

WORKING GROUP 1

Nature-based Solutions for Health & Well-being

2nd Asia Parks Congress

Sabah, Malaysia 2022 | Parks for Nature and People



**Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan**



2nd Asia Parks Congress

Working Group 1 - Nature-based solutions for health and wellbeing

Lead: Ministry of the Environment, Japan

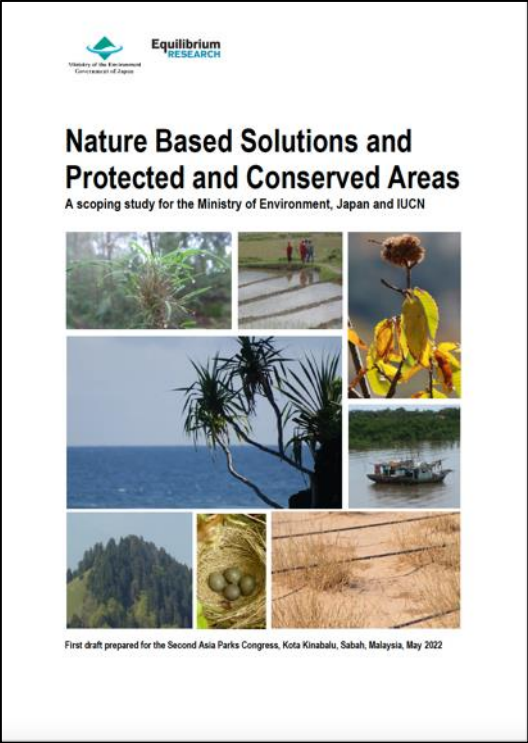
Chair: Naoya Furuta, Taisho University/ IUCN Japan Liaison Office

Photo: Sanriku Reconstruction National Park

What are Nature-based Solutions?



How does NbS relates to PCAs?





I am so happy to inform you we had a very fruitful and rich discussions on Nature based Solutions and Protected and Conserved Areas at the working group 1.

We started our working group by introducing some of the basic concepts and elements of nature-based solutions and how that relates to the protected and conserved areas management by introducing a draft handbook we have prepared for this congress followed by two presentations on global and regional initiatives - Panorama and Satoyama Initiative.

Then we moved on to more detailed discussions on each element of societal challenges NbS is trying to address such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, water, economy and livelihood, food, and health. We had 12 case studies presented including some very interesting case studies from Malaysia.

One of the issues coming out strongly from our discussion for two days was:

Protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), ICCAs Territories for Life and Socio-Economic Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) are key delivery mechanisms for Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This message repeatedly came out throughout the working group.

The second element strongly coming out was:

NbS include both traditional and more innovative approaches, and sometimes mixture of these two. We've listened to very interesting examples applying the latest technology such as applying drones and GIS with traditional shifting cultivations and applying modern western science with local traditional medicine.

Third point strongly came out was:

Although the term NbS is widely used at the global level and NbS actions have been implemented widely without naming it as NbS, the relationship these two are still poorly understood by many governments and by most part of the civil society. This indicates the need for a major capacity-building and outreach effort as well as the need clear guidance and tools to link globally agreed definitions and standards with actions on the ground.

The fourth point was:

We've listened to multiple examples of NbS in protected and conserved areas throughout the world, but challenges remain in scaling up from individual projects to mainstream application. Blockages include political resistance, concern about the financial implications and more complex reasons of cultural and social resistance. Overcoming these obstructions is a critical need.

The fifth point was Covid pandemic:

The Covid pandemic was a disaster but it was also an opportunity to remind us the important linkage between human health and nature, both the need for new medicines and the role of natural spaces in supporting mental and physical health. The growing climate crisis has focused attention on NbS and climate mitigation and adaptation as well.

These are the some of the highlights we discussed in the working group 1. I would like to thank again for all the speakers and participants for the working group one for your valuable contributions. Thank you.

WORKING GROUP 2

Governance of Protected & Conserved Areas

2nd Asia Parks Congress

Sabah, Malaysia 2022 | Parks for Nature and People

Second Asia Parks Congress
Parks for Nature and People
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Malaysia | 24 – 29 May 2022

Working Group 2: Governance of Protected and Conserved Areas
2nd Asia Parks Congress

WG Leaders Report Back

WG2 inputs to KK Declaration

Governance of protected and conserved areas

We recognized the diversity of rightsholders and stakeholders in the region and the variety of governance arrangements for protected and conserved areas, including those governed by state agencies, by private actors and the territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities as territories of life. In particular, we recognized the need to respect the rights and identity of all stakeholders, including women, youth and vulnerable people, as well as transparency and accountability in decision-making, and the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of protected and conserved areas.

