Asia is a region of extraordinary biodiversity—home to five of the world’s 17 mega-diverse countries and eight of its 35 biodiversity hotspots. Nature is at the heart of many Asian cultures and religions and it is also a direct source of sustenance and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people.

But these resources are increasingly at risk as growing populations and rapid economic development put increasing strain on the ecosystems that sustain them. The last few years have seen plummeting populations of important species, high levels of water stress in many areas, and six Asian countries counted among those most vulnerable to climate change. These are symptoms of a larger problem—one that spells trouble not just for nature, but for people too.

IUCN is the world’s largest and oldest global environmental organization, and represents a unique Union which brings together Governments, NGOs and six Commissions of volunteer scientists. In Asia, this means a powerful and growing network of organizations working together to contribute to creating a more sustainable world.

The Regional Conservation Forum (RCF), IUCN’s meeting of Members in Asia, held every four years, addresses biodiversity and ecosystem challenges and sets the region’s conservation agenda. Leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, business and academia will assemble to share experiences, debate and decide how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

In August 2015, around 500 representatives of governments, NGOs and the business sector from across Asia will come together in Bangkok, Thailand for IUCN’s Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

They will discuss how they can work together to deal with Asia’s pressing environmental issues, to share their experiences and best practices, and to make decisions on a joint programme of action to enhance the resilience of people and nature in the region.

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand (MONRE) and the National Committee of IUCN Members in Thailand, the Forum provides a unique platform to discuss innovative conservation approaches, share regional experiences and build partnerships for future action.
Special emphasis will be placed on the impact of emerging socio-economic trends on the environment and the critical importance of all sectors working together to address these issues. There will be a major focus on nature-based solutions—harnessing the power of nature to solve our fundamental human challenges—as well as on ways to value and conserve nature, and the effective and equitable governance of nature’s use.

In addition to Membership decisions and debate, a number of panel discussions will bring together diverse perspectives from an array of stakeholders. Through the discussions, IUCN Members will have an opportunity to help set the context for the organization’s next programme, with outcomes from the Regional Forum feeding into the next IUCN World Conservation Congress—the world’s leading platform for creating change for conservation and sustainable development—which will take place from 1-10 September 2016 in Hawai‘i, USA.

A detailed agenda for the RCF will be available soon on www.iucn.org/asia.

Join the Forum

- Interact with leading figures from governments, nongovernmental organizations, business and science in the region
- Learn from Asia’s leading environmental and development experts
- Develop new partnerships for sustainability across a wide range of sectors and countries
- Get involved in local projects, regional initiatives and policy
- Build long-term partnerships with IUCN to add value to your organization’s activities

Get involved

**Participate:** The IUCN Asia Secretariat is facilitating this meeting of more than 250 Member organizations—13 State Members and over 200 government agencies, NGOs and academia from South, Southeast and Northeast Asia. The event also welcomes participation from IUCN Commissions and organizations interested in becoming IUCN Members. To find out more about how you can participate, please contact Raj Kumar, IUCN Asia Membership Manager at raj.kumar@iucn.org.

**Spread the word:** Regional media representatives will be invited to attend the opening session of the Forum. IUCN will also be asking its Members to play an active role in raising awareness on the Forum through their own websites and social media accounts. To find out more about how you can help to spread the word or to secure media accreditation, please contact Lea Guerrero, IUCN Regional Communications Manager at lea.guerrero@iucn.org.

**Sponsor:** A number of opportunities with significant recognition benefits are available for corporate sponsors, media sponsors and IUCN partners. To find out more about how you can be affiliated with this exciting event, please get in touch with Jane Lawton, Head of Asia Communications and Private Sector Engagement at jane.lawton@iucn.org.

**About us:** Founded in 1948, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN’s 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 is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members and almost 15,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN’s work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN Asia Programme is one of our largest regional programmes with more than 250 State and NGO Members, and over 2,000 experts participating in IUCN’s six Commissions. The Asia Regional Office is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

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