

Report

Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) Technical Workshop

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
27 - 29 April, 2023



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



The Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP), established in 2014, is a regional platform that aims to strengthen the management and governance of protected areas across Asia. APAP is committed to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among its member countries. APAP serves as a model for regional collaboration, showcasing the power of partnerships in driving progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This partnership is a vital regional platform that has demonstrated the value of collaboration, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange in strengthening the management and conservation of protected areas.

The 7th Technical Workshop and 8th Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) with India as the Co-Chair since 2020, was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in association with the IUCN Asia Regional Office, Bangkok and hosted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from 27th to 29th April, 2023.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the workshop was graced by Shri Bivash Ranjan, Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; Shri Virendra Tiwari, Director, Wildlife Institute of India; Shri Raquibul Amin, Head, IUCN South Asia Sub-Region and Shri Rohit Tiwari, Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The session was initiated with the felicitation of dignitaries by the IUCN Asia Regional Office.

Welcome remarks were offered by **Shri Rohit Tiwari, Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India**. Shri Tiwari outlined how Asia is home to some of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems and endangered species. Protected Areas play a crucial role in conserving these irreplaceable natural treasures, providing critical habitats and helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. India has

been successful in conserving its PAs but also faces challenges of rapid population growth, habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict. The APAP, established in 2014, is a regional platform that aims to strengthen the management and governance of protected areas across Asia. India is a Co-Chair since 2020. APAP serves as a model for regional collaboration, showcasing the power of partnerships in driving progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Shri Rohit Tiwari hoped that the APAP strategy identifies priorities for the next three years and develop a plan for going forward.

In his remarks, **Shri Raquibul Amin, Head, IUCN South Asia Sub-Region** highlighted the degradation of nearly one-third of the World's land and loss of species. In this context, he mentioned that APAP was established to improve conservation outcomes of Protected Areas and Conservation Areas, encourage transboundary cooperation, conservation of marine protected areas and OECMs. Shri Amin commended India's leadership role in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework Target-3 to conserve land and sea areas. He urged the member countries to deliberate a meaningful road map for PA conservation.

Shri Virendra Tiwari, Director, Wildlife Institute of India welcomed all the dignitaries, delegates and invitees to the workshop on behalf of the host institution. Shri Tiwari underlined WII's key role in the field of wildlife conservation and protected area management not just within India but in the wider region of Asia as well for close to four decades. WII's flagship Diploma and Certificate Courses in Wildlife Management have trained close to 1400 professionals, including nearly 300 foreign personnel from 15 countries. Likewise, the Master's Course in Wildlife Science and our research projects have also catered to both Indian and foreign students. WII's scientific research has been oriented towards conservation of India's key species including the tiger, lion, snow leopard, wolf, swamp deer, hangul, turtle, takin, hispid hare, river dolphin, King cobra among others as well as a conservation management initiative through the Endangered Species Recovery Programme. Crucial policy and management interventions have been made by WII in the area of biogeographic classification of India, Environment Impact Assessment,

Management Planning Code for Wildlife PAs, National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Wildlife Action Plan, concept of core and buffer in Tiger Reserves, Management Effectiveness Evaluation of PAs, Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation, Blue Economy, doubling tiger population target and reintroduction programmes of tiger, gaur and cheetah. WII is investing in developing capabilities of wildlife forensics, genetics and disease control that cater to both Indian and foreign countries. Other current thematic conservation initiatives include smart green linear infrastructures, coastal and marine ecosystem conservation, National Mission for Clean Ganga, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, Natural World Heritage conservation for the Asia-Pacific under the auspices of UNESCO, Central Asian Flyway special species initiative under the Convention on Migratory Species, etc. WII has collaborated with a host of national and international agencies and institutions with the objective of mutual benefit in the wildlife conservation domain. He hoped that the APAP meeting provided the opportunity to learn, share, enhance cooperation and brainstorm for solutions and guidance to our conservation priorities.

In his keynote address, **Shri Bivash Ranjan, Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India** welcomed the Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP) and its mission to promote cooperation among countries in Asia for effective protected area management. Shri Ranjan highlighted the importance of landscape-level approach for meta-population conservation along with the imperative of people's participation. India is home to nearly 1000 PAs but there is ecology versus economy challenges to conservation. These Issues include PA fragmentation, loss of corridor, frequent fires, invasive species, human-wildlife conflict, zoonosis, industrialization of aquatic landscapes, wildlife pets and illegal wildlife trade. Interregional cooperation through partnership platforms such as APAP is needed to confront these challenges for conserving, protecting and expanding PA landscapes, ensuring carrying capacity of PAs for species meta-population, human-wildlife conflict mitigation and strengthening partnerships. He further highlighted India's success stories in species conservation viz. tiger, elephant, cheetah, etc. India has supported the development of APAP's strategic plan for 2018-2022, which focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of protected area management through better collaboration and knowledge sharing among member countries. By fostering

regional cooperation, facilitating knowledge exchange, and providing technical support, APAP plays a critical role in helping India achieve its national and international commitments related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Shri Ranjan stated that India is positioned to play a leadership role at the regional level and desired that member countries achieve practical conservation goals.

Shri Sunil Sharma, Joint Director (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India offered the vote of thanks expressing gratitude to the Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife) and, Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; representatives and speakers from IUCN; delegates and participants from member countries; dignitaries from the various organizations present and to Wildlife Institute of India as the host institution.



Steering Committee Meeting

The post-inaugural session included the 8th APAP Steering Committee Meeting with the primary aim of discussing Roadmap Vision 2030 for APAP. The meeting was chaired by India (Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India). There were 12 member countries viz. Maldives, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Viet Nam, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Japan represented by 30 delegates.

Agenda of Steering Committee

At the outset, the session chair opined that the underlying approach should be to find ways to make the Steering Committee more effective, output oriented and more visible on the path towards APAP's Roadmap Vision 2030.

A. Role of Steering Committee (SC)

The basic role of the SC is strategic oversight and functioning of APAP. SC is an advisory body to APAP, it can only suggest and guide the member countries.

B. Periodicity of Meeting

The Chair stated that a decision needs to be taken on the periodicity of the SC meetings, given the number of member countries involved and the logistics of such intergovernmental meetings.

Decision: Meeting of the SC may be held twice a year, one could be online mode and the other in physical mode. One of the SC meetings may also coincide with the annual APAP General Body meeting.

