



Regional Action Plan for ASEAN Heritage Parks (2016-2020)





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The 2003 Declaration on Heritage Parks and Reserves recognizes the uniqueness, diversity and outstanding values of selected protected areas (PAs) of ASEAN Member States (AMS) that deserve the highest recognition so that their importance as conservation areas could be appreciated regionally and internationally. The Declaration ensures that these selected protected areas, called ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs), should be managed to maintain ecological processes and life support systems; preserve genetic diversity; ensure sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems; and maintain wilderness that have scenic, cultural, educational, research, recreational and tourism values.

AHPs are established to generate awareness, pride, appreciation, enjoyment and conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage, through a regional network of representative protected areas, and to generate greater collaboration between AMS in preserving their shared natural heritage. To date, there is a total of 37 AHPs (as of December 2015).

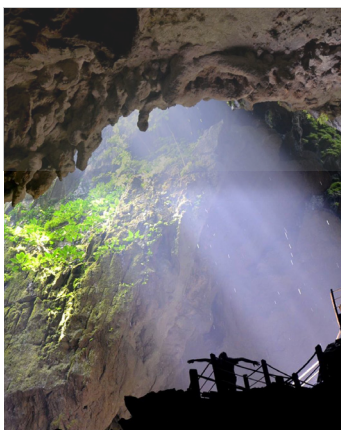
During the 2nd AHP Conference held in Malaysia in April 2007, the first Regional Action Plan (RAP) for AHPs was developed. In this RAP, the following goals were agreed upon by conference participants:

- Establish and strengthen national and regional systems of PAs integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals
- Promote equity and benefit-sharing from the PA system
- Build capacity among PA managers, stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Develop and implement minimum best standard and best practices for national and regional PAs



The adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets in 2010 provided a more broad-based action in support of biodiversity. Aichi Target 11 aspires for important biodiversity areas to be conserved through the effective management of protected areas. Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 further suggest measures that deal with issues related to biodiversity and protected areas. As the Secretariat of the AHP Programme, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) initiated the updating of the RAP in response to this development.

ACB gathered the AHP Committee Members and AHP Managers at a complementary workshop to the 4th AHP Conference held in the Philippines in 2013 to generate insights for the updating of the RAP. Follow-up consultations with the AHP Committee Members and AHP Managers were made in 2014 through the 4th Meeting of the AHP Committee Members and the Workshop on the AHP Programme held in Brunei Darussalam and Thailand, respectively.



Purpose of the AHP RAP 2016-2020

The AHP RAP 2016-2020 provides guidance in implementing priority biodiversity conservation measures in AHPs that contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets, particularly Aichi Target 11, and that support national conservation efforts and the implementation of the AHP Programme Areas.



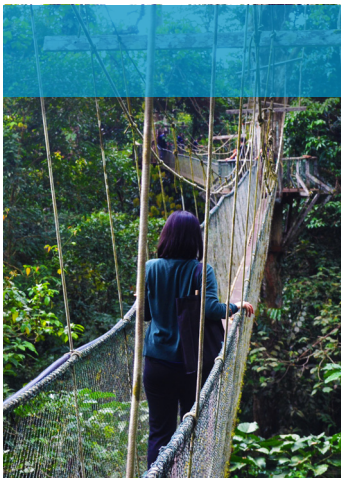
Goals

The AHP RAP 2016-2020 embodies seven (7) goals:

- Goal 1:** Strengthen national and regional systems of AHP management to ensure integration into global network and contribution to globally agreed goals
- Goal 2:** Strengthen national and regional networks and collaboration
- Goal 3:** Enhance capacity of AHP managers and staff and other stakeholders to ensure effective management of AHPs
- Goal 4:** Ensure that scientific knowledge and technologies are improved, widely shared, transferred and applied for the effective management of the AHPs



Goals



Goal 5: Promote equity and benefit sharing

Goal 6: Ensure sufficient financial resources and promote sustainable financing

Goal 7: Strengthen communication and promotion strategies

Implementation Mechanism



The implementation of specific strategic actions and activities shall support the realization of each goal outlined in the RAP. The ACB and AHPs are the key actors committed to maintain strong collaboration and to ensure complementarity among activities for the AHP Programme.



