The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.*

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission’s strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional cooperation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP’s research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity-building and technical assistance to governments aim to support countries’ sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.

*The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Asia and the Pacific has come to epitomise rapid, dynamic change. Industrious ingenuity has made it a vibrant hub for technological innovation. Entrepreneurial drive and a strong work ethic have helped transform the region into the engine of global growth. The economies of Asia-Pacific countries are set to become larger than the rest of the world combined, measured by purchasing power parity. Home to over half the global population and sixty percent of young people, ours is a region reshaping the world.

At the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), our ambition for the region is greater still. We are committed to ensuring our member States make a decisive contribution to the world achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We want to reduce inequality and increase opportunity, especially for the most vulnerable. This ambition means responding proactively to changing population dynamics, empowering women, enabling active ageing and expanding social protection. It requires deepening economic integration by facilitating regional trade, and connectivity in sustainable transport, energy and information and communication technology. It means combatting climate change and supporting the transition to cleaner energy, strengthening resilience to natural disasters, and reducing pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

To accelerate action across all these areas and lay the foundations for a decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP has worked with its member States to grip the levers of implementation. We have cemented partnerships at global, regional and subregional level to support integrated development responses and sufficient financing for development. We work with businesses and the science and technology community to exploit the region’s technological prowess for more inclusive economies and societies. We facilitate collaboration on data on statistics to accurately measure progress towards the SDGs and shape targeted policies to address shortcomings.

ESCAP’s work flows out of these priorities. The Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific provides the regional framework to achieve them. This report highlights ESCAP’s successes over the past two years in implementing its technical cooperation programme based on the Roadmap. It sets out ESCAP’s contribution to supporting mutually reinforcing areas of work for sustainable development in the region. A contribution on which we are committed to build, working with our member States and the United Nations family every step of the way.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIT</td>
<td>Asian Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTAM</td>
<td>Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery</td>
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<tr>
<td>APCICT</td>
<td>Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APCTT</td>
<td>Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP-IS</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTNeT</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<td>CSAM</td>
<td>Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN</td>
<td>countries with special needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRVS</td>
<td>civil registration and vital statistics systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Development Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLAC</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCAP</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCWA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>FEALAC</td>
<td>Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communications technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOTWMS</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITU</td>
<td>International Telecommunication Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>least developed countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLDCs</td>
<td>landlocked developing countries</td>
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<td>MSMEs</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises</td>
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<td>NEASPEC</td>
<td>North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation</td>
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<td>OCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnership</td>
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<td>RESAP</td>
<td>Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>RIMES</td>
<td>Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System</td>
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<td>RPTC</td>
<td>Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<td>--------------</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SIAP</td>
<td>Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>SIDS</td>
<td>small island developing States</td>
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<td>SPECA</td>
<td>United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia</td>
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<td>STI</td>
<td>science, technology and innovation</td>
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<td>SUTI</td>
<td>Sustainable Urban Transport Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>TINA</td>
<td>Trade Intelligence and Negotiations Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCDF</td>
<td>United Nations Capital Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN DESA</td>
<td>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDRR</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Environment</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN-GGIM</td>
<td>United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN-Habitat</td>
<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITAR</td>
<td>United Nations Institute for Training and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNNExT</td>
<td>United Nations Network for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOOSA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Project Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOSAT</td>
<td>United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNV</td>
<td>United Nations Volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>World Meteorological Organization</td>
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<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>XB</td>
<td>Extraducational Funds</td>
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</table>
ESCAP AT A GLANCE

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the largest of the five regional commissions of the United Nations system. ESCAP serves as the United Nations’ regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. As the largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 member States and 9 associate members, over the years, ESCAP has contributed considerably to the development of Asia and the Pacific, establishing key regional institutions; negotiating crucial intergovernmental agreements; undertaking quality normative and analytical work; advocating policies to address critical and emerging issues; and building the capacity of its members to address common and transboundary development challenges in the region. Both its intergovernmental and technical cooperation work are underpinned by strong research and analysis.

ESCAP’s mandate is to promote economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; its vision is to build a “prosperous Asia and the Pacific based on inclusive and sustainable development”; and its mission is to facilitate concerted action for balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. ESCAP’s research and analysis – coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity-building and technical assistance to governments – supports countries’ ambitions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. ESCAP is multi-sectoral in nature, covering areas that include macroeconomic policies and financing for development; trade, investment and innovation; transport; information and communications technology; disaster risk reduction; social development; statistics and energy.
WHO WE ARE

As the regional arm of the United Nations it plays a unique role as the only intergovernmental forum for all countries and territories of Asia and the Pacific.

Established in 1947, ESCAP today is the largest of the regional commissions with 53 members and nine associate members.

ESCAP covers more than 60% of the world’s population or 4.1 billion people.

ESCAP AT A GLANCE

OUR ADDED VALUE

In pursuing its vision, ESCAP aims to support its member States in achieving key development results:

• Effective policies and strategies for integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, mindful of the diversity and different levels of development between countries;
• Measuring progress in achieving the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals;
• A stronger, more representative and coherent regional voice to influence internationally agreed development commitments at the global level;
• Enhanced capacities to engage in regional cooperation and economic integration mechanisms.

OUR CORE FUNCTIONS

ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. It does this through three core functions:

1. Think tank – undertaking research and analysis on critical and emerging issues
2. Consensus-building – bringing together member States to deliberate and build regional consensus on key development priorities and global norm
3. Technical cooperation – based on decisions made by member States, support implementation and service capacity development requirements

“ESCAP enables stronger participation for the smaller and often left-out voices of the region, the least developed countries, the small island States and the landlocked States”
5 Subregional Offices:
1. South and South-West Asia, New Delhi
2. North and Central Asia, Almaty
3. South-East Asia, Bangkok
4. East and North-East Asia, Incheon
5. The Pacific, Suva

Their work serves to:
- strengthen the Commission’s interventions at the subregional level;
- provide more focused and in-depth technical assistance;
- instigate the analytical and normative work of ESCAP at the subregional and national levels.

HOW WE WORK

Executive Secretary: Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Headquarters: Bangkok

Eight Programmatic Areas of Work:
- Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development
- Trade, Investment & Innovation
- Transport
- Statistics
- Social Development
- Environment and Development
- ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Energy

5 Regional Institutions:
1. Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, Chiba
2. Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, Incheon
3. Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, Beijing
4. Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, New Delhi
5. Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, Tehran

They serve as capacity development hubs to support the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work, including analytical and research work within ESCAP priorities.
PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Creative approaches to partnerships, pulling in financial resources while tapping into synergies, knowledge and skills, are critical for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the achievement of its related goals and targets. ESCAP endeavours to maximize the impact of the resources, experience, skills and linkages that partners bring to the implementation of ESCAP’s work across all its subprogrammes. With increasing demands to deliver concrete results at the global, regional and national levels, ESCAP is working to strengthen country-level support, bringing together national governments, intergovernmental organizations, development banks, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The diversity and scope of these partnerships are critical for the successful implementation of ESCAP’s capacity development projects and initiatives in response to the transboundary challenges and needs of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Central to ESCAP’s technical cooperation programme is capacity development work. As part of its capacity development strategy, ESCAP integrates work from each of its subprogrammes to build synergies at the regional and subregional levels, assisting governments across the region in achieving a people-centred transformation. ESCAP engages with partners to achieve important outcomes:

• Better coordination and coherence among United Nations agencies at the regional level;
• Common solutions to transboundary problems, with a regional hub for knowledge-sharing and good practices;
• More North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships for sustainable development;
• Wider networks across business sector and civil society organizations through modalities such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development.

ESCAP’s capacity development work is funded by two main sources:

(i) Regular budget resources approved by the General Assembly for the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23) and for the Development Account (Section 35);
(ii) Extrabudgetary funds received in the form of financial contributions from members States, other United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional development banks, foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector.
PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

As the regional hub of the United Nations, ESCAP aims to maximize the impact of the resources, experience, skills and linkages that partners bring to the implementation of our vision.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships are the cornerstone of ESCAP’s technical cooperation programme with capacity development work at its heart. ESCAP’s capacity development work comprises the provision of policy advice and enhancing beneficiaries’ technical and functional skills in the form of:

1. training
2. advisory services
3. policy dialogue
4. knowledge networking

all of which is aimed at developing the capacities of governments and their partners to formulate and implement policies and programmes for inclusive and sustainable development.

EMPHASIZING RESULTS: THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM

The reform of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) has placed the emphasis firmly on results and impact at global, regional and country level. There is an increasing demand from member States for the UN system to work in a coordinated manner to deliver concrete results towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Country level support is extended, wherever possible, in close collaboration with UNCTs. With the implementation of Phase-II of the regional aspect of the UNDS reform, this process will be institutionalized and strengthened further. Noting the universality of the 2030 Agenda, partnerships across the public and private sectors as well as CSOs are strongly encouraged.
In 2018, technical cooperation projects implemented by ESCAP amounted to **US$ 27.4 million.**

These funds came from two main sources:

1. **US$ 7.7 million**
   - Regular Budget Resources (RB) – United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) and United Nations Development Account (DA)

2. **US$ 19.7 million**
   - Extrabudgetary funds (XB) – financial contributions from member States and other United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional development banks, foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS IS AN ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE SUCCESS OF ESCAP.**

ESCAP’s approach to partnerships is relationship-driven and underpinned by trust, communication and accountability.

**THE TOP 10 DONORS IN 2018**

1. Republic of Korea
2. Japan
3. China
4. Canada
5. Russian Federation
6. Iran (Islamic Rep. of)
7. United Kingdom
8. Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation
9. Germany
10. Sweden
The Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific was developed by countries in the region to foster cooperation and facilitate coordination between the ESCAP secretariat, member States and other United Nations entities. The regional road map identifies 11 priority areas of cooperation under two broad umbrella categories:

**Thematic Issues**
- Leaving no one behind (social development)
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Climate change
- Management of natural resources
- Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda
- Energy

**Means of Implementation and Partnership**
- Data and statistics
- Technology
- Finance
- Policy coherence
- North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships
THE REGIONAL ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL ROAD MAP?

At the global level in 2015, countries set in motion the most far reaching and ambitious development agenda of our time, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The regional road map sets out a strategy to facilitate regional level cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia-Pacific. It was developed and adopted in 2017 by countries in Asia and the Pacific and is supported by the ESCAP secretariat and other UN entities.

HOW THE ROAD MAP SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

In line with the 2030 Agenda, the objective of the road map is to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through regional cooperation in a set of 11 priority areas that support effective pursuit of sustainable development by member States.

With this regional road map, ESCAP member States have set the course for transforming the region and delivering inclusive and sustainable development in Asia-Pacific. Their success will define the global success of the 2030 Agenda.

EXPECTED IMPACTS OF THE ROAD MAP

- strengthened regional cooperation on priority areas;
- more efficient and coordinated support for member States provided by the ESCAP secretariat, the United Nations system and regional organizations;
- more effective knowledge-sharing among countries.

ESCAP’s work supports member States in their efforts to implement the road map and the 2030 Agenda.

The Technical Cooperation Highlights 2018-2019 presents the results and achievements of ESCAP in its implementation of the Regional Road Map over the past two years.
THEMATIC ISSUES

- Energy
- Leaving no one behind
- Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Management of Natural Resources
- Climate change
- North-South, South-South, International and Regional Partnerships
- Policy Coherence
- Technology
- Data and Statistics
- Finance

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIP
2018-2019 TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS
CHAPTER 1: THEMATIC AREAS

“Building a more resilient and sustainable Asia-Pacific”

As the largest and most inclusive intergovernmental organization in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP has contributed considerably to development in the region. Combining convening power, normative and analytical functions, regional consensus building and multisectoral advocacy, ESCAP is uniquely placed to tackle complex transboundary issues and support regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific identifies six thematic issues:

- Leaving no one behind (Social development)
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Climate change
- Management of natural resources
- Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda
- Energy

This chapter highlights ESCAP’s work in each of these thematic areas, showing the progress made towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
The Asia-Pacific region has made significant strides towards inclusive and sustainable social development in recent decades. Economic growth has yielded new opportunities, leading to better access to basic services and an overall increase in income. However, these economic gains have been accompanied by greater inequalities, of which the impacts are most acutely felt by vulnerable groups in society. ESCAP is driven by the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind”. Through regional dialogue, policy advocacy, research, analysis, technical support and capacity-building, ESCAP works to strengthen social protection, foster gender equality and promote social inclusion, targeting some of the most vulnerable groups,
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

“Growing disparities in income and wealth, as well as inequality of opportunity, disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups”

including persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and migrants, among others.

ESCAP has undertaken numerous projects and programmes to address the growing inequality gap, some of which include:

- **Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship** – an innovative and multi-disciplinary project to advance women’s economic empowerment and contribute to poverty reduction in the region.
- **Strengthening Capacities to Design Policies to Address Population Ageing** - a capacity-building initiative aimed at policymakers to foster pension reform.
- **Pacific Enable** – an inter-agency initiative in Pacific island States to support their ratification/ascension to and compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
The results from these projects are discussed further below.

**PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE ENHANCEMENT OF WOMEN’S ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

Strengthening women’s access to economic opportunities guarantees women’s participation in society and, in so doing, ensures sustainable economic growth and social development for all.

**ESCAP IS WORKING TO BUILD A WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM, PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES, AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ICT SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE WOMEN’S ACCESS TO MARKET INFORMATION, NETWORKS AND SERVICES.**

“Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship” is a regional initiative to support women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, as part of a strategy for poverty reduction, social well-being and sustainable economic growth. It aims to create an enabling environment for policy and business to enhance women entrepreneurs’ access to capital through innovative financing mechanisms and greater use of ICT and digital solutions.

**CATALYZING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**2018 – 2023**

- Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam
- Government of Canada
- United Nations Capital Development Fund

**Expected results:**

Through partnerships, the project uses three innovative financing mechanisms to support women entrepreneurs in accessing affordable, regulated, financial services. These include:

- Innovation Fund grants to seek out new, innovative and transformative digital finance and technology solutions which support women entrepreneurs. Grant funds are used as risk capital to allow the private sector to try new business models, reach new markets and develop customer-centric financial and technology products, and services for women entrepreneurs.
- The Women’s Bond, developed with the ESCAP, as a debt security mobilizing private investment capital to fund a portfolio of loans to women focused borrowers.
- The Impact Fund, which looks to provide equity investment for more established businesses owned by women.
STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO DESIGN POLICIES TO ADDRESS POPULATION AGEING

2018

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam

United Nations (Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation)

Key results achieved:

- Strengthened the capacities of policymakers to design and reform pension systems, focusing on comprehensive coverage and distributive justice through a series of capacity-building workshops, policy advice and technical support. Training and advocacy materials were developed on good practices in pension systems reform.

Age-based discrimination and lower-age thresholds for mandatory retirement can act as barriers to remaining active in later life or benefitting from adequate pension funds. Older women are at greater risk of poverty, as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, often exacerbated by old age. Additionally, the culmination of weak social protection systems, rural-to-urban migration and changing family structures, have left many older persons, notably women, without a stable income.
PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – “MAKING THE RIGHT REAL”

In the Asia-Pacific region, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers and ostracization in education, the workplace, social protection services and legal support. Not only is this a violation of human rights, it is also a missed opportunity for society. Persons with disabilities make up 15 per cent of the population in the Asia-Pacific region and this number is likely to rise, given factors such as population ageing, natural disasters, road traffic injuries and poor working conditions. Studies show that taking measures to accommodate and enable the capacity of persons with disabilities can boost economies and contribute to gross domestic product.

ESCAP works to support the development of policies, programmes and measures that respect, protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve this, ESCAP member States adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022) and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The Incheon Strategy is the outcome of a two-year consultation with governments and civil society. It sets out 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators, constituting the first regionally agreed framework for disability-specific development goals.

Since its adoption, ESCAP has led an ambitious agenda on advocacy, technical support and regional dialogue aimed at progressively realizing the 10 goals of the Incheon Strategy.

MAKE THE RIGHT REAL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2013-2022

Asia-Pacific countries

Governments of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea

Promote evidence-based policymaking and establish reliable indicators and comparable baseline data for implementing the regional disability-inclusive development goals – the Incheon Strategy

Key results achieved:

• Improved data availability on disabilities in 35 governments, resulting in a marked increase in the number of indicators and data submitted on those indicators in participating countries.
• Development and adoption of national action plans on disability data collection in 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.
• Sixteen ESCAP member States ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
• Thirteen ESCAP member States identified anti-discrimination legislation in compliance with the CRPD; seven ESCAP member States enacted legislation.
• ESCAP member States contributed regional initiatives:
  • Adoption of Resolution 74/7 of 16 May 2018 endorsing, “Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: Implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy”.
  • Establishment of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, with membership of 15 governments and 15 civil society organizations.
Between 2012 and 2018, ESCAP has been leading an inter-agency initiative, “Pacific Enable”, to support Pacific island States in their accession to, and compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**PACIFIC ENABLE**

**2012 – 2018**

Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

UNICEF, ILO, OHCHR, WHO, UNV, the Pacific Disability Forum and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Develop legislation and policies in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) under the Pacific Enable framework

**Key results achieved:**


- **Palau and Kiribati** - submitted initial State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- **Tuvalu** - amended Constitution to include disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination, following a national constitutional review.

- **Vanuatu** - endorsed recommendations to amend 101 sectoral laws, following 2015 legislative review as per the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2018 – 2025.
The Asia-Pacific region is among the most vulnerable parts of the world to natural disasters. Since 2005, almost 60 per cent of total global deaths, 45 per cent of total global economic damage and 80 per cent of those affected by natural disasters were based in Asia-Pacific countries. In 2018 alone, the region was hit with five sudden-onset disasters: Tropical Cyclone Gita in Tonga (February 2018), a 7.5 magnitude earthquake in Papua New Guinea (February 2018), Tropical Storm Son Tinh in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (August 2018), Cyclone Mangkhut in the Philippines (September 2018) and a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in Central Sulawesi in Indonesia (October 2018). It is estimated that over 500 million poor people continue to live in medium or high disaster-risk areas in Asia and the Pacific.
“Understanding disaster risk and resilience is necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”

A natural disaster can destroy years of work and investment by communities, governments and development organizations. That is why the principle of disaster resilience is central to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. If these Goals are to be achieved, it is necessary to ensure that the three constituent parts of sustainable development – environment, society and economy – are capable of withstanding extreme natural disasters. Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 13 are linked to disaster risk reduction and resilience. This demonstrates the crosscutting role that disaster risk reduction plays in development strategies.

ESCAP has worked to support member States in the region to achieve concrete results in disaster risk reduction and resilience, including through:

- **Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction** – an ongoing programme of work which supports the most vulnerable member States in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development strategies;
- **Drought Mechanism** – a capacity-building initiative to strengthen technical capacities of member States to utilize geospatial data, information and tools in drought monitoring and disaster risk reduction;
- **Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in Pacific Islands** – an institutional capacity-building project aimed at setting up geoportals for multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems, to enhance the use of risk-sensitive geospatial data.
MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Experience has shown that disaster risk reduction and preparedness is far more effective and less costly than response, relief and recovery efforts.

ESCAP supports policymakers in developing tools to plan disaster-resilient risk management as well as recovery and development. ESCAP also engages in capacity-building at the national and regional levels to support governments in the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction. Country-based reviews have been undertaken to identify priority issues on disaster risk reduction; and a regional advisory network of experts and practitioners has been developed to share best practices and lessons learned. These well-targeted interventions and initiatives have been delivered in partnership with UNDRR, OCHA, UN Environment, WMO, ASEAN, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), and achieved key results summarized below:

- **Countries better able to assess disaster-related risk and damages**, including 14 countries hit by major disasters, such as the 2015 Nepal earthquake and the 2015/2016 El Niño.
- **A new Maldives Disaster Management Plan** was developed by the National Disaster Management Centre with technical assistance and expertise provided by ESCAP.
- **Monsoon Forums in Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Sri Lanka** were scaled up with second generation knowledge products, emphasizing downscaled, sector-wise socio-economic risks as well as climate/weather risk.
- **National Climate Outlook Forums** were established in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, providing climate and hydrological information products to enable key economic sectors to anticipate, prepare and respond to climate anomalies and extreme events.
- **Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network** was created to reinforce work on disaster risk reduction and resilience across the 2030 Agenda, and the regional road map.

- The ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020 was operationalized with the aim of improving coherence and UN engagement with ASEAN.
- **Greater access to knowledge on drought prospects for decades ahead** through a joint ASEAN-ESCAP report entitled “Ready for the Dry Years”.
- **Capacities on policy coherence for disaster risk reduction and resilience in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal** were strengthened through a toolkit on policy coherence for disaster risk reduction and resilience to determine how investments in the health sector can help achieve resilience-related targets.
- **An advisory on potential risks and impacts of the impending 2018/2019 El Niño** was released in partnership with RIMES, which was used by the Regional El Niño Group comprising the UN agencies and humanitarian entities in the region.
- **A report on ‘Ocean Accounting for Disaster Resilience in Pacific SIDS’** was issued to help quantify the risk and deepen knowledge related to oceanogenic disasters in Pacific SIDS.
- **The 2019 edition of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report** was issued, pointing out that many countries in the region could be reaching a tipping point beyond which disaster risk fuelled by climate change exceeded their capacity to respond.
BUILDING RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT AND SLOW-ONSET DISASTERS

The impact of droughts and slow-onset disasters has increased significantly in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly among the most vulnerable groups. Annualized economic losses more than quadruple when slow-onset disasters are included in the regional riskscape. It is estimated that the frequency, severity, duration and geographical distribution of droughts brought on by climate change will account for 60 per cent of annual disaster losses by 2030.

Signs of drought can be observed from space long before they become visible to the human eye on the ground. Space-based data has become a vital supplement to terrestrial knowledge sources on combating drought. However, there is a scarcity of resources and capacity to analyse such data in many drought-prone developing countries.

To fill this gap, ESCAP introduced the “Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in Asia and the Pacific”. Countries participating in the Mechanism benefit from enhanced access to space-derived data, capacity-building in monitoring and preparedness, strengthened institutional coordination and policies at the national level, and regional and South-South networks.

THE REGIONAL DROUGHT MECHANISM

2014 – present

Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka

Build technical capacity of member States in applying geospatial data, information and tools for drought monitoring and disaster risk reduction

Key results achieved:

• Customized Drought Watch System in full operation in the National Remote Sensing Center in Mongolia in September 2018.
• Capacity of 125 government officials from 18 countries in Asia-Pacific was strengthened to undertake precise risk assessments in climate-sensitive sectors, and anticipatory strategies in disaster risk.
• Member States’ technical capacities strengthened in applying geospatial data, information and tools in drought monitoring and disaster risk reduction.
• National hydrological and meteorological services improved in predicting medium range and seasonal climate forecasts.
• Drought monitoring systems tested in Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, under the support of three Regional Service Nodes in China, India and Thailand.
• Drought mechanism expanded to drought-prone countries in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
STRENGTHENING MULTI-HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Between 2000 and 2016, the Pacific subregion reported more than 2,300 fatalities from natural hazards, such as tropical cyclones, earthquakes, floods and extreme temperatures. More than 1.2 million people were affected, with estimated damage over $10 billion. Early warning systems (EWS) are a recognized solution to improve disaster preparedness and alleviate damage. Among the components of EWS, data and information – including land and geospatial data – are essential to effective operation.

STRENGTHENING MULTI-HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

2016 – 2018

Key results achieved:

- Identified needs and emerging challenges of Pacific island countries to address multi-hazard risks and strengthen early warning systems through analytical research in collaboration with participating Pacific countries and regional organizations in the Pacific subregion.
- Enhanced knowledge and capacity of Pacific countries on geospatial data to address multi hazard and risks and to find solutions through implementing intensive capacity training programmes and expert group meetings.
- AIT, under the guidance of ESCAP conducted pilot projects in collaboration with national disaster management offices in four Pacific countries, and built and operated geoportals and geodatabases as key components of early warning systems in the subregion.
- BMKG Indonesia, under guidance of ESCAP, implemented three additional pilot projects in cooperation with the national meteorological services of three Pacific countries, conducted customized multi-hazard risk assessment and strengthened analytical models of early warning systems.
- Established high-resolution weather research forecasting (WRF) model in Tonga, and a high resolution WRF model and ocean wave model (Wavewatch3) in Solomon Islands.
- Established a Drought Monitoring System in Papua New Guinea.
- Strengthened institutional capacity in setting up geoportals for multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems and using risk-sensitive geospatial data.

2016 – 2018

Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga

Government of Japan

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT); Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency Indonesia (BMKG); Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA); Japan Geospatial Information Authority, World Meteorological Organization (WMO); the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Government of Japan

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT); Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency Indonesia (BMKG); Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA); Japan Geospatial Information Authority, World Meteorological Organization (WMO); the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Developed, in collaboration with national partner Ministries, mid-term (three to five-year) draft action plans in Fiji, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga, focusing on strengthening the capacity to analyse multi-hazard assessment and milestone based actions to promote the use of geospatial information systems for early warning and disaster risk reduction.

Enhanced regional cooperation among Pacific partners including National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and members of ESCAP / WMO Typhoon Committee.
The Asia-Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to climate-induced natural disasters, with annual regional economic loss estimated at $675 billion. This represents around 2.4 per cent of the region’s GDP, including productivity and working conditions, of which $405 billion, or 60 per cent, are drought-related agricultural losses, disproportionately impacting poor people living in rural areas. At the same time, Asia-Pacific countries account for more than 50 per cent of global emissions with the likelihood of increase: it is thus vital that governments take stronger measures to transition to more efficient, low-carbon economies.
“Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development everywhere. Urgent action to halt climate change and deal with its impacts is integral to successfully achieving all Sustainable Development Goals”

ESCAP has been working to support member States on climate change, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the related Nationally Determined Contributions. Some of its initiatives have included:

- **Innovative climate finance mechanisms for financial institutions in the Asia-Pacific region** – an ongoing programme that provides a package of technical advisory services to member States to support the development of financial instruments to meet the 2030 Agenda needs and bridge financing gaps for low-carbon climate-resilient development.

- **Asia-Pacific Climate Week** – an annual event organized in collaboration with UNFCCC to support member States’ implementation of the Paris Agreement and advance regional climate action.

- **Climate Action at ESCAP** – the piloting of a four-year Environmental Management System at the ESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok, designed to lower carbon emissions and other environmental impacts generated by its facilities and operations.
The results of these initiatives are presented below.

IDENTIFYING INNOVATIVE CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Meeting the financial requirements of the 2030 Agenda means delivering on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the related Nationally Determined Contributions.

Since 2016, ESCAP has been supporting the development of financial instruments to leverage domestic investments in order to meet the 2030 Agenda implementation needs and bridge the financing gaps for low-carbon climate-resilient development. Technical and advisory services have been provided to financial institutions in Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka in the form of national scoping studies, fact sheets and case studies. Two rounds of national consultations were held, instigating discussions on innovative climate finance instruments for financial institutions and establishing platforms for dialogue and learning among key stakeholders. The result of these efforts led to the establishment of national climate finance champions networks in the above-cited four countries.

INNOVATIVE CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

2016 - 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Nations (Development Account)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UN Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance capacity of central banks to put in place policies and guidelines that encourage investment towards climate mitigation and adaptation projects</td>
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Key results achieved:

- **Indonesia** - regulations issued by the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia (Otoritas Jasa Keuangan) on Sustainable Finance.
- **Pakistan** - Green Banking Guidelines issued by the State Bank of Pakistan.
- **The Philippines** - tripartite agreement for the development of the Climate Finance Charter by the Climate Change Commission, Senator Legarda and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Sri Lanka** - drafting of the Sustainable Development Financing Roadmap and Climate Finance elements.
ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE WEEK

PARTNERSHIP

The Asia-Pacific Climate Week is part of the annual events organized across the region to support countries’ implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Its aim is to advance regional climate action by promoting market-based actions, economic instruments and climate-aligned finance. It fosters multi-stakeholder partnerships at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, featuring a host of engaging events on topics such as finance for climate action, carbon trading systems and sector discussions, including energy, urban development, waste management and sustainable agriculture.

ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE WEEK

2017 and 2018

Asia-Pacific countries

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Asian Development Bank, International Emissions Trading Association, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, UN Environment, UN Development Programme

Key results achieved:

• Sixty businesses, making up nearly 50 per cent of New Zealand’s emissions, joined forces to form the Climate Leaders Coalition to realize the goals of the Paris Agreement.
• ASEAN Smart Cities Network signed five agreements, highlighting South-South cooperation, and establishing a smart energy management system.
• On carbon markets, the World Bank reaffirmed that, to date, 51 carbon pricing initiatives have been implemented or are scheduled for implementation, representing a fivefold increase in the past 10 years.

• Provide the first major platform following the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23), as an opportunity to take stock of the COP23 outcomes and their implication for the Asia-Pacific region.
• Develop a Regional Climate Action Agenda aligned with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, which is the UNFCCC framework for global climate action.

PARTNERSHIP

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CLIMATE ACTION AT THE ESCAP SECRETARIAT

ESCAP has taken concrete measures to reduce its carbon emissions along with other environmental impacts generated by its facilities and operations.

In 2016, ESCAP executive management committed to the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for its Headquarters in Bangkok. Through this commitment, ESCAP joined the “Environment Sustainable UN” initiative and became one of the four pilot UN agencies implementing an EMS for their facilities and operations. The initiative was undertaken with guidance from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Implementing an Action Plan over a four-year cycle, the EMS ensures a systematic approach towards emissions reduction and improved environmental sustainability through planned, participatory and monitored environmental work following ISO 14001 environmental management guidelines. Under this commitment, ESCAP has made all its intergovernmental meetings in 2017 and 2018 carbon neutral by offsetting their carbon emissions.

Implementation of the Action Plan has involved:
- Adjustments to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- Implementation of lighting operation hours.
- Waste recycling and reduction focused on banning single-use plastics from the catering sector.
- Changes to HVAC operation hours to reduce energy and water usage.
- Water efficient toilet fixtures.
- Training staff on measures to “green” meetings and behaviours at the UN Compound.
- Promotion of alternative measures to air travel, such as online conferencing and greening of the organization’s fleet of vehicles.
- Carbon offsetting.

Key results achieved:
- Ten per cent reduction in electricity use in two years.
- Over a million single-use catering items prevented from becoming waste in one year, equivalent to nine tons of waste prevented; 27 per cent of waste recycled.
- Eighteen per cent reduction in freshwater use and more than six per cent of water recycled in two years.
- Four climate neutral and green intergovernmental meetings convened by ESCAP.
- Nineteen per cent reduction in air travel emissions in two years.
- ESCAP became a climate-neutral organization, offsetting operations emissions in 2017 and 2018.

"THE UNITED NATIONS AS LEADER OF CHANGE AND INNOVATION"

For the United Nations to be able to inspire and lead world governments towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainability principles need to be fully integrated in the environmental management of its facilities and operations. Only by acting as “one”, can the UN meaningfully reduce its environmental impact and protect its host environments. Synergy and close collaboration among UN agencies on environmental sustainability is therefore the foundation of the environmental work at the UN Compound in Bangkok.

We aim big!
The UN Compound in Bangkok goes single-use plastic free

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO PLASTIC STRAWS</td>
<td>NO SINGLE-USE CONTAINERS &amp; PLATES</td>
<td>NO PLASTIC BAGS AND CUTLERY</td>
<td>NO PLASTIC CUPS</td>
<td>NO PLASTIC WRAPS, JUST SINGLE-USE SUGAR PACKETS</td>
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</table>
The Asia-Pacific region consumes more than half the world’s natural resources, with an increasing rate of absolute and per capita use. It threatens to jeopardize access to food and water, not only at the regional, but also at the global level. The work of ESCAP focuses on safeguarding natural resources and promoting resource efficiency for land and ocean systems. It relies on regional convening mechanisms to engage in high-level policy dialogue, encouraging environmental issues to be mainstreamed into regional and subregional development policies. It also works to raise awareness and strengthen governments’ capacities to integrate environmental sustainability into country policies and programmes.
MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

“As humankind’s livelihoods, nutrition and economic opportunities all fundamentally depend upon utilizing the terrestrial and marine resources and ecosystems of our planet, the Asia-Pacific region’s continuing survival and prosperity depends on managing these resources to be sustainable.”

ESCAP has been working with member States across a range of programmes and projects, some of which include:

- **North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)** – a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework that focuses on transboundary environmental challenges such as air pollution, nature conservation, marine protected areas, low carbon cities, desertification and land degradation.

- **Closing the Loop: Unlocking the informal economy to recover plastic waste and reduce marine pollution as part of an inclusive circular economy approach** – a recent initiative that draws on informal inclusive waste management practices to fill gaps in formal waste management systems, with the aim of increasing the amount of plastic returned to the production cycle, reducing plastic waste leakage and promoting progress towards SDGs 11 and 14.

- **Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus** – a pilot project implemented in 12 cities across seven member States (China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) to foster more integrated resource planning and management, using an ESCAP established framework known as the Urban Nexus approach.
The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.

**ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN NORTH-EAST ASIA**

The North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) has been heralded as the most comprehensive intergovernmental framework on environmental cooperation since 1993. It consists of six ESCAP member States, which together represent approximately 23 per cent of the world's population, 22 per cent of global GDP, and almost 40 per cent of global carbon emissions.

NEASPEC focuses on transboundary environmental issues in the subregion, using a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach across the following programme areas:

- Transboundary air pollution
- Nature conservation
- Marine protected areas
- Low-carbon cities
- Desertification and land degradation

Initiatives in all five programmatic areas are currently implemented in line with the NEASPEC Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2020. The governing body of NEASPEC holds an annual Senior Officials Meeting, providing policy guidance and project coordination. ESCAP serves as the NEASPEC Secretariat.

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**THE NORTH-EAST ASIAN SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (NEASPEC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1993 – present</th>
<th>Key results achieved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation</td>
<td>• <strong>Transboundary air pollution</strong> - NEASPEC launched the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership as a new platform to promote science-based, policy-oriented cooperation through building a subregional emission inventory, publishing a scientific assessment report, developing policy scenarios on optimized mitigation solutions and facilitating policy dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Russian Federation</td>
<td>• <strong>Nature conservation</strong> - NEASPEC is working towards implementing a conservation strategy, drawing on the findings of three ongoing studies to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation:</td>
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<td>• Transborder movement of Amur tigers and leopards</td>
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<td>• Habitats for key migratory birds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Transboundary conservation in the Daurian International Protected Area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Low Carbon Cities</strong> - NEASPEC strengthened information sharing and technical assistance on low-carbon policies in Wuhan and Guangzhou cities, China. It also carried out a comparative study of national policies on low-carbon cities in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The outcomes of these efforts are expected to inform NEASPEC’s Low Carbon City Platform.</td>
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</table>
INCLUSIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE PLASTIC PROBLEM IN ASIAN CITIES

Plastic is now almost impossible to escape in our daily life, yet it is causing untold destruction of our natural environment. Recent studies have found all waterbodies to be contaminated by micro-plastics. The Asia-Pacific region has become a major hotspot for plastic leakage. China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam are responsible for approximately 60 per cent of the exponential increase in global plastic production. The effects of plastic leakage have been severe to ocean life – a dead whale recently found in the Philippines had ingested 40 kilograms of plastic.

Under a new initiative “Closing the Loop: Unlocking the informal economy to recover plastic waste and reduce marine pollution as part of an inclusive circular economy approach”, ESCAP worked with regional partners to develop inclusive waste management solutions to return plastic resources to the production cycle; reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment and the oceans; and contribute to the achievement of SDGs 11 and 14.

Good practice case studies were identified in Pune, India and Sai Mai, Bangkok, where local initiatives filled gaps in formal waste management systems and contributed to the practical application of a circular plastic waste economy. The case studies informed the plastic waste management systems in the Pune Municipal Corporation and Bangkok Metropolitan Authority, both of which now support community-based waste cooperatives as key service providers in the fight against plastic pollution.

CASE STUDY

CLOSING THE LOOP: UNLOCKING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY TO RECOVER PLASTIC WASTE AND REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION AS PART OF AN INCLUSIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH

Pune, India
ESCAP documented that waste pickers diverted an estimated 52 per cent of plastic waste from landfills. The annual greenhouse gas reduction from plastic waste diversion and recycling was estimated to be approximately 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent – comparable to removing more than 10,000 passenger cars from the roads.

Sai Mai, Thailand
According to ESCAP analysis, the financial contributions of informal plastic waste recyclers across Bangkok’s 50 districts could amount to 500 million baht ($15.8 million) per year – well above the average spent by the city for waste collection in 2011 – 2013.

In 2018, the initiative was highlighted as a best practice at the “Our Ocean Conference” and the first “Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean”. Following a 2019 feature article in The Bangkok Post, the initiative led to a new partnership between ESCAP and private sector plastic retailers, including Central Group Thailand, to reduce, reuse and design-out single use plastics in day-to-day operations.

A Regional Policy Guide was subsequently developed, bringing together findings and experiences for redesigning waste management systems. New systems focus on increasing resource-use efficiency and integrating formal with informal waste management, encouraging as much inclusivity as possible to enable bottom-up innovations in plastic waste management.
SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE USE IN CITIES – URBAN NEXUS

Managing rapidly growing cities and urban regions is among the most complex challenges facing Asia and the Pacific today. An estimated 120,000 people move to urban centres every day in the region. Energy, water and food are essential to sustain development efforts, yet they remain vulnerable to future demand.

Since 2013, ESCAP has been implementing the project “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: Urban Nexus”. The project supports 12 cities across seven ASEAN member States. ESCAP established a framework for piloting initiatives, highlighting the benefits of mainstreaming urban nexus approaches in national and local strategies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ASIAN CITIES: URBAN NEXUS

2013 - 2019

China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam

Government of Germany

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

• Develop an enabling framework for the piloting of urban nexus initiatives in 12 Asian cities
• Mainstream the nexus approach in national and local strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda

Key results achieved:

• Naga City, the Philippines -
  • Adopted integrated urban nexus approach in Comprehensive Land Use Plan along with its success indicators, incorporating nexus thinking in the design of disaster risk reduction and compact urban form.
  • Established “Urban Nexus Task Force”, introducing urban nexus and design thinking as a new format for participatory, interactive planning.
  • Completed Climate Change Resilient Pilot House, working with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Urban Nexus and the Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology.
  • Incorporated nexus recommendations into 30-year “Sustainable Urban Development Plan for Naga City” under national legislation “AMBISYON Natin 2040 – a locally mandated long-term plan for sustainable development in the implementation of the SDGs.

• Tanjung Pinang, Indonesia -
  • Committed voluntarily to prepare an action plan focused on the nexus approach and linked to the implementation of SDGs 6 and 11. A vacuum sewage system was established in Senggarang, providing sanitation services to hard-to-reach coastal areas, increasing sanitation coverage to 100 per cent.

• Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia -
  • Conducted Urban Nexus pre-feasibility study on city energy plan, securing $12.7 million to address heat loss.
  • Adopted measures to improve insulation in residential and commercial buildings – upgrading heating pipes and shifting to renewable energy
  • Developing plans for an Eco Village Project to provide affordable green housing in one of the community-driven redevelopment sites.
Connectivity is essential for inclusive economic growth and remains vital to unlocking greater regional and inter-regional economic cooperation. ESCAP research suggests that approximately 80 per cent of international trade costs could be reduced with a combination of policy reforms involving trade, transport and information and communications technology (ICT). Improving seamless connectivity will require an integrated and comprehensive approach towards sustainable transport, liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment in goods and services and ICT. A key priority of ESCAP’s work is to bring about an integrated and comprehensive approach to seamless connectivity, enabling goods, services, people and information to move more freely and efficiently across borders in the Asia-Pacific region.
CONNECTIVITY FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

“Improvements in regional connectivity related to transport, information and communications technology and trade are of critical significance in achieving sustainable development”

ESCAP has been working with member States across a range of programmes and projects to improve connectivity.

Some of these initiatives include:

- **Dry port development** – an ongoing programme to support the development of dry ports across the region and operationalize the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance, adopted at the 74th Session of the Commission in 2018.

- **Sustainable Urban Transport Index (SUTI)** – a framework of 10 indicators, developed by ESCAP to help policymakers track, summarize and compare the performance of sustainable urban transport systems in cities.

- **Trade Intelligence and Negotiations Adviser (TINA)** – an ESCAP-initiated online tool to provide trade negotiators with intelligence on Commodities, tariffs, bilateral trade flows and regional trade agreements.

- **United Nations Network for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)** – an ESCAP supported cross-border electronic trade exchange, with a dedicated Taskforce on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange for Northeast Asia, bringing together experts from national customs and border agencies.

- **Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)** – an initiative driven by ESCAP member States that seeks to increase the coverage, availability, reliability and affordability of broadband connectivity across the region.

The results of these programmes and projects are discussed further below.

DEVELOPING REGIONAL TRANSPORT NETWORKS

The availability of reliable transport infrastructure and services is critical for economic development, environmental protection and a balanced distribution of economic and social benefits. ESCAP has been working with member States to promote the development of sustainable transport connectivity and transform transport routes into economic corridors. The Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and international dry ports constitute the key building blocks for the region’s sustainable transport connectivity.
Building on these regional infrastructure assets, ESCAP has been supporting member countries progress towards a greater sustainability of regional freight operations. Notably, ESCAP has supported national and regional efforts to enhance efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network, by streamlining cross-border procedures and encouraging an electronic exchange of information between railway and other border agencies. Faced with the challenges of climate change, improving efficiency in the railway system will foster its increased use, and thus help to lower CO₂ emissions, while promoting sustainable and eco-efficient connectivity across the region. Another major part of ESCAP’s work is helping member States enhance intermodal interchanges, such as dry ports along the network.

DEVELOPMENT OF DRY PORTS TO IMPROVE INTERMODAL FREIGHT TRANSPORT

In Asia and the Pacific, where 12 ESCAP member States are landlocked, dry ports play a vital role in transport efficiency. Dry ports serve a variety of functions – storing and consolidating goods, maintaining road or rail cargo carriers and housing customs clearance services. As a link in the transportation network, dry ports have a positive effect on the efficiency of transport and logistic chains. Dry ports serve as inland intermodal terminals, directly connecting road or rail to a seaport, and operating as a centre for the trans-shipment of sea cargo to inland destinations. A dry port can relieve demands on storage and customs space at seaports, speeding up the cargo flow between ships and major land transportation networks.

Key results achieved:

- **Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports** – a regional framework adopted in 2013, which supports the development of dry ports, providing guidance on locations, existing and missing infrastructure links, the need to establish technical, institutional and legal arrangements, and options for financing dry port development.
- “Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance”, ESCAP Resolution 74/2 – capacity-building provided to Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.
SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT INDEX

It has become critical for government at all levels to work together to respond to the growing demands being placed on sustainable urban transport systems. ESCAP developed the Sustainable Urban Transport Index (SUTI) – a set of indicators to help policymakers track, summarize and compare the performance of sustainable urban transport systems in cities. SUTI was developed to enable member States to measure their progress in providing safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport, including public transport in line with target 11.2 of the SDGs. SUTI indicators cover aspects of planning, access, safety, quality and reliability, affordability and emissions.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT INDEX (SUTI)

2017 – present

Asia-Pacific region

Government of the Republic of Korea

Assess and improve urban transport policies by member States in Asia and the Pacific

Key results achieved:

• Nepal – removal of suspended cables in urban areas, improved footpaths, more cycle tracks, prospective plans for flyovers and subways.

• Sri Lanka – transit-oriented land use and transport-planning with priority bus lanes, multimodal transport hubs and a monorail system.

• Indonesia – plans to integrate multimodal public transport through the light rail and mass rail transit systems.

• Viet Nam – more infrastructure for walking, cycling and intermodal transfer facilities into the already approved transport master plan.

A VISUAL DISPLAY OF THE SUTI

A point near the outer circle indicates good result & a point near the centre indicates low value

Source: ESCAP
BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF TRADE NEGOTIATORS IN ASIA-PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS

Governments in the Asia-Pacific region proactively use trade agreements to promote trade linkages within and outside the region. Of the 274 existing preferential trade agreements globally, 66 per cent involve Asia-Pacific economies. To build the capacity of trade negotiators, especially from countries with special needs, ESCAP has developed an online tool for trade negotiators to analyse information on bilateral trade flows, tariffs and regional trade agreements – the Trade Intelligence and Negotiations Adviser (TINA). The TINA tool helps trade negotiators prepare tariff requests and offer lists used in bilateral negotiations on tariff concessions. It also helps identify trade facilitation gaps on which countries may cooperate, using data from another ESCAP-led initiative, the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (untfsurvey.org).

TRADE INTELLIGENCE AND NEGOTIATIONS ADVISER (TINA): (TINA.NEGOTIATETRADE.ORG)

2018 – ongoing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asia-Pacific region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assist trade policymakers and negotiators in developing countries to negotiate trade agreements through access to information on bilateral trade flows, tariffs and regional trade agreements

Key results achieved:

- A pilot version was used to train negotiators from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Myanmar and Pakistan
- Capacity-building for LDC officials was held at the WTO-ESCAP Workshop on LDC Graduation in early 2019
- The TINA portal has been used by more than 100 users every month in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore and Thailand
- ESCAP is seeking partners to expand TINA to support the negotiation of non-tariff measures, e-commerce and sustainable development provisions in preferential trade agreements, and to conduct regular capacity-building activities using the tool. ESCAP signed a memorandum of understanding with IBM in late 2019 which includes cooperation on TINA.

The online TINA tool is available at: https://tina.negotiatettrade.org/
DIGITAL TRADE FACILITATION – A TOOL TO REDUCE TRADE COSTS IN THE REGION

Digital trade facilitation can reduce costs and increase trade volume for the region. The ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific provides a unique platform for member States to implement seamless electronic exchange of trade data and documents. The implementation of this agreement is expected to reduce trade costs by 25 per cent. Since 2018, ESCAP has conducted legal and technical readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade in eight countries, including five least-developed countries, with the support of China and the Enhanced Integrated Framework. ESCAP has also supported the development of electronic trade data exchange between China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea through its dedicated community of practice, the United Nations Network for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Lack of broadband connectivity shuts out millions of people from transformative digital opportunities in the region. The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) is a member-driven initiative of ESCAP, which began in 2012. It promotes open access and transparent pricing to increase coverage, availability, reliability and affordability. Following endorsement of an AP-IS Master Plan by ESCAP member States in 2017, the secretariat embarked on a project to bridge the digital divide and inequality among landlocked developing countries in North and Central Asia. The project sets out to expand broadband connectivity by developing technical, human and institutional capacity, and promoting co-deployment of fibreoptic cables along roads, railways, pipelines and electric powerlines.

The five participating member States have been working to create an enabling environment for cost-efficient, resilient and inclusive infrastructure. The objective is to increase the affordability and reliability of broadband connectivity among these countries, which can then help deliver public services and information to previously under-serviced communities.

Similarly, two studies are underway, on the feasibility of establishing shared Internet exchange points to improve Internet traffic management, enhance regional exchange of content and bring down broadband prices. One is proposed to be shared among Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and the other among interested developing Pacific Island Countries who (with the exception of Viet Nam) remain among the most disconnected countries.

INTERACTIVE ITU/ESCAP ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY TRANSMISSION MAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key results achieved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Mapping of regional terrestrial routes reveals missing links and investment opportunities for the development of a coherent Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Main transport construction projects identified, enabling fibre-optic cables to be laid in coordination with railway and road construction to ensure appropriate cost savings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 2012 – present
  - Asia-Pacific region
  - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
  - Provide the first-ever interactive map on the missing ICT links in terrestrial transmission across the Asia-Pacific region
The Asia-Pacific region faces many energy-related challenges. More than 230 million people in the region continue to live without access to electricity, and nearly half the people rely on cooking fuels and technology that are both polluting and unhealthy. The regional road map identifies key opportunities for ESCAP to address regional energy-related challenges, while supporting Sustainable Development Goal 7 – ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
“Energy is the cornerstone of sustainable development and lies at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change”

ESCAP has undertaken various initiatives to address regional energy-related challenges. Two examples of such initiatives are:

- **The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum** – the Asia-Pacific region’s only intergovernmental ministerial-level energy platform, which brings together more than 50 member States across the region to develop a regional energy agenda and advance action on SDG 7.

- **The Asia Pacific Energy Portal** – an online platform, designed at the request of member States following the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. It fosters knowledge exchange and encourages informed decision-making within Asia-Pacific’s energy sector.

The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.
THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ENERGY FORUM

The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum is the first of its kind in the region. It brings together more than 50 member States to focus on energy-related issues. The inaugural ministerial conference was held in May 2013, and since then the Forum has worked to support affordable and clean energy. The Forum directly links with the regional road map and Sustainable Development Goal 7. The Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum focused on the implementation of SDG 7, with more than 200 delegates from 32 countries participating, including Ministers, Vice Ministers and Ambassadors.

SECOND ASIAN AND PACIFIC ENERGY FORUM

2018

Asia-Pacific region

Government of the
Russian Federation

Review the region's progress towards the implementation of SDG 7

Key results achieved:

• Reviewed progress on tackling energy security challenges, assessed regional outlook on energy and discussed policy options for achieving the targets of SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all).
• Served as a platform for sharing knowledge, experience and lessons between governments in formulating energy policies and supporting energy transitions.
• Emphasized the role of renewable energy as an important pathway to a less carbon intensive, more efficient and sustainable energy system.
• Strengthened regional cooperation towards effective implementation of SDG 7 and continued to support the Expert Working Groups on Energy Connectivity and on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels.
• Issued reports to facilitate consensus-building processes and capacity-development activities at regional and subregional levels:
  • “Regional Trends Report on Energy for Sustainable Development: Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”
  • “Energy interconnection in ASEAN for sustainable and resilient societies: Accelerating energy transition”
  • “Statistical Perspectives 2018: Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific”
  • “Energy Development in Central Asia: A statistical overview of energy sectors in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan”
  • “Energy and Development in the ASEAN Region: A statistical overview of energy sectors in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam”
THE ASIA PACIFIC ENERGY PORTAL

The Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org) was set up to respond to the requests of member States following the First Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. It facilitates information dissemination and exchange by “increasing the coherence and availability of energy statistics and policy-related information”. In 2018, the Portal was further developed to improve its user interface and data coverage. The platform seeks to support research and analysis, and to inform regional decision-making in the energy sector, through an open-access information platform, data visualizations, full-text policies and interactive energy infrastructure maps.

ASIA PACIFIC ENERGY PORTAL

- Updated data indicators for the infrastructure map and country profiles. More than 7,000 power plants also displayed on the infrastructure map in 2018.
- Identified, compiled and uploaded new comprehensive ESCAP member States national and subnational policy documents.
- Redesigned front end interface to enhance user experience.
- Improved front and back end interfaces, including energy infrastructure mapping functionality and policy development functionality.
2018-2019 TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS
CHAPTER 2: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIP

“Making it Happen”

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ensures that the appropriate means of implementation such as finance, trade, capacity-building and/or science, technology and innovation were given attention in the formulation of each Sustainable Development Goal. In addition, Goal 17 is dedicated to ensuring that the means of implementation are delivered to support member States’ efforts. The means of implementation in the 2030 Agenda also include commitments to address systemic issues, including policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability – all of which are addressed through ESCAP’s work. ESCAP is contributing to global processes focusing on the means of implementation, including on science, technology, innovation and financing for development, while strengthening the delivery of all means of implementation at the regional level.

