



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

SEP 13 2022

FOR : The Regional Executive Directors
DENR Regions MIMAROPA, 10, 11, 12 and CARAGA

FROM : The OIC Director

SUBJECT : **NOMINATION TO THE SEVENTH ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD TENTATIVELY IN OCTOBER 2022 IN
INDONESIA**

This is in reference to the enclosed Memorandum dated 02 September 2022 of Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) relative to the upcoming 7th ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference to be held tentatively in October 2022 in Indonesia.

The Conference aims to bring together the main actors in the AHP Programme, including the ACB Governing Board (GB), the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) Members, AHP Committee Members, AHP Managers, key stakeholders of AHPs, and partners in AHP management to assess the role of AHPs in ecosystem protection and pandemic recovery through enhanced knowledge and skills on planning and implementing ecosystem management, restoration strategies, and building resilience. It also aims to improve the AHP network and strengthen camaraderie among AHP managers, AHP Committee members, AWGNCB members as well as selected stakeholders and partners.

Relative thereto, the ACB is soliciting three participants each from your respective AHPs comprising of the AHP Managers or the Protected Area Superintendents (PASus), 1 staff from the Protected Area Management Office and 1 key stakeholder or an active member of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). In the case of Mt. Apo Natural Park, please consider representative from the Cotabato side to compose the three representatives required by ACB. Kindly send in the names of your nominees on or before 23 September 2022 to this Bureau **thru npd@bmb.gov.ph**.

Should you have further clarification or query, please contact Ms. Jennelyn A. Ramos of the National Parks Division at (02) 925-8947.

We hope to receive immediate response from your end so that we can endorse the nominees to ACB.


NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



BMB202203808


MEMORANDUM

FOR : THE ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON NATURE CONSERVATION
AND BIODIVERSITY (AWGNCB)
(Please see distribution list)

THROUGH : THE ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS COMMITTEE
(Please see distribution list)

COPY : THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR
BIODIVERSITY (GB ACB)/ THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON
ENVIRONMENT (ASOEN)
(Please see distribution list)

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT

FROM : 
DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM
Executive Director

SUBJECT : POSTPONEMENT OF THE SEVENTH ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS
CONFERENCE, BOGOR, INDONESIA

DATE : 9 September 2022

This is in reference to the memorandum on the Call for Nominations to the Seventh ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference (AHP 7), Bogor, Indonesia, 9-14 October 2022 sent on 2 September 2022. Following the discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) of Indonesia during a meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia convened on 7 September 2022, we wish to inform you that the AHP 7 will be rescheduled to a later date. We will continue to coordinate with the MOEF Indonesia and will announce the new schedule in the forthcoming communications.

Should you have further clarification or questions, you may reach the AHP Secretariat at ahpsecretariat@aseanbiodiversity.org.

Thank you and we look forward to your continued support and cooperation.


MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY (AWGNCB)**
(Please see distribution list)

THROUGH : **THE ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS COMMITTEE**
(Please see distribution list)

COPY : **THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY (GB ACB)/ THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON ENVIRONMENT (ASOEN)**
(Please see distribution list)

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT

FROM : 
DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM
Executive Director

SUBJECT : **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE SEVENTH ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS CONFERENCE, BOGOR, INDONESIA, 9-14 OCTOBER 2022**

DATE : **2 September 2022**

Following the discussions at the Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Heritage Parks Committee and the 32nd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity held from 9 to 10 August 2022, we are pleased to inform you that the **Seventh ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference (AHP 7)** will be held from **9 to 14 October 2022** in **Bogor, Indonesia**.

With the theme *Healing Nature and People: The Role of AHPs in Ecosystem Protection and Pandemic Recovery*, the AHP 7 will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia through the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The AHP 7 aims to assess the role of AHPs in ecosystem protection and pandemic recovery through enhanced knowledge and skills on planning and implementing ecosystem management, restoration strategies, and building resilience.

The Conference also aims to improve the AHP network and strengthen the camaraderie among AHP managers, AHP Committee members, AWGNCB members, as well as key stakeholders and partners. Kindly refer to attachment 1 for draft concept note of the AHP 7. In consultation with Indonesia, an updated concept note and programme will be sent in the forthcoming communications.

