


30x30 SOUTHEAST ASIA OCEAN FUND



The 30x30 Southeast Asia Ocean Fund is a new funders' collaborative dedicated to supporting efforts to protect 30% of Southeast Asia's seas by 2030.

This fund seeks to mobilise funding to accelerate conservation work that is run by or engages local communities towards the 30x30 target by supporting inclusive, equitable and effective conservation of ocean ecosystems, leading to positive outcomes for people and nature.



DID YOU KNOW
Southeast Asia is home
to approximately
a third of the world's
coral reefs, seagrass
beds and mangroves?

THE ISSUE

With territorial waters that are three times larger than its land area, it comes as no surprise that the ocean and everyday life go hand in hand for many communities in Southeast Asia. **Hundreds of millions of people rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, food security and protection from natural disasters,** however, despite this dependence, the **conservation and sustainable use of the ocean** (Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water) **remains significantly underfunded,** especially in the region.

THE ISSUE



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While there are some examples of efforts to safeguard Southeast Asia's marine resources, the region continues to lag in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) coverage, with less than 3% of Southeast Asia's national waters under formal protection. Today, more than 65% of reefs in the region are at risk; catch rates in the South China Sea have declined by 75-95%; and almost 60% of Southeast Asia's sharks and rays are threatened with extinction. The low MPA coverage exacerbates already alarming rates of marine biodiversity loss and threatens the region's climate resilience.

Recent analyses indicate that Southeast Asia will be disproportionately vulnerable to climate change impacts, further highlighting the need for urgent action.

ABOUT THE 30X30 INITIATIVE

To address these growing pressures, the 30x30 initiative calls for the protection of 30% of the world's land, freshwater and ocean by the year 2030.

The scientifically-backed target is a key objective of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted by more than 190 countries at the 15th United Nations Biodiversity Conference in December 2022.

To date, four out of 11 Southeast Asian countries have joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an inter-governmental coalition that aims to deliver upon this target, signalling a growing momentum for marine protection in the region.

ABOUT THE FUND

OVERVIEW

NAME

30x30 Southeast Asia Ocean Fund

ELIGIBLE REGION FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Southeast Asia

INCEPTION DATE

October 2024

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Rumah Foundation, Oceankind

MINIMUM ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION

SGD20,000/USD15,000

Multi-year contributions encouraged

FUND TARGET AND DURATION

SGD6,500,000 / USD5,000,000

over five years

This Impact Fund aligns with and contributes to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



TO GIVE:

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Individuals with 'Accredited Investor' status, their associated private wealth entities, or corporate entities that pass ACF's Know-Your-Donor process may give through ACF's various funds.

WHAT WE FUND

This Impact Fund **aims to contribute towards the protection of 30% of Southeast Asia's seas by 2030 in an equitable, fit-for-region manner** through the following approaches.

Based on insights gathered from field partners involved in marine and coastal protection, the fund's mandate aims to address the following three core objectives:

1

CREATE

Identify and establish new marine protected and conserved areas*

2

EXPAND

Increase coverage of existing marine protected and conserved areas*

3

STRENGTHEN

Support the effective management of existing marine protected and conserved areas*

*Inclusive of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), Indigenous and Traditional Territories (ITTs), Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), and other relevant designations



Coastal frontline communities –those that are most vulnerable to and disproportionately impacted by climate change, biodiversity loss, natural disasters and environmental injustice—are crucial to the long-term success of marine conservation initiatives. Recognising their critical role, this Impact Fund prioritises funding for frontline communities and strong domestic civil society organisations (e.g., community groups, local and national NGOs). It will also consider initiatives from in-country offices of international NGOs that demonstrate a community-led approach.



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Expected grant sizes will range from USD 20,000 to USD 250,000.

The Impact Fund will support a diverse range of strategic activities to achieve the core objectives, including:

- Capacity building
- Policy and planning
- Outreach and education
- Applied research
- In situ conservation activities/measures
- Sustainable and innovative financing
- Livelihood-focused interventions
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Management and enforcement
- Technology and innovation

DONOR ENGAGEMENT

Participating donors can expect the following from this Impact Fund:

- 1 Regular closed-door convenings with Impact Fund members and grantees to share insights, experience and updates
- 2 Priority invites to any learning trips to visit partners
- 3 An annual impact report, sharing progress on the Impact Fund's achievements

ABOUT THE FUND'S CO-CHAIRS

1

RUMAH FOUNDATION

www.rumahgroup.com

Rumah Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Singapore-based family office, Rumah Group and we are passionate about people and nature. Driven by the urgency for ocean protection, our ocean-climate portfolio supports interventions that address awareness and education, the protection and restoration of blue carbon sinks, and sustainable seafood; with a focus on Southeast Asia. We deploy both philanthropic and investment capital for positive environmental and social impact. Additionally, the foundation has a humanitarian portfolio dedicated to empowering marginalised communities by focusing on critical areas, such as refugee support, poverty alleviation and community development.



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Ocean philanthropy stands at a pivotal crossroads, with an urgent call to action for funders to join forces in addressing the critical challenges facing marine ecosystems. Southeast Asia's marine biodiversity is not only remarkable on a regional scale, but also critical on a global level. Southeast Asia's archipelagic nature also plays a crucial role in shaping the survival and livelihoods of millions of lives. The formation of a funders' collaborative is an exciting step in mobilising resources and expertise, providing a platform for regional and global funders to journey together. By supporting the 30x30 goal, we can collectively contribute to safeguarding local communities, ecosystems and marine creatures, working towards a more sustainable future for generations to come.

R U M A H

• F O U N D A T I O N •

ABOUT THE FUND'S CO-CHAIRS

2

OCEANKIND

www.oceankind.org

Oceankind supports strategic organisations, exceptional leaders, and promising initiatives that seek to improve the health of the marine environment. Globally, our conservation portfolio is centred around efforts to reduce overfishing, establish marine protections, and safeguard critical ocean ecosystems such as blue carbon habitats. We support the work of our partners to advance ocean conservation at scale by contributing to results-oriented projects and by investing in organisations' capacity to play a key role in the field.



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Southeast Asia is a critically important region to advance equitable and effective ocean conservation. Not only is the region a hotspot of global significance for coral reef and blue carbon ecosystems, it contains enormous talent and potential in its diverse and entrepreneurial coastal communities. We believe that investing in local capacity to drive ocean protection is key to achieving 30x30, and that the Impact Fund represents an incredible opportunity to channel resources to impactful projects, civil society champions, and strong local organisations toward these ends. Participating in a regionally-focused funders' collaborative offers unparalleled learning and engagement opportunities, and we are thrilled to partner with Asia Community Foundation and Rumah Foundation in launching this effort.



oceankind



Photo credits: Getty Images

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