GOAL 1:

Strengthen national and regional systems of AHP management to ensure integration into global network and contribution to globally agreed goals

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Establish and increase coverage of more AHPs

- 2 Review/update site-based management plans

AHPs

- 1 Conduct assessment of existing AHPs and determine possible increase in conservation areas and expansion of boundaries to maximize biodiversity protection efforts
- 2 Upon approval of nomination, strengthen existing work plan for the new AHP according to AHP standards
- 3 Provide a level of recognition and optimize AHP branding to obtain greater buy-in from potential donor/partners

- 1 Develop and/or review/update and finalize management plan incorporating or integrating relevant issues such as biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, ecotourism, etc.
- 2 Harmonize priority actions defined in AHP management plans with national plans for protected areas and the NBSAP

ACB

- 1 Revise and finalize criteria and indicators for nominating and establishing new AHPs, especially for marine PAs
- 2 Encourage nomination of marine and transboundary protected areas as AHPs

- 1 Establish minimum standards for AHP management
- 2 Develop guidelines for the updating and enhancement of AHP management plans



GOAL 1:

Strengthen national and regional systems of AHP management to ensure integration into global network and contribution to globally agreed goal

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACTIVITIES	
	AHPs	ACB
3 Adopt common and participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Provide inputs in the development of monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems; and assist in pilot testing these systems 2 Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation activities with the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) 3 Prepare and submit annual reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Harmonize and standardize AHP systems for monitoring and evaluation 2 Develop mechanisms for reporting and assess accomplishments of AHPs with respect to the RAP
4 Assess management effectiveness of AHPs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Periodically conduct assessment of management effectiveness of AHPs 2 Identify and analyze existing and related policies needed to support effective management of AHPs 3 Share existing and related policies with various stakeholders especially with IPLCs 4 Develop and implement, as relevant, local-level policies for good governance of AHPs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Complete and periodically assess management effectiveness of AHPs
5 Identify and adopt good practices and lessons learned from other AHPs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Identify, document and share good practices and lessons learned on AHP management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Facilitate information sharing among AHPs



GOAL 2:

Strengthen national and regional networks and collaboration

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Strengthen collaboration between and among AHPs, other PAs and various stakeholders in PA management

- 2 Empower IPLCs and ensure greater public participation in decision-making, planning and management of AHPs

AHPs

- 1 Enhance socio-ecological connectivity of AHPs with contiguous PAs
- 2 Encourage transboundary activities and joint actions on cross-border law enforcement
- 3 Support the development of information sharing networks at various levels of governance

- 1 Ensure participation of IPLCs and other relevant stakeholders in AHP management, especially in promoting ecotourism
- 2 Involve IPLCs in developing appropriate management approaches for the AHPs
- 3 Establish strong volunteer groups for law enforcement and other activities in AHPs
- 4 Encourage communities to assume a shared responsibility in monitoring and evaluation activities
- 5 Facilitate implementation of alternative livelihoods for IPLCs
- 6 Create reward mechanism for specific conservation activities to encourage local communities to join in AHP management

ACB

- 1 Strengthen coordination and networking on PA management among AMS
- 2 Support the establishment of national networks of AHPs and PAs

- 1 Conduct regular dialogues with national leaders, policy makers and key stakeholders of AHPs



GOAL 3:

Enhance capacity of AHP managers and staff and other stakeholders to ensure effective management of AHPs

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

1 Improve site-level governance structures of AHPs

2 Conduct capacity building activities

AHPs

- 1** Identify and analyze existing competencies of AHP staff
- 2** Periodically review AHP staff competencies to match competencies with the most suitable functions and positions within the AHP organizational structure
- 3** Establish specific duties and responsibilities of AHP staff with reference to ASEAN guidelines
- 4** Develop and implement appropriate organizational structure for the AHP management office, as necessary

- 1** Based on the capacity building needs of AHP staff, enhance skills and competencies of AHP staff, IPLCs and other key stakeholders through the conduct of trainings and workshops
- 2** Conduct study tours and field visits to other AHPs to observe and learn good practices on AHP management
- 3** Initiate exchange programmes to learn more about effective management approaches by other AHPs
- 4** Adopt and use training manuals developed by ACB for AHPs

ACB

- 1** Establish minimum organizational structure for AHPs
- 2** Identify competence standards for each AHP staff requirement, using ASEAN Guidelines, as reference

- 1** Collaborate with centres of excellence in the development and implementation of capacity building programmes based on ACB Programme Areas at the national and regional levels
- 2** Conduct trainer's training for AHP managers and teachers for selected issues on PA management and biodiversity conservation
- 3** Develop mechanism to determine effectiveness of trainings conducted and technologies generated



GOAL 4:

Ensure that scientific knowledge and technologies are improved, widely shared, transferred and applied for the effective management of the AHPs

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

1 Conduct expeditions and researches to establish baseline information

2 Implement studies for the improvement of AHPs

3 Communicate research results and translate into on-the-ground applications

AHPs

- 1** Assess data needs to complete baseline information
- 2** Identify and conduct expeditions and explorations in AHPs

- 1** Conduct studies related to ACB Programme Areas and based on identified research gaps
- 2** Explore partnerships with other institutions for inventory activities

- 1** Develop technical guides and publish in journals
- 2** Ensure that scientific data are incorporated in the establishment and management of AHPs
- 3** Share scientific knowledge with policy and decision-makers for the effective management of AHPs

ACB

- 1** Encourage and assist AMS and AHPs to formulate research proposals for external funding