C. Restructuring of Steering Committee

The session chair highlighted that the current membership of the SC consisting of all 17 member countries is large and inhibits frequency of meetings and decisions. He proposed to retain 9 or 10 members representing the sub-regions, APAP co-chairs, WCPA vice-chairs, international organizations along with from the country Zoo authorities. The members agreed to the need for a smaller decision-making body

and the broad structure of representation. However, most of the members expressed their reservations about inclusion of Zoo authority representations as they felt that the *ex situ* conservation principle may not be appropriate for the APAP forum. Sri Lanka suggested for an alternate to member from each sub-region. Dr. Yoshi suggested that the sub-region members could be on rotation basis. Japan suggested for collaboration with bodies like the CBD bureau, IPBES, etc. Maldives mentioned that different habitats/ecosystems should be represented in the SC. IUCN suggested that other regional PCA forums may be invited to join APAP as observers – e.g. EUROPARC& REDPACOS.

Decision: Reconstitution of SC to 10 members with following composition

- i. Two APAP Co-chairs (Secretariat + the Chairing Country)
- ii. One representative each from sub-region – South Asia; Southeast Asia, East Asia and West Asia(03) – rotational (selected in alphabetical order)
- iii. Three WCPA Regional Vice-Chair from Asia (03)
- iv. Two International Organizations – suggestions to be submitted by countries by 31st July 2023

D. Next APAP Chair Nomination

IUCN informed that the next APAP Chair has to be selected to succeed the current Chair, India, by 2023. Former Co-Chairs have been represented from East Asia (Japan, Korea) and South Asia (India). As the countries would have to discuss with their governments, they requested for time to revert after few months.

Decision: Countries to go back and send in EOI by 31st July 2023 and Final decision to be announced by the current Chair (MoEFCC, Govt. of India) by 30th Nov. 2023

E. Fund Raising

Financial support was a key question for the APAP members. India underlined the importance of ensuring sustained funding for long-term success and effective conservation outcomes. IUCN assured that

external funding will be allocated for the Co-Chairs and that the Government of Japan has committed to continued funding support for APAP.

Decision: Collective proposal will be developed for generating seed funding by tapping sources like the World bank, ADB and other multilateral funding streams.

F. Programme Priorities

The session chair emphasized the importance of specific outcomes from the deliberations of APAP Meeting and Workshop. He suggested that IUCN should draft a template to flag issues of concern related to PAs by member countries. Similar issues which have been raised by large number of member countries, that matter would require consideration by APAP. Host country can send a concept note on the issue of concern which can then be deliberated and feedback given by other member countries. IUCN can collate the issues present the case based on deliberations by expert organisations. The standard outcomes can have multiple options of whether the issue is addressed, do not agree and partly agree/disagree.

Bangladesh inquired whether government approval was mandatory, whether the decisions were by majority or consensus, and there was a need to develop statute for such details. The Chair informed that APAP was a voluntary partnership and member countries can voluntarily implement decisions based on their respective conditions. He opined that developing detailed statute would be complicated and time-consuming. He suggested that the forum should adopt best practices from experiences of other countries.

IUCN shared the existing programme priorities of APAP for operationalising the 30x30 Targets (GBF) focusing on four major components viz. Transboundary PAs, OECM, Green List and other standard tools, Freshwater and Marine Protected Areas.

Decision: IUCN to develop and share standard template to identify and flag issues of concern for subsequent deliberations and decide on outcomes for consideration of member countries.

G. Other Issues

Expansion of APAP

The session chair inquired how APAP can be expanded in membership and scope in order to enhance learning, expertise and funding. He proposed inviting other international organizations like the International Whaling Commission. Maldives suggested exploring feasibility of including countries from the Middle East /West Asia. IUCN informed that they have indeed received some interest from West Asia and will follow it up accordingly.

Conclusion

The chair stated that the Steering Committee has an important role in guiding and advising APAP. He reiterated that the SC meeting should be outcome oriented. Best practices should be adopted from experiences of other countries.



Technical Session 1: Setting the scene and APAP, Asia Parks Congress and WCPA

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 2020 and Target 3 (30x30)

[Shri Justin Mohan, Chief Conservator of Forest and Former Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, India]

Shri Justin Mohan provided an overview of the Kunming-Montreal GBF and Target 3 in particular. Highlights of GBF including sound monitoring mechanism at national, global and regional levels, resource mobilization and digital sequence information was shared. Major focus was on targets 3, 16, 18 and 20. Elaborately discussed all the twenty-three targets of GBF to be achieved by 2030. Spoke about targets 2 and 3; the hallmark of GBF, (i) restoration of degraded ecosystems and (ii) protected areas and OECMs (30x30). India joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) and pledged to restore 26 million ha of land by 2030 in line with Bonn Convention. Current plan of action for achieving target 3: Priority 1- NBSAPs and SBSAPs and priority 2 - focus on potential OECMs and Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

IUCN-WCPA Asia Report

[Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IUCN-WCPA Regional Vice Chair]

Dr. Sonali Ghosh shared information on the IUCN-WCPA's activities. and urged member countries to enroll more members. She gave an overview of WCPA, its functioning and membership opportunities. Emphasized on Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity framework (GBF) 2020 and target 3 (30x30). Discussed youth involvement in the efficient functioning of WCPA and urged member countries to enroll more members.

APAP Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities

[Ms. Saebyeol Seo, Programme Officer, Protected Areas and APAP]

Ms. Saebyeol Seo shared details on achievements, challenges and opportunities of APAP. Provided an overview of APAP and its objectives, brief details of technical workshops and masterclasses, information of knowledge dissemination activities and communication channels. Mentioned about

introduction of hybrid mode of meetings/webinars post COVID-19 crisis for all the PA managers. Shared details of 2nd Asia Parks Congress 2022, held at Sabah, Malaysia, participated by 1250 representatives from 49 countries, OECM workshop (2022), Republic of Korea, ASEAN Heritage Park Conference (2022), Bogor, Indonesia and APAP pre-planning meeting (2023), Bangkok. Emphasis of APAP programme was on Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity framework (GBF) 2020 and target 3 (30x30).