In line with the above, the ACB invites the ASEAN Member States to submit nominations for the following, to participate in the Conference:

Unit	No.
AWGNCB Members	10
AHP Committee Members	10
ACB Governing Board/ ASOEN Members	10
AHP Personnel (51 AHPs)	102
Key AHP stakeholders (local community)	51

Kindly refer to Attachment 2 for the proposed allocation of participants per AMS. We would appreciate receiving the names and the contact details of your nominees on or before **16 September 2022**.

In addition, as part of the preparation for the conference, the ACB would like to announce that we are opening the call for presentations of interested participants to present during the AHP 7 for the six (6) parallel-breakout sessions. The details and objectives of each session is included in the attached Concept Note.

The ACB, through the following projects, the *Small Grants Programme by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity* (with the KfW), the *Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in ASEAN II* (with the GIZ), and the *Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN* (with the EU) will cover the roundtrip economy airfare, accommodation and meals of the invited participants.

Should you have further clarification, you may reach Mr. Nheden Amiel Sarne, AHP Programme Coordinator at nadsarne@aseanbiodiversity.org or the AHP Secretariat at ahpsecretariat@aseanbiodiversity.org.

Thank you and we look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Draft Concept Note- of the AHP 7
- Attachment 2: Proposed Allocation of Participants per AMS

CONCEPT NOTE
THE SEVENTH ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS CONFERENCE
“Healing Nature and People: The Role of AHPs in Ecosystem Protection and Pandemic Recovery”

9 - 14 OCTOBER 2022
(Jakarta)

Background

The ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme promotes greater cooperation among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in conserving and managing protected areas of high importance for the development and implementation of regional conservation and management action plans, as well as regional mechanisms complementary to and supportive of national efforts to implement conservation measures. AHPs are protected areas that are given the highest recognition because of their importance as conservation areas. There are now 51 declared AHPs in the region.

To further strengthen the network of AHPs in the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), as the AHP Secretariat, organises the AHP Conference every three years. The Conference serves as a venue to enhance knowledge-sharing and improve the AHP network capacity among AHP managers, AHP Programme Committee members, members of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, as well as selected stakeholders and partners. To date, six AHP Conferences have been conducted:

- First AHP Conference – Khao Yai National Park, Thailand (September 2004)
- Second AHP Conference – Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (April 2007)
- Third AHP Conference – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam (June 2010)
- Fourth AHP Conference – Tagaytay City, Philippines (October 2013)
- Fifth AHP Conference – Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (October 2016)
- Sixth AHP Conference – Pakse, Lao PDR (October 2019)

In 2019, the Sixth AHP Conference (AHP6) was held in Pakse, Lao PDR with the theme, *“Sustainability and Innovation for Parks and People - Celebrating 35 years of ASEAN Heritage Parks”*. More than 300 participants attended the AHP6, representing AHP management, AMS national focal points, development and dialogue partners, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and women and youth groups.

The AHP6 demonstrated the importance accorded by the ASEAN in protecting the region’s wealth of biodiversity for the benefit of the ASEAN people. The Conference provided a great opportunity to discuss and identify actions to address issues on protected area management, landscape and seascape approaches to conservation and addressing wildlife crimes to avoid the impending extinction crisis in ASEAN. Among the recommendations put forward during the Conference include the acceleration of the Aichi Target 11, exploration of innovative financing for protected area management, and improved engagement of more sectors (e.g. business, women, indigenous people) in other cross-cutting issues on biodiversity (e.g. climate change, sustainable livelihood).

The Seventh AHP Conference (AHP 7) with the theme, “**Healing Nature and People: The Role of AHPs in Ecosystem Protection and Pandemic Recovery**” will be held in 2022 and will be hosted by Indonesia, in support of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). The Conference will tackle issues and actions on ecosystem restoration, as well as the role of protected areas in the recovery from and prevention of future pandemics. In line with the ACRF’s recognition of the importance of enabling the ASEAN to bounce back better and build a resilient future, the Conference will also feature good practices in sustainable financing, strengthening stakeholder’s participation and resilience, among others.

