



Asia Region

**The IUCN Asia
Intersessional Programme
2009-2012**

**ENDORSED BY THE MEMBERS
AT THE
4th ASIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM
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Executive Summary

Environmental sustainability is one of the major concerns in the economically booming Asia. The growing population coupled with rapid pace of industrialisation and urbanization has placed natural resources under great strain. While there is growing recognition that current rates of economic growth cannot be sustained unless environmental issues are also addressed, the focus very much remains on economic development.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is first and foremost a conservation organisation that cares deeply about the diversity of life and whose fundamental expertise is on species, habitats and the management of ecosystems. But through our work in all parts of the world, we have also learned that conservation is essential to progress on many other issues. In fact, we believe conservation is essential for development to be sustained.

The proposed new programme for 2009-2012 – *Shaping a Sustainable Future*- reinforces the links between environmental health and human well-being, and provides an environmental perspective towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The global IUCN programme is built on five thematic priority areas that have been adapted to the Asia context and provides the basis for this document outlining the proposed Asia Programme for 2009-2012:

1. **Conserving the diversity of life:** In Asia, work will centre on national and sub-regional conservation policies and strategies, empowering stakeholder participation in biodiversity-related conventions and multi-lateral environmental agreements, and providing tools and methods for sustainable natural resource management.
2. **Changing the climate forecast:** The focus will be to integrate national climate change plans and actions into national biodiversity action plans, supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to include sustainable natural resources management opportunities, providing sustainable ecosystem management tools and measures which include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and providing means for livelihood security of vulnerable communities against climate change impacts.
3. **Naturally energizing the future:** In this new area of work, we will explore integration of environmentally-friendly energy policies and strategies in national plans, provide the requisite knowledge on ecologically sustainable, efficient and cleaner energy options, and strive to influence national policies through cleaner renewable energy incentive policies and market mechanisms.
4. **Managing ecosystems for human well-being:** The Asia programme will continue to expand its current work in integrating livelihood aspects in national resource management policies and practices to support communities (especially poorer and vulnerable segments) in managing natural resources; to promote equitable benefit sharing and gender equity principles in natural resource management policies and strategies; to facilitate ecosystem conservation and restoration as part of infrastructure development, and support integrating environmental management in disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation tools.
5. **Greening the world economy:** The emphasis in this area of work would be to facilitate incorporating ecosystem values in national fiscal policies and in trade and investment initiatives, and to bring in the private sector to adopt the Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) principles in their business practices.

This programme is results-based and demand driven. For each of the thematic priority areas, results for Asia are proposed with examples of work that could be implemented in partnership with Members, Commissions and other stakeholders. This programme was discussed and endorsed by the Members during the 4th Asia Regional Conservation Forum held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 10-13 September, 2007.

Section 1 - Introduction

1.1 IUCN in Asia

IUCN in Asia embraces the Union's mission to '*influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable*'. The plans to contribute towards this mission are laid out in the quadrennial Intersessional Programmes of the Union. This document sets out the proposed Asia Intersessional Programme for the next quadrennium, 2009 – 2012. This programme draws on the results of, and the experience gained from, the previous programme (2005 – 2008).

IUCN's Asia region consists of 24 countries as given below:

South Asia

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

South East Asia

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste (East Timor)
- Viet Nam

East Asia

- China
- Democratic People's
Republic of Korea
- Republic of Korea
- Mongolia
- Japan

Asia covers 21.5 million km² of land area with a wide range of landscapes from mountains to coastal lowlands encompassing arid lands to wetlands with a range of weather patterns.

The estimated total population in the countries listed under IUCN's Asia Region is about 3.6 billion (or approximately 55% of the world's population), and is expected to grow to about 4.2 billion by 2025. Asia also has five of the 10 most populous nations in the world (China – 1.3 billion; India – 1.2 billion; Indonesia – 234 million; Pakistan – 165 million; Bangladesh – 150 million; and Japan – 127 million). The overall population growth for Asia during the period 2000 – 2005 was 1.22%. The lowest growth rate (0.2%) was observed in Japan while several countries recorded growth over 2%.

The Human Development Index (HDI) provides an overview of the life expectancy, literacy rate, school enrolment and standard of living (as measured by GDP/capita). Based on the HDI, countries in Asia rank from a high of 7 (Japan) on the global scale to a low of 142 (Timor-Leste). A HDI rating below 0.5 is considered to represent low development. Among the 23 countries, 5 have HDI ratings of just above 0.5 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste; see Table 1). This trend also explains the current challenges facing South Asia. Lao and Cambodia are close followers. A HDI value of 0.8 or more is considered to represent high development. Currently, Asia has five countries that have HDI of 0.8 or more (Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore). These data demonstrate the vast differences between Asian countries in their current state of development, and the concomitant complexity facing IUCN in implementing the Asia programme.

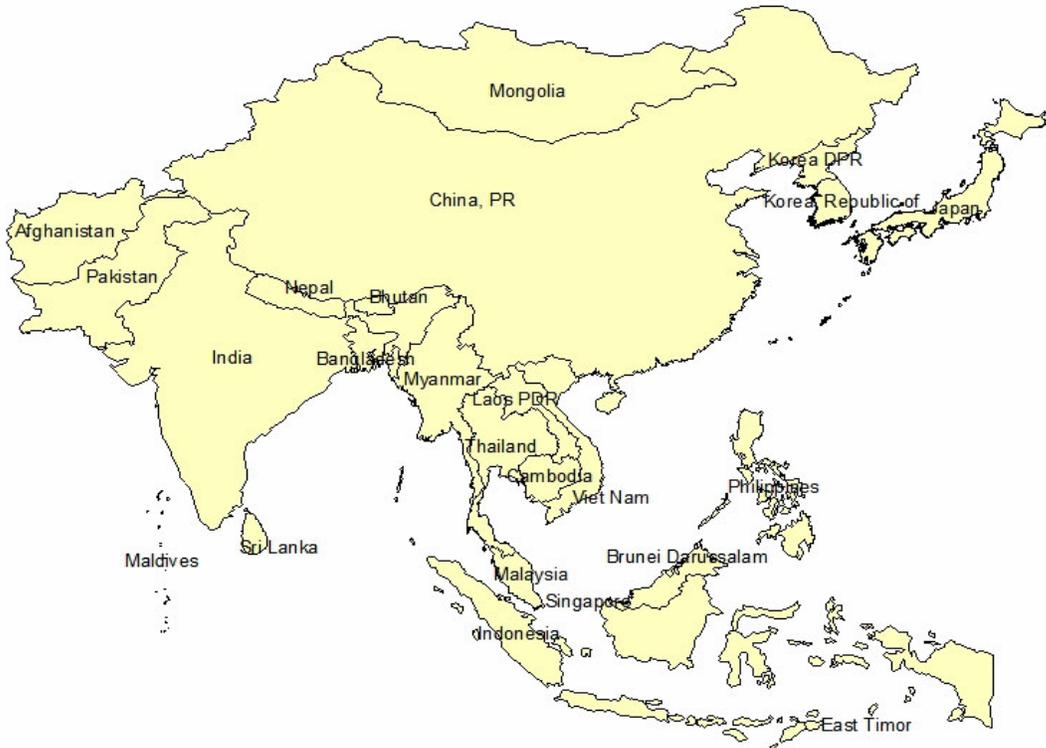


Fig. 1 – IUCN Asia Region

The rapid growth is also causing ecosystem degradation in a number of ways, and the environmental stability is at stake. The governments have taken into cognisance these trends, and almost all countries in Asia have sustainable development strategies in place (Fig. 2). Yet, some of the declining trends in ecosystem health are of major concern, indicative of the need to support implementation of these plans at national and sub-regional level in an effective manner.

Fig. 2 – Some examples of current sustainable policy ‘frameworks’ and ‘strategies’

<u>Agenda 21</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philippines ○ China ○ Nepal ○ Indonesia ○ Viet Nam 	<u>National Action Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mongolia ○ Japan 	<u>National Development Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India ○ Maldives ○ Thailand ○ Many others
<u>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambodia ○ Sri Lanka ○ Viet Nam ○ Indonesia ○ Pakistan 	<u>National Conservation Strategy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pakistan ○ Nepal ○ Bangladesh ○ Malaysia 	<u>Vision 2020</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malaysia ○ India ○ Bhutan ○ Viet Nam

Source – Adapted from UNEP, 2007

Table 1 - Human Development Index

	HDI Value	Life expectancy at birth	Adult Literacy Rate	Gross enrolment in school	GDP per capita
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	0.530 137	63.3 125	--	57.1 136	1870 140
Bhutan	0.538 135	63.4 124	--	47.0 120	1969 133
Brunei Darussalam	0.871 34	76.6 36	92.7 43	77.2 62	19210 36
Cambodia	0.583 129	56.5 134	73.6 92	60.2 129	2423 122
China	0.768 81	71.9 72	90.9 53	70.4 97	5896 89
India	0.611 126	63.6 121	61.0 107	62.0 127	3139 114
Indonesia	0.711 108	67.2 108	90.4 55	68.4 106	3609 113
Japan	0.949 7	82.2 1		85.5 41	29251 18
Korea DPRK	--	--	--	--	--
Korea RK	0.912 26	77.3 33	98.0 22	95.0 12	20499 31
Lao	0.553 133	55.1 140	68.7 99	61.0 128	1954 134
Malaysia	0.805 61	73.4 58	88.7 61	73.2 85	10276 57
Maldives	0.739 98	67.0 118	96.3 33	68.8 105	--
Mongolia	0.681 116	64.5 116	97.8 25	77.3 61	2056 130
Myanmar	0.581 130	60.5 131	89.9 58	49.0 148	1027 158
Nepal	0.527 128	62.1 129	48.6 118	57.0 137	1490 147
Pakistan	0.539 134	63.4 123	49.9 116	38.4 158	2225 124
Philippines	0.763 87	70.7 87	92.6 45	81.5 46	4614 100
Singapore	0.916 25	78.9 17	92.5 46	87.3 35	28077 21
Sri Lanka	0.755 93	74.3 51	90.7 54	62.7 124	4390 103
Thailand	0.784 74	70.3 91	92.6 44	73.7 82	8090 65
Timor-Leste (East Timor)	0.512 142	56.0 137	58.6 110	71.7 93	--
Viet Nam	0.709 109	70.8 83	90.3 56	62.8 123	2745 118

Source: Human Development Report, 2006

Note: The number in the second row of each cell gives the ranking in each category.

Section 2 – ASIA TODAY¹

Asia is facing a number of challenges. Limited natural resources, very large population and rapidly growing economies are exerting pressures on the environment. Sustainability of the natural systems is challenged by rapid urbanisation, runaway consumption patterns, mountains of waste and toxic material, chemically-intensive agriculture, mining etc. Interlinked with these are extreme poverty and lack of basic amenities particularly for the poorer segments of the society. The growing demand for energy and drinking water has caused further stress. The changing climate is increasing desert areas. While glacier melts, floods, sandstorms, brown clouds and droughts are more frequent and causing major damage.

These changing scenarios have posed new challenges, and reinforced the need for working together towards finding new and innovative approaches to environmental sustainability.

The following sections provide information on the current situation in Asia.

Economic Development:

The Asian economy has been growing steadily for about a decade, and gathered speed during 2006. The year 2006 recorded the highest growth of 7.9%, up from 7.6% in 2005. The growth is projected to be maintained around 7%, and is underpinned by the prodigious growth in India and China (9.2% and 10.7%, respectively). The regional GDP grew at 8.3%, faster than any year since 1995. Both Bangladesh and Pakistan recorded growth; Maldives and Sri Lanka too showed growth having recovered from the tsunami of 2004, and the latter in spite of hostilities in the country. Bhutan benefited from increased power exports to India. In Nepal, the growth was static, possibly due to the political developments which are becoming stable. South Asia's growth of 8.7% was very impressive. Southeast Asia's performance was uneven; Viet Nam, and to a lesser extent Malaysia, recorded an impressive growth whilst Lao and Cambodia recorded expansion. Growth in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand was uneven. Overall, Southeast Asia recorded a 6% growth.

