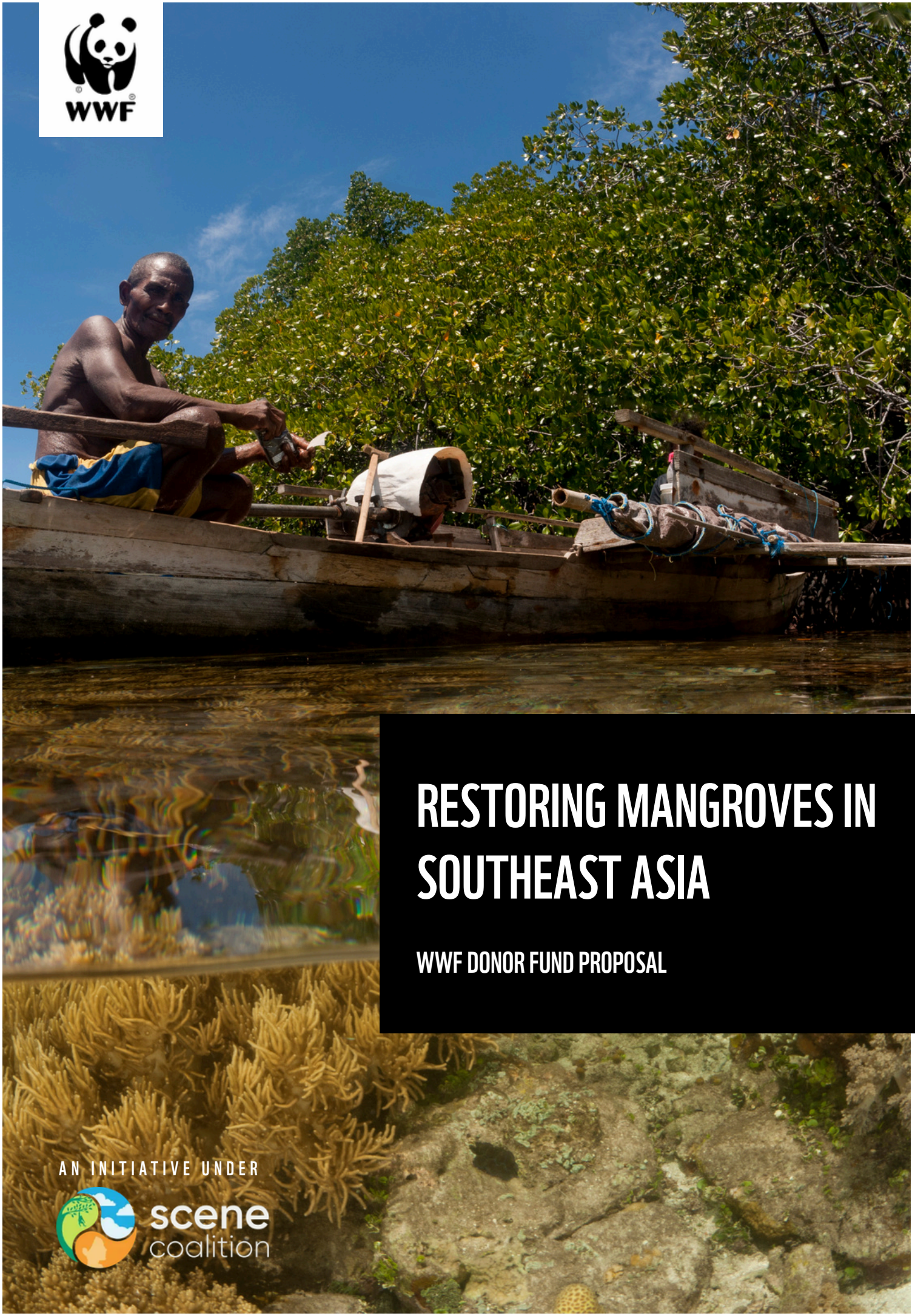
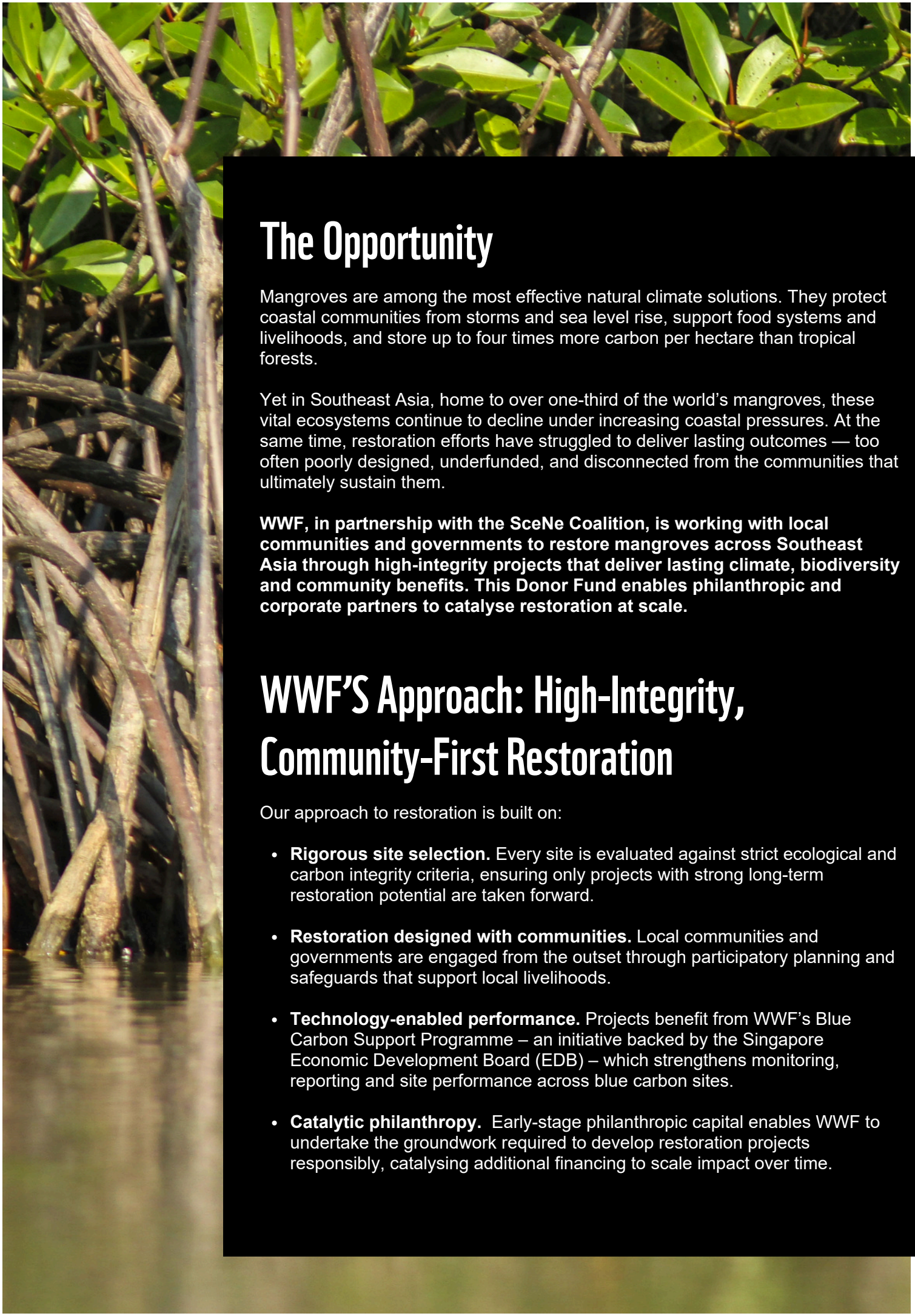


