the 35th country in the world and the only country in Southeast Asia to do so. The participants in the workshop learned how to use the principles of international water law and hydrodiplomacy in their relationships with Viet Nam's neighbours and how the Convention can supplement existing treaties to which Viet Nam is a party, such as the 1995 Mekong River Agreement.

New governance approaches

IUCN with implementing partners launched the third phase of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative in June 2014 with the support of DANIDA and the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency. Since its launch in 2006 as a response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, MFF has grown significantly in size and in the breadth of its activities. With the inclusion of Cambodia in 2013 and Myanmar in 2014, MFF now has 11 member countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) championing the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems as key natural infrastructure supporting human wellbeing and security.

Almost 200 projects have been implemented through the MFF grants mechanism, providing opportunities to support community organizations and to test new ecosystem-based approaches to dealing with coastal development challenges. At the same time, MFF is demonstrating new 'soft governance' approaches—starting with its own unique partnership-based model which brings together government, civil society and the private sector to play more effective roles in the governance of coastal areas. Soft governance approaches are also being applied at the sub-

national level, with grants that emphasize co-management of natural resources and invest in processes and governance structures that fully engage communities in determining their sustainable futures.

Women hold up half the sky: promoting gender integration

Moving forward, MFF is also putting a more deliberate emphasis on integrating considerations of gender into its programming, with gender increasingly being recognized as a critical part of the stakeholder empowerment process. In order to support this, an MFF regional Gender Advisory Panel was established in August 2014, and a rapid gender survey was conducted across all MFF countries in order to provide a better understanding of the roles of men and women and gender gaps experienced in coastal-resource dependent communities.

In Bangladesh, IUCN has also supported the government in developing and publishing the Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (BCCGAP) which provides guidance on policy issues and initiatives that need to be taken into consideration when looking at how to address climate change in a gender-sensitive manner.

Strengthening legal frameworks

Enshrining ecosystem protection and human rights in law is a critical element in achieving sustainable development goals. Through the Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD) project, IUCN has actively supported strengthening stakeholder participation in decision-making on water resources in Thailand with the formulation of the people's draft on the 'integrated water resource management law'. This has been a collaborative effort between the Law Reform Commission of Thailand, the NGO Assembly for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources, the Asia Foundation, and the IUCN MWD National Working Group.

In Lao PDR, IUCN undertook a situation analysis in the Xe Champhone Ramsar site in Savannakhet province to examine the under-researched issue of customary law governing natural resources, including its relationship to statutory law. This led to recommendations on how to incorporate



Planting mangroves along Sindh Coast
Credit: IUCN Pakistan - Cactus Digital

customary law into the governance of Ramsar sites and the drafting of two new decrees which will result in better management of wetlands. Local indigenous people were involved at each step of the project, not only through consultations and interviews to collect information but also in decision making, and the findings were validated collectively by local communities, including the spirit master from each village.

Reducing our impacts

Sustainable development which respects nature and ecosystem services starts with effective impact assessments. The National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) run by IUCN in Pakistan over the past four years made significant progress in this regard—supporting a number of provinces in formulating their environmental legislation, reviewing the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, producing a number of tool kits and even bringing together a first-of-its-kind dialogue among political parties in the country to discuss the importance of including the environment in their manifestos.

The influence of NIAP was also felt across the region with the organization of the first South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2013. The conference attracted hundreds of participants from around the region and beyond, to share experiences on how to make environmental impact assessments more effective and to advance the concept of strategic environmental assessments which take into account broader landscape contexts.

New valuation models

In China, IUCN has partnered with the Elion Foundation on a pilot project to test a new way to measure productivity that goes beyond traditional economic models. Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) establishes specific indicators that measure the total economic value of all ecosystem products and services provided to us by nature. The GEP concept complements China's Eco-Civilization initiative, and was piloted in the Inner Mongolia region.

Our Work in Asia

INDIA
State member since 1969
Office established 2007

Members
 Government Agencies: 5
 National NGOs: 33

Flagship initiatives

- Developing robust biodiversity management standards in Tata Steel mining operations
- Stimulating companies to take lead in creating net positive impact on biodiversity and ecosystems
- Assessing economic value of ecosystem services provided by vultures

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, E4L

NEPAL
State member since 1974
Office established 1995

Members
 International NGO: 1
 National NGOs: 15

Flagship initiatives

- Demonstrating role of well-managed mountain ecosystems as effective climate change adaptation measures
- Assisting in formulating a national 'Umbrella Strategic Framework' for nature conservation
- Enhancing livelihoods and food security via improved agroforestry and community forestry systems

BHUTAN
State member since 2012

Members
 National NGOs: 2

Flagship initiatives

- Assessing status of Bhutan's endemic plants under the Bhutan Red List Partnership

MONGOLIA
Members
 National NGO: 1

PAKISTAN
State member since 1975
Office established 1985

Members
 Government Agencies: 6
 International NGO: 1
 National NGOs: 30

Flagship initiatives

- Enhancing capacity in environmental governance and integrated resources management in Balochistan province
- Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes and introducing Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)
- Promoting water security through water diplomacy, cooperation, knowledge management, sustainable use and sanitation

Trans-boundary project

- MFF

BANGLADESH
State member since 1973
Office established 1992

Members
 National NGOs: 20

Flagship initiatives

- Establishing community-based co-management system for Tangiar Haor wetland ecosystem
- Updating national Red List of Threatened Species
- Ensuring long term conservation of Asian elephants and their habitats

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, E4L

MYANMAR
Members
 National NGOs: 2

Flagship initiatives

- Enhancing capacity of NGOs and government partners working on issues of global conservation significance
- Supporting preparation of the country's Tentative List of natural World Heritage Sites

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, MWD

MALDIVES
Members
 National NGO: 1

Trans-boundary project

- MFF

SRI LANKA
State member since 1987
Office established 1988

Members
 Government Agencies: 5
 National NGOs: 6

Flagship initiatives

- Promoting conservation of critically endangered Bandula Barb fish via education and empowerment
- Implementing Biodiversity Action Plans in the context of large development projects
- Integrating nature and heritage conservation in ecotourism

Trans-boundary project

- MFF

THAILAND
State member since 1962
Office established 2001

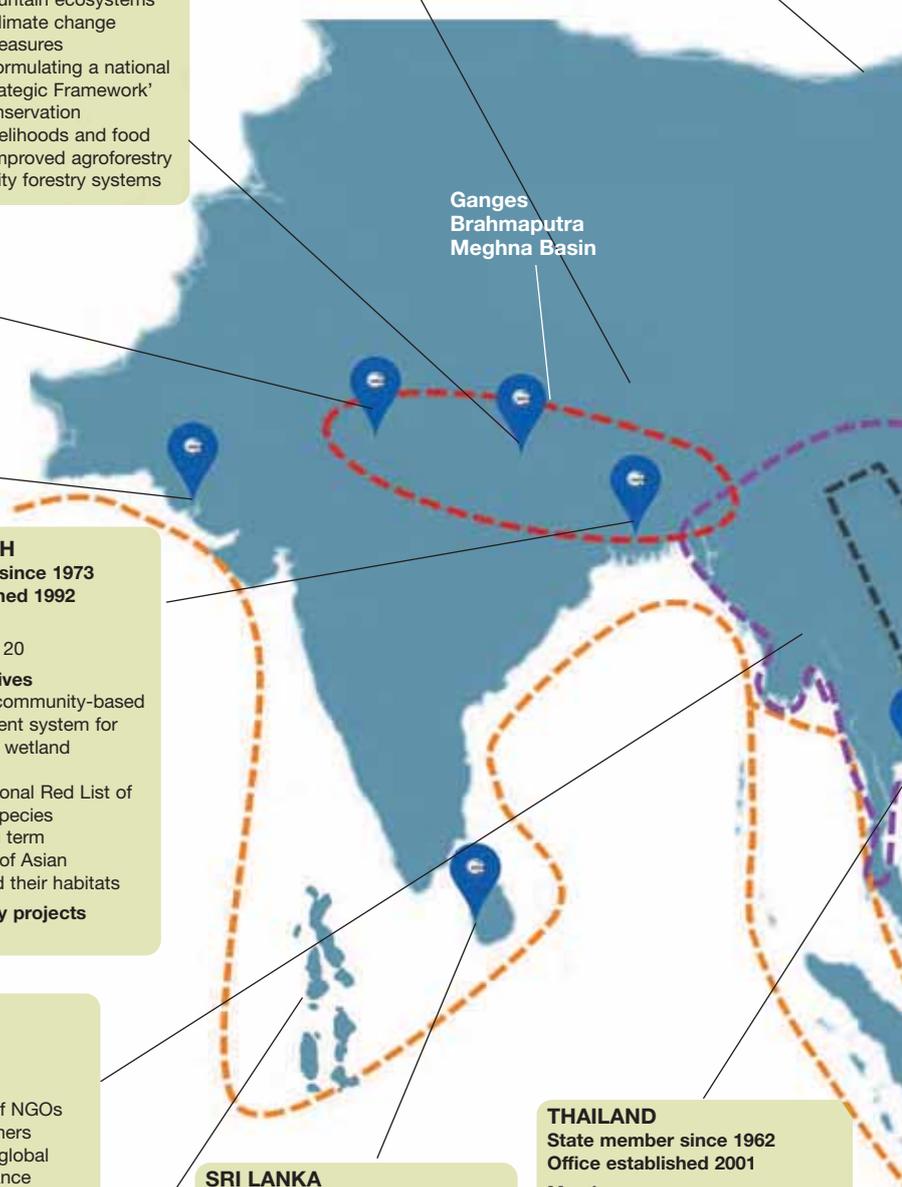
Members
 International NGOs: 2
 National NGOs: 5

Flagship initiatives

- Improving local economic conditions in Doi Mae Salong watershed by mainstreaming conservation and social considerations into business
- Promoting mangrove restoration by linking climate protection and climate adaptation to sustainable aquaculture
- Advancing sustainable management of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, MWD, BCR



Ganges
 Brahmaputra
 Meghna Basin



CHINA
 State member since 1996
 Office established 2003

Members
 Government Agency: 1
 National NGOs: 20
 Affiliates: 3

Flagship initiatives

- Protecting watersheds through nature-based solutions to secure drinking water supplies in cities
- Restoring Jiaquan Watershed by empowering local communities through public-private partnerships
- Piloting Gross Ecosystem Product concept in Inner Mongolia to highlight economic value of ecosystems

Trans-boundary project

- CEPF

KOREA (DPRK)
 Members
 National NGO: 1

KOREA (ROK)
 State member since 2006
 Framework donor to IUCN

Members
 Government Agencies: 5
 International NGO: 1
 National NGOs: 26

Flagship initiatives

- Providing support to ROK's Presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Collaborating with government on implementing a number of World Conservation Congress Resolutions.

