

# 2018 ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT TO THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD COP 14)

*Adopted in Singapore on 13 November 2018*

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the occasion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit.

**RECOGNISING** ASEAN's rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity and the need to sustain ecosystem functions and services whereby current challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, and continuing habitat loss from agricultural expansion, industrial activities and the like, and wildlife trafficking are dealt with and adequately responded to, so as to maintain continued societal and human well-being;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to fully implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals (SDGs), in particular Goals 14 and 15 on the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems, and complementing the achievement of other SDGs;

**RECALLING** our commitments to the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, in particular to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025; and the Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda; in relation to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources;

**UNDERLINING** the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together on the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our peoples;

**WELCOMING** the results of the summaries for policymakers of the regional assessment reports on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in particular for the Asia-Pacific, and the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to strengthen the science-policy interface;

**RECALLING** the recommendations of the ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat held on 22-23 November 2017 in Phuket, Thailand particularly those that have relevance to biodiversity conservation;

**RECOGNISING** that concerted efforts are required to address the challenges of biodiversity conservation and the impacts of climate change in the region, in particular activities relating to ecosystem-based adaptation and loss and damage;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in facilitating, coordinating and highlighting the collective efforts of all ASEAN Member States in biodiversity conservation through an extensive set of programmes including but not limited to the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme;

**NOTING** that the theme for CBD COP 14 from 17-29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt is “Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet”

**DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

**Pursue** a comprehensive agenda for transformational change whereby opportunities and changes in institutions and behaviours are sought to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, including at the local and sub-national levels towards achieving the goals of building a future of life in harmony with nature;

**Accelerate** actions to mainstream biodiversity considerations into relevant national plans, sectors (such as in agriculture and fisheries, tourism, health, mining, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and education) and cross-sectoral issues (such as climate change), and call upon Parties to the CBD, other governments and organisations to share their experiences and practices to mainstream biodiversity;

**Intensify** efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 through the establishment of additional terrestrial and marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at the national level with clear assessments of their management effectiveness and connectivity, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes;

**Enhance** regional cooperation and partnerships to support national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its SDGs and targets in particular, Goals 14 and 15 for sustainable development in the region; as well as to support other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements and frameworks;

**Promote** the effective implementation of legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit sharing to support the third objective of the CBD, as appropriate;

**Urge** all Parties to support the ASEAN in order that they may effectively address the issue of marine debris, in particular plastic pollution, on marine and coastal biodiversity, through the development of policies and guidelines, capacity-building, research and innovation, private sector engagement and public awareness and outreach, among others;

**Urge** developed country Parties to the CBD, other Governments and relevant organisations to provide adequate financial and technical resources to complement national efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed and small-island developing states as well as countries that are most environmentally vulnerable to implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, especially to support capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation, to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Adopted in Singapore on the Thirteenth day of November in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.