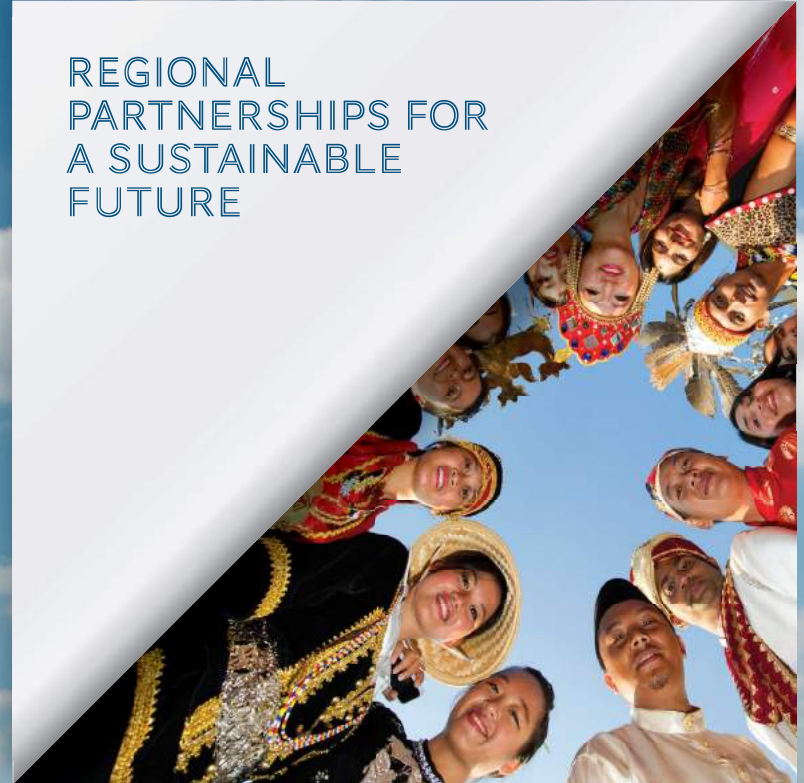


A DIRECTORY OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
INITIATIVES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A DIRECTORY OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
INITIATIVES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Staffan Herrström
Ambassador



Anne-Charlotte Malm
Head of Development Cooperation



Dear partners in development,

We are very pleased to present this Directory of Development Cooperation Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific. The directory gives an overview of regional cooperation initiatives, supported through the Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region. These regional organisations, programmes and projects have one thing in common; they all aim to contribute to a sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific where the environment and human rights are protected and respected. The many initiatives presented in the following pages show the wide range of development work and results produced by dedicated actors in the region. They demonstrate how it is possible and fruitful to work regionally in an integrated way with human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change. We also hope that the directory will inspire to further cooperation and new partnerships, working strategically for more effective delivery of programs and good results.

We wish to thank all our partner organisations for all good work and collaboration over the years, and for making this publication happen.



Embassy of Sweden
Bangkok

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACN	The ASEAN CSR Network
ACWC	The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADB	The Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AICHR	The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIM	The Asian Institute of Management
AINS	The Agriculture Information Network Service
APF	The Asia Pacific Forum
APHR	ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
APPPC	The Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission
AP-RCEM	The Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEF	Asia-Europe Foundation
AUN-HRE	The ASEAN University Network-Human Rights Education
AWG-SF	The ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry Being LGBTI in Asia
BLIA	Breaking out of Marginalisation
CAEC	The China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre
CAECF	The China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum
CAI-Asia	The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
CCBII	Climate Change Budget Integration Index
CCFF	Climate Change Financing Frameworks
CDIA	Cities Development Initiative for Asia
CEF	Clean Energy Fund
CEFPF	Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility
CEP-BCI	Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative
CF	Community Forestry
CityNet	The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
CJ	Climate Justice
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking
COP22	The 22 nd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

CREST	Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DEVFISH II	The Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific ACP Countries Project II
DMCs	ADB's Developing Member Countries
ECOSOC	The United Nations Economic and Social Council
EEI-LMS	Economy and Environment Institute for Lower Mekong Subregion
EEPSEA	The Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EJN	Earth Journalism Network
EMM4	The Fourth GMS Environment Minister Meeting
ENVforum	The Asia-Europe Environment Forum
ERI	EarthRights International
ERS	The EarthRights School
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDJ	Feminist Development Justice
FFA (EU)	Forum Fisheries Agency
FFA (Oxfam)	Fair Finance Asia
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	The European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FLP	Feminist Law and Practice
FORUM-ASIA	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
FPAR	Participatory Action Research
FRDP	The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FUGs	Forest User Groups
GCCF	The Governance of Climate Change Finance
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GG	Grounding the Global
GHS	Globally Harmonized System
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
GRAISEA	Gender Transformative and Responsible Agri business Investments in South East Asia
HHPs	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
HICAP	Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalayas
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HRC	UN Human Rights Council
IB	Inclusive Business
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

IDRC	Canada's International Development Research Centre
IHPR	The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JTF	Japan Trust Fund
Keml	Swedish Chemicals Agency
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LMB	Lower Mekong Basin
LMPPJ	Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative
MENA	Middle East and North African
MFJ	Mangroves for the Future
MLAI	The Mekong Legal Advocacy Institute
MOUs	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	The Mekong River Commission
NAP	Nepal and Bhutan's National Adaptation Planning
NDMOs	National Disaster Management Organisations
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
PACPs	The African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries
PANAP	Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP)
PEMSEA	Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of South East Asia
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PEUMP	The Pacific-European Union Marine Programme
PFM	The Public Financial Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
PIC	Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia
PIF	The Pacific Islands Forum
PPAC	Pacific People Advancing Change
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
PRC	The People's Republic of China
RA	Resilience Assessment
RCC	The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management
RCEP	The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
REAL	Rural Ecological Agriculture for Livelihood
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
RRRT	The Regional Rights Resource Team
RSPO	Roundtable on the Sustainable Palm Oil
RWI	The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SASEC	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation

SCICOFISH	Science for Coastal and Ocean Fisheries
SDCC	Sustainable Development and Climate Change
SDGs	The Sustainable Development Goals
SDSC	Sector Advisory Service Cluster
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAHRN	Southeast Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Network
SEAMTN	The Southeast Asia Media Training Network
SEAPA	Southeast Asian Press Alliance
SEA-PAC	South-East Asian Parties Against Corruption
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SHAPE-SEA	Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
SPC	The Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
STAR	Stolen Asset Recovery
SUMERNET	Sustainable Mekong Research Network
TA	Technical assistance
TFA	The Field Alliance
TROSA	Transboundary Rivers of South Asia
TTP	Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement
UCLG-ASPAC	The United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific
UN Environment	The United Nations Environment Programme
UN-ACT	United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons
UNCAC	The United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIAP	United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking
UNODC	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
USP	The University of the South Pacific
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WGA	Working Group on Agriculture
WIP	Women in Power
WITCH	Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



THE ASEAN CSR FELLOWSHIP



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



THE ASEAN CSR FELLOWSHIP

The ASEAN CSR Fellowship was launched in early 2017 to build up the next generation of ambassadors for responsible business in the region. The programme recruited and partially funded 15 professionals from eight ASEAN countries with various backgrounds ranging from business, government and civil society sectors to equip them with in-depth theoretical and practical concepts in responsible business. Through a year-long programme, the fellows went on a series of study tours to Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, understanding responsible business in different contexts with varying levels of economic development.

Each week spent in the different countries featured a series of study tours to meet top business leaders, government representatives, academics and civil society practitioners. Sessions also featured deep-dive topics, delving into difficult issues such as the rights of migrant workers, anti-corruption, the impact of the oil & gas and mining industries, tourism and supply chain management in agriculture. The fellowship also provided guidance for fellows to deliver a Capstone Project, a long-term CSR project with measurable outcomes, in their home countries. The winning project on responsible agricultural investments, developed by a team from Laos, received a s\$ 10,000 grant for its implementation.

AT A GLANCE

Founded in December 2010, ASEAN CSR Network (ACN), an accredited ASEAN entity, is a regional network that promotes responsible business conduct to achieve a sustainable, equitable and inclusive ASEAN Community. Its vision is to create a responsible business community that makes ASEAN a better place to live for all.

ACN creates change by influencing and working with different actors, ranging from ASEAN bodies and ASEAN member states to the private sector, civil society and international organisations who have the power to improve the way businesses operate. It provides a platform for networking and cooperation at the ASEAN level, supports capacity building and training activities, helps catalyse thought leadership and collective action on key issues including business integrity, business and human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability, and provides a link with regional and international bodies interested in supporting the advancement of responsible business in the region.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





**ASEAN CSR FELLOWSHIP
BY THE NUMBERS:**



25-40

Age range of ASEAN professionals eligible for the fellowship

1

Year programme

15

Fellows from eight ASEAN neighbour countries

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, a total of 15 fellows from eight ASEAN countries were chosen for the fellowship with the following expected outcomes:

- 1. A new network of 'internal champions' across ASEAN made up of leading CSR practitioners in various fields, including business, government and civil society.**

This will be supported by a valuable platform for peer learning and sharing, an alumni network for fellows to support each other throughout their CSR careers. The network will also promote ACN's agenda in ASEAN as fellows advocate to their peers in their home countries and act as a valuable point of contact, providing an honest voice on ground realities in their home countries.

- 2. Guidance for fellows while they do their Capstone Project and mentorship as their projects develop into more ambitious initiatives.**

The Capstone Project allowed fellows to put their CSR knowledge and experience into practice. The project follows similar criteria and scope as ACN's Small Grants Fund, which focuses on advocacy, capacity building, collective action or research and publication projects. Some examples of ideas from the 2017 fellowship included a mobile app to provide factory workers in Vietnam with offline information about their labour rights based on the country's employment laws, a programme in Singapore to encourage businesses to consider a more robust CSR strategy and a financial inclusion programme in the Philippines to facilitate lending to small and medium enterprises.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The programme is committed to building capacity on responsible business practices that have human rights, the environment and ethical concerns integrated into business operations. The internationally-accepted standards on responsible business such as the UN Global Compact's 10 Principles have been included in the 'core' curriculum of the programme. These standards directly encourage the private sector's contribution to human rights, gender equality, the environment and climate change.

In addition, the programme recognises mutual interaction of these issues in three ways:

- 1) Fellows gain an understanding of global challenges, from land rights to sustainable production, in four different ASEAN countries. As a result, fellows quickly understand that these issues are interlinked and often mutually reinforced.
- 2) The Capstone Project delivered by each fellow also often addresses issues related to the environment, gender equality and human rights. For example, the top Capstone Project for 2017 on responsible agricultural investments covered issues such as environmental sustainability and labour rights.
- 3) The alumni network set up also allows for continued learning and sharing of resources among practitioners from diverse backgrounds, including land rights activists and environmental management managers, fostering cross-sector understanding and collaboration.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

To promote regional understanding, the programme connects CSR practitioners with various ASEAN organisations. For example, fellows visited the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and learned about key ASEAN strategies such as the ASEAN 2025 Blueprint, led by staff from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Fellows also met with three country representatives from the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) - Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, and attended the ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit co-organised by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. Throughout all activities, fellows had several opportunities to connect with the ASEAN intergovernmental mechanism.



Fellows from ASEAN countries are chosen for the fellowship to build a network of 'internal champions' across the region.

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PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR REGIONAL ACTIONS ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN (PRADHA)



AT A GLANCE

Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) was founded in June 2013 with the objective of promoting democracy and human rights in Southeast Asia. It represents a regional response to human rights concerns, utilising the specific characteristics and abilities of parliamentarians and former parliamentarians to advocate for the protection of human rights throughout ASEAN.

APHR's founding members include many of the region's most progressive parliamentarians with a proven track record of human rights advocacy work.

APHR is guided by the assumption that parliamentarians who are engaged in APHR events, connected to a wider network of lawmakers, civil society and other stakeholders across the region and are supported by a strong and effective secretariat and staff will be able to effectively use their unique positions, including their representative and advocacy capacities, to strengthen human rights and democracy regionally, leading to improved human rights protections and diminished violations.

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR REGIONAL ACTIONS ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN (PRADHA)

APHR seeks to create an ASEAN region that allows space for people to live in dignity, free from all forms of discrimination and violence, where human rights are at the center of development, and strong national and regional institutions exist that are transparent and accountable to the people.

Its objectives is to provide significant contribution to the shaping of regional responses on human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia by parliamentarians exercising their role on representation and advocacy, especially for those who are vulnerable and marginalised, and by providing oversight on democracy and human rights in Southeast Asia.

To meet the objective, the following key activities have been implemented under the programme:

- Regional response and advocacy
- Network building and partnerships
- Capacity building for parliamentarians
- Institutional strengthening

FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

APHR engages with individual governments and parliaments as well as intergovernmental mechanisms through policy dialogues, private meetings and discussions.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Effective monitoring and response to serious human rights issues and violations using APHR's advocacy and intervention strategies

Over the past three years, APHR has maintained its unique approach to regional human rights concerns, increasing the organisation's visibility and credibility, as well as that of its members, with key decision-makers and the wider public.

A series of private meetings for APHR members and parliamentarians were organised across 17 countries and three continents.

In terms of visibility, APHR was mentioned 566 times in local, regional and international media, including in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and The Wall Street Journal. The Wall Street Journal between January and October 2017. APHR recorded 266 media citations in 2016 and 227 in 2015. From January to October 2017, APHR also released a total of 36 statements, 12 joint statements and 13 op-eds, as well as hosting 7 press conferences and releasing one report.

Strengthened capacities and network of APHR members in addressing human rights issues at regional and national levels.

APHR membership has grown more than 10-fold over the course of the first three years of the project, with 80 official members across eight Southeast Asian countries by the end of 2017. Over this period, APHR has developed into a strongly connected network of parliamentarians mutually supporting one another in the struggle to advance human rights and democracy in the face of rising authoritarianism and specific human rights threats against parliamentarians themselves.

Workshops and seminars were hosted with an aim to build the capacity of parliamentarians to advance a range of human rights issues. Numerous fact-finding missions were also conducted including two missions to Myanmar to explore religious freedom issues and human rights situations in Rakhine State and Kachin State and a mission to Cambodia to look into large-scale investments and their human rights and environmental impact.

Improved collaboration and partnerships with key human rights actors, mechanisms and policymakers at global, regional and national levels

APHR is increasingly becoming the "go-to" body in Southeast Asia among a wide range of stakeholders—from grassroots CSOs to international bodies such as the UN—seeking to reach out to, invite, or involve parliamentarians in relevant actions. This speaks volumes about the advances made over the past three years in terms of raising the exposure and belief in APHR as a credible and dependable partner for a wide range of stakeholders working to promote human rights in Southeast Asia.

The APHR network includes: civil society organisations and individuals; national human rights institutions; INGOs; UN agencies; ASEAN secretariat bodies; governments, both within and outside of the ASEAN region; donor agencies; foreign embassies and missions; international organisations and parliamentary groupings; and other parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and influential persons and policy drivers.

APHR MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY (* Associate Member)

Cambodia

12

Indonesia

23

Malaysia

10

Myanmar

2

Philippines

15

Singapore

4

Thailand

5

Timor-leste

7

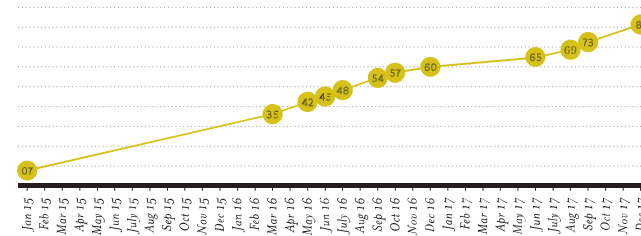
EU Parliament

2*

South Africa

1*

APHR GROWTH OF MEMBERS



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

APHR ensures cross-cutting issues such as human rights, democracy, gender equality and the environment are addressed in all APHR work.

The organisation locates gender and environment sensitive indicators, to support the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the project to better guide the organisation in its work.

Gender mainstreaming strategies have been adopted. In membership, APHR always try to achieve gender balance. As of November 2017, representing only 9% difference between the male and female members. Achieving gender balance in APHR is a success in itself to ensure equal participation of all sexes to give a balanced view and gender-sensitive direction to APHR's work.

APHR hosts workshops and seminars with an aim to build capacity of parliamentarians to advance a range of human rights issues.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

APHR is a unique organisation that sits somewhere between government and civil society. Its work is to support and amplify the voices of civil society and influence the regional agenda and effect policy change by supporting progressive parliamentarians advocating for ASEAN governments to commit to and respect human rights and democratic principles and put those commitments into action.

At the same time, APHR engages with individual governments and parliaments as well as intergovernmental mechanisms through policy dialogues, private meetings and discussions and other events.

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PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS





ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR REGION

SUPPORT TO THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIS)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

APF shares expertise in standardising human rights and gender equality to members, governments and civil society organisations in the region via a peer-to-peer learning method.



APF BY THE NUMBERS:



24

Core and associate members as of 2017, including NHRIs of Bahrain and Iraq

18

Training activities organised during 2016-2017

276

NHRI representatives took part in diverse ranges of training topics. Of the total, 59% are female

AT A GLANCE

All people should have a right to live with dignity, free from violence and discrimination. The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) works hard to protect and promote human rights across Asia Pacific region. A sustainable way to achieve this goal is to support the establishment of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) - independent statutory bodies with a mandate to promote and protect human rights. The agency believes that strong and effective NHRIs will vigorously advocate and defend human rights and deliver tangible changes to improve lives.

For more than 20 years APF has grown by leaps and bounds, reflected in an increasing number of members from only four since its establishment in 1996 to 24 members from all corners of the region in 2017.

SUPPORT TO THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIS)

A key objective of the APF is to increase the number of NHRIs in the region that are established in compliance with the United Nations and international standards for human rights. To ensure that each NHRI is well-governed and functions effectively in the area of complaints, education, monitoring, advocacy and reporting, the APF undertakes activities in the following five key areas: advising, networking, capacity-building, regional and international engagement, governance and promotion of gender equality.

The agency shares expertise in standardising human rights to members, governments and civil society in the region via a peer-to-peer learning method, training and self-assessments. High-level dialogues are also provided as a platform to strengthen human rights networking and cooperation among regional and international partners and stakeholders. Gender mainstreaming is implemented across all of the APF's work.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

New Partnerships to Counter Violence and Discrimination

A series of ground-breaking APF-UNDP workshops has helped established country-level partnerships across the region to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Asia Pacific.

Addressing the Root Causes of Family Violence

A landmark national inquiry was launched by Samoa's NHRI to address the widespread incidence of family violence in the Pacific Island nation. The APF provided financial and technical assistance to the NHRI to undertake this crucial work by conducting a ground-breaking national inquiry into family violence.

Participation in UN Bodies

NHRIs have been recognised and included in the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing as independent participants. As a result, NHRIs can contribute directly to and deliberate the content of a possible convention on the rights of older persons.

Stronger NHRIs Building Fairer Communities

Growing the capacity of NHRIs and APF members to deal with the challenges they face is a core outcome of the APF's key trainings, advice, networking and other services. The APF seeks to make a meaningful difference, with direct benefits for people in countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Growing APF Membership

Membership of the APF grew to 24 as of 2017, with the NHRIs of Bahrain and Iraq admitted as the latest associate members

Widespread Support for Rights Bodies in the Pacific

Consultations in Tuvalu, Nauru, the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands have shown strong support for the establishment of NHRIs that could help to address human rights challenges in these Pacific States. A bill to establish an NHRI in Tuvalu, which the APF helped to draft, has recently been passed by that nation's parliament.

Equip NHRI Staff with New Skills

The APF organised training activities during 2016–2017. A total of 276 NHRI representatives (59% female, 41% male) took part in these training programmes. The courses covered a diverse range of topics including rights of women and girls, LGBTI people, workers in the garment sector, people with disabilities, human rights and climate change, and monitoring economic, social and cultural rights.



The APF seeks to make a meaningful difference with direct benefits for people in countries across the Asia Pacific region.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Philippines

The APF has provided assistance to Commission on Human Rights working to help residents in communities adversely affected by the Carbon Majors, companies or business activities that are source of greenhouse gases emission. The Commission is investigating the matter on the basis of both domestic and international law.

Samoa

Financial and technical support enabled Samoa's NHRI to conduct training sessions for the agency's staff members working on national inquiry into gender violence seen as a critical social issue in the country. In December 2016, the country's first national probe into gender violence was launched.

Pacific Islands

APF, communities and intergovernmental bodies work to establish NHRIs in order to protect the rights of people and address community-wide challenges.

Consultation team members from Tuvalu, Nauru, the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands showed strong support for establishment of a NHRI in their countries in the consultations. The agency also assisted in preparation of legislation to establish an NHRI in Tuvalu.



The APF organises training activities covering a diverse range of topics including rights of women and girls.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Even though the human rights challenges across the region are vast, no regional court has yet been established as a protection system for people to voice their concerns about human rights and related issues. Hence the agency and stakeholders aim to support the establishment of independent NHRIs in the region to tackle pressing regional human rights challenges.

Continuous discussion over the issue of human rights during the Pacific Islands Forum and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in Southeast Asia reflects the importance of intergovernment mechanisms in driving regional cooperation to seek solutions to the challenges.

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A SUPPORT ACROSS APWLD'S NINE PROGRAMMES AND SEVERAL CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES



FOCUS AREAS:



PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

Originated from developed dialogues of women lawyers, social scientists and activists from Asia Pacific on the roles of laws in women's human rights and empowerment, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) believes that laws can constructively make a positive impact on political and socio-economic changes.

Founded in 1986, APWLD vision is to empower women to use law as a change agent, to promote women's human rights and build the power of feminist movements in the Asia Pacific Region. APWLD currently represents diverse groups of 220 active members from 27 countries with its secretariat located in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Through its key nine programmes and working on several cross-cutting initiatives, APWLD's vital goals are to promote women's human rights enshrined in international human rights instruments, and to empower women and their movements to achieve equality, justice, peace and Development Justice in the Asia Pacific region.

A SUPPORT ACROSS APWLD'S NINE PROGRAMMES AND SEVERAL CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

To tackle challenges facing women's rights, nine programmes are launched in a bid to build the capacity, knowledge, opportunities and movements of Asia Pacific women, particularly of the most marginalised. The nine programmes are comprised of 1) Breaking out of Marginalisation (BOOM) 2) Climate Justice (CJ) 3) Feminist Development Justice (FDJ) 4) Feminist Law and Practice (FLP) 5) Grounding the Global (GG) 6) Labour-Women Organising Women 7) Migration 8) Women in Power (WiP) and 9) Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH).

During the strategic plan of 2017-2021, these programmes were designed to strengthen feminist movements particularly of the most marginalised groups at all levels. They are also amplifying influence, impact, and voice of Asia Pacific women as well as facilitating evidence-based research and tools for advocacy. APWLD uses these activities as key approaches to build the capacity of women's rights organisations and activists; using rights-based perspectives and interrogating the intersection of patriarchy, globalisation, fundamentalisms and militarisation.

APWLD's high-achieving main strategy in conducting above initiatives is using Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR), an extensive research aimed at creating a powerful change through both personal and organisational capacity. Conducted by rural, indigenous, immigrant and urban poor women together with their organisations and local communities, the FPAR strategy enables young women to document their issues, develop agendas and drive for structural solutions that will collectively improve their lives through participatory and practical approaches such as Theory of Change, Power Mapping and Critical Pathway Planning.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

During 2015-2017, APWLD successfully conducted capacity building in analysing, organising, advocating and driving social changes for over 4,000 feminists, women's rights advocates, and partner organisations particularly from grassroots and marginalised women communities from 27 countries in Asia Pacific. APWLD also has equipped them with over 100 new feminist tools and resources of knowledge.

The women's voices in Asia Pacific has been amplified through APWLD's support to at least 160 grassroots feminist and women's rights activists to participate in over 35 high-level advocacy stages and negotiations.

Nineteen regional and international initiatives, networks of alliances to advance women's human rights and Development Justice including intergovernmental platforms are led by APWLD's members to foster and build new alliances, networks and collaborations.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

FPAR has been proven to be an effective tool to deliver outcomes and capacity building at both personal and organisational levels. Several groups of marginalised women amplify their voices, access to wider space and foster new movements. For examples, with FPAR method, the Urdu-speaking Bihari women in Bangladesh who committed to ending gender-based violence and increasing women's political power; were able to set up a meeting with local communities and participate in policy decision-making. APWLD's partners in Myanmar advocated for an amendment to China customary law to ensure women's equal rights to inheritance, marriage and divorce. Several APWLD's partners in Indonesia, India and Taiwan also successfully used the FPAR method to engage in policy discussion, women's rights defending and forming alliances.

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Left and above: APWLD members foster and build new alliances, networks and collaborations to advance women's human rights.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

APWLD is a membership-based, driven network, particularly successful in influencing multiple regional and international spaces and mechanisms, including SDGs and the Paris Agreements in strengthening Asia Pacific women's voices and feminist analysis.

