

FRESHWATER FISH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Setting the course for healthy habitats and populations

Southeast Asia is home to more than 30% of all freshwater fish species globally and the livelihoods of many communities in our region depend on thriving freshwater ecosystems. But most Critically Endangered freshwater fish receive little to no conservation action and it is imperative we act now.

30% of the world's freshwater fish species are found in Southeast Asia.



Tens of millions

of people in Southeast Asia rely on freshwater fish for their livelihoods and vital source of protein.

P

new freshwater fish species were described from Southeast Asia in 2022.



KEY THREATS

PRIMARY







Conversion of wetlands



Aquaculture and agriculture



Hydropower development



Urban development

90



90%

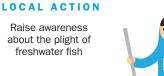
of these Critically Endangered fishes are only found in a single country in Southeast Asia and nowhere else in the world.



Mekong Giant Catfish

found only in the Mekong River basin, is one of the largest freshwater fish in the world weighing 300 kg and can grow up to 3m in length.





WHAT CAN YOU DO?





Protect key habitats such as rivers, lakes, peatland swamps

Engage with local governments to lobby for greater protection of freshwater habitats



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

If you are working with or on freshwater fishes, talk to us about potential collaboration and funding.



The Strategic Framework to Accelerate Urgent Conservation Action for ASAP Freshwater Fishes in Southeast Asia was developed through a collaborative effort IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), SHOAL and Mandai Nature. The framework is designed to help guide efforts for the urgent conservation of 90 Critically Endangered Southeast Asian freshwater fish species found across 11 countries.

Read it here: bit.lv/freshwaterfishframework









