



LAWASIA

THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FOUNDED IN 1966

4 March 2026

LAWASIA STATEMENT ON WORLD WILDLIFE DAY – 3 MARCH 2026

On World Wildlife Day LAWASIA reaffirms its commitment to justice, the rule of law, and the protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. World Wildlife Day reminds us of the intrinsic value of wild animals, plants, and their habitats — not only for biodiversity, culture and heritage but also for human health, livelihoods, sustainable development, and resilient societies.

The official theme for World Wildlife Day 2026 — “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods” — highlights the essential yet often underappreciated contributions of wildlife to human wellbeing and traditional knowledge systems. These plants and the ecosystems they support are vital sources of medicine, food and cultural identity for communities across our region and play indispensable roles in sustaining nature’s balance.

Today, wildlife faces unprecedented pressures from habitat destruction, climate change, over-exploitation, and illegal wildlife trade — challenges that also undermine the rule of law, equitable access to natural resources, sustainable development, and human rights. LAWASIA recognises that robust legal frameworks, effective enforcement, transparent governance, and inclusive justice systems are essential to safeguarding wildlife and ensuring that environmental laws deliver real protections for nature and people alike.

LAWASIA calls on governments, the legal profession, civil society, indigenous and local communities, and all stakeholders to:

- Strengthen legal protections for wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend.
- Combat illegal wildlife exploitation and trade through cooperative enforcement, rule-of-law measures, and cross-border collaboration.
- Honour the rights, knowledge and leadership of indigenous peoples and local communities in wildlife stewardship; and
- Promote legal education, public awareness and access to justice in environmental and wildlife matters.

On this World Wildlife Day, LAWASIA stands in solidarity with all who advance conservation, uphold legal integrity, and build just, nature-positive societies where “wildlife and people thrive together”.

TL Yap

President

LAWASIA, The Law Association for Asia and The Pacific