APAP 2030 Vision Road Map – an outline

[Dr. MKS Pasha, IUCN Regional Office, Bangkok]

Dr. MKS Pasha provided an outline of the APAP 2030 Vision Road Map. It represented the detailed structural committee involvement in different sectors of outreach and communication processes of APAP. Highlighted the four major areas for operationalizing 30x30 (target 3 post 2020- GBF), Asia viz. Transboundary Pas; OECMs; Quality and effectiveness of PCAs: Green List Standard (and other supporting tools); and Marine Protected Areas. Also presented focused gap analysis of the procedure in APAP countries on NBSAPs, Nature-based Solutions and Climate Change, Ecological connectivity, Restoration and Spatial planning. He emphasized on quality and governance effectiveness of PAs.

2nd Asia Parks Congress – Report Back

[Mr Justinus Guntabid, Sabah Parks, Malaysia (Virtually)]

Mr. Justinus Guntabid presented detailed information on 2nd Asia Parks Congress, for ambitious, fair and effective nature conservation. In the conference, over 1,250 participants from 49 countries participated in Sabah Parks, Malaysia. Details about the congress, pre-congress and post-congress activities were shared. The theme of the congress was: Park for nature and people. Emphasized on the urgent need of action for nature and people. Also discussed the solutions to the most pressing issues being faced in the conservation of nature in Asia today.



Technical Session 2 and 3: Country Update

Each country gave a snapshot of the Terrestrial, Marine and Freshwater Protected Areas, Planning on Target 3 and next steps for their respective countries towards implementing Post-2020 GBF. The sessions were moderated by Shri MKS Pasha, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Bangkok.

1. Bangladesh

Bangladesh has 16.04 m ha Forest Land under Forest Department (Reserved Forest, Protected Forest, Vested Forest, Acquired Forest) and 6.95 m ha Forest Land Under Land Department (Unclassed State Forest. The total forest land is 22.99 m h, which is 15.58% of the total country area. The legal instrument for protection of terrestrial PAs are the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Act, 1974 which has been modified as Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012. There are 50 Terrestrial PA covering an area of 4.7 m ha. Of the AICHI Target of 3%, 3.16 % has been achieved by Bangladesh for terrestrial PAs. All forest PAs under Forest Department and reported in WDPA. For Inland Water PA and OECM the Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board has the Haor Master Plan, the Ministry of Land takes over the District Administration, the Department of Fisheries looks after the Fish Sanctuary and Department of Environment is the stakeholder for EC. Haor Master Plan Identified 373 haors in seven districts of north east Bangladesh covering an area of 8.58 m ha. The Aichi Target of 3% has not been achieved and the KM GBF target is unknown. There are two Marine Protected Areas which have been declared by Department of Fisheries covering an area of 3886 Sq.Km. FD declared Swatch of No Ground MPA Covering an Area of 1738 sq.km. and Saint Martin MPA covering an area of 1743 sq.km. The Total MPA area is 7367 sq.km which is 6.2 % of EEZ and has been reported in WDPA. The Aichi Target for Coastal and MPAs is 5% and the country has achieved 6.2%. There is no legal provision of OECM in Bangladesh and no OECMs have been reported. The Community Conservation Areas could be the OECM in Bangladesh. According to the Sec 18 (1) Any person or community being owner of such land or wetland not included in landscape zone may, for protection of traditional or cultural value or use of any animal or plant and for sustainable development of such land or wetland and for the management of wildlife, apply to the Government for

declaration as Community Conservation Area. According to Section 18 (3) co-management may be initiated in the area declared under sub-section (2), and the concerned warden shall take necessary steps for the implementation of decision taken by co-management committee. By the Section 18 (4) the Government may, where applicable, provide compensation for the affected owner of the area declared under sub-section (2). For couple of generations, indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been conserving small patches of forest near their villages mainly for water, bamboo and minor forest produces. These small forests are known as Village Common Forests or Mouza Ban or Para Ban. The Forest Department awarded a small project to Arannayk Foundation to identify 50 OECMs in Chittagong Hill tracts and to develop assessment methodology. Thus, for terrestrial OECMs, Village Common Forest in Chittagong Hill Tracts has been suggested. Marine waters of Bangladesh support diverse and relatively large populations of dolphins, porpoises, whales, sharks, rays and marine turtles, including numerous species at global conservation risk. Fisheries are vital for food security and employment of millions of people. The identified Blue Belt OECM is around 2701 Sq km and the SoNG MPA Extension is from 1738 sq km to 6960 sq km.

By 2030, it is possible to achieve 10-12 % MPA & OECM IUCN can initiate dialogue for PA and OECM in inland water areas. Next step for PAs and OECMs would be consultation and setting targets for PA, update NBSAP by 2023, identification, screening and assessment of OECMs and reporting to WDPA. Support for APAP would be required for Capacity building in PA and OECM management, Management Effectiveness / Green Listing, Transboundary PA/MPA with India/Myanmar.

2. India

There are 4 types of terrestrial PAs in India which include national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves. The number of PAs have increased since 2022 and currently there are 106 national parks, 567 wildlife sanctuaries, 105 conservation reserves and 220 community reserves having a total of 998 PAs covering an area of 1,73,629.52 sq.km. Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh has been

designated as the latest 53rd Tiger Reserve in 2022. There has been initiation of Project Cheetah and Project Lion. A mammoth task of the All India Tiger Estimation has been completed for 2022 and the number of tigers have increased by 200 individuals with a current total of 3167 tigers in India. Initiation of a Project on Pan India Assessment and Monitoring of Endangered Species covered under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH). IDWH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing support to protected areas, protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats. Under the Species Recovery Program component, 17 terrestrial faunal species are included. Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 146 national parks & wildlife sanctuaries has been done. A new framework for MEE of Marine Protected Areas has been jointly prepared by WII & MoEFCC and MEE-ZOO framework has been launched by MoEFCC. There are at present 25 MPAs in Peninsular India including both National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and 75 Ramsar Sites in India. A pilot evaluation of 10 Coastal marine PAs is completed as per the new MEE framework. 5 aquatic species have been included in the Species Recovery Program under the IDWH and a Dugong Conservation reserve has been declared. Project Dolphin has been initiated in India and the MoEFCC finalized a Comprehensive Action Plan for Dolphin conservation (2022-2047). The first ever synchronized river dolphin enumeration exercise is completed. A Field guide for monitoring Ganges & Indus river dolphins and Guidelines on Marine Megafauna Stranding Management have been released. Other important activities planned for the Project are citizen science-based monitoring, sustainable alternate livelihood programs, incentive based interventions, promotion of pingers, and Dolphin tourism.

