

SECOND PART OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE UNFCCC COP 28 STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

1. Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity or the ACB expresses its gratitude to the Parties and the Secretariat for its accreditation as an Intergovernmental Organisation Observer. We look forward to contributing to the UNFCCC processes as we take on two of the most pressing issues of our time: biodiversity loss and climate change.
2. The Southeast Asian region is home to more than twenty-five per cent of the world's known plant and animal species despite only possessing three per cent of the world's land area. However, it remains to be one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change directly affected by extreme weather events over the past years.
3. Our leaders recognise that we cannot tackle climate change without the vital services provided by our rich biodiversity and ecosystem health. Healthy species and ecosystems diversity enhances nature's ability to store and sequester carbon, and acts as our natural defence against climate change-related impacts. A well-balanced ecosystem regulates climate, reduces the risk of pandemics, and provides water and food security.
4. We join the ASEAN Member States in calling for support to adaptation and resilience through nature-based solutions that protect vulnerable groups. We also highlight ongoing efforts on forest protection and rehabilitation as part of our climate action, as mentioned by Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam in their high level statements.
5. Our interconnected forests, rivers, coastal, mangrove and marine ecosystems in the ASEAN Region require concerted action among our Member States as one Community, to address the common environmental challenges that we face.
6. The ACB stands ready to contribute to the synergy of actions and partnerships in the ASEAN Region and across other regions, to optimize available resources and efforts in addressing the intertwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. And so together, we can move forward towards a more sustainable and resilient future, where no one is left behind.

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