

EnCORE Wetlands: Enhancing Conservation and Restoration of wetlands and peatlands in ASEAN as effective sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases



Project duration

Expected close date:
December 2026



Lead implementing partner



ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
(ACB)



Consortium partners



Global Environment Centre
(GEC)

Overview of the initiative

The EnCORE Wetlands Project aims to tackle climate change by protecting and restoring carbon-rich wetlands and peatlands across ASEAN. These ecosystems are being rapidly degraded, yet they store enormous amounts of carbon and provide essential protection for vulnerable communities. By conserving and restoring them, the project helps reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience in the region.

The project will develop practical, evidence-informed models (covering policies, tools, technologies, and on-the-ground practices) to support inclusive biodiversity conservation in key wetland and peatland pilot sites. These models will be designed for broader replication across ASEAN Member States (AMS).

To achieve this, the project focuses on three main intermediate outcomes:

1. Improved, inclusive site management plans and implementation in pilot sites that integrate climate mitigation and restoration opportunities;
2. Improved measurement of carbon stock and emissions reductions in pilot sites that demonstrate how wetlands and peatlands contribute to emissions reductions;
3. Improved nature-based economic opportunities for local communities and stakeholders, reducing pressures on wetlands and peatlands ecosystems.

Key objectives

1. **Deliver training programmes to increase the capacity of conservation areas managers, including indigenous peoples and local communities, on climate mitigation measures for carbon-rich wetlands and peatlands areas.**
2. **Share good practices and lessons learned on wetlands and peatlands conservation with the public and broader stakeholder groups.**
3. **Identify requirements to develop a nature-positive economy, including Social and Environment Safeguards (SES).**
4. **Produce knowledge products that strengthen regional science-based decision support systems for carbon mitigation and biodiversity conservation in wetlands and peatlands areas.**
5. **Design and deliver activities, products, and services that help establish a site-level nature-positive economic model .**
6. **Share knowledge and learning on how nature-positive economy can reduce pressure on high-carbon wetlands and peatlands ecosystems.**



Alignment with ASEAN vision, plan and priorities

This project supports the ASEAN mission to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance by combatting biodiversity loss, climate mitigation, and the destruction of wetlands and peatlands through protected area management and improved scientific knowledge.

It underscores capacity development to enhance skills for contributing to sustainable development and solving two areas of the triple planetary crisis: biodiversity loss and climate change.

Additionally, it facilitates cooperation between donor organisations and ASEAN Heritage Parks and protected areas to strengthen the region's climate resilience.

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

“We are proud to support the EnCORE Wetlands Project and its promising vision to bring to front these often-ignored yet carbon-rich ecosystems that could reverse the impacts of climate change and support the livelihoods of our local people. It must be emphasised that policies need to include wetlands and peatlands as part of our regional conservation agenda.”

Jonas R. Leones

Chairperson, ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) 36th Meeting

“This exciting regional initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership designed to address the increasing pressures on the region’s wetlands, which are critical for biodiversity, carbon sinks, flood control, and local livelihoods. This is the first project of the ACB on peatlands, and I am personally thankful to our partners for having a shared vision and aspiration for inclusive and sustainable development in the ASEAN region.”

Dr. Jerome L. Montemayor

ACB Executive Director and Peatland Expert