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# Policy Dialogue on “Key highlights of the UNFCCC COP26 and implications for sustainable peatland and haze mitigation in Southeast Asia” and Launch of the ASEAN Haze Portal



24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 | 14:00 – 16:00 (GMT+7)

[hazeportal.asean.org](https://hazeportal.asean.org)

## POLICY DIALOGUE

### Background

The UNFCCC 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow has concluded with the spotlight falling on discussions towards achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and enhancing ambition of emission reductions by 2030. More than 130 countries have pledged or are discussing ways to meet net-zero emissions targets<sup>1</sup>. According to the ASEAN State of Climate Change Report published in October 2021, ASEAN Member States (AMS) will work collaboratively towards achieving the ASEAN 2050 net zero transition targets<sup>2</sup>. Many AMS have yet to set any specific target for net zero-emission; several are working hard to redesign their policies to meet the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets<sup>3,4</sup>. Singapore<sup>5</sup> and Malaysia<sup>6</sup> have announced an ambitious plan to achieve carbon neutrality as early as 2050, while Indonesia plans to achieve net-zero emissions (NZE) by 2060 or sooner<sup>7</sup>. In addition, Lao PDR also shared a conditional GHG emission reduction target reaching net-zero in 2050<sup>8</sup>. Cambodia gave an aspirational official emission reduction scenario reaching net-negative by 2030<sup>9</sup>. With a broad range of target years, each ASEAN country is outpacing ASEAN's regional goal for mitigation.

ASEAN's deforestation, peatland and forest fire, and haze have become one of major emission sources in the region, while the recent severe floods hitting the Philippines and Malaysia as well as droughts in the Mekong Sub-region are reminders of the climate change vulnerabilities. ASEAN will only be able to reach its target of net carbon neutrality by 2050 if its forests and peatlands stop emitting GHG and become a major sink for carbon. In the ASEAN region, which is highly vulnerable to climate risks, climate change adaptation challenges cannot be delinked from mitigation efforts. The key action for developing countries to tackle climate change is

shifting the negotiations from a generic discussion of carbon emissions and climate towards the tangible benefits of moving from a linear to a circular society, where the smart reuse of resources creates a competitive economy<sup>10</sup>. The future action for climate actions should engage the community, and highlight the real benefits of a low carbon future with lower initial investment costs. As countries are struggling to restore the pandemic battered economies, resetting policy measures towards climate actions is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to simultaneously implement complex reforms requiring technology, regulatory policy, and financing innovations.

Peatlands in the ASEAN member states make up around 40% of global tropical peatlands<sup>11</sup> and are among the most biologically diverse peatland ecosystems on Earth, storing up to 15% of all carbon on only 0.17% of global land area<sup>12,13</sup>. ASEAN is strategically positioned to actively contribute to the global climate change mitigation efforts through its regional policies such as the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS), and the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation Towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap).

In the ASEAN Peatland Partner Side Events at the Peatland Pavilion at COP26, representatives of AMS as well as the ASEAN Peatland Partners shared their experiences, innovative technologies and mechanisms that present the catalytic role of these initiatives have played in leveraging a large-scale programme, focusing on making remarkable improvements in sustainable peatland management that would significantly contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. MAHFSA organized two side-events at the COP26 Peatland Pavilion on (i) Importance of ASEAN peatlands in contributing to global climate change mitigation, with presentations from Indonesia GEF5-SMPEI and GEF6-IMPLI Project Director, Malaysia GEF6-SMPPEM Project Director, Philippines, Thailand Laos; and (ii) Towards a Climate Adapted Southeast Asia through integrated peatland management, with opening remarks from IFAD Associate Vice President Mr. Donal Brown, presentations from PCU, CIFOR, GEC, GIZ and WRI.

1 <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition>

2 <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ASCCR-e-publication-Final-12-Oct-2021.pdf>

3 <https://aseanenergy.org/asean-climate-action-a-review-of-nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs-updated-in-2020/>

4 <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

5 <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/SINGAPORES-FOREIGN-POLICY/International-Issues/Climate-Change>

6 <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2258221-malaysia-sets-2050-carbonneutral-goal>

7 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/indonesia/>

8 [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Lao%20People%27s%20Democratic%20Republic%20First/NDC%202020%20of%20Lao%20PDR%20\(English\).%2009%20April%202021%20\(1\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Lao%20People%27s%20Democratic%20Republic%20First/NDC%202020%20of%20Lao%20PDR%20(English).%2009%20April%202021%20(1).pdf)

9 [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Cambodia%20First/20201231\\_NDC\\_Update\\_Cambodia.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Cambodia%20First/20201231_NDC_Update_Cambodia.pdf)

10 <https://borneobulletin.com.bn/aiming-for-net-zero-emissions/>

11 ASEAN Secretariat. (2021). Final Review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020. ASEAN: Jakarta.

12 <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/global-peatland-assessment/>

13 Warren, M., Hergoualc'h, K., Kauffman, J.B. et al. (2017). An appraisal of Indonesia's immense peat carbon stock using national peatland maps: uncertainties and potential losses from conversion. Carbon Balance Manage 12, 12.