Objectives

The Conference’s main objective is to assess the role of AHPs in ecosystem protection and pandemic recovery through enhanced knowledge and skills on planning and implementing ecosystem management, restoration strategies, and building resilience.

The Conference also aims to improve the AHP network and strengthen the camaraderie among AHP managers, AHP Committee members, AWGNCB members, as well as key stakeholders and partners.

Conference Design and Structure

The conference will be structured as follows:

Time	Day 0 (9 Oct)	Day 1 (10 Oct)	Day 2 (11 Oct)	Day 3 (12 Oct)	Day 4 (13 Oct)	Day 5 (14 Oct)
		AHP Managers Meeting	AHP 7 Conference Proper			
AM	Arrival of Participants and Registration	Country Reporting	Plenary Session (Keynote Presentations)	Parallel Break-out Session (Sessions 4 – 7)	Field Visits	Departure of participants
PM		Consultation workshop for the formulation of the new AHP RAP	Parallel Break-out Session (Sessions 1 – 3)	Plenary Session (Synthesis and Ways Forward)		
Other Events		MARKET PLACE OPENING (Launch of JAIF Field Guidebook and DNA Barcoding Manual; AGI promotion) SAC MEETING				
Dinner			Cultural Night (% Indonesia) Awarding Ceremony of the New AHPs YAS Exhibit Launch	ABH Awarding		

Conference Topics and Activities

AHP Managers Meeting:

The last AHP Managers Meeting was held at the Sixth AHP Conference held on 21 October 2019 in Lao PDR. The Meeting convened the AHP Committee members, managers, and park superintendents of the 49 AHPs. The AHP Managers Meeting was an opportunity to present the accomplishments of each AMS on the management of their respective AHPs vis-à-vis the goals and strategies in the AHP Regional Action Plan (RAP).

This time, the AHP Managers Meeting will not just serve as a platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices among the AHP managers but also a venue for the consultation of the AHP Managers and AHP Committee on the post-2020 RAP. The Meeting will also seek the participants' inputs in identifying the most appropriate monitoring system that will be adopted by the AHP Programme.

The objectives of the session are:

- to showcase lessons learned and best practices of AHPs on implementing their management plans in relation to the RAP;
- to determine priority plans and projects in line with the post-2020 Regional Action Plan and other emerging development; and
- to identify reporting and monitoring mechanism that will improve the AHP Programme monitoring and implementation

Plenary Sessions (Opening and Closing):

To engage more audiences from the region, a combined platform of virtual and physical conference may be considered for the plenary sessions which will be presided by Indonesia as the host country, supported by the ACB, and will feature prominent personalities from the AMS. These sessions are expected to be covered by selected media representatives from the ASEAN, as approved by Indonesia and the ACB.

Opening session

The opening session of AHP 7 will zoom in on the goals and expectations of the Conference which will be presented by high-level authorities and other eminent experts in the region. This session also includes a short pitch delivered by the leads of the breakout sessions to encourage participation from the attendees, as well as a video presentation featuring the main attractions of the AHP 7 Marketplace and Exhibits. A special ceremony will take place showcasing a series of performances from the host country, Indonesia, and invited celebrities from the Philippines.

A combined virtual and physical press conference may be conducted wherein selected Heads of Delegation and high-level partners will be invited to promote the Conference.

Closing session

The closing session will give importance to the achieved objectives of the AHP 7, noting the enhanced knowledge and awareness of the role of AHPs in ecosystem protection and pandemic recovery and strengthened network of AHPs, as well as the immeasurable

contributions of AHP managers, partners, and key stakeholders on sustaining protected and conserved areas in the region.

The session will include the presentation of summaries and key recommendations from the breakout sessions. A short video containing the highlights of the Conference, including photo documentation from the field visits, will also be played.

Session Objectives:

The plenary sessions aspire to effectively communicate the goals of the Conference as well as highlight and promote the recommendations of the AMS in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; prevention of future pandemics; conservation financing; management effectiveness; women, youth and IPLCs; eco-tourism, business and biodiversity; and nature-based solutions.

