



Annual Report 2022



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Cover: Isabela Oriole *Oriolus isabellae* © Mvan Weerd Contents: Cat Ba Langur *Trachypithecus poliocephalus* © Nguyen Van Truong/FFI

Message from the Chair

As the world has been slowly returning to a pre-pandemic state, with borders opening up and movement becoming easier, now is the time to assess our relationship with nature and put it at the forefront of global development. Biodiversity has been largely neglected in Covid-19 recovery planning and spending.

With a greater recognition of the interconnectedness of the climate and biodiversity crisis, and a number of global conferences on climate change and biodiversity moving ahead this year, we hope that global support to address biodiversity loss will be drastically increased.



The 2022 Living Planet Report puts the issue into sharp focus, estimating that global wildlife populations have plummeted by 69% in the last 50 years. The report highlighted that biodiversity loss and the climate crisis should be tackled together as they are so deeply intertwined and both urgent economic issues.

The world of investors is waking up to the financial value and risks associated with biodiversity loss. This year, Moody's Analytics released a warning over biodiversity, stating that companies could face almost \$1.9 trillion in credit risk due to mismanagement of natural resources. This is backed up by the World Economic Forum estimating that the natural world supports around \$44 trillion in economic value, or half of global gross domestic product.

Looking ahead to the coming decade, estimates that biodiversity investments could increase by more than 2000% make it an exciting time to be involved in conservation. I hope to see some of this investment directed towards Southeast Asia, and in particular, into species conservation. With so many species in peril and ASAP Partners on the ground and ready for action, channeling investment through a partnership like ASAP can connect organisations and deliver holistic impact.

Simon Stuart, Chair of the ASAP Governing Council

Message from the Director

This past year has been an exciting and busy year for ASAP. 2022 has seen our grant giving and capacity development programmes deepen and mature. Two years after we awarded our first grants, I am delighted to see the fruits of projects we have supported and the impacts that they are having. We are seeing efforts going towards some of the most neglected species in the region, and it's wonderful to be able to include a growing number of projects on freshwater fishes, the largest group of ASAP Species. As ever, I am continuously awed by our Partners who work tirelessly to reverse the trend of extinction: their conservation efforts are what give hundreds of species across Southeast Asia a chance for survival.



The ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme has been a rewarding experience with this group of inspiring women as we continued into the second phase this year. The programme has evolved to look at personal leadership, building influence and wider collective impact, with a key focus on wellbeing and self-care - a vital but often overlooked issue for conservation practitioners.

Our first five-year strategy comes to an end in 2023, and this gives us a valuable opportunity to evaluate progress to date and develop new and ambitious plans for our next phase. I am very proud of how ASAP has grown over the past five years and its increased support for the critical work of ASAP Partners. We look forward to expanding our support further and as we develop our new strategy, we would love to hear from you. Within this report, I'm pleased to be sharing some of our exciting plans for the year ahead. As we move into 2023 and a new phase, we are excited about the opportunities and achieving more together.

On behalf of the ASAP team, we thank all our ASAP Partners, donors and many supporters who have made all of this possible.

Nerissa Chao, Director, ASAP

A global conservation priority

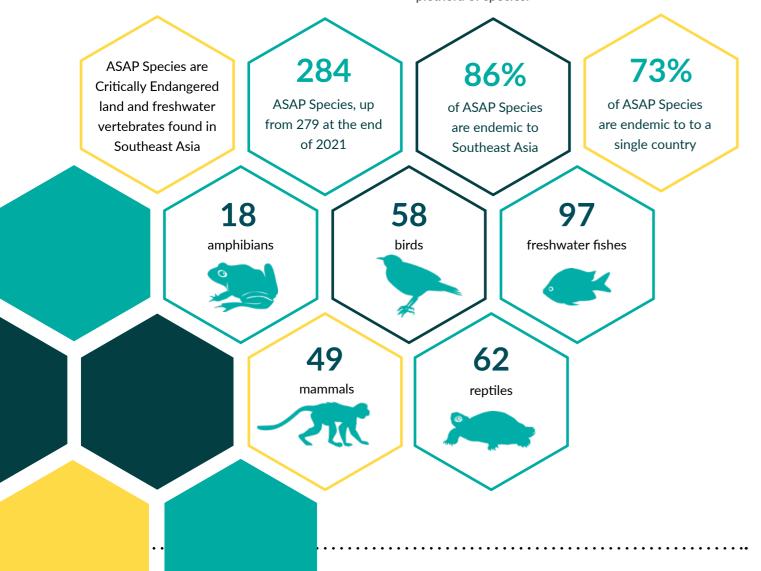
Southeast Asia is a spectacular region that is extremely rich in biodiversity. The stunning level of biodiversity is made even more special due to the huge number of species that can only be found within the region, often in a single country. Its complex blend of habitats and species make it truly unique and special.

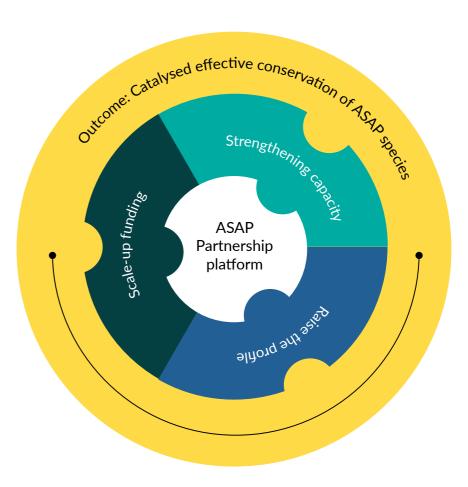
However, the region has among the world's fastest rates of habitat loss in recent times. Combined with other threats such as unsustainable offtake of wildlife, this has led to an unparalleled high number of species on the brink of extinction. The number of ASAP Species now stands at 284. Significant threats remain across all species groups, with freshwater fishes remaining the largest group of ASAP Species.

A path to recovery is possible, and the growing recognition that tackling and halting species loss together with restoring and protecting nature and addressing the climate crisis is an opportunity to change these trends.

ASAP is ramping up efforts to address these challenges. We support a growing network of Partner organisations by creating an enabling environment to catalyse and implement impactful conservation, whilst raising the profile of ASAP Species and Partners.

Through a partnership platform, ASAP is increasing investment in conservation for the region and strengthening regional capacity and leadership to secure the future of Southeast Asia's incredible plethora of species.





ASAP's approach

ASAP is a partnership platform for organisations tackling the species extinction crisis in Southeast Asia. Through investing in people and organisations, we catalyse effective conservation interventions, promoting species recovery and conservation of nature. Our three programmes of work all lead towards catalysing conservation for ASAP Species.

Scaling-up funding

To increase funding for ASAP Species, ASAP leverages funding opportunities and runs grant programmes.

Strengthening capacity

To help increase conservation action and impact, ASAP runs targeted training programmes that strengthen the skills and knowledge of ASAP Partners.

Raising the profile

To increase conservation attention for ASAP Species, ASAP communicates with key audiences, raising awareness of and driving action for ASAP Species conservation.



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women supported with leadership training

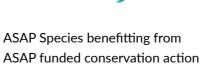


118,000

SGD given in grants



15



50,000

unique website visitors

98%

of ASAP Partner Survey respondents benefit from being an ASAP Partner



25



new organisations welcomed to the Partnership 74

training and grant opportunities shared with Partners 95%



growth in Linkedin followers



ASAP provides a platform that brings organisations together and strengthens the conservation of species in Southeast Asia. Our Partners range from small NGOs working to save a single species in remote parts of the region, to large international organisations whose work spans across borders. What aligns ASAP Partners is a mission to protect biodiversity, which in turn will improve economic security and societal wellbeing.

Being an ASAP Partner gives organisations access to their peers and an opportunity to network in ways that might otherwise be difficult. We are in a unique position to identify commonly experienced barriers to conservation, and to support Partners in overcoming them.

226

ASAP Partners, up from 201 at the end of 2021

"ASAP is very helpful and plays a vital role, through capacity building, networking and funding, in supporting our conservation efforts."

Joko Guntoro, Satucita Foundation

In a recent survey, ASAP Partners told us what they consider the benefits of being an ASAP Partner:



connecting with other Partners or feeling part of a wider 85% network



hearing about funding or training opportunities

81%



being able to apply for ASAP grants

80%



"Our organisation is very grateful for the support from ASAP. We are a testament of how ASAP supports the growth of small, grassroots, emerging conservation organisations in Southeast Asia."

Herdhanu Jayanto, KONKLUSI - Kolaborasi Inklusi Konservasi (Foundation)

Save the turtles webinar

In May, we hosted a webinar to coincide with the launch of the Setting Priorities for the Conservation of Asia's Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles: a Ten-Year Update report. The wellattended event was introduced by Rick Hudson. President of the Turtle Survival Alliance. Participants were able to hear talks from three ASAP Partners: Chen Pelf Nyok from Turtle Conservation Society Malaysia; Sheherazade from PROGRES; and Kalyar Platt from Turtle Survival Alliance Myanmar Program.

