



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

DOI International Technical Assistance Program U.S.-ASEAN Alliance for Protected Area Conservation

Factsheet

U.S.-ASEAN Alliance for Protected Area Conservation

Forests are shrinking faster in Southeast Asia than anywhere else in the world. Deforestation and land degradation lead to biodiversity loss, destroy water resources, and represent nearly a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. Improving the management of forests and other ecologically important landscapes such as wetlands, peatlands, and mangroves increases carbon storage and offers other valuable co-benefits—including increased biodiversity, improved livelihoods, protected water resources, and safeguarded habitats that make people and places more resilient to climate change.



The United States-Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Alliance for Protected Area Conservation provides partner countries with the U.S. government's best expertise in natural and cultural resource management to expand biodiversity conservation, reverse deforestation, and accelerate climate mitigation. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) in partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and ASEAN member states, the project seeks to strengthen the management of ASEAN protected areas with the greatest emissions reduction potential.

Objectives

Strengthen Regional Networks

- To promote ecosystem restoration and climate mitigation in protected areas, USAID, DOI-ITAP, and ACB will support a cohort of emerging climate leaders from ASEAN Heritage Parks—a group of national parks and nature reserves with outstanding wilderness and climate mitigation potential; and considered as the “best example” of protected areas in ASEAN in terms of management and conservation.

Support Collective Action

- By prioritizing parks with significant carbon storage potential to add to the ASEAN Heritage Park Program and providing technical assistance to support the ASEAN Heritage Parks nomination process, the activity will extend the existing regional ASEAN Heritage Park network and increase the number of hectares under improved management.

Promote Learning Exchanges

- The project will support applied peer-to-peer learning exchanges at select learning sites to replicate natural climate solutions across other protected areas in ASEAN.

Anticipated Results



Natural Climate Solutions

- Applied natural climate solutions in ASEAN protected areas that contribute to emission sequestration and/or reductions—and demonstrate co-benefits of improved restoration and biodiversity protection.
- Increased knowledge and skills, including management tools and techniques among protected area partners to enhance actions that reduce, avoid, and/or sequester land-based emissions and protect biodiversity.
- Increased awareness on the value of natural climate solutions and its connection to climate mitigation in protected area management.



Regional Networks

- Enhanced leadership and capacity of ACB as a regional center of excellence in protected area management.
- Strengthened the regional network of ASEAN Heritage Park staff to share best practices and implement natural climate solutions in ASEAN protected areas.
- Promoted the engagement of Indigenous communities and other marginalized or underrepresented groups in protected area management efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation goals.



Protection and Restoration

- Facilitated the nomination of new ASEAN Heritage Parks to the regional network to expand areas with improved management.
- Enhanced peer-to-peer learning exchanges to promote best practices in ecosystem restoration in ASEAN Heritage Parks to increase carbon sequestration.

Contact Information

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