



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

## East and Southeast Asia Community Conservation Network's first in-person workshop held in Indonesia

*Shenmin Liu – ILCN Regional Representative for Asia  
October 30, 2023*

The East and Southeast Asia Community Conservation Network (EASACCN) hosted its first in-person workshop in Medan, Indonesia, from October 16-18. The peer-learning event brought together practitioners representing 14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from eight countries across Asia to share best practices and spread knowledge through lectures, field trips, and interactive discussions.



*Participants from the first in-person workshop of the EASACCN. Credit: Yagasu Foundation (Indonesia)*

The EASACCN is new to the land-conservation scene, having launched in 2021. Across the globe, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) steward about 32 percent of land, making their

contributions to conservation integral to landscape health and connectivity.<sup>1</sup> The EASACCN was founded to empower these communities to protect land, combat climate change, and create sustainable economies based on ecosystem services.

The EASACCN workshop spanned three days, welcoming participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Officials from the North Sumatra Environmental Agency, the North Sumatra Fisheries and Marine Affairs Agency, and scholars from the University of North Sumatra showcased their work and shared applicable solutions to common conservation problems.

The cohort delved into the case of a community mangrove forest, the first in Myanmar to be managed through a Community Conservation Concession Agreement. It also explored innovative community-based approaches to combatting international wildlife trafficking near the China-Laos border; brought students to mangrove planting sites in North Sumatra; and facilitated several interactive game and discussion sessions to build relationships among participants.



*Workshop participants. Credit: Yagasu Foundation (Indonesia).*

Students left with an enhanced understanding of best practices and technologies, new and closer relationships with peer organizations, and defined takeaways for continued action.

The success of the EASACCN's first in-person workshop builds on a string of achievements since the network's founding. To date, it has collaborated with member organizations to implement seven pilot projects involving 51 communities in six countries; organized eight online member meetings; and distributed 12 newsletters. EASACCN members also received support from the network to participate in

---

<sup>1</sup> Jonas, Harry et al. "New Steps of Change: Looking beyond protected areas to consider other effective area-based conservation measures." *Parks* 20, no. 2 (2014) 10.2305/IUCN.CH.2014.PARKS-20-2.HDJ.en.

the NGO Parallel Forum during the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming and Montreal. As a result, seven members' project cases were selected to be included in "100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World", a campaign aimed at highlighting noteworthy biodiversity initiatives around the world.

*Have news? Share updates from your organization or country by emailing [ilcn@lincolinst.edu](mailto:ilcn@lincolinst.edu).*