Asia-Pacific and Nature-Based Solutions

- Asia Pacific has a significant potential for nature-based solutions (NbS)
- By 2020, the Asia-Pacific region had provided 37 per cent (250 Gt) of the global carbon stock (662 Gt).
- Region contributes over 30% of global nature-based credits (85 Mt CO$_2$e)
- However, despite an overall increase in forested areas in the region, since 1990, primary forests continue to decline and has fallen below the global average of 31 per cent.
- The cropland area is continuously growing over the past two decades at the expense of native forests
- The "Third Pole", the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH), is a major repository of frozen water - an invaluable source of fresh water for 220 million people in the region.
- However, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) endanger downstream population as was the case in northern India in September 2023.

Source: Nature based Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region: Scooping Study (Carbon Market Institute, 2021)
Coastal Ecosystems are powerful allies against climate change

Mangroves, Seagrass, Coral reef

Supports each other to provide numerous ecosystems services:

- Sequestering carbon dioxide
- Fisheries
- Natural barriers
- Protecting coastal communities
- Boosting biodiversity
- Protecting our coasts
- Support local livelihoods

Source: Compilations from mangrove cover maps (Bunting et al., 2022), coral reef maps from Ocean Data Viewer (UNEP-WCMC, n.d.) which is based on several data sources including (IMaRS-USF; 2005; IMaRS-USF and IRD, 2005; Spalding et al., 2001; UNEP-WCMC et al., 2021), and mapped area of seagrass (UNEP-WCMC and Short, 2021)

Action required to

Increase investments in restoration and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems in the region.

Empowering local communities and indigenous peoples as custodians and guardians of ecosystems-based climate solutions

Indonesia had the largest potential restoration area, with over 2,000 km² available for restoration which is one-fourth of the area with restoration potential across the globe.

Source: Mangrove Ecosystem Services (Costanza et al., 2014). Source: Compilation from the mapped mangrove in 2020 (Bunting et al., 2022)
Source: Carbon stocks (Spalding and Leal, 2022, UNEP, 2023, Worthington and Spalding, 2018)