

PEATLANDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Quick facts

▶ Peatlands are vulnerable to fire when they are cleared or drained; the 1997/1998 peatland fires and haze caused approximately US\$10 billion in socio-economic losses throughout the region

▶ About 500,000 people were medically affected in Southeast Asia in 1997/1998 due to the peatland fires and haze

▶ Approximately 25 million hectares of peatlands are found in Southeast Asia. They are being degraded at a rate of approximately 2% per year through illegal logging, land clearing and draining of peatlands for large-scale unsustainable development

Ramin

Gonystylus bancanus

- Native to Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

▶ Over 3,000 plant species are found in peatlands; including many valuable economic species, amongst them Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*), Light Red Meranti (*Shorea platycarpa*) and Jelutong (*Dyera polyphylla*)

▶ Peat swamps are home to unique animal species, especially fishes and dragonflies. Many of these are only found in peat swamps.

INDIAN OCEAN

122,800 ha

MYANMAR

19,100 ha

LAO PDR

4,580 ha

VIET NAM

53,300 ha

THAILAND

63,800 ha

CAMBODIA

64,500 ha

PHILIPPINES

Large Flying Fox

Pteropus vampyrus

- Native to Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
- IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened

Why peatlands?

- The most important terrestrial ecosystem for carbon storage – equal to all other terrestrial biomass and twice as much as all forest biomass
- Regulates greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and climate
- Water supply and flood control
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Sustainable management prevents fires and haze
- Economic benefits from natural resources and ecotourism
- Provides valuable goods and services

Selangor Red Betta

Betta livida

- Endemic to Selangor peat swamps, Malaysia
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Sumatran Tiger

Panthera tigris sumatrae

- Native to Sumatera Island (Indonesia)
- IUCN Red List Status: Critically Endangered

Philippine Tarsier

Carlito syrichta

- Endemic to the Philippines
- IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened

Asiatic Softshell Turtle

Amyda cartilaginea

- Native to Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Cambodia & Viet Nam
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

90,900 ha

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

2,588,900 ha

North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest, Selangor

Mumugo, Rokan Hilir

Giam Siak Kecil – Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve

Kampar Peninsula

Harapan Jaya, Indragiri Hilir

50 ha

INDONESIA

20,695,000 ha

Danau Sentarum National Park

Kuala Dua, Kubu Raya

Ex-Mega Rice Project, Central Kalimantan

Silvery Kingfisher

Alcedo argentata

- Endemic to the Philippines
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

False Gharial

Tomistoma schlegelii

- Native to Malaysia and Indonesia
- Extinct in Thailand
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

Bornean Orangutan

Pongo pygmaeus

- Endemic to Borneo Island (Indonesia and Malaysia)
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

PACIFIC OCEAN

What are peatlands? Peatlands are wetland ecosystems where partially decomposed organic matter (i.e. dead tree roots and leaves) have accumulated over thousands of years under waterlogged conditions to form organic or "peat" soil which is rich in carbon. Tropical peatlands are naturally covered with peat swamp forests. Rivers that flow through such forests are stained brown by the organic matter and have brown or black water.



CHAI AH SUNG

ASEAN Peatland Forest Project (APFP)

PROJECT FUNDER	Global Environment Facility (GEF) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
EXECUTING AGENCY	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat
REGIONAL PROJECT EXEC. AGENCY	Global Environment Centre (GEC)
PARTNERS	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam
PROJECT LOCATION	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam (regional and pilot activities)
DURATION	48 months (2009-2014)
PROJECT APPROACH	Reduce degradation of peatland forest and to demonstrate, implement and scale up sustainable management and rehabilitation of peatland forests in Southeast Asia through institutional strengthening and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

SEapeat Project

PROJECT FUNDER	European Union (EU)
PROJECT LEADER	Global Environment Centre (GEC)
ASSOCIATED PARTNERS	ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries
PROJECT LOCATION	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam (regional and pilot activities); Brunei Darussalam and Singapore (regional activities)
DURATION	48 months (2010-2014)
PROJECT APPROACH	Strengthen governance, promote best practices and develop incentives for sustainable management of peatland forests.

APFP-SEapeat Combined Focus Areas

- Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Peatlands Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020
- Collaborate in strengthening regional and national policies for peatland management
- Develop peatland fire prediction and monitoring system
- Capacity building, raise awareness of tropical peatlands and share best management practices for sustainability from pilot sites
- Explore financing and incentive options to support implementation of activities
- Provide technical support and guidance
- Improve protection and sustainable management of peatlands
- Prioritize peatland biodiversity conservation
- Stimulate regional collaboration on carbon storage and climate change issues
- Develop and promote guidelines for integrated management of peatlands
- Develop guidelines for responsible management of existing oil palm and forest plantations on peatlands

Sources (peatland hectareage)

Photo contribution

For further information

Projects funded by

Projects implemented by

Page, S.E. et al. (2011); Joosten, H. (2009); Quoi, L.P. (2012); National Environment Agency, Singapore

Malcom Demise/Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Ramin); Le Phat Quoi (Large Flying Fox); Tan Heok Hui/Raffles Museum (Selangor Red Betta); Chris Shepherd/TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (Sumatran Tiger); Mark Auliya/TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (Asiatic Softshell Turtle); Alain Pascua/Wild Bird and Nature Photography Philippines and KAKABAY (Silvery Kingfisher); Junaidi Omar/Zoo Negara Malaysia (False Gharial & Bornean Orangutan)

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