



OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014, ISSUE # 4

MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the final edition of IUCN Southeast Asia e-news for 2014. As you can see we had a very exciting and very busy final quarter of the year – with a number of major regional and global events stretching between Sihanoukville in October, Sydney in November and Bangkok in December. Below you can read about the final Coastal Forum of the BCR project – which ended with the adoption of the “Sihanoukville Declaration”; the IUCN World parks Congress (a once in a decade gathering of the world’s leading protected area professionals) held this time in Sydney, where our work in Southeast Asia featured prominently in a number of events (including a special event on opportunities and challenges for protected areas in Myanmar) and the first in a series of “Wild Talks” held in Bangkok to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the IUCN Red List, as well as many other initiatives. Once again I hope you will appreciate the stories here that reflect the depth, breadth and exciting nature of our work in this important part of the world.

Robert Mather
Head, Southeast Asia Group
IUCN

BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



Over 200 participants at the BCR Coastal Forum endorsed the Preah Sihanouk Declaration

The Third and Last Annual Coastal Forum of the Building Coastal Resilience Project successfully ended in Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia. Over 200 participants endorsed the "Preah Sihanouk Declaration on Building Coastal Resilience to Climate Change Impacts in Southeast Asia". [Read](#)



Coastal communities across three countries in ASEAN commit to climate change adaptation

Based on the empirical evidence through four years of intensive learning and work together between villagers, local governments, scientists, NGOs and the media; coastal communities in eight provinces of Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam confirmed climate change impacts are happening, and committed to work more strategically to adapt through the adoption of the Preah Sihanouk Declaration. [Read](#)

An update on the Building Coastal Resilience project from Cambodia

Much progress has been made in BCR project implementation in Cambodia; with project sites in Koh Kong and Kampot provinces respectively. Two of the



most important ongoing BCR activities include the drafting of the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan in Koh Kong and coastal zoning activities in Kampot. The Peam Krasop Management Plan is especially important for improved natural resource management and more responsible resource use through specially designated zones. [Read](#)



The Building Coastal Resilience project update from Viet Nam

As part of the EU-funded project, Building Resilience to Climate Change Impacts in Coastal Southeast Asia (BCR), the provinces Soc Trang, Kien Giang, Ben Tre and Can Gio District in Viet Nam have been selected to strengthen capacity and pilot adaptation activities for reducing climate change vulnerabilities. In Viet Nam, the BCR project partners with the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation). [Read](#)



Benefit sharing for co-management: Oyster farming in Can Gio mangrove forest

The Can Gio mangrove forest has been recognized as the protected forest of Ho Chi Minh City and as a 'Biosphere Reserve' by UNESCO. To fully protect the mangrove areas in consistent with Forest Development and Protection Law, the Can Gio District People's Committee issued directive 03/2009/CT-UBND which prohibits any activities that make changes to forests and forest land status. [Read](#)

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



IUCN celebrates 50 years of the Red List with pioneering conservationists in Thailand

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the IUCN Red List, IUCN South East Asia Group brought together conservation pioneers in Thailand in an inspiring talk that honours remarkable individuals who have dedicated a lifetime's work to species research and conservation. [Read](#)



Loei - a mountainous land where cultural tradition and nature conservation blended

Surrounded by mountain ranges and the Mekong River bordering Thailand and Lao PDR, Loei Province in northeastern Thailand has a wealth of natural resources and possesses a unique cultural identity and traditions. It has five key protected areas within its confines. In September, IUCN together with the public organization DASTA—the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration—organized a preliminary visit to Na Haew District in Loei Province in order to learn about the site and meet with local stakeholders. [Read](#)



Conservation prospects in Myanmar: a discussion

On November 13 at the World Parks Congress in Sydney, IUCN, FFI, and WCS organized a side-event on conservation prospects in Myanmar, perhaps the first of its kind at a global event. After presentations on the state of conservation in both the marine and terrestrial realms, a panel of Myanmar government and NGO representatives answered questions from the audience. What emerged was a thoughtful, hopeful, but sometimes troubling picture. [Read](#)

IUCN Releases New Documentary “Sacred Natural sites in the Xe Champhone Ramsar site, Lao PDR: The spirit of conservation”