In shaping and facilitating Asia Pacific women's voices to influence regional and global policy makings, APWLD plays a crucial role as a co-chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), a civil society platform that coordinates civil society advocacy to reach sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. Being built on the United Nations' major groups while incorporating other constituencies and sub-regions and enabling cross-constituency coordination and solidarity; AP-RCEM ensures that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes.

By organising and mobilising cross people's movements at various levels especially to counter growing corporate power; APWLD has worked consistently on trade policies and agreements and their impact on women's human rights including the temporally demise of Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TTP) and contributing to stop the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the creation of 'Indonesian Civil Societies Coalition for Economic Justice'.

APWLD actively continues strategic engagement at regional and international mechanisms, including identifying existing and emerging opportunities from engaging with various organisations such as UNCTAD, FAO's Committee on Food Security, and UN Human Rights Council (HRC).

APWLD ACHIEVEMENTS
BY THE NUMBERS:



4,000

feminists from grassroots and marginalised communities from 25 countries are trained

27

FPAR projects have been created and fostered feminist movements

10

grassroot and marginalised women organisations witnessed tangible results in dialogue pioneering, actions and laws and policies shifts

160

grassroots feminist women's rights activists were supported to engage in over 35 high-level advocacy opportunities

100

new feminist tools and knowledge resources produced

19

regional and international level initiatives, networks or alliances have APWLD as an active leading participant

ADB

The ADB was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in the region. ADB is composed of 67 members, 48 of which are from the Asia and Pacific region. As a multilateral development finance institution, ADB provides loans, technical assistance, and grants to its member governments. Direct assistance is given to private enterprises of developing member countries through equity investments and loans. ADB facilitates policy dialogues, provides advisory services and mobilises financial resources through co-financing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.

ADB's Projects

01

Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)

02

Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility (CEFPF)

03

Core Environment Programme and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Phase II (CEP-BCI)

04

Implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Agriculture Programme Phase II

05

Sustainable Development And Climate Change (SDCC)'s Inclusive Development Support



CITIES DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR ASIA (CDIA)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

CITIES DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR ASIA (CDIA)

CDIA was born 10 years ago at the International Conference on "Investing in Asia's Urban Future" in February 2007. Jointly organised by the German government and ADB, the conference was held to determine how new approaches can be used to better the lives of 1.6 billion people in the Asia Pacific. Of the total, more than half are the poor living in urban areas. Urban poverty is pervasive as observed in deteriorating sanitation and environmental conditions; inadequate access to land; housing; infrastructure; service facilities and livelihood sources; and exposure to climate change risks.

CDIA's objective is to enhance the institutional capacity of cities and partner organisations at the national and regional levels to prepare sustainable urban infrastructure investment projects, with focus on the development impacts of environmental improvement, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and good governance. Key activities can be categorised into the following three tracks:

Bridging the capacity gap

- Developing, updating and/or localising CDIA process tools that mainstream environment, climate change, pro-poor, gender and good governance
- Training and supporting partner organisations in localising and using CDIA process and tools
- Capacity building of cities in use of CDIA process and tools

Bridging the planning—financing gap

- Supporting cities in managing the preparation of sustainable urban infrastructure investments projects
- Preparing infrastructure investment projects with a demonstrable pro-poor focus
- Preparing infrastructure investment projects for private sector participation and funding

Bridging the institutional gap

- Documenting and disseminating innovative good practices
- Developing and updating strategies to ensure linkages to national development processes and financing

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

To fulfill the "market niche" by supporting cities to bridge planning—investment gap through preparing and structuring their urban infrastructure investment projects, 138 cities have been provided with technical assistance across 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific as of September 2017. A total of 52 investment prioritisation exercises were conducted in 49 cities. Eighty-five pre-feasibility study interventions were conducted and covered 127 infrastructure projects. Of the total, 30 percent contribute to environmental management, 25 percent to poverty reduction and enhancing inclusiveness, 19 percent to good governance, 13 percent to climate change adaptation and 12 percent to climate change mitigation.

More than half of the cities which underwent investment prioritisation are in India, the Philippines and Vietnam. Most of the priorities were related to urban transportation, water supply, wastewater management, flood and drainage management, and solid waste management.

By financing institutions, half of the project were linked to ADB, one-fourth were funded by local funding institutions, 6 percent were funded through private-public partnership and the rest are from development banks like KfW and World Bank.

In terms of capacity development, a total of 37 training courses for 772 participants have been conducted at city, country and regional levels.

CDIA BY THE NUMBERS:



138

Cities in 18 countries provided with technical assistance as of Sept 2017

52

Investment prioritisation exercises in 49 cities completed

85

of 127 pre-feasibility studies led to integrated, inclusiveness and sustainable urban development

US\$ 6.8B

Worth of investment expected from 77 projects

CDIA supports cities to bridge investment gap through preparing and structuring urban infrastructure investment projects.



Gender considerations are mainstreamed in all interventions of the project.



CDIA's objective is to enhance the institutional capacity of cities and partner organisations at national and regional levels to prepare sustainable urban infrastructure investment projects.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Apart from gender considerations mainstreamed in all interventions, CDIA's support is also reflected in the following four development impact principles: Urban environmental sustainability: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and helping cities prepare for local impacts of climate change

- Climate change mitigation/adaptation focus is on pro-poor, in which the rights of disadvantaged groups are addressed in infrastructure provision
- Urban poverty reduction and inclusiveness
- Good urban governance: promoting financially and institutionally sustainable urban infrastructure investments to meet the needs of all citizens in cities, cognizant of social, cultural and political economy dimensions

Apart from the capacity building and project preparation study support to individual cities, the other added value of CDIA at a regional scale is its partnership with organisation of city governments to upscale CDIA approaches, innovations and good practices. These organisations include the United Cities United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CityNet), and the Clean Air Initiative for Asia Cities (CAI-Asia).

CDIA together with regional partners organised training and advocacy activities for staff and city members so they can familiarise themselves with CDIA mechanisms, guidelines, training materials and advice on how to put into practice city development. Peer-to-peer learning is done through the Good Practice Laboratory on Effective Urban Infrastructure Programming. Completed city infrastructure project pre-feasibility studies are used as case studies.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (CEFPF)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



Served as a demonstration site for replication by 13 other regional campuses, University of South Pacific (USP) also offers technical vocational and training programmes for youth that include renewable energy maintenance, leveraging the efforts of these inputs.

CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (CEFPF)

The Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility helps to provide financing to developing member countries (DMCs) to improve energy security and access and mitigate climate change through increased use of clean energy.

In the Solomon Islands, the multi-donor Clean Energy Fund (CEF) supports the Higher Education in the Pacific Investment Programme, contributing to the competitiveness and diversification of the Pacific nation's economy. A grant of US\$1.5 million was provided from CEF for the installation of solar PV system on the new campus of the University of South Pacific (USP). The campus will have a combination of renewable energy, solar power and power supply from the local power supply authority. The project includes:

- Construction of classrooms, laboratories and faculty and administrative facilities, all with solar energy support
- Enhancement of ICT-based education
- Improvement of student support services
- Strengthening of USP governance and management
- Strengthening project management capacity of USP staff who will be involved in project implementation

The CEF grant supports the installation of a solar energy system, ensuring that USP will have a combination of renewable energy and local power supply. USP also offers technical vocational and training programmes for youth, including renewable energy maintenance that will be able to leverage the efforts of these inputs.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CEFPF BY THE NUMBERS:



US\$4B

Contribution as leverage to the ADB's clean energy investment by 2020

US\$270.7M

Actual contributions as of 2017, allocating to 177 projects.

9.4M

Tonnes of CO2 reduction per year due to the project.

1,569.4

Megawatts of renewable energy capacity installed

7

Terawatt-hour (TWh) of energy saved per year.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The use of renewable energy for the USP campus reduces the load on the local power supply, lowering carbon emissions from diesel generators employed by a majority of local power providers. The campus serves as a demonstration site for replication by 13 other regional campuses. USP also offers technical vocational and training programmes for youth that include renewable energy maintenance, leveraging the efforts of these inputs.

The installed capacity is expected to be 650 kW while expected reduction in CO2 emissions will be around 600 tons each year. The project design has set a target for female students to enroll in degree programmes by 2020. The project will improve student support services at the USP Solomon Islands campus to provide extensive pre-enrollment

information, employment advice and counseling services including skills assessment and work options, job search techniques and job placement services to link students to available opportunities and a USP alumni database.

The grant was approved in October 2016, and the contract of the Architectural, Engineering Services and Construction Supervision Consultants was awarded in February 2017. Bids for civil works including the CEF grant for the solar energy system opened in October 2017. Construction for the university campus is anticipated to begin in early 2018, followed by completion of the solar energy system.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

CEFPF seeks to address climate change, promote gender equality and environmental awareness, and provide access to energy and energy-related livelihoods to the poor. Beyond energy projects it supports cross-sector development interventions. It targets a decrease in the rate of climate change by promoting clean energy and slowing CO2 emissions in developing member countries. Its framework monitors the CO2 emissions reduction, energy savings, installed renewable energy capacity and renewables generation as the use of clean energy is promoted by supported projects.

In the Solomon Islands, improved access to quality higher education at USP will contribute to human resources and skills development in the Pacific, and will promote inclusive growth enabled by a more productive and diversified regional economy.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

To date, CEFPF has allocated a total of US\$77 million to regional projects, covering subregional and inter-regional operations projects.

Project results and lessons are shared across ADB's operations departments that form a part of the regional technical assistance provided to DMCS. Successful pilots become models for replication and scaling. Key private and government stakeholders participate in additional knowledge-sharing events that yield support of project development in their respective countries.

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Left and Above: Improved access to quality higher education at USP will contribute to human resources and skills development in the Pacific countries.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION CORRIDOR INITIATIVE
IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION, PHASE II (CEP-BCI)



**ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME AND BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION CORRIDOR
INITIATIVE IN THE GREATER
MEKONG SUBREGION, PHASE II
(CEP-BCI)**

The project is an ADB regional capacity development technical assistance (TA) designed to implement the GMS' Programme Framework document for the Core Environment Programme and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative Phase II during 2012-2016.

It also aims to improve biodiversity conservation and climate resilience across the GMS and seeks to achieve the following four outputs:

- Output 1: Improve environmental planning systems, methods and safeguards
- Output 2: Improve management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods
- Output 3: New climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies
- Output 4: Improve institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management

FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

CEP has made significant achievements both regionally and in GMS member countries. Major achievements include:

- Stimulating environmental and climate investments including (i) \$70 million biodiversity conservation corridors investment and (ii) approximately US\$20 million for climate interventions including the Green Freight Initiative 15 Forest Investment Programme (FIP), Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), and Global Environment Facility (GEF) support for climate resilience in biodiversity conservation corridors.
- Promoting sustainability through policy and strategic planning support by (i) strengthening technical capacity and developing regulatory frameworks for undertaking Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA); (ii) performing over 10 SEAs in economic corridors, land use management and key sectors such as energy and tourism; (iii) the environmental and social screening of Regional Investment Framework (RIF) pipeline projects; (iv) achieving legal recognition and regulatory provisions for biodiversity conservation corridors; (v) enhancing technical and institutional capacity to monitor environmental performance; and (vi) supporting the development of national strategies for biodiversity conservation, environmental management and pollution control, for example, Cambodia's National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, and the Pollution Control Strategy of the Laos.

- Capitalising knowledge and establishing information management and a sound decision support system by (i) launching a GMS Information Portal¹, (ii) applying spatial multi-criteria analysis to RIF pipeline projects, (iii) embedding spatial analysis (land demand modeling, ecosystem service valuation, mapping, etc.) into key strategic plans, (iv) undertaking climate vulnerability assessments in agrarian communities, and (v) introducing an industrial pollution projection tool to strengthen pollution control policy and planning. So far, CEP has held over 500 capacity building events involving over 19,000 technical staff from the government and other stakeholders.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

CEP has been contributing to safeguard environment by (i) strengthening environmental governance, capacity to mainstream environment in sector development through better strategic environmental planning and safeguards support and (ii) incubating investments in social and gender inclusive environment and climate change projects.

CEP ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS:



3,000

community residents benefited,
50% of them are women

US\$ 70M

investment in biodiversity
corridor conservation in three major
transboundary corridor projects

US\$ 20M

investment in climate resilience

10

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)
in projects like economic corridors,
land-use, energy and tourism sectors

500

capacity building projects with
19,000 technical staff from
governments and stakeholders from
GMS countries being trained



CEP has been contributing to safeguard environment by strengthening governance and capacity.

Strategic Planning and Safeguards

CEP continues to support the GMS countries in developing and strengthening their environmental policies and strategies. recent major initiatives include leading support to Cambodia to develop a National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, developing a national pollution control strategy and a presidential provision on environmental taxation in Laos, and to Vietnam for a new Circular on Environmental Protection Planning.

CEP also played a lead role in supporting Myanmar in creating its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system approved by Cabinet in early 2016. Support on the finalisation of EIA technical guidelines continues.

These activities have created an enabling environment. Decision support system was improved, strengthening overall environmental governance to ensure fundamental human rights such as access to a healthy ecosystem and a safer environment.

Investing in Natural Resources

CEP provides ongoing support for biodiversity conservation corridors in three major transboundary biodiversity landscapes: the Mekong Headwaters (PRC/Myanmar/Laos), the Sino-Vietnam Karst landscape (PRC/Vietnam), and The Cardamom and Elephant Mountains landscape (Thailand and Cambodia).

CEP supports the improvement of the design and implementation of REDD+ at the local level through capacity building targeting local level stakeholders focusing on pro-poor equitable benefit sharing systems. The encouraging progress in Laos on community-based MRV and guidelines for REDD+ benefit sharing piloted in 15 communities in Attapeu Province.

CEP also promoted the role of Climate Risk Financing in climate change adaptation strategies for rural communities in the GMS. Initial work was a scoping exercise to identify viable local-level financial instruments and strategies that could provide households with financial protection. The findings of the study were summarised in a publication entitled "Risk Financing for Rural Climate Resilience in the Greater Mekong Subregion".

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The transboundary collaboration under the CEP has gained momentum since the first Regional Biodiversity Landscapes Forum was held as a part of the Fourth GMS Environment Minister Meeting (EMM4) in 2015.

Two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) have been signed to strengthen collaboration in managing the Sino-Vietnam Karst and Mekong Headwaters landscapes. One was signed in May 2015 between Guangxi, PRC and Cao Bang, Vietnam, and the other in September 2015 between Yunnan, PRC and Luang Namtha, Laos.

These MOUs focus on developing a joint management strategy for transboundary conservation and work together on creating new biodiversity protection areas and corridors, collaborating on research, assessments and monitoring, and conducting awareness-raising and capacity building activities. These collaborative mechanisms provide a solid foundation and mandate for scaling up collaboration.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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CEP provides ongoing support for biodiversity conservation corridors in the Greater Mekong Subregion.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS) AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME PHASE II



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY GENDER EQUALITY ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS) AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME PHASE II

The ADB regional policy and advisory technical assistance (TA) programme was scheduled to be carried out between 2012 and 2018 in a bid to create a more integrated and climate-friendly agricultural sector in the GMS through the following outputs:

- Strengthened regional policy framework and capacity for agri-food quality management
- Established electronic trade of environment-friendly agri-food production of smallholders
- Increased adoption of gender-responsive and climate-friendly agriculture
- Facilitated knowledge management and dissemination
- Strengthened regional cooperation on agriculture in the GMS

To achieve the goal, the key activities of the project can be categorised as follows:

Strengthened regional policy framework and capacity for agri-food quality management

Regional capacity for agri-food product assurance should be built at the farm level, including organic and other kinds of certification. Trainings are provided for farmers and trainers. At least two pilot studies on participatory guarantee system and six pilot studies on value chains are carried out based on suitable farm assurance and electronic traceability systems.

Established electronic trade of environmentally friendly agri-food production of smallholders

Studies on eco-friendly products and consumer preferences on agri-products will be carried out at the start and end of the project. GMS capacity on e-trade platforms will be reviewed to identify opportunities and challenges and capacity building for a suitable e-trade framework. Regional consultations with stakeholders on the role of the agriculture information network service (AINS) in the marketing and trade of eco-friendly products will be conducted.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Increased adoption of gender-responsive and climate-friendly agriculture

Proposals for innovative financing mechanisms will be developed to scale up pilot projects in rice and other climate-friendly agri-products. Facilities and mechanisms for private sector engagement will ensure their participation in climate-friendly agri-projects. Publications and multimedia products, including a DVD animation in local languages, will be developed for poor and illiterate female farmers. Gender-sensitive forums, extension services, and training workshops on climate change adaptation are organised with an aim to build and strengthen farmers' groups. Regional studies on nitrogen-efficiency and other related activities are also conducted. Capacity building activities relating to efficient use of nitrogen fertilisers, nitrogen-cycle management and policy forums on green water management for stakeholders will be organised.

Facilitated knowledge management and dissemination

Regional studies will be conducted, upgrading AINS to become an electronic knowledge platform and identifying centers of excellence for agriculture to facilitate knowledge exchange among experts and stakeholders. Piloted social network programmes will be implemented for knowledge exchange and preparation of distance-learning, related materials and training modules for efficient use of nitrogen and green water and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Strengthened regional cooperation on agriculture in the GMS

The plan includes convening 10–13 Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) meetings, establishing national WGA secretariat at the Thailand Resident Mission in Bangkok, preparing results-based and gender-sensitive co-benefits monitoring and evaluation framework and establishing WGA standard operating procedures.

Consultation meetings with development partners and private sector businesses for resource mobilisation will be conducted, with coordination with working groups on environment, trade and transport and tourism to identify areas for collaboration.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Core Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) completed PGS setup for farmer groups in the GMS which exceeded the original target number of 12 pilots, worked with national WGAs in policy formulation leading to PGS implementation, and successfully piloted climate-friendly and gender-responsive agriculture practices at the farm production level. Piloted climate-smart farms were linked to markets and participation in the Thaifex enabled smallholder farmer groups and SMEs to trade producing safe and environment friendly agriculture products at regional level.

Nine policy papers on food safety were published, and climate-smart practices such as good water management practices, nitrogen use efficiency and use of geographic indications were put into practice. Mobile-ready agriculture information network services and use of social network applications such as WeChat for PRC and Facebook for other GMS countries were piloted.

CASP BY THE NUMBERS:



12

Projects on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

15

Smallholder farms established as demonstration sites for climate-friendly and water-efficient agricultural practices

9

Pilot farms demonstrating nitrogen-use efficiency and engagement with organic contract farming

9

Pilot projects on innovative financing are established for scaling up investment in nitrogen-cycle management through public-private partnership

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GMS INDICATORS:
(Sources: ADB, IMF,
PRC Data Center, and UNCTAD)



3,618,093
SQ KM

TOTAL LAND

234M

POPULATION

7.5%

Average per capita growth rate at purchasing power parity (1992–2014)

12.3%

Average growth in merchandise exports (1992–2014)

11.5%

Average growth in merchandise imports (1992–2014)

US\$ 3.9B

Total foreign direct investments (2007–2012)

US\$ 413B

Intra-regional trade (2014)

The successful Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held in September 2017 reconvened the GMS Agriculture Ministers after a decade since the first meeting. The ministers endorsed the strategy for promoting safe and environment-friendly agro-based value chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Siem Reap Action Plan 2018–2022, reinforcing collective commitment to CASP's vision for the GMS to become a leading producer of safe and environment-friendly agriculture products through value chain integration involving smallholder farmers, rural women, and small and medium agro-enterprises. The programme is working to harmonise food safety policies to ensure consumers and producers protection in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Ongoing work for the next phase of CASP is underway to support the implementation of the recently-endorsed strategy.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

ADB works closely with the ministries of agriculture to enhance market access for environment-friendly agricultural products to achieve a more integrated climate friendly agricultural sector in the GMS by:

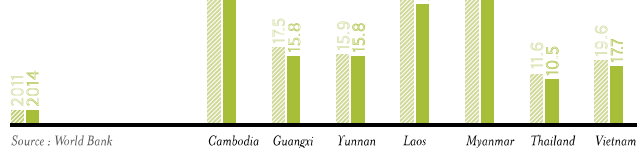
- Providing the enabling environment
- Empowering women through participation in the programme activities and enhancing women capacity to be more resilient to climate change
- Minimising environmental risk through adoption of gender responsive and environment-friendly agriculture practices.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

CASP implements activities through letters of agreement between ADB and the GMS agriculture ministries, which contributes to the modernisation of a resilient and productive agricultural economy. The project collaborates with United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote the trade of GMS geographical indications. Collaboration with FAO also focuses on a participatory guarantee system, capacity-building activities and geographic indications.

CASP has initiated a partnership with Food Industry Asia (FIA), a non-profit industry association that represents and promotes the views of multinational agribusiness leaders in the food and beverage sector. FIA explores solutions to complex challenges such as food safety, health and nutrition, and regulatory harmonisation. The collaboration with FIA will enhance the skills of scientists in GMS on food safety.

GROSS AGRICULTURE VALUE-ADDED AS % OF GDP



Source: World Bank



Consultation meetings with development partners are also conducted.



Above: ADB works closely with the ministries of agriculture to enhance market access for environment-friendly agricultural products to achieve a more integrated climate friendly agricultural sector in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SDCC)'S INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



FOCUS AREAS:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SDCC)'S INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

This five-year regional technical assistance project aims to promote greater awareness of and investment in inclusive business in ADB developing member countries.

ADB defines Inclusive Business (IB) as a business entity that generates high development impact by improving access to goods and services for low-income populations, and providing income and employment opportunities to low-income people as producers, suppliers, distributors, employers and employees. An inclusive business must be commercially viable and must meet non-sovereign operation standards of viability.



IB integrates poor people into the mainstream economy as consumers, by providing essential goods and services that meaningfully improve people's lives, and as suppliers or distributors, by creating income-earning opportunities. This approach helps create decent jobs that benefit unemployed, underemployed, and low-income workers.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: Standard Explanatory Data Indicator Definition May 2017 <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/33903/standard-data-definitions-may2017.pdf>

NUMBER OF INCLUSIVE BUSINESS PROJECTS IN THE REGION:
(SOURCE: ADB)



6

INDIA

4

REGIONAL

3

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

1

AZERBAIJAN

BANGLADESH

BHUTAN

GEORGIA

MYANMAR

PAKISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Mid-term review of ADB Strategy 2020

ADB will increase its support to businesses that are financially viable, generate high development impact and provide services to the poor. It will build on its experiences with IB, such as agribusiness development connecting farmers to local and global food markets, and off-grid energy solutions that make energy sources available to underserved consumers.

Asian Development Bank Support for IB 2016–20

Seven proposed key action points include building ADB's IB portfolio, securing new funding for the ADB IB initiative, recognising IB accomplishments, generating and disseminating knowledge, partnership-building and collaboration around IB, and finally building internal coordination for IB support.

Increased investment in IB projects

In 2016 eight non-sovereign IB projects focusing on agriculture and finance were approved, amounting to US\$524 million of investments in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China (PRC), and two regional scope. Six to eight IB projects have been approved per year since 2014 compared to 2–3 projects in 2012–13. A total number of 21 non-sovereign IB projects were approved since 2014.

Pre- and post-investment support for IB companies

Twenty IB companies have been supported to date on provision of technical assistance, tailored advice, seven pre-investment assessments, five due diligence studies and IB training for bankers.

Impact assessment of IB companies

Impact assessments of three potential IB companies have been completed to date.

Raising IB awareness among governments and business associations

IB related policy work and programme initiatives are ongoing in Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, PRC and Tajikistan. IB workshops have been conducted in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the PRC, the Philippines, and Tajikistan.

Knowledge generation and exchange among IB investment community and development partners

The programme sponsored the first APEC and first ASEAN Inclusive Business Summits in 2015 and 2017 in support of the IB agenda, introduced by the Philippine Government as APEC chair in 2015 and ASEAN chair in 2017. The programme supported the 2016 2nd IB Forum for Asia, which brought together 400 participants from private, financial and government institutions and agencies in Asia and Latin America.

ADB partnered with IFC, Credit Suisse, the Philippine Board of Investments and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council for the launch of the first "ASEAN Inclusive Business Award" category in the 2017 ASEAN Business Awards. Six IB model companies from the ASEAN countries of Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand were recognised. The project also funded a total of 14 IB-related studies that cover gender, finance, energy, textile sectors, social enterprise and the role of development banks, as well as country and region-specific topics in Indonesia, PRC, Tajikistan, APEC and ASEAN.



Inclusive business is relevant for women's economic empowerment.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The project helps shape pioneering IB perspectives, prospects and approaches in Asia Pacific, and its engagement with regional bodies such as APEC and ASEAN fast-tracks IB promotion among their member economies and states. IB is expected to be implemented in-country and cross-national cooperation towards IB promotion and development.

Notable outcomes of these engagements are the inclusion of IB as a strategy in expanding economic opportunities in the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2011 and inclusion of IB fiscal incentives in the Philippine Investment Priorities Plan 2017–2019. ASEAN adopted the inclusive business framework which institutionalises and mainstreams IB into ASEAN's economic community building efforts, particularly on micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises. Finally, APEC promoted inclusive business and community engagement to encourage investments that support inclusive economic growth in its 2017 Joint Ministerial Statement.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Since 2014, ADB has financed IB projects addressing development needs in targeted member countries such as financial inclusion, microfinance, microcredit, inclusive agricultural value chain development, and rural developments in wastewater treatment, education facilities, off-grid solar leasing, and health clinic operation. Each was developed and implemented in accordance with ADB's poverty, social and environmental standards and safeguards, including climate vulnerability assessment and gender impact and social measures monitoring.

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Above and Right: ADB's approach helps create decent jobs that benefit unemployed, underemployed, and low-income workers.





HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Asia-Pacific is a large and diverse region with many human rights challenges. Freedom of expression and civil society space are limited in many countries and there is no regional mechanism to protect human rights.

Regional cooperation can strengthen human rights and address discrimination, inequality and injustice. Strengthening human rights – economic, social, cultural, civil and political – will provide opportunities for women and men and girls and boys to enhance their capacities as actors to meaningfully participate and promote greater accountability and increase democratic space while promoting human rights and gender equality.



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN ASIA-PACIFIC



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is an independent regional non-profit organisation that works to build the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific. Established in 1986 as a technical capacity building center, ADPC has grown and diversified its expertise across social and physical sciences to support sustainable solutions for risk reduction and risk management across a broad range of specialist areas. It is guided by a vision of safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction.

ADPC develops and implements cross-sectoral programme and projects on the strategic themes of risk governance, urban resilience, climate resilience, health risk management, preparedness for response and resilient recovery. Its strategic themes are complemented and underpinned by the cross-cutting themes of gender and diversity, regional and transboundary cooperation as well as poverty and livelihoods.



Capacity-building and training courses at all levels are designed and developed to enhance the capabilities of national training centers. Its Bangkok headquarters and country offices/representation in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia and India host experts in strategic as well as cross-cutting themes who work towards inclusive development goals across these areas.

ADPC has supported the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC), as its secretariat, since its establishment in 2000. RCC consists of 26 countries in Asia and the Pacific and is a unique forum that brings National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of member countries together every year and focuses on the implementation of disaster and climate risk management initiatives. RCC facilitates the implementation of the global and regional frameworks at the national and regional level.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

The five-year programme aims to enhance regional capacity for cooperation on disaster and climate risk management with an overall objective of building resilience of people in Asia and the Pacific region. To achieve this goal, good practices are built and technical assistance is provided to governments, civil society organisations and regional bodies.

Key focus areas of the programme include emergency preparedness and humanitarian response management, facilitating the use of risk information and sex-age-disability disaggregated data by policy makers and disaster managers, integrating disaster and climate change concerns into development policy and programmes, promoting inclusion and protection sensitive approaches in risk reduction and disaster preparedness, promoting gender equality and women leadership for risk resilience, enhancing the role of the RCC to support member countries on implementing global frameworks and serving as a conduit for South-South learning, transboundary risk reduction, and knowledge sharing.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Key outcomes of the project include:

- Strengthened capacity for regional cooperation
- Uptake of risk-informed approaches to development and social protection to reduce disaster and climate risk and vulnerability
- Enhanced gender equality and rights-based approaches in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in the region



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WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Since 2014, ADPC has been working on ways to integrate gender perspectives into its work. As these efforts grow and are learned from they are being mainstreamed into ADPCs institutional approach to all of its work. The skills, knowledge and championship from the Stockholm Environmental Institute, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, as well as specialist subject matter expertise from advisors, will be developed into a capacity building programme for ADPC and its partners. Both build values and understanding of the organisation, as well as looking at its institutional systems and operating methods will be a good basis for rights and gender inclusive practices across the organisations which will reach across programmes in the region.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The key mechanism for engagement is through the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC). The added value is through knowledge sharing, promotion of best practices and promotion of South-South cooperation. The RCC has a membership of 26 countries in Asia and the Pacific, to which ADPC is the secretariat.

The project will also engage with other existing regional mechanisms to address disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific.



Capacity building and training courses at all levels are designed and developed to enhance the capabilities of national training centres.

ADPC's key focus areas include emergency preparedness and humanitarian response management.



ADPC has supported the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management, as its secretariat, since its establishment in 2000. RCC consists of 26 countries in the Asia-Pacific.



ASIA FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT



FOCUS AREAS:

- -
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- HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY GENDER EQUALITY ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE



INSTITUTIONAL THREE-YEAR PROJECT

The main objective of the project is to provide a strengthened leading and coordinating role in building a regional human rights movement through effective international solidarity action and engagement with states and other stakeholders in Asia. Adoption of rights-based approach, promotion of democracy and public participation and enhancing transparency, check and balance systems, public accountability through the support for three basic freedoms – the freedom of expression, of assembly and of association—are integral to the objectives.

The project activities include support and inputs to members and partners in five result areas comprising advocacy, capacity building, coalition building, documentation and research, and, institutional/organisational development of FORUM-ASIA itself.

The support and inputs include advocacy workshops and advocacy missions; capacity building trainings; inter-organisational exchange of sharing and learning; side events on key current issues during Human Rights Council, such as Rohingyas, repressive laws, shrinking of civic space and issues related to the freedom of expression, assembly and association; fact-finding missions on pertinent human rights issues; emergency assistance; election monitoring; facilitation of academic visits of UN special rapporteurs; documentation of human rights situations and supply of information to the concerned special rapporteurs.

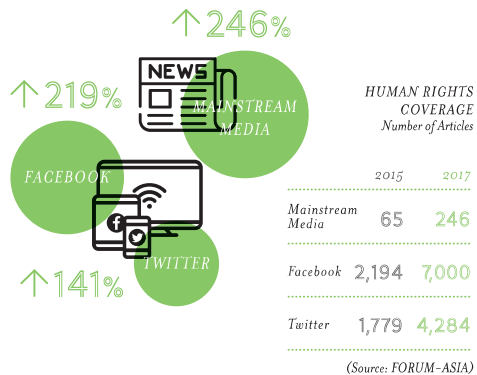
AT A GLANCE

FORUM-ASIA is a membership based non-governmental organisation founded in 1991 in Manila, the Philippines. Every three years, all FORUM-ASIA member organisations, currently 58, from 19 countries across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Northeast Asia convene a General Assembly to discuss and adopt a strategy, review progress and achievements and set policy direction. During the assembly, seven members will be elected to sit in the Executive Committee and oversee the implementation of policy direction.

FORUM-ASIA is registered in Geneva as an international non-governmental organisation. Its secretariat office based in Bangkok works closely with regional human rights mechanism and other activities at sub-regional levels. Its Geneva Office supports the secretariat and members to facilitate international advocacy. FORUM-ASIA has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

FORUM-ASIA's major project outcomes and achievements include:

- Increased interface and collaboration with the special rapporteurs on human rights defenders, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and of association. Special rapporteurs are connected with the grassroots, thanks to its mechanism necessary to enhance human rights promotion and protection. FORUM-ASIA has become an important link between the local and international human rights defenders.
- FORUM-ASIA has been recognised as a key human rights organisation in Asia working to enhance the respect for human rights. The organisation has recently been conferred a consultative status with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). FORUM-ASIA further strengthens ASEAN cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to contribute toward the building of a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN community.

- FORUM-ASIA's advocacy at international forums is increasingly reflected in global responses to human rights challenges in Asia. In March 2017, FORUM-ASIA's advocacy with the support of partners contributed to the Human Rights Council's landmark resolution to urgently dispatch an international fact finding mission to look into gross human rights violations in Myanmar, in particular against Rohingya in Northern Rakhine State.

- Increased collaboration between and among members has been institutionalised leading to the sharing of resources, experience and psychosocial support. Over the years, members from Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and South Korea have hosted human rights defenders at risk from other countries.
- FORUM-ASIA's research and publication on the performance of human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Asia serves as a benchmark to measure progress towards independence of the NHRIs, and also as a reference for the NHRIs to focus on areas that needs improvement. Engagements with the Asia Pacific Forum and the Global Alliance of NHRIs have been systemised and institutionalised over the years. This has been an important contribution towards capacity building of NHRIs.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

- FORUM-ASIA has developed a training programme to train young and emerging human rights defenders and activists focusing on the mutual interaction of human rights, democracy, gender equality and key elements that constitute the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be a flagship programme that aims to train at least 30 human rights advocates regionally every year and around 60 sub-regionally.
- FORUM-ASIA, in partnership with 12 NGOs and networks from different parts of the world, is delivering the EU human rights defenders mechanism (protectdefenders.eu), working on environmental rights are regarded as one of the key target groups, and others at broader level.
- FORUM-ASIA's engagement with NHRIs and AICHR focuses on intersectionality of these elements as human rights promotion and protection is not possible in absence of democracy and in isolation from climate justice and gender equality issues.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

FORUM-ASIA works closely with inter-state mechanisms, such as the AICHR, building on the experience of its members working on the ground and bringing the voice of the people through civil society organisations to the standard setting process. It advocates for reform of policies and facilitates the policy process by firming of partnership between civil society organisations and state representatives. FORUM-ASIA's regional added value is, thus, its leverage and capacity to work as the bridge between people and the state.



FORUM-ASIA develops a training programme to train young and emerging human rights defenders and activists in the region every year.

FORUM-ASIA's engagement with NHRIs and AICHR focuses on promotion of human rights, democracy, climate justice and gender equality.



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MEKONG REGIONAL PROGRAMME



FOCUS AREAS:



PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

EarthRights International (ERI) was established more than 20 years ago with the goal of bringing the power of law to some of the most remote and marginalised communities. Founded during the dawn of the 'age of globalisation', the organisation recognised the unfulfilled promises of open markets leading to open societies, and the inevitable abuses that occur as increased demands for land and natural resources outpace the development of regulations fundamental human rights and environmental protections.

Corporate globalisation without a corresponding globalisation of law and justice can result in exploitation of the poor and marginalised, and increasingly concentrated power and wealth for global financial and government elites.

ERI's unique methodology combining the power of law and the power of people has resulted in legal victories, behind-the-scenes contributions to critical policy shifts, and the intensive and sustained leadership development of new earth rights defenders all over the world. Its pioneering litigation and campaigns have dramatically changed corporate business practices to weigh human and environmental rights.



MEKONG REGIONAL PROGRAMME

As a nonprofit organisation, ERI combines the power of law and the power of people in defense of human rights and the environment defined as "earth rights." ERI specialises in fact-finding, legal actions against perpetrators of earth rights abuses, training grassroots and community leaders and advocacy campaigns. Through these strategies, real solutions to promote and protect human rights and the environment in the Mekong region through the following activities:

- Increasing awareness of communities, campaigners and lawyers
- Building the leadership of campaigners and lawyers
- Leveraging the power of networks in the Mekong region
- Community access to justice and remedies
- Leveraging independent scientific evidence in development projects
- Strengthening EIA implementation
- Strengthening transboundary mechanisms
- Strengthening ASEAN social and environmental banking framework
- Focusing on Chinese and Thai foreign direct investment frameworks
- Improving the capacity of earth rights defenders to manage their own safety
- Empowering women as agents of change

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

ERI's outcomes are as follow:

Outcome 1

Awareness of earth rights issues and advocacy and campaigning tools and strategies in ERI thematic areas has significantly increased in areas affected by abuses, particularly gender issues, women's rights, ethnic minority and indigenous people's rights.

Outcome 2

EarthRights School Mekong and Mekong Legal Advocacy Institute Alumni actively work on ERI thematic priorities by adopting legal and campaign strategies into their own campaigns and organisations or by doing so with other organisations, including on gender issues, women's rights, ethnic minority and indigenous people's rights.

Outcome 3

Project-affected community leaders and local CSO/NGO partners actively integrate legal and regional campaign strategies from ERI trainings or meetings into their own community strategies particularly on gender issues, women's rights, ethnic minority and indigenous people's rights.

Outcome 4

Policymakers, quasi-governmental agencies, CSO/NGOs and corporations increasingly reference and/or integrate ERI's recommendations into their own policies.

Outcome 5

Women in project-affected communities increasingly participate around earth rights issues in ERI's case.

Outcome 6

Mekong legal network organisations: There is at least one strong earth rights public interest law group in each of the five lower Mekong countries (excluding China)

Outcome 7

Awareness in the protection and safety of earth rights defenders in the network has improved.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

ERI's entire organisational model is built on the intersection of and relationship among these themes.

Earth rights as reflects the intimate connection between human beings and the environment. Around the world, the limitless appetite for natural resources and the profits they accrue violently clash head on with the rights of people to their safety, lands, homes, clean air and water.

Earth rights also include rights that enable communities to protect their environments, including freedom of speech and association, and the right to access information and participate in development decisions. Since women are often disproportionately affected by unsustainable and unrepresentative development, it is critical that we increase their decision-making power and participation.

ERI work helps communities access justice by increasing local capacity and engaging with stakeholders through training sessions and meetings.

Training programmes are the primary vehicles that ERI uses to educate regional activists and lawyers about the intersection and relationship of human rights, democracy, gender equality, the environment and climate change. They are then able to take their new knowledge and skills back across the Mekong region to communities and networks.

ERI BY THE NUMBERS:



25

Activists and lawyers in Mekong region educated on earth rights

41

EarthRights Schools and 75 Mekong Advocacy Institute Alumni across the region as of 2017

8

Knowledge management tools including an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) Practitioner's Manual, six local-language manuals, an EIA community booklet and a video developed and shared in the region.

Community leaders and local CSO partners actively integrate legal and regional campaigns learned from ERI trainings and meetings into their community-based strategies.



Training programmes are the primary vehicle that ERI educate regional activists and lawyers about human rights, democracy and gender equality.



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The EarthRights School (ERS) is an annual, six-month leadership development programme for civil society and community activists from the Mekong region, and the Mekong Legal Advocacy Institute (MLAI) is an annual two-week intensive training programme for junior lawyers and campaigners from the Mekong region. Both programme cover a broad range of topics related to human rights, access to information and participation, gender equality, indigenous peoples' rights, land rights, climate change, environmental impacts of development projects and more. Training participants also learn how to use campaigning and legal tools (including transboundary mechanisms) to fight abuses and stand up for their rights.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

ERI helps build regional networks of communities, campaigners and lawyers through training, engagement with government and corporations and advocacy. ERI links communities to the regional networks it facilitates like the Mekong Legal Network and the over 350 EarthRights School alumni.

ERI's strategic support and facilitation enabled Cambodian lawyers representing communities to pioneer the first transboundary cases in both the Thai and Malaysian Human Rights Commissions. The first lawsuit in Thailand eventually led to the development of the Thai Human Rights Commission's transboundary jurisdiction, and has become an important mechanism to hold regional Thai investors accountable. ERI also worked with the Community Resource Center to file a transboundary case in the Thai Administrative Court challenging the power purchase agreement for the Xayaburi dam in Laos. ERI also provides international legal advice to local groups engaging regional institutions, for example, the Mekong River Commission, Asian Development Bank and ASEAN.

ERI has directly engaged the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group about its financing of a coal plant. As a member of the Save the Mekong Coalition, ERI has engaged the cascade of proposed hydropower dams on the Mekong River through letters and at public meetings of the Mekong River Commission (MRC). The organisation has also requested information from the Asian Development Bank about development projects in the region.

Community leaders at its EarthRights School and junior lawyers at the Mekong Legal Advocacy Institute are also trained on how to engage with intergovernmental mechanisms in the region. ERI also provides strategic legal and other assistance to the Mekong Legal Network for them to engage the MRC and ASEAN.

FOJO: MEDIA INSTITUTE

THE SOUTHEAST ASIA MEDIA TRAINING NETWORK (SEAMTN)



FOCUS AREAS:



THE SOUTHEAST ASIA MEDIA TRAINING NETWORK (SEAMTN)

The project is aimed at strengthening free, independent and professional journalism while supporting freedom of expression. In Southeast Asia the project aims to strengthen the capacity of mid-career journalism training institutions in a regional network that initially covers Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam through the following approaches:

Active community building

Members develop a common vision that will promote a cohesive, mutually supportive active network that grows over time to promote and sustain the standards of professional media training. They will then have the potential to act as a driving vehicle for democratic media development in the region.

Knowledge management and sharing

Members are enabled to directly draw on each other's expertise and exchange experiences, and learn from each other in a peer-to-peer network on topics such as the implementation of training needs assessments and the further development of standards and curricula.

Resource mobilisation

The network taps into regional media training expertise and knowledge for capacity development and digital security.

AT A GLANCE

Fojo Media institute was founded in 1972 as a government agency aimed at strengthening the capacity of Swedish journalists. Since 1991, Fojo has engaged in international media support in Africa, Eastern and Central Europe, Asia, Latin America as well as the Middle East and North African (MENA) region.

The institute strengthens free, independent and professional journalism, supporting freedom of expression in Sweden and worldwide.

For more than 45 years, Fojo has augmented their partner organisations' institutional capacity and trained more than 50,000 journalists from more than 100 countries. Jointly with their partners and individual journalists we have engaged in a wide range of issues related to journalism and democracy, such as media convergence, business management, investigative reporting, fact checking, access to information and managing threats and hate speech. Capacity building also includes special themes such as gender, environment, conflict sensitivity, climate change, and corruption as well as safety and security.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FOJO ACHIEVEMENTS
SO FAR:



Development of
network platform



Gender studies in
Vietnam and Cambodia



Development of
collaborative bidding process

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

- Establishment of a regional mechanism for peer-to-peer learning and regional cooperation, including partners from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam
- Increasing network members' understanding of the significance of regional and cross-border reporting on issues of regional relevance, such as environment and climate change and gender equality.
- Network members are expected to manage mid-career training institutes efficiently and effectively
- Network members offer systematic, high-quality mid-career training to media practitioners in the region, meeting contemporary needs of the media industry.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The project's gender studies in Cambodia and Vietnam challenge the stereotypes that confront female journalists, with the aim of creating an understanding of the need for gender policies in media houses and a balanced reporting of issues that affect women as equally as men.

Through its collaborative bidding process, the project encourages and stimulates the development of innovative courses for journalists that focus on regional issues including climate change and gender equality. The project also supports the development of new leadership and management in the future that challenges the historical bias brought on by an older, more conservative and predominantly male media class.

Fojo assists partners in building regulations for protecting free journalism and freedom of expressions



The SEAMTN members are enabled to directly draw on each other's expertise, and learn from each other in a peer-to-peer network.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Collaborative Bidding Process is designed to stimulate the development of special interest journalism drawn directly from the Government of Sweden's Strategy for Regional Development Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, 2016–2021. The partners have been encouraged to develop courses of mutual interest to countries in the Mekong Region that are viable across different political systems and contexts.

The programme also presents regional value through the Southeast Asia Media Training Network, a platform designed to share information, resources knowledge and best practices between countries.

UNESCO, a strategic partner of the programme, assists with dissemination of the project's gender studies in Cambodia and Vietnam and provides facilities at its regional office in Bangkok. The programme works closely with the Southeast Asian Press Association which has its regional office in Bangkok and has 13 members in ASEAN countries and Timor Leste.

The project intersects with the United Nations system to provide information and resources for the Collaborative Bidding Process, with partners in Laos and Vietnam themselves representing their Ministries of Information.

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Institute of Human Rights
and Peace Studies

**STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS
AND PEACE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
IN ASEAN/SOUTHEAST ASIA (SHAPE-SEA)**



FOCUS AREAS:



AT A GLANCE

The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) is the result of a merger between Mahidol University's Center for Human Rights Studies and Social Development and the Research Center for Peace Building. IHRP combines the experience and perspective both centers have to offer—redefining the fields of peace, conflict, justice and human rights studies, in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Established in 1998, the Center for Human Rights Studies and Social Development was served until its merger as an academic institution specialised in human rights, with a track record in providing postgraduate education as well as training programmes. The Master of Human Rights (International) is the longest running graduate degree program in Human Rights in Asia while the PhD in Human Rights and Peace Studies established in 2006 is the first programme in the region.

The Research Center for Peace Building was founded in November 2004 with an aim to create peaceful solution to the southernmost conflicts in Thailand. By focusing on cooperative efforts and dialogue at national and international levels to reduce the violence and to identify needs of community and society, the projects provide input for new public policies, in order to transform conflicts and build a just and peaceful society.



STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN ASEAN/SOUTHEAST ASIA (SHAPE-SEA)

The overarching objective of this project is to contribute to the improvement of human rights of peoples in Southeast Asia through education and applied research.

The research and education programme directly involves and engages universities in the region to play a more significant role in the sustainability of human rights protection by contributing research, and increasing knowledge on human rights and peace by incorporating these issues into the programme. Its research studies support and contribute to the existing knowledge on human rights and peace in Southeast Asia.

Academic partnership and public advocacy create spaces for awareness, knowledge building and dissemination among the academic community and other human rights and peace stakeholders. Publications and production dissemination are also available for diverse audiences in the region.

PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Project outcomes include the following:

- Mobilised resources and support for more than 50 research grants on human rights and peace in ASEAN/ Southeast Asia
- Conducted academic research training for 56 research project grantees and 145 non-grantees. The training curriculum included the following: research methodologies, critical legal frameworks, gender and feminism, project management, monitoring and research writing and academic publishing
- Co-organised six national seminars in Kuala Lumpur, Surabaya, Hanoi, Manila, Sulawesi and Luang Prabang, and one Regional Dialogue titled Strengthening Women's Rights Work in ASEAN: Alternatives for Regional Integration, Governance and Justice in Manila. These seminars were intended to provide a forum for the dissemination of research on human rights and peace in ASEAN region.
- Co-organised the 4th International Conference on Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia: Reclaiming Lost Ground on 10-12 October 2016 in Bangkok. Sixty seven conference papers presented, with 326 registered participants. Thirty INGOs, CSOs and NGOs participated in the conference in varied capacities.
- Facilitated six academic exchanges that included lecture tours and teaching collaboration
- High-level outreach to university officials and administrators and government representatives was conducted in Laos, Myanmar, Ho Chi Minh University of Law, Vietnam, Can Tho University, Vietnam, Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e, Timor-Leste and Mahasarakham University, Thailand
- Publication of an annual Human Rights Outlook in Southeast Asia
- Development of online platform for disseminating information about the SHAPE-SEA Programme and resources: www.shapesea.com

SEA-SHAPE ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS:



200

Academic research trainings

50+

Research grants supported

6

National seminars organised in ASEAN countries

10

Regional dialogues hosted



Academic partnership and public advocacy create spaces for awareness, knowledge building and dissemination among the academic community and other human rights and peace stakeholders.



SHAPE-SEA seeks a solution to the southernmost conflicts by focusing on cooperative effort and dialogue at national and international levels.

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REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

As a joint effort between ASEAN University Network – Human Rights Education (AUN-HRE), which is part of ASEAN structure and Southeast Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Network (SEAH-RN), the SHAPE-SEA programme requires regular communications and engagement with ASEAN's education department. The programme also contributes to ASEAN Vision 2025 as well as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals focusing on human rights and peace.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The four components of IHRP's programme are geared towards the realisation and promotion of human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change through various SHAPE-SEA-supported research projects. Its trainings, conferences, publications, education, textbooks etc. also cover the key themes of ASEAN and human rights, business accountability, peace and security, governance and justice and academic freedom.



ICIMOD

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT (ICIMOD)



FOCUS AREAS:

- HUMAN RIGHTS
- DEMOCRACY
- GENDER EQUALITY
- ENVIRONMENT
- CLIMATE CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

Established in Nepal in 1983, ICIMOD is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries (RMCs) of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Globalisation and climate change have an increasing impact on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain communities understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities while addressing upstream–downstream issues.

The Centre supports regional transboundary programmes through partnerships with regional partner institutions, facilitates the exchange of experiences, and serves as a regional knowledge hub.

As an intergovernmental organisation, ICIMOD strengthens regional and global networking among regional and global centres of excellence to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream—now, and for the future.

ATMOSPHERE INITIATIVE & HIMALAYAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME (HICAP)

Atmosphere Initiative

The initiative aims to improve public understanding of atmospheric issues and promote regional cooperation for addressing such challenges in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The initiative works to ensure that effective measures and policies are adopted to reduce air pollution and its impacts within the HKH region, improve knowledge and enhance the capacity of partners in the region.

Key activities of the Atmosphere Initiative include:

- Regional collaboration on promoting clean energy solutions that reduce air pollution impacts
- Capacity building of RMC individuals in research and other skills to address atmospheric issues
- Engaging regional and global planners on developing sustainable urban transport solutions for RMC cities
- Developing atmospheric data public information systems
- Public awareness
- Regional collaboration on atmospheric and climate research.



ICIMOD ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS:

ATMOSPHERE INITIATIVE

1,895

Professors and PhD students, journals and government employees in Hindu Kush Himalayas region participated in Atmosphere Initiative's capacity enhancement activities.

5

Regional workshops focusing on cross-border collaboration between regional scientists were organised.

1

International workshop series on Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon launched.

