

ASEAN-NbS tool: Catalysing regional action to plan, monitor, and scale Nature-based Solutions



Project duration

Expected close date:
December 2026



Lead implementing partner



WRI INDONESIA

World Resources Institute (WRI)
Indonesia



Consortium partners



scene
coalition



SCeNe Coalition, The Asian
Disaster Preparedness Center
(ADPC), Spatial Informatics
Group-Natural Assets
Laboratory (SIG-NAL), Nanyang
Technological University (NTU)

Overview of the initiative

This project aims to systematically close the gap between the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and its large-scale implementation across ASEAN. It does this by strengthening inclusive, biodiversity-positive, and climate-resilient NbS through two core SCeNe Coalition workstreams: the NbS Tool and the NbS Incubator, both in line with the ASEAN-UK GTF's emphasis on science-based, inclusive, and regionally coordinated climate actions.

The NbS Incubator will support locally tailored NbS pilot initiatives by providing seed funding, targeted technical assistance, and decision-making tools. In parallel, it will upgrade the NbS Tool by integrating

harmonised geospatial datasets, a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework, and automated functions for project screening and documentation. These upgrades will help ASEAN Member States (AMS) identify strong NbS project ideas, build quality pipelines and accelerate pre-investment readiness across the region. To ensure long-term impact, the project will also help develop financing model for NbS research and development by assessing regional funding gaps, co-designing financing models, and providing tailored training to implementers.

The project will deliver a tested NbS incubation model, with pilot projects that demonstrate inclusive, high-integrity approaches in practice; an improved, regionally adapted NbS Tool with built-in MRV and data analytics; and a stronger ecosystem for sustainable NbS financing, including research and private sector partnerships.

Collectively, these outcomes will help ASEAN scale up high-quality NbS that support climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive development across the region.

Key objectives

- 1. Deliver ASEAN NbS Tool version 3 and a comprehensive user manual**, featuring harmonised datasets and an embedded NbS MRV framework module, formally endorsed by ASEAN Member States.
- 2. Launch an ASEAN Secretariat website page** that houses lessons learned from NbS implementation and provides direct access to the NbS Incubator, the NbS Tool and the NbS Research and Development (R&D) financing framework.
- 3. Produce an ASEAN-endorsed guidance report** that enables ASEAN countries to design, implement and scale high-integrity NbS, using pilot case studies, hands-on application of the NbS Tool across the project cycle, and clear pathways to access NbS finance.



Alignment with ASEAN vision, plan and priorities

This project supports ASEAN's regional vision for sustainability, resilience, and inclusive development by turning NbS policy commitments into practical tools, pilots, and digital systems that AMS can apply on the ground. It helps operationalise ASEAN's regional NbS framework and advancing climate mitigation across different ecological and national contexts.

By promoting harmonised standards, regional platforms, and shared knowledge systems, the initiative strengthens ASEAN cooperation and supports replication of successful NbS models across the region. This directly aligns with ASEAN priorities under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030, which emphasises green growth, innovation-driven development, and deeper regional integration, as well as the ASEAN Food, Agriculture, and

Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030, which prioritises sustainable agriculture, climate-smart practices, and forest restoration.

The project translates policy ambition into action by delivering tested NbS models through pilot design, a robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification framework, and an enhanced NbS Tool. By embedding science-based approaches and meaningful community engagement, the initiative positions NbS as a practical, scalable, and high-integrity pathway for climate mitigation and long-term resilience across ASEAN.

This project will be implemented in close partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat under the guidance of ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry.

“Across Southeast Asia, a clear gap remains between the potential of Nature-based Solutions and their implementation at scale. As part of the SCeNe Coalition, with WRI Indonesia leading the development of the NbS Tool, this initiative aims to help close that gap by advancing inclusive, biodiversity-positive, and climate-resilient NbS across ASEAN Member States. Through harmonised and advanced tools, data, and frameworks, the consortium aims to unlock NbS projects that are scalable, consistent, and capable of delivering lasting benefits for people, nature, and the climate.”

Nirarta Samadhi

Country Director, World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia