



Critical Habitat Assessment

Earth Systems has extensive experience delivering Critical Habitat Assessments (CHAs) aligned with international lender standards (e.g., PS6 and ESS6). Earth Systems has completed CHAs for a range of sectors, including mining, renewable energy and agroforestry, with extensive experience across Southeast Asia and Central and West Africa.

The Critical Habitat Assessment approach is a widely recognised methodology developed to identify and evaluate areas of outstanding biodiversity value, ensuring that projects avoid or mitigate impacts on species, habitats and ecosystems of global or regional significance. The CHA framework provides a systematic process for screening, verifying and managing biodiversity risks in line with international standards such as IFC PS6, EBRD PR6 and other lender requirements, and is increasingly applied across sectors including mining, energy, infrastructure and agriculture. Earth Systems has been providing high-quality environmental management and planning expertise for major industry for more than 30 years. Earth Systems' biodiversity and ecology specialists are experienced in gathering field and background data in complex ecological and sensitive socio-economic settings, often in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Critical Habitat Assessments are applied in many situations, including:

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) for projects that may affect biodiversity of conservation importance
- Screening project areas to determine the presence of Critical Habitat and priority biodiversity features
- Compliance with international lender safeguard requirements when financing new or existing projects
- Project planning and design to avoid or minimise impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Supporting biodiversity management planning, such as Biodiversity Action Plans or offset strategies

We collaborate with clients throughout all stages of project development to ensure that Critical Habitat Assessment (CHA) considerations are integrated in a timely, cost-effective and technically viable manner. Our approach supports clients to identify practical and strategic options for project planning that complies with international lending requirements. It also helps to determine the appropriate 'next steps' where activities may affect Critical Habitat. This may include the preparation of Residual

Impact Assessments, Biodiversity Action Plans, biodiversity offset feasibility studies, and offset design and implementation plans, all of which Earth Systems can develop and deliver for clients.

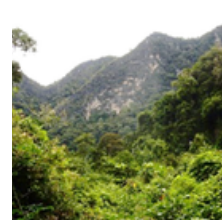
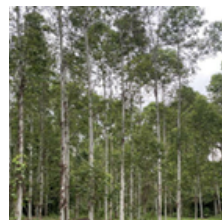
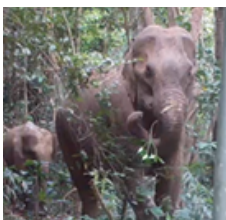
SERVICES PROVIDED

- Full CHA Assessments and CHA Screening Studies
- Critical and Natural Habitat mapping
- Specialist aquatic and terrestrial surveys, data management and interpretation
- Targeted threatened species and habitat surveys
- Ecosystem services and resource use assessment
- Detailed GIS and database analysis
- Biodiversity Action Plans and priority species management plans

PROJECT EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Our biodiversity and ecology experts specialise in surveying areas with highly sensitive ecological values, such as the tropical rainforests of West Africa and Southeast Asia, and areas with complex and sensitive socio-economic conditions, often working in remote areas with high levels of dependence on natural resource use. Some of our most recent projects include:

- CHA and Biodiversity Action Plan for a Pumped Storage Power Project in Lao PDR
- CHA screening for mining developments in West Africa and Southeast Asia
- CHA Screening and full assessment for agroforestry projects in Central Africa and Southeast Asia



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