China is now the world's third largest trading economy after the US and Germany and its trade surplus was a staggering \$178 billion in 2006, about 75% higher than 2005. The East Asia growth, fuelled mainly by the developments in China was 8.8%. China's overarching development and the resultant consumer demands have effects across the globe. For example, China invested \$ 11.7 billion in 2006 in Africa, and the trade volume between the two hit a staggering \$ 55.5 billion, with an annual growth rate of 30% per year.

The economic developments are not without their risks. Security issues in Asia remain as important drivers of economic development. Prices of strategic commodities such as oil could negate the rate of development; similarly pandemics of diseases such as SARS or avian flu would be very costly to the countries.

The rapid pace of economic development is also due to increased manufacturing and industry in the region; these are contributing to pollution and other environmental pressures causing changes. Likewise, improved economies have resulted in increased household expenditure, which has been growing higher than global rates.

Unemployment too is a cause of concern, with 3.7%, 4.7% and 6.1% unemployment rates observed in East Asia, South Asia and SE Asia, respectively. In general, almost all countries are experiencing inadequate employment growth. The situation has aggravated in recent times and has been a major factor in weakening the impact of economic growth on the earnings of the poor.

Asian economy has been regularly affected by natural disasters causing major loss of life and damage to property. It is estimated that nearly 80% of all disasters globally occur in Asia and the Pacific. Housing, energy, sanitation

¹ This section draws liberally from individual country analyses and other environmental analyses undertaken by a number of international organisations and other published literature and unpublished reports.

and transportation infrastructure remain underdeveloped. Some 990 million people have no access to safe potable water; some 1.9 billion have no access to improved sanitation. The region's per capita electricity consumption remains lower than the global average.

Poverty:

Poverty remains one of the most important drivers of environmental change in Asia. The estimated Asian population that escaped extreme poverty from 1990 to 2002 was about 230 millions, but 690 millions people still live on less than one dollar a day. There is no consistent improvement in food security either. Many countries now have more food deficits and Asia still has more hungry people than elsewhere.

Since the 1990's, income inequality has featured very commonly in several Asian countries, even as they registered increase in not only the GDP but also per capita income. The inequality is particularly visible between the urban and rural populations of most countries in Asia. Many of these countries still continue to assume that the fast paced economic development will result in poverty reduction, but the growing economy has ensured neither sustainability nor the equality to the extent expected.

Compounded with issues of inequality, urban growth in Asia has also emerged as a serious issue of concern with densely populated "mega cities" emerging in South and South East Asia. Asia has 11 of the 20 most populous urban centres in the world, which include a total of five urban cities in India and China. While the cities in Asia are better off than the rural areas in terms of infrastructure, transportation, access to health service and sanitation, the urban poor and slum dwellers are excluded from these opportunities.

Poverty is also largely considered as a rural problem in Asia although urban slums are becoming a serious concern; especially in South Asia. The average poor rural household in Asia tends to be landless, have larger families with higher dependency ratios and higher unemployment and illiteracy rates. Poor access to market information, networks, negotiation power and social discrimination also feature prominently among the rural poor. Many Asian countries are likely to become major food importers.

Poverty is also linked to the worsening health situation in the region as diseases affect more of the poorest segments of the population thus compounding their situation. The number of people afflicted with HIV-AIDS disease is second-highest in South and South East Asia after sub-Saharan Africa. Whilst its spread is not as fast as in Africa, HIV-AIDS is a source of grave concern in Asia; as the numbers of those inflicted by AIDS continue to rise each year. While HIV-AIDS is more of a global phenomenon, Asia, in the recent years, has also witnessed diseases like SARS and Avian influenza that have had long-lasting impacts.

Although numerous national and regional pro-poor efforts in economic growth have borne fruit as evidenced in the substantial improvements towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals, the approaches adopted for development have had negative impacts on the environment. There is evidence of increasing poverty (*environmental poverty*) that can be attributed to environmental causes. Floods, landslides, declining natural resources, droughts and pollution have a direct and serious impact particularly on the poor. They are more prone to suffer losses, illnesses, injuries etc. as they are directly dependent on natural resources for livelihoods or due to unsafe housing, pollution and disaster-prone areas. The ADB asserts that increasing degradation of the environment combined with more frequent and intense natural disasters will worsen the conditions of the poor, and will also enhance migration of rural populations to already over-crowded cities, causing urban poverty as well.

Box - The Millennium Development Goals

Progress towards implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gives an overall picture of attempts to lift millions of people out of extreme poverty. A recent comparison of analysis of progress on achieving overall MDG goals amongst three major developing regions, namely, Asia - Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean has shown that Asia (and the Pacific taken together) has made better progress towards achieving MDGs than sub-Saharan Africa and compares favourably with the progress shown by Latin America and the Caribbean. However, due to the sheer size and population of Asia, the absolute numbers of deprived people is larger.

In Asia, the data show that, in general, the forest cover has improved. The reversals in Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar are of concern. In all countries, the targets on protected area have been achieved. These indicate a reversal of the loss of environmental resources. Of concern however is the lack of progress on CO₂ emissions in most countries, while improvements are observed on CFC consumption, primarily due to deliberate policy interventions.

The overall picture on MDG progress between 2005 and 2006 can be assessed by examining the number of improvements and deteriorations. In many countries in Asia, the number of improvements and deteriorations is either equal or differs by one. Positive exceptions where the number of improvements exceeds the deterioration by two or more are Myanmar, East Timor, Viet Nam, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On the other hand, some countries such as China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh have seen the number of deteriorations exceeding the improvements by two or more.

At a broader level, it is possible to differentiate progress on MDGs in South Asia (SA) and South-east Asia (SEA). In both sub-regions, targets for Goals 1 (Poverty) and 2 (Primary education) are very likely to be met whereas progress in Goals 5 (Maternity Health) and 6 (HIV and vector-borne diseases) are not likely to be achieved. In regard to progress in Goal 3 (Gender), girls' enrolment in primary education is on track while women's employment and representation are not expected to be met in either sub-region. On Goal 4 (Child Mortality), SEA has progressed well whilst SA's trends are disappointing. On Goal 7 (Environmental Sustainability), SEA is progressing somewhat satisfactorily (except for reversal of forest loss), and SA has not shown adequate progress on sanitation and forest loss aspects. On Goal 8 (Development) youth unemployment is unlikely to improve in both sub-regions.

Natural Resources and Biodiversity:

Recent studies have shown that many countries in Asia have 'ecological deficits', meaning that the natural resource base cannot continue to sustain human activity. This is indicative of over-exploitation. Asia's population density is about 1.5 times the global average, and the current consumption patterns exert considerable environmental pressures on the natural resources thereby bringing about an 'ecological deficit' in the current technological context. As a result, loss of biodiversity, particularly freshwater biodiversity, is significant. Although governments and others are cognisant of this pattern, actions taken to improve the situation are not very evident. Most interventions are for short-term gains, rather than for long-term environmental sustainability. The hidden environmental and economic costs of these unsustainable development activities are substantial.

Related to this aspect is the lack of appreciation of the value of services provided by ecosystems. In recent times, there have been attempts to influence policy and decision-making on natural resources management through consideration of payments for ecosystem services. This is an important area that has to be recognised by governments.

Forests: The forests in Asia, estimated to be about 530 million hectares in 2005, account for about 13% of the global forest area. The Asia region saw an increase in forest area of about a million hectares annually during 2000-2005 (Table 2), due mainly to investments in forest plantations in China. The total area of forest plantation in Asia was more than 59 million hectares, about 43% of the area of forest plantations in the world. While China and Viet Nam noted a considerable increase in the forest area, several countries are losing forests at the rate of more than 1.5% a year, which is among the highest rates of loss in the world.

Plantation forests are unlikely to provide the same ecological services as natural forests, particularly in relation to biodiversity habitats, non-timber forest product provision, watershed provision and cultural and spiritual support.

Southeast Asia experienced the largest decline in forest area, showing an annual net decline of more than 2.8 millions hectares per year. Indonesia recorded the highest decline followed by Myanmar, Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia and the Democratic Republic of Korea. South Asia, despite increases in Bhutan and India, showed a slight decline of the forest area over the years.

Table 1 – Extent of forest area and annual change

Sub-region	Area (1000 ha)			Annual change (1000ha)	
	1990	2000	2005	1990-2000	2000-2005
East Asia	208,155	225,663	244,862	1,751	3,840
South Asia	77,511	79,678	79,239	213	- 88
Southeast Asia	245,605	217,702	203,887	- 2,790	- 2,763
Total Asia	531,271	523,043	527,988	- 826	989
World	4,077,291	3,988,610	3,952,025	- 1,652	1,978

Source: Modified from FAO, 2007

It is safe to assume that the economic boom that the region has seen in recent years, especially in China and India has helped increase the investment in afforestation. The growing ecological footprints of countries like India and China engender a serious concern. China's forest product imports have grown dramatically in recent years, catapulting the country to a top role in world trade in the sector (Fig. 3). It is also to be noted that China's forest products are exported extensively.

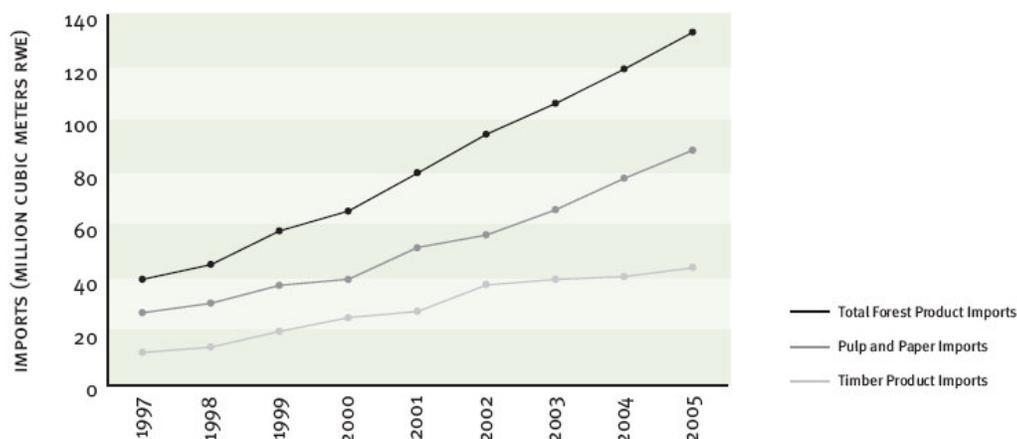


Fig. 3 - China's Forest product imports by product type²

² Chinese Custom Statistics, 2006

Between 1997 and 2005, China's total forest product imports more than tripled in volume (round wood equivalent) from 40 million to 134 million m³, and more than doubled in value. China's overall paper demand is projected to grow from approximately 50 to 69 million tons by 2010. While the impact of China's demands, including overseas demands as a manufacturing country, are felt as far as Cameroon and the US, over 70% of China's timber imports are supplied by the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This demand has exerted significant pressure on natural forest reserves in a number of neighbouring countries, in particular Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia which are estimated to face depletion of natural forests in less than 20 years at the current level of exploitation.

Biodiversity: Most Asian countries are signatories to the important conventions and agreements relating to species and ecosystem conservation and sustainable use. The trend during the past five years has been positive in this regard with more countries becoming parties to important conservation conventions. There have been conscious attempts to implement these instruments with uneven success. There is an overall increase in the area designated for conservation in Asia. During the 2005-08 intersessional period, there have been 10 new Ramsar sites established in Asia; likewise Asia has shown an impressive commitment to create Protected Areas. Over 10% across the Region has been placed under formal protection (East Asia 8.8%; South Asia 6.9%; South East Asia 16.4%).