Recognizing the relationship between regional cooperation and means of implementation, the regional road map identifies five means of implementation and partnership:

- Data and statistics
- Technology
- Finance
- Policy coherence
- North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships.

This chapter highlights ESCAP’s work in each of these areas, showing how ESCAP’s efforts to facilitate members States’ capacities and access has enabled more progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
The production, collection, dissemination and use of data and statistics within the Asia-Pacific region is vital to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Quality statistics are needed to support appropriate governance and policy making at both the national and international levels.

As a means of implementation, it is vital that policymakers have access to accurate data and statistical information in order to support policy planning and analysis across the economic, social and environmental pillars.

**IMPROVING STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

The Regional Programme for the improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (RPES), is designed to improve soundness of economic analysis and related decision making through
Availability and access to high-quality data and statistics are essential to measuring and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

THE CORE SET OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The Core Set of economic statistics, designed by ESCAP member States and development partners and endorsed in 2010, was developed as a common regional guideline, determines the capabilities of national statistical systems required to produce economic statistics, and defines the scope and approaches of the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics.

The Core Set comprises seven components or areas of economic statistics:

- **PRICES AND COSTS:** Consumer, producer and product price indices to analyse price changes; average and unit labour costs and earnings/wages; terms of trade; and exchange rates/purchasing power parities.
- **DEMAND AND OUTPUT:** GDP production and expenditure accounts in current and constant prices; external trade; industrial structure statistics; short-term indicators (industry output and demand); and productivity.
- **INCOME AND WEALTH:** National accounts for the economy and by sector to measure income, savings, investment, accumulation and wealth; balance of payments to measure international income and capital flows; international investment position and external debt.
- **MONEY AND BANKING:** Assets and liabilities of the banking sector, monetary measures and interest rates.
- **GOVERNMENT:** Revenue and expenditure, borrowing and lending, government accounts based on the System of National Accounts and/or Government Finance Statistics.
- **LABOUR MARKET:** Labour supply and demand, characteristics of labour force, employment, unemployment, underemployment, hours worked, employment in the formal/informal sector, job creation and vacancies.
- **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT:** Measures of sustainable economic growth, discovery, depletion and degradation of natural assets.

increased availability and effective use of timely, reliable and comparable economic statistics. It aims to increase capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce and disseminate, in line with the international standards, a Core Set of Economic Statistics by 2020.

To support the Regional Programme, a technical cooperation project applies a variety of modalities to support the strengthening of national economic statistics, with clusters of activities aiming to: (a) strengthen the institutional capacity of national statistical systems to produce the Core Set;
(b) improve national capacity to provide training on producing the Core Set; and (c) increase the availability of regional knowledge on quality enhancement of economic statistics.

The Regional Programme for the improvement of Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific frames a vision that all countries in the region should have the capability to provide a core set of population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Programme focuses on key system-level issues, ranging from enabling policy environment to statistical infrastructure to skills and competency.

To support the Regional Programme, a technical cooperation project developed and piloted a tool, known as EPIC or Every Policy is Connected, to support an enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics.

### REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RPES)

#### Ongoing

- **Asia-Pacific region**
- **Governments of the Russian Federation and of the United Kingdom**
- **Improve capacities of National Statistical Offices across the region to produce the Core Set.**

#### Key results achieved:

- Twenty one of 46 ESCAP member States reported measurable improvements in economic statistics components of the Core Set
- **Maldives:** Completed a review of its National Statistical Systems, identifying strengths and weaknesses in economic statistics and its role in development
- **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam:** Provided technical assistance and training to national staff, including a training of trainers, leading to 83 per cent of participants citing ESCAP support as helpful in improving their capacities to produce national statistics
- Training materials, including for **Training of Trainers** were developed
- The establishment of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Statistics Week, a knowledge sharing platform for member States to identify challenges and solutions to the development of their Core Set, ultimately shaping their capacity development work.
STRONGER POLICY-DATA LINK FOR BETTER DECISION MAKING:
A SUCCESS STORY FROM SAMOA

In terms of engaging users and investing in statistics, ESCAP has developed a tool called “EPIC” or “Every Policy is Connected”. EPIC facilitates dialogue between policymakers and data producers. The tool covers social, economic, environmental and institutional principles and aims to assess policies, data and official statistics for inclusive development and developing an indicator set relevant to policy priorities. The two key outcomes from the application of EPIC are a national sustainable development indicator set (NSDIS) and a set of recommendations for policymakers to review the coverage of issues for action and target groups in the existing policies.

Samoa, as one of the pilot countries, applied the tool in two phases, each involving seven sectors, through workshops and experience sharing activities attended by 115 participants. The workshops helped link issues for action reflected in national policy documents with target groups and relevant core concepts of EPIC which are based on social, economic, environmental and institutional principles.

The chief statistician of Samoa reflected the following benefits from applying EPIC: “EPIC helps to guide both the policymaker and the data producer to assess and evaluate the existing policies and plan documents in identification of all key issues and vulnerable situations, by applying 29 Core Concepts which are based on Social, Economic, Environment and Institutional principles. Those key issues will help us to identify all vulnerable people or target groups for actions. As policies will then target the right groups for action, data will automatically follow-suit. From here, a national sustainable dataset will be developed that both the user and producer can identify with, which will ensure inclusive policy and data for all.”

Samoa also indicated that the tool is easy to implement and strongly recommended the tool be used in other regional initiatives to enhance user-producer dialogues, sustainable user-producer partnerships, and efficient budget allocations for integration of inclusive policies and data.
SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Civil registration is the critical act of recording important events in people's lives such as births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, deaths, and causes of death. It provides individuals with the official recognition and documentation necessary to establish legal identity, family relationships and civil status. This documentation is essential for individuals to exercise various human, legal, economic, social and political rights and enables access to services, such as health, education and social protection. The statistics generated from civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS), however, are also equally important for evidence-based policymaking across multiple sectors. It directly affects the accuracy of population estimates, demographic and health statistics, which in turn, affects planning, efficient resource allocation and effective evaluation and monitoring – all of which directly impact the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

IMPROVING CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS (CRVS) IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2014 – ongoing

Asia-Pacific region
Bloomberg, Vital Strategies.
Assist countries in implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS and as part of the 2015-2024 CRVS decade in Asia and the Pacific.

Key results achieved:

Phase I (2016 – 2017)
- Strengthened the capacity of national statistical systems to produce and disseminate accurate, complete and timely vital statistics based on registration records
- Georgia, Kiribati, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: published first national vital statistics reports, while nine countries are taking substantial steps towards finishing drafts.

Phase II (2018)
- Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand: technical assistance to support the drafting of their first vital statistics using registration records from CRVS systems.
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional institution of ESCAP (see ESCAP at a Glance), partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2013 to provide capacity-building on agricultural and rural statistics in the region. The training was developed as an online platform, ensuring that it was not only cost-effective, but also had wide reach and flexibility. In a region-wide assessment of training needs, conducted in mid-2018, 34 countries identified a need for training on Agricultural Integrated Survey at a basic level, harvest and post-harvest losses at an intermediate level and sampling in agricultural statistics at an advanced level. Thus, this project demonstrates how region-led initiatives can filter down to the domestic level with direct and clear impact.

As one of the first means of implementation identified by the regional roadmap, the examples clearly demonstrate why enhancing of capacities and frameworks in the area of Data and Statistics is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As some of these projects are still ongoing and we can expect to see the work expanded on further in 2019.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

2013 – 2018

Asia-Pacific region, Kenya, and Zambia

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Key results achieved:

- Enhanced sustainability of agricultural statistics through improving governance and statistical capacity-building by e-learning and face-to-face training programmes delivered to 97 policymakers and researchers from 16 countries.

Address the decline in agricultural statistics systems by increasing the capacity of agricultural statistics staff in training centres and target countries.
Science, technology and innovation are indispensable to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. If utilized effectively, technology can provide solutions for sustainable development challenges. Through its ability to establish longstanding and meaningful partnerships, ESCAP supports the development and scaling up of technological innovations, enabling knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among its member countries. Through technology and innovation, ESCAP aims to leave no one behind. As a means of implementation, science, technology and information directly link with a priority area of cooperation under the Regional Road Map – the facilitation of knowledge-sharing and best practices across member States.
“Significant scientific breakthroughs and technological advancements are needed to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

ESCAP has several ongoing programmes and projects, aimed at developing science, technology and innovation in Asia-Pacific.
Some examples of such initiatives include:

• **Strengthening national innovation ecosystems for social enterprise and impact investment** – an ongoing project in which ESCAP has been developing methodologies and tools for collecting, aggregating and analysing data, supporting more evidence-based policies.

• **Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)** – an initiative led by the ESCAP Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), to develop mutually recognized testing standards to promote the trade and use of safe, efficient and environmentally sound agricultural machinery.

• **Quality Control and Maintenance of Mung Bean Seed Production** – a project implemented by the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), and supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research to support mung bean seed production in Myanmar and facilitate advanced seed production technology transfer.

• **Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders** – an ongoing initiative led by the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), which encompasses three programmes: (i) the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, (ii) the Primer Series for Youth, and (iii) the Academic of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders Programme.
**DEVELOPING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICIES IN ASIA-PACIFIC**

Asia-Pacific is home to some of the most dynamic, pioneering and innovative countries in the world – yet it is also home to many of the most technologically deprived. The role of ESCAP is to develop sustainable innovation and foster collaboration to help bridge this gap, ensuring that all countries are given access to the necessary technologies to enable a robust culture of innovation. The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.

### Key results achieved:

- Increased capacity of policymakers to collect and analyse data in the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia through provision of customized tools and methodologies.
- Developed methodologies to increase gender-disaggregated data collection and support gender-responsive analyses and policymaking.
- Trained 300 policymakers to use the tools and methodologies developed to support gender-responsive analyses and policymaking.

### Country-specific results:

- **Malaysia:** supported the development of the Social Impact Exchange, announced by the Prime Minister in December 2017.
- **Thailand:** provided advice on Social Enterprise Act.
- **The Philippines:** supported development of draft Poverty Reduction Through Social Enterprise Act.
- **Myanmar:** supported the social enterprise aspect of the country's entrepreneurship strategy.
- **Pakistan:** supported the development of a national social enterprise strategy.
- **Indonesia:** supported the development of its impact investing ecosystem.