Events like this bring Partners working on crosscutting themes together, building links across the region and strengthening conservation efforts.



Strengthening capacity

The ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme provides targeted training with opportunities for shared learning and knowledge. It strengthens leadership skills for women conservationists across Southeast Asia conserving ASAP Species.

As a Partnership, one of our roles is to support our Partner organisations and strengthen the capacity of regional conservationists to meet the ever-evolving challenges of conservation work. By ensuring that conservationists are empowered with complex skillsets, in-depth knowledge and access to a supportive peer network, we are increasing the chance of species survival and healthy ecosystems in Southeast Asia.

Diverse leadership is increasingly recognised as fundamental for conservation success. Women, however, continue to be under-represented in leadership roles. Supporting the need for gender equity in conservation leadership, ASAP is equipping women conservationists with tools to elevate and amplify their impact. The ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme is now in its second phase focusing more deeply on leadership skills and practice.

Building on a successful first phase, we partnered with Visibility Co and Dr Vik Mohan to delve deeper into aspects of leadership with a wellbeing thread running through the entire programme.

The ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership
Programme participants were guided through a
process to strengthen their participation, voice and
resilience, and build their confidence and impact as
leaders whilst developing strategies for their own
wellbeing and self-care. This programme will continue
into the first quarter of 2023, and culminate in
bringing participants together face-to-face for the
first time at a retreat in Cambodia.

ASAP is strengthening and sustaining nationally led conservation action in the region, and promoting wellbeing and self-care for conservation practitioners to reduce the risk of species extinction.





40
hours of online live support

"The Visible Leadership programme provided me room to upgrade my skills and knowledge together with other women in conservation around Southeast Asia. It has helped to sharpen my next steps and vision in conservation. I am really proud to be a part of the ASAP WICLP!"

Dwi Agustina, Perkumpulan Konservasi Kakatua Indonesia



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Scaling-up funding

Species diversity and richness are the underpinning foundations for functioning ecosystems which are vital for societal health, yet funding for species conservation is difficult to secure and unevenly distributed. ASAP is addressing this by running two grant programmes that put funding in the hands of those at the front-line of saving species on the brink.

Since the ASAP grant programmes began, we have awarded more than SGD 350,000 for 34 projects across 7 countries, directly conserving 43 species. Launched in 2020 at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic was causing funding cuts and increasing costs, ASAP grants have been important for keeping critical conservation projects going as well as initiating new ones.

ASAP Species Conservation Grants 2022

- Partner: Association for Nature and Biodiversity (ANB) ASAP Species: Axis kuhlii
- **Partner: Celebica Conservation Action** ASAP Species: Xenopoecilus sarasinorum
- Partner: Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah
- ASAP Species: Ansonia guibei *
- Partner: Kelompok Pengamat Burung Spirit of South Sumatra ASAP Species: Betta pardalotos
- Partner: Royal Society for Protection of Nature ASAP Species: Ardea insignis **
- **Partner: Satucita Foundation** ASAP Species: Batagur borneoensis
- Partner: Universiti Malaysia Terengganu ASAP Species: Clarias batu



SGD given in grants in 2022

> projects funded across 4 countries in 2022

ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund 2022

- Partner: BirdLife International (Asia) ASAP Species: Gyps bengalensis, Gyps tenuirostris, Sarcogyps calvus
- **Partner: Friends of National Parks Foundation** ASAP Species: Leucopsar rothschildi
- **Partner: PROGRES**
- ASAP Species: Clarias sulcatus

ASAP Species: Adrianichthys kruyt, Adrianichthys rose, Mugilogobius amadi Partner: Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

The ASAP Species Conservation Grants are supported by:



The ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund is supported by:

MARCH CONSERVATION FUND

* Co-funding from Synchronicity Earth ** Co-funding from Oriental Bird Club





Funded project spotlight: Katala Foundation

ASAP Partner: Katala Foundation

ASAP grant: Rapid Action Fund 2021 (supported

by Fondation Segré)

Project title: Palawan Forest Turtle
Siebenrockiella leytensis hatchery

Country: Philippines

ASAP Species: Palawan Forest Turtle

Siebenrockiella leytensis

The challenge

The Katala Institute for Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation holds the only assurance colony of the Palawan Forest Turtle which is endemic to the Palawan Island group. The centre was badly damaged by Typhoon Kompasu which flooded the centre and destroyed fertile eggs, putting the safety of the hatchlings and juveniles at risk.

