



ASAP



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



2023 has been a year of exciting growth and progress for ASAP. We have expanded our grantmaking by introducing two new Funds to support ASAP Partners, developed further training programmes and welcomed new team members to the Secretariat. As our network of ASAP Partners has continued to widen, I've been delighted to see the Partnership continue to grow and to strengthen relationships with existing ASAP Partners.

The year also saw us put a focus on freshwater fish conservation, launching our partnership with Mandai Nature and SHOAL to put a spotlight on the conservation needs of the often-overlooked ASAP Freshwater Fishes and drive the urgent action needed to prevent their extinction.

A personal highlight of the year was joining the first cohort of our

Women in Conservation Leadership Programme at a retreat in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This group of women conservation leaders have been nothing short of an inspiration and it's been an honour to see them develop into a tight-knit and supportive community. The retreat in Cambodia was an amazing way to wrap up the first programme and hear the participants share stories of their own personal experiences and journeys.

Our new strategy 2024-2030 titled "Investing in the people that will save species" is a culmination of collaborative efforts from across the Partnership. Building on the success of our previous strategy, it outlines our roadmap for delivering our mission over the next six years. I would like to thank everyone who provided their valuable input during this process.

For now, we are proud to share some of the accomplishments of the Partnership with you in our 2023 Annual Report and we look forward to working together in 2024.

Nerissa Chao , Director, ASAP





training programmes. Without a doubt, it reinforces the value of this unique platform, to truly invest in the people with which our treasured biodiversity depends on.

In this report, you will find insights into the people, projects, partnerships, and achievements that have defined our journey over the past year. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced opportunities, grown stronger and forged new paths towards flourishing ecosystems for Southeast Asia.

There has never been a more important time to conserve the unique and complex biodiversity of Southeast Asia, not only for its beauty, but also for the solutions it offers to global issues like climate change and food security. The new ASAP strategy offers a clear pathway to achieving impact, and I'm excited to be a part of its delivery.

Kanitha Krishnasamy, Deputy Chair, ASAP Governing Council

I was honoured to begin serving as the Deputy Chair of the ASAP Governing Council in 2023, after several years on the Governing Council. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of watching ASAP grow to new heights, year on year. This past year especially holds many special moments and it is with pride that we share some of these accomplishments made as part of ASAP's goal to preserve some of the most critically threatened species of Southeast Asia.

Throughout 2023, the dedication of the ASAP Secretariat and the members of the Partnership has been evident. It's been wonderful to learn about some of the projects that ASAP is supporting, and I've been particularly inspired by the stories of people who have joined ASAP's

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

17 

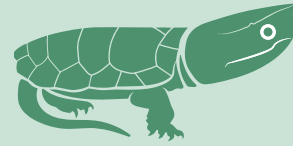
ASAP Partners directly supported with one-to-one advice

Approximately

USD 150,000



given in grants



21

ASAP Species directly conserved through grants


>70 

hours of training



100%

of local Partners say they benefit from being part of the Partnership

>250 

ASAP Partners

32 

new Partners in 2023

60%

60% follower growth on LinkedIn and Instagram



THE PARTNERSHIP

At the end of 2023 the ASAP Partnership was made up of more than 250 Partners from 30 countries, all playing an important role in securing a future for ASAP Species. The Partnership includes organisations with many different areas of expertise, including education, community engagement, tackling wildlife crime, conservation breeding and research.

Secretariat team members visited ASAP Partners across Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam during the year, seeing first-hand the amazing work they do to conserve ASAP Species. Meeting our Partners face-

to-face is incredibly valuable for gaining a better understanding of the organisation and how ASAP can provide support. During these visits the team saw field locations where ASAP Species are being protected on-the-ground and breeding facilities where species populations are being future-proofed. Partners were able to ask for support in a range of activities, from proposal writing and financial management to making connections with other Partners further afield. We are very grateful to the Partners we visited for welcoming us and taking the time to show us their work.



Introducing Cahaya



This year the ASAP Secretariat welcomed Cahaya Ramadhani to the team in a newly created position of Indonesia Programme Coordinator.

Cahaya's role is to provide bespoke support to ASAP Partners in Indonesia and to enhance the impact of ASAP's work in the country.