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**STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND IMPACT INVESTMENT**

**2016-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand</td>
<td>Strengthen national innovation ecosystems in relation to social enterprise and impact investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations (Development Account)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- **Pakistan:** supported the development of a national social enterprise strategy.
- **Indonesia:** supported the development of its impact investing ecosystem.
ENSURING SAFE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing a rapid transformation in agricultural mechanization, triggered by increasing demands for more and better food, labour shortages and the impact of climate change. However, in the absence of regional standards, unsafe and inefficient agricultural machinery threatens to undermine these development gains in the region. Additionally, smallholder farmers face disproportionate risks in food production losses and injuries. In 2013, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), a regional institution of ESCAP (see ESCAP at a Glance) began a project entitled “Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery” (ANTAM). The aim of ANTAM was to introduce standards for testing of agricultural machinery into the region and foster good practices to ensure agricultural machinery remained of high quality, and was assembled, traded and utilized in a safe manner. Adopting the standardized codes developed in ANTAM, ESCAP members and associate members worked towards an integrated market for agricultural machinery, enabling a minimum level of safety for end users and minimizing the environmental footprint of agricultural technology. The work done by CSAM in the ANTAM project contributes directly to the achievement of SDG 2 – end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC NETWORK FOR TESTING OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY (ANTAM) LED BY THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (CSAM) OF ESCAP

2013 – 2021

ANTAM-participating member States of ESCAP (Armenia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; France; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Nepal; Pakistan; the Philippines; the Republic of Korea; the Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Turkey; Viet Nam)

Governments of China and Japan

Harmonize testing standards for agricultural machinery in Asia and the Pacific.

Key results achieved:

PHASE I
• Developed the first set of standardized codes – drawn from agricultural and technical practices in the region – introduced in 2015 for Knapsack Misters-Cum-Dusters and Power Tillers.

PHASE II
• Standardized code developed for Paddy Transplanters. Quality Manual for accredited testing stations and certification procedures developed. Translation of selected national codes into English, to be used as references for ANTAM standards. Field visits to China, Nepal and Philippines, providing guidance for the improvement and development of local testing facilities. Trainings of Trainers held for five consecutive years to build capacity regarding the ANTAM testing codes among engineers from participating countries.
QUALITY CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE OF MUNG BEAN SEED PRODUCTION LED BY THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (APCTT) OF ESCAP

2012 – 2018

Myanmar

The Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Support mung bean (green gram) seed production in Myanmar, facilitating advanced seed production technology transfer

Key results achieved:

- Trained 21 participants, representing a diverse stakeholder group including lead farmers, farmer association representatives, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, key nodal agencies of the government and private sector.
- Led to APCTT developing a blueprint for future activities to strengthen the value chain for mung bean production through policy, technology and market-related interventions.
- Provided a valuable platform for APCTT’s knowledge partner, the World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC) to understand the needs and constraints of mung bean farmers in the dry zone of Myanmar, and to plan the launch of improved bean varieties to meet these needs through AVRDC’s International Mung Bean Improvement Network programme.
- Led to the transfer of 59 elite mung bean seed lines with pest and disease resistance, to the Myanmar Department of Agricultural Research, where trials are underway to select the best climate-resilient seed varieties for the benefit of smallholder farmers.
LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

A strategic priority of ESCAP is to enable and bolster member countries’ use of ICT in their socio-economic development in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes vulnerable groups and marginalized communities. The work done by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) of ESCAP directly contributes to strengthening the capacity of government officials and policymakers, women entrepreneurs, students and youth. APCICT integrates three inter-related pillars of learning: training, knowledge-sharing and multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership. It offers three learning programmes: 1. the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders; 2. the Women ICT Frontier Initiative; and 3. the “Primer Series for Youth”.

ACADEMY OF ICT ESSENTIALS FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS BY ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ESCAP

2008 – present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key results achieved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Developed a comprehensive curriculum developed for the Academy in partnership with ICT experts from around the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Developed 12 training modules in 16 languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Engaged participants from 36 countries at the Academy with 152 countries world-wide enrolled in distance learning platform of the Academy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Launched a new module, “Realizing Data-Driven Governance” in 2018 followed by a regional training of trainers, attended by 22 government officials and potential trainers from ICT ministries, data agencies, civil service organizations and training institutions from Asia and the Pacific. Three national trainings were held in the Philippines, Cambodia, and Kazakhstan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Asia-Pacific region
- Government of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City
- Strengthen skills and knowledge of government officials and policymakers to leverage ICT for national and regional socio-economic development
Financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is key to effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in ESCAP member States. Governments in the region are faced not only with the monumental task of identifying what interventions will be needed to achieve the targets of the SDGs, but also the challenge of finding the funds to finance and implement them.

ESCAP has undertaken a range of initiatives to support member States’ access to financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Regional Road Map.
“Effective pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals requires stable forward-looking and long-term financing”

Some examples of such initiatives include:

- **The Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific** – a network of 30 member States aimed at strengthening national-level capacities to prepare financing strategies for mobilizing domestic and international resources to support sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.

- **Supporting resource mobilization for the SDGs in Countries with Special Needs** – an ongoing initiative to support and build capacities of policymakers in least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island development States (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **Enhancing financing of Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs)** – an ongoing project that supports MSMEs in addressing financing challenges and improving access to credit.
The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AND THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Infrastructure development is integral to sustainable development. ESCAP works closely with policymakers and major stakeholders to support the development of financing strategies to mobilize domestic and international resources for infrastructure development. These resources include tax revenue, public debt, overseas development assistance, private financing and public-private partnerships. ESCAP has provided national-level support to Georgia, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa and Viet Nam, providing research and analysis to inform national financing strategies. In 2016, ESCAP established an informal regional network with regional representatives of public-private partnerships. This partnership network became formal in 2018, with 23 member countries joining the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific, and seven other countries joining by September 2019. Supporting infrastructure financing in the region contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Key results achieved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018–2020</th>
<th>Asia-Pacific region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations (Development Account)</td>
<td>Provide a platform for the heads of PPP units, infrastructure financing specialists and capital market experts from the Asia-Pacific countries to exchange knowledge, good practice and lessons learned on the effective use of PPP mechanisms and other infrastructure financing tools to promote sustainable infrastructure development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key results achieved:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improved capacity at the national level to prepare terms of reference for transaction advisors (financial, legal and technical) to:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• better allocate project preparation budgets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• better manage contracts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• prepare value-for-money analysis and to assess fiscal risks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Showcased 23 early-stage and pilot project demonstrations from 19 countries along with project-based trainings targeting country-specific challenges.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Launched an ESCAP book “Infrastructure Financing for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Advanced regional cooperation on PPPs by facilitating the signing of two memorandums of understanding between Kazakhstan PPP Center with the PPP Centres of China and the Philippines.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Established the development of a regional web portal platform and project pipeline to consolidate information on PPP institutions, commercially viable project preparation techniques and project pipelines, as well as market environment in the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Five member States presented PPP projects at the Fourth China Public-Private Partnerships Financing Forum in Shanghai in 2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOBILIZING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE SDGS

Within ESCAP, there is a group of 36 countries, identified as “countries with special needs” (CSNs) in the Asia-Pacific region. These countries fall into three categories: least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), all of which face significant structural impediments to their development. Together, the population of these countries is more than 400 million people, constituting a quarter of the population of the Asia-Pacific developing countries. The economies of CSNs are marked by structural development issues, volatile economic growth and high dependence on commodities or low-wage manufactured products and agriculture for export earnings.

ESCAP has been assisting three least-developed countries – Bhutan, Cambodia and Vanuatu – in assessment of effective allocation and utilization of existing resources to overcome structural transformation challenges. National-level analytical studies, training materials and knowledge products with a focus on designing national and LDC-specific policies and strategies to allocate and utilize existing resources effectively were produced and used at workshops to help ensure a better understanding of existing financial resources and to develop mechanisms for additional resources for CSN in the region.

CASE STUDY

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUANCE IN BHUTAN

As a result of an ESCAP-led initiative to support least-developed countries in resource mobilization, Bhutan has established a Committee on Government Bond Issuance to work on key implementation issues, such as the amount of funds to be raised, potential bondholders, bond yield, maturity period, and the value of each unit of the bond. Bhutan will be the first country that is classified as both a least developed country and a landlocked developing country to issue a sovereign (green) bond.
ENHANCING FINANCING OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE ENTERPRISES

Micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) constitute the largest proportion of businesses in any country, and as such, play a significant role in job-creation, skill-development, and knowledge-sharing. However, to realize the full potential of MSMEs, they need better access to credit. Although policies and mechanisms have been implemented to increase access to credit, the efficacy of these policies and mechanisms has often remained unclear at the national level.

In 2018, ESCAP developed a framework to guide research and analysis to evaluate mechanisms that support access to credit, and to better understand the financing challenges facing MSMEs in developing countries. Relying on this framework, ESCAP undertook a series of national studies on MSME financing, setting out regulatory frameworks, policies, business models and lending infrastructure, as well as the role of development banks and FinTech. The aim was to contribute to national-level policy discussions, providing further options to improve MSME access to finance.

ENHANCING FINANCING OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE ENTERPRISES (MSMES)

2018 – ongoing

Bangladesh; Cambodia; Hong Kong, China; Nepal; Samoa and Singapore

United Nations Capital Development Fund

Identify good practices and guiding principles to enhance MSMEs access to finance in the Asia-Pacific region

Key results achieved:

- Developed a research framework and template to guide evaluative analysis on MSME mechanisms.
- Completed national studies in Cambodia and Nepal with studies currently underway in Bangladesh; Hong Kong, China; Samoa and Singapore.
- Used national studies to inform and intersect with other ESCAP programmes, such as the five-year programme – “Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship”.
Successful implementation of the complex and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Road Map requires a multi-sectoral response and policy coherence to revolve problems.

Policy coherence is a process for integrating different dimensions of development at all stages of policymaking. It seeks to exploit the potential of positive synergies across policies to support development, pursue win-win situations and enable mutual benefits. It focuses on increasing governments’ capacities to balance divergent policy objectives, helping them to reconcile domestic policy objectives with broader international goals. It seeks to avoid or minimize the negative side-effects and impacts of policies on development.
“Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require policy coherence, integrated approaches and a move away from single-sector policies and investments”

ESCAP supports member States in their mandate to deliver on the 2030 Agenda by creating an enabling environment for policy coherence and multisector responses.