IUCN's research into rights-based approaches (RBAs) to reduce poverty and benefit conservation has been focused on the development of tools to better inform conservation strategies. In order to gain further experience on RBAs, IUCN Lao PDR with support from the IUCN Environmental Law Centre focused on undertaking a situation analysis – in the Xe Champhone Ramsar Site in central Lao PDR, Savannakhet province. It examined the under-researched issue of customary law governing natural resources, including the relationship of customary law and statutory law. [Read](#)



Documenting community engagement for Probarbus protection in Lao PDR

With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), IUCN awarded a small grant to FISHBIO – a dedicated group of fisheries monitoring and research experts, whose work concerns fish and wildlife throughout the world. FISHBIO produced an interesting and informative video documenting their wider approach, as well as ongoing and planned work, for their CEPF-supported project in Lao PDR. The objective of this project is to empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of a key biodiversity area in Lao PDR along the stretch of the Mekong River between Louangphabang and Vientiane. [Read](#)



Tiger conservation programme launches call for proposals

Today, IUCN's [Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme](#) (ITHCP) is launching a call for field-based projects for tiger conservation. Nine tiger range countries are eligible for funding under this programme and multidisciplinary projects delivered by collaborative partnerships are encouraged. The five-year programme is funded by the German government through the [KfW Development Bank](#). [Read](#)



A royal gift for the 'Asian unicorn'

In honour of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort of Denmark's 80th birthday this year, [Copenhagen Zoo](#) recently made a generous donation to the IUCN [Saola Working Group \(SWG\)](#). The [Saola \(*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*\)](#) is a Critically Endangered ungulate endemic to the Annamite Mountains of Lao PDR and Viet Nam. It is so rare and enigmatic that it is often referred to as the 'Asian unicorn'. [Read](#)



A historic step for World Heritage and protected areas in Myanmar

After years of relative isolation, Myanmar has now emerged as one of the last frontiers for biodiversity conservation and protected area development in Southeast Asia. Myanmar's rapid economic and political reforms present both threats and opportunities for biodiversity conservation, protected areas management and World Heritage status. [Read](#)

WATER AND WETLANDS



Hydro-power or Climbing up the Mekong

With 148 dams planned on the Mekong River and its tributaries, environmental and social impacts seem to be inevitable. Yet, not all dams have equal impacts and there is a need to optimise benefits and minimise costs for all countries involved. This has been the message of the panelists at the Mekong film screening at Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. [Read](#)



National Assembly and water governance

On March 28-April 1, 2015, the National Assembly (NA) will host the 132rd Assembly of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union:

<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/132agnd.htm>. On the agenda is a resolution on “Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water”. In preparation, the NA organized a workshop in December, chaired by the NA Vice-President, to share ideas on water governance in Vietnam. The presentations on domestic and international water governance and plenary discussion raised some interesting issues. [Read](#)



Communities from Southern Lao PDR share experiences on Ramsar site management

Community members from Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site in Champasak province recently participated in a study tour in Xe Champhone Ramsar site in Savannakhet province. Held from 10-12 December 2014, the objective of the study tour, which is one of the closing activities of the four-year long Mekong Water Dialogues projects, was for communities to share experiences on Ramsar governance and promote the Ramsar Convention principle on the wise use of wetlands. [Read](#)



Establishing fish conservation areas: Learning and replication

IUCN and FACT, the Fisheries Action Coalition Team, are implementing a 4-year EU-funded project called Strengthening Capacity of Fishing Communities in the Tonle Sap to Manage their Natural Resources Sustainably. The project is helping to establish community managed fish conservation areas (FCAs) in three pilot sites in the Tonle Sap: Kampong Phluk Commune, Siem Reap Province, Boeung Chhmar, Kampong Thom Province, and Phlov Touk Commune, Kampong Chhnang Province. [Read](#)

MARINE AND COASTAL



Conserving the Myeik Archipelago: where to start?