ICIMOD's REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

ADAPTION & RESILIENCE BUILDING

To foster transformative action in light of socioeconomic and environmental change

TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPES

To improve cooperation across borders for sustaining ecosystem services

RIVER BASINS & CRYOSPHERE

To develop more effective water resource management and disaster risk reduction

ATMOSPHERE

To inform policy and practice to address air pollution challenges

TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPES

To make better decisions from village, to country, to regional levels

MOUNTAIN KNOWLEDGE & ACTION NETWORKS

To build capacities of academia and cultivate future generations of scholars and leaders in the HKH

ICIMOD's CORE COMPETENCIES



Livelihoods



Ecosystem Services



Water & Air



Geospatial Solutions



Gender



Knowledge Management and Communication

Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)

HICAP aims to reduce knowledge gaps on climate change in the region by improving understanding of vulnerability to change and identifying opportunities and potential for adaptation, contributing to efforts to enhance the resilience of mountain people, particularly women.

Key activities of the HICAP Initiative include capacity enhancement on climate change issues, research, knowledge product development, and policy engagement.



ICIMOD ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS:

HIMALAYAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME (HICAP)

23,620

Mountain people benefited from the project. 80% are women

650

Trained through the Cryosphere Monitoring Programme since 2011

93

Women trained on research approaches and data collection techniques since 2013

5

Women graduates of the glaciology master's programme started with ICIMOD support in 2011

14

Districts benefited from the Government of Nepal's recent approval of the national programme to scale up the Resilient Mountain Villages

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Capacity Enhancement

ICIMOD's Atmosphere Initiative enhanced the capacities of 1,895 professors and PhD students (17% women), as well as journalists and government employees in HKH region.

The Nepal and Bhutan governments were supported on establishing state of the art observatories. Data from the observatories are being used by both governments and the public for decision making on air pollution issues, and by PhD fellows for thesis research.

In the wake of the 2015 Nepal earthquake, ICIMOD and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) prepared design manuals for cleaner construction of brick kilns. The new, more environmentally-friendly design has been widely adopted in Nepal and was recently introduced in Pakistan. ICIMOD also serves in the CCAC's steering committee as lead partner in urban health, brick kiln and regional assessment initiatives.

A workshop on the topic "Air Quality Public Information System: From Data to Aware Public and Responsive Decision Making" held in Kathmandu brought together 98 stakeholders from national government, municipalities,

traffic police, academia, healthcare, media, private sector, and development partners to discuss and take action on the environmental challenge.

The Atmosphere Initiative organised five workshops focusing on regional scientists to discuss cross-border collaborations, and also piloted an international workshop series on Atmospheric Composition and the Asian Monsoon.

A series of national level policy gap analyses on short-lived climate pollutants were prepared by local experts in India, Bhutan and Nepal.

Scaling up Policymaking and Local Innovation

HICAP objectives were put into practice as the Government of Nepal approved a national programme to scale up the Resilient Mountain Villages (RMV, formerly Climate Smart Villages) approach in 14 districts.

Adaptive capacities of women, men and children facing socio-economic and environmental change, including climate change, in the HKH region were enhanced and supported through appropriate policies and practices.

The Resilient Mountain Villages pilot was awarded the 2016 Adaptation at Scale Award by UKAid's Ideas to Impact programme. The GBP 10,000 prize will be used to support further efforts to upscale the RMV approach. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan's largest social safety net programme, has taken up elements of the RMV approach previously adopted by LIBIRD Nepal and several ICIMOD initiatives.

HICAP has also supported Nepal and Bhutan's national adaptation planning (NAP) processes, and the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) policy in Nepal.

Gender equality, social dimension, governance disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and resilience are integrated into ICIMOD's programmes to help attain sustainable development goals.



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The Atmosphere Initiative and HICAP programmes are based on an interdisciplinary approach. Gender equality, social dimensions, governance, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and resilience are integrated across HKH countries to help attain common goals related to sustainable development.

Both projects promote sustainable production systems to assure food, nutrition and livelihood security, with particular attention to women's changing roles in agriculture and the achievement of gender and social equity through inclusive and transformative change in the mountains.

Sustainable adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction are implemented through evidence-based decision making. Mountain communities are empowered to build resilient, equitable and inclusive economic opportunities and investments.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

ICIMOD's main strategies are to utilise its intergovernmental status to engage with board members at country level and policymakers at all scales with evidence-based knowledge in order to foster regional mechanisms and effective cooperation. The agency also builds up global community awareness on major environmental and socio-economic challenges facing the region via science and policy dialogues.

Scenarios provided by the agency concerning transboundary issues have highlighted potential challenges and led to transboundary cooperation in water- and landscapes-related issues among HKH countries.

The agency also builds existing cross-border governance mechanisms for regional cooperation on trade and investments, sustainable resource management, disaster risk reduction and the development of "packages of cooperation" comprised of products and services of regional interest.

ICIMOD believes that successful grounding of partnerships with diversified networks of local, national, regional and international organisations must be based on the key principles of synergy, equity, transparency and mutual benefits.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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International
Labour
Organization

DECENT WORK IN GARMENT SECTOR SUPPLY CHAINS IN ASIA



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN
RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER
EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE
CHANGE

GARMENT INDUSTRY BY THE NUMBERS:



US\$ 600B

Value of garment, textile and footwear exports from Asia, accounted for 60% of the total cost of global garment sector. China accounts for 40% of the global clothing value.

43M

employees work in Asia's garment sector

AT A GLANCE

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a UN agency devoted to advancing social justice by promoting jobs and protecting people. The agency was formed in 1919 in the wake of World War I. The driving forces behind its creation arose from security, humanitarian, political and economic considerations and it was founded on the premise that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.

The ILO became the first specialised agency of the UN in 1946 and it received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969. Within a unique tripartite structure, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of its member states to promote decent work for all women and men by setting labour standards, conducting research, shaping policies and devising programmes. Today, it is recognised as the world's authority on the world of work.



Differences between male and female wages in Asia can range from 17% to 64%. Women are paid less in 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

DECENT WORK IN GARMENT SECTOR SUPPLY CHAINS IN ASIA

Asia is a key region for production of the world's garments, producing 60% of the world's output and employing 43 million people. The garment industry and its rapid expansion have contributed to economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction across the region. However, it has emerged with various and frequent decent work deficits, the inadequate representation and voice of female workers and negative environmental impact.

Launched in 2017, the project aims to contribute to a regional dialogue and consultation on challenges to decent work, gender equality and environmental sustainability in garment sector supply chains in Asia with the goal of designing a regional project that addresses these challenges.

In particular, the scoping phase of the project consists of three key activities: The first is researching the current context, opportunities and challenges to decent work, gender equality and environmental sustainability in garment sector supply chains in Asia. The second is setting up a regional meeting attended by governments employer and worker organisations from leading garment-producing countries in the region, as well as other stakeholders involved in the sector. Its purpose is to discuss the findings of the research and to consult on the feasibility of a regional project engaging with questions of decent work, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

The third key activity is developing a project proposal based on findings from research and outcomes from the regional meeting.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The project's achievements include the following:

- A comprehensive overview of the common and country-specific challenges to decent work, gender equality and environmental sustainability.
- A process of consultation among government, employer and worker organisations from leading garment producing countries in the region, as well as other stakeholders involved in the sector (civil society, global trade unions, brand and donors), to exchange views and experience and to build a common understanding of the challenges facing the sector.
- A project proposal to engage with the challenges to decent work, gender equality and environmental sustainability at the regional level through a multi-stakeholder approach.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GARMENT INDUSTRY FACTS & FIGURES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



In Cambodia, half of all garment sector employees work more than the allowed 48 hours per week. In Pakistan and Vietnam, more than 40% work excessive hours.



Non-compliance rates – the share of wage employees paid less than the minimum – can be as high as 50%.



Differences between male and female wages in Asia can range from 17% to 64% and women are paid less in 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region.



In Indonesia and Vietnam, 25-35% of factories are still non-compliant with national legislation.



For each kilogramme of garments produced, 500 litres of water and 4 kilogrammes of chemicals are used.

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WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The project proposal developed with aims to strengthen the links between decent work, workers' rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability by focusing on the key challenges of poor social dialogue and industrial relations institutions, processes, and actors; gender inequality, poor environmental practices and low productivity; and concerns over competitiveness.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The project proposal developed under this phase of the project pursues regional-level interventions by enhancing synergies with existing country-level programmes and by strengthening the dialogue and collaboration among the various stakeholders active in the garment sector in Asia.



Right and below: The project's proposal is developed with aims to strengthen the link between decent work, workers' rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.



CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN ELIMINATING SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING IN ASIA (CREST)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

Established in 1951 as an operational logistics agency to help European governments identify resettlement countries and arrange transport for nearly a million migrants uprooted by the Second World War, IOM has progressively broadened its scope to become the UN migration agency in 2016. Today, IOM is the leading international agency working with governments and civil society to advance the understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

With 166 member states, a further 8 states holding observer offices in over 100 countries, the agency works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

IOM activities include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN ELIMINATING SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING IN ASIA (CREST)

CREST project was initiated in October 2017 in light of disproportionate vulnerability and exposure of forced labour and exploitation of migrant workers, many of whom are subjected to unethical recruitment processes, including excessive fees, low wages, unreasonable physical demands and excessive overtime spent in remote locations, including at sea.

The initiative is aimed at enabling the private sector and regional actors in key industries and supply chains to increasingly protect the human and labour rights of women and men migrant workers in Asia by promoting the 'employer pays' business model for ethical recruitment and the application of the International Recruitment Integrity System Standard; working in partnership with companies to address risks of forced labour and exploitation in supply chains under the CREST Framework; engaging with relevant business platforms to drive protection of human and labour rights among migrant workers in Asia and collaborating with public and private partners at the regional and national level to raise awareness of ethical recruitment and advocate for supportive policy environments.

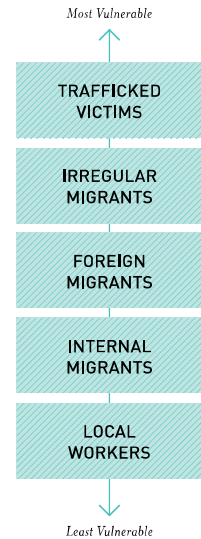
PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Right: CREST is aimed at increasingly protect the human and labour rights of migrant workers in Asia.



Gender-specific needs are not addressed among female workers in agricultural sector.



**CREST
GOOD COMPANY
POLICY:**



Commit to raising awareness about human trafficking and slavery



Develop a code of conduct for your company and all suppliers



Adopt the Employer Pays Model for all recruitments



Regularly monitor your supply chain



Take immediate action if breaches are detected



Commit to transparency

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting Implementation of Ethical Recruitment Principle

Employers, multinational companies and related recruitment agencies apply ethical recruitment and decent work standards within their supply chains in Asia.

Regional consultative processes, regional economic communities and regional networks in South and South East Asia incorporate ethical recruitment principles and decent work for women and men migrant workers into their policies and programme initiatives.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Safe, humane and orderly migration by default involves policy initiatives related to immigration and labour law for protection and social dialogue, involving environmental and climate change aspects to be considered at not only the national but also the regional level. The private sector has been identified as a stakeholder with potential to contribute to improvement within all of these areas. CREST aims for stronger commitments from the private sector and builds capacity for more effective multi-stakeholder cooperation.



Above: Migrants employed on fishing vessels remain vulnerable to trafficking and forced labour.

Migrant workers in Asia remain vulnerable as their gender-specific needs are not addressed. This can include discriminatory hiring practices, inadequate access to information needed at various stages of the migration process, and risks of harassment and violations at the workplace. The project seeks to strengthen awareness of companies, suppliers and recruiters to better understand good practices of gender-responsive ethical recruitment and on-site management of women and men migrant workers. To the extent possible, the impact of migration on families left behind and what the private sector can do to help will be explored.

The link between labour migration, environment, and climate change in Asian supply chains will also be studied to understand the impact of climate change on migration patterns for migrant labour employed by private sector partners and investigate the effects on different sectors and migration corridors.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

IOM recognizes that the complexity of labour supply chains makes it especially difficult to control and manage working conditions for migrant workers, particularly women. Human trafficking and forced labour are growing problems that are to be addressed through capacity building of key actors and effective regional platforms for cooperation and protection of migrant workers' rights.

IOM aims to mobilise resources from private sector partnership as a means to achieve sustainable results, notably by forging partnerships with businesses and involving them as influential stakeholders through their expertise and resources. At the same time, the learnings will be brought back into regional processes as well as into ASEAN institutional processes to create enabling policy environment.

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**MANGROVES
FOR THE FUTURE (MFF)**



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

MANGROVES FOR THE FUTURE BY THE NUMBERS:



250

Regional and national partners

400,000+

Lives of men and women empowered by MFF interventions

380

Projects implemented in member countries

150

Practitioners graduated from nationalised coastal management programme

3,000

Participants attended more than 140 trainings arranged since 2014

AT A GLANCE

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental bodies with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place at once.

Created in 1948, IUCN is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge and resources of more than 1,300 member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessment and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

IUCN is involved in several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, all of which resulted from resolutions/recommendations adopted by members at various IUCN general assemblies.

MANGROVES FOR THE FUTURE (MFF)

A unique partner-led initiative was established in 2006 to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, and with its secretariat hosted at IUCN, the initiative is aimed at addressing the resilience of ecosystem dependent coastal communities in 11 countries in the region based on the following activities:

Strategic planning and consensus building

MFF has supported the development of National Strategy and Action Plans prepared under the guidance of National Coordinating Bodies to align with national priorities for sustainable coastal development, and identifying geographic and thematic priority areas for MFF investment.

Cross-cutting themes

MFF has cross-cutting strategies for capacity development, knowledge management and communications, gender integration, and private sector engagement. These strategies support the design, planning and execution of activities promoted and supported by MFF at all levels. The strategies also contribute to ensuring sustainability beyond current donor funding.

Grant facility

The MFF Grant Facility is the main vehicle for delivering results on the ground. The facility offers small, medium, and regional grants to support projects and other initiatives in member countries.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

More than 250 regional and national partners have joined force in the MFFs inclusive approach and interventions which have enhanced livelihoods and empowered more than 400,000 men and women to participate in the governance of coastal ecosystems.

Since its inception, around 380 projects have been implemented in member countries addressing a variety of coastal management issues including mangrove restoration, establishing co-management mechanisms, livelihood diversification, community-based waste management, developing private sector partnerships, and scientific research.

Up to 75% of MFF Small Grant Facility projects directly address the needs of women in coastal areas

To build the capacity of coastal management practitioners, MFF has developed a Postgraduate Integrated Coastal Management Course. With more than 150 graduates, it has been instituted at the national level in several member countries. More than 140 trainings have been undertaken with over 3,000 participants.

MFF has assisted Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam in strengthening management of Marine Protected Areas and establishing new protected areas.

The initiative facilitates intergovernmental dialogue between member countries to foster cooperation on management of shared marine territories, such as those between India and Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar, and Cambodia and Thailand.

MFF has assisted countries in the region in strengthening management of marine protected areas and establishing new protected areas.



A Pa Dam community member checks his crab traps, Phuket, Thailand



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The programme aims to strengthen resilience of coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them through protection and conservation and the promotion of environmentally sustainable development, by linking the rights of people to secure their livelihoods and enjoy healthy and productive ecosystems with climate change and other challenges.

Because empowerment is most effective when exercised in conjunction with established agencies, the initiative works strategically with civil society, private sector and government organisations to build the capacity of community groups to effectively participate in management of their natural resources, strengthening coastal communities' access and control over their resources and providing a greater chance for economic benefits to accrue locally.

Development of the MFF Resilience Framework and of the Gender Analysis tool supports fundamental procedural rights to enable individuals, community groups and CSOs to participate in decision-making in local sustainable development, building shared vision through multi-stakeholder processes, integration of gender equality and women's empowerment goals, and negotiation of shared resource management.



MFF aims to strengthen resilience of coastal ecosystems and the communities through protection, conservation and promotion of environmentally sustainable development.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC), a multi-stakeholder forum for regional level dialogue and strategic leadership for policy change, is comprised by the initiative.

Two representatives of all MFF member countries serve on the RSC along with Institutional Partners including regional agencies, such as UN Environment, FAO, Wetlands International, and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and programme donors. Other regional institutions, such as Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), attend the RSC as observers to further broaden the reach of MFF at the regional level.

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EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC



FOCUS AREAS:

- -
 -
 -
 -
- HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

GeoJournalism sites are interactive web-based platforms that develop original socio-environment content that are less or rarely covered by mainstream media.



EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Internews developed the Earth Journalism Network (EJN) in the Asia-Pacific to empower and enable journalists from the region to cover environmental issues more effectively through the following activities:

1. GeoJournalism development and special project awards

GeoJournalism sites are interactive web-based platforms that develop original socio-environmental content that is underrepresented by mainstream media, aggregate stories from across networks, visualise data and distribute content among a variety of media houses. The project strengthens the development of at least three GeoJournalism websites and uses special project awards to generate original content that amplifies the voices of women and marginalised groups.

2. Fellowships

The project will provide annual fellowships to individual journalists in the region to participate in high-level environmental summits. These fellowships will enable training and content production and allow underrepresented voices to be heard within international forums, especially for journalists from vulnerable and underrepresented communities.

AT A GLANCE

Established in 1982, Internews has worked in more than 100 countries worldwide. With global expertise and reach, Internews trains media professionals and citizen journalists, introduces innovative media solutions, increases coverage of vital issues and helps establish policies needed for open access to information. Its programmes create platforms for dialogue and enable informed debate, which bring about social and economic progress. The organisation commits to research and evaluation and creates effective and sustainable programme even in the most challenging environments.



Internews trains both media professionals and citizen journalists.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The project started in August 2017 and is currently in its inception phase. It is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Increased reliable access to socio-environmental information, data and sources
- Improved quantity and quality of socio-environmental news and information
- Increased inclusion of women and marginalised groups in the distribution and as the focus of socio-environmental information
- Increased peer-to-peer engagement and multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing and/or collaboration around socio-environmental information

So far two stakeholder assessments have been completed on media landscape, needs and gaps of environmental journalism in the Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia. The organisation is in the process of conducting organisational capacity assessments and content analysis with partners, as well as planning for the Training of Trainers that is scheduled to take place in late March 2018. In terms of the GeoJournalism sites, the local teams are developing editorial plans and commissioning environmental stories that will amplify the voices of those communities that are vulnerable to environmental impacts. In addition, a technology roadmap is being developed and a firm has been hired to provide operational support to these GeoJournalism sites.

3. Story grants

To improve media capacity to produce quality environmental content relevant to the needs of at-risk communities, the project provides story grants to individual journalists to produce stories for local or international media on specific environmental topics. An average of 30 story grants per year, through a competitive process.

4. Organisational grants

EJN has established a grant mechanism with flexible spending guidelines that enables local and regional partner organisations to develop innovative platforms, implement strategic directions and build the capabilities of local networks and their members to respond to communities' needs. Additionally, EJN leverages these grants to help identify journalists and partner organisations willing and eager to collaborate on amplifying the voices of women, youth and indigenous groups.

5. Training of journalists

The project aims to train at least 200 journalists in the region per year, ensuring that we leverage local and international expertise. This training will be done through our annual Training of Trainers (TOT), which will be followed by in-country and more localised training supported by our sub-grants. The TOT will develop a common skill set among partners to train journalists in environment and climate change reporting, new media techniques, journalists safety, monitoring and evaluation and fundraising.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The project mainstreams women's leadership and voices through promoting and ensuring equal access for women to training courses for journalists, as well as integrating gender-related content in our environmental reporting training curriculum and grant making activities.

The story grants and special project awards support the production of in-depth and multimedia stories that examine the human dimensions of climate change, environmental policies and human rights, as well as provide examples of potential solutions that could support sustainable development.

The fellowship activity gives priority to women, youth and indigenous journalists to attend annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Conference of the Parties (COP), who would otherwise be unable to engage in these global policy discussions. Through these fellowships, the project ensures that underrepresented voices can be heard within international forums, and generates content that will inform policy makers of the impact of the environment and climate change on these vulnerable communities and of their rights in sustainable development.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

This project builds on EJN's existing journalists' networks and platforms to engage more intensively with journalists in the Asia-Pacific region to improve the quantity and quality of environmental journalism. The project also adds value by fostering linkages between media organisations and scientific and research organisations to communicate important environmental research findings and viable solutions in a way that is accessible to the public, especially to those communities that are most vulnerable to environmental and climate change impacts.

In terms of engaging with intergovernmental mechanism, the project, through the fellowship activity, supports journalists from marginalised communities and less-represented countries/regions to participate in the annual UNFCCC Climate COP conference so that they can directly engage with this global mechanism and influence its outcomes. Through the training and organisational grants, the project also builds the capacity of partners and grantees to engage with other intergovernmental mechanism such as the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda through generating content that can inform and influence policy makers and local communities.



Left and Above: The project provides story grants to individual journalists to produce stories for local and international media on specific environmental topics.

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GENDER EQUALITY

Gender inequality and discrimination are obstacles to sustainable development in the Asia and the Pacific region. Gender-based violence is still widespread. Discriminatory legislation, social norms and gender stereotypes are obstacles to greater gender equality.

There is a clear link between gender equality and peaceful and democratic societies. Regional cooperation contributes to strengthening actors' capacity to effectively promote gender equality towards the fulfillment of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), international human rights laws and standards, and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Gender equality is a goal in itself, and it is also essential for the achievement of peace, poverty reduction and sustainable development.



Founded in Britain in 1942, Oxfam began as a food supplies campaign for starving women and children in Greece during the Second World War. Since then, the organisation has been recognised as one of the world's leading non-governmental agencies responding to emergency relief, inequality and poverty reduction. Around the globe, it works to find practical, innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive.

In Asia, Oxfam focuses on challenging systemic inequalities, mobilising active citizenship, and in particular, ensuring that marginalised groups in the society are benefiting from sustainable economic growth and environment. Through programmes like GRAISEA, which is being managed by Oxfam GB, and Fair Finance Asia and TROSA, which are being managed by Oxfam Novib, Oxfam takes part in a global movement of people working together to end injustice and poverty for everyone.

Oxfam GB and Oxfam Novib are part of the Oxfam Confederation, an international confederation of 20 affiliates that work with strategic partners at local and regional levels in over 90 countries.

OXFAM's Projects

01

Gender Transformative and Responsible Agribusiness Investment in South East Asia (GRAISEA)

02

Fair Finance Asia

03

Transboundary River of South Asia (TROSA)

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA (GRAISEA)



FOCUS AREAS:



**GRAISEA ACHIEVEMENTS
IN THE REGION
BY THE NUMBERS:**



CAMBODIA

50

members of a local business platform works with GRAISEA in a bid to influence companies through the CSR platform.

PHILIPPINES

201

farmers signed a contract amendment to ensure there is no intervention or taking over by the big companies without the farmers' consent if the banana production drops below the agreed lowest quantities.

INDONESIA

4,282

beneficiaries of a chocolate factory aimed in two years. GRAISEA partner, IIX Foundation successfully brokered US\$ 350,000 in impact investment to enable chocolate factory to scale up its business plan.

VIETNAM

8

shrimp processors who provided small farmers with favorable contracts (premium price and favorable terms for input supply).

31

companies were willing to join CSR-standard self-assessment. 2 of 3 are on the practice improvement.

325

farming contracts made between farmers and rice company Centrao with 5% premium price as a result of GRAISEA facilitation and collaboration on the rice value chain.



The Fisherfolks Network in Southern Thailand, a model of women-led social enterprise, has raised awareness on sustainable wild catch fishery.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA (GRAISEA)

Oxfam, in partnership with the Swedish Government, runs GRAISEA with an aim to improve the livelihoods of both female and male small-scale producers in the Southeast Asian Region and in Pakistan through more responsible and inclusive value chains and private sector investments.

Through empowering economic and responsible business leadership, particularly small-scale women producers in remote communities, the project has boosted financial viability, gender equity and sustainable supply chains in the targeted agribusiness sector.

Oxfam convenes diverse stakeholders in the selected commodity value chains and in targeted countries to discuss a series of forums and roundtables in a bid to develop inclusive and innovative financial solutions. Training sessions, best practices and essential resources are shared among women, smallholders, government officials, and buyers of these smallholders.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Gender Transformation

The Fisherfolks Network in southern Thailand, a model of women-led social enterprise, is an example of women playing a key role in production, marketing, and certification of fishery products. Their "Blue Brand Standard," developed on sustainable sourcing, set up an internal audit system and raised awareness on the importance of sustainable wild catch fishery with consumers and companies.

Gender equality was put into practice in a major multi-stakeholder platform. A sub-panel on gender equality has been set up as part of the Human Rights Working Group of the Roundtable on the Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) working to promote the production and the use of sustainable palm oil.

In the aquaculture sector, gender divisions were made visible through research identifying gender inequalities in the shrimp value chain. Recommendations were made on the ASC group certification to include social and gender criteria and to address cost issues for small producers and women in an effort to improve present sustainability initiatives to be more gender transformative.