Aim

Construction of an upgraded flood-proof hatchery to improve breeding success and accommodate at least 57 Palawan Forest Turtles of different development stages.

Impact

The construction was successfully completed. The upgraded flood-proof hatchery provides protection to eggs and hatchlings from floods and other natural disasters and ensures enough space to raise hatchlings under stress-free conditions until they are at least one year old. At the point of construction, fifteen hatchlings (four from 2020, eight from 2021, and three from 2022) and one egg were transferred to the hatchery. Captive bred individuals will be released to safe locations to augment wild populations and allow recovery from over-exploitation.



The ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund is supported by:





Funded project spotlight: Mabuwaya Foundation

ASAP Partner: Mabuwaya Foundation

ASAP grant: ASAP Species Conservation Grant

2020

Project title: Local protection of the Philippine
Crocodile and Isabela Oriole in Community
Conserved Areas in Northeast Luzon, Philippines

Country: Philippines

ASAP Species: Philippine Crocodile *Crocodylus mindorensis*, Isabela Oriole *Oriolus isabellae*

The project

The Northern Sierra Madre mountain range in Northeast Luzon is one of the last wilderness areas of the Philippines with the largest contiguous forest of the country and important coastal and freshwater wetlands. The habitat is home to many threatened species, including three ASAP Species: Philippine Crocodile, Isabela Oriole and Hawksbill Turtle. The species are threatened by hunting, egg poaching, nest destruction, and loss and degradation of habitats by agricultural conversion, pollution and destructive fishing. Mabuwaya Foundation has been working with local communities and municpal governments to establish critical habitats as Community Conserved Areas (CCAs).

Aim

Ensure the CCAs are effectively managed and protected with local patrol and monitoring systems to conserve the focal species.

Impact

Sanctuary guards have been trained and mentored in species monitoring, monitoring of illegal activities and reporting of species population counts and illegal activities in the CCAs.

During 2021, quarterly monitoring surveys were conducted in all 8 Philippine Crocodile sanctuaries with a total of 86 individuals counted. Five crocodile nests were found by sanctuary guards with 32 hatchlings from three nests. 21 baby crocodiles were collected for the municipal headstart programme where they will be raised for two years and released back into the wild. The other two nests did not hatch due to heavy rain and monitor lizard predation.

In 2022, 87 crocodiles were counted plus an additional six crocodiles counted in a locality not covered in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Five nests were found yielding 37 hatchlings and 13 headstarted juvenile crocodiles were released back into the wild.

In 2021, one Isabela Oriole monitoring activity was carried out by community volunteer wardens who counted 30 individuals. In 2022, 37 counts were recorded with one new locality identified.

A 970ha area has been adopted as a wildlife sanctuary by the village government and submitted for adoption by the municipal government.

Previously, a 5,500ha wildlife sanctuary was declared and together they protect the vast majority of the known wild population of this species.

During the project period, there were no known reports of Philippine Crocodile, or Isabela Oriole being killed, eggs collected or nests destroyed.



Raising the profile

ASAP Species include an astonishing array of wildlife, from well-known animals like the three ASAP orangutans to species such as the Gigante Wrinkled Ground Frog, of which most people have never heard. Species across all ASAP taxonomic groups; mammals, amphibians, freshwater fishes, reptiles and birds, are facing increasing and intensifying threats, yet species

funding and conservation attention are not enough to meet the needs.

ASAP champions the more neglected species, and a key part of our strategy is to increase the levels of conservation for them by raising their profile alongside the work of ASAP Partners.

An urgent call to halt species loss in the ASEAN region

Working in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, we launched the report, <u>Halting Species Loss in ASEAN: Baseline Information Analysis</u>. The report considers threats, conservation measures and the policy context in order to make a set of recommendations for the recovery of ASAP Species in the ASEAN region.

Saving the region's exceptional biodiversity will require a joint ASEAN response, and this report informs and guides member state action around seven key themes:

Catalysing conservation action

Strengthening the effectiveness of site-based conservation action

Implementing effective responses to poaching, trafficking and unsustainable offtake of ASAP Species

Addressing drivers of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation

Strengthening integration of ex situ and in situ conservation

Creating an enabling regional policy and regulatory framework for species conservation

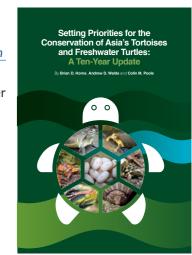
Leveraging financial support for conservation and recovery of ASAP Species

Save Turtles ASAP

Ten years after the first workshop to set conservation priorities for the conservation of Asian Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, we launched an updated report <u>Setting Priorities for the Conservation of Asian Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles: A Ten Year Update.</u>

During this time, despite conservation successes, a greater number of tortoise and freshwater turtle species have been listed as Critically Endangered.

There is an urgent need to increase conservation efforts and this updated report by Brian Horne, Andrew Walde and ASAP Governing Council member, Colin Poole, gives fresh, action-based recommendations aimed to reinvigorate interest and drive awareness and action.



97%

of ASAP Partners asked are interested in a media collaboration with ASAP

Social media

ASAP continued to harness social media to showcase the work of ASAP Partners and put a spotlight on ASAP Species in 2022. This included topical campaigns and social media takeovers.













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Meet ASAP's host



ASAP is hosted by Mandai Nature, a non-profit conservation organisation based in Singapore. Mandai Nature aims to be the trusted wildlife conservation organisation in Asia, with a focus on protecting highly threatened species from extinction, protecting and restoring ecosystems, and creating benefits for local communities.

Established in 2020, Mandai Nature is the conservation arm of Mandai Wildlife Group, which manages Singapore's zoological parks including Singapore Zoo, River Wonders and Night Safari.

The IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival

Through a formal collaboration between Mandai Nature and the IUCN SSC, the IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia was established this year. The regional centre will bring together the collective expertise and programmes from our international networks, and will be a training and resource hub for IUCN tools that conservation partners in the region can tap into. The first of its kind in Asia, the regional centre will be based in Singapore and hosted by Mandai Nature.



Q&A with Mandai Nature CEO, Dr Sonja Luz



What makes Mandai Nature unique?

Mandai Nature is a catalyser, builder and convener. We support conservation programmes in the field and co-design solutions delivered by our partners, we aim to build lasting capacities of local and national NGOs, students and other stakeholders, and we convene partnerships and host multi-stakeholder collaborative alliances for conservation impact.

As the conservation arm of Mandai Wildlife Group, Mandai Nature is in a unique position to apply holistic for Nature, People and Climate, we feel strongly species conservation approaches by integrating ex situ and in situ conservation action. We support holistic conservation planning processes, conducting research and developing interventions to advance knowledge in wildlife management, health and biodiversity conservation. We deliver conservation impact through our support for more than 40 conservation partner projects to save threatened species in Southeast Asia, scaling up efforts to protect critical landscapes and establishing strategic global partnerships for species conservation.

Why do you think Mandai Nature hosting ASAP is a good fit?

Our purpose is to enable a sustainable world where wildlife and people thrive together in healthy ecosystems. Part of how we deliver impact is through convening and hosting partnership platforms like ASAP that address critical conservation outcomes in the region. We share a common vision with ASAP to avert the extinction of Southeast Asia's most threatened species. Hosting ASAP allows both organisations to combine our efforts to mobilise much needed action for Critically Endangered Southeast Asian species.

What are your hopes for the future?

Through Mandai Nature and its partnership with ASAP, we hope to develop more lasting conservation support and solutions to scale and strengthen work for threatened Southeast Asian species. While we recognise the importance of achieving triple benefits about not losing sight of the serious extinction threats many of the lesser known species are facing.

Mandai Nature will continue to work with ASAP to scale and stabilise efforts on the ground. We will bring our ex situ expertise to apply the IUCN CPSG One Plan Approach to conservation, building and strengthening the ex situ and in situ capabilities of our partners to have a positive and lasting impact for species conservation and biodiversity protection in Southeast Asia.



As the number of ASAP Species continues to increase, ASAP's role becomes more vital each year, and as our programmes develop, the impact we are having is becoming clearer. We have exciting plans for the year ahead which build on and enhance the work we have been doing. Alongside continuing with the current ASAP grant programmes which put money directly towards the conservation of species often neglected by other conservation measures, we are looking at how we can develop more holistic granting to meet the different needs of ASAP Partners.

Over the past year, we have been working hard to develop our approaches to support ASAP Partners and to provide opportunities to strengthen capacity and skills development. As the second phase of the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme comes to a close in early

2023, we are looking forward to bringing the participants together for our final module and retreat to celebrate their achievements and leadership journey. We are also excited to be partnering with Synchronicity Earth and Stone Soup Consulting to roll out a new initiative, 'Essentials of NGO Management', for ASAP Partners. This online programme will be finetuned to meet the needs of Partners in the region, tackling a range of topics essential for effective organisational management from governance and leadership and human resources, to fundraising and financial sustainability, addressing a current gap in regional training provision.

There continues to be a higher number of Critically Endangered freshwater fish species in Southeast Asia than of any other of the ASAP taxonomic groups. The situation is urgent and yet is often overlooked. We have been working in collaboration with <u>Shoal</u> and <u>Mandai Nature</u> to develop a strategic framework for the conservation of ASAP fishes. This year we have been working through consultation on the final document and are looking forward to launching the report in 2023 with a focus on delivery and putting into place the essential conservation actions needed for freshwater fishes.

2023 marks the final year of the current ASAP five-year strategy, and during the course of the year we will be developing our future plans.

Working together with ASAP Partners and the Governing Council, we will build on the last five years to update our strategy, and give ASAP a strong framework to catalyse conservation for ASAP Species.

"SHOAL is delighted to work with ASAP and Mandai Nature on the development of the Strategic Framework for Urgent Action for ASAP Freshwater Fishes. There is an enormous amount of work to be done to stop these fishes from going extinct.

The Framework provides a guide to begin to tackle this significant task and we hope to see a flood of attention and projects stemming from the plan."



Mike Baltzer, Executive Director, Shoal



We would like to thank all our donors who have provided invaluable support to ASAP throughout 2022. Their generosity has enabled us to continue building the Partnership, support a greater number of ASAP Partners, and ultimately advance ASAP Species conservation. We are also extremely grateful to have a new donor, March Conservation Fund, join our efforts. As always a very special big thank you to our Host institution, Mandai Nature, which provides financial support and a home to the ASAP Secretariat, and for its unwavering support to the partnership and species conservation in this region. Without the generous support from all our valued donors our work would simply not be possible.

We also celebrate the incredible work of ASAP Partners whose dedication to securing species is making a difference every day.

Thank you to the following for their financial support throughout the year, for which we are extremely grateful:















And an anonymous private foundation

Our team

Governing Council

The ASAP Governing Council provides strategic direction and oversight to the operation and structure of ASAP. It is made up of ASAP Partners each represented by a named individual.

As part of the ASAP constitution, the Governing Council follows a rotation system and we are happy to welcome The Philippine Eagle Foundation and Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia to the Governing Council in January 2023.

This means that we have to say goodbye to two of our previous Governing Council members and we extend our thanks to Myfanwy Griffith from European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and Barney Long from Re:Wild for all their input over the years.

We are also delighted to have a new Deputy Chair appointment to the Governing Council. We extend our congratulations to Kanitha Krishnasamy who took on this role in December 2022.

Represented on the Governing Council in 2022:

Chair - IUCN SSC. Simon Stuart

Host - Mandai Nature, Sonja Luz

Permanent seat - IUCN Asia Regional Office, Alex

McWilliam

Member - Bogor Agricultural University, Mirza Kusrini

Member - EAZA, Myfanwy Griffith

Member - GreenViet, Ha Thang Long

Member - Re:wild, Barney Long

Member - TRAFFIC, Kanitha Krishnasamy

Member - Wildlife Conservation Society, Colin Poole

"The biodiversity crisis has been front and centre of the global debate, especially these past few months. The opportunities to reverse or prevent species declines in Southeast Asia are immense - ASAP and its unique approach make a critical contribution to address this crisis, bit by bit, species by species, country by country. I'm honoured to take on this new role as Deputy Chair and look forward to greater heights of this Partnership in safeguarding species."

Kanitha Krishnasamy, Director for Southeast Asia, TRAFFIC

Secretariat

2022 has seen ASAP increasing efforts and that has included an expansion to the <u>current team</u>. We were delighted to welcome Mary-Ruth Low (Communications Manager), Li Ling Ho (Grants Manager), and Daniel Willcox (Programme Manager) to the ASAP team during the course of this year.

This has strengthened the capacity of the Secretariat team and ensured that we are able to provide greater support to ASAP Partners and deliver further on our strategy.

IUCN Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP)

80 Mandai Lake Road Singapore 729826 contact@asapspecies.org

www.speciesonthebrink.org

This report has been designed using images from Flaticon.com

ASAP is an IUCN SSC initiative







The ASAP Secretariat is hosted by:

