

Outline of Asia Protected Areas Charter (Sendai Charter)

- Agreed document by the 1st APC participants to present shared views on characteristics and future directions of Protected Areas in Asia.
- Non legally binding document which calls for cooperation among the participants to promote concrete efforts in line with this Charter, as well as collaboration among countries in the region and relevant international organizations.

Key Points of the Charter

The Asia Challenge

- Protected areas are one of the most successful approaches to conserve nature and associated cultural resources.
- Asia's extensive and diverse protected area systems have a crucial role to play in reaching global biodiversity goals.
- It is urgently needed to enhance the management of Asia's protected areas, by increasing their share of human and financial resources and adopting international best practice approaches.

Note: Protected areas here include not only areas managed by governments but also private protected areas (PPAs), sacred sites, indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas (ICCAs).

Protected Areas for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

- Damage caused by disasters has become more serious due to such as population growth, urbanization and climate change.
- Protected areas enhance local resilience in areas at high risk of disasters.
- Nature restoration efforts that contribute to local community recovery in disaster-affected areas can promote people's understanding of the natural environment.

Harmonization of Regional Development and the Conservation of Natural Environments

- Many biodiversity hotspots are found in Asia.
- Protected areas are not only a means for the protection of the natural environment, but also a means for achieving harmony between humans and nature.
- Good management in protected areas contributes to maintenance of biodiversity in Asia's landscapes and seascapes.

Collaborative Management of Protected Areas

- Asian communities are traditionally connected to the land and sea, and protected areas must help provide economic benefits and improved livelihoods to the region.
- A diverse range of individuals, communities and institutions must be engaged to ensure protected areas benefit all, and these include business, indigenous peoples, NGOs and youth.
- Governance for protected areas should be based on their specific ecological, historical and political contexts.

Linkages between Protected Area Management and Cultures and Traditions

- Protected areas, especially sacred natural sites and indigenous peoples and community conserved areas, are deeply rooted in local cultures and traditions and these must be supported and encouraged in order to reconnect people with nature.
- Sacred natural sites not only contribute to the spiritual richness and well-being of people and communities, but also play a valuable role in conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Sustainable Tourism and Education for Environment and Sustainable Development

- Protected areas provide opportunities for tourism and education, and also contributes to community welfare, by serving as ecotourism centers which benefit local peoples.
- Education for environment and sustainable development is a useful tool to help interpret the natural and cultural values of protected areas.

Strengthening Protected Area Collaboration

- We must promote international collaboration to identify important places for biodiversity.
- Enhancing Asian protected area collaboration would increase the effectiveness of the region's protected areas, and lead to increased dialogue and strengthened ties among countries.
- Increased coordination and cooperation with existing biodiversity related international and regional agreements and frameworks is also important.

Our Commitments

We affirm:

- Our commitment to broaden understanding of the important role that protected areas play in disaster risk reduction and recovery;
- Our commitment to increase the potential of protected areas to provide opportunities for responsible tourism and environmental education in a way that is participatory, sustainable and beneficial to local communities;
- Our commitment to enhance protected area networks and cooperation through stronger engagement with central and local governments, business, indigenous peoples, NGOs and youth, to strengthen the efforts to increase financial and technical support for protected areas;
- Our commitment to respect and integrate local cultures and traditions, and to listen to the voices of those practicing them, in the designation and management of protected areas;
- Our commitment to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by reducing the threats to biodiversity and the ecosystem services;
- Our commitment to increase protected areas collaboration to improve governance and management capacity, and to champion the value of protected areas in Asia.

Through these commitment, we will work toward a future where protected areas enhance human progress, resulting in people living in harmony with nature.