

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

AMRAN HAMZAH

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Profile

Dr. Amran Hamzah is an academic-practitioner having served as a Professor in Tourism Planning at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia for more than 40 years as well as having successfully led more than 100 consultancy projects for national and international clients including IUCN, UNESCO, UN Tourism and APEC. His areas of specialisation are policy planning and the interface between nature conservation and tourism. His active involvement in IUCN/WCPA began in 2011, having served in different positions including as an elected Regional Councillor between 2016 and 2021. Amran is currently serving as the Regional Vice Chair of WCPA (Southeast Asia). He has been actively involved in activities under the auspices of IUCN/WCPA/APAP in the form of projects, programmes, and technical workshops. A substantial proportion of his work revolves around protected and conserved area management, sustainable tourism in protected areas, the Green List, OECMs, World Heritage, and rights-based approaches involving local/indigenous communities. His knowledge and experience related to nature conservation as well as extensive network in Asia - notably the mega diverse yet geo-politically challenging South-East Asian region - are critical towards his current and future effectiveness as an ambassador for IUCN.

Experience

Professor in Tourism Planning, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

- Initiated the development of the first postgraduate tourism planning programme in the Asia Pacific region in 1997 with a strong emphasis on synergy between tourism and nature conservation.
- Head of university consultancy team on tourism planning and resource management (Tourism Planning Research Group).
- UN Tourism Expert and consultant to various international and national agencies.

Regional Vice-Chair (Southeast Asia), IUCN WCPA, 2021-Present

- Providing leadership in interpreting IUCN/WCPA programmes especially in relation to protected and conserved areas management e.g. the Green List, OECMs and Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Malaysia (NRES) to lead the formulation of a national OECM framework for Malaysia in collaboration with IUCN/WCPA.
- Played a key role in the initial negotiations with Sabah Parks to co-organise the 2nd Asia Parks Congress in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, as well as the planning and successful delivery of the event.
- Successfully completed the Nature Based Tourism Plans for the AlUla Protected Area Network (Saudi Arabia) for IUCN ROWA/Royal Commission for AlUla (2024).
- To co-organise, on behalf of IUCN/WCPA, a national workshop on the Green List/OECMs in June 2025 and a regional workshop on GBF Target 3 in early 2026 (in Malaysia).

Member of Advisory Board, UN Tourism Best Tourism Villages of the World Initiative, 2021-2024

- Evaluated BTV applications and recommended list of villages to be recognised as Best Tourism Villages.
- Provided customised mentorship to guide villages selected under the Best Tourism Villages (BTV) Upgrade Programme.

Regional Councillor, IUCN, 2016-2021

- Vice Chair of the Programme and Policy Committee of the Council that provided guidance and oversight for corresponding policy and programme-related matters including the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme.

- Chair of Task Force on Sub-National Governments Category. This task force was given the mandate to garner support for the Council motion of creating a sub-national government category of members, which (narrowly) failed to be approved at 2 previous Congresses (Jeju WCC in 2011 and Hawaii WCC in 2016).
- Co-Chair of the Congress Governance Committee during the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France in 2021. Instrumental in getting the game-changing Council Motion on Sub-National Government category approved through high level negotiations.
- Member of other IUCN Council task forces e.g. the Urban Alliance Task Force.

Co-Chair, IUCN TILCEPA, 2013-2016

- Ensured synergy between two IUCN Commissions, WCPA and CEESP, in furthering just and equitable conservation related to protected area management in which the New Social Compact was a key output presented at the 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney.

Deputy Vice Chair (Southeast Asia), IUCN WCPA Asia, 2011-2013

- Sponsored by IUCN Asia Regional Office to conduct a 1-year research on the Asian Philosophy of Protected Areas which was presented in the plenary of the inaugural Asian Parks Congress in 2013.
- The Asian Philosophy of Protected Areas provides an alternative view to ‘formal’ protected areas which is grounded in sacred natural sites and Asia’s ancient wisdom, which in turn, could be viewed as part of the genesis of OECMs.

Founding Member of the Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP), 2013-Present

- An active founding member of APAP since its official launch at the World Parks Congress in 2014.
- Provided the critical groundwork for getting Sabah Parks to accept the co-organising role of the 2nd Asia Parks Congress, which was successfully held in 2022 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Education

- Ph.D. in Resource Management (Tourism) | 1998 | University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- M.Sc. in Resource Assessment | 1987 | University of East Anglia, UK
- Professional Diploma in Town and Regional Planning | 1982 | Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology, UK
- Diploma in Town and Regional Planning | 1979 | Institut Teknologi Mara, Malaysia

Skills & Abilities

Strategic planning
Resource mobilization
Capacity development
Conflict resolution

Leadership
Diplomacy
Public speaking

Competences

- Wide-ranging experience in conservation from global/strategic policy development to local/field level implementation.
- Skills and effectiveness in cascading global conservation programmes and policies e.g. the Global Biodiversity Framework, IUCN Green List and OECMs to the country/site level.
- Competency to work across disciplinary and core expertise boundaries to engage and influence policies and actions by functionally diverse yet related organisations.
- Deep understanding of Asian values, philosophy, and interpretation of nature conservation as well as geopolitical nuances.

Publications

https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=c2f1JvkAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5562-9071>