We therefore call for:

- An ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that enhances the diversity of governance in protected and conserved areas in all countries in the region.
- Identifying, recognizing, supporting and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) across the Asia region.
- Using standardized assessment of governance and equity at system and site scales, to enhance governance quality in protected and conserved areas.
- Enhancing multi-stakeholder cooperation through regional platforms aimed at scaling up lessons from the region.

- Esteemed speakers, representatives from Asia, experts, colleagues, friends, and participants, a good day to you all. Thank you for joining us in the past three days. The welcome has been warm and the discussions have been rich.
- I thank everyone who made the Working Group discussions possible. I represent the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and we are pleased to share with you the synthesis of the 22 papers from South Asia, East and North Asia, and Southeast Asia and the lively discussions that ensued around them, covering four sessions:

Session 1 National laws, legislations and strategies

Session 2 Customary Laws

Session 3 Collaborative Management

Session 4 Women, Youth and IPLCs

- **The papers presented highlighted the diversity and quality of mechanisms from the region.** Exemplary cases of mechanisms that tap into the contributions of the government, private sector, civil society but also women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities were found to effectively contribute to the responses to ecological, social, cultural, and economic challenges.
- The governance of protected areas is about making decisions, who makes the decisions and for whom? How are decisions made? Are the processes transparent? Who is accountable in delivering the results and how do citizens or other stakeholders have their say in protected and conserved area management?
- Our Working Group drew a clear picture of the governance challenges in the region, including the urgent need to respond to them. But perhaps more importantly, the conversations also highlighted transformative recommendations. Some of the transformative actions demonstrated are:
 - women empowerment in conservation through their inclusion in co-management activities and gender mainstreaming in protected area management planning
 - using traditional knowledge in species and habitat protection for peace and development
 - culture-based conservation in developing models for indigenous peoples' governance
 - local communities' economic empowerment through collaborative management of protected and conserved areas
 - developing protected areas models and policies to recognize the rights of communities to manage their resources

Key messages and takeaways from the sessions:

Creating enabling environments and strengthening capacities for governance.

Effective governance and cross-sectoral partnerships and multi-stakeholder cooperation, transparency and accountability in decision-making, and the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of protected and conserved areas are vital components of the way forward.

Recognising the linkages between customary and state laws as well as traditional and conventional governance systems.

- Integrating scientific knowledge and technologies with indigenous knowledge, belief systems, and practices, as well as popular forms of knowledge generation, contribute to the formulation of effective approaches as well as equitable and fair regulatory and economic policies
- Given the breadth and depth of the lessons gleaned from the discussions, there is much potential if the lessons learned can be further shared, contextualised, replicated, and up-scaled.

Thus, in order to ensure that diverse systems and mechanisms governing protected and conserved areas continue to provide essential benefits that overlap between the realms of biodiversity, culture, economy, and well-being, the Working Group recommends to

Scale-up good practices in collaborative management. Empowering lessons from the ground and sound technical expertise can be scaled to better inform policy decisions across levels. There is much potential if these learnings can be further shared, replicated, and up-scaled. Regional platforms that facilitate cooperation and collaboration among diverse stakeholders have the potential to further amplify best practices.

Diversifying protected and conserved areas as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. The identification, recognition, and support of protected and conserved areas under existing frameworks can further expand protected and conserved areas' contribution to broader developmental discourses. This endeavour, however, should involve the participation of key stakeholders such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Using standardised assessment of governance and equity at system and site scales, to enhance governance quality in protected and conserved areas.

Harmonisation of national policies and legal framework at the system level allows for enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthens stakeholder participation. At the site level, this would entail an assessment of outcomes relating to inclusiveness, equitable sharing of benefits, and participation.

Urging for inclusive governance mechanisms in the ambition of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Lessons from the diverse governance regimes from the region can facilitate the achievement of the ambitious and transformative goals of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In closing, WG2 discussions would also like to re-emphasise that bold and transformative actions need to be taken to ensure a life in harmony with nature.

WORKING GROUP 3

Connectivity & Transboundary Conservation

2nd Asia Parks Congress
Sabah, Malaysia 2022 | Parks for Nature and People

Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen, a very good morning to everyone.

I am happy to report on the key output and discussions from WG3, i.e. Connectivity & Transboundary Conservation. We heard from 14 presenters over two days, sharing their experiences from more than 8 countries.