In October 2014, in collaboration with Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Myanmar Department of Fisheries, IUCN organized a workshop in Myeik in Tanintharyi Region with funding from the FAO/GEF Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the concept of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and how they could be applied in the Myeik Archipelago, which stretches the length of Tanintharyi and contains around 800 (mostly uninhabited) islands. [Read](#)



Assessing MPA management effectiveness

In 2010, the government established 16 MPAs. Only eight of these have any form of management presence, however. Even where there is a management presence, there is concern about its effectiveness in the face of numerous threats. IUCN and others have done a good job over the last few years of documenting these threats, notably illegal fishing, loss of turtle nesting beaches, poorly planned development, land-based pollution, and in some cases very large numbers of visitors. What we haven't done so well is to identify, let alone implement, consistently effective solutions that allow the MPAs to meet their management objectives. [Read](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Hydrodiplomacy training: more exciting than it sounds

Spending two days learning about international water law sounds like cruel and



unusual punishment. But the training course on hydrodiplomacy that IUCN and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) organized in Hanoi on September 18-19 turned out to be unusually stimulating. [Read](#)



Organic aquaculture training for healthier ecosystems

Creating market incentives for more sustainable shrimp farming and healthier ecosystems – that is the aim of the Mangroves and Markets project. In Thailand, this project has been conducting organic aquaculture training as a first step in this move toward more sustainable aquaculture. [Read](#)



Project learning: How to do it better

As a global network that relies heavily on partners to implement projects, IUCN issues a lot of small grants. In 2014 alone, two of our biggest programs, Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), have awarded 21 small grants in Vietnam alone with a total budget of US\$370,000. As part of our M&E process, IUCN staff make site visits to talk to grantees, meet beneficiaries, and check what's happening the ground. [Read](#)

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT



The last refuge: karst conservation in Kien Giang

Described in 2009 as probably one of the worst cases on Earth of multi-species extinctions under direct human action, the karst limestone hills of the Ha Tien-Hon Chong Plain in Kien Giang Province are a global conservation hotspot. To address the risks of biodiversity loss, Holcim asked IUCN to prepare a biodiversity action plan in 2012. The plan's major recommendation is to for Holcim to support the establishment of a nature reserve. To strengthen the scientific basis of the nature reserve, Holcim financed and IUCN and the Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) organized a 2-week survey of the plant and invertebrate biodiversity in 25 hills. [Read](#)

RESOURCES

REPORTS

Smith, B., Kong, S., and Saroeun, L. (2014). *Conservation status and the use of Irrawaddy dolphins as a flagship species for climate adaptation in the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia*. Thailand: IUCN. 80pp. [DOWNLOAD](#)

Nguyen Thi Phuong, T., Tang Phuong, G., and Le Thi Thanh, T. (2014). *Cross-border learning of community-based coastal resilience building: Cambodia-Thailand study tour*. Thailand: IUCN. 46pp. [DOWNLOAD](#)

BOOKS

SUMERNET Secretariat at the SEI-Asia Centre in Bangkok. *Climate risks, regional integration and sustainability in the Mekong region. Thailand*. [DOWNLOAD](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

UNESCO mission to assess potential world heritage possibilities:

14 Jan-03 Feb 2015, Hkakaborazi, Myanmar

MRCS Donor Harmonization Meeting and Donor Consultative Meeting:

15-16 Jan 2015, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Blue Solutions from Asia and the Pacific features success stories presented at Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Wellbeing in Asia and the Pacific in May 2014. [DOWNLOAD](#)

FACTSHEETS & POSTERS

Ha Long Cat Ba Alliance - a partnership between government, business, and community leaders catalyzes action to preserve and protect Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba Archipelago. [DOWNLOAD FACTSHEET](#)

Promoting ecosystem resilience by engaging women fishers in fishery management Sekong River, Lao PDR. [DOWNLOAD POSTER](#)

VDOs

[The Spirit of Conservation \(Lao PDR\)](#), 11.48 minutes. Produced by IUCN under Mekong Water Dialogue (MWD)

IN THE NEWS

The Khmer Daily

- [Cambodia hosting the Coastal Forum on the coastal climate change issues](#) (Khmer)
- [Kampot and Koh Kong province were integrated into the Building Coastal Resilience project](#) (Khmer)
- [More than 200 relevant stakeholders initiate to discuss the implication to the coastal climate change issues](#) (Khmer)
- [Coastal Forum on climate change in Southeast Asia has 209 delegation attend from Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thai](#) (Mandarin)

