



ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS South East Asia

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South East Asia

United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific



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Definition of an indicator is not uniform across the various publications, organisations and institutions that have been referred to in this publication. Efforts have been made to standardise the data for a particular indicator from the different sources but there still might exist some discrepancies in the data-reporting method. UNEP-RRCAP does not take responsibility for the same.

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FOREWORD



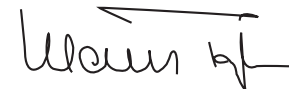
Agenda 21 emphasized the need for developing indicators to provide the solid base for decision making at local, national, regional and global levels. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in 2002 reiterated the need for indicators to monitor economic, social and environmental progress for sustainable development. Goal 7 of the UN Millennium Development Goals is set for countries to ensure environmental sustainability through integrating principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

This report on 'Environmental Indicators for Southeast Asia' has been prepared to present the trends of twenty five key indicators on air, water, land and biodiversity. It also presents trends on social and economic conditions through the selected indicators. Data have been collected for each indicator for each country in Southeast Asia for 1990, 1995 and 2000. This report provides an assessment of economic, social and environmental conditions in Southeast Asia based on available data and information. Lack of updated scientific database has been a major challenge in preparation of the report.

This report highlights that the 1997-98 Asian economy crisis adversely affected the economies of this region. This led to decreased GDP growth rate and increased poverty in the countries, which were affected by the crisis. The report also shows that the population growth rate in Southeast Asia was slightly higher than the world average for the same period. Southeast Asia will be home to three of the mega-cities of the world by 2010 - Jakarta, Metro Manila and Bangkok. Deteriorating urban environment is an issue of concern in this sub-region. Smog, low air quality, inadequate sewage and sanitation facilities are some of the problems plaguing urban development in this sub-region.

Southeast Asia remains one of the most heavily forested regions of the world and is home to a wide diversity of animals and plants. But forest area has decreased for all the countries in the sub-region, except Singapore where it has remained constant and Vietnam where it has increased. Forest fires have been a major cause of transboundary air pollution. This sub-region has shown initiative in regional co-operation by signing the agreement on Transboundary Haze pollution. Protected land in Southeast Asia showed slight increment during the 1990s.

UNEP hopes that the 'Environmental Indicators for Southeast Asia' will be a useful document for government, non-government, regional and international organizations in the pursuit of developing policies and action plan. UNEP gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Environment Ministries, agencies, institutes and individuals in the preparation of the report.



Klaus Töpfer

United Nations Under-Secretary General and
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United Nations Environment Programme
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