ASEAN corner 5

Our wonderful world

Biological diversity is fundamental to ASEAN ecological health. The region is home to thousands of species. Some species can be found only in ASEAN countries.

In Thailand, Khao Yai National Park is the most popular place for observing wildlife. It is situated mainly in Nakorn Ratchasima Province. It covers more than 2,000 square kilometres. The park is home to rare species of rainforest trees and wildlife. Wild tigers, gibbons, great hornbills and elephants live here.

In the Philippines, tourists like diving at the Tubbataha Reefs National Park. The reefs here are considered one of the Philippines' oldest ecosystems. The National Park is situated near the centre of the Sulu Sea. It covers 970.3 square kilometres. There are several marine life species such as whales, dolphins, sharks and turtles. In 1993, the UNESCO declared the Tubbataha Reefs National Park a World Heritage Site to help protect nesting places for hawksbills and green sea turtles as well as other animals.



In Myanmar, forests cover over 48% of the country so its nature is not much spoilt. Some rare animals live here such as house-dwelling leaf-nosed bats, white-brown nuthatches, blue-brown birds and Indo-Burman torrent frogs.

Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar do not just have beautiful tourist attractions. These countries also provide homes for many rare species. The health of an ecosystem depends on the variety of species that live in it. Therefore, it is important that we help protect them before they become extinct.

1 **Read the text and answer the questions.**

1 What animals can you find in Khao Yai National Park?
2 Where is Tubbataha Reefs National Park?
3 What animals can we find in Tubbataha Reefs National Park?
4 What rare animals can we find in Myanmar?
5 Why is a variety of species important?



2 **Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.**

- What are the rare animals in your country?
- What can you do to help protect them?
- Why is biodiversity important to the environment?

3 ICT **Work in groups. Find information about biodiversity in your country or other ASEAN countries. Write about it.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS