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This study, *Larger than Tigers: Inputs for a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in Asia*, is the operational response of the Wildlife Crisis Window, an integral part of the 'EU Biodiversity for Life' (B4Life) flagship initiative. B4Life is a conceptual framework to ensure better coherence and coordination of EU actions in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems. B4Life was defined in 2014 with the purpose of highlighting the strong linkages between ecosystems and livelihoods in view of contributing to poverty eradication. It aims to tackle drastic biodiversity loss by promoting good governance of natural resources, securing healthy ecosystems for food security, and supporting innovative ways to manage natural capital in the framework of a green economy.

LARGER THAN TIGERS

Inputs for a
strategic approach
to biodiversity
conservation in Asia

REGIONAL REPORTS



Bornean Orang-utan, Tanjung Puting National Park, Indonesia. An iconic species used globally to mobilise support for conservation, the population of these unique apes has declined sharply as a result of forest loss, hunting and fires. Climate change may further reduce the area of suitable habitat.

In many Asian cultures the tiger tops the lion as the king of all beasts. Symbolising power and strength, it also holds the potential for great violence and destruction. Asia's rich natural tapestry treads an equally fine balance, defining whether its people and communities simply survive or are able to thrive.

Asia is home to over half of the world's population and almost one fifth of its land mass. These richly diverse terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems have witnessed rapid population and economic growth. A large number of species are on the brink of extinction, and the population and available habitat of thousands more are dramatically declining.

The European Union has long recognised the precious links between human development and our natural environment and is leading global efforts for conservation, as one of the largest contributors to biodiversity-related development assistance. The 2017 European Consensus on Development underlines the importance of integrating environmental considerations across all sectors of development cooperation and reiterates our commitment to address them together with our partners.

This report highlights Asia's great natural capital and provides valuable information and analysis in support of a strategic approach to halting environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in the region. As its title suggests, the problem extends far beyond the survival of iconic animals such as tigers, orang-utans, elephants or rhinos. Vanishing species are important components of complex natural ecosystems that provide water and food, regulate climate, process waste products, pollinate crops, and support a growing tourism industry. Some of these services can only be replaced at a significant cost, while others are simply irreplaceable.

The European Union is committed to supporting partner countries to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems conservation into their own actions. You can read more about the many positive initiatives taking place across the region thanks to our partnerships with governments, civil society, businesses, and ordinary citizens.

This report will further help the EU and our partners to make informed decisions when developing policies, plans and programmes at national and regional level. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to its findings and I look forward to working with all our partners to ensure that the world's precious natural resources continue to be a source of great strength for many years to come.

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Annexes

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#1
Central
Asia



- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 14



#2
East
Asia

- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 106

#3
South
Asia



- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 208

#4
Greater
Mekong



- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 292



#5
Island South-
East Asia and
New Guinea

- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 390

#6
Marine



- 0 _Executive Summary
- 1 _Background
- 2 _Conservation challenges
- 3 _Ongoing conservation efforts
- 4 _Lessons learned
- 5 _Strategic approaches

▶▶ 484

Annexes

▶▶ 554