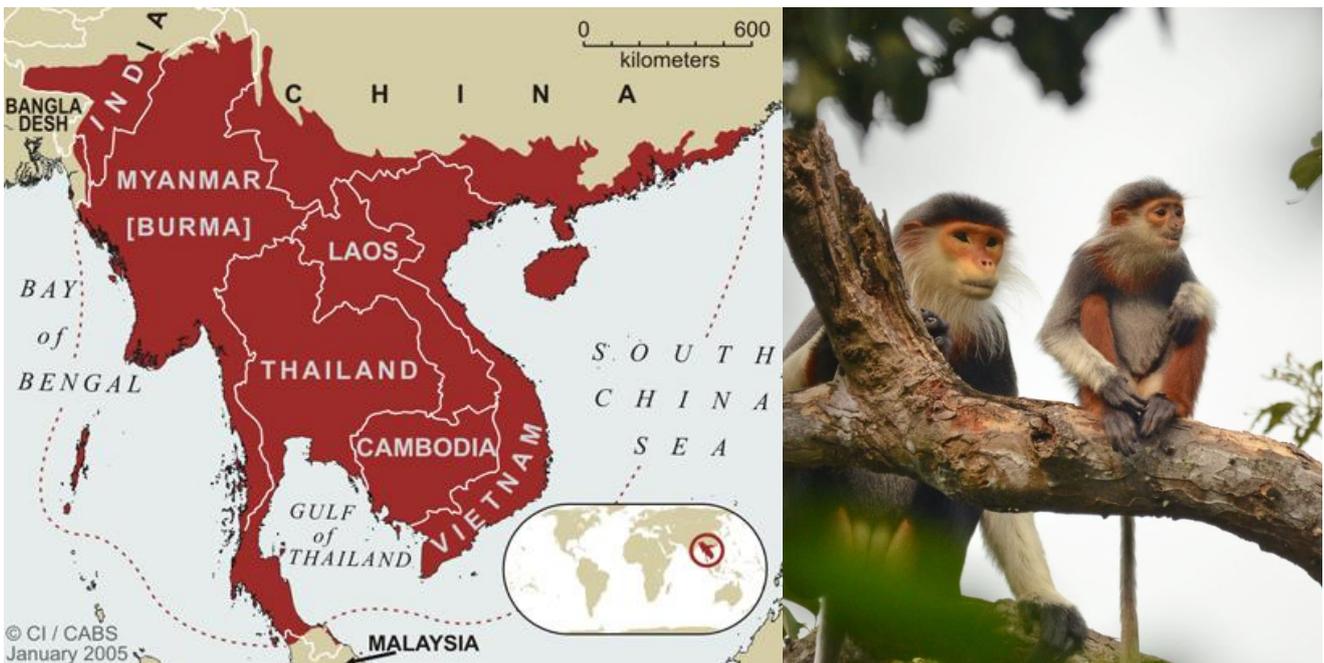




Protecting important biodiversity hotspots

IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) are undertaking a five-year investment for conservation of globally important biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Hotspot. This region, which ranks amongst the world's top 10 'biodiversity hotspots', is one of the planet's most biologically rich—but also heavily threatened—regions.



Above left: Map of the Indo-Burma Hotspot (c) CI / CABS. Right: Endangered Red-shanked doucs in Son Tra, Da Nang, Viet Nam (c) GreenViet.

The Indo-Burma region: biodiversity in the balance

Comprising Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and parts of southern China, the Indo-Burma region is of global importance for biodiversity. The region is known for its high levels of plant and animal endemism, and the diversity of its freshwater fish species is one of the richest in the world. The region is also home to Critically Endangered fauna such as the White-headed langur, the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey and the enigmatic saola.

The future of much of Indo-Burma's ecosystems and species now hangs in the balance. Only 5% of the area's natural habitat is considered to remain pristine. And nearly 37% of the key biodiversity areas in the region are not under any formal protection.

Combined threats from increasing human population, rapid economic development, expansion of agriculture and infrastructure and unsustainable natural resource exploitation are putting unprecedented pressures on Indo-Burma's natural resources. The situation is exacerbated by illegal wildlife trade and a lack of resources and incentives for effective law enforcement and conservation planning and action.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND

IUCN-CEPF Indo-Burma Hotspot Programme

IUCN is leading the second phase (2013-2018) of CEPF's funding work in the Indo-Burma hotspot, working together with the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN) and Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) to form the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (RIT).

The total value of this conservation investment in the Indo-Burma hotspot is USD10.4 million. This initiative will aim to bridge the gap between Indo-Burma's development and conservation needs by improving protection and management of priority sites and species, and support the development of the civil society component of the hotspot's conservation community.

Strategic approach

Within the Indo-Burma Hotspot, CEPF has identified a suite of 151 priority species, 74 priority Key Biodiversity Areas, and five priority corridors which will be the focus of much of the grants until 2018. The priority corridors are: the Mekong and major tributaries, the Tonle Sap Lake and inundation zone, the Sino-Vietnamese limestone, the Hainan Mountains, and Myanmar.

Projects funded by CEPF must address one of five priority Strategic Directions, including:

- safeguarding priority species by mitigating threats;
- demonstrating innovative responses to illegal wildlife trade;
- empowering communities to engage in conservation and management of priority KBAs;
- mainstreaming biodiversity, communities, and livelihoods into development planning in priority corridors; and
- building capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities, and livelihoods.

Project proposals are subjected to a process of internal review by the CEPF Secretariat and RIT, external review by experts drawn from the RIT's network, and a review by National Advisory Committees made up of representatives of civil society organizations, donors and government departments.

Empowering civil society

Civil society holds the key to conservation that lasts. CEPF's experience from the past decade has shown that focused investments that enable civil society to lead highly strategic conservation initiatives achieve results. Working with civil society is central to the approach and provides a vital opportunity to bring global and regional scientists together with representatives from local communities to assess key conservation issues, plan effective conservation action and develop long-term roadmap for future efforts.

In addition to managing a process of proposal review and grant-making, the CEPF RIT seeks to be more engaged with grantees than most traditional donors. The role of the RIT includes: mentoring of less experienced organizations, facilitation of communication and coordination between grantees working on similar topics and in similar geographies, and other efforts to ensure that the CEPF grant portfolio may become more than the sum of its parts.

IUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization. Its work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development.

IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN's Asia Regional Office is in Bangkok, Thailand. The IUCN Asia Regional Secretariat has over 200 staff located in country and liaison offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

www.iucn.org/asia
Facebook: [iucn.asia](https://www.facebook.com/iucn.asia)
Twitter: [@IUCNAsia](https://twitter.com/IUCNAsia)

CEPF

Established in 2000, CEPF is a global leader in enabling civil society to participate in and influence the conservation of some of the world's most critical ecosystems. It works by providing grants for nongovernmental and private sector organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots.

CEPF is unique among funding mechanisms in that it focuses on high-priority biological areas rather than political boundaries, and examines conservation threats on a landscape scale. From this perspective, CEPF seeks to identify and support a regional, rather than a national, approach to achieving conservation outcomes, engaging a wide range of public and private institutions to address conservation needs through coordinated regional efforts.

The fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

www.cepf.net
Facebook: [CriticalEcosystemPartnershipFund](https://www.facebook.com/CriticalEcosystemPartnershipFund)
Twitter: [@CommunityCEPF](https://twitter.com/CommunityCEPF)

CEPF Regional Implementation Team IUCN Asia Regional Office

Contact:
James Tallant, RIT Manager

Email: CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org

Tel: +844 3726 157/6. Ext. 331
Fax: +844 3726 1561