- Emphasis was placed on the importance of ecological corridors to enhance conservation effectiveness. The rapid expansion of LTI, such as road, railways, and navigable canals is increasingly threatening BioD conservation. And to help avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts on ecological connectivity, guidelines are being prepared by IUCN based on the best available science and practice.
- Speakers highlighted the importance of transboundary cooperation in marine protected areas, citing examples of collaborative projects on turtle conservation amongst countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. One presentation stressed the need to protect significantly large marine and coastal areas in the ASEAN region.
- Tree planting as a means towards ecological restoration was presented. And evidence from some 200 sites across tropical Asia show variable results.
- We also heard about how riparian buffers serve to protect both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, as well as provide corridors to facilitate the movement of wildlife. Studies from Sabah show that increasing the buffer width from 20 m to 40 m would more than double the species found.
- A project in Pahang, Malaysia, found canopy bridges to be effective in facilitating the movement of arboreal animals such as gibbons and langurs across habitat fragments. And in the state of Johor, Malaysia, evidence was presented showing the effectiveness of eco-corridors in conserving small mammals within the Central Forest Spine.
- A presenter from Vietnam talked about how transboundary cooperation between China and Vietnam has helped in the conservation of a critically endangered primate.
- We heard about the establishment of elephant corridors in India to minimize human-elephant conflicts, and the problems associated with their management. And from Kazakhtan we heard about the efforts in establishing ecological corridors to facilitate the migration of Saiga antelopes.
- Closer to home, we had a presentation on progress towards establishing connectivity between Kinabalu Park, A World Heritage site, and the Crocker Range Park through active community engagement.
- Last but not least, we listened to how GSI and remote sensing can be used for conservation planning.
- Key ingredients to success: Strong policy and legislative support, practical guidelines, and collaborative effort. Cooperation is needed not just at the local community level, but also across countries. Based on strong scientific evidence.

WORKING GROUP 5



Economic & Financial
Sustainability of Protected &
Conserved Areas

2nd Asia Parks Congress
Sabah, Malaysia 2012 Us for Nature and People

Dear all, on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, and Midori Paxton, the Head of the Ecosystems and Biodiversity practice in UNDP, allow me to begin by expressing a heartfelt thanks to every single one of you for your valuable contributions to the discussion we have had yesterday and today. Thanks to those who participated in this session in person or online, to the speakers for such interesting and inspiring presentations, to David Meyers from the Conservation Finance Alliance for such an amazing job chairing and moderating this working group discussions, to the UNDP teams working behind the scenes here in Malaysia and in our regional hub in Bangkok. I would also like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Sabah especially Sabah Parks for making us feel so welcome and for providing the support we needed to make this happen. Last but not the least, thanks to IUCN for inviting us to lead this working group on Economic and Financial Sustainability of Protected and Conserved areas and for all the efforts to make this congress a reality.

After hearing about sustainable financial solutions and innovative approaches from 12 countries in the Asia and Pacific regions, it is clear that there is no Silver Bullet or One Size Fits All solution to deal with the financial gap to fund protected and conserved areas, and to finance the protection and restoration of nature in broader terms. What is needed is strong partnerships, and a combination of approaches that include proven solutions as well as more innovative mechanisms together with strengthened legislative and planning frameworks, increased awareness, and capacity building. The challenge is huge, our goal is to protect critical land and water in the face of dual threats of biodiversity decline and climate threat – and we need large amount resources (both in terms finance and capacities) to address them. However, it is not impossible. Together we can mobilize the resources necessary. And we need to work together and leverage all approaches and solutions at our disposal.

Another key take-away from these rich discussions is that human and planetary well-being are intertwined, the economy and the health of our planet go hand in hand.

We heard that over half of the world's total GDP relies on the services nature provides, though its value extends far beyond. And, although no less than US\$143 billion is spent on biodiversity every year globally, this is far below the estimated US\$824 billion needed to protect and restore

nature. We also know that while the funding gap is large, around half of the amount needed could actually be gained by working smarter with existing funds, policies and investments, and shifting the flow of money away from harmful behaviors towards outcomes that benefit nature.

The journey is arduous and there is still a lot of work to do at all levels, but I am sure that together we can make a difference for life on this planet. Together we can support the global goal of protecting 30% of earth's land and ocean by 2030, working with everyone and especially indigenous and local communities.

Please note that the proceedings of this session will be a key input to the Second Asia Parks Congress - Kota Kinabalu Declaration. This declaration will be an important vehicle to deliver a key message to the world that the global economy is inextricably linked to the health of our planet, that threats to nature are also threats to our economies. And that at a time when protected and conserved areas offer cost-effective solutions to many of the challenges faced by humanity, we need to make them visible in economic calculus and in business and government decision making to ensure our protected and conserved areas are financially and economically sustainable.