Awareness of Corporate Social Responsibility

By working with CSR Asia, a business organisation that pioneers sustainability awareness, hundreds of members including hotels and retailers are encouraged to put in practice seafood sourcing policies and assessments on governance, challenges, inclusion of smallholders, impact on women and recommendations for more responsible and sustainable sourcing policies.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

GRAISEA, in partnership with ASEAN CSR Network (ACN) and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, engaged civil society organisations in drafting the National Action Plan in Indonesia on business and human rights. Women's economic empowerment is among key elements proposed.

GRAISEA's climate change approach focuses on "adaptation with mitigation as co-benefits." Small rice farmers are encouraged to adapt their farming method to changing weather patterns and to adopt sustainable production practices aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emission and water usage.

Female workers in the shrimp value chain remain vulnerable to gender inequality.



GRAISEA supports women's economic empowerment by working with communities and companies to address gender-related issues and promote business models that particularly support the livelihoods of female smallholders in the shrimp, palm-oil and rice value chains.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

GRAISEA acts as a convener with the Business & Human Rights Caucus in ASEAN, and through its partner ACN its member civil society organisations lobby to include social and gender criteria in the regional CSR strategy of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

The promotion of gender-transformative and responsible-business practices was delivered through the ASEAN Peoples' Forum 50th anniversary, attended by WEAVE, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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FAIR FINANCE ASIA:
BUILDING A RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN ASIA



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



Involvement of the financial sector in strengthening human rights provides opportunities for women and men from various generations to preserve and protect natural resources and the environment.

FAIR FINANCE ASIA: BUILDING A RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN ASIA

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent, with 60 percent of the current global population. The region is experiencing impressive economic growth but also facing considerable sustainable development challenges. While formal commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from most Asian countries is strong, and financial actors are showing more awareness on sustainable banking and the reputational and commercial risks of harmful investments, much remains to be done to translate these commitments into laws, regulations and operational policies adhered to by all parties.

Financial institutions such as banks and investors can potentially play a large role in enforcing social and environmental change by driving capital towards companies that are creating long-term value for societies and away from projects which pose excessive social or environmental risks.

Oxfam and partners in the region see two main strategies for financial institutions to take up this role. First, banks and investors can adopt policies that compel businesses they invest in to comply with sustainability standards and human rights principles. This will also require financial sector institutions operating in Asia to become more transparent and accountable in their operations. Second, they can proactively look for more sustainable and pro-poor investment opportunities that contribute to positive changes in the lives of poor people living in Asia and their environment.

By stimulating transparency and accountability in the financial sector, and by encouraging integration of human rights standards and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria in financial actors' policies, the programme aims to help reduce the negative impacts of national and cross-border bank investments on human rights, the environment and climate change across the region.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FAIR FINANCE ASIA FACTS



TARGET GROUPS

CSOs that consider financial flows of crucial importance for development

Financial institutions

Financial regulators

Investors

Development banks (IFC, ADB)



BENEFICIARIES

People living in poverty in India, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia and other Asian countries who suffer the negative impact of irresponsible companies that work with investments from regionally operating banks



KEY PRIORITIES

Protection and realisation of human rights and gender equality

Protection of the environment

Climate change

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

ESG criteria are central in measuring the sustainability and ethical impact of an investment in a company.

Environmental criteria look at a company's energy use, waste, pollution, natural resource conservation and animal treatment. They also evaluate which environmental risks might affect a company's income and how the company is managing those risks. Social criteria look at the company's business relationships. Do the company's working conditions show a high regard for its employees' health and safety? Are stakeholders' interests taken into consideration? Does it work with suppliers that hold the same values that the company itself claims to hold?

With regard to governance, investors want to know that a company uses accurate and transparent accounting methods and allows common stockholders to vote on important issues. They want companies to avoid conflicts of interest in their choice of board members and prefer not to invest in companies that engage in illegal behaviour or use political contributions to obtain favourable treatment.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

For the Fair Finance Asia (FFA) programme, the following outcomes are expected:

Short term:

- Increased awareness and political will among national governments, regulators, banks and banking associations to adhere to ESG standards
- Improved interaction and mutual influence of champions among national governments and banks with regional bodies
- Increased awareness of integration of Human Rights and ESG criteria into loan and investment policies of financial sector institutions by regional bodies, including governments, civil society organisations (CSOs) and financial sector-development banks and investors

Long term:

- Improved regulations on integration of ESG and human rights criteria in the financial sector by national governments and other financial sector regulators are put in place along with improved policies and practices by national banks
- Creation of conditions for a multi-stakeholder initiative, as well as the implementation of a regional multi-stakeholder dialogue, including CSOs and allies, that results in a joint multi-stakeholder roadmap

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The programme is aligned with the regional strategy of "mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change" and puts the strategy into practice across the region together with civil society and other relevant actors to protect human rights, gender equality, the environment and the climate to increase sustainable economic development.

The programme focuses on direct engagement with banks to promote due diligence when considering investment in national and transboundary projects (such as hydropower in the Mekong River Basin) and to apply ESG criteria requiring, for example, participative social and environmental impact assessments, free prior informed consent from native peoples and traditional communities, and adequate complaint and mitigation mechanisms from the companies and projects they provide with investments and loans. These criteria become even more relevant in countries where rule of law is lacking.



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The Fair Finance Asia programme is aligned with the regional strategy of "mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environmental and climate change".



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

FFA adds value at the regional level by influencing banks, insurers, regulators and authorities on a national level in their home country and by working with regional networks, platforms and institutions—examples include the Southeast Asian Central Banks' Research and Training Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Commission on Human Rights and the Mekong River Commission.

FFA focuses on influencing public and commercial banks based in programme countries that have a regional influence, such as Exim India, Kasikornbank, Krung Thai Bank, Bank Central Asia, Bank Danamon Indonesia, Bank Mandiri, Bank Negara Indonesia, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, Mizuho Financial, and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial. The programme will engage with bank associations and networks at both the national and regional level, such as the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and Sustainable Banking Network, ASEAN Bankers Association and UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

Engagement with development banks will focus on IFC-supported Sustainable Banking Network. IFC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will lobby targets where these development banks invest in infrastructure and other projects, directly or indirectly through national banks and where further improvement of application of ESG criteria into the spending process is needed.

FFA will focus on strengthening organisations active on the national and regional level, promoting a multi-stakeholder dialogue leading to a regional roadmap towards a transparent and sustainable financial sector. The programme will raise awareness among banks on ESG and support the banks in proving and building the business case for sustainable finance and building a joint agenda for sustainable finance on a regional level.

Many of the threats that human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists and environmentalists perceive from government and private actors are directly or indirectly linked to environment and climate issues. Involvement of the financial sector in strengthening human rights provides opportunities for women and men from various generations to preserve and protect natural resources and the environment, benefitting their livelihoods.

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS
OF SOUTH ASIA (TROSA)



FOCUS AREAS:



TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS OF SOUTH ASIA (TROSA)

The five-year regional programme (2017-2021) is designed to reduce poverty and marginalise vulnerable river basin communities through increased access to and control over riparian water resources on which their livelihoods depend.

It works with communities in the transboundary river basins of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) in Nepal, India and Bangladesh and the Salween in Myanmar by focusing on strengthening the capacity of river basin leaders, communities and Civil Society Organisation (CSO) networks, public and private policy and decision makers.

The Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Salween rivers are at the heart of culture and religion, and their waters and rich sediment loads support fisheries and agriculture of national and global significance. The waters connect nations and provide the means for trade. Yet hundreds of millions of people living on these basins have limited secure access to water due to growing competition over natural resources, infrastructure development, agricultural, urbanisation and the effects of climate change.

To respond with those challenges, the following activities are being implemented:

Building capacity

River basin leaders, communities and CSO networks public and private policy and decision makers are among the target for strengthening capacity and engagement.

Supporting leadership and negotiating capital

One of our primary focuses is to support leaders from remote, marginalised communities, particularly women and youth, so that their voices and rights recognised and respected.

Building an evidence-based, demand-led policy/practice-relevant research

The project is often partnered with universities and research bodies. Evidence-based study can inform and influence change.

Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues

The programme promotes multi-stakeholder dialogues in the GBM and Salween basins as a key mechanism for the consideration of policy options and lessons, and as a means of achieving greater participation of those most directly affected by water governance into decision making.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The TROSA programme works towards the following outcomes:

- Government policies and practices at all levels in water resource management are more inclusive of community concerns and meet national & international standards. This will be done by analysing river programmes and plans, facilitating consultations and dialogue with river basin communities, and engaging' will all stakeholders.
- Women increasingly influence in trans-boundary water governance, policy and processes, building capacity on gender mainstreaming in water governance as well as identification of women leaders and facilitation of their involvement in water governance decision-making processes, and training of project team on transformative leadership for women's rights.
- The practices of private sector respect community access to water resources by actively contributing to reduced conflict. Awareness raising strategies on good practice expectation will be developed and dialogue events will be organised with private sector.
- CSOs increasingly participate in or influence trans-boundary water governance, women's inclusion and the resolution of water conflicts. The programme will build awareness of trans-boundary water resource issues and strategies and strengthen the capacities of CSO in water governance.
- River basin communities increasingly influence trans-boundary water governance policies and processes. Awareness-raising strategies will facilitate community members to have gained new information about water rights and strategies by which they can claim them, including information about trans-boundary rights and responsibilities for water management.

During the first year of the project, inception partnerships were negotiated and established with organisations like International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, World Wildlife Fund, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Stockholm International Water Institute and International Rivers, as well as local civil society organisations. In the second half of the same year, a shared understanding on trans-boundary water governance among project partners was developed. Key strategic stakeholders, including national governments, were informed about the TROSA programme to ensure their engagement in the programme. Also an analysis of conflicts and co-operation in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Salween River Basins was done to inform the programme strategy on cooperative and sustainable water sharing.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Growing competition over natural resources, infrastructure development and the effects of climate change are changing lives of hundreds of millions of people in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basins.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The TROSA programme adds to the regional strategy of firmly embedding the environment and a human-rights based approach in the following ways:

Firstly, by strengthening and promoting a human rights-based approach to transboundary water governance in the focus basins/sub-basins of GBM and Salween. All programme activities have a strong focus on promoting gender equality and rights of women and girls and other marginalised and minority communities in these basins.

Secondly, through building capacities of communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and young researchers to better engage with and contribute to regional and bilateral processes of water governance, including water resources-related investments by the private sector.

Thirdly through partnering with existing networks and platforms such as the IUCN-convened Building River Dialogue and Governance to influence strategic regional and sub-regional processes and decisions which impact transboundary rivers in the region.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

TROSA's added value is the localisation of regional and transboundary water cooperation through a bottom-up process of dialogue and trust building. The programme focuses on building strong community-to-community linkages and forging cooperation for the equitable sharing of water resources.

The engagement strategy for intergovernmental mechanisms is based on evidence and insights gathered from community-level activities and strategic partnerships with other networks for collective representation. A proactive and constructive approach is adopted under the programme in a bid to engage with intergovernmental mechanisms for example the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation and similar mechanisms.

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វិទ្យាស្ថានសភាកម្ពុជា
PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA
 STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY

**PARLIAMENT INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA
 (REGIONAL PROGRAMME)**



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

PIC takes into account the interests of the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups of society including women and children.



PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SIDA AND PIC AGREEMENT ON STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

The main objective strengthens parliamentary staff to provide analysis to parliamentarians so that they can fulfill their lawmaking functions by representation and oversight, through:

- Training programmes such as parliamentary research methodology, communications, regional training of trainers, fiscal and budget analysis, legal analysis and legislative process and parliamentary diplomacy
- Production of research papers
- Organisation of regional seminars and expert hearings
- Contribution to outreach activities
- Contribution to study and knowledge sharing missions
- Specialised library and publications in support to parliamentary work

AT A GLANCE

Parliament Institute of Cambodia (PIC), an independent, non-partisan capacity development institute, was established in 2011 under the request of members of the Cambodian Parliament and its General Secretariat. PIC aims to strengthen the capacity of parliamentary staff to support the functioning of the Parliament and to share experiences with others Parliaments across the region and beyond.

PIC also seeks institutional, party and gender balance in all activities.

**PIC ACHIEVEMENTS
BY THE NUMBERS:**

(2016)



63

Research papers produced for clients

41

Outreach activities supported

149

Requests for capacity development support from the Senate and the National Assembly

11

New linkages and exchanges with external stakeholders.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Training on parliamentary research methodology

- Ten training sessions held for Cambodian parliamentary staff (50% women participants)
- Four training sessions held for parliamentary staff from ASEAN participating parliaments (76% female participants)

Training on parliamentary communications

Five training sessions held for Cambodian parliamentary staff (40% female participants)

Training on fiscal and budget analysis

One ongoing training session for Cambodian parliamentary staff (60% female participants)

Training on parliamentary diplomacy (new)

One ongoing training session for Cambodian parliamentary staff (35% female participants)

Non-partisan research

Over 210 parliamentary research papers have been produced based on PIC's pedagogical approach. These neutral, concise and informative papers address a large number of subjects such as rural development, implementation of decentralisation and deconcentration, environmental protection, health sector, employment and vocational training, labour migration, and gender and development.

The parliamentarians can obtain background information about issues facing by their constituents from these parliamentary research briefing notes and papers prior to conducting public consultations and field visits.

Some research papers have been produced as part of the preparatory support provided by PIC to 35 study and knowledge sharing missions, carried out by parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, including for their participation in international parliamentary events.

Seminars and outreach activities

A total of 4 regional seminars and expert hearings on issues of common interest such as labour migration, rural development and decentralisation were organised in order to share the findings and foster exchanges among regional parliamentarians.

Support was also provided for preparation of 86 outreach activities including public consultations, local forums, fact-finding missions and follow-up visits. Public Consultation Guidelines, outlining the importance of public consultations in supporting all three functions of the Parliament—representation, legislation and oversight—were also developed to provide substantial guidance for the planning, implementation and evaluation of a public consultation to ensure its effectiveness and inclusivity, and for the use of experiences gained to improve such events in the future.

Priority is given to the importance of hearing the voices of the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society, including women and girls, and taking their interests into account.



Seminars and expert hearings on issues of common interest such as labour migration, rural development and decentralisation were organised to foster exchanges among regional parliamentarians.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Democracy

Through staff training on a wide range of activities, PIC helps strengthen the impartiality and professionalism of the Cambodian Parliament and improves relations with its regional and international counterparts.

Gender Equality

Equal training opportunities are offered to all parliamentary staff. The guidelines for public consultations is also available for staff to take into account the interests of the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups of society, including women and girls. Research papers on specific gender issues such as agriculture production, gender and access to health services were also conducted. The research papers "Financial Inclusion of Women as a Driver of Development for SDGs: Review of Women's Obstacles in Cambodia" and "Promoting the Health of Women Migrant Workers" were also published.

Environment and Climate Change

Environmental protection is an important issue for parliamentarians in light of their oversight function. The research paper "Benefits of Environmental Protection in the Coastal Areas and Islands of Cambodia Coastal and Marine Protection and Management" was published as preparation for parliamentarians' fact-finding visits to coastal provinces in February 2017 to monitor socio-economic, environment and safety conditions.

A regional seminar on climate change is scheduled in March 2018 as part of its parliamentary research fellowship programme.

PIC offers equal training opportunities to all parliamentary staff.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

PIC does not work directly with the executive branch but with parliamentary institutions from the region and aims to strengthen the professional capacity of parliamentary staff to deliver information and analysis to parliamentarians, particularly through the production of parliamentary research. The support of PIC for Cambodian parliamentarians to participate in regional meetings such as General Assemblies of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU), through production of research papers, also fosters exchange of experience and dissemination of best practices.

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RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE

RWI REGIONAL ASIA PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2017-2021)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN
RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER
EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE
CHANGE



AT A GLANCE

Established in 1984, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) is an independent academic institution that combines evidence-based human rights research and direct engagement with international organisations, governments, national human rights institutions, justice sector institutions, local and regional authorities, academic institutions, and private companies to drive human rights change.

Since the early 1990s, RWI has been engaged in development cooperation in the human rights field with a wide number of institutions and organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. RWI has offices in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Turkey and Sweden with around 60 staff members in total. RWI's work focuses on the four thematic areas of Inclusive Societies, Fair and Efficient Justice, People on the Move, and Economic Globalisation and Human Rights.

RWI REGIONAL ASIA PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2017-2021)

The programme aims to contribute to a just, inclusive and sustainable development in the region through mutually reinforcing protection of human rights, gender equality and the environment. This objective is pursued by means of three interlinked objectives, with corresponding strategies:

- 1) Strengthening knowledge on the connections between human rights** gender equality and the environment with the aim to clarify linkages and application in the region, and to underpin and influence policy and legal development mainly through a variety of research initiatives including regional studies, capacity development of researchers and collaboration between human rights and environmental scholars.
- 2) Strengthening multi-sector synergies** pursuing constructive collaboration and inclusive and rights-based action towards Agenda 2030 targets, and building bridges and offering platforms for exchange, learning and dialogue. This includes annual regional multi-stakeholder courses, advice to stakeholders and support to local and central development plans regarding human rights linked to environment and SDGs.
- 3) Promoting fair and efficient justice for all in society** in relation to the environment and for cross-border violations and actions of non-state/private actors, providing adequate measures for marginalised and discriminated groups - through capacity development and dialogues with and between judiciaries, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), corporations and regional bodies such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The pilot phase of the programme started in 2017. Strategies, partnerships and arrangements of implementation are being fine-tuned and consolidated in consultation with partners and stakeholders.

The expected programme outcomes by 2021 are that local, national and regional development plans, as well as regional and national policies, standards and practices, are increasingly informed by and incorporate human rights, and that justice is increasingly accessed, delivered and administered in accordance with international human rights standards in the region, including environmental protection and cross-border violations and actions of non-state and private actors.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The programme focuses on links between human rights and the environment, and its overall aim is to contribute to a just, inclusive and sustainable development in the region through mutually reinforcing protection of human rights, gender equality and the environment. This is reflected in the programme activities and implementation approaches towards Agenda 2030 targets to ensure that mechanisms are available for addressing national and regional problems related to human rights, gender equality, the environment and climate change.

The programme's added value is seen in bringing together stakeholders across sectors and countries, offering expertise in and support of human rights including gender equality, and its recognised links to environmental protection as well as platforms and opportunities to enable joint analyses and the translation of theory and analysis into practical actions. Multi-sectoral collaboration on human rights, development and the environment in Asia, facilitated by RWI, are accordingly key elements with a common framework of dialogue enabling more and better synergies towards sustainable development goals.



RWI's programme brings together stakeholders across sectors and offers expertise and support from the perspective of human rights.



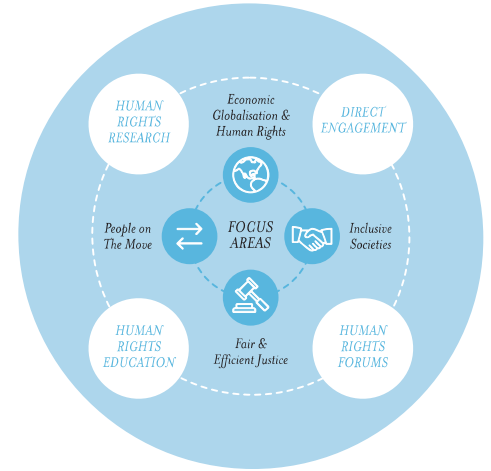
RWI promotes fair and efficient justice for all in the society.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The programme brings together stakeholders across sectors and countries, offers expertise and support from human rights and gender equality perspective. Platforms and opportunities are provided to enable joint analyses and translation of theory into practice.

Multi-sectoral collaboration and "bridge-building" on human rights, development and environment in Asia, facilitated by RWI are key elements enabling better synergies towards sustainable development goals.

Cooperation with regional actors, such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and with national actors such as NHRIs and judiciaries in regional forums, as well as among academics under the programme strengthen capacities, research and policy efforts related to human rights, environment and SDGs.



Cooperation with regional actors strengthen capacities, research and policy efforts related to human rights, environment and related areas.

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FISHERIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



FOCUS AREAS:



AT A GLANCE

In Southeast Asia, marine fishery resources are abundant. However, with fishery technology development coupled with human population growth and the demand for fish and fish-based products, fish landings have substantially increased which leads to growing pressure on marine resources and eventually results in overfishing. Moreover, the impact of climate change contribute to the instability of stock abundance as well as deviations of fish migration routes.

Founded on December 28, 1967, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) is an intergovernmental organisation aiming to promote sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture in order to alleviate poverty and enhance food security and the livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region.

SEAFDEC's members comprise 10 ASEAN nations and Japan. Its Secretariat in Bangkok coordinates the work in five technical departments; 1) Training Department in Thailand; 2) Aquaculture Department in the Philippines; 3) Marine Fisheries Research Department in Singapore; 4) Marine Fisheries Research and Management Department in Malaysia; and 5) Inland Fisheries Research and Development Department in Indonesia.



SEAFDEC's project focuses on capacity building, integration of habitats and fisheries management. Spawning Indo-Pacific mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand is an example.



FISHERIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being in Southeast Asia project aims to create the sustainable use of aquatic resources and reduce vulnerability to climate change by coastal/rural fishing communities in the ASEAN.

The project, which is being implemented in the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, the Mekong River, and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, focuses on capacity building and integration of habitat and fisheries management and climate change adaptation, for example, ASEAN-wide implementation of the regional plan of action for Neritic Tuna and assessment stocks and spawning of Indo-Pacific mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand.

Second, the project aims to build capacity, improve systems and develop networks for monitoring, control, and surveillance. Third, the project is committed to improving the policy development process for regional and sub-regional agreement drafting and implementation.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2013, SEAFDEC's planned process has moved from raising awareness to capacity building developing, finalising and managing regional action plans. Agreements between SEAFDEC Council, ASEAN and partner countries are also aimed at implementing the following plans:

- Regional Plan of Action for Neritic Tuna and Fishing Capacity adopted by SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN.
- In partnership with Japan Trust Fund (JTF), ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme was developed and endorsed.
- Bilateral dialogues leading to Memorandum of Understanding between Cambodia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos with positive further dialogues with Malaysia and Thailand, Myanmar and Thailand, and between the three countries.
- Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), JTF and other partners paved the way for the improved implementation of FAO Agreement on Port State Measures.
- Working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and NGOs has increased attention in labour issues and working conditions in fisheries and promoting the FAO's Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) with human rights and gender aspects.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Since the beginning, SEAFDEC has put effort into balancing and integrating social well-being, the environment and human rights in project implementation. Regional plans of action include social well-being, environment as well as good governance.

In the process of promoting the regional approach to the FAO-SSF Guidelines, importance of social well-being, environment (integrating fisheries and habitat management), gender equality, climate change and human rights has been emphasised and clarified. Partners are required to address how social well-being will be enhanced based on capacity building, environmental protection, promotion of gender equality and climate change adaptation approaches.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental organisation with all ASEAN states and Japan as members. The regional dimension is the core and mandate of the organisation. With the project "Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being in Southeast Asia", it has a central element in promoting regional cooperation and development of regional agreements such as action plans and MOUs. The project has been successfully engaged with partners in all ASEAN, sub-regional and bilateral levels.

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Left and Above: SEAFDEC has put effort into balancing and integrating social well-being and human rights in project implementation.



SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRESS ALLIANCE



FOCUS AREAS:



SEAPA's goal is to provide a forum for the defence of press freedom, giving protection to journalists and nurturing transparency.



AT A GLANCE

SEAPA is a non-profit, non-governmental regional network campaigning for genuine press freedom in Southeast Asia. Established in Bangkok in 1998, it aims to unite independent journalists and press-related organisations in the region into a force for advocacy and mutual protection. SEAPA's goal is to provide a forum for the defence of press freedom, giving protection to journalists and nurturing an environment where free expression, transparency, pluralism and a responsible media culture can flourish. Membership is open to independent press advocacy organisations with a proven track record of working for press freedom.

SUPPORT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRESS ALLIANCE TO THE PROJECT STRATEGY 2013-2017

To strengthen media freedom toward human rights compliance, democracy and good governance at the national and regional levels in Southeast Asia, SEAPA translated its mission and visions into implementation of activities based on the following four areas:

- 1. **Improved Safety for Media** activities aim to alert and monitor press freedom and freedom of expression violations, build databases, report and analyse media situation in 10 of 11 Southeast Asian countries and conduct missions and campaigns on key issues
- 2. **Ethics & Professionalism Enhancement** activities focus on media ethics training and reporting media's conduct during elections, organising an annual reporting fellowship programme with emphasis on key regional issues
- 3. **Improved Legal Environment** activities engage national media policy development affecting the press and online media through advocacy activities, and engage regional mechanisms on freedom of expression and human rights
- 4. **Better Organisational Effectiveness** activities focus on building a strong regional network by expanding the organisation, developing good governance policies, and coordinating with international organisations engaged in similar activity

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SEAPA ACHIEVEMENTS
BY THE NUMBERS:



11

ASEAN Member Countries

116

Fellowship Participants on Ethics
& Professionalism Enhancement

6

Out of 13 members on the process
of better organisational effectiveness

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The project has made notable progress and attained multiple outcomes since its inception:

Improved Safety for Media:

Documentation systems have been established at the Secretariat towards a regional platform for supporting members and partners. The Secretariat has received consistent media requests for SEAPA comments on emerging media issues and promoting journalist safety in the region.

Ethics & Professionalism Enhancement

Implementation of the project activities has increased member expectation for SEAPA to conduct media and election reporting activities. A total of 116 fellowships have been provided to participants from around Southeast Asia—60–70% of whom continue to interact with one another online, with some serving as resource persons for SEAPA activities and trainings.

Improved Legal Environment

The project has increased recognition of SEAPA's role in discussions on national policy proposals, as well as recognition of SEAPA's leading role in regional activities on internet freedom. Its activities received interest from targets on new initiatives to find alternative regional mechanisms for freedom of expression.

Better Organisational Effectiveness

In recent years the project has expanded from 6 to 13 members, improved its leadership accountability through an internal election system, supported a new membership strategy, played a prominent role in the Global Network Defending and Promoting Free Expression (IFEX) with council members from SEAPA or members, and maintained a leading role in regional initiatives in Asia region.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

SEAPA's vision and mission directly address human rights, particularly freedoms of expression and press that have an enabling role in the attainment of other human rights, as a central element of the Sustainable Development Goals. SEAPA's activities address both human rights and democracy as recurring structural issues affecting press freedom in the 11 countries within its scope of work.

On issues of gender SEAPA undertook secretariat and network consultations and meetings to discuss how to integrate gender issues in its core work. These activities' outcome was the adoption of gender issues into the SEAPA strategy toward developing a network-wide gender policy. SEAPA's gender policy mainstreams gender concerns, balance, women's empowerment and the work of member organisations. Its outreach advocacy work stimulates discussions on the importance of gender within the broader media community, including research, monitoring of gender content and practical manuals for gender-sensitive reporting.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Engagement of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of freedom of opinion and expression, by organising and participating in civil society activities to contribute to requests for information
- Contribution to stakeholder reports with related civil groups on internet freedom of expression issues in Southeast Asia
- Advocacy against impunity for attacks on journalists, a key element in the strategy that seeks implementation of UN programme of action for the safety of journalists
- Participation in Internet Governance Forums.
- Cooperation with UNESCO on access to information, safety of journalists and press freedom, by holding events such as a Mekong-wide consultation on access to information in 2015, training on safety of journalists in Jakarta in 2016, participation in World Press Freedom Day in Jakarta in 2017, and a regional seminar on impunity in Colombo in 2017
- Engaging press councils and national human rights institutions toward establishing cooperation to address press freedom and freedom of expression issues at the regional level

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Far Left, Left and Above: SEAPA's activities directly addresses human rights concerns, particularly freedom of expression and press freedom.



Formally established in 1989 by the Swedish Government, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent international research institute focusing on environment and development issues from local to global policy levels. With headquarters in Stockholm and nine offices located around the world, SEI comprises international staff equipped with knowledge and experience on diverse projects

Ranked as the world's second-most influential environment think tank in 2017, SEI's teams of experts develop peer-reviewed, evidence-based science, which has been transformed into policy briefings and integrated extensively by key decision-makers in a bid to solve the most pressing environment and development problems.

SEI Asia, based in Bangkok, plays a key role in bridging science and policy while helping advance sustainable development through research, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement. SEI Asia's work is clustered based on critical areas: gender, environment and development, reducing disaster risk, water resource management, adaptation to climate change, sustainable energy, agriculture in transition, Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), and urbanisation.

It aims to produce evidence-based science, crucial for leaders in civil society, private sector and government, to positively influence policy decisions throughout Asia and beyond following a vision of "sustainable future for all".

SEI's Projects

01

The Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET)

02

Strategic Collaborative Fund

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND BY THE NUMBERS:



20

regional events supported by this programme

142

concept notes for regional events were submitted for review in 2016

169 SESSIONS FROM 14 REGIONAL EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME

72%

of the total sessions from supported event in 2016 addressed poverty reduction theme, up from 18% in 2013

59%

related to gender equality theme, compared to 0% in 2013

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Through Strategic Collaborative Fund, technical support on diversity of participants and gender inclusion have been strengthened.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND

The Sida-SEI Strategic Collaborative Fund aims to enhance policy coherence in order to address environmental issues in ASEAN, to develop regionally-appropriate and gender-responsive Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Development Indicators through a bottom-up process, and to foster knowledge exchange between stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors in relation to local, national and regional processes.

The programme comprises four components:

- China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum (CAECF): a platform for policy dialogue and information exchange between China and ASEAN member nations, to provide policymakers opportunities to address important environmental issues
- Asia Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) for Sustainable Development Goals: a forum aimed to support the articulation of SDGs drawing from the richness of sustainable development management experience of Asia and Europe
- Regional Environment Conference Support, a stage that offers competitive small grants to event organisers addressing environmentally sustainable development, gender equality, and poverty reduction. The selection of grant events is based on open and competitive calls, scheduled on a rolling quarterly basis, to submit concept notes.

- Programme Management, which ensures the effective use of programme resources as well as performing appropriate monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Providing a Regional Platform for Gender Diversity and Poverty Reduction

Through Strategic Collaborative Fund, technical support on diversity of participants and gender inclusion have been strengthened as seen from the 2016 CAEC Forum. Of the total participants, 18% were from ASEAN Member States and 35% of resource persons were women, compared to the baselines of 11% and 13%, respectively.

ENVforum, hosted by Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) and supported by Strategic Collaborative Fund, brings together multiple stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors to discuss issues concerning concerted implementation of SDGs. The annual conference has been organised to delve into key issues of SDG implementation, particularly gender equality.

As an active member of the ENVforum Steering Committee, SEI was able to influence the event's agenda, resulting in a special plenary session on gender. Speakers shared their insights concerning support on women's welfare, female empowerment and women's rights following the UN Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals.



Since 2014, Strategic Collaborative Fund has funded 14 regional events and fora, consisting of a total 169 sessions. The sessions have displayed an increasing trend in themes related to gender equality and poverty reduction with an increase from 0% in 2013 to 59% by the end of the programme in 2016. Poverty reduction-themed sessions show a similar trend.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Gender Integration into Programme Development

Strategic Collaborative Fund mainly supports regional events and fora on environmental sustainability addressing emerging regional issues. However, the programme aims to integrate gender equality into different programmes during each event via the following approaches:

- Establishing and using criteria that emphasise integration of gender equality aspects into the proposed event. Apart from technical criteria and relevance of the event's theme. These criteria are clearly explained in the inception of the partnerships between SEI and grantees, and continuously monitored during the process of preparation and implementation of the supported events. Through the programme, the SEI technical team and gender experts provides partners advice and support on mainstreaming gender and during

planning programme events, implementation and post-event evaluation.

- Developing awareness and capacity of the grantee partners on integrating gender into their events and institutional programming. SEI conducted a training workshop on gender at work on 4-6 July 2016 for two key partners, CAECF and ASEF, and other partners from competitive grantees.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The CAECF and ENVforums are examples that reflect Strategic Collaborative Fund objective of providing an evident platform to engage with intergovernmental mechanisms on critical development and environmental issues.

The agency actively engages in facilitating dialogue between China and ASEAN Member States on environmental cooperation and emerging regional issues while integrating more gender and social equality.

Through ENVforum, SEI emphasises the importance of SDG implementation into the Asia-Europe dialogue as government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders in Asia and Europe discuss SDGs in action, particularly the issue of gender and social equality, and shared experience and lessons learned.

OF THE TOTAL 184 STORIES COLLECTED FROM 2,394 PARTICIPANTS IN THE GRANTED EVENTS

70%

of the stories mentioned about change and awareness after attending SEI-funded events

50%

were from female participants

30%

participants changed their attitude and practice

30%

addressed the benefit of networking during the events

25%

related to gender theme

20%

has built up concrete cooperation after the events

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





THE SUSTAINABLE MEKONG
RESEARCH NETWORK
(SUMERNET)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN
RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER
EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE
CHANGE

In the next phase, SUMERNET 4 All (2018-2022), the regional research network will continue to help improve policy and practices in reducing water insecurities for all, in particular for the poor, marginalised and socially vulnerable groups of women and men in the Mekong Region.



THE SUSTAINABLE MEKONG RESEARCH NETWORK (SUMERNET)

An initiative for research and policy engagement bringing together research partners working on sustainable development in the countries of the Mekong Region: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Since 2005, SUMERNET has supported policy-relevant research and outreach activities to engage policymakers, planners and stakeholders. SUMERNET pursues an evolving agenda in response to questions and policy issues on development and the environment that arise in the region.

Since its inception until the present Phase 3, the long-term goal of the SUMERNET programme is to achieve sustainable development of the Mekong Region through strengthening knowledge-based policy processes. SUMERNET Phase 3 objectives focus on 1) building capacity and delivering high-quality policy research, 2) stimulating bottom-up and demand-driven collaborative research, 3) supporting regional assessments and comparative policy analyses and 4) engaging with policy processes.

PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS





**SUMERNET
BY THE NUMBERS:**



14

Founding member institutes

60+

Member institutes

130+

Individual members working in the Mekong and Southeast Asian countries joining the network at present

100+

Project products including peer-review publications, manuscripts, policy briefs, and books have been published

10

Research projects conducted in Phase 2 and 12 projects in Phase 3

22

Young researchers benefited from SUMERNET Phase 3

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Twelve years of the SUMERNET journey demonstrates how the collective effort of this growing community can lead to positive benefits and changes in the Mekong Region. SUMERNET achievements can be categorised in four dimensions:

1. Expanding the network membership and cross-border collaboration in the Mekong Region

The key benefit of cross-country collaboration is strengthening the relevance of SUMERNET research findings beyond the sub-national and national levels and into the regional policy level. While maintaining the diversity of its membership, a key feature of the network, SUMERNET has also expanded its partnerships from 14 institutes in 2005 to almost 70 institutes in 2017.

2. Improved scientific research and policy-influencing capacity

The success of the capacity-building support for researchers was illustrated by more than 100 project products including 20 peer-reviewed publications, working papers and one high-quality book published in Phase 2 (2010–2013). Most of these products are led by the researchers from the Mekong countries. A number of similar products are being prepared for release in Phase 3.

3. Increased visibility as a credible regional research network in the Mekong Region

As a network, SUMERNET is regarded as a research player with greater visibility in the region given the active participation of SUMERNET researchers and partners in policy and research engagement at multiple levels.

Many requests for hosting, convening and facilitating policy and research engagement events submitted to SUMERNET have reflected not only the increased capacity and confidence of Mekong researchers in policy and research arenas and initiatives, but also the growing credibility of SUMERNET in policy engagement. The Mekong River Commission (MRC)'s "Regional Consultation Meeting on Pak Beng Hydropower Dam Development and MRC Council Study" in February 2017 was a recent example, as SUMERNET members served as overall facilitators for the meeting.

4. Influencing policy and practice through strengthening boundary partner engagement

SUMERNET has been supporting many project partners on the research-policy continuum. Nine stories of change (see list from "Story of Change from the Mekong River" booklet) recently published inspired a wide group of partners, especially those who are in their early career researcher path, to continue their important work in delivering credible knowledge on policies and decision-making based on the best available evidence. The nine stories are:

1. Reducing flood risks for local communities along the Cambodia-Vietnam border
2. How urbanisation impacts the hinterlands
3. Green tourism pathways: Promoting climate-friendly urban tourism in Hue and Chiang Mai
4. Understanding payment for environmental services in Vietnam
5. Directing benefits to the rural poor in contract farming
6. Gender and climate risks in the deltas of the Mekong Region
7. Providing insights for better forest conservation: Engaging with REDD+ policymakers in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand
8. Chindwin Futures: Setting up a river basin organisation
9. Co-producing knowledge to build resilience and recover regional wetlands

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

SUMERNET emphasises and values mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change for achieving long-term sustainability in the Mekong Region. In SUMERNET's research concept notes, gender and social equity are a key criteria for selection. Trainings and regular advice are provided to partners in order to integrate gender perspectives in their research. Additionally, SUMERNET regularly monitors and applies key performance indicators using a gender lens in performance evaluation.



The design of the next phase of SUMERNET will include human rights and democracy with the focus on "reducing water insecurities for all, in particular for the poor, marginalised and socially vulnerable groups of women and men in the Mekong Region" which is expected to take into account gender equality, social equity, human rights, environmental integrity and poverty reduction.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

SUMERNET has worked closely with intergovernmental agencies such as the ASEAN Working groups related to environment, climate change and water resources management, ADB Greater Mekong Subregion initiative, Mekong River Commission (MRC), and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Framework. SUMERNET also contributes to key regional dialogues organised by these regional mechanisms, serving for example as the moderator of the First Regional Consultation Meeting on Pak Beng hydropower development and the MRC Council Study. The project also seeks an opportunity for conducting knowledge sharing, joint publications, and partnerships and collaboration with new emerging intergovernmental mechanisms.



Left and Above: At the Greater Mekong Forum on Water, Food and Energy held in Yangon, SEI Asia showcased a series of games as learning tools to raise awareness about the critical environmental issues in the Chindwin River Basin in Myanmar.

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REGIONAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY
TRAINING CENTER FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



FOCUS AREAS:

- -
 -
 -
 -
- HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY GENDER EQUALITY ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE

Women play a critical role in forest and landscape management in Asia Pacific region, yet they often face inequities in decision-making processes and within institutions.



SUPPORT OF REGIONAL
COMMUNITY FORESTRY
TRAINING CENTER FOR ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

RECOFTC employs a rights-based approach to the delivery of products, services and solutions that aim to strengthen the institutional capacities of multiple stakeholders in the sustainable management of forested landscapes. Under its current Strategic Programme 2013-18, the Center focuses its work on four interlinked areas:

- Securing Community Forestry
- Enhancing Livelihoods and Markets
- People, Forests and Climate Change
- Transforming Forest Conflicts

RECOFTC also emphasises the three crosscutting issues of:

- Social inclusion and gender sensitivity through a rights-based approach
- Community forestry leadership development
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation

Studies show that community forestry (CF) helps reduce forest degradation, enhances forest carbon stocks, and supports reforestation and sustainable forest management efforts.

RECOFTC ACHIEVEMENTS
BY THE NUMBERS:



24%

Increase in locally-managed forest areas in seven RECOFTC focal countries since 2013

16%

Increase in number of households and forest user groups (FUGs) formally managing forests in RECOFTC focal countries since 2013

75,000

Households directly benefiting from RECOFTC work since 2013

AT A GLANCE

The Center for People and Forests was founded in 1987 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the Government of Switzerland and Thailand's Kasetsart University to promote community forestry and empower local people for stronger rights and equitable benefits of local communities in Asia Pacific. The Center works with stakeholders to improve practices, policies and institutions for community forestry in the region.

Headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, RECOFTC has programme offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. Since its establishment, RECOFTC has trained over 60,000 people, 30% of which are women, from more than 40 countries.

PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

RECOFTC's Strategic Programme 2013-18 has the overall goal of increasing the forest area formally under community management, and number of legal and active local managers, by 10%. The organisation's work has made successful contributions to these goals: in RECOFTC's seven focal countries, the area under community forestry (CF) and other local management regimes has increased by 2.3 million hectares (24%) since 2013, and the number of households involved in formally-recognised forest user groups (FUGs) has increased by over 600,000 households (16%) since 2013.

The organisation has directly supported the development of almost 390 FUGs comprising over 75,000 households and some 270,000 hectares of forest since 2013.

RECOFTC has also supported the improvement of legal forest tenure policy frameworks and institutions for community-based and smallholder forest management. Key progress has been made in simplifying procedures to transfer tenure rights to local people, expanding their rights to sell certain forest products and increasingly recognising the role that social forestry can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH
ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY
AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED
APPROACH

Strengthening the forest tenure rights
of local people

A core component of RECOFTC's work, and a foundational tool with which local people can better their lives, preserve their dignity and gain formal tenure rights over forests, this mechanism legitimises local forest management and use practices, offers livelihood options for local people by allowing commercialisation of forest products, and affords them legal avenues to protection and compensation in the event of outsider encroachment.

Community forestry (CF) helps reduce forest degradation, enhances forest carbon stocks and supports reforestation and sustainable forest management.



Left and Above: RECOFTC strategically works through partnerships to develop institutional and stakeholder capacities for meaningful incentives, engagement and fair rewards to local people.

Sustainable forest management
through community forestry

A vital strategy in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, as well as proactively minimising the adverse impacts of climate change in the region, sustainable community-based forest management also contributes to increasing local adaptive capacities and resilience to climate change. RECOFTC strategically works through partnerships to develop institutional and stakeholder capacities for more meaningful incentives, engagement and fair rewards to local people for vital environmental services.

Scaling up Gender Leadership
Programme

Women play a critical role in forest and landscape management in the Asia-Pacific region, yet they often face inequities in decision-making processes and within institutions. This harms forest management conditions and constrains the ability of women to reach their potential and give back to their communities. RECOFTC works to empower women and other vulnerable groups to exercise greater decision-making roles and ensure their needs and interests in natural resource management are met.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

In its 30-year history, RECOFTC has been increasingly recognised as a regional convener and knowledge management hub for learning and sharing community forestry management. Since 2009 RECOFTC has supported the development of the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), which has been initiated as a formal governmental regional mechanism for social forestry development and exchange. AWG-SF allows RECOFTC and partners to share learning on community forestry across 10 ASEAN member states and to promote recommendations for better policy and practice.

RECOFTC also closely engages at international and regional levels including UN agencies and initiatives such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), the World Agroforestry Centre, the Rights and Resources Initiative, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet). As part of the Global Forest Network on Communication, RECOFTC leads the Asia-Pacific Network that actively engages all partners and ensures forestry priorities are effectively disseminated and advocated throughout the region.

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THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA (EEPSEA)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

Started in 1993 as a programme funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), EEPSEA's mission is to strengthen local capacity in Southeast Asian countries in the economic analysis of environmental problems so that researchers can provide sound advice to policymakers.

Through its 22-year support of training courses and research projects, EEPSEA has helped build a generation of environmental economists in Southeast Asia, who help their governments formulate policy on environment issues. It is the only regional programme that provides economic and environmental researchers with resources and opportunities to gain expertise in economics research.

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS PARTNERSHIP FOR GREENER, CLEANER AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The programme aims to support a development path that is greener, cleaner and contributes to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals under Agenda 2030. A greener development pays attention natural resource consumption by country to promote a sustainable ecosystem. A cleaner development promotes production and consumption decisions that do not harm the environment, are carbon conscious, and pose no threat to human health. And an inclusive development pursues growth that respects the right of all people to have just, transparent, and gender-sensitive access to natural and environmental resources.

This four-year programme, to be conducted during 2017-2020, will assist SEA governments in the research implementation, training and partnership-policy interaction considered to be the key components of the development of a greener, cleaner and inclusive path. EEPSEA, in partnership with the Economy and Environment Institute – Lower Mekong Subregion (EEI-LMS), will bring into focus the negative impacts of any development activities and programmes on the people, environment, and natural capital in the region. The project supports researchers in communication with relevant decision makers' findings that can be used as policy inputs and programme implementation to achieve the greener, cleaner and inclusive development path.

EEPSEA YEAR 2020
TARGET BY THE NUMBERS:



30

Research grants provided

20

Research reports produced

150

Participants attended economic valuation training every year

60

Novice researchers engaged every year

125

Researchers acquired skills

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The project's planned deliverables by 2020 are:

Research Implementation

A total of 30 small research grants allocated to researchers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia would equip the skills needed in developing and conducting subsequent research, as well as effectively teaching their students with research-oriented methods. A minimum of 20 research reports would be required from the grants, recognising that some of the research grants will largely be for training or instructional purposes only. Up to four research proposals per year will be considered over a period of four years, and at least one research programme will be funded per year.

Training and Capacity Building

At least 150 participants per year will attend a training course on economic valuation for improved natural resources and environmental management. At least 60 teachers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia will join the introductory environmental economics course for novice researchers. Two courses will

be conducted each year. At least 60 researchers will participate in a training course on communicating research for environmental economics researchers aimed at improving the capacity of environmental economics researchers to effectively communicate with their target audience, making research results understood and ultimately used by others. A minimum of 125 researchers, environmental economists and those from partner organisations are expected to attend the planned regional course on environmental economics and the transdisciplinary research approach.

Partnership and Policy Interaction

At least three new partnerships will be established each year by the EEPSEA Partnership. Workshops to be organised each year will provide an accessible platform for networking among researchers and partners to exchange information and communicate research findings for policymaking and advocacy.

The project supports researchers in communication with relevant decision makers' findings that can be used as policy inputs and programme implementation to achieve the greener, cleaner, and inclusive development path.



At least 150 regional participants per year will attend a training course on Economic Evaluation for Improved Natural Resources and Environmental Management.



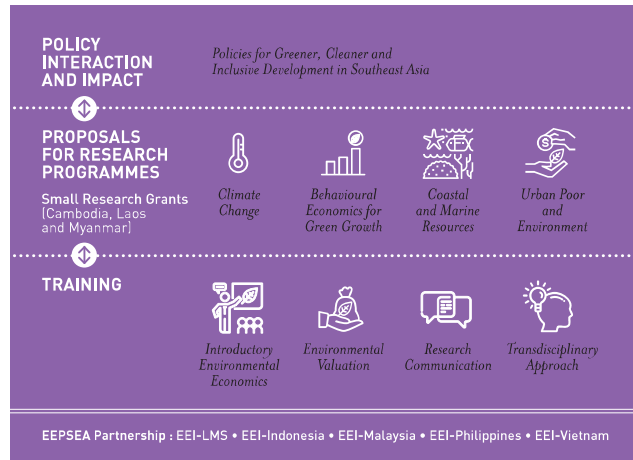
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PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK :



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The project plans to support research studies by integrating knowledge concepts and different strategies of men and women, different ethnical groups or community related. Social and gender factors and economic and environmental values will be taken into consideration in trainings so that results can be delivered to involved parties and integrated into policymaking.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

EEPSEA partnership provides a unique regional platform for environmental economics and transdisciplinary research that will contribute to addressing and finding solutions to complex environmental challenges at the country and regional levels. The project will work with different partners to communicate those research findings to relevant decision makers so that they can be used as inputs in designing policies and programmes that foster a greener, cleaner and inclusive development.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

The environmental and climate-related challenges of the Asia-Pacific region are severe, but can be managed or solved. Cooperation, in many forms and by all kinds of stakeholders, is a key tool to address the challenges. Since the challenges often transcend borders, they require regional and transboundary cooperation to be fully addressed or solved.

Environmental and climate problems, such as pollution, degradation of natural resources, or natural disasters, negatively affect people's lives and human rights. In response, environmental policy and decision-making must build on gender equality and inclusion of marginalised groups at all levels. Democratic governance is essential for environmental sustainability and effective climate change response. Regional cooperation and regional actors that adopt an integrated approach, joining environment and climate change with human rights, democracy and gender equality, improve the chances of achieving sustainable, impactful results in line with the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.



THE PACIFIC-EUROPEAN UNION MARINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

Comprised of 28 member states, the European Union (EU) is a key player in the development and humanitarian field. Partnering with global organisations, communities and countries across the world, the EU promotes good governance, human and economic development and tackles universal issues such as fighting hunger and preserving natural resources.

The EU is one of the largest donors in the Pacific region with longstanding partnerships in the sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, regional economic integration and rural development. Since 1975 the EU has supported several large regional fishery projects in the Pacific during this time, including Science for Coastal and Ocean Fisheries and the Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Countries Project (DEVFISH phase I and II), which were both jointly implemented by the regional organisations, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme has been designed based on experiences and lessons learned from a multitude of programmes and in complementarity with existing and planned initiatives to catalyse real changes in the sector. A long consultative and participatory process with different stakeholders has been key to secure an integrated and demand-driven approach in which ownership is key.



THE PACIFIC-EUROPEAN UNION MARINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The PEUMP programme aims to improve the economic, social and environmental impact of the fishing industry for 15 Pacific ACP states by strengthening regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. It takes a comprehensive approach, integrating issues related to oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, community development, marine conservation and further capacity building under a single regional action. The programme is co-financed by the European Commission and the government of Sweden.

Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems will be improved through better quality scientific information, legal advice and empowerment at community level.



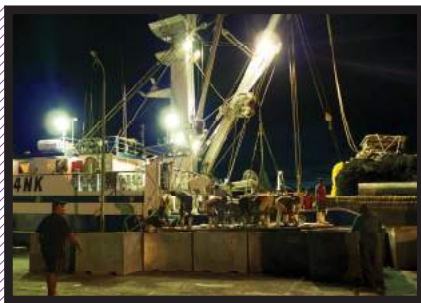
PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

PEUMP is expected to start implementation in mid - 2018. The programme focuses on six key results' areas that are based on six identified areas of challenge that are aligned with two regional policy frameworks: the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and the Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries.