Under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3

Approach/Commitment, India has succeeded in bringing nearly 27% of its area under protection. There are additional areas that can be protected through other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM) like sacred groves. Public outreach and Landscape level approach securing connectivity are also the targets focused upon. Next steps are building on existing strengths/capacity building, Protected Area

Management, Restoration and management of grass land ecosystem, Species conservation in terms of Meso Predators, Landscape level planning, Mitigation measures for improve connectivity, use of technology in biodiversity and habitat conservation, marine ecosystem conservation giving attention to sea grass.

3. Japan

Japan talked about the OECM policies aligned with its natural environment. The “Aichi Biodiversity Target (Target 11),” which was adopted at COP10 held in Japan, aimed to conserve at least 17% of the terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of the coastal and marine areas. By 2020, Japan successfully conserved 20.5% of the land and 13.3% of the sea and exceeded the Aichi Biodiversity Target. There are 34 National Parks covering 2.2 million ha of land, 5.8% of the total land designated pursuant to the Natural Parks Act by the Minister of the Environment to conserve and to promote the usage of natural scenic beauty. In Japan, 59.4 km²) out of 4.47 million km² including coastal and offshore areas are designated as Marine Protected Areas. In advance of COP15, Ministry of the Environment (MOE) -Japan, with the help of relevant ministries, established a roadmap to outline necessary actions to domestically achieve the 30by30 target.

Under Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3: The most important keys to achieving the 30by30 target in Japan is “Expansion of PAs” and “Promotion of OECMs”. Japan is committed to expand Protected Areas such as national parks and improve their management quality. And promote the setting of OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures). A trial scheme to identify Japan’s OECMs is now underway.

4. Maldives

Over 70 of the 79 PAs in the country are marine. 13% of total MPAs is reef area. There is a target that more areas need to be protected this year. All major mangroves are protected and some areas have been

developed as ecotourism sites. More sites will be developed for sustainable tourism practices.

Under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3

Approach/Commitment, Maldives has developed Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 designating 1 Reef, 1 Lagoon, 1 Mangrove and 1 island from each atoll. A total of 9 atolls have been covered (Ha, HDh, Sh, N, Lh, K, L, Gn, S), 6 atolls are in final stages (R, B, AA, ADh, V, F) and work is on-going on the remaining 5 atolls. Guideline for Recognizing Areas as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Areas Leased for Tourism Operations has been published 2022 and Offshore Marine Protected Areas have been identified. For building on existing strengths in the delivery of PCAs nationally, IUCN Green List Feasibility Assessment has been done, Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) Assessment has been done on three different types of PAs, and identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) has been done. For capacity development needs to strengthen PCA management, knowledge and expertise on modern technologies for monitoring and management and on sustainable financial mechanisms is required along with addressing knowledge gaps through research. One of the suggestions for Maldives was to consider off-shore marine areas which include those beyond country jurisdiction.

5. Mongolia

Protected Areas covers an area of 32.8 million hectares, which occupies 21.0 percent of entire the Mongolian territory. This includes Forest (40%) and Freshwater, River basins, Surface water (50%). There are a total of 120 protected areas.

The target is to increase coverage of protected areas up to 30% of entire territory of Mongolia. A total of 215 ecologically important places were identified and these sites will be subjected to three phases of special protected areas protection. Mongolia aims to upgrade the legal environment of SPAs, along with establishing an independent agency with own financial sources.

6. Myanmar

At present, the total number of PAs in Myanmar constitute 6.09% of the country's total geographical area. It has been proposed that further protected areas in areas of good ecosystems and natural heritages be established so that national target of 10% PA can be fulfilled. Myanmar's first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2011 was a national-level framework for guiding effective management and utilization. One of the limitations of this NBSAP was out of date data, mainly derived from sources published in 2000-2003. This needs an update. 21 PAs carried out complete Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) survey and using Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). 9 PAs have management plans addressing conservation priorities and development of an ecotourism policy and plan. Two new proposed Ramsar site (Pyu lake and Palaik within Mandalay Region) and five new proposed Marine Protected Areas (Extension Lampi MP, Done Island MP, Nathar Island MP, Ngayoukekaung MP, Thamehlakyun MP). Mongolia aims to strengthen the management of protected areas, expand the network of protected areas and strengthen collaboration with international partners.

7. Nepal

Nepal's forest cover is 44.74% (6.61 million ha), 82.68% is outside the PA system (out of which 88% is covered by community forest). Out of 25% of area under PA system, Nepal currently holds 23.39%. In addition to 20 PAs, there are 11 Forest Conservation Areas (comprising an area of 194115 ha). Freshwater covers up to 5.5% of the country's area. There are 10 Ramsar Sites since 1988 (Himalayas- 4, Midhills-2 and Terai lowlands-4). UNDP initiated the drafting of NBSAP (Post-2020) with financial support from GEF, to be developed by 2024.

Nepal aims to strengthen strict law enforcement, community participation, landscape level conservation and management, Conservation Areas outside the Protected Area System, Community based Forest Management, partnership in conservation, World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Sites. Nepal further underlined the need for capacity development.

8. Republic of Korea

There are total 28 types with a total number of 3,437 PAs of which 17.15% are terrestrial and 2.12% are marine. There are 22 National Parks of which 18 are Mountain type, 3 Sea/Coast type and 1 Historic type. In December 1967, Jirisan NP was designated as the 1st NP and in August 2016, Taebaeksan NP was designated as the 22nd NP. National Parks cover a total area of 6,726 sq. km (land area of 3,973 sq. km, sea area of 2,753 sq. km). National and public land accounts for 68% and private land accounts for 32% of the land area. There are 34 MPAs covering an area of 1,862km² of which 15 are Wetland protected areas, 16 are Marine ecosystem Protected Areas, 2 are Marine species protected areas and 1 Marine landscape protected area. For the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3, the 30x30 Roadmap of Korea, the quantitative objectives would be the expansion of PAs, expanding Protected Areas of National Parks, promotion of OECMs and with IUCN-KNPS co-develop and consult on strategy on the role of Korean OECMs.

The qualitative objectives would be to improve PA management effectiveness & quality (reducing threats to biodiversity, developing tools, solutions etc). For 2023 ~ 2024, the target would be development of 5 candidates for Korean OECMs, building on existing strengths in the delivery of PCAs nationally through policy, practice, sites with best practice, working towards capacity development needs that would strengthen PCA management in Korea, designation of 3 candidates for Korean National Parks and for 2025 ~ 2026, further designation of 3 candidates for Korean National Parks.

9. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has not set commitments yet for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3. But some actions of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2022 (NBSAP) & 6th NR, not yet completed, will be reviewed under the support of Early Action Support project (UNDP) for identifying national commitment. New protected area policies or legislation passed. Nine Regulations under the Forest Conservation act have been approved by the Department of Legal Draftsmen, Sri Lanka, and submitted to the approval of the Minister. Eg -

Conservation Forest, Reserve forests, Other State forests etc. Forest Conservation act and National Heritage Wilderness area acts are being amended. Forest Landscape Restoration Plan prepared for Hurulu HKK, Forest Landscape Restoration at Hurulu Eco Park, FLR Kanneliya Forest Reserve, FLR Sinharaja Complex. Forest Management Plans prepared Conservation / Reserve forests 261 – MPs completed in 2022 250 - Targeted and preparing 2023. Forest Landscape Restoration Plan prepared for FLR at Attanagalu Oya River basin. Mangrove restoration guidelines and Mangrove Action Plan Published. Private sector organizations are involved in Forest and Mangrove Restoration under CSR component. Forestry Sector Master Plan is reviewed and updated. Forest Restoration programs are implemented successfully. Mangrove restoration programmes are conducting in Anawilundawa sanctuary (Ramsar site) and Pubudugama area.

Next steps would be Re-mapping forests – to solve boundary disputes, boundary demarcation, Preparation of Forest Management Plans for all Protected Forests, Strengthening & Continuation of Restoration programmes, FLR Training programmes and Restoration trainings.

10. Thailand

Thailand is involved in preparing of NP/WS/NHA, Forest Park, Forest Garden, Arboretum. Utilizations Forest (Forest Plantation and Rubber plantation) 8.02%; Green Cover Area (public park, private area, residential area) 3%. Thailand has established a 20-year national strategy 2018 -2037 with a goal to increase green area by 55%, including Natural forest 35%, Utilization Forest 15%, Other Green area 5%. Thailand has set targets for increasing forest areas according to the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan, 2023-27 by setting up an increase in the proportion of forests as follows - natural forest 33%, usable forest 12% by setting guidelines.

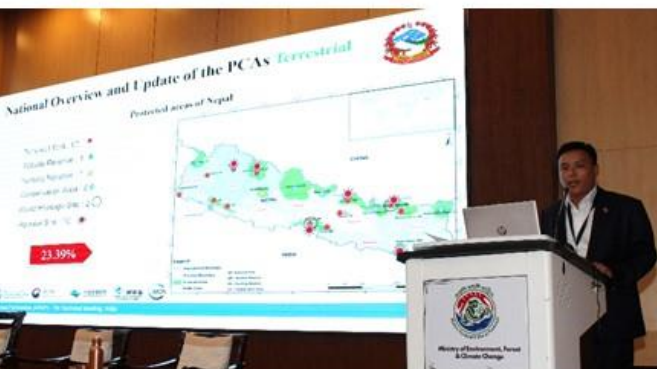
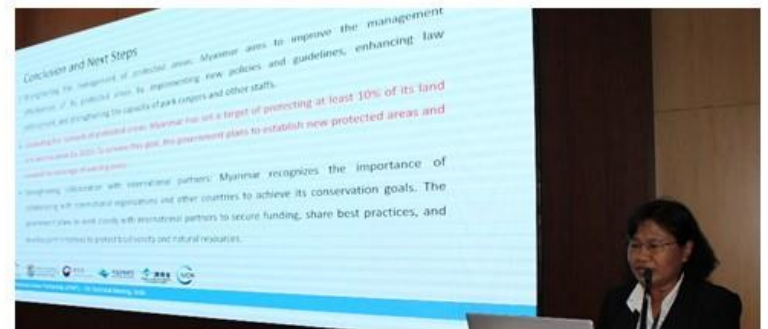
For the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3, Thailand will work on increasing the forest area according by law, Restore and maintain natural resources and utilized efficiently, Develop the use of innovative technology, promoting conservation mechanisms such as Carbon Credit Mechanism, Promote sustainable use. Thailand's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources,

Department of Fisheries now is in the process of setting a new target for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3. Guidelines to amend law for declaring/designating conservation areas, Use Other Effective Area based Conservation Measures (OECMs) guidelines. Thailand has formulated a 20-year national strategy, the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan, as the main guideline for conveying the overall policy of the country. In line with the Target 30 x 30 targeting, it remains only to further define the marine and coastal protected area targets. Thailand still needs innovation and new technology that will help manage Protected and Conservation Areas more efficiently such as UAV/Drone technology to assist in GIS Mapping and Near Real Time Monitoring to promote efficient protection of protected areas. Financial Tool that assist local communities in capacity building and development is required.

11. Viet Nam

Viet Nam informed that Van Long wetland protected area gains IUCN Green List. By 2030 (*submitted for appraisal and approval*) for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Target 3, the 30x30 Roadmap of Vietnam is 25% of terrestrial PCAs, 5% coastal and marine PCAs which include 167 existing terrestrial PAs + 53 new ones (501.442,42 ha); 07 existing marine PAs + 26 new ones (3.529.541,68 ha); 03 existing biodiversity corridors + 10 new ones; New establishment: 41 high BD areas; 23 Important ecological landscapes, 11 important wetland areas.

Next steps would be to mobilize resources, to implement NBSAP and National master planning on biodiversity conservation and related strategies in order to expanse the PCA areas by 2030, toward GBF Target 3; Strengthen effectiveness of existing PCA management; Improvement of legal framework on the management of biodiversity corridors, OECMs; Capacity building on OECMs identification and management.





Technical Session 4: OECMs – What Where and Who (Asia Perspective)

Introduction to OECMs and Site Assessment Tool

[Dr. Madhu Rao, Chair IUCN WCPA]

Dr. Madhu Rao gave an introduction to OECMS and Site Assessment Tool. Target must address importance for biodiversity, contributions to people, ecological representative, well connected systems, equitably established and managed which can be integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes. Principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for an OECM. For OECM, it should deliver the effective and enduring *in situ* conservation of biodiversity regardless of its objectives. Likely OECMs include indigenous/community conserved areas, areas in production landscapes managed for conservation, community pastures with native grasslands. Unlikely OECMs include heavy grazed grasslands for livestock, Ocean areas or forest areas managed for large scale extraction production forests managed for timber. Site assessment tools for identifying OECMs – screening of proposed OECM, consent for full assessment, full assessment (6 criteria). Source of data and reporting – Word database on OECMs and open source resources available. Recognition to support OECMs.