Parallel Break-out Sessions:

Session 1: Post 2020 GBF

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework recognises that urgent policy action at all levels is required for transformative change in economic, social and financial models to curb biodiversity loss in the next 10 years (by 2030), and allow the recovery of natural ecosystems to achieve the global vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050”. The framework sets out specific Targets for the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to carry out in the next 30 years through support mechanisms, including resource mobilisation, capacity building, and knowledge transfer towards realisation of the 2050 Vision.

This parallel session under the AHP7 Conference will expound on transformative change in the context of the findings of the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook 3, which will be previewed. It will then be followed by a discussion on the concrete application of mainstreaming biodiversity into various economic sectors towards the realisation of transformative change. A closing presentation dwells on the ASEAN Biodiversity Dashboard, an example of a modular reporting platform that will enable a documentation of efforts to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a specific example from an Amazonia country from Latin America.

Session Objectives:

This session will feature the long-term approach to mainstreaming, as well as the Biodiversity Dashboard. With these inputs, the participants are expected to:

- understand how the ASEAN Region fared in implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and generating lessons therein to input in its transformative change framework under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF);
- identify entry points in the post-2020 GBF, and how ASEAN Heritage Parks may contribute to the realisation of the Targets that help realise transformative change; and
- generate ideas for further implementation of the post-2020 GBF through the long-term approach to mainstreaming (LTAM) and the ASEAN Dashboard, taking off from the experiences of an Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) country from Latin America.

Session 2: Protected Areas and Preventing Future Pandemics

Protected areas' diverse biological resources provide ecosystem services essential to human survival. Despite the status of being protected and providing valuable services, the pressures driving biodiversity loss are still evident and need immediate response. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 75 per cent of the Earth's land and 66 per cent of its oceans have been altered by human activities and many essential ecosystem services are eroding. The current COVID-19 pandemic revealed that the continuing biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems make protected areas vulnerable to emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases that pose insurmountable threats to human health and well-being. Rampant development intensifies these vulnerabilities and puts the animals and humans in closer contact, thus, increases the risk of spreading diseases.

Based on the *AHP and Protected Areas Managers' Survey on COVID-19*¹ conducted in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had various impacts on protected areas affecting their management and governance. Data showed that at the onset of the pandemic, the limited mobility resulted in a decline in the movements of poachers and other potential violators hence, there's a decrease in poaching and illegal harvesting of wildlife and forest products. The communities and authorities also reported the increased sightings of wildlife that are usually disturbed during the peak of tourism season. These positive impacts were observed in parks fully managed by the government where official and essential works were permitted. Mobility restrictions also resulted in a decrease in patrolling and enforcement in some areas. Its effect on the peoples' livelihoods and sources of income can potentially drive them to revert back to unsustainable practices such as fishing in marine sanctuaries, or hunting and poaching.

The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), the ASEAN's consolidated pandemic recovery roadmap, emphasises the cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration for recovery and resilience building to prevent future pandemics. This is specifically in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity across relevant sectors highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions. It also encourages individuals and communities to become 'biodiversity-literate' to adopt behaviours that address the root-cause of future pandemics and zoonoses.

The recognition of the linkages between anthropogenic changes and disease emergence has resulted in repeated calls for a more holistic approach to prevent future pandemics. Conservation of protected areas including indigenous and community conserved areas that serve as wildlife habitats and increasing the numbers of declared protected areas, are significant steps in preventing the spread of infectious and zoonotic diseases and building resilience to prevent future pandemics.

Session Objectives:

This session is designed to:

- inform the AHP managers, AHP Committee members, AWGNCB members, key stakeholders, and partners on the interlinkages of biodiversity and health; zoonotic diseases and its transmission pathways; and approaches to prevent spread of diseases and future pandemics;
- share best practices/lessons learned from Marine Protected Areas and terrestrial Protected Areas' response during pandemic and identify actions to build resilience; and

¹ conducted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) project.

- determine ways to strengthen the management of the AHPs and integrate green recovery guided by the ACRF.

