

Based in Bangkok, ROAP works in 44 countries in the region and engages with governments, local authorities, civil society, other UN entities, regional and international institutions, as well as the private sector to develop and implement cleaner and safer policies and strategies that catalyze the efficient use of the region's natural resources and reduces degradation of the environment.

Highlights

- UNEP is a partner of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network which were established to respond to demands for effective mechanisms for sharing information on climate change adaptation. The two initiatives were combined in 2013 to enhance mobilization of institutional capacity, inform decision-making and facilitate access to finance and technologies. In addition, a New Climate Technology Network and Finance Center was established to expand the availability of low-carbon and climate-resilient technologies in Asia and the Pacific.

Asia Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and impacts are likely to become more intense in future. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events have contributed to loss of crop yield in many countries. Crop yields are projected to decline by a further 10 percent by 2020.

Regional Forums and Consultations on Environment



The **Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD)** brings together Ministers and eminent civil society representatives from all five sub-regions of the Asia Pacific region. UNEP serves as the Secretariat for the annual SEPD and facilitates preparation of background documentation and logistical support. UNEP also supports sub-regional intergovernmental forums like SPREP, SACEP and ASEAN.

Asia-Pacific Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders

The Asia Pacific Regional Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) is an annual platform through which UNEP engages with civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region. It helps build capacity and networking among the MGS and facilitates dialogue on current and emerging environmental issues among environmental NGOs and other major groups like

women and children, the private sector and indigenous groups. These discussions feed into the annual UN Environment Assembly of UNEP.

Regional Facts

Population: 4 billion (2010)

Land Area: 28.3 million km²

Environmental Challenges: growing population and booming economies are exerting considerable strain on the region's environmental resources.

UNEP and UNDAF

Since the One UN initiative was launched in 2007, UNEP has steadily increased its participation in the UNDAFs in the Asia Pacific region. In Vietnam, for instance, UNEP has been able to secure financial resources from the One UN funding mechanism to support strengthening of environmental law, and advance sustainable, equitable and inclusive development in the country. In 2012, UNEP supported UNDAF processes in Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam

Post-2015 Development Agenda

UNEP is working with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme to prepare a Post Rio+20 Development Agenda report for South Asia, which will be shared with all stakeholders and feed into the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. UNEP has engaged in civil society consultations for the UN Post-2015 Agenda in the region and is organizing consultations with children and youth in several sub-regions in Asia Pacific.

UNEP's work on the ground

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) has demonstrated strong impacts on institutions, policies and investments in six countries in the Asia Pacific region - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Lao PDR, Philippines and Thailand. PEI, a joint global UN-led programme of the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP, supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning and processes, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

Protecting Coral Reefs and Coastal Areas

UNEP supports countries in the region for the sustainable development of coral reefs and coastal areas through national assessments and surveys, national consultations, training and capacity building. This support, undertaken through the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia and the Coral Reef Unit, has helped prevent and reduce impacts from natural disasters, climate change, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and irresponsible diving activities.

The Compliance Assistance Programme in Asia Pacific

The Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the Asia Pacific region has become a hub for policy advice, compliance guidance and capacity building on the phase-out of ozone chemicals in the region. In 2010, all countries in the region phased-out chlorofluorocarbons, significantly contributing to the global phase-out of ozone-depleting substances. CAP Asia Pacific continues to pave the way in North-South and South-South Cooperation, public-private partnerships and information-sharing to meet the new challenge of eliminating production and consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, giving special assistance to Small Island Developing States and low-volume consuming countries.

Ecosystem Based Adaptation Capacity Building

The Ecosystem based Adaptation Nepal (EbA-N) builds the capacity of local communities for the provision of ecosystem services in the country. EbA-N builds institutional capacity of key actors to better integrate ecosystem resilience options into national, sub-national and local level plans. It develops ecosystem based decision making tools that buffers the economic case for ecosystem based management. Knowledge gained from EbA-N will help national and local policies and strategies for climate change adaptation.

Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services (ForCES)

UNEP/GEF and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is implementing a new landmark project "Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services" (ForCES) with programs in Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal and Chile. The project aims to look at the changes to the FSC global system needed for FSC to become a leader in the certification of ecosystem services and to enable forest managers and (small) owners to benefit from new business models to increase their income base and strengthen good forest management.

Engagement with Young People in Asia Pacific

Through partnerships, close to 14 million children were reached and nearly 90,000 teachers were trained on environment and sustainable development in the region. The Tunza youth network, supported by Bayer, has grown and now stands at 2,605 youth organizations in Asia, with increased environmental activities and projects undertaken by youth in their schools, communities and homes. UNEP's partnership with Nickleodeon TV Asia from 2008-2011 has seen green messages and on-air promotional spots showing children taking environmental action reaching more than 500 million households in the region.

Bringing Science to Policy and Development in Asia Pacific

UNEP develops the capacity of countries to undertake their own national and sub-regional environmental assessments which have helped inform socio-economic planning and policy development in those countries and sub-regions. They have proven useful not only for policy makers, but also for development practitioners, civil society and researchers working on the environment and development.

SWITCH-Asia has boosted Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in 19 countries in the Asia Pacific region through a study on policymaking on SCP and a comprehensive programme of capacity-building seminars, with the participation of 150 decisionmakers. At the national level, the programme assists countries to establish national SCP Centres, develop SCP strategies, and support sustainable public procurement.

UNEP and Environmental Law

UNEP's support to countries on environmental law has helped governments in the region to improve environmental legislation and has strengthened their capacity to comply with and enforce environmental laws, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). UNEP also partners with international organizations like the ADB to green the judiciary and develop and implement regional environmental agreements.

The Asia and the Pacific region is home to 58% of the global population, accounts for over 27% of the global economy and is home to nearly 60% of the world's poor.