

Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN

Project Brief

Building Capacities to Conserve Biodiversity in ASEAN

Life and survival of up to 600 million people depend directly or indirectly on the preservation of biodiversity in the ASEAN region. As ecosystems and the environmental services they provide are increasingly threatened, a comprehensive regional strategy is needed supported by enhanced human and institutional capacity.

Context

The 10 ASEAN region boasts of accommodating approximately 18% of the species of the Earth; 3 of the mega biodiversity countries; about 35% of the global mangrove forests; and 30% of the coral reefs. Over 600 million depend on natural resources for food, health and livelihood. However, the existence of biodiversity and key ecosystems and associated environmental services are under strong and increasing pressure. Existing national protection strategies fall short, and for that reason, a region-wide strategy is crucial.

In response to this, the ASEAN has created the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the 10 AMS for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.

Similar to other regions, the task to develop regional approaches is highly complex and requires sufficient financial, institutional, organizational and technical resources. Within this context the

Project title	Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN (ISB)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	10 ASEAN nations, based in the Philippines
Lead executing agency	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Overall term	2015 – 2019

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports ACB in the fulfillment of its mandate through the joint implementation of the project Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN (ISB).

Objective

The ISB project is one of the three modules of the German – ACB Cooperation Programme “Protection of Biological Diversity in the ASEAN Member States in Cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity”. The overall objective of the project is that “the ACB successfully assumes its regional mandate for the implementation of the CBD”.

Approach

The project adopts a comprehensive capacity development approach to enable ACB to assume its mandate. In parallel, it also aims to support the necessary intra- and cross-sector dialogue,





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cooperation and networking processes, and the support of regional approaches through pilot initiatives.

accessible, the different fragmented information sources in the region.

In its implementation, the project focuses on six areas of intervention:

1. Organizational development that aims to support ACB in its strategic planning and subsequent implementation.
2. Coordination and strengthening of the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme wherein ACB is the secretariat.
3. Capacity development with regard to the economic valuation of biodiversity and related ecosystem services based on approaches and initiatives like ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing), TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) and PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services).
4. Development of joint positions of the ASEAN member countries for the international negotiations of the CBD.
5. Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation system, which enables ACB to report on the regional implementation of the CBD Aichi Targets.
6. Support the establishment of a regional biodiversity information platform which bundles up, and makes more

Results as of December 2015:

- ACB's role as a regional policy and strategy catalyst is enhanced.
- Cooperation among key stakeholders in the region strengthened.
- Program Steering Committee established and approved by the ASOEN.
- ISB Workplan 2015-2019 drafted and approved by the AMS
- Representatives from AMS and GIZ projects in the region trained on the ValueLinks Approach.

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