JAPAN
 State member since 1995

Members
 Government Agency: 1
 International NGO: 1
 National NGOs: 17

Flagship initiative

- Launching Asia Protected Areas Partnership jointly with the Government of Japan

LAO PDR
 State member since 1969
 Office established 1992

Members
 National NGO: 1

Flagship initiatives

- Supporting capacity enhancement to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into development planning
- Protecting gibbon populations
- Promoting ecosystem-based climate adaptation in Khammouane Province

Trans-boundary projects

- CEPF, MWD, BRIDGE

VIET NAM
 State member since 1993
 Office established 1993

Members
 National NGOs: 5

Flagship initiatives

- Promoting community-based sea turtle conservation in Quang Tri Province
- Promoting mangrove restoration by linking climate protection and adaptation to sustainable aquaculture

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, MWD, BRIDGE, BCR

PHILIPPINES
 Members
 National NGOs: 4

CAMBODIA
 Office established 1992

Members
 National NGOs: 2

Flagship initiative

- Strengthening capacity of fishing communities in Tonle Sap to manage natural resources sustainably

Trans-boundary projects

- MFF, CEPF, MWD, BRIDGE, BCR

INDONESIA
 Members
 Government Agency: 1
 National NGOs: 3
 Affiliate: 1

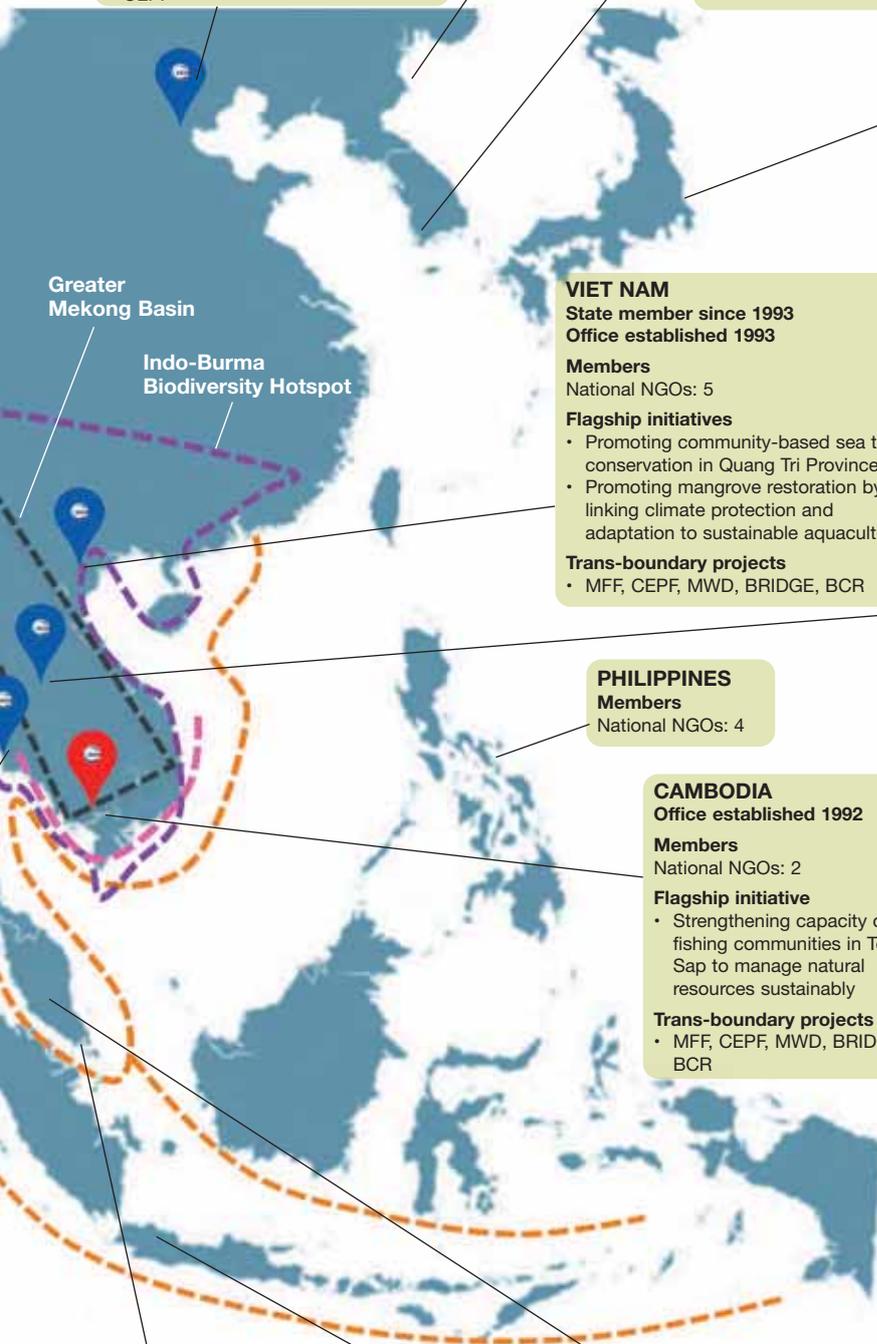
Trans-boundary project

- MFF

MALAYSIA
 State member since 1961

Members
 Government Agencies: 3
 National NGOs: 3

SINGAPORE
 Members
 National NGOs: 3



Trans-boundary projects in Asia's large ecosystems

Ganges Brahmaputra Meghna Basin

- **Ecosystems for Life (E4L);** civil society-led multi-stakeholder dialogue process to promote better understanding of management of natural resources in Bangladesh and India.

Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

- **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF);** funding mechanism that enables civil society participation in conservation of some of the world's most critical ecosystems. IUCN leads the Regional Implementation Team in the Indo-Burma hotspot: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and parts of southern China.

Greater Mekong Basin

- **Building River Dialogue and Governance in the Mekong Region (BRIDGE);** promotes shared vision for sustainable use of water resources in the 3S River Basin (the Sekong, Sesan and Sre Pok trans-boundary rivers of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam).
- **Mekong Water Dialogues (MWD);** initiated to improve water governance by facilitating transparent and inclusive decision-making to improve livelihood security, and human and ecosystem health.

Coastlines

- **Mangroves for the Future (MFF);** partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems to support sustainable development. Implemented in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles (not in map), Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- **Building Coastal Resilience to Climate Change Impacts (BCR);** designed to strengthen the ability of local government and communities to plan for, and adapt to, future climate risks in eight coastal provinces in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Nature-Based Solutions

A core focus of IUCN's current programme is exploring the ways in which nature itself can provide solutions to our development challenges—enabling societies to adapt to climate change, manage food, water, and energy needs, and to reduce risks and impacts of disasters. This ranges from actively promoting 'natural infrastructure' on Asia's coastlines and in mountainous areas to supporting agroforestry in local communities and better management of wetlands and watersheds.

Promoting resilient coastlines

Asia's coastal resources are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction, overfishing and by-catch (the

Mangroves rehabilitation area, Bangga Gorontalo, Sulawesi, Indonesia
Credit: Matthew Oldfield



unintentional catching of non-targeted fish and other animals, including endangered species). There is a growing consensus that integrated coastal management should take an ecosystem-based approach, which addresses not just marine issues (those taking place offshore) but also the impacts of development taking place inland and in coastal zones.

IUCN has held a number of events over the past two years with the goal of sharing knowledge among countries in South and Southeast Asia and to find practical, nature-based solutions for coastal issues.

In October 2013, a regional Fisheries Symposium was organized by Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India with a number of other partners. The Symposium explored ecosystem-based approaches to protecting fisheries and marine biodiversity and shared practical science-based solutions to fisheries issues.

‘Through this symposium, we aimed to bridge the gap between what are often seen as the conflicting priorities of the fisheries and conservation sectors, bringing together scientists, policy makers and NGOs for open debate and sharing on the best ways to balance economic, social and environmental interests, and to achieve sustainable fisheries for the region.’

MFF Project Coordinator Steen Christensen



MFF is also piloting projects to build community resilience in its 11 member countries. These projects focus on promoting ecosystem-based approaches to climate-related impacts on coastal populations with the ultimate goal of influencing nature-based policy and practice. For example, a number of natural infrastructure options have been tested in Bangladesh as a means to avoid mudflat and embankment erosion. Twenty hectares of mangroves were planted in newly accreted lands in front of coastal dykes. Similarly, eight sites were identified as pilot projects for controlling erosion through soft engineering solutions such as bamboo breakwaters and bamboo T-fences.

In India, the Climate Resilience Evaluation for Adaptation through Empowerment (CREATE) framework, based on a vulnerability and capacity assessment methodology developed under the Building Coastal Resilience to Climate Change Impacts in Southeast Asia project, is receiving increasing interest from the post-crisis economic recovery community. It was applied in 2013 in the aftermath of the Uttarakhand flash floods in the northern part of the country.

Natural adaptation strategies

Mud slides and other disasters threaten communities in many parts of Asia. In the Western Hills of Nepal, the Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) project is exploring how natural engineering can help, by establishing three bio-engineering demonstration sites and conducting a socio-economic analysis of 'eco-safe roads'. In Yunnan Province of China, EPIC is working to enhance understanding on how vegetation influences slope failure and soil properties, in order to model the landslide process correctly and inform land management. The EPIC Thailand case study involves a collaboration with Mangrove Action Project Thailand to demonstrate how restoration of mangroves in abandoned shrimp ponds can provide natural buffers against storm surges and other disasters.

Also in Thailand, the USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change project is

supporting work with local communities in Loh Yo, Hae Ko and Huai Kang Pla villages of Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, to implement ecosystem and community-based climate adaptation and resilience-building initiatives.

As part of the process of understanding local climate vulnerabilities in these villages, IUCN conducted climate story workshops in the three communities. The residents discussed how different climate hazards affect their livelihoods, and ranked the identified climate threats in order of importance.

Subsequently, communities will identify adaptation options that are likely to include: the introduction of new crops to diversify income generation and decrease vulnerability to climate change; the establishment of mixed cropping and agroforestry demonstration sites; and the protection and rehabilitation of community forest areas to increase the resilience of local communities and ecosystems.

Managing watersheds

Wetlands and watersheds are effectively nature's filters and sponges—storing and purifying the water supplies on which we all depend. But in many parts of Asia, a high percentage of wetlands have been converted to other uses, often with disastrous consequences, and many watersheds are degraded and polluted as a result of unsustainable land use around them.

