

ASEAN-German Partnership for a Green and Resilient Future

Annual Report 2024 | GIZ Indonesia and ASEAN





Partnership for a Green and Resilient Future

As ASEAN rapidly becomes a global economic powerhouse and home to over 680 million people, it actively confronts the urgent realities of climate change. Since 2009, GIZ has partnered with ASEAN to forge a green and resilient path, focusing on:

- **Circular Economy:** Maximising efficient use of resources and minimising waste
- **Climate, Resilient Nature, and Energy:** Championing ambitious climate policies and adaptation
- **Sustainable Economic Development:** Cultivating a skilled workforce, improving agricultural practices, and ensuring a secure digital economy
- **Regional Security:** Fostering peace, inclusivity, and effective disaster management.

We empower ASEAN to achieve sustainable, inclusive, and peaceful growth, ensuring its dynamic future remains both prosperous and responsible.

GIZ supports ASEAN's sustainable and inclusive growth by aligning our initiatives with regional needs and German and European strategies. Our work integrates national policies with ASEAN strategies and global frameworks such as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and more. Our approach includes:

- Using Germany's expertise to improve integration and cooperation within ASEAN
- Combining regional efforts with country-specific support to reduce development gaps among ASEAN Member States (AMS).

GIZ ASEAN Cooperation Area 2019-2024

€124.5 million

funds managed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

** Some projects' duration until 2029

- 16 projects are active in ASEAN
- 10 ASEAN sectoral bodies and entities are partnering with the projects
- 20 ASEAN division counterparts
- 27 government bodies are leading project initiatives in the ASEAN region
- 91 regional exchanges are implemented (in 2024)



ASEAN-Germany Progress and Achievements 2019-2024

24,524 participants in training/capacity-building activities

401 workshops/capacity-building activities

248 policies/measures/tools supported through the projects

62 ASEAN sectoral bodies or its affiliated entities engaged

26 activities at the regional level (including study trips and regional exchanges) pilot projects at local/municipal levels

52 NGOs/CSOs involved in private sectors engaged

202 private sectors engaged

Climate, Resilient Nature and Energy



- ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2023-2030 launched



- 64,461 tCO₂e in greenhouse gas emissions reduction through SUPA's project pilot sites in Indonesia and Malaysia

- 27.5 million hectares of peatland across ASEAN mapped

- 306,508 hectares of peatland mapped and inventoried across ASEAN

- 34,000 forest and fruit trees distributed to communities and partners



- 1,500+ people trained in sustainable peatland management and forest fire prevention

- 200+ local community champions in sustainable peatland management from Aceh, Indonesia, and Pahang, Malaysia



- 13 villages in Aceh, Indonesia, and Pahang, Malaysia, supported in sustainable peatland management efforts



- 8 policy documents developed at regional, national, and local levels

- Supported the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC) establishment agreement



- 1 Peatland Information Centre launched in Banda Aceh, Aceh Province



Circular Economy



We support ASEAN's journey toward a circular economy to address the challenges of resource depletion, pollution and climate impacts.

ASEAN's rapid economic growth comes with challenges such as resource depletion, pollution and climate impacts. The circular economy promotes green and sustainable growth by improving efficient use of resources, reducing waste, and maximising the reuse of materials.

GIZ supports ASEAN in this transition through capacity building, policy advice, knowledge sharing and cooperation with the private sector. This helps turn ASEAN's commitments to the circular economy into concrete actions which promote sustainable development and strengthen regional integration.

2024 Highlights

Accelerating ASEAN's Circular Economy Transition

- **Policy impact:** GIZ, in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, drove regional policy harmonisation at the World Circular Economy Forum, forging concrete pathways to strengthen circular economy implementation across ASEAN.
- **Knowledge dissemination:** The ASEAN-German project on land-based and marine litter (3RproMar), alongside the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Asian Institute of Technology Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT RRC.AP), and Norsk institutt for vannforskning (NIVA), launched a strategic webinar series, accelerating regional knowledge sharing on marine litter and circular economy solutions.
- **Capacity building:** AMUSE, with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), empowered 2,500+ participants through targeted training, equipping them with essential sustainability skills for immediate application.
- **On-the-ground results:** In Manado, 3RproMar implemented integrated waste management, delivering tangible reductions in marine litter through strategic planning, capacity development and community driven initiatives.