Whilst these achievements are commendable, actual implementation of conservation measures falls behind due to a number of reasons. These include poor law enforcement, lack of capacity and resources, continuing distrust of local communities and denying them access to resources, land tenure issues, continuing habitat fragmentation (in spite of setting up corridors in some areas), alien invasive species, inadequate marine protected systems, pressures from increasing tourism, and difficulties with trans-boundary issues.

Species conservation in Asia remains a challenge. In IUCN's Asia region, there are 2,788 species listed in the 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered', and 'Vulnerable' categories of the Red List. About 25% of these species reside in Malaysia, followed by China (16%) and Indonesia (14%).

A very recent study has brought forth evidence that a fresh water dolphin, *Lipotes vexillifer*, found only in China and categorised as 'Critically Endangered', is now likely to be extinct, as a six-week intensive field survey of the known habitats of the species failed to spot any animals.

Water: Owing to the high population and growing water demands, a staggering 669 million people in Asia are without access to water supply. They form 6% of the total urban population and 32% of the rural population. About 20% of the population lack access to safe drinking water. Water extraction continues to rise significantly, due mainly to rapid population growth, increasing industrialised economy, high dependence on irrigated agriculture and inefficient usage. In Asia, about 60% of water usage is for agriculture.

Ground water aquifers are considered to be at special risk due to the over extraction of water. There is evidence of rapid lowering of water tables across China, the Philippines, India, and Pakistan. Lowering of the groundwater table not only affects agriculture, but also poorer communities, particularly in South Asia where the cost of extraction has risen considerably. Rapid urbanisation has placed a tremendous strain on water supply and sewage infrastructure. Megacities like Jakarta and Dhaka are at serious risk of water shortage. Based on the water exploitation index, Pakistan is categorised under 'severe water stress', whilst India, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, China and Thailand are considered under 'stress'. With the current extraction rate, it is predicted that 16 countries in the region are heading towards a water crisis.

The reduced water availability is a serious threat to agricultural production, and thus food security of the region. On the other hand, intense agriculture, particularly on porous sandy soils, cause contamination of aquifers. Pollution in ground water can be cumulative and permanent. Arsenic contamination of groundwater has been

confirmed in the aquifers of most countries in South/South East Asia. Although no credible database is available for arsenic crisis in Asia, 60 million people are estimated to drink arsenic contaminated water. Microbial contamination of ground water too is rising, partly due to improper waste management and lack of treatment for sewage.

In many countries in Asia, water shortages have caused declines in industrial production. For example, water shortages in China have been responsible for an estimated annual loss of some US \$ 28 billion in industrial output in recent years.

Aquaculture and inland capture fisheries are important economic activities in Asia. China, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar are important centres of inland fisheries, which provide a living to millions of poor and also a substantial portion of their protein intake.

Trans-boundary water management is becoming increasingly political due to the economic importance of water. Large trans-boundary rivers contribute to some of the most productive and diverse freshwater ecosystems in Asia. Thus regional collaboration to address issues relating to coordinated development and management is essential, as otherwise countries could be affected by floods, droughts, reduced fisheries, livelihoods, navigation, salinisation and sedimentation. Despite the current efforts of bringing governments and stakeholders into dialogues on trans-boundary water management, significant work remains for the countries to realise the mutual benefits from coordinated development. Civil society largely remains outside the decision-making circle; there is still a lack of transparency and open communications in the region on issues of water management.

Like most other natural resources, water availability or the lack thereof, is tied up with the broader issues of poverty, power, management and distribution of resources. Despite the growing economies of Asia, the poor are very much vulnerable to the crisis of resource availability, and especially the water crisis. The rural water supply and poverty is interlinked as the rural poor in Asia will be largely dependent on agriculture for years to come.

Coastal and Marine Resources: Coastal and marine resources play an important role in the national economies of most Asian countries; many of the rural poor are directly dependent on marine and coastal resources. In general, not much attention has been paid to subsistence fisheries, and it was believed that stocks were under-fished and thus offered an important window to economic development. These views are proving to be incorrect; subsistence fisheries have been shown to be important towards national food security. There is widespread unsustainable commercial fishing, often destructive, using dynamite, gill nets, diving equipment and poisons that destroy habitats and species.

While excessive fishing and use of destructive fishing techniques may be the direct cause of the decline of inshore stocks, pollution and habitat loss have been shown to depress the ability of inshore stocks to recover. Sea grass beds, coral reefs, and mangroves, are all critical nursery habitats for marine plants and animals. These are under threat from siltation and land-based pollutants. Approximately 60% of Asia's coral reefs are estimated to be at risk. The reefs in Southeast Asia with a very high biodiversity are among the world's most threatened. Coral bleaching is recurring.

The loss of mangroves in Asia during 1990 to 2000 is estimated to be about 60% of the global loss, and occurred mainly in Southeast Asia. Conversion of coastal plains into aquaculture ponds has been rapid in Asia with the growing demand for aquaculture products world-wide. Currently, it is estimated that nearly 92% of the world's aquaculture production comes from Asia. Excessive aquaculture has also been a cause of pollution of coastal waters.

Although many countries have been progressively involving fisher communities in coastal zone management, these efforts have not provided adequate coverage. Pilot studies have demonstrated that community-based co-management can indeed promote a well managed fishery that maintains or improves both the quality and quantity

of fish stocks and coastal ecosystems. It has also shown that the chances for success and sustainability of co-management increase when people are informed, empowered, and are willing to participate. Yet another issue is institutional mechanisms and governance in relation to coastal zone management. There are many agencies involved in this area, but throughout Asia, it is evident that coordination amongst the agencies and the application of the relevant legislation are weak. Integrated coastal planning is yet at its infancy, and the lack of coordination amongst the agencies responsible for disaster management, infrastructure, tourism, environment, agriculture, fisheries and forestry continues to cause damage to coastal ecosystems through land-fills in mangrove areas, waste dumping, construction of roads and causeways in sensitive ecological areas, etc.,.

The post-tsunami work during 2005-06 has brought to light the need for integrated coastal zone management in the affected countries; it has emphasised the value of restoration and conservation of coastal ecosystems as an essential part of coastal development infrastructure.

Energy:

The current rapid growth of economies in Asia has resulted in a very significant rise in energy consumption. According to recent studies, the energy consumption in Asia by 2030 is likely to be over 140% of the year 2000 consumption level. China and the ASEAN countries in particular will show substantial growth (Fig. 2).

Globally, fossil fuels will remain the dominant source of energy in 2030. China and India account for almost four-fifths of the incremental demand for coal. In Asia, there is an incremental increase in all types of energy (oil, coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydro-power) (Fig. 4). The energy demand for Asia is escalating, and from 2000 to 2030, consumption of oil, coal and natural gas will increase to 38%, 79% and 19%, respectively. The energy consumption is also increasing due to expanding road transportation, which has become a common trans-boundary goods transport system in most Asian countries. The economic corridors in the Mekong sub-region are an example. The growing economies have also resulted in a significant increase in personal motor vehicles.

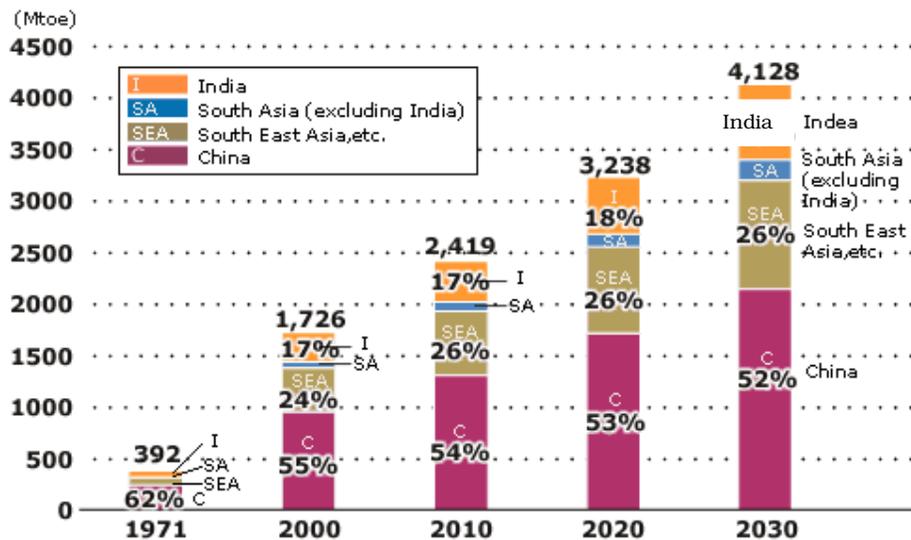
A significant population in Asia lack access to affordable sources of modern energy. Only 30% of the rural people in South Asia have access to electricity. Although electricity consumption will grow substantially in developing Asia (Fig. 5), it is estimated that access to affordable electricity will remain scarce in rural areas, especially in South Asia. Dependence on traditional biomass is still extremely high.

In addition to private sector investments, governments and civil society have demonstrated commitment to increase renewable energy sources. India has committed itself to provide 10% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2012. China and India have shown much faster progress in their renewable energy gains so far. In recent times, there have been significant progresses in energy production through unconventional sources, such as palm oil and *Gliricidia sepium* grown as an intercrop in coconut plantations. The two examples provide different environmental perspectives; it may be argued that expansion of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) in Southeast Asia in particular would affect forest cover and ground water, whereas *Gliricidia*, which can thrive under poor soil conditions, would supplement income from coconut plantations as well as improving the soil fertility and texture. Malaysia, the world's largest producer of palm oil has 20,000 km² of plantations, and the area in Indonesia is rapidly expanding with some wetland areas being converted to oil palm plantations. In China, government has decided to use batata (*Solanum tuberosum*), sorghum and cassava instead of corn to produce large scale ethanol, thereby releasing arable land for food production. The need to provide required knowledge for informed decision-making will be an important consideration in defining the next Intersessional Programme.

Equally important from an environmental point of view is the expanding hydro-power industry in the region. Compared with energy profiles for the rest of Asia, Southeast Asia has a rather good record. The overwhelming reliance on hydropower comes mostly from Laos, Viet Nam and to a lesser extent, Thailand. Most of the installed hydroelectric capacity for the sub-region is generated from Mekong tributaries, and the rising demand driven by

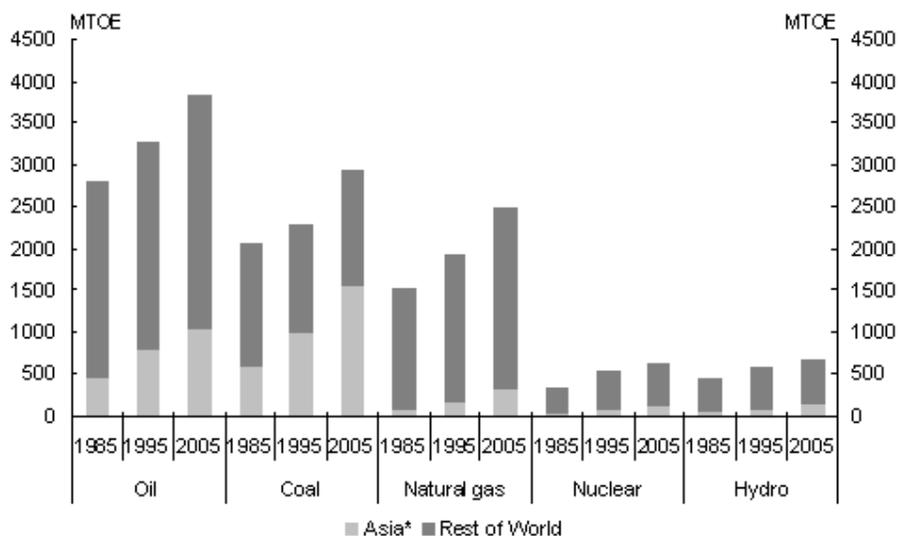
regional development is being met with plans for integrating the power supply-demand networks of the GMS. The environmental issues arising from hydro-power generations have been looming for some time. During the 2005-08 inter-sessional period, IUCN provided platforms to debate these issues, and also to provide awareness throughout the region for the work of the World Commission on Dams. These issues will continue to prevail in the region, particularly in Southeast Asia, and will be important elements in the new inter-sessional programme.

