MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PRESS STATEMENT

MALAYSIA STRENGTHENS REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Malaysia continues to strengthen its efforts and commitment to regional biodiversity conservation through the nomination of three protected areas as ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) during the 27th Governing Board Meeting of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (GB ACB). The meeting was chaired by Atty. Jonas R. Leones, Undersecretary Philippines and Chairperson of the ACB Governing Board, along with Mr. S. Siva Kumar, Undersecretary of the Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), who also serves as Deputy Chair of the ACB GB.

A proud milestone was achieved when three (3) Malaysian sites were nominated as AHPs are Tengku Hassanal Wildlife Reserve, Pahang; Bako National Park, Sarawak and Bukit Lambir National Park, Sarawak

The meeting also endorsed the nomination of three (3) new sites in Vietnam which are Xuan Thuy National Park; Pu Mat National Park and Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve.

Furthermore, the official launch of the “Enhancing Conservation and Restoration of Wetlands and Peatlands in ASEAN” (EnCORE Wetlands) was announced, with Maludam National Park in Sarawak selected as Malaysia’s pilot site, alongside the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in the Philippines.

The meeting also welcomed the formulation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan (ABP) 2024–2030, which is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) convened the GB ACB Meeting today in Langkawi to strengthen regional biodiversity initiatives and to finalise preparations for ASEAN’s participation in the 17th Conference of the Parties

(COP 17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), scheduled to take place in Yerevan, Armenia in 2026.

One of the main agendas of the meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), was the coordination of the action plan for the development of the ASEAN Joint Statement (AJS) on Biodiversity. This statement will reflect regional priorities and will be delivered by the ASEAN Chair for 2026 (the Philippines) during the high-level segment at COP 17. The AJS development process involves a series of consultations among ASEAN Member States and is expected to be finalised by mid-2026.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NRES)

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