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# ASEAN COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT

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*At A Glance*



one vision  
one identity  
one community







## **ASEAN Cooperation on Environment – At A Glance**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967.  
The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.  
The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For inquiries, contact:  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
Community Relations Division (CRD)  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110, Indonesia  
Phone: (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
Fax: (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504  
E-mail: [public@asean.org](mailto:public@asean.org)

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# ASEAN AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS AND FIGURES

The ASEAN region is endowed with rich natural resources that sustain essential life support systems both for the region and the world. Apart from providing water, food, and energy, these natural resources play an important role in sustaining a wide range of economic activities and livelihoods.



## AREA:

Total area of 4.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, or 3% of the world's total area

## FOREST COVER:

Total area of 46.75% of the ASEAN's total land area



## POPULATION:

649 million, or 8.3% of the world's population

## SAFE DRINKING WATER:

82.7% of ASEAN population had access to safe drinking water



## ECONOMY:

5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world

## BIODIVERSITY:

4 biodiversity hotspots, 3 of 17 world's mega-diverse nations



## URBANISATION:

48.9% are living in urban areas, projected increase to 63% in 2050

## OCEANS:

105,000 km coastline length, and host 1/3 of the world's coastal marine habitats



Facts and Figures are retrieved from various sources: ASEAN Statistical Yearbook (2019); ASEAN Integration Report (2019); ASEAN Statistical Highlights (2018); and the Fifth State of the Environment Report or SOER-5 (2017).

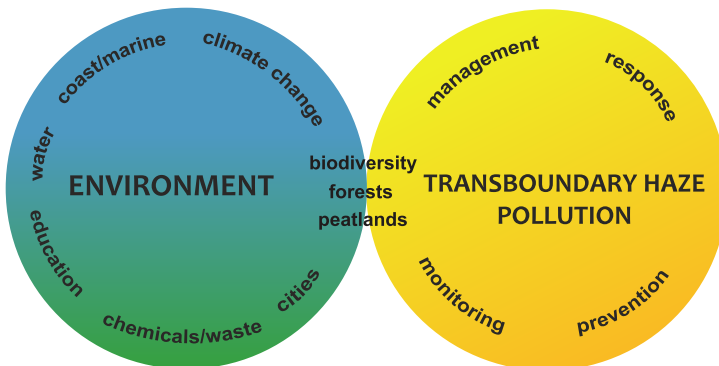
# ASEAN COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT

In 2015, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, to chart the future direction of the ASEAN community into the next decade. It consists of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.



Recognising the importance of environmental cooperation for sustainable development and regional integration, ASEAN has since cooperated closely in promoting environmental cooperation among its Member States. ASEAN cooperation on environment is currently guided by the ASCC Blueprint 2025 which envisions 'an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the peoples and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic'.

ASEAN cooperation on environment is led by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the environment. It focuses on two dedicated inter-related main work streams: environment and transboundary haze pollution. The ASEAN cooperation on transboundary haze pollution is specifically governed by the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).





# ASEAN CHAIR LEADERSHIP ON ENVIRONMENT

ASEAN is chaired by one of ASEAN Member States, rotated annually based on alphabetical order. A Member State assuming the Chairmanship shall among others chair the ASEAN Summit and related summits and advocate selected themes and priorities of the year. Environmental issues have recently been among the top priorities of each ASEAN Chairmanship.

Regularly, ASEAN Chairs also take the lead in the formulation of ASEAN joint statements on key environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity in response to the latest developments in global environmental fora. These initiatives shape ASEAN's strategic direction towards the achievement of the ASCC Vision 2025.



## Singapore Chairmanship 2018

Singapore took the lead in organizing a Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action which results in ASEAN's contribution into the global process of Talanoa Dialogue under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



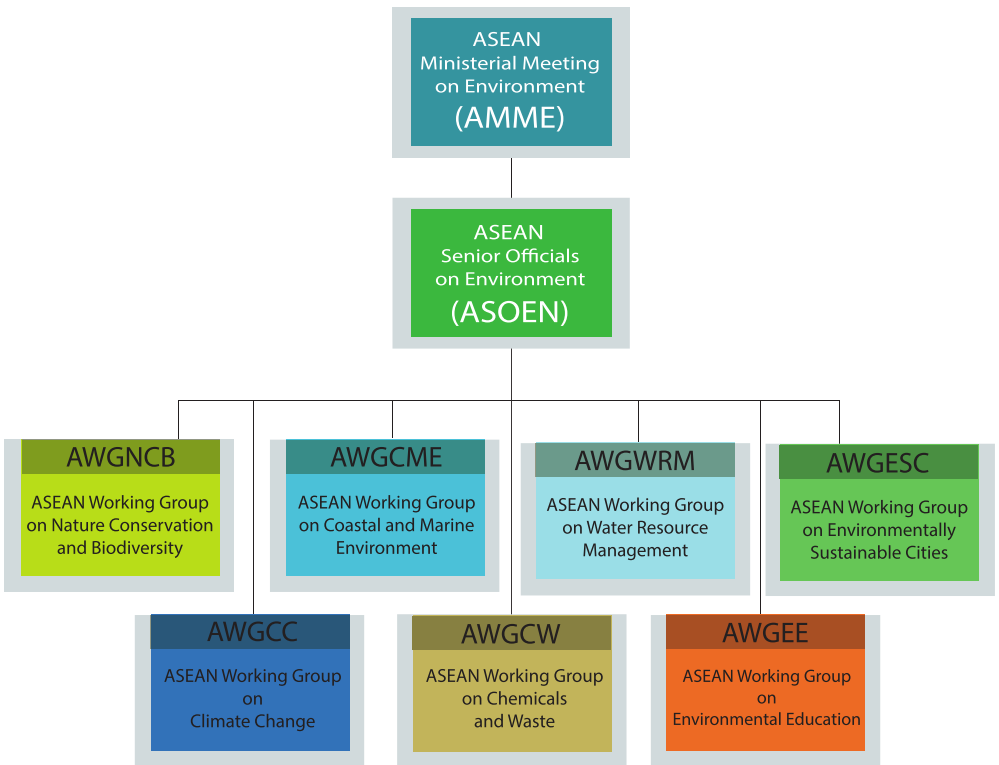
## Thailand Chairmanship 2019

Thailand led the conduct of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris and the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris and the ASEAN Framework on Marine Debris.

# ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The institutional framework of the ASEAN cooperation on environment consists of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), and 7 subsidiary bodies/working groups.

AMME meets once every two years, while ASOEN and its subsidiary bodies meet once every year to oversee the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN) and the ASCC Blueprint 2025.





# ASEAN STRATEGIC PLAN ON ENVIRONMENT

To translate the ASCC Blueprint 2025 into a more detailed plan of actions, seven strategic priorities and programmes of work have been formulated by the working groups under ASOEN. The working group action plans are being consolidated into a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the ASEAN cooperation on environment until 2025.

## SEVEN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1** Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
- 2** Coastal and Marine Environment
- 3** Water Resources Management
- 4** Sustainable Cities
- 5** Climate Change
- 6** Chemicals and Waste
- 7** Environmental Education

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

## 1 Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

- Protected Areas
- Ecosystem Services
- Species Conservation
- Invasive Alien Species
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Different Sectors
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Urban Biodiversity
- Access and Benefit Sharing
- Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)
- Knowledge Management for Biodiversity Conservation
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

## 2 Coastal and Marine Environment

- Key Coastal and Marine Area Conservation
- Endangered Coastal & Marine Species Conservation
- Tanker Desludging and Oil Spill Reduction
- Coastal and Marine Pollution Mitigation
- Coastal and Marine Invasive Alien Species
- Climate Change Issues & Impacts on Coastal Areas
- Integrated Coastal

## 3 Water Resources Management

- IWRM Country Strategy Guideline & Indicator Framework Implementation
- Public Awareness and Cross-sectoral Coordination
- Water Conservation
- Improving Water Quality and Sanitation
- Water-related Disasters

## 4 Sustainable Cities

- Sustainable Urban Planning, Development and Implementation
- Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Cities

## 5 Climate Change

- Adaptation and Resilience
- Mitigation
- Technology Transfer
- Climate Finance
- Cross-sectoral Coordination & Global Partnership

## 6 Chemicals and Waste

- Hazardous Waste Management
- Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Chemicals and Waste
- Sound Chemical Management
- Environmentally Sound Technologies toward Green Industries
- ASEAN Presence in Global Community
- Chemicals & Hazardous Waste Accident Prevention

## 7 Environmental Education

- ASEAN Eco-schools Programme
- ASEAN Green Higher Education Programme
- Regional Communication, Education and Public Awareness
- Sustainable Consumption and Production



# ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Established in 2005 by the ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity or ACB is ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss in the region. Pursuant to Article II of its Establishment Agreement, ACB shall facilitate cooperation and coordination among AMS and with relevant national government, regional and international organisations, on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such biodiversity in the ASEAN region.

## 5 COMPONENTS OF ACB OPERATION

Programme Development

Capacity Building

Biodiversity Information Management

Communication and Public Affairs

Organisational Management  
and Resource Mobilisation

ACB is overseen by a Governing Board. The ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) provides technical support to the Governing Board in reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the Work Programme of ACB. ACB is located in the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

ACB initiates and implements programmes/projects along biodiversity conservation to include the ASEAN Heritage Parks and Protected Area Management, Species Conservation, Invasive Alien Species, Ecosystems Restoration, and Access and Benefit Sharing. ACB also supports mainstreaming of biodiversity in relevant sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, health, and climate change.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity serves as the Secretariat of the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme, an ASEAN flagship biodiversity conservation programmes. The AHP Programme promotes a regional network of national protected areas of high conservation importance, preserving a complete spectrum of representative ecosystem to generate greater awareness, pride, appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage. As of 2019, there are 49 ASEAN Heritage Parks.



# ASEAN AGREEMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE POLLUTION

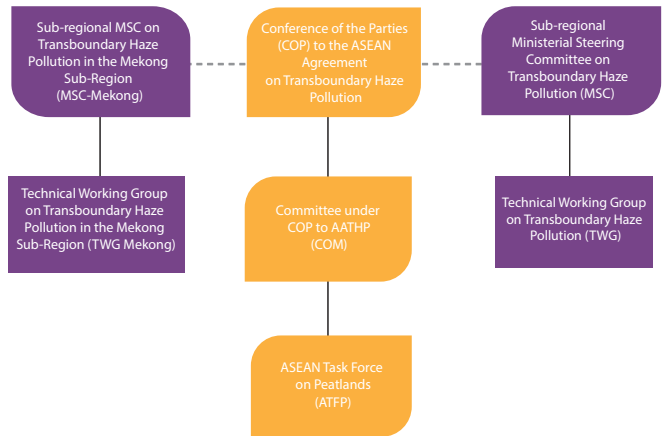
- Following severe land and forest fires in 1997-1998, ASEAN Member States signed the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) on 10 June 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to prevent, monitor and mitigate land and forest fires to control transboundary haze pollution through concerted national efforts, regional and international cooperation. The Agreement entered into force in 2003 and has been ratified by all ASEAN Member States.
- The Agreement contains measures on:
  - Monitoring and Assessment
  - Prevention
  - Preparedness
  - National and joint emergency response
  - Procedures for deployment of people, materials and equipment across borders
  - Technical cooperation & scientific research.
- Under the Agreement, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC) was established for the purposes of facilitating cooperation and coordination among the Parties in managing the impact of land and/or forest fires in particular haze pollution arising from such fires. Currently, the ASEAN Secretariat serves as the interim ACC.
- A Standard Operating Procedure for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response was developed to outline the procedure for regular communication of data between the ACC and National Monitoring Centres (NMCs)/National Focal Points (NFPs), and for coordination of requests and offers of assistance and reporting of joint mobilisation of resources.
- ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), based in Singapore, currently performs monitoring and assessment of land and forest fires and the resulting smoke haze.

# INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ASEAN AGREEMENT

## ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE POLLUTION

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was established in 2003, consisting of the ASEAN Ministers responsible for environment. The Committee (COM) under the COP to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was established to assist COP in the implementation of the Agreement. The COM meets prior to the COP meetings. COP and COM meet back-to-back at least once a year.

ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) was established in 2013 to assist COM in realising the objectives of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 through the oversight of design, implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) (APSMPE) and other relevant programmes/ projects.



In view of different periods of traditional dry season in the northern (Mekong) and southern ASEAN region, two sub-regional ministerial steering committees on transboundary haze pollution were established to address specific haze-related issues occurring in the respective regions: the Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand; and the Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-region (MSC Mekong) comprising Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Both MSC and MSC Mekong have met separately on an annual basis. Each MSC and MSC Mekong is supported by a technical working group (TWG and TWG Mekong).

# Roadmap towards ASEAN Cooperation on Transboundary Haze Pollution

The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-12) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 August 2016 adopted the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (hereinafter "Roadmap").

The Roadmap will serve as a strategic, action-oriented and time-bound framework for the implementation of the collaborative actions to control transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region to achieve a vision of Transboundary Haze-free ASEAN by 2020.



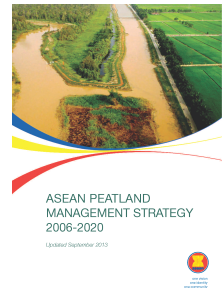
The following are the key strategic components that translate the principles of the AATHP into concrete and collective actions under the Roadmap:

- Strategy 1 Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).
- Strategy 2 Sustainable Management of Peatlands for Peatland Fires Prevention.
- Strategy 3 Sustainable Management of Agricultural Land and Forest for Large Scale Forest and/or Land Fires Prevention.
- Strategy 4 Strengthening Policies, Laws, Regulations, and their Implementations Including to Facilitate Exchange of Experience and Relevant Information among Enforcement Authorities of the Parties in Accordance with the AATHP Article 16 (f).
- Strategy 5 Enhancing Cooperation, Exchange of Information and Technology, and Strengthening of Capacity of Institutions at All Levels.
- Strategy 6 Enhancing Public Awareness and Cross-Sectoral and Stakeholders Participation.
- Strategy 7 Securing Adequate Resources from Multi-Stakeholders for Transboundary Haze Prevention.
- Strategy 8 Reducing Health and Environmental Risks and Protection of Global Environment.

# ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS)

Transboundary haze pollution arising from peatland fires is an issue of regional importance. 60% of world's tropical peatlands are found in Southeast Asia covering an estimated area of between 21 to 23 million hectares. Drainage and unsustainable management practices have made the peatlands vulnerable to fire. Peatland fires are a major problem of regional and global significance which has negatively impacted human health, food production and biodiversity as well as contributed to global climate change.

To guide AMS to sustainably manage peatlands and reduce fires and its associated haze, the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) covering the period 2006-2020 has been developed in 2006, so countries would be able to take collective actions that would ensure prevention and control of peatland fires through integrated management of peatlands in the region.



The APMS was developed within the framework of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) and the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).

## 4 OBJECTIVES OF APMS

- i** enhance awareness and knowledge on peatlands
- ii** address transboundary haze pollution and environmental degradation
- iii** promote sustainable management of peatlands
- iv** enhance & promote collective regional cooperation on peatland issues

ASEAN Member States are responsible to facilitate the implementation of the strategy at national level through the development and implementation of National Action Plans on Peatlands (NAPP).

# CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION, COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP, AND GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

## Cross-sectoral Coordination

As environmental issues are multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral in nature, strong coordination, collaboration, and communication among ASEAN Member States, both within the environment sector and among relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, and with dialogue/development partners, are critical.

Environmental issues are overseen not only by ASOEN and its subsidiary bodies, but also by other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies such as those working with the issues of forestry and agriculture, transport and energy, tourism, education, gender, youth, health, social welfare, and disaster management.

## Collaborative Partnership

Effective collaborative partnership with various stakeholders is important in achieving the ASEAN Vision 2025. In promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, ASEAN has been working closely with various dialogue and development partners, international organisations, private sector, civil society, local governments, academia and media.

ASEAN continues to engage with a wider array of partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaborative partnership in line with and contribute to the identified strategic priorities and programmes in the relevant action plans. While each ASOEN working group and ASOEN itself would have a significant role to play in the development and nurturing of the partnerships with their respective collaborating partners, the ASEAN Secretariat assists in facilitating coordination between partners and AMS.

## Global Commitments

In the same year that ASEAN entered into an ASEAN Community in 2015, the global community of nations through the United Nations forged commitment with all of its 193 member states to realise in the next fifteen years a comprehensive set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thailand serves as the coordinator on behalf of ASEAN on matters related to SDGs and its alignment with ASEAN's priority areas as stipulated in the ASEAN 2025 Blueprints. In this regard, efforts are underway to promote complementarities between the priority actions under the ASEAN 2025 Blueprints and SDGs.

ASEAN also plays an active role in contributing to the global commitments and agenda. ASEAN is strongly committed to the goals of multilateral environmental agreements, including among others the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement; Convention on Biological Diversity; Ramsar Convention; and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. From time to time, ASEAN articulates and reiterates its commitments to contribute to these Conventions through joint statements.



# ABOUT ASEAN SECRETARIAT

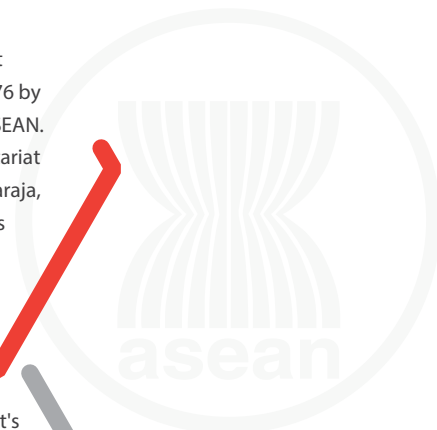
The ASEAN Secretariat's basic function is to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities.

The ASEAN Secretariat was set up in February 1976 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. The existing ASEAN Secretariat at 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja, Jakarta, Indonesia, was established and officiated in 1981.

The ASEAN Secretariat's vision is to be the nerve centre of a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interest of its people.

In the organisational structure of the ASEAN Secretariat, issues pertaining to environmental cooperation in ASEAN fall under the purview of the Environment Division of the Sustainable Development Directorate of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department.

The ASEAN Secretariat's mission is to initiate, facilitate and coordinate ASEAN stakeholders collaboration in realising the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter.



For more information on ASEAN cooperation  
on environment, please visit the following websites:

ASEAN Cooperation on Environment:

<http://environment.asean.org>

ASEAN Haze Action Online:

<http://haze.asean.org>

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity:

<http://aseanbiodiversity.org>

ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database:

<http://aeeid.asean.org>

China-ASEAN Environmental Information Sharing Platform  
(EISP):

<http://caeisp.org.cn>



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