Speaking of her role at ASAP, Cahaya said, "We're here to see everyone succeed and we're willing to go the extra mile, within our capacity, to support our Partners' journey."

“ASAP has been a crucial part of our organisation in all aspects, from the funding opportunity to the assistance, especially for the overlooked species. ASAP is the first organisation we get in touch with whenever we need help.”



Irhamna Putri Rahmawati
Wildlife Rescue Centre Jogja

SCALING UP FUNDING

2023 highlights

- Expansion of our funding programme to four active Funds
- Approximately USD 150,000 given in grants
- 15 grants given
- 21 ASAP Species directly conserved
- Joint call for proposals to conserve ASAP Freshwater Fishes

Since our grant making programme began in 2020, we have grown our giving year on year, supporting more Partners and putting more money directly into the conservation of ASAP Species. With additional funding from donors, we have been able to double our grant making in a three-year period.

An exciting development during 2023 was the expansion of our grant making, adding two new Funds to help ASAP Partners establish the skills, networks, and organisational resilience needed to withstand the pressures of running conservation organisations. Our Partner Networking Fund supports collaboration between ASAP Partners,

facilitating knowledge exchange and maximising peer-to-peer learning. The ASAP Species Continuation Fund – our largest grant – is a vital, multi-year resource for previous recipients of our grants. It enables them to not only continue species conservation focused activities, but also address organisational gaps and priorities that are integral for sustained success.

In addition, we released a call for proposals under the SHOAL-ASAP Grant for Freshwater Fishes to ramp up conservation of ASAP Fishes in Southeast Asia.

In 2023, our grant making programme expanded to include:

ASAP Species Conservation Fund



ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund



ASAP Partners Networking Fund *New for 2023*



ASAP Species Continuation Fund *New for 2023*



SHOAL-ASAP Grant for Freshwater Fishes *Collaboration, New for 2023*



GRANTS MADE IN 2023

ASAP Species Conservation Fund 2023

- 1 **Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity**
Giant Asian Pond Turtle; Yellow-headed Temple Turtle
- 2 **Asian Turtle Program of Indo-Myanmar Conservation**
Vietnamese Pond Turtle
- 3 **Central Institute for Natural Resources & Environmental Studies**
Black-eyed Bent-toed Gecko; Gialai Bent-toed Gecko;
Takou Bent-toed Gecko
- 4 **Ecosystem Impact Foundation**
Nias Hill Myna; Silvery Pigeon
- 5 **Fauna & Flora International**
Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey
- 6 **Living River Association**
Big-headed Turtle
- 7 **Raptor Conservation Society**
Flores Hawk-Eagle
- 8 **Saola Foundation**
Saola
- 9 **Yayasan Konservasi Nusa Palapa (KONUPA)**
Flores Hawk-Eagle

ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund 2023

- 10 **Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity**
Bengal Florican; White-shouldered Ibis
- 11 **Asian Turtle Program of Indo Myanmar Conservation**
Chinese Stripe-necked Turtle; Yellow Pond Turtle; Bourret's Box Turtle
- 12 **Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife**
Siamese Crocodile
- 13 **Project Palaka**
Gigante Wrinkled Ground Frog
- 14 **Talarak Foundation**
Visayan Warty Pig
- 15 **Sumatran Orangutan Society**
Sumatran Orangutan



Spotlight on

ASAP Partner: Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia

ASAP Species: Southern River Terrapin

Grant received: ASAP Species Conservation Grant

With funding from ASAP, a partnership between the Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia and Malaysia's Department of Wildlife and National Parks made significant strides in Southern River Terrapin conservation through collecting for incubation and head starting. Releasing the head-started hatchlings is an important strategy to secure populations of the species against the continuing major threat from collection and consumption of eggs.

In the 2022 breeding season, 668 eggs were collected, and this rose to 1,037 in 2023, with a fantastic hatching success rate of 61.5%.

To give the hatchlings the best chance of success, river clear-ups were conducted, removing 340kg of damaged and discarded fishing gear. Before the hatchlings were released, they were given rigorous health checks and advanced tagging for post-release monitoring.