Impact Story

Ratnawati Taasuwi: Leading Change for Manado's Waste Pickers



For 35 years, Ratnawati Taasuwi has worked as a waste picker at Sumompo Landfill, earning respect as a senior community member.

In 2024, she was elected Chair of the Sumompo Sejahtera Waste Pickers Cooperative, a milestone in her journey toward improving conditions for her fellow workers.

"Before, we worked alone, struggling individually. Now, through the Cooperative, we work together, support each other, and have legal recognition. Since January 2025, we have been selling recyclable plastics directly to wholesalers as a group – eliminating intermediaries and increasing our earnings. Even more important is how we have shifted from thinking only about personal survival to collective progress. For the first time,

members have begun saving money through the Cooperative."

Ratnawati's leadership is shaping Manado's waste pickers' stronger, more secure future. With support from GIZ through the ASEAN-German project on land-based and marine litter (3RproMar) and the Manado City Government, in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, the Cooperative now has access to training, funding, and opportunities that were once out of reach.

"Thank you to the Manado City Government, especially the Environmental Service [DLH] and the Cooperatives and SMEs Service, for supporting our Cooperative. Now, I work with dignity, safety, and the ability to improve my family's future. This Cooperative is more than an organisation – it is our hope for a better life."



Climate, Resilient Nature and Energy



We support ASEAN in addressing climate change to build a greener future, including the sustainable energy transition.

ASEAN's focus on climate, resilient nature and energy is vital in the face of climate change, environmental damage and rising demand for energy. To safeguard its rich biodiversity and natural resources, ASEAN must provide guidelines for sustainable practices to improve protection against climate risks, secure livelihoods and protect ecosystems. Speeding up the energy transition reduces emissions and promotes economic growth and long-term environmental sustainability across the region.

2024 Highlights

ASEAN Climate Action Accelerated

- **Strategic dialogue:** The ASEAN EU-German Climate Action Programme (CAP) facilitated the ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference (ACCP) in Bali, fostering critical collaboration between ASEAN bodies and partners to advance post-Global Stocktake climate ambitions.
- **Unified voice:** CAP supported the development and consensus adoption of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change (AJSCC 29), solidifying a unified ASEAN position for COP29.
- **Empowered communities:** ASEAN launched the Community-Based Climate Action (CBCA) assessment report at COP29, sharing ideas and best practices on how local communities can take action and adapt to climate change.
- **Peatland success:** The ASEAN German-EU Project on Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation (SUPA/ASEAN REPEAT) project concluded, achieving significant progress in sustainable peatland management and haze reduction, notably through the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2023-2030.

GIZ partners with and supports ASEAN in:

- Advancing combined approaches to climate action, nature conservation and environmental protection, under the targets of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- Strengthening regional cooperation among AMS to develop a detailed approach on climate action and the energy transition.

Impact Story

Legacy of Hope: Guardian of the Peatlands



"I have the chance to voice our village's needs. From orange seedlings to training on sustainable farming practices that protect our peatlands, we strive for lasting benefits. Our voices will be heard."

As home to more than half of the world's tropical peatlands, Southeast Asia ecosystems play an important role in carbon storage and biodiversity. Indonesia's peatlands face severe threats from drainage, fires, and unsustainable use.

To tackle these challenges, the German Government (through the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety), the EU, and ASEAN joined forces through the SUPA/ASEAN REPEAT programme. One of its key pilot sites is in Sumber Bakti Village, Aceh, Indonesia.

Like many others, Ahmadi once saw peatlands as troublesome, prone to flooding, and best drained for farming. But this changed through a local lecturer and the Office of Environment and Forestry of Aceh.

He gained valuable skills and discovered a new way forward – growing sustainable crops suited for peatlands, like oranges. As leader of the Peat Ecosystem Protection and Management Working Team in his village, Ahmadi became a passionate advocate, championing sustainable peatland use for his community.

Although he recently passed away, his legacy lives on. His dedication to peatland conservation and haze mitigation continues to inspire as a beacon of hope for those striving to protect these vital ecosystems. The land he once sought to change has, in turn, changed the future of his community.



Sustainable Economic Development



GIZ supports ASEAN and selected AMS in strengthening sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies across Southeast Asia.