Session 3: Conservation Financing

Sustainable and long-term security of financing conservation and management of protected areas has long been a challenge for many park managements. While yearly budget allocations may be assured in government funds, the allocation is never sufficient to match the growing needs to manage the protected area and at the same time, ensure the conservation of resources. Collaboration and partnership with local communities and other stakeholders have been advocated and practiced in many protected areas, but even such initiative needs financial support. Protected areas require a sustainable source of financing to support monitoring operations, continue and enhance the needed scientific studies, and recruit and maintain a set of qualified staff, while also conducting outreach and awareness activities with stakeholders.

In augmenting their budget, the protected area management units often seek other means, such as imposing user charges, environmental taxes, and even privatisation, among others. Having a knowledge of the opportunities at hand and the innovative approaches in securing financial resources, which have already been successfully utilised by others, can provide guidance to the AHPs in optimising their strengths to create more sustainable financing models that fit their context, capacity, and needs. Among many financial approaches, conservation financing poses practical applications that AHPs may adopt.

Conservation finance is defined as "mechanisms and strategies that generate, manage, and deploy financial resources and align incentives to achieve nature conservation outcomes" (Meyers, D., et. al., 2020). Conservation finance instruments and solutions seek to leverage and effectively manage economic incentives, policies and capital to achieve the long-term wellbeing of nature and the services nature provides to society ². In the 2021 ACB Webinar Series on Conservation Finance, Dr. David Meyer explains looking at conservation finance, in monetary terms, as decreasing the cost of conservation and increasing the capital for conservation, while encouraging behavioral change by decreasing harmful actions and increasing incentives for positive actions, in order to deliver better with the available money and capacity, and achieve outcomes more effectively. Such statement sets the tone for this session on Conservation Financing, especially with the realities of the global pandemic, where the importance of protected area conservation is more highlighted for its contributions to preserving habitats and species, but at the same time recognising that much work still needs to be done and such work entails resources. The session hopes for the participants/audience to arrive at a common understanding and appreciation of conservation financing, not only as a concept, but as a practical and feasible approach to securing and sustaining financial resources for protected areas. Presentations would include the different approaches and tools that may be adopted by the parks; an exchange of best practices from protected areas that are already exercising conservation finance, and identifying key elements that may be applied by the parks; and possibly propose actions to narrow funding gaps, taking on current opportunities and platforms for innovation of financing mechanisms.

Session Objectives:

The objective of this session is to arrive at a common understanding and appreciation of Conservation Financing of protected areas/AHPs through available and currently practiced approaches and tools that may be adopted or applied by the AHPs.

² www.conservationfinancealliance.org

Session 4: Evaluating Effectiveness of Protected Areas

Protected and conserved areas are regarded as the foundation in safeguarding biodiversity and in helping maintain ecosystem services. However, ensuring their sustainability and benefits is a continuous challenge, especially when development for economic gains has started to compromise these areas. It therefore requires a management system that is effective enough to mitigate or abate the pressures that human activities exert on protected and conserved areas. Since the past two decades, tools have been developed and continuously being updated to evaluate the management effectiveness of protected areas. Most of the evaluation methods of management effectiveness of protected areas were developed around the framework for protected area management as prescribed in the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (ref). The IUCN defines management effectiveness as *an assessment of how well a protected area is being managed, primarily in terms of the extent to which it is protecting its stated values and achieving its defined goals and objectives*. Management effectiveness has been an important target indicator in the UN-CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its accompanying Aichi Biodiversity Targets, specifically Target 11, and recently among the centrepieces of discussion on indicators for Target 3 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

During the Fourth AHP Conference, the AMS agreed to collectively work on improving the management effectiveness of the AHP as a network of protected areas that could bring substantive contribution to global biodiversity initiatives. In 2012, the ACB in collaboration with the GIZ, conducted an evaluation of management effectiveness in the first 11 AHPs using the Management Effective Tracking Tool (METT) as a method. A number of recommendations were cited including the importance of strategic themes and key directions to improve management effectiveness of AHPs. The METT study was followed by another assessment in 2014 which focused on good practices and lessons learned on protected area management in selected protected areas in Southeast Asia including four AHPs, which brought to fore various management elements that can be adopted by and further scaled-up in different protected areas across the region.

