

## **Report on International Year of Biodiversity Activities ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity**

The 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity joined the world in celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity. They encouraged various sectors to participate in the global celebration. Presented in this document are the various activities held for IYB.

### **Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Southeast Asia**

**05 March 2010**

**Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City, Philippines**

- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hosted the launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Southeast Asia on 05 March 2010 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City, Philippines.
- The launch was led by Dato' Misran Karman, Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He encouraged ASEAN Member States to exert greater effort in conserving the region's rich biodiversity. *"ASEAN Member States should do more to derive optimum benefits and conserve our natural biological wealth. While we have made some pioneering efforts in the region, we have yet to fully integrate this natural wealth into all aspects of daily life and the economic and social development of our countries."*
- Over 100 people participated in the launch. They include senior environment officials from the 10 ASEAN Member States who are members of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity and the ACB Governing Board, ambassadors of the European Union and Japan and high level diplomats from the embassies of the United States and ASEAN Member States, representatives from the business sector, students, environmental workers, and journalists.
- The ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General awarded the ASEAN Heritage Parks certificate to the Philippines recognizing the Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park in Mindanao as the 28<sup>th</sup> and newest ASEAN Heritage Park in Southeast Asia. The award was received on behalf of the Government of the Philippines by DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio. Undersecretary Ignacio said that "with this recognition, the Philippines is now home to three ASEAN Heritage Parks – Mt. Apo Natural Park in Davao, Mt. Iglit-Baco in Mindoro, and now, Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon. This reinforces the fact that despite its relatively small size, our country is home to an astonishing range of biodiversity. The Philippines stands out in the region in terms of richness of biodiversity as it cradles a treasure trove of plant, bird, marine, insect and other animal species. In fact, it is one of the region's mega-diverse countries, along with Indonesia and Malaysia."
- ACB and the ASEAN Foundation formally launched the call for nominations for the ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity – a recognition program that will award outstanding biodiversity conservation and advocacy projects by corporations, youth, and media.

- A Media Forum on Ecotourism and Biodiversity capped the launch. Three ecotourism experts briefed the participants from media and the business sector, as well as tourism students about the relationship between ecotourism and biodiversity.

The forum is the first in a series of forums scheduled during the International Year of Biodiversity. With this forum series, ACB sought to help people understand biodiversity by relating it with gut issues such as climate change, food security, health, livelihood, and ecotourism.



**JOINING HANDS FOR BIODIVERSITY** (left to right) Dr. Raman Letchumanan, Head of Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat; Atty. Dave Torres, Chief Legal Officer of Philippine Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri; Dr. Vann Monyneath, Chairman of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity's Governing Board; Dato' Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN Secretariat; H.E. Alistair MacDonald, Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines; Mr. Demetrio Ignacio, Undersecretary of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Dr. Filemon Uriarte, Jr., Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation; and Mr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

### **Launch of the ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity**

**19 October 2010**

**Nagoya, Japan**

- While the ASEAN region is home to 18 percent of all known plant and animal species, it is losing biodiversity at alarming rates. Unfortunately, this threat has not attracted enough leadership, public and media attention to generate a concerted effort to halt the rate of biodiversity loss. This lack of awareness is attributed to the dearth of information campaigns and materials on the values of biodiversity.
- To help fill this gap, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Foundation (AF), the European Union (EU), GIZ, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) launched the ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity.

- The ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity is a recognition program for ongoing projects on biodiversity conservation and advocacy in the ASEAN region. The award is aimed at generating greater leadership, public and media awareness of the problems facing the region's rich but highly threatened biodiversity and the need a concerted effort in biodiversity conservation and advocacy. There are three awards categories: Business Sector, Media Sector, and Youth Sector.
- Specifically, the award aims to:
  1. Recognize ongoing projects of the private/corporate sector, media, and youth which have a clear impact on biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region;
  2. Identify leaders among the private/corporate sector, media, and youth from which a cadre of champions will be selected to serve as Ambassadors of Goodwill for biodiversity-related themes, specifically climate change and biodiversity;
  3. Promote awareness of the values of biodiversity among ASEAN leaders and the public in general;
  4. Promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) in biodiversity conservation and advocacy; and
  5. Encourage the private sector, youth, and media to participate in biodiversity conservation and advocacy.
- The awarding ceremonies will be held on 31 May 2011 in the Philippines. It will be held back-to-back with the launch of the Decade on Biodiversity in Southeast Asia.



Mr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the launch of the ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity at COP10.



## Saving the World One Tree at a Time

22 May 2010

### Tagaytay Highlands, Philippines

- What do people do to save the world from environmental degradation? Some support conservation projects. Some recycle. Some save on water and electricity. Some join clean-ups. Some plant trees.
- Saving the world by planting one tree at a time was the theme of the tree planting held by Tagaytay Highlands, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and *Lifestyle Asia* on 22 May, the International Day for Biodiversity. It supports the global Green Wave campaign of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Over 150 officers and employees of the three groups planted 200 fruit-bearing trees, such as rambutan, atis, chico, duhat, lanzones, santol, star apple and macopa near The Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands. Officials from the embassies of Cambodia, Indonesia and Japan to the Philippines also took time off from their diplomatic duties to join the tree planting.
- In the last 16 years, a series of tree planting have been conducted inside the exclusive complex for a greener Tagaytay Highlands. Last year, it moved to make the leisure destination a natural sanctuary by partnering with *Lifestyle Asia* magazine for the tree planting, "Plant Hope Gardens." This year, the leisure complex took its commitment to the next level by joining the global Green Wave campaign with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). Blessed with abundant natural surroundings, Tagaytay Highlands is giving back to Mother Nature and doing its share on saving the environment in many ways.



"Saving One Tree at a Time" participants plant trees at the sprawling Tagaytay Highlands.

## “Zooming in on Biodiversity” Exhibit

May 2010

SM Supermalls (The Block, Megamall, Mall of Asia), Philippines

- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SMPHI) have joined forces to promote biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. On May 21, 2010, they signed a memorandum of cooperation. Under the partnership, ACB and SM conducted a series of exhibits called “Zooming in on Biodiversity: A Photo Exhibit on the Value of Biodiversity.” The exhibit featured the winning entries from the ASEAN-wide photo contest “Zooming in on Biodiversity”. Also part of the activities are mall forums on the values of biodiversity and its relationship with gut issues, such as food security, health and climate change.



ACB Executive Director Rodrigo Fuentes (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) hands over a Friends of Biodiversity plaque to SM Supermalls President Ms. Anna Maria Garcia (2<sup>nd</sup> from right). With them are (left to right) European Union Ambassador to the Philippines Alistair MacDonald, SM Supermalls Assistant Vice President for Operations (Central) and Environment Committee Chairman Liza Silerio, Environment Secretary Horacio Ramos, and Philippine Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri.





**ASEAN Tribal Games**  
**14-16 September 2010**  
**Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**

- For millennia, indigenous peoples have developed a relationship with their environment that has sustained and nourished their bodies, fostered community relations, and strengthened their culture. Local communities who depend on their environment for food and livelihood have also developed close ties with nature. This is a relationship that respects the changing of the seasons, life cycles of crops and livestock, and the significance of all forms of life on earth. With the theme “Protecting Our Natural Heritage,” the ASEAN Tribal Games aims to showcase how indigenous people conserve their natural environments and generate a greater public awareness for biodiversity conservation.
- Aeta, Mangyan and Dumagat athletes from the Philippines dominated the first ASEAN Tribal Olympics held on September 14-16, 2010 in the mountains of Nanuk Ragang, Ranao, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia with three golds, a silver, and four bronzes.
- The games, which gathered 12 tribal groups, were organized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Soft Tennis Association, Southeast Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the Sabah Soft Tennis Association of Malaysia, and supported by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The Tribal Olympics served as preparatory games to the international level competitions envisioned in 2015. The project promoted the welfare and dignity of tribal folks and the environmental concerns reflected in the lifestyles of indigenous peoples.



A tribal athlete from the Philippines takes aim at the target. Archery formed part of the games.

