

Sustainability strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity-based value chains in ASEAN Member States

"The strategy aims to mainstream biodiversity-based products across ASEAN Member States to balance economic development and biodiversity protection, especially for communities around ASEAN Heritage Parks."

Project Report

Prepared by
World Agroforestry



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World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy is part of a short-term engagement with GFA Consulting Group on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The strategy provides recommendation to the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) to mainstream biodiversity-based products (BBPs) across ASEAN Member States (AMS) to balance economic development and biodiversity protection, especially for communities around ASEAN Heritage Parks. The recommendations are based on a) A review of existing programs and initiatives on BBPs; b) An assessment of gaps and possible entry points to promote and develop BBP value chains based on the outputs available from the “Biodiversity-based Products as an Economic Source for the Improvement of Livelihoods and Biodiversity Protection” (BBP) project; c) expert opinion based on ICRAF’s institutional knowledge and experience working for more than 30 years on improving the livelihoods of forest resources-dependent communities, with specific emphasis on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and sustainable natural resource management; d) consultation with various Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focal points and heads of international agencies during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt, 14–29 November 2018; e) ICRAF’s work as a technical partner to the ASEAN Social Forestry Network, which eventually transformed into the formally endorsed ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG SF); f) ICRAF’s experience with mainstreaming agroforestry across AMS through crafting the *ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development*, which were endorsed by the 40th Meeting of Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 26 October 2018. From the assessment we conclude that the prerequisite for mainstreaming BBP value chains into the national and subnational development strategies and programs of AMS needs government and community representatives to understand more easily the contributions of BBPs to the development of rural livelihoods and for delivering on commitments to the UN conventions.

BBPs are an excellent tool to position the AMS in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework discussions as they enhance coherence and cooperation between the CBD and other conventions, support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into other sectors and engage the private sector. What is needed is a concerted effort by all parties to link domestic and global demand for nature-based products with local communities that are able and willing to provide the supply base. The enabling environment, the regulatory frameworks that ensure that environmental and social safeguards are available and adhered to, and the rural institutions that can provide the needed technical capacitation of both communities and local authorities all need to be in place to ensure that biological resources are used sustainably and that benefits arising from them are shared equitably. Through its mandate, ACB is uniquely positioned to initiate and facilitate a dialogue between the global industrial players that are linking consumers with BBPs and the AMS. Our key recommendations towards a strategy for mainstreaming BBP value chains are, therefore, centered around five questions:

1. How can the lessons learned and experience shared from the BBP project support AMS’ commitments to mainstream biodiversity?
2. How can BBPs be used as an instrument to achieve coherence and cooperation between AMS’ strategies on biodiversity conservation and climate-change adaptation and mitigation?
3. How can ACB support the AMS in building the capacity of rural communities to be able to develop high quality and sustainable BBPs?

4. How can ACB support the work of the AWGNCB focal points?
5. How can ACB strengthen the link between AMS and global markets for nature-based products?

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This report is part of a short-term engagement with GFA Consulting Group on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to suggest a strategy to the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB). The strategy aims to mainstream biodiversity-based products (BBPs) across ASEAN Member States (AMS) to balance economic development and biodiversity protection, especially for communities around ASEAN Heritage Parks. This engagement was based on three major information sources: 1) a desktop study of available documentation and reports from the "Biodiversity-based Products (BBP) as an Economic Source for the Improvement of Livelihoods and Biodiversity Protection" (BBP) project; 2) discussions with key people in ACB and the BBP project; and 3) interviews with focal points of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB). It is important to note that this report is not an evaluation of the BBP project, rather, the outputs of the project were simply used as an information source. Also, given the time limitations for this engagement, the report is far from attempting an in-depth review of the context of BBPs in ASEAN. This report should be read as highlighting key areas that need further attention and engagement to ensure that BBPs can be a successful strategy to support biodiversity conservation efforts of AMS.