The six key results cover the following areas:

- 1) High-quality scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries provided and utilised at the regional and national level.
- 2) Inclusive economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing as a result of supporting competent authorities and strengthening the capacity of the private sector to create employment.
- 3) Improved sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems through better quality scientific information, legal advice, support, mentoring and empowerment at the community level.
- 4) Reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through enhanced monitoring control and surveillance of both oceanic and coastal fisheries, improved legislation, access to information and effective marine area management.
- 5) Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine biodiversity promoted through improving marine special planning, increasing climate change resilience, enhancing conservation/mitigation and rehabilitation measures.
- 6) Increased capacity building through education, training and research and development for key stakeholder groups in fisheries and marine resources management.

The PEUMP programme aims to improve the economic, social and environmental impact of the fishing industry.



PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine diversity will be promoted through improving marine special planning, increasing climate change resilience, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The main organisations responsible for implementing the PEUMP programme are the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

SPC is the principal scientific and technical organisation; SPREP has a mandate from Pacific governments and administrations to protect and secure the sustainable development of the region's environment; and FFA aims to strengthen national capacity and regional solidarity for sustainable tuna fisheries.

In addition, the University of the South Pacific (USP), the main regional capacity-builder, is responsible for the implementation of a specific component of the programme focused on education, trainings and research.

These regional organisations work closely with national governmental agencies and departments responsible for fisheries and the environment in each country and also engage directly with coastal communities and the fishing industry.

SPC, FFA, SPREP and USP will also partner with several international and regional non-governmental organisations and with the private sector to deliver quality results at community, national and regional levels.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

PEUMP is a gender sensitive programme that includes a consistent human rights-based approach. The point of departure is the "EU rights-based approach toolbox", whose approach aims at enhancing accountability, participation transparency, and non-discrimination at regional and national organizations in the Pacific. The point of departure for the gender perspective is the EU Gender Action Plan "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women".

The integration of gender considerations and a rights-based approach will be further defined during the inception phase of the programme. The results framework will also be fine-tuned to assure that the selection of relevant indicators for gender equality and human rights are present and can measure the effective mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality.

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EU FLEGT Facility

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AWARENESS
AND OWNERSHIP OF FOREST GOVERNANCE ISSUES
IN THE GREATER MEKONG REGION DURING 2014-2018



FOCUS AREAS:

- -
 -
 -
 -
- HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY GENDER EQUALITY ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE



PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

Established in 2003, the European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced timber.

As an executing agency, the European Forest Institute hosts the EU FLEGT Facility to support the implementation of the action plan. The facility supports the EU in its negotiation with countries producing and exporting timber products to tackle illegally produced timber trade.

Any country that signs a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU will commit to developing legality assurance systems which will be used to verify law compliance of timber products. Then VPA partner countries will issue FLEGT licences for exports of verified products to its regulated market, which is prohibited from placing illegal timber products.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AWARENESS AND OWNERSHIP OF FOREST GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE GREATER MEKONG REGION DURING 2014-2018

The arrival of industrial-scale logging in the 1960s, combined with the emergence of low-cost manufacturing in the 1990s aimed at supplying finished timber products to northern economies, has taken a large toll on Southeast Asia's natural forests. The region's forest loss, degradation and conversion have been the results of both legally compiled development plans and illegal logging.

Since 2008, the EU FLEGT Facility's Asia Regional Office has worked with timber-producing countries in the region to alleviate illegal logging and promote better governance in forest management.

As countries engage in the negotiation of VPAs and the development of legal frameworks, strictly enforcing the new law and regulations could harm small and micro enterprises (SMEs) in the formal and informal sector, potentially increasing poverty. VPA processes therefore need to consider such risks and explore support mechanisms for SMEs and smallholders (free growers) to overcome legal barriers.

Unfortunately, there is the near absence of reliable data on this sector. The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) there is therefore has supported the facility to address this issue in four Mekong countries—Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam—aiming to fill these information gaps and help small-scale operators to operate legally. It pays particular attention to the potential impacts of VPAs on women.

Entitled Strengthening Regional Awareness and Ownership of Forest Governance Issues in the Greater Mekong Region, the Sida-supported project covers a period from 2014 to 2018 and has the overall goal to contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable forest management.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

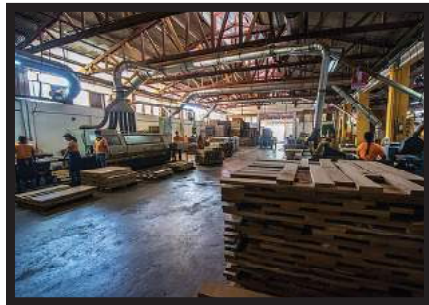
The facility has strengthened efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries to tackle illegal logging and improve forest governance.

It has also raised awareness among state agencies and the private sector about the importance of legal timber products. It has improved understanding on how small forest product enterprises operate in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The facility has prepared recommendations for policy and regulatory reforms that take into account the needs of small enterprises and women.

The project has further developed support mechanisms that strengthen regional ownership and cooperation in Asia. Policies and support measures have been identified and implemented to help SMEs and smallholders comply with the EU market's requirements.

In addition, the project resulted in the strengthening of ASEAN structures and non-state forums contributing to improved forest governance. Major consumer markets have also worked towards putting in place policies or legislation complementary to the facility's goals and actions.



PROGRESS ON VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS



NOVEMBER 2016

Indonesia became the first country in the world to issue FLEGT licences to the verified legal timber products it exports to the EU.

MAY 2017

Vietnam concluded a VPA negotiation with the EU and later signed the VPA and initiated FLEGT licensing process.

OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES

Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are still in the process of negotiating VPAs.



The EU FLEGT programme raises awareness among state agencies and the private sector about the importance of legal timber products.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The EU FLEGT facility has assisted ASEAN to develop mechanisms that help strengthen regional ownership and cooperation. It also assists ASEAN's members with identifying and piloting policies and measures that have enabled SMEs and smallholders to comply with the changing timber market requirements.

It has also provided support to the Work Plan for FLEGT in ASEAN (2016-2025). This enable its member countries to consider common positions or a possible regional code of conduct on timber trade.

Regional cooperation has also been carried out with support to civil society organisations and the private sector.

The facility in particular facilitates the participation of SMEs in ASEAN's processes. It has assisted stakeholders to overcome regularity barriers and obstacles including those specific to women in the Mekong region.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The facility has incorporated gender equality as a key element in activities it organised for small and micro-sized enterprises. This has helped them gain understanding that can be further shared with national stakeholders and policy-makers.

There has also been progress in legislation. The facility has engaged lawmakers in the region on drafting laws prohibiting illegal logging.

ASEAN has included FLEGT principles in its processes.

Through these activities, the facility has promoted dialogue that integrates diverse issues covering human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change.

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Countries signing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) under the programme will issue FLEGT licences for exports of the verified products to its regulated markets.



THE MRC'S STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR 2016-2020



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



THE MRC'S STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR 2016-2020

To jointly manage and develop the Mekong River sustainably, the MRC adopts five procedures including water quality, data sharing, water use monitoring, water flow maintenance, and water use consultation and supports a planning process for basin development based on principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which promotes economic and social welfare while sustaining ecosystems of the LMB. Moreover, the MRC convenes information exchange, dialogue and negotiation on water resources management of stakeholders such as governments, private sector, and civil society. It also serves as a knowledge hub that promotes regional cooperation and policy-making based on scientific evidence.

The MRC employed the first Basin Development Strategy during 2011-2015. At present, the MRC's Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 is being implemented to deliver the following four key results:

- To have better national basin plans, projects and resources.
- To strengthen regional cooperation.
- To enhance the monitoring and communication of conditions in the LMB to help member countries make better decisions.
- To become a leaner river basin organisation.

AT A GLANCE

Established in 1995, MRC is an intergovernmental organisation working as a supportive platform for water diplomacy and cooperation within the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) region for its member countries – Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam – which share benefits from the common water resources of the Mekong River. The MRC enables its member countries to work together in order to finance, develop, manage and conserve the LMB in the issues of fisheries, flood control, irrigation, hydropower and navigation.

The MRC was the first international river body to take on responsibilities for the finance, management and maintenance of water resources of the world's tenth- largest and second-most bio-diverse river.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

For more than 20 years, the MRC has been supporting its member countries to jointly develop and manage the LMB sustainably. Several achievements have been recognised. For example, the first Mekong Basin Development Strategy and the use of water resources procedural rules were developed, Scenarios of the countries water development assessment were conducted. Additionally, various agreements were reached, such as between the MRC and China for sharing technical knowledge and running joint assessments, as well as an agreement between Cambodia and Vietnam on water-based transport.

With its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, the MRC is expecting these key outcomes.

- Increased common understanding and application of evidence-based knowledge by policymakers and project planners.
- Optimised environment management and the development of sustainable water resources by national sector planning agencies to provide basin-wide benefits.
- Improved guidance of the development and management of water, as well as related projects and resources, by national planning and implementing agencies.

FACTS ABOUT MEKONG RIVER BASIN



It flows almost 5,000 kilometres through six countries.



The world's tenth-largest river



The world's second-most bio-diverse river.



Its basin covers a massive land area of 795,000 square kilometres



Home of 65 million people



It provides four million tons of fish and aquatic animals per year



The world's number one in-land fishery

- Effective dialogue and cooperation between member countries, as well as the strategic engagement of regional partners and stakeholders on transboundary water management.
- Strengthened basin-wide monitoring and forecasting, as well as better impact assessments and results dissemination leading to improved decision-making by member countries.
- Efficient and effective organisational structure in line with the Decentralisation Roadmap and related reform plans.

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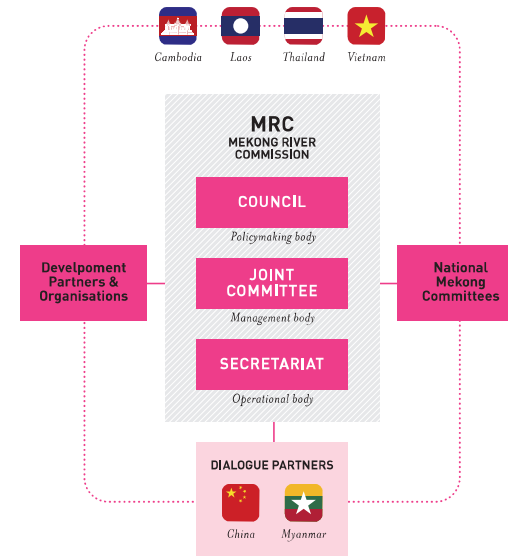
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Left and Above: The Mekong River Commission is the first international river body to take on responsibilities for finance, management and maintenance of water resources of the world's tenth-largest and second-largest bio-diverse river.

MRC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The agenda of gender mainstreaming in sustainable water resources management has been widely acknowledged by all MRC member countries.

In 2000, the MRC Gender Policy was endorsed by the governments of the riparian countries.

In addition, the Basin Development Strategy 2016-2020 presents gender trends and outlooks and highlights gender mainstreaming in the Lower Mekong region. In the MRC Strategic Plans 2016-2020, seven gender indicators were integrated in all four keys MRC outcomes.

In 2017, the MRC developed and adopted the Gender Action Plan to integrate and operationalise gender in key MRC work and activities.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The MRC is an intergovernmental organisation working with stakeholders across the region. Aware that a "whole basin" approach through the cooperation between the member countries and the upper riparian countries – Myanmar and China – is crucial for the Mekong River development and management, the MRC has developed regular communication, information sharing and technical exchanges with China and Myanmar with the aim to institutionalise a more extensive information sharing system on river flows and reservoir operations as well as joint technical studies, state of basin reporting and experience exchanges in flood and drought management.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

THE REGIONAL RIGHTS RESOURCE TEAM (RRRT)



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN
RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER
EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE
CHANGE

The Tonga Women's Crisis Centre, a key partner with the Tonga Legal Aid Centre provides justice for survivors of domestic violence.



Members of the Vanuatu State delegation reporting on Vanuatu's progress towards commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

The Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) is the human rights programme of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Established in 1995, SPC RRRT is a pioneer of Pacific human rights capacity development and lead in human rights technical assistance. RRRT works with Pacific states and civil society to build a culture of human rights, and to assist Pacific states to commit to and observe international human rights and good governance commitments, obligations and standards.

Through its work, RRRT is a leading regional change agent in the Pacific. RRRT supports states and civil society to take greater responsibility in prioritising human rights issues and responding effectively to these issues including gender inequality, violence against women and children, climate change, migration, social inclusion and non-discrimination.

Over the past 20 years, SPC RRRT built strong and enduring relationships of trust with parliaments, judges, magistrates, lawyers and lay magistrates; a range of government ministries and departments; and civil society organisations (CSOs) throughout the region. RRRT is able to leverage these relationships to sustain political will and action to advance human rights and good governance.

Having a total of eight member states and an office based in Suva, Fiji, RRRT continues to enjoy a comparative advantage in interpreting and applying international human rights in the context of Pacific cultures and the Pacific way of life.

In 1998, the team won the United Nations Maurice Pate Award for groundbreaking work in the Pacific region and in July 2015 SPC RRRT was nominated by the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Wellington, New Zealand for the global Human Rights Tulip Award. RRRT has a strong record of success in embedding the culture and practice of human rights in the region.

THE REGIONAL RIGHTS RESOURCE TEAM

SPC RRRT plans to implement many activities at the regional and country levels over the next five years with the following focuses:

Mainstreaming a rights-based approach

This approach includes supporting current projects within SPC to use a rights-based and gender-inclusive approach in their implementation, through training of project staff and capacity development with implementation teams in project countries. In addition, this will include capacity support to divisions that are trying to apply a rights-based approach through needs assessment and technical assistance to design project documents implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Increasing women's access to justice

The approach will be reflected in RRRT's pilot project in Tonga to open a legal aid centre for survivors of domestic violence. The centre will provide free legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence to enable them to access protection orders and other related family law services.

Capacity development of CSOs

Activities will include supporting the ongoing Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) programme by mentoring CSOs in selected countries to develop human rights advocacy campaigns. Small grants will also be provided for groups to carry out the campaign.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the key activities, these are the project's anticipated achievements:

- Strengthened capacity of SPC projects and government partners to apply a human rights and gender-based approach to development. It is anticipated that a human rights-based approach will be put into practice upon completion of the project by governments and communities.
- Women facing domestic violence have knowledge on access to justice. The Tongan Legal Aid Centre is an innovative and one-of-a-kind project in the Pacific and will be dedicated solely to providing free legal assistance to women. It is anticipated that women will be able to access the services free of charge including support with formal protection applications to the court and referral to other service providers. This should increase women's knowledge and agency to access justice and other support services.
- CSOs have increased capacity to monitor and advocate for human rights. CSOs in a number of countries have already been trained on developing human rights campaigns. This project will build on these gains and expand the scope of work to the outer islands. CSOs throughout the Pacific Islands will have increased capacity in human rights advocacy and hold their governments and other stakeholders accountable.



At Kiribati Islands, ensuring women and young people inclusion in climate change programming decision-making is essential for equitable and sustainable development for all.

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<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCq-WrFgHdrgdkRt-3VENLqFloRwFDQj7U>



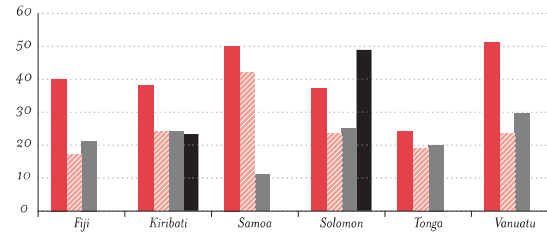
SPC
Website:
<http://www.spc.int/>



<https://www.facebook.com/spc.int/>



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EXPOSURE OF RESPONDENTS, THEIR PARTNERS AND MOTHERS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) DURING RESPONDENTS' CHILDHOOD (percentage of women aged 15-49 or 18-49)

■ Respondents Mother Experienced IPV
▨ Respondent's Mother In Law Experienced IPV
■ Partner Beaten As Child
■ Respondent Experience Of Child Sexual Abuse

Source: UNICEF

FORMS OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC



1. **Intimate partner violence:** including physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse; destruction/theft of property; and forced pregnancy



2. **Sexual violence:** opportunistic rape; punishment or 'payback rape'; sexual abuse of girls and incest; gang rape; abduction for rape; conflict-related rape; sexual harassment at workplaces and schools; and sexual exploitation of women and girls by male family members



3. **Other forms of violence:** arranged marriage; forced marriage as part of a dispute settlement; mistreatment of widows; sorcery accusations; violence against sex workers; violence against women

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The project seeks to mainstream human rights-based approaches and put into practice among all Pacific Islanders, and specifically those who are marginalised. For example, climate change projects which do not address issues around gender inequality can never purport to further human rights and the needs of all populations.

Gender inequality is endemic in the Pacific and needs to be specifically addressed within development projects to ensure that the half of Pacific Islanders who are female are not further marginalised by projects which might not take their specific needs into account.

CSOs are empowered to call for better protection and rights from their governments. The issues of gender inequality and climate change will be brought at the forefront of the national dialogue as these are the most pressing issues facing Pacific Islanders. It will force governments to recognise the mutual interactions between all of these issues and realise that development cannot be progressed without ensuring that this is done in an inclusive manner.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

As a division within an intergovernmental organisation, RRRT responds to government needs and demands by providing comprehensive technical assistance and capacity building on a wide range of human rights issues, particularly gender equality, climate change, sexual and gender diversity, access to justice, human rights compliance and ending violence against women.

Although RRRT's mandate has always revolved around human rights and gender equality, the specific work has changed in response to government needs. RRRT's responsiveness and ability to adapt to the changing needs of its members is one of its most enduring accomplishments. This is due to its flexibility and its staffing structure.



TOWARDS A NON-TOXIC SOUTHEAST ASIA



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

Established in 1986, the Swedish Chemicals Agency (Kemi) is a supervisory authority under the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Sweden, responsible for ensuring that companies producing or importing chemicals take responsibility for the safety of products placed on the Swedish market. Kemi works to reduce the risk of harm from chemicals to humans and the environment.

In Sweden, Kemi develops legislation and provides suggestions to the government to strengthen the rules on chemicals, and reviews applications for the sale and use of plant-protection and biocidal products. Kemi also supervises and inspects importers and producers of chemical products and pesticides.

At the international level, Kemi supports preventive chemicals control in both developing countries and those in economic transition. Kemi has collaborated with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to deliver chemical management programmes in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

TOWARDS A NON-TOXIC SOUTHEAST ASIA

Kemi works in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) and the Field Alliance (TFA) to launch a programme with an aim to strengthen capacity to monitor, regulate and manage chemicals used in agriculture and industry. Rapid industrialisation and chemicals management are among challenges facing Southeast Asia. To reduce health and environmental risks in the region, and in particular the Mekong region covering Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as well as Guangxi and Hainan provinces in China, the following key activities have been introduced under the programme:



- Monitoring the use of pesticides at the community level and reporting results to policymakers at local, national, regional and global levels.
- Raising awareness of risks of pesticides, risk-reduction measures and alternatives to chemicals through trainings and meetings, educational programmes, and the production and distribution of informational material and use of conventional and social media.
- Supporting community development of action plans to reduce the exposure and use of hazardous chemicals, to forward adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by smallholder farmers through participation in Farmers Field Schools, and promotion of scaling up of farmer education on IPM and pesticide risk reduction by local governments and other donors.
- Supporting an improvement of legislation on pesticides, industrial and consumer chemicals and capacity for efficient enforcement of such legislation.
- Assisting regional collaboration on chemicals management through organisation of regional forums and workshops for information sharing, networking and capacity building.

**KemI WORKS
ACROSS THE REGION:**



CHINA:

Restricted use of chlorpyrifos and paraquat. Substantial government investment in scaling up the work on IPM and Farmer Field Schools, including for poverty alleviation



CAMBODIA:

Reduction of pesticide risk, improved occupational safety of farmers



LAOS:

The country's first chemical law enactment, adoption of a prime ministerial decree on pesticide management, paraquat ban



MYANMAR:

Adoption of revised pesticide regulation as well as a framework law on chemicals and related secondary legislation



VIETNAM:

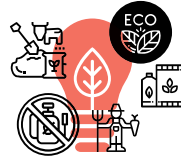
Paraquat ban, improved occupational safety of farmers, substantial government investment in scaling up the work on IPM and Farmer Field Schools

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Among KemI's the programme's 2017 highlighted outcomes are:

- Adoption of new and revised policies and legislation on pesticides, industrial and consumer chemicals in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Decreased use of hazardous chemicals and pesticides, fewer poisoning cases, and preserved ecosystem services have been observed in project areas where farmers have attended IPM (Integrated Pest Management) training and have switched to more sustainable and profitable farming methods.
- Increased knowledge and attention to risks from pesticides to children, including introduction of measures to protect this particularly vulnerable groups.
- Knowledge and results from the programme contributed to global attention and support for phasing out the most Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) identified as an issue of concern within the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), as well as the development of relevant guidance and tools to support this work.

**KemI HIGHLIGHTS
BY THE NUMBERS:**



78,000

Farmers in the region have reduced their use of pesticides, stopped using the most acutely toxic pesticides and switched to more sustainable farming methods as a result of trainings on pesticide risk reduction and season long Farmer Field Schools

110,000

Rural community members have taken part in various awareness raising activities and/or trainings on risks and alternatives farming practices, including agro-ecology.

5,000

Teachers, officials and communities members strengthened on their understanding of agro-biodiversity and impact of pesticide use. Close to 10,000 students have also participated in the Rural Ecological Agriculture for Livelihood (REAL) activities.



KemI's programme supports regional capacity building and exchange for studies and development of educational programmes and measures to protect and minimise pesticide exposure.

Women's rights and empowerment within the farming community are put into practice through KemI's activities and leadership development.



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

KemI supports the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS), contributing to increased availability of information on chemical hazards and safe handling of chemicals.

Women's rights and empowerment within the farming community are put into practice through training activities and leadership development. Programme activities focus on poor smallholder farmers in a bid to enhance the livelihoods and sustainability of farming communities.

The programme supports regional capacity building and exchange for studies and development of educational programmes and measures to protect and minimise pesticide exposure to children.

KemI contributes to efficient and safe food production, safe workplaces and reduced pollution, achieving food security, well being, sustainable water management and economic growth, ensuring sustainable consumption and protection of ecological system and the prevention of forest and land degradation.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Regional harmonisation of chemicals legislation can strengthen the protection of human health and the environment, facilitate trade and efficiently utilise government resources.

To support this development, the programme has created a regional chemicals management forum for capacity building, information exchange and networking, and a dialogue with the ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste on how to cooperate and enhance sound chemicals management in the region.

The programme also actively engages with the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission, regional subsidiary of the International Plant Protection Convention.

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PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a multi-lateral development agency that mainly works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion in nearly 170 countries and territories. Formed in 1965, the agency also supports the countries in achieving sustainable development of natural resources through policymaking, skills, partnership and institution establishment so that they can be as effective as possible in achieving their goals.

UNDP is the UN's global development network advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP's vision is to support countries in achieving the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion.

UNDP's Projects

01

Being LGBTI In Asia, Phase 2

02

Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance to Enhance Gender Equality

03

The United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)



BEING LGBTI IN ASIA, PHASE 2



FOCUS AREAS:



BEING LGBTI IN ASIA, PHASE 2

Being LGBTI in Asia, Phase 2 (BLIA) is a regional partnership between the UNDP, the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, USAID and the Faith in Love Foundation (Hong Kong). The programme aims to reduce the marginalisation and exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. Launched in 2012, BLIA works with civil society, national and regional institutions, and governments to empower civil society and advance protective laws and policies through policy advocacy, operational research and strategy development between a range of stakeholders.

Key activities include building the capacity and strengthening the governance of LGBTI organisations and networks to effectively advocate and contribute to policy dialogues and community empowerment activities; engaging governments and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to create laws and policies that protect sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) rights; and reducing stigma, discrimination, and harmful practices against LGBTI people.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

BLIA has increased the social inclusion of LGBTI persons across Asia by bringing their voices to places where they were previously unrepresented. For example, the programme has enabled civil society to take part in the drafting of legal gender recognition legislation in India, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, anti-discrimination legislation in the Philippines, and gender-responsiveness in the justice systems in Thailand and the Philippines.

The programme has also helped civil society organisations address LGBTI issues more effectively by advocating and contributing to policy dialogues. This includes helping the ASEAN SOGIE Caucus and Asia Pacific Transgender Network become legally registered, and strengthening their governance and sustainability.

In total, the programme has engaged over 1,000 organisations and groups across Asia Pacific, both those working directly on LGBTI issues and groups working on relevant areas of education, gender and women's issues, human rights, health, employment, media, faith and more.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



BLIA REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:



1,000

Organisations

130

Governments

357

Civil Society Groups

17

NHRIs

88

Private Sector Organisations

30

Schools, human rights, LGBTI and youth organisations in 11 countries.

