
ASEAN COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT

At A Glance



one vision
one identity
one community



ABOUT ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration** (Bangkok Declaration). The members of ASEAN are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit in 2003, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II in which they resolved that an ASEAN Community shall be established comprising three pillars, namely **ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)**, **ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)**, and **ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)** that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.

At the 27th ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015, the ASEAN Leaders welcomed the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015 on 31 December 2015, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of community building since the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.

Concurrently, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the **ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together**, to chart the future direction of the ASEAN community into the next decade. It is a forward looking roadmap articulating ASEAN goals and aspirations to realise further consolidation, integration and stronger cohesiveness as a Community that is “politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible”.

ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together 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**.

ASEAN COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT

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.

Recognising the importance of environmental cooperation for sustainable development and regional integration, ASEAN has since 1977 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'.

Guided by the Vision, the ASEAN cooperation on environment contributes mainly, but not limited, to the implementation of the following key result areas under the characteristic 'Sustainable' of the ASCC Blueprint 2025:

Conservation and Sustainable
Management of Biodiversity
and Natural Resources

01

Environmentally
Sustainable Cities

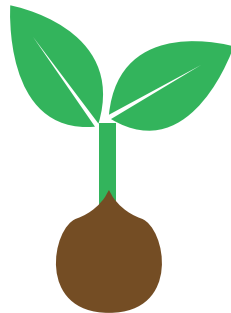
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Sustainable
Climate

03

Sustainable Consumption
and Production

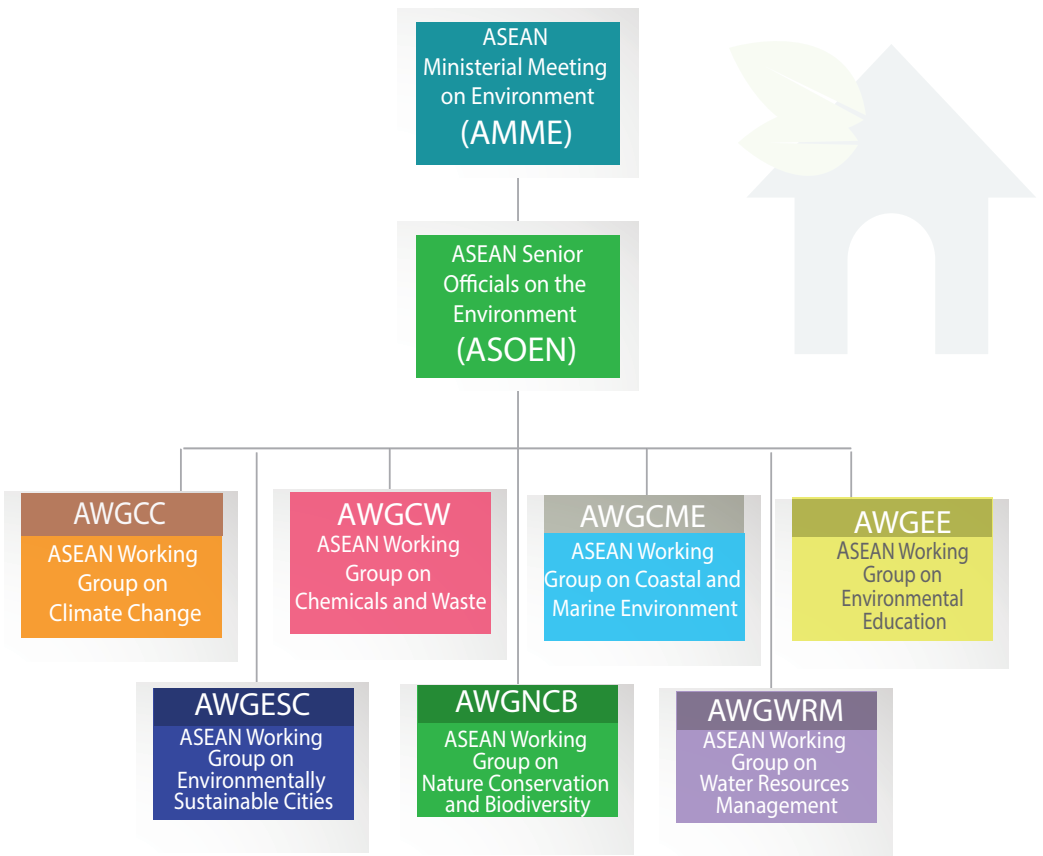
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INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

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

In order to support the implementation of the environmentally-related actions as stated in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together roadmap, particularly the ASCC Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN) is being developed to serve as a comprehensive guide of ASEAN cooperation on environment for the next decade that aims to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development in the region. The ASPEN is planned to consist of action plans of the following seven strategic priorities that cover major thematic areas of cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development undertaken by ASOEN. Each action plan will contain selected programmes based on existing cooperation or emerging needs of ASEAN Member States. These programmes can be used as a guide in developing specific projects or activities with partners.

SEVEN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1 Nature conservation and biodiversity
 - 2 Coastal and marine environment
 - 3 Water resources management
 - 4 Environmentally sustainable cities
 - 5 Climate change
 - 6 Chemicals and waste
 - 7 Environmental education and sustainable consumption and production
- 

As environmental issues are often cross-sectoral in nature and inter-linked with other concerned areas, the implementation of ASPEN is expected to contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of other relevant strategic measures in the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and the other two blueprints, i.e. APSC and AEC Blueprints, as well as vice versa.

Roadmap towards ASEAN Cooperation on Transboundary Haze Pollution

The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) 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 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.

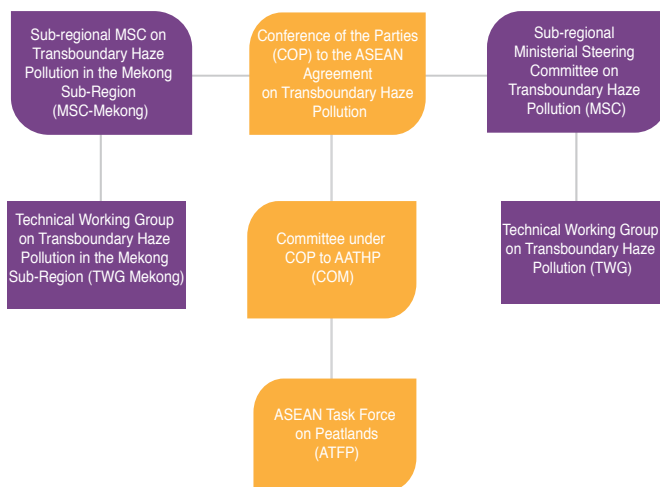
● ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), based in Singapore, performs monitoring and assessment of land and forest fires and the resulting smoke haze.

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).



ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) was established in 2005 and is located in Los Banos, Philippines. In pursuance to Article II of the 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. ACB performs its mandate through five components:

Program development and
policy coordination

Human and institutional
capacity development

Biodiversity information
management

Communication and Public Affairs

Organisational Management and
Resources Mobilisation

ACB is managed by a Governing Board (GB), which is composed of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The GB, which is headed by the ASOEN Chairperson, has the overall responsibility and accountability on the operations of ACB. The ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB), on the other hand, provides technical guidance to ACB by recommending key areas of focus for its work. The AWGNCB members also serve as ACB's National Contact Points in their respective countries.



ACB also serves as the Secretariat of ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, which is one of ASEAN flagship programmes promoting 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 2017, there are 40 ASEAN Heritage Parks.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

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

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

ASEAN has also been working closely with various dialogue and development partners in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. The partners are, among others, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, EU, Germany, India, USA, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), and Global Environment Center (GEC)

China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC) was established in 2010 to promote regional cooperation on environment between AMS and China. CAEC operates with support from and under the guidance of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China, in coordination with ASOEN and ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN-EU cooperation on environment currently focuses on the sustainable use of peatland and haze mitigation, as well as conservation of biodiversity and management of heritage parks in ASEAN region.

Japan has been providing strong support in, among others, promoting environmentally sustainable cities, ROK in restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, India in climate change adaptation, and HSF in environmental education in ASEAN region, while GEC has been a long standing partner of ASEAN in implementing peatland-related projects in the ASEAN region.

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 Cooperation Centre:
<http://chinaaseanenv.org/english/>

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

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