**Run for Biodiversity**  
**04 September 2010**  
**Mt. Makiling, Philippines**

- Some 700 runners, including Philippine celebrities, converged at the foothills of the legendary Mt. Makiling in Los Baños for the *First Biodiversity Run* organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) on September 4, 2010.
- The race with the theme “*Run for Biodiversity, Biodiversity is Life, Run For Life*” was co-managed by MacRunners Sports Incorporated, a local running organization composed of professionals based in UP Los Banos (UPLB) and co-organized with the European Union, UPLB Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau.
- With the scenic backdrop of the verdant Forestry Campus of UPLB, the runners made history as it was the first marathon dedicated to call public attention to the crisis of biodiversity loss facing the Philippines and Southeast Asia. It was also part of the global celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.
- The marathon was used to call public attention to the biodiversity crisis. This was a unique run because of its objective, aside from the challenging rough, slippery and rolling terrain as most of the races are done on flat tracks. The proceeds from the run went to the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, an endowment fund developed and established to support the implementation of biodiversity-related programs in the ASEAN region.





**Science Film Festival**  
**16 to 30 November 2010**  
**Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand**

- Over 130,000 students from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand participated in the Science Film Festival, an activity which demonstrated that science can be communicated in an educational, as well as entertaining manner. By using “edutainment,” the festival contributed to the development of a science communication infrastructure and supported science education, both of which are integral to the capacity development of a new generation that has to exist in a global knowledge society.
- Held from November 16 to 30, 2010, the festival was spearheaded by the Goethe-Institut. Involving primary, secondary and university students, the festival screened films non-commercially at selected museums, schools and universities. The films addressed diverse issues such as: biodiversity, science in everyday life, climate change, ecology and environment, life science, natural science and technology, culture and history.
- The International Year of Biodiversity’ was the festival’s theme. To help promote biodiversity conservation, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) participated as a regional partner. ACB participated by screening its documentary “The Values of Biodiversity,” mounting exhibits about the web of life, and conducting briefings about biodiversity. The Centre’s participation in the Science Film Festival was made possible by the GTZ-ACB Climate Change and Biodiversity project. GTZ was a major supporter of the film festival in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.



Filipino students perform a science experiment as part of the activities for the Science Film Festival.



### **Launch of the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook**

**19 October 2010**

**Nagoya, Japan**

- The ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook (ABO) was launched by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the ten ASEAN Member States at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on October 19, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The ABO confirms the findings of the Third Global Biodiversity Outlook that the world failed to meet the target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010.
- The ABO is based on the 4<sup>th</sup> National Reports of the ten ASEAN countries to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Fourth ASEAN State of the Environment Report, the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and numerous other sources. Biodiversity experts from a number of international organizations independently reviewed the ABO.
- A contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the ABO is envisioned as a tool to generate awareness on the status of biodiversity in the region, the obstacles faced by countries in their efforts to conserve biodiversity, and the next steps that have to be undertaken. The prospects of biodiversity in the region beyond 2010 are likewise outlined in the report.
- One of the major conclusions of the ABO is that the ASEAN region, like the rest of the world, is increasingly losing its biodiversity within various ecosystems – forest, agro-ecosystems, peatlands, freshwater, mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass.

### **Launch of the ASEAN Heritage Parks Coffeetable Book**

**19 October 2010**

**Nagoya, Japan**

- Taking a trip to these most wonderful natural destinations is now easier with the book *"The ASEAN Heritage Parks: A Journey to the Natural Wonders of Southeast Asia."* Launched at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on October 19, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the book aims to encourage greater appreciation for the ASEAN's natural heritage, as well as generate greater support for their protection and conservation and encourage more collaborative activities for their sustainable development and management.
- The ASEAN Heritage Parks were established to generate greater 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 among ASEAN Member States in preserving their shared natural heritage.
- As Secretariat of the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity produced the book in collaboration with the ASEAN Member States so that people may understand the significance of the ASEAN Heritage Parks to regional and global biodiversity, cultural identity, as well as the well-being of the people of the ASEAN region. Stories on management activities and interrelationships between local communities and natural resources are featured to provide a picture of the human element that is crucial to protected area management.

