



# Biodiversity Information Sharing via the World Wide Web

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The ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) through the Database Branch and the ARCBC Annex in Quezon City, Philippines manages and maintains the ARCBC website - [www.arcbc.org.ph](http://www.arcbc.org.ph).

The website features a metadatabase and a web-based information sharing system called BISS or Biodiversity Information Sharing

System. BISS provides basic data on species and protected area descriptions, pictures, distributional data with maps, information on uses and conservation status of many thousands of species of flora and fauna across the ASEAN region (<http://www.arcbc.org.ph/biss.htm>). As of February 2002, ARCBC maintains data on ASEAN biodiversity, together with data on the protected areas, and socio-economic and demographic profiles of the 10 member countries as summarised below:

The Database Branch of ARCBC is also preparing other datasets. Most notable amongst these are the Plants and Reptiles of the ASEAN region, which are expected to be released on the web by April 2002. The branch also coordinates with several data holders from member countries of the European Union (EU) and the ASEAN to make them contributors to the ARCBC database network and/or to link their data to the ARCBC website.

Online Data (as of February 2002)

Taxa	ASEAN Member Countries										Total No. of Species	% with Description	% with pictures
	PHL	SGP	BRN	IDN	MMR	THA	VNM	LAO	MYS	KHM			
Birds	668	388	480	1,530	997	932	787	628	667	457	2,386	95.93	68.82
Mammals	218	61	228	648	265	250	259	247	305	152	945	23.92	36.83
Amphibians	98	30	57	348	81	130	122	69	216	25	655	68.70	9.16
Freshwater Fishes	295	103	80	1,005	315	619	374	482	488	476	1,997	~99.65	Linked to Fishbase

Taxa	ASEAN Member Countries										Total No. of PAs	% with Basic Data	% Mapped
	PHL	SGP	BRN	IDN	MMR	THA	VNM	LAO	MYS	KHM			
Protected Areas and other areas of interest	246	10	15	300	20	242	117	25	50	30	1,055	77.07	70.52

Upcoming Data													
Taxa	ASEAN Member Countries										Total No. of Species	% with Description	% with pictures
	PHL	SGP	BRN	IDN	MMR	THA	VNM	LAO	MYS	KHM			
Reptiles	298	94	37	590	143	380	185	72	210	73	1,528	~83.01	~87.98
Plants	8,441	301	3,282	9,524	1,748	2,582	683	286	11,266	291	34,000	0.93	Linked to Leiden Herbarium
Snails		– working with Jaap Vermeulen, Leiden, Paris											
Fungi		– Prof. Tricita H. Quimio, UPLB, Philippines											
Butterflies		– working with Dr. Gapud, UPLB, Philippines, OEPP Thailand											
Freshwater Crustacean		– working with Daisy Wowor and Peter Ng, Singapore											
Dragonflies		– working with Dr. Gapud, UPLB, Philippines											
Freshwater Fish		– working with Dr. Maurice Kottelat, EU; ICLARM Los Baños											
Mosses		– working with Dr. Benito Tan, Singapore; OEPP Thailand											
ASEAN Palms		– Dr. Edwino S. Fernando, UPLB, Philippines; Dr. John Dransfield; Kew Gardens											
Philippine Plants		– Dr. Nestor Baguion, UPLB, Philippines											
Makiling Flora		– Dr. Roberto Cereno, UPLB, Philippines											
Indonesian Nature Conservation Database – Ed Colijn													

ARCBC also provides links to other biodiversity-related websites such as the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), RAMSAR, Birdlife International, Plant Resources of Southeast Asia (PROSEA), and Fishbase among others. As an example, 80% of the data on freshwater fishes resides in external links to the Fishbase website. For the plants data, Leiden Herbarium and other herbaria from the ASEAN and the EU will be linked to provide com-

plete information on ASEAN plants. ARCBC envisions to network onto the websites of the collaborating data holders and not to gather and maintain data at ARCBC. Ownership of data belongs to the data collectors.

ARCBC is continuously expanding the BISS network by collaborating with dataholders and websites. Should you have data, photos or drawings on biodiversity such as plants, economic plants (agricultural), birds, mammals, reptiles, lichens, insects

and so on, you are very welcome to share the data with us. In case you know some people who might be interested, please inform them about our desire to collaborate with them. Our contact information is as follows: Phone/fax +63-49 5364042; +63-49 5362865 or e-mail us at [database@arcbc.org.ph](mailto:database@arcbc.org.ph). ■

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