Drawing from the recommendations and distilling the lessons from the earlier studies, the ACB, being the AHP Secretariat, continues to strengthen its role as catalyst and broker for capacity building, knowledge generation and sharing, and resource mobilisation to improve management effectiveness of AHPs and other protected areas in the ASEAN region. Series of capacity-building initiatives on protected area management effectiveness were conducted between 2017 and 2021, thereby improving management plans including communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) approaches; strengthening partnerships among protected area managers, scientists/experts, and business sectors; and facilitating the adoption of relevant tools and strategies (i.e. METT-4, METT-SMART). While protected area management continues to progress, the current challenges with the pandemic however have impacted protected and conserved areas in many different elements of monitoring and implementation including management capacity, budgets, and effectiveness. Significant impacts were also seen on livelihoods of communities living in and around the protected areas (Hockings et al. 2020)³. Several works also highlighted the importance of protected areas in

³ Hockings M., Dudley N., Elliot W., Ferreira N.M., MacKinnon K., Pasha M.K.S., Phillipis A., Stolton S., Woodley S., Appleton M., Chassot O., Fitzsimons J., Galliers C., Kroner R.G., Goodrich J., Jackson W., Jonas H., Long B., Mumba M., Parrish J., Paxton M., Phua C., Plowright R., Rao M., Redford K., Robinson J., Rodriguez C.M., Sandwith T., Spenceley A., Stevens C., Tabor G., Troeng S., Willmore S., and Yang A., (2020). Editorial Essay: Covid 19 and Protected and Conserved Areas. Parks. Volume 26.1

facilitating the adaptation of people to disease outbreaks in both the short and long run (Anson et al, 2021)⁴.

Session Objectives:

This session will feature stories and work in progress from various protected areas and networks across the ASEAN region in response and recovery from the pandemic and other related issues from site-based approaches to collaborative efforts in the national and regional contexts. The session aims to investigate and understand the impacts of the pandemic both positive and negative in different elements of monitoring and evaluation (METT) including contexts, planning, inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes.⁵ The specific objectives of the session are the following:

- Present progress in METT-4, METT-SMART and other monitoring tools;
- Share learnings and best practices in protected area management and pipeline initiatives at the national and regional levels in promoting management effectiveness for protected areas; and
- Identify and formulate site-based and collaborative action plan to ensure effective protected area implementation with respect to progress results of the METT-4, METT-SMART.

Session 5: Women, Youth, and Indigenous and Local Communities in Protected Areas

This session will highlight the important roles of stakeholders (women, youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities) as an integral part of biodiversity efforts, with a spotlight on ecosystem restoration. It will explore the challenges and best practices of collaborations among these stakeholders and park management. The session hopes to engender empathy among the different stakeholders involved, with the ultimate goal of improving conservation and management outcomes. It also intends to create awareness of biodiversity conservation and collaborative management in and surrounding protected areas.

The session will be a mix of conventional presentations by first-hand speakers who are working in the biodiversity conservation arena, as well as an unconventional role play approach. Participants will be divided into groups and provided a specific scenario to be played. Each group will be guided by a facilitator. The roleplay session will encourage the participants from different backgrounds and perspectives to learn from each other, and engender empathy. Finally, the session will end with reflection and debriefing to generate insights and recommendations for how to better recognise and promote the roles of various stakeholders in conservation and protected area management.

⁴ Anson T.H. Ma., Theresa W.L. Lam., Lewis T.O. Cheung., and Fok L., (2021) Protected areas as a space for pandemic disease adaptation: A case of Covid19 in Hong Kong. Landscape and Urban Planning. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2020.103994>

⁵ METT Elements (Mallari et al. 2021): Contexts: values and threats; Planning: management interventions; Inputs: allocation of resources; Processes: Implementation of management actions; Outputs: status goods and services; Outcomes: impacts; Mallari NA., Edaño JW., Jasmin CJ., Jaojoco AK., and Masigan JP., (2021). Multidimensional indicators to improve effectiveness monitoring of protected areas. Philippine Journal of Systematic Biology. Volume 14: Issue 2

Session Objectives:

The objective of the session is to voice out the roles of women, youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities, especially those who are living inside and around protected areas, in their efforts to maintain biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and improve livelihoods.

Experiences from multi-stakeholders (including communities, government agencies, NGOs, and others) in collaborating with park management will be presented in the form of challenges and best practices. It is hoped that the session will provide lessons learned for protected area management in ASEAN in their efforts to maintain biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement of the people.

Session 6: Eco-tourism, Business, and Biodiversity

With the CBD agenda on mainstreaming biodiversity, the business sector is among the necessary avenues for transformational change by injecting sustainability in their business models, production, and consumption. The Business and Biodiversity Forum of the 14th Meeting of the CBD recognised the need for an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity and an increased collaborative ambition to halt and revert biodiversity loss through the contributions of the business sector.

In the ASEAN region, there is an increasing number of companies beginning to recognise the role of biodiversity in the sustainability of their businesses. Still, the challenge to balance profitability and sustainability remains. An equally important challenge is mainstreaming biodiversity in business policies, operations, products, and services beyond traditional short-term corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

This session will feature insights and practical guidance on private sector engagements, including ecotourism in areas of high biodiversity value, and integrating natural capital in business processes, with sustainable use of these resources as a main consideration. The session will also highlight discussions on private sector's voluntary commitments toward biodiversity conservation, going beyond business spending on environmentally-themed CSR projects, and mainstreaming ecologically-friendly processes in how it operates and earns. The session will also touch on sustainable tourism, including tourism based on the natural environment, which is a vital growing segment of the tourism industry and has a significant potential for realising benefits in terms of the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. It is also vital to recognise more the need for public awareness and education on the benefits of sustainable tourism and to actively involve the private sector in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through sustainable tourism activities and developments.

Session Objectives:

This session is designed to:

- increase awareness on regional efforts to involve the business sector in biodiversity conservation and the role of business in the post-2020 GBF;
- gather recommendations on how businesses can integrate sustainability measures that will contribute to biodiversity conservation;
- increase appreciation of mainstreaming biodiversity in business, not only in the context of voluntary private sector commitments and corporate social responsibility, but also as a mitigation measure in response to the risk of biodiversity degradation and loss;

- enhance knowledge and understanding of the different tools, strategies, and opportunities for the private sector to engage in areas of high biodiversity value through ecotourism, such as AHPs and other protected areas; and
- explore opportunities for partnerships and potential private sector development interventions in AHPs and other protected areas.

Session 7: Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits. This underpins the benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems and target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, health and are critical to economic development.

The ASEAN region recognises the multiple benefits of NBS as highlighted in various frameworks, reports, and joint statements. As such, the AHPs present an excellent opportunity to highlight models or case studies on NBS in the region. The session will feature an overall review of NBS actions focusing on selected AHPs, and will discuss safeguards, and opportunities for advancing NBS in the AHPs.

Session Objectives:

The objective of the session is to provide an overall picture of NBS practices in the ASEAN region, including opportunities and challenges that confront it. Moreover, the session will identify ways forward on the discussions on NBS in the region.

Conference Activities and other Events:

Marketplace and Exhibits

The AHP 7 Marketplace and Exhibits will highlight the milestones and key accomplishments of the AHP programme over the years. It will also provide an opportunity for the AHPs to showcase the features and biodiversity-based products of the parks, and to network with prospective partners.

While the region is still working its way towards pandemic recovery, the AHP 7 exhibits will virtually take the Conference participants to the AHPs through an immersive experience using state-of-the-art technology. The exhibition area will showcase the region's outstanding parks and nature reserves through a play of lights, sounds, and 3D projection mappings. The highlight of the exhibition is the *Experience ASEAN* booth, where visitors will be treated to a 360-degree virtual projection of the AHPs.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity will encourage the Government of Indonesia, partner organisations, and other like-minded institutions to participate in the AHP 7 Marketplace and Exhibits.

The Young ASEAN Storytellers Exhibit will also be featured for the exhibition and launch of communications achievements by the Young ASEAN Storytellers, featuring conservation stories from the AHPs in the form of photography, artwork, written pieces, film/videography, and other new media.

