ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP work on the environment and development



ESCAP at a Glance

One of the five regional commissions of the United Nations



53
MEMBER STATES

9
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



Asia and the Pacific Covers

40%
WORLD LAND AREA

60%
WORLD POPULATION

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

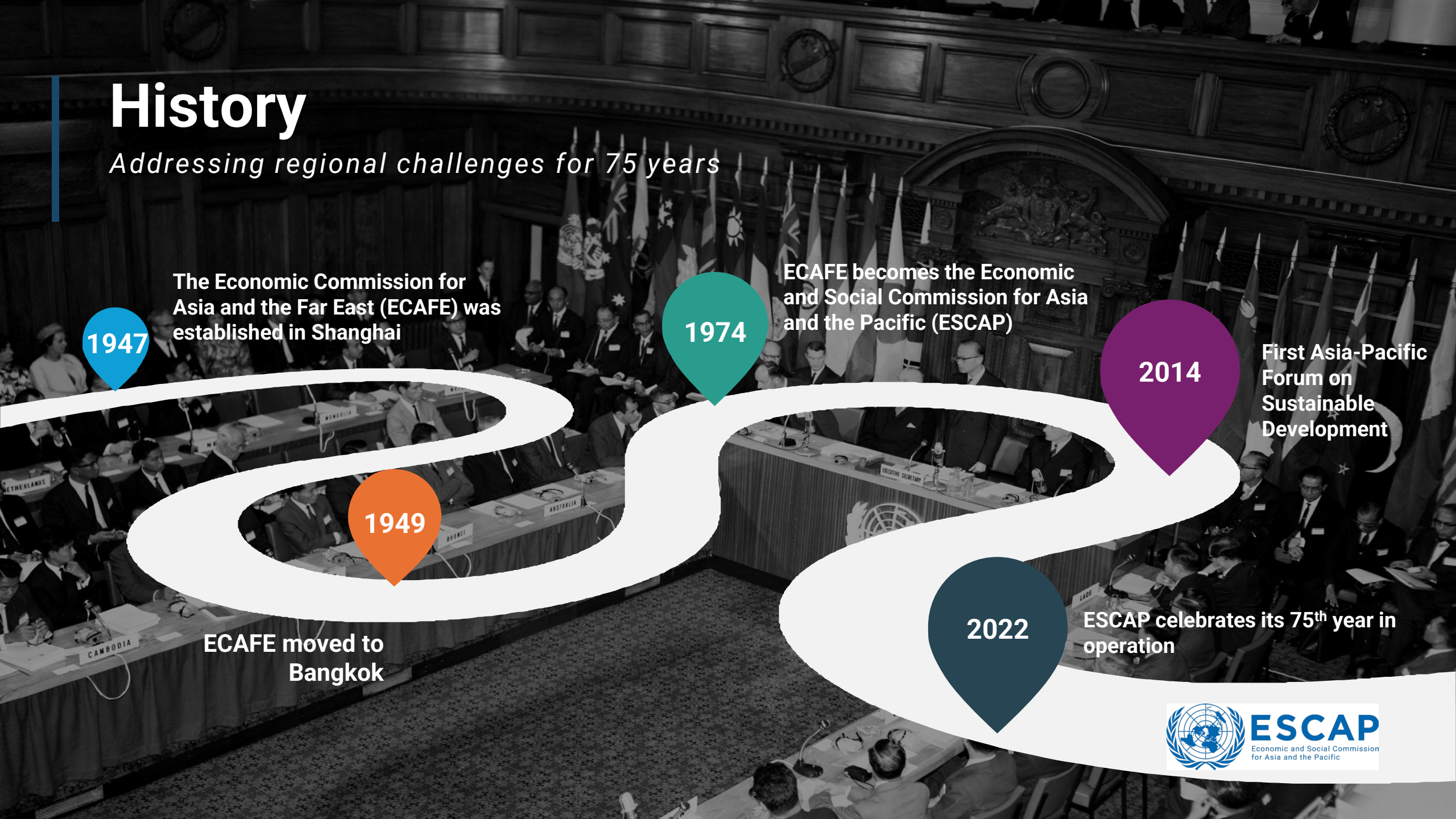
WHAT IS ESCAP?

- Founded in 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)
- ESCAP is a regional commission that coordinates regional level development
- As a regional commission it has its own membership of countries from Asia and the Pacific



History

Addressing regional challenges for 75 years



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

CORE FUNCTIONS

Research and analysis

On critical and emerging issues



Intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting

For regional cooperation on economic, social and environmental issues

Capacity development

To develop the technical, managerial and institutional capacities of member States based on identified needs

Our Thematic Work

Organized into 8 sectoral subprogrammes, supported by divisions and Regional Institutions

1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development



2. Trade, investment and innovation

- Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)



3. Transport



4. Environment and Development

- Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)



5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

- Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT)
- Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM)



6. Social development



7. Statistics

- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)



8. Energy



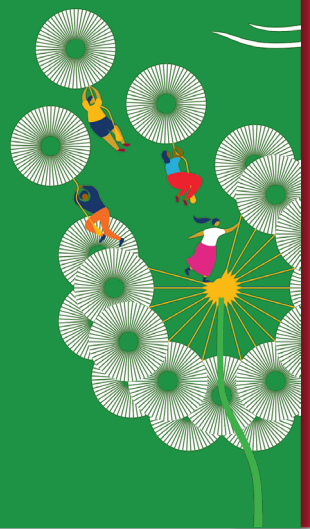
The Environment and Development Division (EDD) is one of the eight Divisions of ESCAP, dedicated to supporting member States in advancing sustainable development, including enabling low emission and climate resilient development, addressing air pollution, protecting oceans and natural resources, promoting sustainable urban development, and strengthening access to information and public participation.