- 1** Monitor proper implementation of studies and related activities

- 1** Facilitate the dissemination of research results to partners and advocates in biodiversity conservation and protected area management



GOAL 5:

Promote equity and benefit sharing

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

1 Harmonize existing PA laws, IPLC rights and customary laws

2 Strengthen equitable and benefit sharing mechanisms for key stakeholders in AHPs

3 Involve IPLCs and women in activities on access and benefit sharing (ABS)

AHPs

1 Identify traditional knowledge, innovations and customary practices of IPLCs relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in AHPs

1 Reinforce traditional and indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge

1 Identify activities on ABS in collaboration with IPLCs and women and incorporate local knowledge, protection concepts, experiences and technologies

ACB

1 Review PA and IPLC policies and document good practices on the application of the ABS concept in AHP management

1 Assist the AHPs in developing public-private partnership schemes in accordance with ABS principles

1 Network with NGOs and other organizations to facilitate involvement of IPLCs and women in various ABS-related activities



GOAL 6:

Ensure sufficient financial resources and promote sustainable financing

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Obtain commitment of national leaders and heads of PA management to allocate sufficient budget for the effective operation and management of AHPs

- 2 Develop and implement sustainable financing mechanisms in AHPs

AHPs

- 1 Develop policy briefs, brochures and other supporting documents to increase understanding and interest of national leaders on protected area management and biodiversity conservation
- 2 Conduct regular dialogues with national leaders and policy makers

- 1 Identify potential donors and develop joint cooperation activities that include resource mobilization strategies
- 2 Prepare business plans to facilitate revenue generation
- 3 Conduct independent on-site valuation studies for AHPs as basis for the development of innovative financing mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services (PES) and REDD+ that may be applicable to specific AHPs
- 4 Establish and promote sustainable tourism and ecotourism

ACB

- 1 Facilitate the establishment and promotion of sustainable financing mechanisms to support AHP management
- 2 Encourage AMS, especially national agencies that are responsible for PA management, to allocate sufficient regular funding for AHPs annually

- 1 Assist the AHPs in securing additional funds for site improvement from various sources
- 2 Support the conduct of studies that can determine appropriate user fees for AHPs
- 3 Assist AMS and AHPs in developing and implementing innovative funding mechanisms such as PES and REDD+
- 4 Support the conduct of studies on establishing trust funds for AHPs



GOAL 6:

Ensure sufficient financial resources and promote sustainable financing

STRATEGIC ACTION

- 3 Align AHP management plans with global, national and local plans to provide better opportunity for funding allocation for AHP activities

ACTIVITIES

AHPs

- 1 Contribute to the development of policies to facilitate investments for AHPs, which include privatization of certain activities in AHPs

ACB

- 1 Ensure alignment and complementation of AHP management plans with local development plans and national and global priorities



GOAL 7:

Strengthen communication and promotion strategies

STRATEGIC ACTION

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Establish a mechanism or a common platform to share biodiversity-friendly technologies and good practices on PA management

- 2 Increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of biodiversity in AHPs for all stakeholders, especially IPLCs

AHPs

- 1 Develop an information portal for AHPs to facilitate a more comprehensive promotion
- 2 Regularly update information in the AHP website
- 3 Develop an AHP Corner in each AHP
- 4 Develop systematic information dissemination and educational programmes
- 5 Strengthen network among AHPs to facilitate exchange of experiences and good practices

- 1 Conduct needs assessment of AHPs on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)
- 2 Develop and implement good CEPA plans that are specific for AHPs
- 3 Develop and distribute CEPA materials in collaboration with IPLCs and other stakeholders
- 4 Encourage local efforts and participation in public awareness and outreach programs
- 5 Network with schools and conduct biodiversity education programmes
- 6 Integrate the values of biodiversity in national and local development of accredited teaching materials

ACB

- 1 Establish and maintain a common platform to share AHP technologies and good practices
- 2 Promote AHPs in relevant regional and international events such as the Asia Parks Congress, World Parks Congress, IUCN World Conservation Congress, and others

- 1 Develop CEPA materials to increase understanding and interest of national leaders on protected area management and biodiversity conservation
- 2 Encourage AMS to use AHPs as demonstration or experimental sites for activities to address issues on biodiversity conservation, climate change, among others
- 3 Provide more opportunities for mentoring and for sharing of experiences
- 4 Determine effectiveness of education materials produced and disseminated



AHP Programme Areas

The AHP Programme shall be guided by the following priority thematic areas as identified in the initial AHP RAP:

- 1 Capacity Development
- 2 Information Sharing Network
- 3 Technical Exchange Programme
- 4 Public Awareness and Education
- 5 Promotion of Recreation, Tourism and Ecotourism
- 6 Participation in Joint Research Programme
- 7 Management Improvement Programme
- 8 Partnership and Collaboration
- 9 Involvement of IPLCs and Other Stakeholders
- 10 Development/Review/Updating of Management Plans
- 11 Sustainable Financing