Radio Free Asia (RFA)

- [Cambodia and Thailand hold a workshop on the effects of climate change](#) (Khmer)

Viet Nam Television (VTV2)

- [Attracting Private Sector on Environmental Protection in Halong Bay through Public-Private Partnership \(PPP\)](#) (Vietnamese at the 5th minute)

Viet Nam Television (VTV1)

- [Daily News \(Vietnamese at the 3.15 minute\)](#)

Viet Nam News

- [Community key to fighting climate change environment](#) (English)
- [PPP could benefit environmental protection](#) (English)
- [Climate change pack inked in Cambodia](#) (English)

VietNamnet

- [International forum offers recommendations on climate-change adaptation](#) (English)

Voice of Viet Nam

- [News on Vov at 18.00 p.m \(at 19th minute\)](#) (Vietnamese)

Viet Nam Cable Television (VTC)

IKI Coordination Meeting led by GIZ

20 Jan 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Live-aboard boat marine surveys

21-31 Jan 2015, Myeik Archipelago, Myanmar

GMS Environmental Ministers Meeting

27-29 Jan 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

BRIDGE Workshop

4-6 Feb 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) 2nd National Coordinating Body (NCB) Meeting

27 Feb 2015, Yangon, Myanmar

ASEAN Ad-Hoc Steering Committee Meeting on Climate Change

7-8 Feb 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

Wildlife for the Future Meeting

9-10 Feb, Bangkok, Thailand

Asia Regional Director (ARD) meeting

16-18 Feb 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

CEPF Indo-Burma Hot Spot Phase II mid-term review

3-6 Mar 2015, Siem Reap, Cambodia

- [Viet Nam and the world](#) (Vietnamese)

Viet Nam News Agency

- <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B13emQp2Ua5TaGJETIZ3em5vQ3c/edit> (Vietnamese)

Thai PBS

- [Coastal erosion on the Gulf of Thailand](#) (Thai)
- [Coastal erosion in Asean](#) (Thai)

A TEAM

Ingrid Suter



Dr Ingrid Suter joins IUCN as the Biodiversity, Environment & Communities Coordinator, IUCN Lao PDR with effect from 01 January 2015 at the IUCN Lao PDR Country Programme Office, in Vientiane, Laos. Dr Suter has a background in environmental and conservation management. Her previous positions include three years working and living in Laos as a conservation and rural development officer for elephant conservation NGO Elephant Asia. Other roles include vegetation and ecosystem management for the Queensland Government, Australia, as well as tutoring hundreds of university undergraduates in Environmental Management theories and issues. Ingrid's main skills and interests focus on working with local communities to provide conservation and livelihood solutions relevant to their specific needs. Contact: Ingrid.suter@iucn.org

Lea Guerrero



Ms. Lea Guerrero has joined IUCN as the Regional Communications Manager, Asia with effect from 27 November 2014 based at the IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Guerrero has over 15 years of experience in various professions. She started her career as an English teacher, and then moved to the publishing industry as a writer and editor. Later on, she entered into the development and NGO sector, working with Hanns Seidel Foundation. From there she moved to Greenpeace Southeast Asia first as Media Officer for the Philippine Office, then as Regional Communications Manager for Southeast Asia, and more recently as Deputy Communications Director. Contact: lea.querrero@iucn.org

Ann Moey

Ms. Ann Moey joins IUCN as Senior Communications Officer, IUCN Lao PDR with effect



from 17 Nov 2014. Ms. Moey will be based at the IUCN Lao PDR Country Programme Office, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Ms. Moey has over 10 years of experience in various professions. She started her career with a media production agency in Singapore as Production Coordinator, and shortly after had a stint as a journalist for Singapore Press Holdings. Later on she moved to Lao PDR and worked for a Lao-German social enterprise, Sunlabob Renewable Energy as Public Relations Manager, and subsequently the Lao Football Federation as Marketing and Communications Director. After 3 years in Lao PDR, Ms. Moey returned to Singapore where she headed the Corporate Affairs department at local humanitarian NGO, Mercy Relief. In all these jobs, Ms. Moey has demonstrated her skills and expertise in public relations and communications. Contact: ann.moey@iucn.org

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IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

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