In 2013, IUCN initiated a major new project focused on protecting watersheds for China's rapidly growing urban areas. More than 400 of China's 660 cities now suffer from permanent water shortages. Working in partnership with the central government and a number of leading Chinese research organizations, IUCN aims to analyze the drinking water sources and watersheds of 30 to 50 Chinese mega-cities over the coming years in order to gain a better understanding of their ecosystem functions and services, and to develop strategies to guide their protection.



A common mormon butterfly found at the vicinity of TATA Steel's Sukinda Chromite Mine in Odisha, India
Credit: Vipul Sharma

Making Conservation Work

With its unique structure, IUCN brings together governments and civil society organizations as voting members of this powerful Union. Increasingly we are also seeing partnerships with the private sector as critical if we are to have a real impact on global sustainability challenges.

IUCN's Business and Biodiversity programme focuses on working with sector leaders to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their business planning, and to develop standards and best practice that work towards achieving net positive impact in business operations. With the dynamic economic growth being experienced in the

Asia region the imperative to engage with business is in some ways even greater than in other parts of the world. Over the past two years a number of exciting partnerships have emerged.

Protecting critical watersheds

IUCN and Danone Waters China (DWC) have launched a partnership which aims to restore critical drinking water sources in the Upper Dongjiang River Basin in Guangzhou, focusing on the Jiaquan Watershed.

The Dongjiang River Basin is a critical resource. It provides water to more than 400 million people and six major Chinese cities including Guangzhou,

Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The Jiaquan watershed, upstream from the Dongjiang, is ecologically significant given the water resources it provides for people living locally and downstream.

Recent high levels of economic growth have brought major environmental challenges to the Dongjiang Basin. Significant pollution and degraded ecosystems are posing considerable risks to drinking water supplies. IUCN is confident that nature-based approaches, including empowering local stakeholders to manage natural resources sustainably, can provide effective solutions to the protection of critical watersheds.

Working with media to raise environmental awareness

An ongoing collaboration between Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS) and IUCN aims to raise public awareness on environmental issues and enhance environmental reporting on conservation-related matters in Asia.

As one of the region's most trusted news providers, Thai PBS has helped to ensure a wide audience for IUCN content, such as an in-depth documentary on the Mekong produced in 2013. The broadcaster has also supported IUCN by training project staff in creative writing. IUCN, in return, has acted as a technical advisor for a television series on climate

change and to a community-based Citizen Journalism project run by Thai PBS.

Mainstreaming sustainable business practices

As part of Marriott's global commitment to sustainability, the hotel group has entered into a partnership with IUCN in Thailand to support local communities through mangrove reforestation, the use of sustainable seafood sources and local procurement practices. Marriott has been actively supporting mangrove planting initiatives, involving both their associates and guests throughout Thailand, but the partnership is actually much deeper. Under IUCN's Mangroves and Markets project, Marriott is integrating mangrove protection into their business process by supporting sustainable aquaculture in mangrove ecosystems.

In line with the project, Marriott has started purchasing seafood (such as shrimp and crab) locally from sustainable sources, and encourages best practice in sustainable aquaculture. In the end, communities reap the most benefit: small-scale fish farmers are able to move to more environmentally friendly practices that promote increased biodiversity, reduce chemical use and keep natural ecosystems in place. The project is a clear example of how the private sector can contribute to conservation and restoration of

Farmers collecting shrimp in Vietnam
Credit: MFF





biodiversity while at the same time mainstreaming sustainable business practices.

Paving the way for sustainable aquaculture

Extensive shrimp farming has had major negative impacts on many coastal areas in Asia, with farmers converting large areas of intact mangrove forest to shrimp ponds. While the business can be lucrative, when prices fall or disease hits, entire harvests may be wiped out. Even worse, the integrity of coastal ecosystems suffers, leaving local communities more vulnerable to natural disasters.

IUCN and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) are working with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Nhung Mien Forest Management Board and Minh Phu, one of the world's largest seafood exporters, to support farmer participation in organic shrimp certification program. The program links a 10 per cent price premium to the maintenance of 50 per cent mangrove cover in shrimp farms, in a form of 'payment for environmental services' or PES, with farmers as the sellers and consumers in the US, EU, and Japan as the buyers of the environmental services that healthy mangrove forests provide. Over 700 farmers are currently enrolled in the programme, taking advantage of higher prices and lower risk while also making a contribution to the integrity of the local environment.

'I am very excited by this innovative new partnership. It moves beyond the simple idea of hotels demonstrating environmental commitments just by reducing water and electricity consumption, to really working on how they can be a force for positive change for the communities, habitats and species in the landscapes and seascapes on which their business ultimately depends.'

Dr Robert Mather, Head of IUCN's Southeast Asia Group

Helping transform industry and policy

IUCN has been at the forefront of facilitating dialogue with extractive industries in order to mainstream biodiversity conservation into their operations. An ongoing partnership with TATA Steel Limited in India is transforming the mining industry through the establishment of biodiversity management systems.

The overall aim of the partnership is to integrate biodiversity concerns into policy, strategic planning and environmental management at all operational levels of TATA Steel. This includes assessing surrounding ecosystems in mine sites, reviewing existing policies and strategic planning, as well as conducting trainings and workshops within the company and with stakeholders. The final component is promoting best practice to the wider industry and conservation communities through dialogue, which will in turn provide input to the development of minerals policies and laws.

At present, the partnership is helping extractive industries and related government policies in India and beyond to be strategically guided by a vision of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and valuing ecosystem services.