Sustainable economic development, including a skilled workforce based on forward-looking labour market policies, is key to ASEAN's inclusive growth and resilience. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of ASEAN's economy, driving innovation and creating millions of jobs, both in rural and urban communities.

Adapting to disruptive global trends and equipping youth, especially girls and women, with skills for emerging industries allows us to build inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies. Strengthening agriculture value chains ensures food security, supports livelihoods, and promotes sustainable practices. Consumer protection builds trust and safeguards rights, creating a fair and stable economic environment.

2024 Highlights

Advancing ASEAN's Economic and Sustainable Progress

- **SME growth:** ASEAN Access, a regional hub for cross-border trade, empowered SMEs with market insights and matchmaking, connecting them to national platforms like KhmerSME, SMEsta, and Viet Nam's business portal.
- **Consumer protection:** ASEAN launched www.aseanconsumer.org, providing vital resources and complaint mechanisms to safeguard consumers in the digital marketplace, with GIZ supporting national digital literacy initiatives.
- **Judicial cooperation:** GIZ's Regional Judicial Initiative strengthened cross-border dispute settlement among ASEAN judges, acknowledged in the Cebu Declaration, fostering business-consumer trust.
- **Strategic planning:** GIZ supported the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 review and post-2025 agenda, driving sector-specific assessments and strategic planning for consumer protection, SMEs, and agriculture.
- **Climate advocacy:** GIZ empowered ASEAN's climate negotiations at COP29, supporting the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network and ASEAN Negotiating Group on Agriculture, and maintaining the vital resource, <https://asean-crn.org/>
- **Sustainable innovation:** A private sector-led pilot in Thailand demonstrated rice straw pulping, providing decarbonisation and sustainable packaging solutions.
- **Policy and capacity building:** GIZ delivered targeted policy advice and capacity building across ASEAN sectors, facilitating regional knowledge exchange.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Four innovative financial products were piloted, and financial literacy training enhanced farmers' access to climate-resilient financing.
- **Strategic partnerships:** GIZ amplified impact through collaborations with the Japan ASEAN integration Fund (JAIF), the Australian Government, and the UK Mission to ASEAN, enhancing cooperation on key regional initiatives.

Impact Story

Empowered Women Giving Back



"I decided to become more involved in the work of the Cambodian Women Entrepreneurs Association [CWEA] to build partnerships and mentor other women who are in a similar position as me."

Struggling to sustain her firm during the pandemic, Chanleakhena Sophat, lawyer and entrepreneur, from Cambodia, sought a community where women entrepreneurs could share experiences and advice.

Through CWEA, Sophat became connected to ASEAN Access, the regional SME promotion platform for

which she is now an ambassador.

"Becoming an ASEAN Access Ambassador allows me to link up with entrepreneurs in various ASEAN countries – and it has expanded my business network."

Together with ASEAN Access Ambassadors from other countries, mostly women, she is now holding market talks and recruiting members for its growing public-private network.

Her mission to give back prompted her to set up one of the first consumer associations in her home country, where consumer protection is still relatively underdeveloped.

"In addition to being legal professionals, we are engaged in social projects so we can educate and empower the public, especially women."



Regional Security



GIZ assists ASEAN in building strong institutions to strengthen regional security. A peaceful and inclusive ASEAN is essential for regional stability, economic growth, and global competitiveness.

Effective disaster management is also crucial to ASEAN, as its vulnerability to natural disasters demands strong regional cooperation in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

With funding through the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO), GIZ supports ASEAN in addressing regional security challenges to counter transnational crime and capacity-building for ASEAN entities, to build a safe and secure Southeast Asia.