Before closing this session, I just want to inform you that you can access all presentations, and resources shared during the Working Group 5 sessions by clicking on the QR code that you see in the screen.

Thank you again for your contributions, please make the best of the rest of the congress and your stay in beautiful Kota Kinabalu.

WORKING GROUP 6

Urban Conservation & A New
Generation

2nd Asia Parks Congress

Sabah, Malaysia 2022 | Parks for Nature and People

An aerial photograph showing a dense urban area with numerous high-rise apartment buildings and residential blocks. In the foreground, a large, lush green forest surrounds a dark, calm lake. The city extends into the distance under a hazy sky.

Report on WG 6 : Urban Conservation & A New Generation

Tang Tuck Weng

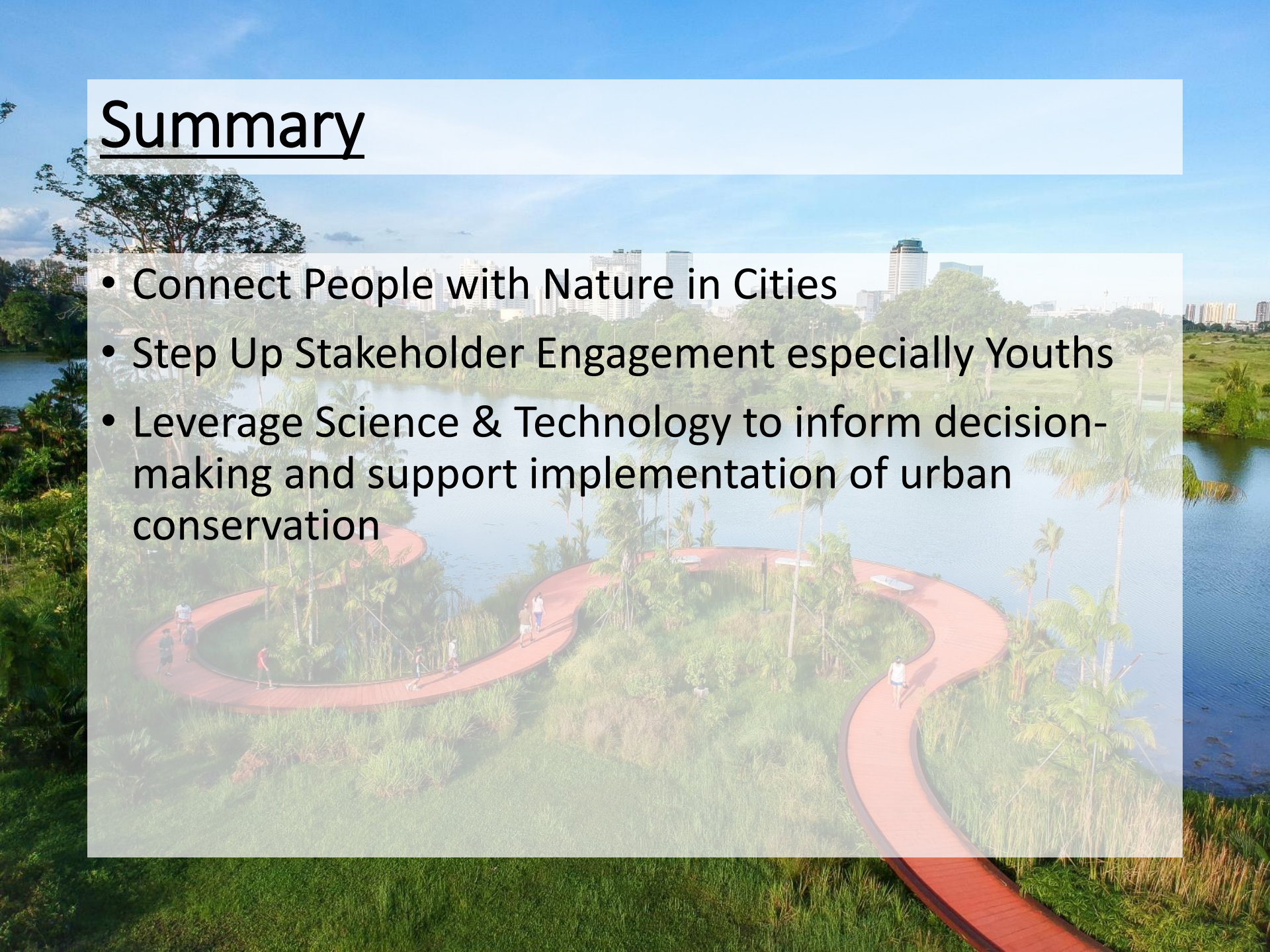
ACEO, National Parks Board (Singapore)