## Media Expedition to Mt. Kitanglad – ASEAN Heritage Park

17-19 June 2010

Bukidnon, Philippines

- Members of the Philippine media encountered Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park's unique ecological diversity when they visited the AHP on 17 to 19 June 2010. Organized by the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the tour enabled journalists from the BusinessMirror, ABS-CBN television and the Philippine News Agency to learn more about Mt. Kitanglad and the AHP Program.
- The ASEAN Heritage Parks are educational and inspirational sites of high conservation importance, preserving a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems of the ASEAN region. The parks embody the aspirations of the peoples of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam to conserve their natural treasures that represent the bounty and diversity of living organisms of their nations. The abundance of these diverse biological resources also ensures the continuous flow of goods and ecosystems services for the benefit of the present and future generations.
- Mt. Kitanglad was declared the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP) at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in October 2009. The Park's diverse and rich flora and fauna make it one of the last sanctuaries of the Philippines' natural heritage.
- By exposing media practitioners to the ASEAN Heritage Parks and their rich biodiversity, they will become key allies in explaining key biodiversity issues to the general public.
- The delegates trekked Mt. Kitanglad to see the nesting place of the Philippine Eagle. The mountain is one of the few remaining rainforests in the Philippines, hosting one of the most important diverse species of rare and endemic wildlife, most especially the Philippine Eagle, the country's national bird. The group also visited the 22-hectare Mt. Kitanglad Agri-Ecological Techno-Demo Center in Imbayao, the Cinchona buffer zone plantation, and Asia's longest zipline in Dahilayan Zip Zone.



**Biodiversity 101 Media Forum**  
**20 May 2010**  
**Manila, Philippines**

- In recognition of the media's role as a key partner in demystifying biodiversity, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Mega Manila Bay Press Club and the National Press Club held "Biodiversity 101": A Media Forum on 20 May 2010 at the National Press Club in Intramuros, Manila. The event formed part of the monthly Jose Capadocia Environmental Forum.
- "Through the forum, we gave our friends in the media a crash course on biodiversity—what it is, why it is important, and what we can do to conserve it for future generations. The ultimate goal is to develop a cadre of media practitioners who will become active partners in promoting biodiversity conservation through the reportage and analysis of biodiversity-related issues." Mr. Rolando A. Inciong, head of communication and public affairs of ACB, said.
- The resource persons for Biodiversity 101 were Dr. Rodel Lasco, Philippine Program coordinator, World Agroforestry Centre; Dr. Edwino Fernando, professor, University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources; Ms. Angelita Meniado, supervising ecosystems specialist, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Natural Resources; Capt. Robert Lane of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary; and Mr. Stephen Collins of the Profitable Group, Inc. Mr. Roman Floresca, science and technology editor of the *Philippine Star*, served as forum moderator.



Dr. Rodel Lasco, Philippine Program coordinator, World Agroforestry Centre, briefs media practitioners about the link between biodiversity and climate change.



**Forum for Science Journalists**  
**30 September-01 October 2010**  
**Manila, Philippines**

- Some 50 science journalists discussed the values of biodiversity and ways to promote biodiversity conservation at a seminar held on September 30 - October 1, 2010 at the SEARCA auditorium in Los Banos, Philippines. Organized by the Philippine Science Journalists Association Inc. (PSciJourn), the seminar was PSciJourn's contribution to the observance of the International Year of Biodiversity.
- Held in cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), SEARCA, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), AGHAM Party-list, Science and Technology Institute and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development, the seminar was addressed by Congressman Angelo Palmones, representing the science sector.
- Resource speakers included Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director of ACB; Dr. Edwino Fernando, professor at the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources; Rolando A. Inciong, head of the Communication and Public Affairs department of ACB; Dr. Randy A. Hautea, Global Coordinator and Southeast Asia Center Director of the ISAAA; Dr. Edwin Alcantara, University Researcher at the UPLB Biotech; and Mr. Roberto Cereno, head of the Botanic Gardens, Parks and Ecotourism Division, Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems.
- During the event, PsciJourn signed memorandum of cooperation with the ACB, SEARCA and ISAAA to enhance the promotion of biodiversity conservation. The event was also highlighted by the inauguration of the "Rainforest Biodiversity Diorama" funded by the ACB and Smart Communications Inc.