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Areas of support

1. **Low-emission and climate-resilient development**



2. **Air pollution**



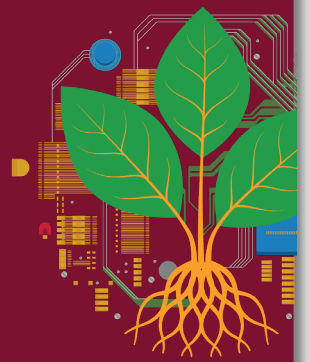
3. **Ocean protection**



4. **Sustainable urban development**



5. **Access to information and public participation**

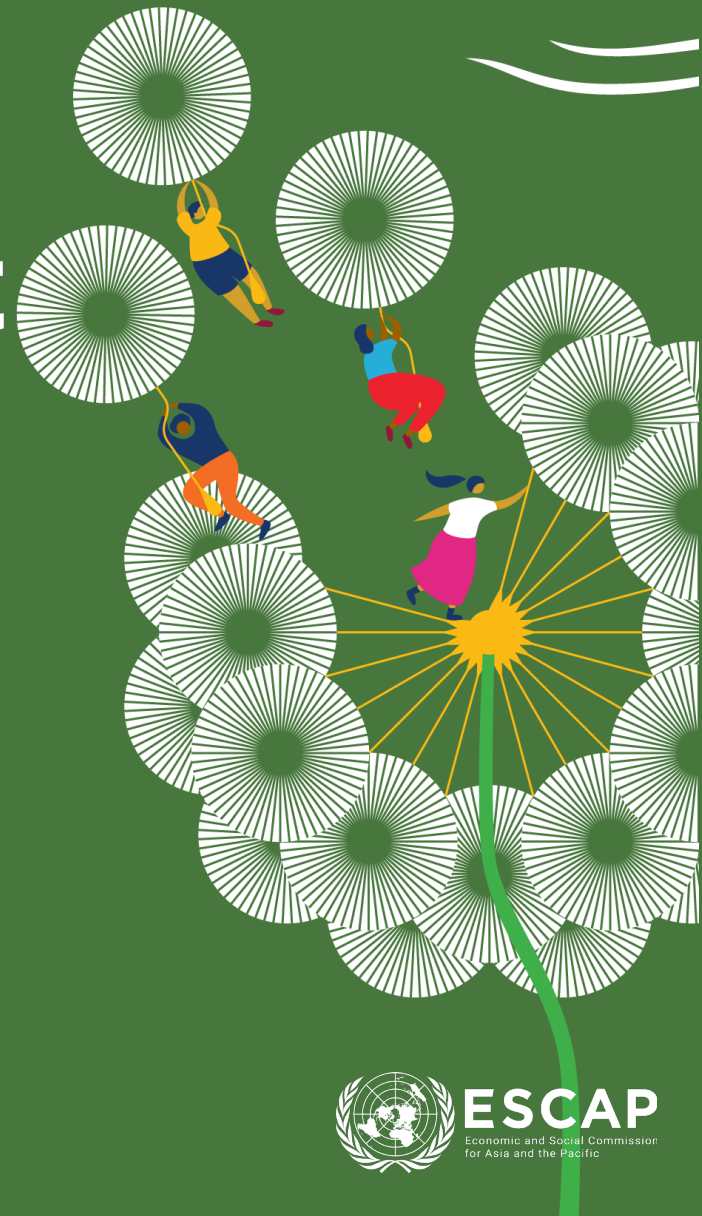


Contact

➢ Click on each thematic area to learn more

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Low-emission and climate-resilient development



With the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the international community committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a view to 'holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels'.

However, current emission pathways mean that the world is on the path to warming above the agreed threshold. There is an urgent need to raise climate ambition and strengthen climate action.

➢ Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

LOW-EMISSION AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

➢ Click on each icon to learn more



Net-zero policy review and NDC3.0 support



Greenhouse gas emission inventories



Annual assessment reports and regional dialogue*



Youth Climate Engagement*



Nature-based solutions



Integrated risk assessment and analyses



Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth



Urban climate action

*Region-wide initiative

Air pollution

Air pollution levels have increased significantly in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in urban areas. The region experiences some of the highest concentrations of particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) globally, leading to millions of premature deaths annually and contributing to climate change.

Although air pollution affects high and low-income countries alike, low- and middle-income countries experience the highest burden, with the highest concentrations being seen in Central Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia. Strengthening regional cooperation is a key response.



➢ Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level

AIR POLLUTION

➢ Click on each icon to learn more



Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution*



Regional Approaches to Transboundary Airsheds



Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information



Integrated management of crop residue burning



Air pollution control technologies

*Region-wide initiative

Ocean protection

Oceans are highly impacted by climate change but also offer critical solutions. The greenhouse gas reduction potential of ocean-based climate actions is immense, as is the need to build coastal resilience. Regional and transboundary cooperation is essential to boost coordinated action and investments to harness this potential.

Notably, 32 out of 41 ESCAP member States located along seas have incorporated at least one ocean-based climate measure in their NDCs, with many adopting ecosystem-based approaches, including blue carbon sequestration, marine ecosystem protection, and the establishment of marine protected areas.



