

Sendai Charter for Asia's Protected Areas

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The Asia Challenge

Asia is the world's most rapidly growing region as well as one of the most bio-diverse. This dynamic development has led to unprecedented growth, but also to unprecedented demands on nature and its bounty.

Asian peoples have historically lived in harmony with nature, developing cultures and traditions that benefit from it, while also respecting the power, beauty and delicate balance of the natural world.

1 those on the ground at the conservation frontlines, and adopting global best practice
2 approaches.

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4 **Protected Areas for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery**

5 We recognize that disasters in Asia are a significant and ever-present threat, as exemplified by
6 the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, and
7 typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in 2013, and that damage caused by disasters has become more severe
as a result of population growth, urbanization, poorly planned development, inappropriate land

1 **Collaborative Management of Protected Areas**

2 We recognize that communities in Asia are traditionally connected to the land and sea, and that
3 protected areas must take this into account. Protected areas must therefore also help provide
4 economic benefits and improved livelihoods to the region in which they are located without
5 compromising biodiversity.

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7 We recognize that in order to prosper, protected areas in Asia must connect to the wider
8 landscapes and seascapes within which they exist, and that governments must help facilitate
9 this. Asia must extol traditional approaches that see protected areas not as isolated islands in a
10 sea of development, but as blue and green threads that restore the fabric of nature. Beyond the
11 physical landscapes and seascapes, a diverse range of individuals, local communities and
12 institutions must be engaged and resourced to ensure protected areas benefit all. These include
13 local governments, the private sector, indigenous peoples, NGOs and youth. Diverse governance
14 regimes are necessary for protected areas in Asia and should contribute to effective
15 conservation of biodiversity. Governance for protected areas should be based on their specific
16 ecological, historical and political contexts.

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1 We recognize that protected areas with beautiful scenery, rich biodiversity, and strong local
2 cultures and traditions are attractive destinations for tourism. Tourism in protected areas must
3 be responsible and sustainable, and act as an incentive to encourage a sense of stewardship in
4 visitors, managers, local communities, businesses and other stakeholders. Education for
5 sustainable development, including environmental education, is a useful tool to help interpret
6 the natural and cultural values of protected areas.

1 management in the developmental agenda, and to increase financial and technical support for
2 protected areas.

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4 We affirm our commitment to respect and integrate local cultures and traditions, and to listen
5 to the voices of those practising them, in the designation and management of protected areas.

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7 We affirm our commitment to ensure the integrity of protected areas by reducing the threats to
8 biodiversity and the ecosystem services they hold, in addition to strengthening their ability to
9 serve as reservoirs of globally threatened biodiversity and to contribute to the achievement of
10 the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

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12 We affirm our commitment to increase protected areas collaboration, to inspire and innovate
13 through these enhanced relationships, to improve governance and management capacity, and to
14 champion the value of protected areas in Asia.

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16 Through these commitments, we will strengthen our collaborative spirit and heighten our
17 resolve to ensure Asia remains a leader in protected area policy and practice. We will capture
18 the energy and imagination of the current Asia boom to build a foundation of connection,
19 respect, and momentum for protected areas to conserve biodiversity. We will work toward a