RESTORING MANGROVES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

WWF DONOR FUND PROPOSAL

AN INITIATIVE UNDER

scene coalition



The Opportunity

Mangroves are among the most effective natural climate solutions. They protect coastal communities from storms and sea level rise, support food systems and livelihoods, and store up to four times more carbon per hectare than tropical forests.

Yet in Southeast Asia, home to over one-third of the world's mangroves, these vital ecosystems continue to decline under increasing coastal pressures. At the same time, restoration efforts have struggled to deliver lasting outcomes — too often poorly designed, underfunded, and disconnected from the communities that ultimately sustain them.

WWF, in partnership with the SceNe Coalition, is working with local communities and governments to restore mangroves across Southeast Asia through high-integrity projects that deliver lasting climate, biodiversity and community benefits. This Donor Fund enables philanthropic and corporate partners to catalyse restoration at scale.

WWF'S Approach: High-Integrity, Community-First Restoration

Our approach to restoration is built on:

- **Rigorous site selection.** Every site is evaluated against strict ecological and carbon integrity criteria, ensuring only projects with strong long-term restoration potential are taken forward.
- **Restoration designed with communities.** Local communities and governments are engaged from the outset through participatory planning and safeguards that support local livelihoods.
- **Technology-enabled performance.** Projects benefit from WWF's Blue Carbon Support Programme – an initiative backed by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) – which strengthens monitoring, reporting and site performance across blue carbon sites.
- **Catalytic philanthropy.** Early-stage philanthropic capital enables WWF to undertake the groundwork required to develop restoration projects responsibly, catalysing additional financing to scale impact over time.

Donor Fund Overview

Fund Name	Canopy Donor Fund I
Country of Operation	Indonesia, Philippines (Phase 1)
Launch Date	Q4 2026
Fund Target	SGD 7.5M / USD 5M
Minimum Contribution	SGD 130,000 / USD 100,000 Multi-year commitments encouraged

Impact Targets By 2036

- **6,000 hectares of restored coastal ecosystems.**
- **500,000 tonnes of high-integrity carbon removal credits** aligned with international market standards including CORSIA and Article 6.
- **Community benefit sharing** designed on a site-by-site basis, reflecting the unique needs, context, and priorities of local communities at each location.

This Fund contributes to SDGs 14 (Life Below Water), 13 (Climate Action) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities):

Your Contribution Unlocks

- **Restoration Implementation -** Site preparation, hydrological rehabilitation, planting activities, site management and field monitoring for up to 6,000 hectares of mangroves (equivalent to approximately four project sites).
- **Community Engagement and Safeguards** - Participatory planning processes, community consultations, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) activities.
- **Climate Resilience Measures** - Risk mitigation and insurance mechanisms designed to safeguard restoration sites and communities against extreme weather events.

Case Study: Nunukan, Indonesia

In Nunukan, Indonesia, WWF and local partners are restoring a site chosen for its ecological integrity, strong carbon potential, and deep community ties that make long-term stewardship possible.

Co-benefits	• Sustainable aquaculture opportunities • Creation of ~300 local jobs through restoration and site management activities • Biodiversity protection of ~40 species across coastal habitats
Progress to date	50 hectares restored; expansion to 757 hectares underway (2025-2028)
Carbon potential	~250,000 tCO_2e over 20 years (Verra VCS VM0033; CORSIA-eligible)

Why Contribute?

- **Trusted Conservation Experience.** WWF brings decades of experience delivering conservation and restoration programmes globally and across Southeast Asia, underpinned by robust safeguards, governance, and reporting frameworks that meet international standards.
- **High-Integrity Impact.** Achieve measurable outcomes across climate, nature and community - including coastal protection, biodiversity restoration, livelihood support, and verified carbon outcomes through high-integrity restoration.
- **A Community of Leaders.** Join a growing network of philanthropic and corporate partners enabling restoration across Southeast Asia, with opportunities for field engagement and direct insight into on-the-ground impact.

To find out more and contribute:

Programme Lead: Prashanth Warrier / pwarrier@wwf.sg

Partnerships Lead: Mayj Tolentino / mtolentino@wwf.sg / +65 96658708

About WWF
WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with over 6 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

About SCeNe Coalition
The SCeNe Coalition is a collaboration between leading non-profit environmental and conservation NGOs with an established presence in Southeast Asia aimed at accelerating implementation of and financing towards high-quality, triple-benefit Nature-based Solutions across the region.