➢ Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level

OCEAN PROTECTION

➢ Click on each icon to learn more



Annual regional dialogue on oceans*



Regional Decade Programme on Ocean Science*



SDG14 Accelerator



Climate change and blue caron ecosystems



Ocean cities

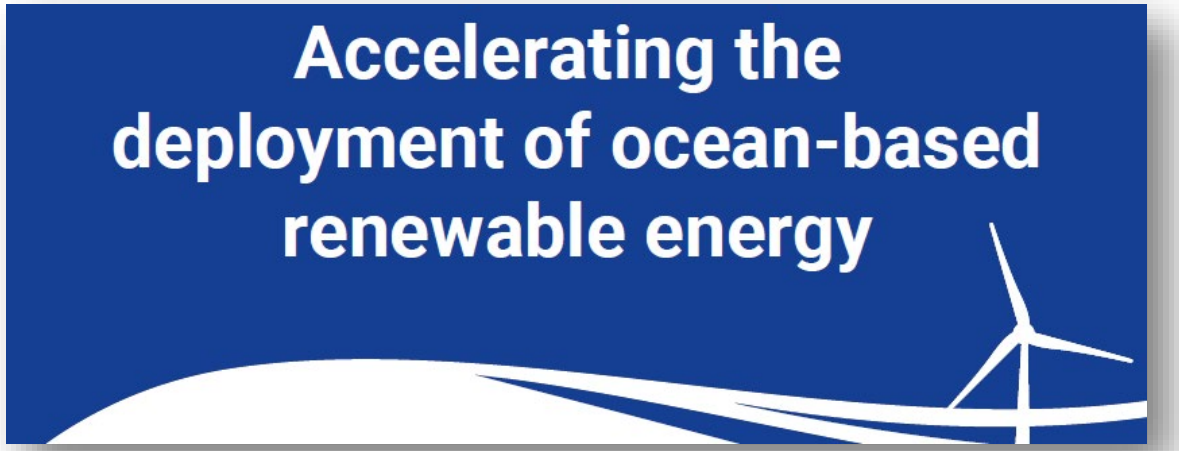
*Region-wide initiative

Regional Initiative for Ocean-Based Climate Action

A new regional initiative launched in 2024 facilitated by ESCAP









ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Sustainable urban development

Cities and urban centres act as accelerators for social and economic progress in the Asian and Pacific region. Yet, rapid, inefficient and unplanned urbanization together with unsustainable consumption and production patterns and changes in lifestyles in cities over recent decades have resulted in environmental degradation and vulnerability to disaster and climate change risks. We see hope in the dynamism and resolve of the region's cities — not just in recovering from the pandemic, but also as testing grounds for policy and innovation. The path to a sustainable future for Asia and the Pacific depends on decisive action in cities and urban centres across our region.

➢ Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level



SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

➢ Click on each icon to learn more



SDG localization and voluntary local reviews



Climate change and urban finance



Smart cities



Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy



Land subsidence management



New Urban Agenda



Asia-Pacific Urban Forum*

*Region-wide initiative

Access to information and public participation



In 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (76/300) adopted a resolution on “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”.

In Asia and the Pacific, only 24 countries recognize the right to a healthy environment in their constitutional provisions. ESCAP aims to foster access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (known also as ‘access rights’) in Asia and the Pacific.

➢ Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level

INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

➢ Click on each icon to learn more



Subregional frameworks and national implementation



Integration into thematic priority areas



Asia-Pacific Environmental Rights Observatory

Ways for member States to access ESCAP EDD support

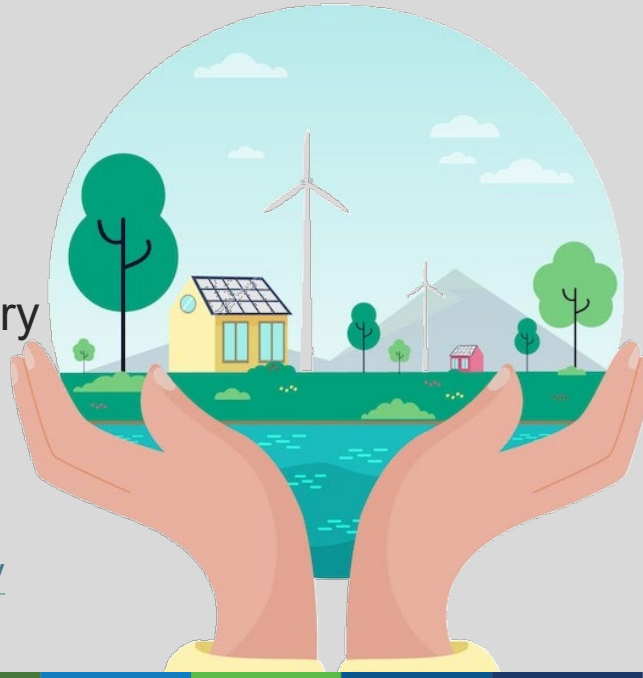
- **Direct liaison with the Environment and Development Division**
  Reach out directly to EDD for thematic or technical assistance and collaboration via email at escap-edd@un.org

- **Outreach via the Technical Working Group**
  Connect with the national members of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development (TEG)* for initial guidance and coordination.

- **Request through UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC)**
  Submit initial requests to through UNRC, leveraging its coordinating role among the broader UN system in your country.

- **Formal requests through Permanent Missions**
  Submit official requests via your country's Permanent Mission to ESCAP, the primary channel for formal communication and engagement.

*In December 2020, the Committee on Environment and Development at its sixth session (CED-6) decided to establish a Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development (TEG) to enhance regional exchange and mobilize technical expertise to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action. Member States have been invited to designate experts to serve in the TEG.



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Email: escap-edd@un.org
Website: https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development/