55,100

People reached the #PurpleMySchool campaign via social media

200

Private sector participants attended a global dialogue highlighting LGBTI inclusion in working process

110

Media professionals were sensitised on SOGIE issues at media roundtables in China, the Philippines and Thailand

Right and Below: Being LGBTI in Asia, Phase 2 (BLIA) has increased the social inclusion of LGBTI persons across Asia by bringing their voices to places where they were previously unrepresented.



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

BLIA has strengthened the voice of LGBTI people in the region's development discourse. Consequently legal gender recognition and anti-discrimination laws and policies have been prioritised. The BLIA programme draws on learnings from UNDP's portfolio that cuts across sectors to address human development with efforts to scale-up human rights and gender equality approaches in national, regional and global AIDS responses.

In order to mainstream SOGIESC into the wider human rights work, BLIA has partnered with the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) to provide training for NHRIs to support the human rights of LGBTI persons. In addition it has increasingly engaged private sector companies in the discourse on LGBTI inclusion.

BLIA makes special efforts to ensure balanced representation across all SOGIESC, and supports and reaches out to underrepresented groups within it, including trans men, intersex people, lesbian women and bisexual men and women. Specific support has been given to the nascent intersex rights advocacy movement, and research focusing on economic empowerment is currently planned.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Through its regional platform, BLIA is able to approach issues that might be deemed too sensitive for local work, and it shares the good practices of one country with others in the region. This fosters South-South learning by sharing regional knowledge with both government policy makers and civil society across the region.

During Phase 2, the programme has supported LGBTI civil society inclusion in the Universal Periodic Review processes in China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, including support for the submission of shadow reports on SOGIESC issues in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The programme has also helped relevant submissions be made to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (intersex issues in Nepal); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (SOGIESC issues in Thailand as part of a joint civil society statement); and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (joint statement by women's groups in Thailand).

Seven submissions have been made to the Independent Expert on SOGIE and one to the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Children. Ten letters were sent by programme partners in support of the independent experts on SOGIE's mandate.



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<https://medium.com/being-lgbt-in-asia>

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY



FOCUS AREAS:



GCCF programme aims to support countries to unlock the sustainable development potential for climate finance and optimise their benefits, gender equality, poverty reduction and human rights.



STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY

The Governance of Climate Change Finance (GCCF) Programme brings together a diverse team of climate change and climate finance, governance, gender, and human rights specialists providing tools and services to support better management of climate budgeting and financing.

The main objective is to support countries to unlock the sustainable development potential for climate finance. In order to secure increasing climate finance (both domestic and international) as well as to optimise their benefits in terms of gender equality, poverty reduction and respect for human rights, governments need well-considered, transparent and effective budgets.

From late 2016, GCCF has been expanding its partnerships to include sector ministries, social ministries, and ministries leading on gender mainstreaming. While continuing to focus on climate change mainstreaming as the entry point for sustainable planning and budget reforms, GCCF also aims to support climate actions in terms of gender equality, poverty reduction and respect for human rights.

The project's key activities are as follows:

- Assisting governments in making more risk-informed, effective planning and budget decisions taking into account climate change and gender equality.
- Supporting countries to develop budget tagging to more effectively track resources and results.
- Creating tools and partnerships with CSOs and Parliaments to increase the transparency of spending, providing greater accountability of line ministries and promotes international trust in a country's use of climate finance.
- Assisting governments to adopt investment appraisal guidelines and budget circulars that require the integration of climate change, poverty and gender equality in their designs
- Building the capacity of regional and national institutions to promote climate responsive budgets that are gender responsive, benefit the poor and enhance human rights.
- Providing clear budgets, data sets and evidence to make the case for additional financing.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The GCCF team has experienced considerable success and rapid expansion in its first years of operation. Since 2012 the programme has provided tools and specialists to assist governments in collecting comprehensive data on climate related spending and income.

Climate budget tagging in Indonesia, Bangladesh, The Philippines and Nepal has been established. This has generated critical data on climate investments enabling public scrutiny and strengthening accountability.

From 2012-2016, the programme leveraged US\$ 26.2 million in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand. Climate Change Financial Frameworks in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Pakistan were developed. In Thailand and Cambodia, Sector Ministries have been supported to develop climate compatible budget proposals for funding by Ministries of Finance.

Over a dozen analytical papers relating to financing local responses to climate change were produced. These papers illustrate all methods to conduct the tools and reviews used by GCCF specialists and publication of the team's findings. Over 15 national climate finance consultations involving over 500 technical experts were held.

Capacity development workshops were organised with over 100 participants receiving best-practice training on climate change related financing and budgeting skills.

Six regional dialogues were held with 16 Asia Pacific countries and over 1,000 participants from governments, civil society organisations, parliamentarians and other international organisations. Direct South-South exchange has been facilitated between Bangladesh and Indonesia, and China and Pakistan where experience in climate budget tagging systems was shared and fed into design of reforms.

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

GCCF works to harness political commitments on climate change to advocate and provide public policy solutions that facilitate climate responses through the budget that also promotes gender equality and human rights.

The programme assists governments in the creation of Climate Change Financing Frameworks (CCFF) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan. The frameworks that broadly engage all stakeholders to better mobilise, manage and target domestic and international climate change finance. This also strengthens and highlights opportunities for the better interaction of climate change and human rights, gender equality, and democracy.

Established climate budget tagging in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal has generated critical data on climate investments, enabling public scrutiny, strengthening accountability and laying critical ground for better climate change interaction with democracy, gender equality and human rights concerns.



The programme works to integrate gender and human rights into climate dimensions. The Climate Change Budget Integration Index (CCBII) is used as a tool to measure an integration of climate change into the public financial management system.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

GCCF works with governments, civil society groups and accountability actors to ensure that domestic and international climate finance is equitable and effective through well-considered, transparent and effective budgets.

This includes work at the local level with provincial governments and the national level along with assisting states to work with each other through numerous South-South Exchanges, technical exchanges and regional dialogues

GCCF BY THE NUMBERS:

US\$ 26.2B

Leveraged In Bangkok, Indonesia
And Thailand

15+

National Climate Finance
Consultations Involves
over 500 Technical Experts

100+

Participants Received Best Practice
Training in Climate Change Financing

6

Regional Dialogues with
16 Asia-Pacific Countries Engaged
over 1,000 Multi-stakeholders

GCCF PROCESS FOR STRENGTHENING CLIMATE FINANCE AND BUDGETING

Step
01



Work with government, NGOs and donors to agree on need and entry points for improving climate budgeting.

- ACTIONS:**
- Review all climate related finance
 - Identify funding gaps
 - Assess the degree to which policies are aligned with resources

Step
02



Provide tools and support to the government to address funding gaps and integrate climate plans and financing into public financial and economic management.

- ACTIONS:**
- Develop budget proposals
 - Budget tracking
 - Expenditure reporting

Step
03



Create an integrated Climate Change Financing Framework

These outline whole of government integrated plans to improve the mobilisation and targeting of climate finance.

Continuous
Awareness-raising and galvanising support for budget reform through



Policy Brief



Civil Society Engagement



Parliamentary Advocacy

OUR SOLUTIONS

01



Review climate change income and expenditure

02



Agree on required policy responses

03



Build consensus on the need for budget reform

04



Building government climate finance tracking capacity, improve budget tracking, proposals and expenditure reports

05



Suggest a framework for whole of government, integrated financing

06



OUTCOME: An effective whole of government response to climate change is integrated into national budgetary and planning processes

Throughout this Process-GCCF provides knowledge products, "South-South" Exchanges, peer exchanges and methodological advice throughout the region through workshops, trainings, and a regional repository of information



UN-ACT

THE UNITED NATIONS ACTION FOR COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (UN-ACT)



FOCUS AREAS:

- HUMAN RIGHTS
- DEMOCRACY
- GENDER EQUALITY
- ENVIRONMENT
- CLIMATE CHANGE



THE UNITED NATIONS ACTION FOR COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (UN-ACT)

UN-ACT is one of the remarkable regional projects aimed at tackling human trafficking issues in six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS): Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The project addresses human trafficking in the region comprehensively after the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the sub-region ended in 2014. Since then, the following activities have been implemented:

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- Supporting the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) governments in counter-trafficking, by providing technical support, coordination, and engaging other stakeholders through UN-ACT's role as Secretariat to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), a multilateral, government-led initiative to comprehensively combat trafficking in persons.
- Engaging governments and regional actors including ASEAN to collaborate in counter-trafficking with COMMIT.
- Conducting research and advocacy on human trafficking contributing to the evidence base in the sector for policy makers and other stakeholders.
- Supporting other actors, including civil society, private sector and other non-government agencies in contributing more effectively to counter-trafficking efforts.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Capacity Development

Through facilitating the development, agreement and implementation of the fourth COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action on Trafficking addressing protection, prevention, prosecution and policy, and annual national COMMIT work plans, six member countries are equipped with capacities needed to drive the COMMIT process.

Supporting Regional Engagement

UN-ACT supports engagement of other regional actors with COMMIT countries in counter-trafficking, including ASEAN, through the development and implementation of common indicators of trafficking in persons.

Research and Advocacy

Carried out by UN-ACT, *A Study on Forced Marriage between Cambodia and China* is used to raise awareness among transnational marriage applicants of potential forced marriage crimes, bringing attention and policy changes to an under-addressed area of human trafficking in women. The organisation has also worked with NEXUS Institute and World Vision to develop a new guidebook to support the reintegration of trafficking survivors based on research conducted with more than 250 victims of trafficking—bringing the voice of victims to policy and programming decisions.

Building Multi-sectoral Collaboration

The project has supported civil society in developing counter-trafficking initiatives through a human-rights based approach, including through grants, technical support, providing platforms for collaboration between agencies, and in advocacy to governments,

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS: (Source:ILO)



US\$ 150B

Estimated cost of the human trafficking industry, one of the world's largest criminal enterprises.

20.9M

Number of forced labours globally. More than half are in Asia Pacific Region

UN-ACT addresses and seeks collaborative solutions to human rights and gender discrimination with governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

UN-ACT addresses human rights and gender discrimination through research and programming on trafficking and the protection and assistance of women trafficked for forced marriage.

The project has highlighted the nexus between human trafficking and illegal fishing. Both issues relate to environmental degradation in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

Grants, training and advocacy implemented under the project have created a platform for civil society to engage women's groups and youth, particularly on gender and human rights issues with governments and intergovernmental agencies through COMMIT in reducing vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

As the Secretariat to the COMMIT process, an intergovernmental mechanism between the six governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-region, UN-ACT provides technical and coordination support between COMMIT and ASEAN and other stakeholders including youth, civil society organisations and private sector. As a result stakeholders within the multi-sectoral platform for regional human-rights advocacy and policy development are engaged in sharing good practices and collaboration across borders to effectively combat human trafficking.

UN-ACT ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS:

8,138+

Victims were referred and supported through national and transitional referral mechanisms as part of the COMMIT Process over 2014-2016.

20

Policies related to human trafficking have been adjusted and improved in all six countries supported by UN-ACT

727

Fishermen trafficking survivors were repatriated from Indonesia where they were found stranded on an island to Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos through collaboration between governments, civil society, media and the UN.

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Left and Above: UN-ACT's project has highlighted the nexus between human trafficking and illegal fishing. Both issues related to environmental degradation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT NETWORK
FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTE



FOCUS AREAS:



PROGRESS TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AT A GLANCE

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, UN Environment's Asia and the Pacific Office geographically serves 41 countries across the region to promote and implement sustainable development solutions. It works in close partnership with key stakeholders including governments, the private sector, civil society, and other UN agencies.

Established in 1972 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UN Environment hosts several multilateral environmental conventions, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies. The agency works across seven broad areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, and environment under review.

REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT
NETWORK FOR CHEMICALS AND
WASTE

Implemented by UN Environment in 25 countries in Asia Pacific, the project is aimed at combating illegal trade in harmful chemicals and hazardous waste. It commenced in 2012, and current activities will end in February 2018. The project covers five priority areas through the following activities

1. Information and Intelligence Sharing

- Intelligence sharing facilitation among national and regional customs organisations and environmental authorities
- Desk studies and research and analysis on illegal trade and problematic chemicals and waste streams
- Website and newsletters

2. Enforcement Operation Facilitation

- Support to global and regional enforcement operations in partnership with The International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), World Customs Organisation, and other partners
- Support to national enforcement operations

3. Technical Assistance for
Problem-Solving

- Organising capacity-building workshops for Customs, Police and Environmental authorities, including on gender and human rights issues
- Production of technical tools and guidance such as handbooks and inspection apps
- Technical support to strengthening national legislation

4. Networking and Awareness

- Organising annual workshops to facilitate networking among national focal points and partners
- Organising the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards to celebrate and reward excellence in enforcement efforts in combating pollution crime.

5. Partnership for Sustainability

- Creating partnerships within and beyond the region to build a sustainable enforcement network
- Support national multi-agency cooperation
- Facilitate inter-regional cooperation for better cooperation and regulatory harmonisation efforts

UN ENVIRONMENT
BY THE NUMBERS:



1,200+
officers trained.

500
Illegal shipments of waste
and chemicals intercepted
by the participating countries.

25
Participating countries

5,000
Containers in Vietnam's port
have not been claimed by importers
or involved parties that might be related
with chemical waste.



PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1,000 frontline enforcement officers trained
- Hundreds of thousands of tons of illegally traded waste and chemicals identified and seized
- Enforcement partnerships established with key agencies, such as UNODC, INTERPOL, and WCO
- Networks of national focal points established in all participating countries
- Practical enforcement tools created, including handbooks in several languages
- Two Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards ceremonies successfully delivered
- Intelligence-exchange networks established between countries and organisations in and beyond the region
- Working partnerships established with civil society
- Gender awareness established in the network, with foundations for concrete gender activities planned in a follow-on phase

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Pollution as Human Rights Issue

Over 100 constitutions around the world now guarantee environmental rights in some forms, including the right to a clean environment, clean air and clean water. By reducing illegally traded harmful chemicals and hazardous waste imports into the region, UN Environment safeguards fundamental human rights. Pollution harms the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.

Gender Awareness

At the project's inception there was limited gender awareness among frontline enforcement officers such as customs officials. UN Environment partnered with civil society organisations to integrate gender and human rights training into national capacity development workshops. This has raised gender awareness among frontline enforcement officers and has provided an important platform for action. Gender awareness helps customs officers "personalise" pollution and leads to more enforcement actions in the areas of chemicals and waste.

Human Rights for the Future

The project has helped raise awareness on human rights issues in relation to ship dismantling in South Asia. This is an early initiative, but an important first step to future work.

Left and Below: Chemical pollution harms the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

UN Environment can use its unique platform as both a UN agency and the global leader in environmental issues to convene government and other stakeholders in a politically neutral forum to combat environmental challenges, a neutrality essential when working with international trade issues and with politically-sensitive enforcement operations.

UN Environment's expertise in environmental issues and broad network among environment authorities in the region makes it an effective partner to coordinate efforts to combat illegal trade in chemicals and waste. The agency's role in supporting Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats gives a unique advantage in supporting countries to meet their obligations and commitments under these international conventions.

UN ENVIRONMENT WORKING AREAS:



Climate Change



Disasters Conflicts



Ecosystem Management



Environmental Governance



Harmful Substances



Resource Efficiency



By reducing illegally traded harmful chemicals and hazardous waste imports into the region, UN Environment safeguards fundamental human rights.

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UN Environment Asia Pacific



UNEPAsiaPacific



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

ANTI-CORRUPTION - IMPROVING STATE CAPACITY TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PREVENT, RAISE AWARENESS OF, DETECT, INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CORRUPTION



FOCUS AREAS:

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

GENDER EQUALITY

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



ANTI-CORRUPTION - IMPROVING STATE CAPACITY TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PREVENT, RAISE AWARENESS OF, DETECT, INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CORRUPTION

AT A GLANCE

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) was established to better address, coordinate and comprehensively response to the interrelated issues of illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and corruption. These goals are pursued through three primary functions: research, guidance and support to governments in the adoption and implementation of various crimes, drugs, terrorism, and corruption-related conventions, treaties and protocols, as well as technical/financial assistance to governments facing needs and challenges in these fields.

UNODC's anti-corruption efforts in the region focus on supporting countries to meet the requirements of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) by providing technical assistance and facilitating regional exchanges to translate the provisions of the convention into effective legal frameworks, policies and practices and to build national bodies of highly skilled anti-corruption practitioners that will allow member countries to be well-equipped with skills and efficiency in preventing and combating corruption.

The project also aims at building partnerships between governments, private sector and civil society organisations to jointly develop and implement anti-corruption strategies and foster collective action initiatives to meet the requirements.

Activities at both the regional and national level are designed to foster international cooperation, South-South learning, and the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

The project's main achievements so far include:

- Ongoing dialogue aimed at creating a regional anti-corruption agenda at an inter-governmental level for the ASEAN region. A Memorandum of Understanding between the ASEAN Corporate Social Responsibility Network (ACN) and the various chambers of commerce in the region paved the way towards a private-sector-led strategy against corruption at the regional level.
- UNODC is regularly invited to the meetings of South-East Asian Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) to provide capacity building support and advice on the most recent anti-corruption legislative developments.
- All anti-corruption agencies in Southeast Asia received strategic and capacity development assistance for the effective implementation of UNCAC. Country-specific work plans were developed and targeted trainings at the regional and the national levels were delivered.
- The development of the legal and institutional framework in some of the most challenging areas of reform was supported through a number of regional events, including the areas of foreign bribery, liability of legal persons, beneficial ownership, whistle-blower and witnesses' protection, and mutual legal assistance in corruption investigations.
- Substantive, technical and administrative support were provided to Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand on the first cycle of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, and to Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar for the second review cycle to ensure a timely, inclusive and comprehensive review process and outcome. The participation of civil society and private sector representatives in the review mechanism of the two cycles was facilitated.
- Legislative drafting support was provided to the Ministry of Justice in Vietnam, the Philippines' Department of Justice, the Cambodian Anti-Corruption Unit, the Corruption Eradication Commission in Indonesia, the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand, the Anti-Corruption Commissions of Timor Leste and of Myanmar on the development of anti-corruption laws, code of conducts for public officials and members of the judiciary, and regulations on the liability of legal persons for corruption offences.
- The latest online knowledge tools and news relating to the latest anti-corruption developments were promoted among policymakers, anti-corruption practitioners, academia and NGOs in the region through the AP-INTACT Network. The emailing network established and jointly administered by UNODC has been a very useful network for those practitioners.
- In cooperation with the World Bank/ UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, conducted a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of relevant agencies to carry out asset recovery and to identify needs for legislative and capacity improvements

WORKING REGIONALLY WITH ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Human Rights and Democracy

Several aspects of the project contribute to upholding civil-economic and political rights and promoting democratic governance.

A regional workshop on strengthening access to information and participatory decision-making in the region was held at the margins of the annual Southeast Asian Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) held in Manila in November 2017. In working groups, the participants developed a number of recommendations to address the identified challenges, and which are to be implemented under the leadership of the SEA-PAC members.

UNODC organised a regional workshop in 2016 to gather practitioners representing anti-corruption agencies as well as NGOs to discuss ways to improve the whistle-blower and witnesses' protection systems. The agency also supported the development of the witnesses and whistle blowers' protection laws in Cambodia in 2017 and helped the APEC Anti-Corruption working group to develop standards for witnesses and whistle blowers' protection to be proposed as a model for APEC countries.

Gender Equality

UNODC has initiated work to address these issues in cooperation with national authorities in the region. Among examples are:

- A roundtable on gender and corruption was organised in Jakarta with an aim to share experiences, discuss and raise awareness on particular challenges facing women when it comes to confronting and combating corruption and to what extent combating corruption can empower women.
- On the occasion of celebrating the International Anti-Corruption Day in Thailand in 2017, the theme focused on the issue of gender and corruption. At a public symposium women narrated their stories of empowerment by calling out and becoming a public voice in the fight against corruption.

Environment

In 2016 UNODC organised a regional workshop addressing corruption in forest management particularly timber and wildlife trafficking. Anti-corruption agencies, forestry departments and law enforcement authorities from Southeast Asia gathered in the Philippines to identify specific corruption risks in these sectors and define mitigation strategies. The necessity of international strategies to face activities of transnational organised crime groups as well as the illegal operation conducted by multinational corporations were also highlighted as priorities.

In 2017, a similar initiative was conducted in the fishery sector, covering Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar. In Southeast Asia, smuggled migrants and trafficked people often work in the regional fishing industry under often inhumane and forced labour conditions. Corruption was highlighted as one of the main enablers behind illegal fishing and human trafficking in the region.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

While UNCAC is the only universal, legally binding instrument that provides a common framework to all countries in the world in their fight against corruption, anti-corruption strategies and policies are being developed under regional governance frameworks. The recent legislative and policy developments on liability of legal persons in the region, particularly in Indonesia and in Thailand, have also significant regional implications for the investigation and prosecution of companies which operate in Southeast Asia.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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UNODC organised a regional workshop addressing corruption in forest management particularly timber and wildlife trafficking.

SUMMARY

Sweden's regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region focuses on mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change through a total of 40 activities and campaigns implemented by the following organisations. From climate change adaptation in the Himalayan communities to promotion of gender equality in the

Pacific islands, such wide range of activities contribute to strengthening the ability of regional actors, both individuals and groups, to deal with transboundary challenges and opportunities to enhance capacity in the areas of human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change in a mutually reinforcing way. By working to ensure regional development cooperation,

the chances of achieving sustainable results in the focus areas will improve. The multidisciplinary, partnership-oriented and problem-based approach is also in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Organisations	Projects	Focus Areas:				
		Human Rights	Democracy	Gender Equality	Environment	Climate Change
ASEAN CSR Network	The ASEAN CSR Fellowship	•		•		•
Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights (IPADCHA)	Parliamentarians for Regional Actions on Democracy and Human Rights in ASEAN (IPADCHA)	•	•			
Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions	Support to the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (INHRS)	•	•			
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development	A Support across APWLD's Nine Programmes and Several Cross-cutting Initiatives	•	•	•	•	•
Asian Development Bank	Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)		•	•	•	•
Asian Development Bank	Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility (CEFPF)	•		•	•	•
Asian Development Bank	Core Ecosystem Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Phase II (CEP-BCI)			•	•	•
Asian Development Bank	Implementation of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Agricultural Programme Phase II			•	•	•
Asian Development Bank	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC)'s Inclusive Development Support	•	•	•	•	•
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Building Resilience through Inclusive and Climate-Adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific	•		•	•	•
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development	Institutional Three-Year Project	•	•	•		
EarthRights International	Mekong Regional Program	•	•	•	•	•
Fojo Media Institute	The Southeast Asia Media Training Network (SEAMTN)	•	•	•	•	•
Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies Asia (SHAPE-SEA)	Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA)	•	•	•	•	•
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	Atmosphere Initiative & Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)		•		•	•
International Labor Organization	Parliamentarians for Regional Actions on Democracy and Human Rights in ASEAN (IPADCHA)	•	•	•	•	•
International Organization for Migration	Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia (CREST)	•		•		•
International Union for Conservation of Nature	Mangroves for the Future	•		•		•
Internews	Earth Journalism Network (EJN) Asia-Pacific	•		•		•
Oxfam	Gender Transformative and Responsible Agribusiness Investments in South East Asia (GRAISEA)	•	•	•	•	•
Oxfam	Fair Finance Asia: Building a Responsible Financial Sector in Asia	•		•		•
Oxfam	Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA)	•	•	•	•	•
Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia	Parliament Institute of Cambodia (Regional Programme)		•			•
Raoul Wallenberg Institute	RWI Regional Asia Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development 2017-2021	•		•	•	•
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center	Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being in South-east Asia	•		•	•	•
Southeast Asian Press Alliance	Support of Southeast Asian Press Alliance to the Project Strategy 2013-2017	•	•	•		•
Stockholm Environment Institute	Strategic Collaborative Fund			•		•
Stockholm Environment Institute	Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET)	•		•	•	•
The Center for People and Forests	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific	•	•	•	•	•
The Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia	Environmental Economics Partnership for Greener, Cleaner and Inclusive Development in Southeast Asia			•	•	•
The European Union	The Pacific-European Union Mornic Partnership Programme	•	•	•	•	•
The European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	Strengthening Regional Awareness and Ownership of Forest Governance Issues in the Greater Mekong Region during 2014-2018		•	•	•	•
The Mekong River Commission	The MRC's Strategic Plan for 2014-2020		•	•	•	•
The Pacific Community	The Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the Pacific Community	•		•	•	•
The Swedish Chemicals Agency	Towards a non-toxic Southeast Asia	•		•	•	•
The United Nations Development Programme	Being LGBTI in Asia	•		•		•
The United Nations Development Programme	Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance to Enhance Gender Equality	•		•		•
The United Nations Development Programme	The United Nation Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)	•	•	•	•	•
The United Nations Environment Programme	Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste	•		•	•	•
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Anti-Corruption - Improving State Capacity to More Effectively Prevent, Raise Awareness of, Detect, Investigate and Prosecute corruption	•	•	•	•	•

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**REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS FOR
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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