Joining Hands for a Sustainable Future

IUCN is only as strong as the collective power of its membership. We are proud that over the past five years we have seen a significant growth in organizational membership in the Asia region, from 172 in 2010 to 250 today. Membership in our Commissions in the region has also increased considerably.

IUCN Members benefit from being part of the world's largest environmental network, working together to address sustainability issues which could never be solved by one organization working alone. IUCN Members act collectively to provide leadership and governance and to set the organization's strategic agenda. In turn, they benefit from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base, its convening power,

its networking opportunities and the access it provides to high-level political, economic and social decision making.

We offer a unique, neutral forum where different interest groups come together to develop balanced, fact-based environmental proposals that create impact around the world. By joining, you advance your own cause and add to our collective strength in overcoming barriers to a sustainable future. Please consider joining IUCN today.

To find out how your organization can be a part of IUCN, please contact Membership Manager Mr Raj Kumar (tel: +66-2-6624029, extension 117; email: raj.kumar@iucn.org).

Our Members in Asia

Bangladesh

State Member

Ministry of Environment and Forest

National NGOs

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association

Bangladesh POUISH

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad

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

Gram Unnayan Sangathon

Nature Conservation Management

Shushilan

Unnayan Onneshan

WildTeam

Bhutan

State Member

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

National NGOs

Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation

Royal Society for Protection of Nature

Cambodia

National NGOs

Culture and Environment Preservation Association

Mlup Baitong

China

State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government Agency

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

National NGOs

All-China Environment Federation

Beijing Forestry Society

Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

Chengdu Bird Watching Society

China Association for NGO Cooperation

China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites

China Wildlife Conservation Association

Chinese Society of Forestry

Civic Exchange
Elion Foundation
Friends of Nature
Friends of the Country Parks
Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection
Shan Shui Conservation Center
Shangri-La Institute for Sustainable Communities
Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology
The Jane Goodall Institute China
Xiamen Green Cross Association
World Wide Fund for Nature - Hong Kong

Affiliates

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens
Huangshan Feng Jing Qu Guan Li Wei Yuan Hui
Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences

India

State Member

Ministry of Environment and Forests

Government Agencies

Attappady Hills Area Development Society
G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development
Indian Institute of Forest Management
National Board for Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forests
Wildlife Institute of India

National NGOs

Aaranyak
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
Applied Environmental Research Foundation
Association for Rural Area Social Modification, Improvement and Nestling
Balipara Tract & Frontier Foundation
Bombay Natural History Society
Centre for Environment Education - Nehru Foundation for Development

Centre for Media Studies
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
InsPIRE Network for Environment
Institute for Integrated Rural Development
International Society of Naturalists
Jal Bhagirathi Foundation
Keystone Foundation
MSSRF - Biju Patnaik Medicinal Plants Garden & Research Centre
MSSRF - Community Agrobiodiversity Centre
Nature, Environment and Wildlife Society
OMCAR Foundation
Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
Sahjeevan
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
Society of Hill Resource Management School
TERI's Forestry and Biodiversity Group
The Corbett Foundation
Wildlife Protection Society of India
Wildlife Trust of India
World Wide Fund for Nature - India

Indonesia

Government Agency

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

National NGOs

The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation
The Samdhana Institute Incorporated
World Wide Fund for Nature – Indonesia

Affiliate

Center for International Forestry Research

Japan

State Member

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Government Agencies

Ministry of the Environment

International NGO

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

National NGOs

Japan Center for Human Environmental Problems
Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Kamehameha Okoku
Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation
Nagashima-no Shizen-wo Mamoru Kai
Nature Conservation Society of Japan
Nihon Gan-wo Hogo suru Kai
Nihon Umigame Kyougikai
Okinawa Daigaku Chiiki Kenkyusyo (Okidai Chiikiken)
Ramsar Network Japan
Save the Dugong Campaign Center
Seibutsu Tayosei Japan (Biodiversity Network Japan)
Shizen Kankyo Kenkyu Senta
The Asahi Glass Foundation
Wild Bird Society of Japan
World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan
Yasei Seibutsu Hozenron Kenkyukai

Korea (DPRK)

National NGO

Nature Conservation Union of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Korea (ROK)

State Member

Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea

Government Agencies

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 NGOs

Citizens' Institute for Environmental
Studies
DaeJayon
Gotjawal Trust of Jeju
Jeju City Project 21
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
Agenda 21
Korea Association of Environmental
Planning & Landscape
Architecture
Korea Environmental Education
Network
Korea Green Club
Korea Society of Environmental
Restoration Technology
Korea Wild Animal & Plant Service
Korean Association for Conservation
of Nature
Korean Environmental Law
Association
Korean Society for Atmospheric
Environment
Korean Society of Environment and
Ecology
Korean Society of Environmental
Impact Assessment
Korean Society of Nature
Conservation
Korean Society of Restoration
Ecology
Korean Wetlands Society
Local Agenda 21-Seogwipo City
National Nature Trust
Sah-dahn-beob-in Jeju Gukje
Noksaek-Seom Forum
Sustainable Environmental Education
Center of Jeju Special Self-
Governing Province
The Ecological Society of Korea

The Korean Society of Conservation
Biology
The Korean Society of
Oceanography
The Korean Society of Plant
Taxonomists

Lao PDR

State Member

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

National NGO

Lao Biodiversity Association

Malaysia

State Member

Department of Wildlife and National
Parks - Peninsular Malaysia

Government Agencies

Sabah Wildlife Department
Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn
Bhd
The Sabah Parks Board of Trustees