Fig. 4 - Projected demand for energy in Asia



Source: World Energy Outlook, 2006

Fig. 5 – Energy consumption in Asia



Source: BP Global, 2006³

³ http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1154/HTML/docshell.asp?URL=Int_Banking_Summer_School.asp

Climate Change:

Impacts of climate variability are evidenced in Asia in the form of extreme climatic events. Unusually heavy rainfalls have occurred in recent years in Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, China and India and these events have resulted in urban drainage congestion in several major cities. The year 2007 has seen the worst floods in 40 years in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in June, which caused around 1,000 deaths. Japan has encountered one of the worst typhoons for decades, whilst South China has experienced unprecedented heat waves. The changes in monsoonal patterns are of grave concern, particularly in South Asia where large land masses (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and a large body of water (Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean) combine to make very strong 'Asian' monsoons. The effects have been particularly severe on agriculture and livestock industries. Floods have occurred in desert type areas and tropical or semi-tropical areas have experienced long dry spells. Snow lines are moving up and glaciers are disappearing in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. In mainland Asia most of the rivers originate in the Himalayas. The glaciers that feed these rivers are increasingly experiencing reduced snowfall in winter and increased melting during the monsoon. As a result, it is predicted that there will be more frequent glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF) and the countries most likely to be affected are China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan as well as the countries that share the greater Mekong River Basin.

Coastal belts are facing raging seas for long spells and cyclonic weather is occurring frequently. Other important considerations are increase in vector-borne diseases, impacts on food production, and contamination of water resources.

Rising temperatures are expected to impact on the health of people in Asia. According to recent studies, the region will see increased incidences of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria. For instance, malaria has been detected in colder areas in Asia (e.g Bhutan). Directly or indirectly, global warming is already linked to about 77,000 deaths each year in Asia and Pacific, which is about 50% of the global deaths attributed to climate change.

Recent studies have confirmed the belief that the effects of climate change and variability are most felt by the poorest countries and the poorest people. Most Asian countries have large populations, energy shortages, and abject levels of poverty. Economies of most of the countries are not robust enough to sustain the adverse impacts of natural calamities and erratic climate and weather for a long time. The adverse climatic conditions have caused soil erosion and salinisation, depletion and pollution of aquifers, deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Asian countries have adopted the Kyoto Protocol and are committed to adopt both mitigation and adaptation measures. Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions increased dramatically from the levels seen in the 1970's. The developing countries, especially in Asia are also projected to be one of the biggest contributors to global CO₂ emissions between 2004 and 2030. According to a recent study, China is now the world's top producer of CO₂ emissions and is the biggest man-made contributor to global warming, although on per capita basis, China accounts for less than one-third of CO₂ emissions made by developed countries. This development is directly related to the fast industrialisation and development.

The complexity of the regional climate dynamics is becoming very evident. While some countries are major contributors to climate change scenario, there are others facing significant adaptation challenges. For example, sea level rise will have considerable consequences in rice production in some of the deltaic areas in the region.

Some countries are in the process of developing national strategies and plans for mitigating measures, but the implementation effectiveness of these plans remains to be seen. Already, many countries have taken action to reduce non-carbon dioxide emissions, and leading countries in Asia are expected to provide innovative technology for emission reduction. Mitigation of GHG has to be multi-pronged; in energy supply and distribution including fuel switching, fuel efficient vehicles, efficient lighting, and improved crop and grazing land management to increase

soil carbon storage, afforestation and reforestation, landfill methane recovery, and enhancing carbon sequestration capacities.

In order to effectively address these issues and for long term sustainability, there is a need for creating increased level of awareness on climate change and climate variability induced vulnerabilities among the populations as well as other stakeholders. It is also necessary to examine possibilities of enhancing adaptability of population and ecosystems (including agricultural systems) against climate change impacts and variability for ensuring livelihood security, promoting GHG sinks, and empowering governments and others in understanding and preparing for risks associated with climate change.

Associated with climate change is the need for disaster risk reduction and management. The tsunami of 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan demonstrated fundamental weaknesses in Asian disaster risk management and more efforts are needed to incorporate environmental considerations and ecosystem management in disaster risk reduction efforts. This is also consistent with the Hyogo Framework of Action (2005-2015) to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

Land Degradation:

Despite ongoing mitigating efforts by governments and civil society, land and ecosystem degradation continues on a significant level. The primary reason is the population pressures on the landscapes. A major concern is the continuing deforestation of acutely sloping lands mainly for shifting agriculture. Although the relevant laws are in place to limit opening such lands, there is no effective implementation. The effects of these activities are two-fold; exposure of the top soil to rain hastens erosion thereby seriously affecting the fertility of the soil; secondly the erosion causes siltation in the waterways below. Although there are a number of mitigating measures, these have not been adequately integrated into local-level planning work. Similarly, plateau lands too are being eroded of their fertility, again due to exposure by the removal of vegetation. Overall, land degradation is becoming a common feature in all landscapes; from the mountains to the coastal flat lands resulting in a myriad of environmental problems which affects mostly the poor communities.

Pollution:

Air, water and land pollution are increasing at a rapid rate. Air quality in some of the mega cities in Asia is much lower than desired causing widespread pulmonary diseases. In the poorer segments of the society, indoor air quality remains poor. Water and land pollution are common in many countries. The main reason for this is improper waste disposal or lack of waste disposal systems. In some countries, biological waste is not recognised as such. Inland waters, ground water, and coastal waters in many countries are polluted with land-based waste. Recycling is at a nascent stage, and there are hardly any incentives for recycling.

Governance and Institutions:

Asia has embraced the Millennium Development Goals and most governments are fully committed to achieving the targets set for 2015. The governments have also acknowledged the benefits that will accrue to the poorer segments of society. The constraints in achieving these goals are amply summarised by the statement of the Secretary General of the UN, viz., *“We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual”*.

A major impediment to progress on MDGs relates to issues of governance. The decision-making processes from local level to national levels which include facets of decentralisation, regionalisation and transboundary issues are key considerations. In some instances, addressing governance issues at sub-regional levels would be pertinent. It is also necessary to ensure that governance mechanisms incorporate all aspects of governance – including public participation, access to information, transparency and accountability, among others – in addition to supporting the

responsible government institutions. Another aspect is to ensure environmental justice in the decision-making processes.

In addition to the MDGs, Asian governments are committed to a number of MEAs which require considerable commitment, capacity and resources to ensure compliance. Whilst it is not difficult to generate the background knowledge, including legislation, required for full implementation of MEAs etc., it is evident that key conservation institutions and agencies in Asia need support to use this knowledge to influence and adopt policy, institutional and legal mechanisms that deliver biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic growth.

A number of Asian countries are experimenting with co-management of natural resources involving local communities. Whilst there are successes at the pilot scale, particularly in co-management of forest resources, legal instruments for sharing natural resources and co-management remain inadequate. Attempts to introduce such measures in coastal zone management are yet at nascent stages.

Concomitant with these developments, it is essential to examine the plethora of institutional structures commonly found in Asian countries dealing with environmental governance and management. Whilst the foremost need is to integrate environmental concerns in development plans, there is also an urgent need to ensure institutional integration in implementing sustainable development plans. As long as environment continues to be treated as just another sector or department (often of low priority), efforts at mainstreaming will remain elusive.

A recent development with a direct positive bearing on the governance issues is the private sector engagement in natural resource management. The tsunami of 2004 provided a window for the private sector to integrate environmental aspects in their relief and rehabilitation work. These are now blossoming out to larger scale initiatives which provide the private sector with an opportunity for participating in decision-making in natural resources management.

Gender considerations: Gender inequality continues to persist in many Asian countries. While it is recognised that the role of gender and harmonizing gender relations is one of the most important determinants for balanced and meaningful development, efforts to mainstream gender in development interventions remain difficult. In a number of countries, the voice and influence of women continues to be marginalized. In general, they have less rights and opportunities than men. Often they lack access to basic goods and services, like education, health and justice. Furthermore, gender mainstreaming in decision-making vis-à-vis natural resource management remains weak in most countries and compounded by local cultural and social barriers. Yet, women in many rural areas are directly dependant on natural resources for their household needs.

Concluding remarks

Environmental sustainability is one of the major sources of concerns in the economically booming Asia. The growing population coupled with rapid pace of industrialisation and urbanization has placed natural resources under great strain. Depleting forest resources, biodiversity, and water are problems in most parts of the region. Energy consumption is growing at a staggering rate, and there are serious concerns about air and water quality. Though many national policies are showing some commitments and awareness towards addressing these environmental issues, the focus very much remains on economic development. However, unless countries take a more proactive approach towards environmental sustainability and demonstrate a strong political commitment, it is unlikely that current economic growth rates can be sustained. In the Asian context, it may be necessary to explore alternative development models that promote both sustainable consumption and production patterns if countries are to realize their development aspirations.

Section 3 – The IUCN Space in Asia

3.1 IUCN Asia's Challenges

The situation analysis has brought forth a number of challenges facing the programme of IUCN in Asia, including:

- IUCN Asia needs to continue to demonstrate its capacity to provide credible models on supporting the sustainable use of natural resources that underpin rural livelihoods. This includes:
 - Supporting long-term partnerships that help build society's ability to address conservation and livelihood issues;
 - Providing decision-support systems for natural resource management;
 - Strengthening the capacities of governments and civil society in achieving the targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in key areas where there is lack of substantive progress;
 - Supporting multi-stakeholder dialogues as tools for enabling greater participation of civil society in decision-making processes affecting natural resources, especially at the landscape level.
- In the area of climate change, the situation analysis has identified several challenges. This is a new area of work that will need support on a number of fronts, as follows:
 - Understanding vulnerability of local people and natural systems to climate change, and promoting assessment and deliberation about current understanding of the implications of climate change for development strategies in the region;
 - Defining impacts of disasters on economies and local livelihoods;
 - Identifying the need for adaptation measures as anticipatory strategies against climate change, including strategies by which those knowledge-to-action gaps that are assessed to be most critical to adaptation and coping capacities can be reduced;
 - Identifying mitigation and abatement activities and communicating these findings in ways that can be meaningfully incorporated into the development aspirations (including NAPA's) of the countries in the region.
- Supporting governments and civil society in integrating environmental considerations in determining energy options and facilitating environmentally friendly energy generation;
- The poverty-environment nexus prevalent in the region calls for continuing updates of the knowledge base required for efficiently managing ecosystems in Asia. Some of the pressing needs are indicated below:
 - The growing pressures on ecosystems require new information for decision-makers. There is a dearth of key data on important areas (e.g. coastal zone management, indicator species). Natural disasters such as the tsunami and the Pakistan earthquake have shown the need for timely and credible data to assist in ecosystem restoration and recovery;
 - Most countries have poverty reduction strategies, and complementary environmental data are incomplete;
 - IUCN's recent work has provided policy influence on integrated ecosystem management, which is being pursued at least at pilot level in a number of countries. In order to consolidate this work, reliable, up-to-date and accessible data on species and ecosystems dynamics and status, functions and their interactions with livelihoods, are required;
 - IUCN's work during the 2005-08 intersessional programme has demonstrated its capacity and acceptance as a provider of guidance on governance and institutional mechanisms, including issues

on access to resources. These have been quite evident from post-tsunami work. There is a distinct opportunity for consolidating and expanding this work and there is a need for identifying and promoting proven legal, policy, institutional, economic and financial instruments that will promote good environmental governance;

- As community involvement in natural resource management is expanding, more practical information on participatory planning and monitoring are required.
- Supporting efforts at integrating ecosystem values in development policies, including;
 - Consolidating efforts on mainstreaming payments for ecosystem services in development planning;
 - Promoting economic and financial incentives to make nature conservation appreciated by stakeholders;
 - Up-streaming the environmental assessment process to policies, plans and programmes
- Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders in addressing issues related to conservation and development at local, national, regional and global levels as per Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other related Agreements/Conventions;
- Consolidating the work in countries where IUCN Asia commenced programmes in earnest during 2005-08 (Afghanistan, China, India, Thailand), and initiating programmes with partners in new countries (e.g. Bhutan, Indonesia)

3.2 IUCN's role in Asia

IUCN continues to build a pan-Asian presence. During the current intersessional period (2005-2008), it established a small country office in India and consolidated its presence in China. The demand for IUCN to work in new countries (e.g. Bhutan, Indonesia, DPR Korea and Republic of Korea) is growing. The unique structure of the Union (Members, Commissions, Secretariat) is conducive to this expansion, although IUCN Asia has not yet been able to fully utilise the expertise available within its Commissions in Asia.