OECMs in Asia – An overview

[Dr. Jennifer Kelleher, Global Lead, Governance and OECM]

Dr. Jennifer Kelleher provided an overview of OECMs in Asia. Asia is leading active region on OECMs globally. Webinars and awareness raising, strong diverse portfolio of OECM cases, publications and guidelines, policy visibility, national dialogues for roadmaps represent major activities. IUCN Green list community engagement by indigenous people and local communities. Effectiveness measured by cases and examples, experiences and key learnings. IUCN support with global guidance, resources via IUCN ARO and IUCN PCA, Secretariat scoping for opportunities and gaps. Technical capacity building, strategic partnership with IPLC partners. Local and national cases and examples will lead the way.

OECM development in India and examples

[Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head, Climate Adaptation, NRM and Biodiversity, UNDP India]

Dr. Ruchi Pant shared information on OECM identification and recognition work in progress in India. Key challenges were lack of awareness for stakeholders, facilitators, line departments. Use of case by case approach is the practice. Reporting to WCMC WD-OECM include legal aspects, key resource persons, communication with stakeholders, spatial information from local stakeholders. The way forward comprises Identification and dossier preparation, financing, orientation consultations, India biodiversity awards. Funding acquired through GEF, Biofin, and private sectors for Biodiversity credit.

Community Conservation in India – Case Study

[Shri Suman Sivachar, DCF Nagaland]

Shri Suman Sivachar presented a case study from the State of Nagaland on Community Conservation in India. Killing of wild animals and birds for food has been a long-standing tradition in the state. It is also associated with sports, ornamental wear & prestige. Article 371(A) of our constitution bestows right to land and its benefits to people. Often misconstrued to legitimize killing of birds / animals. Wildlife Protection Act 1972 was adopted by the State Government in 1981. All such killings are now illegal. Community-based Community-driven Conservation prevalent in the State. However, enforcement was minimal owing to various factors. Some conscious individuals in the society also sought conservation. Increased efforts by Forest Department to create protected areas on private land – Community Reserves (CRs). Efforts by individuals, villages and civil society organizations to conserve certain areas. Tripartite agreement between community, forest department and administration for notification of community reserves.

130 Community Reserves, Area under Community Reserve: 887.89 Sq Km, Area under Government Owned PAs: 241.05 Sq Km, Total area under protected area: 1138.94 Sq Km. Conversations with communities for bridging trust, addressing concerns of land ownership, guidance on management of reserves, awareness programs on human-wildlife interface and conservation. Important measures include promotion of animal husbandry as diet of people is predominantly meat-based so to increase animal protein in the area - food security, in order to reduce stress on forests; Plantation & distribution of

saplings to increase green cover - involving local communities for plantation and care and to plant local species which provide food for wild animals; and working with women self-help groups (SHG), engagement with students in the reserve area. Overall understanding that it is recognised as a tough field area, engagement with students in the reserve area, unique land holding pattern, policy and lack of awareness, human animal conflict.

Review of OECM Strategies and National Plans – Asia report summary

[Ms. Mitali Sharma, Consultant, IUCN Asia Regional Office]

Ms. Mitali Sharma shared a Review of OECM Strategies and National Plans – Asia report summary. To assess the status of OECMs in Asia, with a focus on strategies, legislation, and challenges related to OECMs in countries in the APAP, a questionnaire was created and sent out to APAP, Focal Points, Regional WCPA OECM Specialist Group members, Regional networks of some of the WCPA Regional Vice Chairs. 33 respondents from 17 countries, 15/17 of the responding countries are in the APAP with 3 countries from East Asia, 7 countries from South Asia and 7 countries from South East Asia. 5/17 (29.4%) countries do; 12/17 (70.6%) do not have existing strategies for OECMs. 9/12 (75%) countries do; 3/12 (25%) do not have planned strategies for OECMs. 1/17 (5.9%) countries do; 16/17 (94.1%) do not have existing legislation for OECMs and 10/16 (62.5%) countries do; 6/16 (37.5%) do not have Planned legislation for OECMs.

Challenges with developing plans and/or legislation are lack of knowledge on how to develop these for OECMs, lack of political will to develop these, lack of understanding on the importance/relevance of OECMs and lack of financial resources. Capacity needs to be built among policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders to achieve a thorough understanding of the requirements of OECMs. Countries should aim to create a national strategy for OECMs through a consultative process with relevant stakeholders and rights holders. Countries should identify the best way to incorporate a legal or other type of mechanism for OECMs based on their own contexts and current laws. Models for sustainably financing PAs should be applied to OECMs where applicable and be determined on a case-by-case basis. Countries should aim to establish new OECMs in the most ecologically valuable spots and in areas that support important biodiversity values.

Exploring Potential for Aquatic OECMs: Ramsar Sites, Wetlands and other Freshwater Ecosystems

[Dr. Gopi G.V., Scientist, WII]

Dr. Gopi G.V. made a presentation on Exploring Potential for Aquatic OECMs: Ramsar Sites, Wetlands and other Freshwater Ecosystems with reference to India. With 75 Ramsar Sites, India has largest network in South Asia. Potential OECM sites in Sikkim Trans-Himalaya where headwaters are source of river Teesta, Sacred landscape Gurudongmar lake and others, Classified as a separate biogeographic province 1D, Biodiversity significance is unmatched, Harbours globally threatened species such as Tibetan argali, Tibetan gazelle, southern Kiang and Black-necked crane, Used extensively by native herders for yak and sheep grazing, Only known breeding location in eastern Himalaya, Southern Kiang, 25/25, 100% of the country's population. In north-east India, Pangchen Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, Temple Turtles in Assam – black soft shell turtle, Loktak Lake, Manipur. River Lohit and River Noa-Dihing – white bellied heron. Saltpan-mudflat complex between Mundra and Gandhidham, Heronries of Tamil Nadu, Thamirabarani estuary Tamil Nadu. Potential aquatic OECMs in Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Jharkhand – 1 each Arunachal Pradesh – 2 Odisha – 3 Tamil Nadu – 5. Immense potential for expanding the aquatic OECMs network in India, with aquatic OECMs representing different biogeographic zones. Ramsar Sites outside PA network, freshwater habitats, riverine stretches, heronries outside PA network, mudflats, saltpans, mangroves, agricultural fields, academic Institutions, religious Institutions, artificial wetlands, critical nesting sites. An indicative list of 50 aquatic OECMs spread across 20 states in India have been identified.