National NGOs

Malaysian Nature Society
Marine Research Foundation
World Wide Fund for Nature -
Malaysia

Maldives

National NGO

Live & Learn Environmental
Education

Mongolia

National NGO

Hustai National Park Trust

Myanmar

National NGOs

Forest Resource Environment
Development and Conservation
Association
Friends of Wildlife

Nepal

State Member

Department of National Parks and
Wildlife Conservation

International NGO

International Centre for Integrated
Mountain Development

National NGOs

Association for Protection of the
Environment and Culture
Bird Conservation Nepal/Nepal
Panchhi Samrakchyan Sangh
Centre for Rural Technology
Environmental Camps for
Conservation Awareness
Green Governance Nepal
Himali Prakriti
Manab Kallyantatha Batabaran
Samrak Kendra
National Trust for Nature
Conservation
Nepal Forum of Environmental
Journalists
Save The Planet mission2020 Nepal
Service, Empowerment, Positive
Action and Applied Research for
Communities in the Himalayas
Wildlife Conservation Nepal
Wildlife Watch Group
Women in Environment/Mahila
Batabaran Samooha
Yuwa Jagaran Paryabaraniya Munch

Pakistan

State Member

National Council for Conservation of
Wildlife, Ministry of Environment

Government Agencies

Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
National Institute of Oceanography
Planning and Development
Department,
Civil Secretariat FATA
Planning and Development
Department,
Government of Balochistan
Sindh Coastal Development
Authority, Planning &
Development Department,
Government of Sindh
Sindh Wildlife Department

International NGO

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

National NGOs

AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Center
for Development Services
Baanhn Beli

Balochistan Rural Support Programme
 Centre for Peace and Development
 H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry
 Haashar Association
 Health and Nutrition Development Society
 Human Resource Development Network
 Indus Earth Trust
 Institute of Rural Management
 Khwendo Kor
 Leadership for Environment and Development
 Legends Society
 New World Hope Organization
 Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research
 Participatory Village Development Programme
 Research and Development Foundation
 SACAN Foundation
 Sarhad Rural Support Corporation
 Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan
 Shehri: Citizens for a Better Environment
 Shirkat Gah - Women Resource Centre
 South Asia Partnership - Pakistan
 Strengthening Participatory Organization
 Sungi Development Foundation
 Sustainable Development Policy Institute
 Taraqee Foundation
 Thardeep Rural Development Programme

Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources
 World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan

Philippines

National NGOs

Ecological Society of the Philippines
 Foundation for the Philippine Environment
 Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources
 World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines

Singapore

National NGOs

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

Sri Lanka

State Member

Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy

Government Agencies

Central Environmental Authority
 Department of National Zoological Gardens
 Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Forest Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Agrarian Development, Minor Irrigation, Industries and Environment

National NGOs

Environmental Foundation Ltd.
 Federation of Wildlife Conservation

Green Movement of Sri Lanka
 Sevalanka Foundation
 Small Fishers Federation
 Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka

Thailand

State Member

National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department

International NGOs

International Network of Engaged Buddhists
 Regional Community Forestry Training Center

National NGOs

Freeland Foundation
 Good Governance for Social Development and the Environment Institute Foundation
 Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation
 Seub Nakhasathien Foundation
 Thai Conservation of Forest Foundation

Viet Nam

State Member

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

National NGOs

Action Center for City Development
 Center for Environment and Community Research
 Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
 Centre for Marinelifelife Conservation and Community Development
 Viên Kinh tế sinh thái

Our Partners in Asia

Multilateral

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (BOBLME)
European Union (EU)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- o Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- o Nepal
- o Lao PDR

Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Ramsar Secretariat
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- o Bangladesh
- o Pakistan

World Bank, Bangladesh

Bilateral

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU)
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

- o Bangladesh
- o Pakistan

Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Netherlands - Directorate General for International Cooperation
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
UK Department for International Development (UKAID)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Governments (Asia Region)

Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka (CEA)
Coastal Development Authority, Government of Sindh, Pakistan
Environmental Protection Department, Government of Punjab, Pakistan
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Environment, Japan
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
Overseas Environmental Cooperation Centre, Japan

Non-governmental organizations

CARE Bangladesh
Flora and Fauna International (FFI)
Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN)
Oxfam Novib
WWF Netherlands
Danone
Elengy Terminal Pakistan Limited
Holcim Ltd

HSBC Sri Lanka
LHT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd
Marriott International, Inc.
Minh Phu Seafood Corporation
Nokia Corporation
Pakistan International Bulk Terminal Limited (PIBT)
Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation
SriLankan Airlines
Sri Lanka Telecom PLC
Tata Steel Limited
The Dhamra Port Company Limited
The Electricity Generating Public Company Limited
The PTT Exploration and Production Company Limited (PTTEP)
Toyota Motor Corporation

Foundations

ARCUS Foundation
Elion Foundation
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)
Skoll Global Threats Fund
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
Total Foundation

Others

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
IUCN Netherlands Committee
Smithsonian Institution
South-Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS)

IUCN Commissions

IUCN's six expert Commissions are a great asset to the organization and provide a global pool of science, research and action. These vital Commissions—supported by a broad and active volunteer network—help assess the state of the world's natural resources and contribute expert scientific, legal and policy advice used to drive conservation and sustainable development.