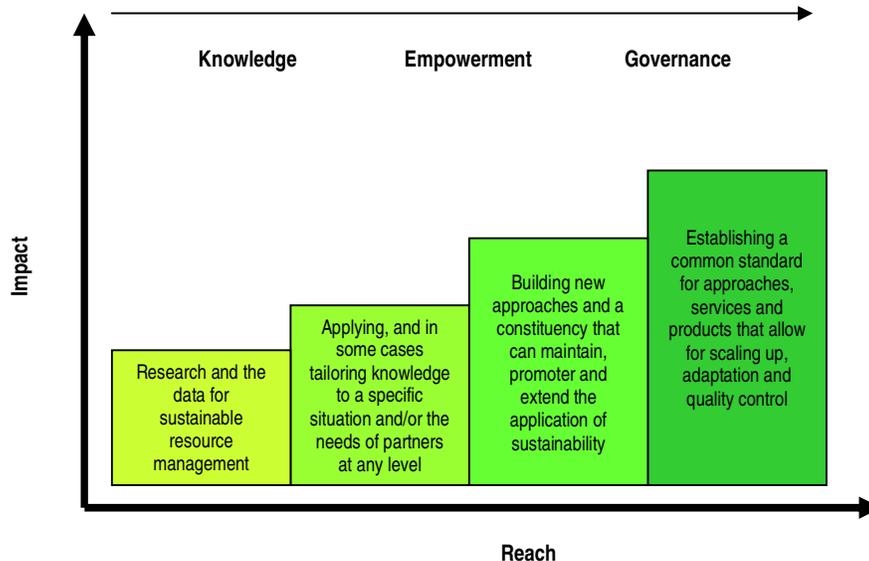
IUCN in Asia has established its role based on its capacity as a convener of multi-stakeholder platforms for debate and dialogue, a facilitator for participatory planning and management of natural resources, an advocate of environmentally sensitive development, and as a provider of unbiased advice based on good science. IUCN's capacity as a convenor will have to be expanded to address emerging natural resources governance issues by providing a platform for government-civil society-private sector interactions. The scientific resources within its reach through the network of global, regional and local expertise are possibly unparalleled. The niche for IUCN is based on these attributes, and its acknowledged work through and with the Governments, effective mobilisation of its resources, networks and capacities to demonstrate links between people and the environment, and providing unbiased technical expertise. These developments are best illustrated through two significant developments during the 2005-08 intersessional programme, viz., the request by the Asian Development Bank for IUCN to host an independent Technical Advisory Panel for the Core Environment Programme in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, and the ability to harness multi-donor and multi-partner interest in launching the *Mangroves For the Future (MFF)* programme - a regional initiative to promote investments in coastal ecosystems as essential parts of the "infrastructure" required for coastal development following the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean Region.

IUCN Asia has responded to the changing demands by reorganising its structure to deliver more effectively and efficiently. These processes, implemented in stages, began during 2001-04 intersessional period, and were continued in 2005-08 by creating sub-regional structures. IUCN Asia continues to experiment with innovative and more integrated configurations to strengthen its capacity to deliver efficiently.

3.3 IUCN approach and strategies in Asia

IUCN strives to effect changes based on the cycle of Knowledge, Empowerment and Governance. It continues to generate new knowledge in order to empower people in the governance of natural resources for human well-being. This flow is cyclical in that new governance models can also generate knowledge. This approach, depicted in Fig. 5, highlights IUCN's reach. The Asia programme will have programmatic interventions at different points of this scenario in order to achieve the desired changes.

Fig. 5 – IUCN's Value Proposition



An analysis of the work undertaken in the 2001-04 and 2005-08 intersessional programmes clearly indicates a gradual shift in the value chain of investment on sustainable management of ecosystems and livelihood-related work, representing application of knowledge for effecting changes. Although there is a concomitant reduction in investment, IUCN Asia will continue to work on generating cutting edge conservation knowledge including its flagship products for biodiversity and species conservation (e.g. Red List). There is no other single organisation committed to generate such knowledge world-wide. The changing scenario is reflective of Asia's approach in managing knowledge to empower organizations and people to make better decisions to improve (or at least maintain) both ecosystems conditions and human wellbeing at all levels (from individual to national governments and regional bodies). The shift in investments is purposeful and is indicative of the application phase of the knowledge already generated to help support better governance and improved livelihoods.

The main approach therefore will be to consolidate and continue the work on a cohesive and integrated ecosystems and livelihood approach. This process will take into consideration the need to address issues relating to critical ecosystems (including at local level) and continuing patterns of ecosystem degradation affecting the very people dependent on these ecosystem services. Special attention will have to be paid to the poorer and vulnerable segments of society and their needs, as exemplified in the experiences gained from post-tsunami recovery work.

The emerging areas of work (climate change and energy) will augment IUCN's understanding of the issues related to ecosystem management. Due to the prevailing governance structure in most parts of Asia, IUCN will have to work very closely with government agencies in addressing issues on climate change and energy. Concomitantly, active partnership with both civil society organisations and the private sector will be sought.

In order to effectively implement this approach, the Asia programme will fine-tune its working modes. For example, the regional thematic programmes will operate as more integrated teams of technical experts who would be able to respond proactively and flexibly to the demands of ecosystem and livelihood conservation as prompted by the constantly changing contexts in the region, as well as the diverse needs of different countries and the IUCN membership in these countries.

The Asia programme will continue to embrace a consolidated approach for knowledge management. Clearly, IUCN will not be able to work on a broader national canvas; rather it will support smaller, pilot-scale demonstration projects at the local level operating through action-learning for larger scale national and trans-boundary level application by the governments. In this way, the Asia programme envisages providing policy and governance support in integrated ecosystem management planning.

The Asia programme will continue with the strategy of working closely with the governments in implementing its programme. It has shown that in most Asian countries, environmental work will have better national ownership when conducted together with the governments. However, in doing so, IUCN will maintain its integrity as an independent membership union of both State and NGO members.

At the same time, the Asia programme will embark upon new partnerships. One such partnership is with the private sector; the early successes in Sri Lanka with the private sector, commencing with the sector's support to the 3rd Regional Conservation Forum held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2003 and followed up with post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation work has now blossomed into the emergence of a Regional Business and Biodiversity Programme which will focus on corporate social and environmental responsibility within business sectors. This programme aims to influence businesses to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, and to mainstream these concepts in their businesses. Leveraging private sector support for implementing the 2009-12 programme in other parts of Asia would be a priority.

Asia currently has 156 Members; they have been a strength to the implementation of the programme. Both State and NGO members have been active participants in programme implementation, and in guiding the work at the national level. In countries like Bangladesh and Thailand, most projects are implemented together with Members. The national committees have been proactive in their support and have been a source of independent advice on topical issues. The 2009-12 programme will continue to engage the membership in implementing its programme, and will further strengthen the working arrangements. IUCN will also consolidate the cooperation with non-traditional partners, particularly those with whom post-tsunami work was implemented.

One of the recognised strengths of IUCN is its ability to harness its diverse expertise found in about 1,000 commission members located in Asia. This group brings an unparalleled depth of knowledge and experience in a range of subjects. The Asia programme will strive to engage the commissions more fully in the implementation of its new intersessional programme.

The Asia programme is committed to integrate gender considerations in its work. For example, it is mandatory to have gender considerations incorporated in all project proposals. Gender would be a cross-cutting theme in the Asia programme, and is recognised by specific outputs reflected in the new intersessional programme.

IUCN's niche is an ever evolving phenomenon. The changing geo-political situation, coupled with development pressures exerted on the environment will provide new opportunities and challenges. The continuing demands from East Asia are one such instance; likewise the Hindu Kush-Himalayan territories are likely to bring new challenges with the emerging climate change scenarios.

Section 4 – The Organisational Structure of IUCN in Asia

This short section describes the organizational structure of IUCN Asia (Fig. 2). The operational modalities reflected in this structure form the base for effective implementation of the programme, and the linkages with other components and the constituency in Asia.

The region is headed by the Regional Director (Fig. 6). The Asia programme has regional and country components, as indicated below:

- At the regional level, the **Ecosystem and Livelihood Group (ELG)**, was formed in 2003 to better reflect, and deliver, an ecosystems and livelihoods approach to nature conservation based on the application of three conceptual models and sets of tools, namely, the ecosystem approach, the sustainable livelihood framework, and a focus on poverty. ELG provides technical assistance to IUCN Country Programmes; undertake multi-country work and address trans-boundary issues; assist in the development of work in countries without IUCN Country Programmes, function as nodal points for regional organisations, and liaise with global programmes to provide the ground-truthing and real-world lessons that underpin IUCN's work and to share these insights with IUCN's country and regional programmes in other parts of the world.

ELG is comprised of seven regional thematic programmes - environmental economics, environmental law, forests, marine and coastal, protected areas, species conservation, and water and wetlands, and are currently organised into two Groups. ELG 1 (environmental law, forests, protected areas, and water and wetlands) is based in Bangkok whilst ELG 2 made up of the rest of the programmes is based in Colombo. These thematic programmes work together as a multi-disciplinary team, which permits ecosystems and livelihoods to be addressed in a more comprehensive and holistic way.

- The **Country Programmes** are the building blocks of the Asia Regional Programme, and work from ground up to influence national policy. They support the regional thematic programmes and are an important link with IUCN's constituency in the country. Country programmes operate in Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam with a project office also located in Cambodia. As the link to the constituency, they also support the Members' National Committees (Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India).