The session was moderated by Dr. MKS Pasha, IUCN Asia Regional Head and a consolidated wrap-up of the session was carried out by Dr. Maeve Nightingale, Asia Regional Head, Coastal and Marine Programme.



Technical Session 5: IUCN Green List and Coastal Marine and Freshwater Protected and Conserved Areas – Regional Overview and Planning towards 2030

Landscape approach of conservation – Tiger and Cheetah case study from India

[Shri Rajendra Garwad, Deputy Inspector General of Forest, National Tiger Conservation Authority, India]

Shri Rajendra Garwad presented a Landscape Approach of Conservation with case-study of Tiger and Cheetah from India. Gave highlights of Project Tiger and core-buffer-corridor strategy. Spoke about mainstreaming wildlife concerns and Government of India's financial support matrix (Government spends 20 million USD for conservation). Showcased pan-India corridor map using data from 2006, 2010 and 2014. Spoke about participatory initiatives in tiger conservation and promoting smart green infrastructure. Discussed elaborately on monitoring tiger population and explained in great detail the process of All India Tiger Estimation. Shared about the history of Cheetahs in India and gave an overview of Project Cheetah and the pioneering transcontinental translocation of a big cat from Africa to India.

Natural World Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region and Management Effectiveness Evaluation Framework of Protected Areas

[Dr. Gautam Talukdar, Scientist, WII]

Dr. Gautam Talukdar gave a talk on Natural World Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region and Management Effectiveness Evaluation Framework of Protected Areas as applied in India. Gave highlights of the World Heritage Convention as one of the most ratified convention in the globe concerning the protection of world cultural and natural heritage properties. Spoke about the three pillars of the outstanding universal values of World Heritage Sites. Showcased the current map of the regional distribution of the World Heritage Sites across the globe (1154 properties as of April, 2023). Gave detailed information of World Heritage (WH) properties in Asia-Pacific sub-regions along with scope of areas which may contribute to natural heritage in Asia-Pacific region. In order to strengthen the WH convention, WII-C2C for world natural heritage management and training for Asia and Pacific region, under auspices

of UNESCO was established with objective of capacity-building, site nomination, advisory services and outreach. Dr. Gautam also presented highlights of the MEE framework along with linkage to PA management, an adaptive management approach and important assessment tool for evaluation of WHSs, NPs, WLSs and TRs.

IUCN Green List and Gap Analysis (IBEX) – Asia Update

[Dr. MKS Pasha, IUCN Asia Regional Head]

Dr. MKS Pasha shared details on the IUCN Green List and Gap Analysis (IBEX) in Asia. Gave highlights on MEE and how it is the best tool to assess the performances of PAs. Emphasized on the need to move from terrestrial PAs to marine PAs with respect to MEE. Gave an overview of the PAs in Asia. Spoke about the IUCN Green list Standard (four components, seventeen criteria and fifty indicators) of good governance, sound design and planning, effective management and successful conservation outcomes. Gave an overview of green list implementation and universal standards for PAs and conserved areas, viz. Good/precautionary action sites; Early warning action sites; Threat management sites; Intense management sites. Cited the examples of Laos, Maldives and twenty other sites from that have been green list approved. Explained the differences between MEE and Green List Standard and emphasized on the need to carry out MEE because it fulfills 50% of the Green list criteria. Shared about Green List Site Assessment and Gap Analysis Tool.

Marine Protected Areas capacity-building and Green List

[Dr. Maeve Nightingale, Asia Regional Head, Coastal and Marine Programme]

Dr. Maeve Nightingale spoke about Marine Protected Areas capacity-building and Green List. Defined the Asian coastal region and highlighted Asia as a center of global marine biodiversity. People's livelihood depends on MPAs (fishery industry). Discussed about threats such as increased conflict and cumulative impact (reduced resilience), poor integrated management, marine spatial planning, pressure to marine biodiversity hotspots, climate change (coral bleaching, ocean acidification etc). Spoke about global conservation targets for marine biodiversity {Aichi target 11, GBF Target 3 (CBD COP 15 2022): "30 by 30" Kunming-Montreal Agreement}. Shared statistics of MPA

Coverage in SE Asia and South Asia. Emphasized on strengthening large MPA systems, creating networks of MPAs as part of broader marine spatial planning policy safeguarding ecologically important and sensitive areas (30%+70%), synchronising conservation with fisheries management policies, adapting new models, climate smart protection – blue carbon, will also help countries buffer the impacts of climate change, improving conservation financing and MPA capacity development. For MPA capacity development in Asia, she suggested to engage in international policy engagement and alignment, building capacity to design and manage MPAs and Marine OECM, training infrastructure, materials & systems, human resources and Inclusion of wider stakeholders in training – including field-based personnel

Protection and Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem, including Marine Spatial Planning

[Dr. J.A. Johnson, Scientist, WII]

Dr. J.A Johnson gave a talk on Protection and Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem, including Marine Spatial Planning. Highlighted marine resources of India including coast lines, high tide lines, territorial sea and continental shelf. Presented detailed information of various coastal and marine habitats of India, not limited to sand dunes & beaches, coral reefs, salt marshes and coastal lagoons. Also gave a brief description of various marine mammals (35+ species) and turtles of India. Highlighted important sites of Indian Mangroves, sea grass habitats and coral ecosystem along with their ecological significance and importance of conservation. In India, MPAs form 5.3% of total areas under PA, recent addition including Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu. Highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of MPA, along with legal framework of protection, community participation and access to funds. Emphasized on the importance of spatial planning for marine protected areas' conservation and management.

Spoke about India's initiatives in conserving marine mammals, viz. Recovery of Dugongs and their habitat in India (An integrated participatory approach Phase – I); Assessment and monitoring of endangered species – IDWH scheme (pan – India) MoEFCC; Project Dolphin. Shared the legal provisions for protection and conservation of coastal and marine habitats, emphasizing on schedule lists of Indian Wildlife Protection Act-1972, Coastal Zone Management etc. Dr. Johnson concluded by providing information on various strategies which may

be implemented for effective and efficient protection of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Smart Green Linear Infrastructures

[Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist, WII]

Dr. Bilal Habib shared a video documentary on Smart Green Linear Infrastructures, demonstrating the utility of flyover and underpass structures in mitigating wildlife mortality in linear road infrastructure. It highlighted the network of PAs in India along with equally notable number of TRs and Elephant Reserves. Some major issues addressed included Why linear infrastructure in forest areas is a problem; How traffic volume affects wildlife movement; Assessing animal activities risk in road kills; How to decide on placement of mitigation measures; and how Smart Green Linear Infrastructures is beneficial both for development and conservation.

