

# Asia Protected Areas Charter

# Background

- What is it?
  - The agreement at APC preliminarily meeting in 2011
  - A foundation for Asian PAs management
- How?
  - Intuitively knew we have Asian ways of dealing with nature
  - were not sure how our experiences, wisdoms, practices reflect our PAs management
  - Literature review, data sorting, analysis, and integration by Prof. Amran
  - Extract essences
  - Focuses on six elements
  - Easy to read and use

# Structure

1. The Asia Challenge
2. Disasters and Protected Areas
3. Harmonization of Regional Development and the Conservation of Natural Environments
4. Collaborative Management of Protected Areas
5. Linkages between Protected Area Management and Cultures and Traditions
6. Promotion of Locally-oriented Tourism
7. Building a Protected Area Network and Partnership
8. Our Commitments

# 1. 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,
- Urgent need 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 for the protection of pristine nature but also areas managed for landscape conservation and recreation, as well as areas managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

## 2. Disasters and Protected Areas

- Damage caused by disasters has become more serious due to such as population growth, urbanization,.
- Protected areas contribute to best land use practices in areas at high risk of disasters, and promoting disaster prevention and mitigation through utilization of ecosystems service
- Nature restoration efforts and local community reconstruction in disaster-affected areas can promote people's understanding of the natural environment

# 3. 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.

# 4. Collaborative Management of Protected Areas

- Asia are traditionally connected to the land, and protected areas must help provide economic benefits and improved livelihoods to the region.
- Beyond the physical land and seascape, 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.

## 5. Linkages between Protected Area Management and Cultures and Traditions

- Protected areas are deeply rooted in local cultures and traditions and these must be supported and encouraged for to reconnect people to 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.



## 6. Promotion of Locally-oriented Tourism

- Protected areas serve as centers of recreation and education, and also contributes to community welfare, by serving as ecotourism centers which benefit local peoples.
- As the pace of Urbanization in Asia quickens, protected areas are becoming increasingly important as harbors of relaxation which reconnect people to nature's rhythms

# 7. Building a Protected Area Network and Partnership

- The formation of a pan-Asia protected area network 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 international agreements and frameworks is also important.

## 8. Our Commitments -1

- We will work toward a future where protected areas enhance human progress, resulting in people living in harmony with nature through by our commitments to:
  - Promote protected areas as natural solutions that can help to address many of Asia's most pressing problems including those associated with the region's rapid development;

## 8. Our Commitments -2

- Work with governments in Asia to strengthen the efforts to increase the financial and technical support for protected areas while enhancing protected area networks and cooperation through stronger engagement with governments, business, indigenous peoples, NGOs and youth;
- Respect local cultures and traditions, and to listen to the voices of those practicing them in the designation and management of protected areas;
- Help reach international conservation goals through the formation of a pan-Asia protected area network.