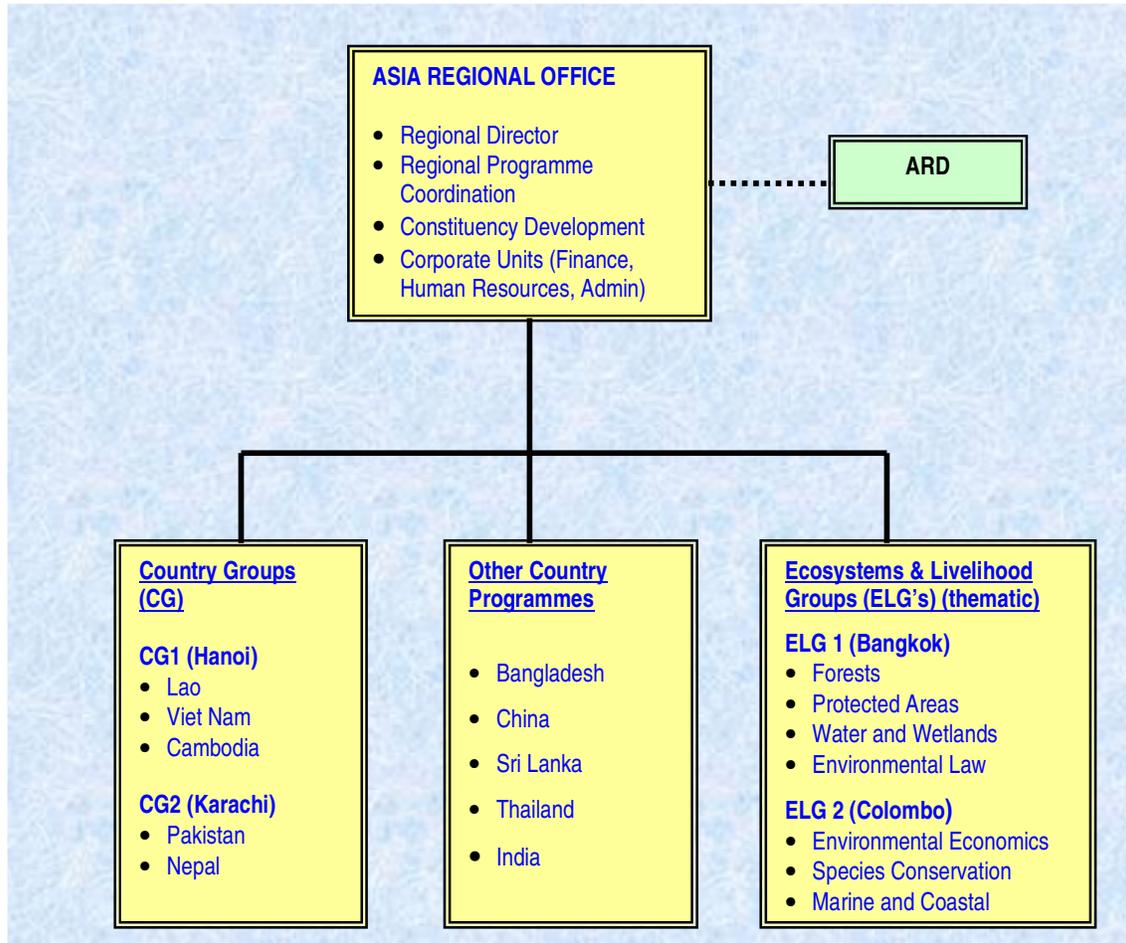
The Country Groups (CGs) represent a recent construct where country programmes are "grouped" to enhance transboundary work and improve efficiencies in operations. To date, two such Country Groups have been established: CG 1 to cover the lower Mekong and including Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam; and CG 2 that includes the Pakistan and Nepal country programmes with a brief to also develop programmes in Afghanistan and Bhutan.

In addition to the regional work, the Asia programme also manages two global initiatives (on Protected Areas and Forest Governance).

The Regional Director is supported by the Asia Regional Directorate (ARD), which is the apex body of IUCN management in the Asia Region. ARD is a mechanism to inform, support and advise the Regional Director in decision-making for IUCN's Programme in Asia. The National Committees of Members, present in some countries, are statutory, independent bodies coordinating membership matters; providing advice on programme planning, assisting in disseminating IUCN products and facilitating dialogue amongst stakeholders.

The organizational changes described here have been based on a consultative process and have been introduced progressively over the past few years. The ever evolving programme needs regular review and adjustments of the organisational structure to adapt to change and service the programme effectively and efficiently.

Fig. 6 – IUCN Asia Organisational Structure



Section 5 – The IUCN Global Programme Framework⁴

The 2009-2012 Programme will provide a single framework with a compelling set of results to which IUCN's Global Thematic Programmes, Regional Programmes and Commissions can contribute, while at the same time addressing the needs of the thematic and geographic constituencies (Fig. 7). The IUCN Programme 2009-2012 is considerably different from previous programmes in several ways:

- **It is results-driven.** All programmes will frame their work in terms of results to be achieved and with a view to achieving true impact in the field. Component programmes will implement complementary monitoring frameworks that incorporate indicators of success;
- **It has a greatly improved focus:** Five Thematic Priority Areas have been identified through an extensive consultation and review process (including the Future of Sustainability e-process, the IUCN Situation Analysis 2009-2012, Council deliberations and Resolutions of the World Congress);
- **It strives to clearly illustrate IUCN's contribution** to human well-being and sustainable development through biodiversity conservation;
- **It allows better communication** of important conservation messages;
- **It includes incentives for better integration of IUCN's work across the Union.**

Recognizing that the world we live in is changing rapidly, the new Programme leaves an opportunity for emerging issues to be brought into IUCN's focus, if necessary.

The IUCN Programme 2009-2012 is aiming to:

- Add value to members;
- Respond to the directions of the Congress and the Council;
- Respond to changing societal needs;
- Better communicate our messages;
- More sustainably finance our work;
- Improve integration of our efforts with differentiates roles;

Experience from past programmes shows the need for IUCN's efforts to be tailored to specific country/regional needs while responding to global issues and focusing on areas where IUCN can add the most value. The Programme is designed to address national priorities which align with IUCN's global priorities. It does not impose these global priorities but looks for convergence of interest.

The IUCN Programme framework for 2009-2012 contains a number of structural changes compared to the 2005-2008 Programme, these are summarised below:

- The number of results has been reduced from 26 to 10;
- The Programme is built on the foundation of conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources (Thematic Priority Area 1). This foundation offers the basis of all our work and allows us to strategically influence other Thematic Priority Areas;
- A set of four thematic priority areas have been identified as particularly relevant to all of the conservation work undertaken by IUCN for 2009-2012(see below) and these will need to be addressed elaborated

⁴ Excerpted from *User Guidelines for Developing IUCN Component Programme Plans 2009-2012*, Global Programme, IUCN.

in component programme plans. For each thematic priority area, a set of two global results outline the specific aspects of the issues that IUCN wishes to address;

The five Thematic Priority Areas within the IUCN Programme 2009-2012 are:

1. **Conserving the diversity of life:** ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity from local to global levels;
2. **Changing the climate forecast** – integrating biodiversity considerations and opportunities into climate change policies and practice;
3. **Naturally energizing the future** – implementing ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient energy systems;
4. **Managing ecosystems for human well-being** – improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and enhancing environmental and human security through sustainable ecosystem management;
5. **Greening the world economy** – integrating ecosystem conservation values in economic policy, finance and markets.

The IUCN Programme 2009-2012 identifies a set of 10 global results within the five Thematic Priority areas:

Conserving the diversity of life - *Ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity from local to global levels*

Global result 1.1: Biodiversity-related policies and governance systems enable action towards the achievement of biodiversity conservation.

Global result 1.2: IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for sustainable natural resource management available and used for biodiversity conservation including effective management of global and regional common natural resources.

Changing the climate forecast - *Integrating biodiversity considerations and opportunities into climate change policy and practice*

Global result 2.1: Climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practice include biodiversity concerns from local to global level.

Global result 2.2: Natural resources management policies and strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change are adopted and implemented.

Naturally energizing the future - *Implementing ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient energy systems*

Global result 3.1: Energy policies and strategies mitigate the impact of the growing energy demand on biodiversity.

Global result 3.2: Ecosystem services that underpin sustainable and equitable energy are incorporated in energy policies and strategies.

Managing ecosystems for human well-being - *Improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and enhancing environmental and human security through sustainable ecosystem management*

Global result 4.1: Development policies and strategies support vulnerable and poor stakeholders, especially women, to sustainably manage ecosystems for improved livelihoods.

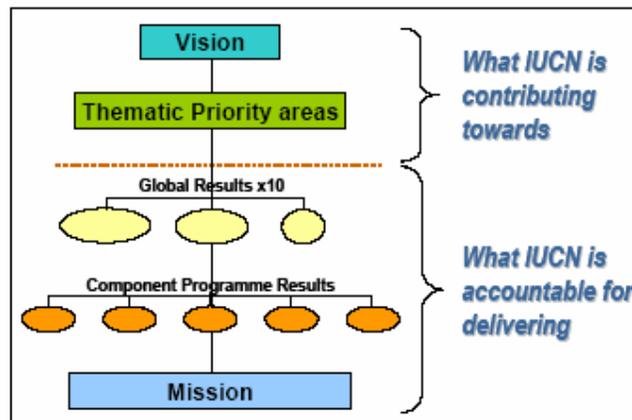
Global result 4.2: Sustainable environmental management reduces vulnerability to natural hazards and conflicts.

Greening the world economy - Integrating ecosystem conservation values in economic policy, finance and markets

Global result 5.1: Economic, trade and investment policies better integrate biodiversity values.

Global result 5.2: Companies, industry associations and consumer groups incorporate ecosystem values into planning and action.

Fig. 7 – Global Structure of the IUCN Programme, 2009-2012



Section 6 – The IUCN Asia Programme; 2009-2012

6.1 Intersessional Plan Development

The Asia Intersessional Plan (2009-12) presented here is a synthesis of the component plans developed by the country and regional thematic programmes in Asia. These include the Ecosystem and Livelihood Group, and plans from the country programmes in Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The preparation of these plans started by updating, and in some cases revising the situation analysis. A programme integration meeting held in March, 2007 agreed on the process and timelines, based on the need for submission of the (draft) Intersessional Plan to the Regional Conservation Forum in September, 2007. The plans were prepared with the active participation of the Members in countries where IUCN has a presence; where there are National Committees of Members, the relevant individual plans have been endorsed by the National Committees. Annex 1 gives the details of preparatory consultation processes and the endorsements by the National Committees, as applicable. Commission members were also actively involved in helping to develop the Asia Intersessional Programme, which was presented at the Regional Conservation Forum; it was enriched by including the key messages emanating from the thematic sessions at the Forum, and this version includes those amendments.

This Programme presents the main areas of work in which IUCN Secretariat in Asia would be engaged in the period 2009-12. These areas of work have been determined through a process of consultations and prioritisation, and attempts to respond to the situation in Asia today. As always, the extent to which implementation of the proposed areas of work can occur will depend on the availability of resources.

6.2 The Programme Construct

This Section provides an insight into the overall construction of the Asia Programme, which follows the construct of the global programme. The Asia programme is a synthesis of component sub-programmes. The size and diversity of the Asia programme make it necessary to formulate the Asia Results at a level closer to the global level.

The construct of the Asia programme also shows the congruence and the linkages with the five thematic priority areas identified in the global programme (Fig. 8), which have received priority attention in order to address the conservation challenges identified in IUCN's Future of Sustainability discussions and the situation analyses. The Asia programme, whilst continuing work on conservation and sustainable development areas which were covered in the 2005-08 programme, will embark on two new areas, viz., climate change and energy, which are important considerations both regionally and globally.