The Commissions focus on developing sound environmental laws and policies, linking conservation to social and economic decision making, evaluating the status of species and

ecosystems, promoting expanded and improved management of protected areas and natural resources, and strengthening conservation through education, training and strategic communication.

IUCN's six Commissions unite over 15,000 international experts, of which more than 2,000 are from Asia.

To learn more about these Commissions, please visit the corresponding website or contact the relevant Commission's Focal Point in IUCN Asia.



Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

CEC drives change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community.

www.iucn.org/cec

Members in Asia: 250

Focal Point in Asia: Ms Jane Lawton
(jane.lawton@iucn.org)



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

CEESP is an inter-disciplinary network of professionals whose mission is to act as a source of advice on environmental, economic, social and cultural factors that affect natural resources and biological diversity. www.iucn.org/ceesp

Members in Asia: 164

Focal Point in Asia: Dr Yam Malla
(yam.malla@iucn.org)



World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

WCEL 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.

www.iucn.org/cel

Members in Asia: 154

Focal Point in Asia: Mr Saroj Srisai
(saroj.srisai@iucn.org)



Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

CEM is a network of more than 1,000 volunteer experts from around the world whose focus is on ecosystem management related issues such as climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, Red List of Ecosystems, fisheries and ecosystem restoration and services. www.iucn.org/cec

Members in Asia: 203

Focal Point in Asia: Ms Maeve Nightingale
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Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The SSC is a science-based network of more than 9,000 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together towards achieving the vision of 'a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth'. www.iucn.org/ssc

Members in Asia: 1,379

Focal Point in Asia: Mr James Tallant
(james.tallant@iucn.org)



World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

With over 1,700 members spanning 140 countries, WCPA promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

www.iucn.org/wcpa

Members in Asia: 231

Focal Point in Asia: Dr Scott Perkin
(scott.perkin@iucn.org)

Key Contacts in Asia

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Bangladesh POUSH

India

Mr V Rajagopalan
Ministry of Environment and Forests

Japan

Prof. Masahito Yoshida
Nature Conservation Society of
Japan

Nepal

Mr Yogendra Chitrakar
Environmental Camps for
Conservation Awareness

Pakistan

Mr Malik Amin Aslam
(Formerly with the Ministry of
Environment)

Korea (ROK)

Prof. Youngbae Suh
Seoul National University

Sri Lanka

Mr Ajith Silva
Ministry of Environment and
Renewable Energy

Thailand

Dr Songtam Suksawang
National Parks, Wildlife and Plant
Conservation Department

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Bhutan

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Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Cambodia

Mr Va Moeurn
Mlup Baitong

China

Prof. Ma Keping
Institute of Botany
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Indonesia

Mr Ir. Sonny Partono
Directorate General of Forest
Protection and Nature Conservation
Ministry of Forestry

Korea (DPRK)

Mr Hong Jong Bin
Nature Conservation Union of the
Democratic People's Republic of
Korea

Lao PDR

Ms Phavanh Nuanthasing
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

Mr Abd. Rasid Samsudin
Department of Wildlife and National
Parks - Peninsular Malaysia

Maldives

Ms Fathimath Shafeega
Live and Learn Environmental
Education

Mongolia

Prof. Namkhai Bandi
Hustai National Park Trust

Myanmar

Mr U Myint Aung
Friends of Wildlife

Philippines

Ms Maria Belinda E. de la Paz
Haribon Foundation for the
Conservation of Natural Resources

Singapore

Prof. Koh Kheng Lian
Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment
Law

Viet Nam

Hon. Dr Nguyen Minh Quang
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

IUCN Regional Councillors (Non-Voting Members)

Japan

Amb. Masahiko Horie

Nepal

Dr Arzu Rana Deuba

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End Notes: Asia by the Numbers

- 1 Juffe-Bignoli, D., Bhatt, S., Par, S., Eassom, A., Belle, E.M.S., Murti, R., Buyc, C., Raza Rizvi, A., Rao, M., Lewis, E., MacSharry, B., Kingston, N. (2014) Asia Protected Planet 2014. UNEP-WCMC: Cambridge, UK.
- 2 Asia Region here refers to countries in East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- 3 The Green List is a global standard of good practice for protected areas. It aims to recognise and promote success in managing some of the most valuable natural areas on the planet.
- 4 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. Montréal, Canada: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 5 Chundawat, R.S., Habib, B., Karanth, U., Kawanishi, K., Ahmad Khan, J., Lynam, T., Miquelle, D., Nyhus, P., Sunarto, S., Tilson, R. & Sonam Wang 2011. *Panthera tigris*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 17 December 2014.
- 6 S. Kreft, D. Eckstein, L. Junghans, C. Kerestan and U. Hagen. (2014) Global Climate Risk Index 2015. Bonn, Germany: Germanwatch e.V.
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- 9 International Union for Conservation of Nature. 'Summary Statistics'. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species [webpage]. www.iucnredlist.org/about/summary-statistics. Accessed on 22 December 2014.
- 10 Asian Development Bank and World Wide Fund for Nature. (2012) Ecological footprint and investment in natural capital in Asia and the Pacific. UK: Asian Development Bank and World Wide Fund for Nature.
- 11 Gassert, F., P. Reig, T. Luo, and A. Maddocks. (2013). "Aqueduct country and river basin rankings: a weighted aggregation of spatially distinct hydrological indicators." Working paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.
- 12 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are the instruments used by signatory countries to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



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