The session was moderated by Dr. MKS Pasha, IUCN Asia Regional Head and wrapped-up after a round of interventions and discussions by the participants and attendees.



Technical Session 6: Strategy for Achieving Target 3

The APAP Co-Chair led the discussion on the Outcomes of Discussions on the Road Map for APAP 2030 Vision. Noting the renewed commitments at both regional and global levels to promote the conservation of lands, inland waters and marine areas, recalling in particular the Kota Kinabalu Declaration agreed at the second Asia Parks Congress in May 2022 as well as the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted in December 2022, the meeting was convened under the theme ‘Moving Towards Implementation of Target 3: Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework’.

The draft key outputs of the meeting were deliberated and listed as following:

- Enhancing the APAP in alignment with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was highlighted by all member countries
- The APAP Steering Committee reconstituted comprising of 10 members:
 - Two APAP Co-chairs; (Secretariat + the Chairing Country)
 - One representative each from sub-region on rotation (selected in alphabetical order) – South Asia; Southeast Asia, East Asia and West Asia (03)
 - Three WCPA Regional Vice-Chair from Asia (03)
 - Two International Organizations
- Next APAP Chair nomination EOI submitted by Maldives
- The meeting of APAP Steering Committee shall be held twice a year (six monthly)
- In alignment with the Target 3 of GBF, all the APAP member countries recognised the importance for the conservation efforts to conserve at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas, and especially areas of importance for biodiversity, through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected and conserved areas.
- During the meeting, participants agreed to focus on four thematic areas to advance towards APAP’s Roadmap Vision 2030. These include:
 - transboundary protected areas

- other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)
 - quality and effectiveness of the protected and conserved areas
 - freshwater as well as marine protected areas.
- Based on each country's overview of the Terrestrial, Marine and Freshwater Protected Areas, Planning on Target 3 and next steps. A comparative analysis will be carried out to map the regional priorities and potential national opportunities for capacity building, mobilisation of knowledge exchange, sharing and capacity building for effective PCA management, recognised as the key measures necessary towards attaining the Target 3.
 - Inclusion of Ramsar sites, freshwater KBAs, other wetlands and watershed areas as OECMs suggested.
 - Free prior and informed consent (FPIC) for the establishment and reporting of OECMs on community lands and waters, without recognition of their governance and customary management systems emphasized.
 - The uptake and implementation of IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (a voluntary standard to promote and encourage protected area management effectiveness) to be mobilised further across Asia, for scaling up effective management and governance of PCAs and contributions towards Post 2020 GBF.
 - Role of Wildlife Institute of India as a Centre of Excellence towards strengthening capacity APAP member countries highlighted.
 - The APAP member countries recognised the need for alignment and update for country National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), which is due by CBD COP-16.

Closing Ceremony

A closing ceremony was conducted for the workshop by the organizing partners MoEFCC, WII and APAP. The delegates unanimously expressed their appreciation for a fruitful workshop and thanked the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, IUCN, Wildlife Institute of India. The delegates also provided constructive suggestions. Maldives suggested more focus on marine Protected Areas and aspects of technology in conservation. Vietnam requested for APAP secretariat to enable support for member countries to achieve 30x30 Target. Indonesia indicated it will consider joining APAP for more collaboration and partnership. Sri Lanka inquired about next steps required for implementing APAP in the country. Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand stated that the workshop had enriched understanding of OECM. Japan observed that various approaches of OECM in Asia showed the diversity of the region. Nepal suggested that there should be group sessions and discussions among member countries during technical session. Mongolia expressed their interest in OECM and Green Listing. Director, Wildlife Institute of India thanked the MoEFCC, Government of India for the opportunity to host the meeting and offered to play a positive role in the future too. The Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEFCC, Government of India acknowledged the three days of engaging discussion. He was happy that the members have agreed upon important issues, thematic areas and need for updating NBSAPs. The Head, IUCN South Asia Sub-Region congratulated all the participants for a successful workshop. He mentioned that it was a learning platform for new approaches and APAP will continue to be strengthened in the region. The IUCN India Country Director offered the vote of thanks with gratitude to the Government of India, member countries, IUCN, WII and all the staff supporting the programme.

Certificates were presented to all the delegates at the valedictory.

Visit to FRI Museums, WII Forensic Laboratory and Field Tour to Rajaji Tiger Reserve

At the end of Day 2, the delegates paid a visit to the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE) – Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. The authorities organized a walk-through the various museums. The Entomology Museum contained exhibits representing the various stages of insect pests and the nature of damage caused by them to seed, seedlings, standing trees, felled timbers, bamboos and also finished products. The Forest Pathology Museum had exhibits of various economically important tree diseases and timber decays. The Timber Museum had exhibits of the best-known and most common commercial woods and timber engineering techniques were displayed. The Non Wood Forest Products Museum depicted resin tapping techniques, various oils and other minor forest products. The Silviculture Museum Gallery showcased the evolution of forestry in India, importance of forests, threats to forests and various forest management systems.

Following the close of the technical sessions of the workshop on Day 3, the delegates had the opportunity to visit the WII Forensic Laboratory. Shri C. P. Sharma, Senior Technical Officer, WII gave an overview of illegal wildlife trade – global scenario. He mentioned about articles seized in illegal wildlife trade in India. Also shared identification tips for few important articles of illegal wildlife trade, viz. ivory, rhino horn, musk pod, bear bile, canines, claws, skulls, antlers, horns fake articles, shahtoosh shawls (from chiru), marine animals (sea horses, sea cucumbers).

This was followed by a field visit to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand for all the delegates and participants to witness the Protected Area management interventions along with smart green linear infrastructure in forest areas. The participants visited the Mohand Range of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. Dr. Bilal, Scientist, WII explained the mitigation of wildlife conflict due to the rise of linear infrastructure adjacent to the park. Dr. Bivash Pandav, Scientist, WII shared about the forest and the wildlife of the site. The participants were part of an exciting wildlife safari through the forest area. The notable sightings were a herd of Asiatic elephants, leopards, tiger along with other smaller mammals and avifauna.





IUCN Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP) Technical Workshop Wildlife Institute of India, 27-29 April 2023

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