IUCN's Vision, the Mission and the Goals

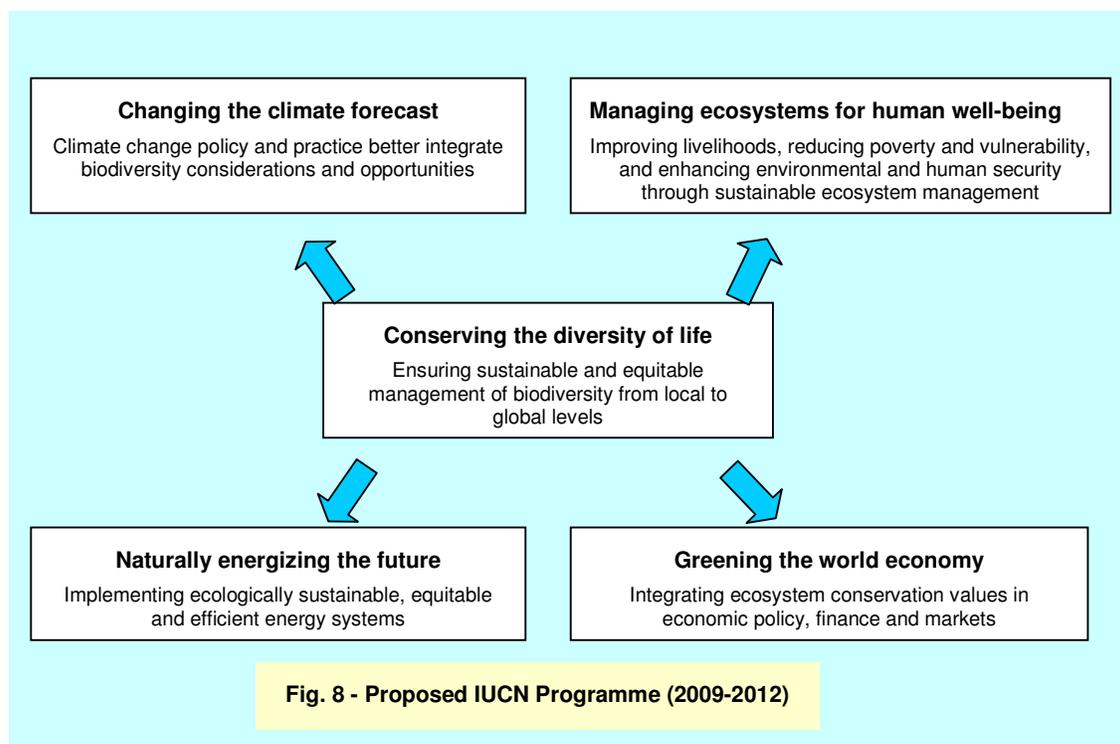
As a component of the larger Union, IUCN Asia embraces the Vision and Mission of Global IUCN.

IUCN Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature

IUCN Mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.



6.3 Asia Results

IUCN's programme uses a Results-based approach in order to demonstrate the changes that IUCN will envisage in implementing its programme. These Results correspond to the Global Results thereby linking the Asia programme to the Global Programme. In turn, the Results of Asia component sub-programmes too correspond to the Asia Results, thereby providing the connection from national/thematic point to the regional level and thence to the global level.

The following narrative provides the framework of the Asia Results (corresponding to the global Results) also giving representative examples of sub-results/work that would be undertaken at the sub-programme level.

Thematic priority area 1 - Conserving the diversity of life

Global result 1.1:

Biodiversity-related policies and governance systems enable action towards the achievement of biodiversity conservation.

Asia Results

ASIA 1.1.1- Conservation policies and strategies in at least three countries take national and sub-regional development needs, social and gender equity, and financial viability into consideration.

[Addresses issues on conservation vis-à-vis development; adverse effects of uncoordinated and unplanned development activities on conservation, and the acknowledgement for balance between development and conservation]

Examples of work include:

- Developing a biodiversity corridor model In Lao PDR, facilitating its national application, and influencing its incorporation into the national strategic forestry policies;
- Integrating the principles of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the policies and legislation of the Government of Nepal at national and sub-national levels;
- Supporting the development of an environmentally sustainable water resources management policy for India;
- Empowerment of stakeholders in participation in biodiversity-related conventions and multi-lateral environmental agreements.

Global result 1.2:

IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for sustainable natural resource management available and used for biodiversity conservation including effective management of global and regional common natural resources.

Asia Results

ASIA 1.2.1- Up-to-date IUCN knowledge, tools, including gender tools, and methods for sustainable natural resource management are available and used in national policy/strategy formulation in at least eight countries.

[Addresses the need for new knowledge on managing species and ecosystems with particular emphasis on approaches to include stakeholders and gender mainstreaming in natural resources management]

Examples of work include:

- Introducing E-flows approaches into major strategic planning and policies in Lao PDR;
- Launching multi-stakeholder platforms in Bangladesh to encourage governments of neighbouring countries to support collaborative management of transboundary resources, particularly water;
- Developing coastal zone management decision support tools including databases and GIS maps with integrated economic data in India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Introducing the FLR (Forest Landscape Restoration) principles in reforestation programmes in at least three landscapes in China;
- Institutionalising the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification process for sustainable management of forests in Sri Lanka;
- Revising relevant laws in Bangladesh based on the updated IUCN Bangladesh Red List;

Thematic priority area 2 - Changing the climate forecast

Global result 2.1:

Climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practice include biodiversity concerns from local to global level.

Asia Results

ASIA 2.1.1- National climate change plans and actions integrate relevant considerations from national biodiversity action plans in at least four countries.

[Addresses the emerging issues on climate change vis-à-vis conservation policies and the need for a holistic approach; supporting the governments and others in acknowledging conservation and gender aspects in climate change considerations]

Examples of work include:

- Incorporating CDM projects (e.g. reforestation) in climate change action plans of selected countries;
- Promoting investments in coastal ecosystem restoration as part of national climate change adaptation strategies;
- Incorporating conservation considerations in climate change vulnerability studies in three provinces in Nepal;

Global result 2.2:

Natural resources management policies and strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change are adopted and implemented.

Asia Results

ASIA 2.2.1- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in at least three countries include sustainable natural resources management approaches and tools.

[Addresses the need for considering climate change aspects in determining natural resources management options.]

Examples of work include:

- Generating, collating and disseminating knowledge and best practices in developing climate change adaptation strategies focusing on coastal communities of the Indian Ocean Region;
- Studying the contribution of carbon offsets to ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation for policy development in Sri Lanka;

ASIA 2.2.2- Sustainable ecosystem management tools and measures in at least six countries include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

[Focuses on the need for ecosystem management to embrace climate change mitigation and adaptation]

Examples of work include:

- Incorporating climate change adaptation measures in coastal zone management plans in the Maldives and Sri Lanka;
- Assisting the Government of Pakistan in preparing for post-2012 negotiations;
- Analyzing potential impacts of climate change on Lao PDR's wetlands and watersheds and reflecting these in key watershed and wetlands management policies and planning documents;

- Employing IUCN tools and approaches for developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in at least three provinces of Pakistan;
- Applying the Community Based Risk Screening Tool - Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL) toolkit and other adaptation tools to support the integration of adaptation issues into poverty and conservation initiatives implemented in Sri Lanka.

ASIA 2.2.3- Livelihood security of three vulnerable communities in three countries adopts measures to mitigate climate change impacts and new approaches to livelihood security.

[Approaches for supporting vulnerable communities against impacts of climate change]

Examples of work include:

- Supporting studies on introducing saline and drought-tolerant crops cropping patterns for adapting to climate change conditions in selected countries;
- Adopting measures to readjust heights of embankments and dikes to protect delicate ecosystems, coastal communities and agricultural lands from climate variability;
- Developing strategies for disaster preparedness and community based natural resource management for increasing resilience against the impacts of climate change and climate variability in selected areas of Bangladesh.

Thematic priority area 3 - Naturally energizing the future

Global result 3.1:

Energy policies and strategies mitigate the impact of the growing energy demand on biodiversity

Asia Results

ASIA 3.1.1- Environmentally-friendly energy policies and strategies adopted in at least four national development plans.

[Addresses the emerging serious impacts of current energy generation systems, particularly on climate change and biodiversity, and to introduce alternative systems]

Examples of work include:

- Piloting systems for addressing trade-offs at the landscape level between biodiversity conservation and energy generation in specific landscapes characterized by high incidence of poverty in Sri Lanka;
- Incorporating environmental concerns adequately in the Energy Policy of Pakistan;
- Integrating the principles of the World Commission on Dams into hydropower policy and decision-making in selected countries, to ensure that social and environmental impacts are minimized;
- Conducting and supporting research and policy advice on energy efficiency, greener energy alternatives and mitigating their impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods in India;

ASIA 3.1.2- Knowledge on ecologically sustainable, efficient, cleaner and affordable energy options are available and used in at least three pilot sites.

[Addresses the need for knowledge on cleaner energy options]

Examples of work include:

- Exploring and reporting on renewable energy sources in selected countries in Asia;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder platforms to discuss, debate and inform emerging energy technologies in India;
- Supporting studies on bio-energy (CO₂ neutral) options, including energy plantations, in selected countries in Asia;
- Facilitating the introduction of alternative sustainable fuel source solutions for corporate sector in Sri Lanka;
- Supporting awareness creation amongst communities in selected provinces of Thailand on energy efficient systems for rural households.

Global result 3.2:

Ecosystem services that underpin sustainable and equitable energy, are incorporated in energy policies and strategies

Asia Results

ASIA 3.2.1- Cleaner renewable energy incentive policies and market mechanisms that promote fair and equitable access to clean energy adopted in at least one government energy policy.

[Supporting decision-making on cleaner energy options]

Examples of work include:

- Facilitating the recognition by selected Asian state agencies and major bilateral and multilateral donors of cleaner energy technologies as economically viable options for investment;
- Pilot-testing payment for environmental services in the energy generation sector in Pakistan;
- Undertaking studies on cleaner, alternative energy solutions for selected areas in Bangladesh;
- Conducting analytical studies on energy plantations for possible policy support in Sri Lanka;

Thematic priority area 4 - Managing ecosystems for human well-being

Global result 4.1:

Development policies and strategies support vulnerable and poor stakeholders, especially women, to sustainably manage ecosystems for improved livelihoods.

Asia Results

ASIA 4.1.1- Resource management policies and practices support improved livelihoods of at least six communities, especially poorer and vulnerable segments with due recognition of gender equality, in at least six countries.

[Addresses the ever changing scenarios on supporting livelihoods with sustainable management of ecosystems; providing models and tools for field practices]

Examples of work include:

- Integrating sustainable ecosystem management approaches in the poverty reduction strategies in Pakistan;
- Incorporating NTFP resource planning and marketing into models of development for poor rural populations in selected provinces of Lao PDR.;
- Enabling increased access of communities to buffer zone resources in selected conservation forests in Nepal leading to improvement in their livelihoods;
- Developing innovative co-management protocols, with increased participation of women, for natural resources management based on pilot work in the Tangaor Haor in Bangladesh;
- Developing national governance mechanisms for integrated and pro-poor coastal management in selected countries of the Indian Ocean Region;
- Integrating ecotourism opportunities for improving livelihoods of buffer zone communities in protected area management plans in selected countries in Asia;
- Profiling selected coastal/marine protected areas and their surrounding communities as best practice examples of effective management of coastal ecosystems by governments and local communities for biodiversity conservation and for promoting sustainable livelihoods;
- Implementing plans to increase household incomes, including those of the poorer social clusters, by 50% in at least one project site of the Landscapes and Livelihoods Strategy programme;
- Identifying co-management approaches in selected pilot sites to address poverty alleviation for communities living in and around protected areas to achieve livelihood and biodiversity conservation.

ASIA 4.1.2- Natural resource management policies and strategies of at least three countries incorporate equitable benefit sharing and gender equity principles.

[Addresses access and benefit sharing issues and gender equality aspects in natural resources management]

Examples of work include:

- Reflecting the interests of the poor and vulnerable segments of society, especially women, in the conservation and development policies of all countries of Asia where IUCN is present;
- Integrating gender-sensitive environmental concerns into mainstream development and poverty reduction policies and strategies in selected countries of Asia;
- Empowering women in selected pilot sites to have an equal voice in natural resource management decisions made by local communities.