Ms. Angelina Resurreccion, president of PsciJourn, and Mr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director of ACB (center) shake hands after signing the memorandum of cooperation between their organizations. Witnessing the event are (left to right) Congressman Angelo Palmones, Dr. Edwino Fernando, professor at the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources; Dr. Gil Saguifuit, Jr., director, SEARCA; and Rolando A. Inciong, head of the Communication and Public Affairs department of ACB.

## **Launch of the Biodiversity Rainforest Diorama**

**01 October 2010**

**Makiling Botanic Garden, Philippines**

- Marking the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and Smart Communications handed over the Rainforest Biodiversity Diorama to the University of the Philippines Los Baños' College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR) and the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME).
- "The Makiling Botanic Garden's (MBG) green and lush environment is the perfect home for this diorama. We are certain that the thousands of students and professionals who visit the garden will learn a lot about rainforest biodiversity, not only from this diorama, but also from the educational activities conducted by MBG officers and staff in the garden's Conservation Education and Information Center. This diorama forms part of our efforts to address the lack of information materials on biodiversity which results in low public awareness of the values of biodiversity and conservation," ACB Executive Director Rodrigo U. Fuentes said.
- The handover ceremony was witnessed by Dr. Rex Victor Cruz, Dean, UPLB-CFNR; Mr. Roberto Cereno, Head, Botanic Gardens, Parks and Ecotourism Division, MCME; and members of the Philippine Science Journalists Association, Inc.



Opening of the biodiversity diorama

## **Business and Biodiversity Forum**

**08 October 2010**

**Manila, Philippines**

- Business and biodiversity experts from Southeast Asia and Japan gathered at the “*Business Opportunities in Biodiversity International Conference and Exhibition*” on October 8, 2010 in Manila to raise the business sector’s awareness on the values of biodiversity and encourage corporations to support conservation initiatives.
- Organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), in cooperation with the Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the European Union and the ASEAN, the conference featured discussions and presentations on the impact of biodiversity on business sustainability. Media partners were BusinessMirror and the Global News Network.
- The conference, which was part of the global celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, highlighted the clear link between business and biodiversity. It featured presentations on biodiversity and its current situation in the region, and actual business case presentations by selected corporations from Japan and Southeast Asian countries.
- The international conference was held back-to-back with the 3rd ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption held in Manila on October 6 - 7, 2010.



Mrs. Srisurang Massirikul, social and environment division manager, PTT Public Company Ltd., briefs business sector representatives about the company’s mangrove conservation program.



## **Fun Run for the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund**

**05 June 2010**

**Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Philippines**

- TeleTech Philippines partnered with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in organizing a fun run on June 5, 2010 at the TeleTech Sta. Rosa Delivery Center. In celebration of the World Environment Day 2010 and the International Year of Biodiversity, about 50 officers and employees of the Sta. Rosa Delivery Center and ACB donned their running shoes and joined the seven-kilometer and 14-kilometer categories of the fun run. TeleTech donated proceeds of the fun run to the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, making TeleTech the first corporate donor to the Fund. ACB awarded TeleTech with a “Friend of Biodiversity” plaque in recognition of its support for biodiversity conservation.



## **CEPA Side Event at COP10**

**19 October 2010**

**Nagoya, Japan**

- The ASEAN region’s capacity to reduce biodiversity loss is constrained by several roadblocks, including the dire lack of awareness and knowledge on the values of biodiversity. Increased public and leadership awareness is needed to create a groundswell that will catalyze all sectors of society to promote the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity resources. Communication, education, public awareness (CEPA) and media play a crucial role in this challenge. Communicating biodiversity is a daunting task. While successes have been achieved on some fronts, a lot of communication gaps still need to be filled. These were emphasized during a side event conducted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) during the 10 Meeting of

the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) on October 19, 2010 at the Nagoya Congress Center in Japan.