Speakers

- Dr Lena Chan (National Parks Board, Singapore)
- Prof Ar. NurAkmal A. Goh (Universiti Malaysia Sarawak)
- Dr Susan Pudin (Environment Protection Department, Sabah)
- Dr Chong Kwek Yan (National Parks Board, Singapore)
- Prof Nina-Marie Lister (Toronto Metropolitan University)
- Dr Noor Azlin Yahya (Forest Research Institute Malaysia)
- Prof M. Rafee Majid (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)
- Ms Seo Saebyeol (Korea National Park Service)

Summary

- Connect People with Nature in Cities
- Step Up Stakeholder Engagement especially Youths
- Leverage Science & Technology to inform decision-making and support implementation of urban conservation



(1) Connect People with Nature in Cities

- With the rapid expansion of urbanisation in Asia, people may become disconnected from nature. Interaction with nature is important for the mental and physical well-being of people.
- High biodiversity can co-exist with high population density but good planning and stakeholder support is critical.



(1) Connect People with Nature in Cities

Conserving and restoring nature in cities can help to strengthen their ecological, social, and climate resilience.

Initiatives that are implemented in cities eg habitat restoration, intensification of tree-planting beside roads, roof-top gardening and vertical greenery in buildings, should be recognized as OECM.



Before Rain



After Rain

(2) Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach

*“In the end, we will conserve only what we love;
we will love only what we understand and
we will understand only what we are taught”*

Baba Dioum



(2) Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach

Engagement with diverse & multiple stakeholders, especially young people in nature-related activities cities through regular outreach and innovative experiences.

To plan for the future, capacity-building and the creation of nature-related job opportunities for youths should be stepped up.



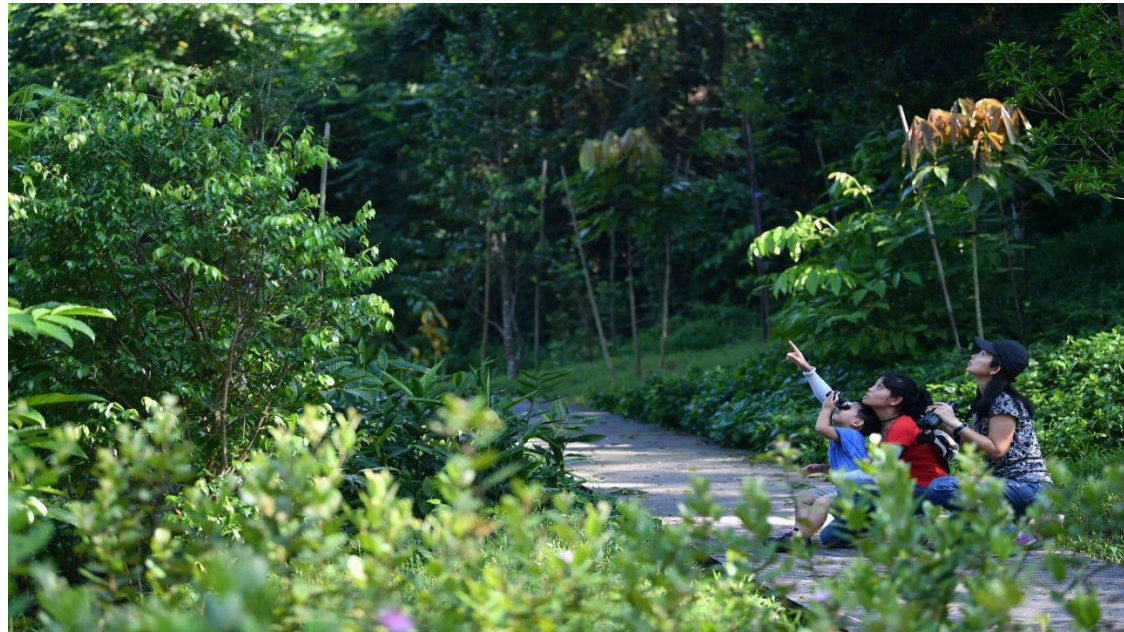
(3) Science & Technology

Leveraging on emerging science and technology such as artificial intelligence and nature-related mobile apps to increase the understanding and monitoring of protected areas and urban ecosystems for both experts and the layman.



Merlin Bird ID

From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology





Urban Conservation and a New Generation

2nd Asia Parks Congress
Working Group 6



Thank You