ASIA 4.1.3- Development initiatives in four countries include direct investments in ecosystem conservation and restoration as part of infrastructure development.

[Recognises the ecosystem values, particularly as 'environmental infrastructure']

Examples of work include:

- Supporting integration of environmental considerations into planning and designing national trade policies, as well as special economic zones, in selected countries;

- Enhancing awareness of the value of coastal ecosystems as essential infrastructure assets in selected countries of the Indian Ocean Region;
- Integrating wetland conservation practices in coastal tourism development for Southern Thailand.

Global result 4.2:

Sustainable environmental management reduces vulnerability to natural hazards and conflicts

Asia Results

ASIA 4.2.1- Sustainable natural resources management reduces vulnerability of at least 10 communities over six countries.

[Provides approaches for better ecosystem management to counter natural hazards whilst ensuring continued livelihood support]

Examples of work include:

- Developing approaches in coastal zone management in Sri Lanka for improving livelihoods and reducing vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and other external shocks;
- Incorporating environmental and human security concerns in sustainable ecosystem management plans for selected provinces of Pakistan;
- Mainstreaming disaster preparedness practices in ecosystem management policies in Bangladesh;
- Establishing demonstration sites for coastal ecosystem restoration in selected countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

ASIA 4.2.2- Environmental management is integrated as a tool for improving disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation by at least three agencies.

[Provide tools and skills for proper ecosystem management, and address issues such as land degradation, pollution etc.]

Examples of work include:

- Incorporating IUCN's principles of ecosystem management into the policies of selected relief and rehabilitation agencies;
- Developing national plans for strengthening coastal community resilience in India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand;
- Developing and testing mitigation plans for reversing coastal zone degradation in selected countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

Thematic priority area 5 - Greening the world economy

Global result 5.1:

Economic, trade and investment policies better integrate biodiversity values.

Asia Results

ASIA 5.1.1- Ecosystem values are included in two fiscal policies and in at least three trade and investment initiatives.

[Recognises ecosystem values in other policies which have a direct bearing on national economies]

Examples of work include:

- Encouraging selected Asian ministries of economic planning and finance, and major bilateral and multilateral donors to adopt infrastructure investment appraisal techniques which integrate ecosystem values;
- Improving transparency and accountability of decision-making governing investments in the natural resources sectors, particularly water and plantations, through broad-based engagement with environmental, macro-economic planning and private sector actors in Lao PDR;
- Incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem values in national economic planning processes for Bangladesh;
- Promoting natural resource conservation in selected countries through appropriate market-based incentive schemes and approaches, such as PES and pro-poor financing.

Global result 5.2:

Companies, industry associations and consumer groups incorporate ecosystem values into planning and action

Asia Results

ASIA 5.2.1- At least five private sector companies in Asia integrate Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) principles, including Green Equity Criteria in their business practices.

[Influencing the private sector to manage their businesses in an eco-friendly manner, and thereby mainstreaming the private sector in governance of natural resources]

Examples of work include:

- Demonstrating integration of CSR into the policy and practice of selected companies in China;
- Assisting industry associations in Asia to integrate new practices aimed at measurably reducing environmental impact;
- Establishing “green” enterprise and conservation partnerships in selected countries participating in the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) programme;
- Developing agreements with at least two private sector companies in Bangladesh to mainstream CSR considerations in their businesses;
- Promoting acceptance by multi-national corporations of at least one set of best practice guidelines for the investment in, and management of, a forest-related commodity.
- Generating tools and processes are created for effective integration of environmental sustainable procedures and technologies into the overall operations of companies.

Section 7 – Monitoring the Intersessional Programme

The Intersessional Programme (IP) will be monitored at two levels, viz., (a) country and thematic programme level; and (b) at the regional level.

At the **country and thematic programme level**, monitoring shall be based on periodic assessment using Results/Output-based annual work-plans which have been in place for the last five years. These are completed three times a year corresponding with the global monitoring periods (Jan-May; Jan – August and Jan – December).

In addition, many of the component programmes have **Programme Development Groups**, usually chaired by the Head of the Programme, which meet monthly to review and monitor the implementation of their respective programmes. The Programme Development Groups are usually composed of programmatic and corporate staff, and are mandated to examine progress, quality of outputs, financial recovery and budgeting.

At the **regional level**, monitoring shall be based on the reports received from the component programmes which are linked to Asia Results. Consolidation of sub-programme level Results will be carried out at the regional level to assess the overall programmatic progress.

Monitoring plans for both sub-component and regional level work will be prepared in early 2009 with the preparation of work plans. As the Asia programme is primarily dependent on projects, the monitoring plan will consolidate project monitoring plans as well. The monitoring plan will detail the most appropriate indicators and baseline data required for regular monitoring, within the broad framework of the IP Results.

In addition to the routine sub-programme and regional level monitoring, the performance of the Intersessional Programme will be reviewed comprehensively at the regional level at the end of 2010 (mid-term of the IP).

Additionally, the overall performance of the programme will be assessed using the criteria set out for performance assessment established in 2006. These criteria would include a number of performance components such as relevance of the programme, effectiveness, cost effectiveness, business regimes, financial health and viability and organisational capacity.

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Annex 1

**Consultation Process in the Development of Component Programme Plans
and the Endorsements of National Committees Obtained**

Component Programme	Details of Consultations	Endorsements of National Committees
Ecosystem & Livelihood Groups	The draft component plan was shared with the Commissions, and their comments incorporated.	N/A
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 18 February, 2007; Internal Programme Meeting- PC brief the programme team about the discussion held on IUCN programme for 2008-12 during the Fixed Meeting Week in HQ. Internal exercise was done on BD programme niche for next ISP period. ➤ 1 March, 2007; Consultation with members- Members sit together, brain stormed and suggested the possible programme themes based on the global five themes. The outcome of the consultation shared and endorsed by the members, and the programme themes and results finalized and agreed upon. The outcome also been shared in the PC meeting in March 2007 in Bangkok. ➤ 24 May 2007; Internal Programme Meeting- Situation analysis draft finalized; ➤ 7 August 2007; National Committee meeting- Bangladesh National Committee organized a meeting to welcome Aban. Chairman, National Committee, briefly discussed about the ISP and it was approved. 	Endorsed by Members at its meeting on 7 August 2007.
China	<p>The consultative process for developing the China Intersessional Strategy began with compiling ideas and recommendations gleaned from the previous several years of meetings with members, partners and donors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 13 March 2007; ARD Meeting; discussion of focus and themes for China Intersessional Strategy; ➤ 22 June 2007; draft China Intersessional Strategy sent to CNG Group and <i>ad hoc</i> China Advisory Group of IUCN; ➤ 29 June 2007; bilingual version of China Intersessional Strategy sent to all members for their comments; ➤ 16 July 2006; Members meeting; detailed discussion of the China Results and Indicators; comments gathered from members and incorporated into draft; ➤ 20 July 2007; Internal meeting to revise China Intersessional Strategy based on comments from members, stakeholders and IUCN staff; 	N/C/N
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The India consultation process was conducted over a period of 12 months culminating in the preparation of the <i>India Strategy</i>. This was an outcome of consultations with members, donors and partners, and formed the basis for the India Intersessional Plan. ➤ The Intersessional Plan too was shared with the Members, and their 	Endorsed by Members at the meeting held on 22 August, 2007.

	comments obtained at a meeting held on 22 August, 2007.	
Lao PDR	<p>The Lao consultation process was conducted in several parts over the course of a week. Because the Lao IP draws heavily on the recently completed strategic planning process, there was in fact much more consultation in the lead up than documented below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 August 2007: Meetings with Mr Savanh Chanthakoummane, Division of Forest Resources Conservation, Department of Forestry, Mr Khamphadit Khambounheuang, Dept of Environment, STEA & Mr Mike Hedemark, WCS Lao; Participants provided useful comments, additional Lao results, and revisions to existing proposed results; ➤ 3 August 2007: Meetings with Ms. Manolom, Dept of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials from MoFA: Expressed agreement and supported both the proposed results and suggestions made by other participants; ➤ 3 August 2007: Meetings with Dr Sanan Choulamany, Vice President, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Dr Kikeo , Permanent Secretary, Committee for Planning and Investment: The revised of Lao results were shared with them; these were to be internally circulated and comments, if any, were to be submitted (none received); ➤ 3 August 2007: Meeting with Bouaphan, Division of Forest Resources Conservation, Dept of Forestry: The revised of Lao results have shared and comments, if any, were to be submitted (none received) 	N/C/N
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 22-24 May 2006; Internal meetings - Problem identification, context and options analysis, propose and objectives, area of works, thematic areas and ecosystems focus, cross cutting issues; ➤ 13 July 2006; internal meeting - Final draft of programme objective, thematic area, ecosystems focus, and cross cutting issues; ➤ 8 June 2006; Members and stakeholders meeting [13 IUCN members, Donor (SDC) and other stakeholders]; Suggestions from members and stakeholder on the draft; ➤ 27 July 2007; IUCN Nepal members [14 members] Comments from the members on the results and targets. 	Endorsed by Members on 9 August, 2007 (attendance 14 Members).
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The consultative process for developing IUCNP's Intersessional Programme started with developing and distributing a structured questionnaire to 170 members, partner organizations, donors, academia, media and private sector organizations for views; ➤ Consultative meeting on 13 June 2007 with IUCN members in Northern Pakistan; ➤ Consultative meeting on 14 June 2007 with IUCN members in Southern Pakistan; ➤ Consultative meeting with selected donors. 	The Members endorsed the Intersessional Plan at meetings held on 13 and 14 June, 2007.
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 9 December, 2006; Programmatic Workshop with IUCN Sri Lanka National Members Committee - The programmatic workshop provided ideas and inputs into the process of developing the Intersessional 	The Intersessional Plan was endorsed by Members at its meeting

	<p>Results;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8 February, 2007; Programmatic Workshop with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) - IWMI presented its mid-long term strategic priorities for Sri Lanka. IUCNSL explored and identified areas of collaboration including climate change adaptation, etc ➤ 29 March 2007; Programmatic Workshop with Sewalanka Foundation (member) - Sewalanka Foundation provided an overview of its current operations and its future priorities. IUCNSL and the membership identified opportunities for complementarities and synergies; ➤ 24 May 2007; Annual General Meeting of the National Committee - Presented the IUCN Global Intersessional Plan approved by Council in May 2007. Broad agreement reached on the Thematic Priority Areas; ➤ 24 July, 2007; Programmatic Workshop with Central Environmental Authority (Member) - CEA to focus increasingly in the future on Market Based Instruments 	<p>on 21 August, 2007 (attendance – 7 Members and 7 Commission Members representing four Commissions).</p>
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Over a period of three months during the first-half of 2007, Members were consulted on one-to-one basis to determine their priority areas of work; ➤ Meetings were also held with the Dept. of National Parks and Dept. of Marine & Coastal Resources to seek their concurrence to the thematic areas, and to discuss areas of mutual co-operation within the Thailand strategy; ➤ The draft Intersessional Plan was presented to the Members at a meeting on 29 August; the Members concurred with the Intersessional Plan. 	N/C/N
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ August 2006-May 2007: Consultations with members, donors and key stakeholders on IUCN Viet Nam Strategic Framework 2007-2010. This includes the IUCN Global IP highlights as well; ➤ July 30, 2007: The Global IP and Asia IP were discussed at a consultation meeting of members, donors and stakeholders (about 40 participants); ➤ August 3, 2007: IP consultation meeting took place at IUCN Viet Nam office with the participation of representatives from MONRE, WWF, TRAFFIC, FFI, World Bank, CRES, Eco-Eco, MPI and CIDA. Participants made constructive comments at the meeting which were incorporated. 	N/C/N

N/A – Not applicable;

N/C/N - National Committees not established in the respective country programmes.