- The “Communicating Biodiversity in the ASEAN Region” side event featured a number of successful CEPA initiatives from the ASEAN Member States. ACB shared how some organizations and individuals teach others about biodiversity conservation by employing a range of techniques. Among these communication projects are Sahabat Alam from Indonesia, *Dalaw-Turo* from the Philippines, and Team Seagrass from Singapore. These pockets of success stories were featured in hopes that people will learn from the strategies used by the project implementers.
- ASEAN Member States present at the launch (Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) expressed their appreciation for the information shared by ACB through the two publications on the state of biodiversity and the wealth of natural resources in the region. The Centre handed over to the CBD Secretariat and ASEAN Member States a copy of the two publications.

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### **Marine and Terrestrial Protected Area Gap Analyses in the ASEAN Region**

**18 October 2010**

**Nagoya, Japan**

- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) promoted greater awareness for the need to conserve Southeast Asia’s rich and pristine terrestrial and coastal and marine environment through a side event it conducted during the 10 Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) on October 18, 2010 at the Nagoya Congress Center in Japan.
- The “Marine and Terrestrial Protected Area Gap Analyses in the ASEAN Region” side event highlighted the results of the terrestrial and marine protected areas gap analyses conducted in the ASEAN region. The event also provided a venue where experts and protected area managers and practitioners shared insights on how to enhance the management of the region’s protected areas.

- The side event was attended by over 50 participants. ACB Executive Director Rodrigo U. Fuentes opened the event with a presentation on the process of engaging the ASEAN Member States to implement gap analysis to both terrestrial and marine protected areas; the gap analysis methodology; and a summary of the results and analysis of the data presented. He emphasized the importance of robust data sets and the value of a good analysis such that all information ultimately contributes to biodiversity conservation. The analysis indicated that despite a significant number of ASEAN countries having complied with the CBD's ten-per cent target, the area covered by important ecosystems such as forests, seagrasses and mangroves in the region are on a steady decline.
- The presentations from Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines provided information on the conservation status of some protected areas in the region. The countries articulated the ecosystem and management gaps. Common among the presentations was the difficulty of obtaining information for representation gaps due to the lack of capacity to collect and integrate georeferenced species-related information. Of particular interest was the presentation of the Philippines that based a majority of their results on the key biodiversity areas (KBAs) identified in the country. They noted that a significant number of protected areas were outside of these KBAs.

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### **Other Activities**

- The IYB logo was featured in all ACB publications for 2010.
- ACB officers and staff discussed IYB in all its activities in the ASEAN Member States.
- ACB displayed its IYB exhibit in all 2010 events.
- ACB distributed a letter encouraging various sectors to participate in the IYB celebrations.



# **Some Noteworthy Activities by ASEAN Member States**

## **Philippines**

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 2003 which declared 2010 as the National Year of Biodiversity. The proclamation enjoins all agencies of the executive branch, national government agencies, local government units, the academe, private sectors, non-government organizations, and other sectors of society to support activities that promote the conservation of biodiversity.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also formed a National Task Force composed of representatives from various sectors to implement IYB projects. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity is a part of this team.

### Activities:

- Release of Philippine Eagle "Girlic" to a wider enclosure funded by world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao
- Philippine biodiversity logo design contest
- Launch of the project "Expanding and Diversifying the National System of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the Philippines"
- Launch of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Information Center at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
- Youth for Environment Summer Camp
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting for the Conservation of Sharks under the Convention on Migratory Sharks

## **Singapore**

To support the International Year of Biodiversity, the National Parks Board (NParks) launched a series of activities to raise public awareness of the rich biodiversity in Singapore.

- 'BiodiverCity' Photo Competition
- Community in Bloom Schools Arts Competition
- Green Wave Movement
- Guided walks
- Plant A Tree

## **Thailand**

The Government of Thailand has announced that 2010 will be Thailand's Year of Biodiversity, in line with a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which declares 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The Thai Cabinet, during its meeting on 22 December 2009, approved the announcement proposed by the National Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. It also endorsed the Action Plan for IYB and instructed all relevant government offices to allocate funds for its organizations to operate in accordance with the action plan. The objective is to urge all groups of people and professions to be aware of biodiversity and cooperate in conserving and using biodiversity in a sustainable way.