

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818320503321
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Titolo	The belt and road initiative : environmental impacts in Southeast Asia / / Alex M. Lechner [and six others]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	981-4881-43-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (30 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Trends in Southeast Asia ; ; Number 18
Disciplina	382.30951
Soggetti	Investments, Chinese - Southeast Asia
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 28 Oct 2021).
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- FOREWORD -- The Belt and Road Initiative: Environmental Impacts in Southeast Asia -- REFERENCES
Sommario/riassunto	China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is expected to be the largest infrastructure development scheme of the twenty-first century. There is escalating concern over BRI's potential environmental impacts in Southeast Asia, a global biodiversity hotspot and a focus area of BRI development. Case studies of Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Malaysia show that the success of BRI in bringing about sustainable growth and opportunities depends on the Chinese government and financiers, as well as the agencies and governments involved when BRI investments take place. The adoption of best environmental practices is critical in ensuring that growth is sustainable and that bad environmental practices are not locked in for decades to come.