Top right image © Thida Leiper/WCS. All other images © Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia

STRENGTHENING ASAP PARTNERS

2023 highlights

- Graduation for the first ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme participants in Cambodia
- Launching the new Essentials of NGO Management training programme
- 17 ASAP Partners directly supported with one-to-one advice
- 13 ASAP Partners visited and provided with in-person advice and support

People are key to conservation success. That is why our training programmes have been an important area of investment over the last few years. This year we were proud to hold a graduation event for the first cohort of the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme. The programme began in 2021, pivoting to a completely online programme due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

In 2023 we were finally able to bring participants together for a retreat in Cambodia where they shared inspirational stories of their journeys towards purposeful and authentic leadership. The experiences and lessons from the programme graduates have been key in developing the second round which we are excited to be running in 2024.

This year also saw us launch the Essentials of NGO Management programme. The training covered important topics that underpin the management of an NGO. Partners learnt how to navigate governance and leadership, strategic planning, and agile thinking amongst other topics, which was complemented by one-to-one mentoring sessions. These training initiatives are an exciting step in growing our commitment to supporting organisational development in Southeast Asia.



Spotlight on

Lan Ho

ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme 2023



I applied what I learnt from the Women in Conservation Leadership Programme to increase our organisations' visibility, capacity, and strategy for more impact on the ground. I have shared with colleagues how to attach their core values to their career development, introduced them to well-being in conservation, and talked with them about courage and vulnerability.

I've applied the tools we learnt and storytelling lessons as the pathway to improve governance, establish our first board of governors, build an inclusive organisation culture, and enhance our communication and fundraising strategy. As a result, we are now a local NGO with improved governance and operation systems, and we are gradually increasing our visibility within the species and habitat conservation space.

I will continue to integrate the learning components into my work so that the impact can go to more women, young conservationists, and local partners in my country to contribute to species conservation as a whole.



RAISING THE PROFILE

2023 highlights

- 130 people joined freshwater fish webinar
- 10 Partners showcased on social media
- 29,000 website visitors
- 60% follower growth on LinkedIn and Instagram

Communications is a strand that runs through all elements of our work. To attract more funding and build momentum for the conservation of ASAP Species, shining a light on lesser-known species and increasing visibility of ASAP Partners are critical elements. In 2023, we continued to showcase ASAP Species and ASAP Partners on our channels.



Spotlight on

Setting the course for freshwater fish conservation



In our dedication to spotlight and conserve the Critically Endangered freshwater fishes of Southeast Asia, we forged a strategic partnership with Mandai Nature and SHOAL. This collaboration was instrumental in progressing efforts for conservation of this neglected group of species.

Firstly, we introduced a collaborative framework aimed at expediting conservation efforts for ASAP Fishes. This document outlines urgent priorities crucial for the recovery of these vulnerable populations. The importance of the framework was picked up in various media channels.

Additionally, we launched the SHOAL-ASAP Freshwater Fish Conservation Grant, addressing the underfunded nature of freshwater biodiversity conservation. By the end of 2023, four grants had been given, totalling over USD 55,000 and directly conserving five freshwater fish species.

To mark the launch of the framework and the grant, we hosted a webinar gathering experts and partners to discuss the latest research and conservation initiatives. Attendees engaged in insightful discussions and posed thought-provoking questions.

OUR THANKS

We are extremely grateful to all our donors that make the support that we give Partners possible. Special thanks go to Mandai Nature which hosts the ASAP Secretariat and continues to provide the financial and administrative support that enables us to achieve more impact with every dollar we spend.

Donors



An anonymous donor

As part of the ASAP Constitution, the Governing Council follow a rotation system and we would like to extend our thanks to TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society who stepped down from the Governing Council at the end of 2023.

In their place we would like to welcome BirdLife International (Asia) and Myanmar Biodiversity Fund who joined the ASAP Governing Council in January 2024. We also welcome two new appointments with Kanitha Krishnasamy as the Deputy Chair and Colin Poole as an Advisor to the Governing Council.

Governing Council

- Bogor Agricultural University
- GreenViet
- IUCN Asia Regional Office
- IUCN SSC
- Mandai Nature
- Philippine Eagle Foundation
- TRAFFIC
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia



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ASAP is hosted by Mandai Nature