2024 Highlights

Fostering ASEAN's Peace and Stability

- **Capacity building for the ASEAN Secretariat.** The German Federal Foreign Office, through GIZ, reinforces ASEAN's institutional strength, crucial for regional stability and integration, aligning with SDG 16.
 - ▶ The first ASEAN Think Tanks Summit fostered essential dialogue on regional challenges, bringing together over 130 experts from think tanks across AMS and dialogue partners, including Australia, China, the US, and Japan. Hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat at its headquarters, the summit was organised in collaboration with the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies and GIZ.
 - ▶ The annual ASEAN Media Forum is one of ASEAN's flagship events for media representatives across Southeast Asia to engage in discussions about ASEAN's goals and geopolitical challenges. This year's forum, held in Vientiane, featured discussions on ASEAN connectivity and the future of the Mekong Sub-Region.
- **Empowering ASEAN entities:** In collaboration with GIZ, the ASEAN Secretariat annually hosts the ASEAN Forum of Entities at its headquarters, bringing together 80 accredited organisations from across the region. This forum acts as a crucial platform for enhancing collaboration and dialogue on a range of issues, including demining and human rights. It fosters cooperation across various sectors to support regional integration and contribute to the advancement of ASEAN's collective goals, promoting peace and stability throughout the region.
- **Disaster response:** GIZ supports the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in enhancing its institutional capacity to improve disaster preparedness and response. This collaboration has helped the AHA Centre streamline operations, ensuring faster and more efficient coordination among AMS, and supporting a more resilient disaster management framework across the region.

What They Say

Amita Legaspi, News Editor, GMA News Online, Philippines, took part in a GIZ-ASEAN Secretariat workshop Reporting on ASEAN Integration in 2011 as a reporter. She has been a participant of the ASEAN Media Forum since it was launched in 2017

"Being involved in GIZ-ASEAN events has allowed me to know people [journalists, academics and officials] outside my circle and outside my country."

"It has widened my network of friends and allowed me to see and appreciate the different perspectives

from the ASEAN member countries. This is important in my job because I need to see the whole story, not just part of the story."



"Being part of the ASEAN Media Forum allows me to listen to the views of other ASEAN member countries and allows me to understand their side. It also allows me to write better [about] what is happening in the region."



GIZ in ASEAN

GIZ's ASEAN portfolio strengths lie in its extensive presence and well-established networks across most ASEAN Member States, which provide invaluable on-the-ground insights.

Commissioning Parties

- The European Union
- The Federal Foreign Office (FFO)
- The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)

Partners in ASEAN

- Environment Division (ED)
- Tourism Division (TD)
- Energy and Minerals Division (EMD)
- Competition, Consumer Protection and IPR Division (CCPID)
- Enterprise and Stakeholders Engagement Division (ESED)
- Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Division (FAFD)
- Labour and Civil Services Division (LCSD)
- Community Relations Division (CRD)
- Culture and Information Division (CID)
- Internal Audit and Evaluation Division (IAED)

Working Groups

- ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)
- ASEAN Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Committee (ASITDC) and/or ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee (ATPMC)
- ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP)

- ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC)
- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME)
- Sub-sector Networks (SSN): Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C SSN); Renewable Energy (RE SSN); and Regional Energy Policy and Planning (REPP SSN)
- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME)
- ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP)
- ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM)
- ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC)
- ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD)
- ASEAN Working Group on Forestry and Climate Change (AWG-FCC)
- ASEAN Seniors Official Meeting on Transnational Crime - Working group on Arms Smuggling (SOMTC WG on AS)
- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED)

ASEAN Entities

- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)
- ASEAN TVET council (sectoral body)
- ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS).

Work Areas

ASEAN Member States (AMS), with focal countries in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand

Sustainable Economic Development
ASEAN Member States (AMS) and national project activities in selected AMS such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand

Regional Security
ASEAN Member States (AMS), Cambodia, Indonesia

Our work in ASEAN was implemented on behalf of the following commissioning parties and clients in joint partnership with ASEAN:



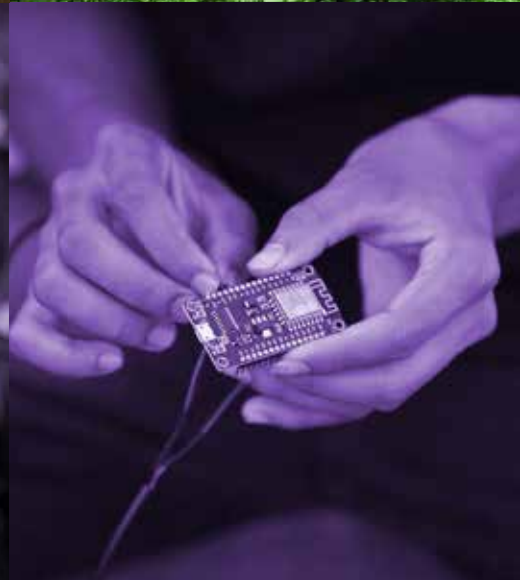
Read more about our work in 2024 in the following reports:



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