Through the Marketplace and Exhibit, the ACB aims to:

Page 10 of 12

- highlight the milestones, successes, and key accomplishments of the AHPs;
- create an opportunity for the AHPs to showcase their biodiversity-based products and good protected area management practices;
- provide a venue for networking and forging potential partnerships among Conference participants; and
- facilitate knowledge exchange among Conference participants.

Eighth Meeting of the ACB Scientific Advisory Committee

The ACB Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is a group of recognised experts in the ASEAN region established to provide scientific guidance to various ACB initiatives. Since its establishment in 2008, the SAC met seven times, from 2008 to 2019.

The revised Terms of Reference of the ACB SAC was finalised and approved at the 23rd Meeting of the ACB Governing Board in September 2021. As indicated in the TOR, the SAC shall convene meetings, subject to the availability of the means to do so, at least once a year, or more frequently as necessary. Thus, the Eighth Meeting of the SAC will be conducted back-to-back with the Seventh ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference in Indonesia. The members of the ACB SAC will also be invited to participate as Resource Persons for selected AHP 7 sessions.

The Meeting generally aims to discuss enhancing the role of the ACB SAC towards advancing science-based decisions and policymaking in the ASEAN region. Specifically, the Meeting aims to:

- update the ACB SAC Work Plan in accordance with the revised Terms of Reference;
- provide updates on the ACB projects and activities where the expertise of the ACB SAC may be solicited; and
- discuss the proposed conduct of the SAC-led Science-Policy Forum.

ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Awards Ceremony

In 2017, the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes (ABH) was launched by the ACB to raise awareness of the importance of initiating efforts to conserve the wealth of biodiversity in the ASEAN region. The ABH are 10 outstanding individuals – one from each of the AMS – who have contributed significantly to biodiversity conservation and advocacy efforts in their respective countries and the region.

The 2017 ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes are: Eyad Samhan (Brunei Darussalam); Sophea Chhin (Cambodia); Alex Waisimon (Indonesia); Nitsavanh Louangkhot Pravongviengkham (Lao PDR); Zakri Abdul Hamid (Malaysia); Maung Maung Kyi (Myanmar); Angel C. Alcala (Philippines); Leo Tan Wee Hin (Singapore); Dr. Nonn Panitvong (Thailand); and Prof. Dang Huy Huynh (Viet Nam).

Five years after the first successful recognition, the ASEAN is once again hailing a new diverse set of biodiversity heroes who will be advocating for the protection, sustainable use, and conservation of the region's biological resources and will inspire others to take action for biodiversity in their own spheres of influence.

The second ABH awards ceremony will be held along the sidelines of the AHP7 as one of the highlights of the Conference.

Through the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Programme, the ACB aims to:

- recognise outstanding achievements of ASEAN citizens in biodiversity conservation and advocacy;
- inspire people to take action for biodiversity by sharing with them the noteworthy stories of the ABH; and
- promote awareness of the value of biodiversity among various audiences in the ASEAN region.

Field Visit to a Protected Area

Hosted by Indonesia, the AHP managers and conference participants will visit a protected area near Jakarta/Bogor to observe protected area management practices in Indonesia and reinforce experiential and contextual learning.

Target audience/participants

The Conference aims to bring together the AWGNCB members, AHP Committee Members, AHP Managers and staff, national protected area management agencies, partners in AHP management, potential donors for biodiversity-related projects, and other key stakeholders of AHPs.

The Conference will also be open to other interested stakeholders (self-paying) including universities, NGOs, and private sectors.

Below is the tentative allocation of slots for participants:

Unit	No.
AWGNCB Members	10
AHP Committee Members	10
ACB Governing Board Members	10
AHP Personnel (51 AHPs)	102
Key AHP stakeholders (local community)	51
AHP partner organisations	10
Host Country	30
ACB officers	15
ASEAN Secretariat	3
Private sector partners in AHP	10
Regional experts/resource persons	10
Development partners	10
Youth representatives	10
ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes	10
Total	291

Budget

The Conference will be funded by the ACB, in partnership with EU-BCAMP, KfW-SGP II, GIZ- ISB II and, and co-financed by Indonesia as the host country.