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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

Factsheet

Asia and Pacific Islands

DOI International Technical Assistance Program

Asia and Pacific Islands

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) works across the globe to provide government-to-government technical assistance on natural and cultural resource management issues. Since its inception, DOI-ITAP has partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State (DOS) and others to share its expertise in 16 countries across Asia and the Pacific Islands. Responding to priorities in this region, DOI-ITAP has worked to help, for example:

- Improve protected area management
- Promote community engagement
- Reduce wildlife trafficking
- Strengthen environmental law enforcement
- Improve management of coastal and marine resources
- Promote sustainable infrastructure and hydropower generation
- Develop/restructure environmental policy, including valuation of ecosystem services.



Asian Elephants in Udawalawe National Park, Sri Lanka. Credit: Sean Lawlor/DOI-ITAP, 2017.

DOI Current Projects in Asia and Pacific Islands

- **Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong:** Environmental and social safeguards for hydropower and infrastructure development. Countries: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam.
- **Regional Marine Conservation:** Institutional support, grant management, protected areas management, public/private sector engagement and events planning to several countries in the Coral Triangle region. Countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Malaysia.
- **Regional Counter Wildlife Trafficking:** Country specific counter wildlife trafficking planning, regional assessment, workshops. Countries: Asia-wide.
- **Philippines Partnership for Biodiversity Phase III:** Counter wildlife trafficking, wildlife forensics, law adjudication, resource damage assessment.
- **Strengthening Indonesia's National Parks and Wildlife Protection:** Protected area management, endangered species conservation, peatland hydrology and restoration, sustainable tourism.
- **Philippines Environmental Justice Sector Reform:** Law enforcement, environmental governance.
- **Indonesia Marine Protected Areas:** Support science-based design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and train the next generation of MPA managers.

DOI-ITAP Completed Projects in Asia and Pacific Islands

- **Bangladesh** (Protected Areas and Tourism Development); **Papua New Guinea** (Biodiversity Assessment); **Taiwan** (Wildlife Trafficking); **Maldives** (Marine Protected Areas); **Indonesia** (Mining Policy/Safety); **Nepal** (Protected Areas and Tourism Development); **Cambodia** (CITES Training); **Tajikistan** (Range Management in National Parks); **Mongolia** (Protected Areas/Tourism Development); **South Asia: India/Bangladesh/Sri Lanka** (Coastal Law Enforcement).

Selected Accomplishments

DOI-ITAP works in partnership with host country governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and local communities. Highlights include:



Basic Hydrology and Measurements Training, Lao PDR. Credit: DOI-ITAP, 2018.

Hydrological Monitoring in Lao PDR: Conducted basic and advanced capacity-building workshops and field trainings in Lao PDR on river discharge and sediment monitoring, flood frequency estimation, statistical interpretation of data, and data management/sharing.

Sister Protected Area Partnerships: Strengthened management of national parks in Indonesia through development of two “sister protected area” partnerships with national parks and wildlife refuges in the U.S.

Regional Business Forum: Provided critical planning and implementation support to the 4th Regional Business Forum, a global gathering of key stakeholders involved in sustainable tourism development in the Coral Triangle countries. The event, held in Bali, Indonesia, included over 300 participants, representing more than 20 countries.

Counter Wildlife Trafficking: Completed a *Survey of Counter Wildlife Trafficking Interventions in South East Asia* and strategic plans for U.S. missions in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

Critical Field Gear and Regulatory/Interpretive Signage to Enhance the Management of Bangladesh’s Protected Areas System: Provided field gear to management staff. Designed and fabricated regulatory and interpretive signage for use throughout the country’s protected areas system. Designed and printed bilingual (Bangla/English) species identification brochures.

Papua New Guinea Biodiversity Assessment: Conducted a thorough country-wide assessment of the country’s biodiversity, focusing on key threats and solutions.



Mt. Gahavisuka Wildlife Provincial Park in Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Credit: Marc Weitzel/DOI-ITAP, 2017.



Training wildlife management instructors in the Philippines. Credit: Lolly Sheen/DOI-ITAP, 2013.

Examples of Implementing Partners in Asia and Pacific Islands

- Tanggol Kalikasan (Philippines)
- Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Secretariat (Indonesia)
- Coral Triangle Center (Indonesia)
- Yayasan Kehati (Indonesia)
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Corporation (Thailand)
- Sri Lankan Wildlife Conservation Society (Sri Lanka)
- Taiwan Forestry Bureau (Taiwan)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Cambodia)
- Various government ministries throughout Asia

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