CIFOR and GEC also presented at Indonesia Pavilion events respectively at side-events on: (i) Sustainable trade and peatland management for emissions reduction and community livelihoods, (ii) Indonesia experience: Multi platforms stakeholders partnership on conservation and sustainable management of Peatland ecosystem; and (iii) Indonesia Experience: Measuring CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Reduction from Raising Peat Ground Water Level to Support the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystem and NDC Achievement. Articles on these side-events were published on CIFOR Forest news pages<sup>14</sup>

In line with the above, the ASEAN Secretariat, in partnership with the MAHFSA Programme, will host a Post COP26 virtual Policy Dialogue on "Key Highlights of the UNFCCC COP26 and Implications for Sustainable Peatland and Haze Mitigation in Southeast Asia" which will be held on the 24th of February 2022 at 14:00 – 15:45 (GMT+7).

## Objectives

1. Inform ASEAN Member States (AMS) and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other stakeholders on the highlights and targets from the UNFCCC COP26 related to peatland management and haze mitigation.
2. Discuss the implications and potential opportunities, gaps and challenges for enhancing ASEAN peatlands, haze and climate policies and programmes.
3. Brainstorm on next steps or strategies of ASEAN peatland partners as well as key concerned AMS to support their NDCs on peatland and haze prevention in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## LAUNCH of ASEAN HAZE PORTAL

### Background

The Workshop on Knowledge Products Development and Management of Sustainable Peatland and Haze Management was held on 20 February 2020 in Bogor, Indonesia. The workshop was organised by CIFOR as part of the implementation of MAHFSA Programme and attended by representatives from the ASEAN Peatland Partners, namely, CIFOR, GEC, GIZ of SUPA Component 1, the ASEAN Secretariat, and MAHFSA Programme Coordination Unit (PCU). The Workshop results recommends to establish a synchronised and coordinated approach for knowledge development and management of sustainable peatland and haze management in the ASEAN region. The Workshop among others, adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Coordination Group on Knowledge Products Development and Management for Sustainable Peatland and Haze Management (Knowledge Coordination Group or KCG); and agreed to develop an online platform/repository that will serve as the ASEAN knowledge management platform on sustainable peatland and haze management.

Under the coordination of the KCG, the new website named ASEAN Haze Portal (<https://hazeportal.asean.org/>) was developed as a repository of knowledge products on peatlands and haze; to support enhancement of AMS' knowledge and coordination on issues related to peatland and haze management; and to serve as an online tool for collaborative exchange of information between relevant stakeholders of peatland and haze management in Southeast Asia.

The development of the ASEAN Haze Portal was completed in December 2021 and is ready to go live. An introduction of the website was done at the 2nd day ASEAN Peatland Partner Side Event at the Peatland Pavilion during the UNFCCC COP26 on 3 November 2021.

### Target participants and audience of Policy Dialogue and Launch of ASEAN Haze Portal

The following will be the target participants:

- Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM AATHP)
- ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)
- ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP)

<sup>14</sup> Available at: <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/75555/sustainable-trade-and-peatland-management-for-emissions-reduction-and-community-livelihoods?fnl=en>; <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/75056/asean-peatlands-critical-in-mitigating-the-climate-crisis?fnl=en>

- ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC)
- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Forestry (ASOF)
- Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM AMAF)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC)
- ASEAN Peatland Partners (IFAD, EU, CIFOR, GEC, GIZ, WRI, TRCRC, Y-IDH, IUCN)
- Dialogue Partners (donors and embassies)
- Private sector (banks; investors; insurers; commodity producers on peatlands)
- Other invited participants and research institutions/ knowledge partners of ASEC (International Tropical Peatland Center, UNEP, Global Peatland Initiative Secretariat)

## Meeting Format

The meeting will be held virtually. Highlights of the UNFCCC COP26 results and ASEAN Peatland Partner Side Events will be presented and specific topics in accordance with the objectives discussed as well as utilizing online interactive applications (slido.com) for maximum participant engagement. There will be a moderated open forum where questions and recommendations will be recorded and addressed. The session will be recorded for ASEAN documentation and a report prepared. Presenters are asked to provide their presentations before the event. All materials will be included in the report.

## Registration Process

Invitations will be sent to representatives of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN sectoral bodies, and other targeted participants as listed above. Confirmation is required to receive the meeting link and details.

## Indicative Programme

<b>POLICY DIALOGUE</b> "KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNFCCC COP26 AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEATLAND AND HAZE MITIGATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA"		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
14:00 – 14:10	<b>Introduction and review of the agenda</b> <b>Opening Remarks</b> Head of Environment Division, Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat Chairperson of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the AATHP (COM)	CIFOR  Dr. Vong Sok  Philippines
14:10 – 14:40	<b>Session 1</b> Highlights of contributions to COP26 and ASEAN peatlands and haze mitigation and adaptation to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN State of Climate Change Report and any regional commitments for COP26</li> <li>• Review national NDC targets and other relevant commitments of AMS (5-minute interventions from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam)</li> </ul>	Environment Division of ASEAN Secretariat Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia
14.40 – 15:10	<b>Session 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of implications of the COP26 decisions and targets for peatlands and haze management in Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Key opportunities, gaps, and challenges for ASEAN/AMS on peatlands and haze management supporting climate action, including the ASEAN 10-year investment framework</li> </ul>	CIFOR  GEC
15:10 – 15:30	<b>Discussion</b> Questions, comments and views of AMS and other participants on the COP26 assessment, including the role of peatlands and haze in country commitments and actions (utilizing slido polling application)	Moderated by CIFOR
15:30 – 15:45	Synthesis	CIFOR
<b>LAUNCH of ASEAN Haze Portal</b>		
15.45 – 15.55	<b>Messages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio Cultural Community, ASEAN Secretariat</li> <li>• IFAD</li> </ul>	
15.55 – 15.56	Video Presentation ASEAN Haze Portal	CIFOR
15.56 – 16.00	Photo Session	