ESCAP focuses on policy coherence to forge stronger partnerships and engender greater consistency in horizontal and vertical policymaking. It has undertaken a range of initiatives, some of which include:

- **The Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk** (SDG Help Desk) – an online platform envisioned as a “one-stop shop” for member States, providing access to tools, knowledge, expertise, advice and opportunities for peer-learning and regional South-South cooperation.
- **Rapid Response Facility** – a facility that provides technical assistance to policymakers and governments on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the regional road map.
- **The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership** – a regional partnership which began with the Millennium Development Goals, and continues generating knowledge products to support member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and regional road map.
- **Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific-Sustainable Urban Resource Management** – a project focused on rapid urbanization and economic development across the region, targeting local government and key urban stakeholders.
- **Sustainable Urban Resource Management framework developed by ESCAP**, brings together a subset of SDGs that focus on sustainable management and consumption of natural resources in urban centres.
The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.

**CREATING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS HELP DESK**

In 2018, ESCAP created the Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk as an online platform to support member States implementing the 2030 Agenda. Envisioned as a “one-stop shop”, the Sustainable Development Help Desk offers tools, knowledge, expertise, advice and platforms to encourage peer-learning and regional South-South cooperation. ESCAP launched the online platform at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. By the end of 2018, the platform had over 5,000 unique registered users, reaching over 2,500 policymakers and stakeholders through on-site peer learning sessions, hands-on training and online e-learning sessions, with a focus on LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS HELP DESK (SDG HELP DESK)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 – present</th>
<th>Key results achieved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific region</td>
<td>• Knowledge-sharing – access to 15 thematic areas, over 65 e-learning courses, knowledge products and learning videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations (Development Account)</td>
<td>• Statistical data access to 36 data portals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank, ESCWA, UNDP, UN DESA, UNCDF, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UN Women, ILO, Institute for Global Strategies, United Nations University, Keio University, University of Copenhagen, TAP Network, Green Growth Knowledge Platform</td>
<td>• Capacity-building – access to 49 toolboxes and 65 online e-learning courses; on-site training courses and technical assistance service line; able to make direct requests from member States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Community of practice – access to a database of over 41 good practices from practitioners and an online community with over 220 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Partnerships – access to 319 partner pages, knowledge products, policy toolboxes and training tools, methodologies, online networks of partners including the UN family, regional think tanks, training institutions and international organizations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provide a one-stop online platform to enable access to SDG-related tools, knowledge, expertise, and advice and to encourage peer-learning and regional South-South cooperation

Available at: http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org
Launched in 2017, another important initiative has been the “Rapid Response to Implementing the Regional Road Map for the 2030 Agenda” or the Rapid Response Facility. The Rapid Response Facility responds to requests from countries, providing technical assistance to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the regional road map. The current phase of the Rapid Response Facility focuses on:

- Capacity development to strengthen the quality of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports, including methodologies for the preparation of the report, engagement of stakeholders and participation of the public.
- Technical training on existing tools to address SDG integration and policy coherence including alignment of development priorities, mapping of the interlinkages among SDGs and targets in the VNR and implementation of the VNR recommendations.
- Technical advice to national statistical offices on providing high quality data and statistics, and on alternative data sources.

### THE ASIA-PACIFIC SDG PARTNERSHIP

**2015 – ongoing**

| Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme |
| Provide a platform for delivering high-quality knowledge products and facilitating high-level policy dialogues and capacity-building of developing member countries for the effective implementation of the SDGs in the region |

**Key results achieved:**

- **Sustainable Development Goals Data Portal** – access to SDG global indicators, interactive charts on SDG progress assessment, country/region SDG performance profiles, statistical methods for data compilation and comparative information on countries and regions for SDG indicators, allowing stakeholders and governments to undertake their own reviews of progress, available at [http://data.unescap.org/sdg/](http://data.unescap.org/sdg/)
- **Sustainable Development Goals Outlook Report** – provides a goal-by-goal snapshot of where Asia-Pacific stands on its SDG achievements, including bright spots, hot spots and emerging issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; first in-depth review of the goals considered in 2017.
- **Two thematic reports** – “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific 2017” and “Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific 2018” to inform discussions at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum.
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ESCAP works to develop knowledge products to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the UN Development Programme, ESCAP established the “Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership” to produce a suite of knowledge products pertaining to the 2030 Agenda. This framework builds on long-standing partnerships developed during the Millennium Development Goals, and reflects the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, namely the importance attached to broad stakeholder engagement, inclusivity, participation, follow-up and review.

THE ASIA-PACIFIC SDG PARTNERSHIP

2015 – ongoing

Asia-Pacific region

Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme

Provide a platform for delivering high-quality knowledge products and facilitating high-level policy dialogues and capacity-building of developing member countries for the effective implementation of the SDGs in the region

Key results achieved:

• **Sustainable Development Goals Data Portal** – access to SDG global indicators, interactive charts on SDG progress assessment, country/region SDG performance profiles, statistical methods for data compilation and comparative information on countries and regions for SDG indicators, allowing stakeholders and governments to undertake their own reviews of progress, available at [http://data.unescap.org/sdg/](http://data.unescap.org/sdg/)

• **Sustainable Development Goals Outlook Report** – provides a goal-by-goal snapshot of where Asia-Pacific stands on its SDG achievements, including bright spots, hot spots and emerging issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; first in-depth review of the goals considered in 2017.

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The Sustainability Outlook Report prompted Mongolia to produce its own Sustainability Outlook Report – the very first SDG baseline assessment undertaken at the national level.

**CASE STUDY**

**THE SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK OF MONGOLIA REPORT**

The Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia Report, issued in 2018, provided an analytical framework to support Mongolia’s planning processes for its implementation of the 2030 Agenda and regional road map. It served as a comprehensive evidence base of the country’s sustainable development processes:

- Analysed progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identified areas for action on the 2030 Agenda and regional road map.
- Visualized complex data and information, providing an SDG baseline assessment.
- Enabled a multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral participatory process, delivering a common vision of progress, challenges, priorities and pathways forward to provide a basis for stronger cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the regional road map.
CHAPTER 2: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

OPERATIONALIZING THE "WHAT" AND "HOW" OF THE SDGS

ESCAP works to advance policy coherence at a local level, through its project, “Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”.

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO LOCAL ACTION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – SUSTAINABLE URBAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2018-2021

Cambodia, Fiji, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand

United Nations (Development Account)

Respond to rapid urbanization and economic development by creating a framework from a subset of SDGs called the Sustainable Urban Resource Management to guide sustainable management and consumption of natural resources in urban centres

Key results achieved:

- Developed the Sustainable Urban Resource Management framework to assist cities in assessing opportunities, priorities and contexts, by placing emphasis on localizing international development agendas and linking sustainable urban resource management with SDGs.
- Piloted the Sustainable Urban Resource Management framework in five cities, namely Battambang (Cambodia), Nasinu City (Fiji), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Naga City (the Philippines), and Nadee (Thailand).
- Established core multi-stakeholder groups to support implementation in each of the five pilot cities.
- Translated the conceptual framework into local languages to expand outreach and use in training events in Thailand and Indonesia.
With its multidisciplinary character and convening power, ESCAP has a unique ability to bring together a variety of stakeholders, and to strengthen sustainable development projects that share knowledge and mobilize expertise, technology and financial resources. It plays a key role in supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and contributing directly to SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

ESCAP has engaged in a range of initiatives and programmes to support and enable North-South, South-South and international and regional partnerships, some of which include:
“Countries in the Asia-Pacific region could benefit from North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation as well as the sharing of good practices and home-grown approaches.”

- **The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT)** – an ongoing programme of work aimed at building trade and investment to foster networks and partnerships.
- **Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP)** – a long-standing programme aimed at utilizing space technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.
- **The ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness** – a programme established in 2005 to build and enhance tsunami early warning capacities, and later expanded to include climate and disaster preparedness more generally, specifically among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the South-Western Pacific.
- **Asia-Pacific Forum on South-South Cooperation** – a platform to share their experiences as providers or users of South-South and triangular cooperation, their institutional arrangements, policies and lessons learned, and ways to leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- **Inter-regional partnerships – the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)** – an inter-regional partnership between UN regional commissions: ECLAC and ESCAP.
The results of these initiatives are discussed further below.

SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASEAN THROUGH THE ARTNeT

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) takes an innovative approach to supporting South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, a recent project, “Supporting Equitable Economic Development in the Association of South-East Asian Nations”, brought together officials and researchers to conduct collaborative research. The results contributed to managing and assessing the impact of non-tariff measures in the context of development-oriented responses in trade policy areas. By promoting equitable economic development in ASEAN, ARTNeT fosters stronger institutions, narrows development gaps and encourages sustainable growth in the region.

The research programme under ARTNeT is a participatory process. It surveys its members on relevant topics, such as prioritizing research issues and translating research into policy and appropriate communication to stakeholders. Technical assistance and capacity-building are at the heart of ARTNeT’s work, ensuring assimilation and long-term sustainability of its members’ policy research.

ARTNeT operates under three pillars:

1. Producing demand-driven and home-grown research on trade-related policy issues.
2. Building research capacity of institutions in least-developed countries.
3. Disseminating knowledge and information to stakeholders, and facilitating interactions between them. ESCAP hosts the ARTNeT Secretariat and provides an online platform for the network.

ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK ON TRADE (ARTNeT)

2005 – present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asia-Pacific region</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments of Canada; France; Macao, China; Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provides an open regional network of research and academic institutions and think tanks with a keen interest in addressing interregional trade, investment and facilitation issues in the context of sustainable development

Key results achieved:

- Provided more than 110 workshops and training sessions to researchers and policymakers.
- Collaborated with institutional members (India’s Centre for WTO studies, Thailand’s International Institute for Trade and Development and others) to provide regional capacity-building.
- Strengthened the capacity of trade negotiators from low-income countries.
- Reached 1,500 researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders and over 75 institutional members across 23 countries.
- Developed an online platform with free access to knowledge products and resources, as well as interactive learning among members and non-members.
- Created ARTNeT on FDI – a network on Foreign Direct Investment aiming to ensure investment policies and treaties, FDI promotion and facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region to better support the achievement of the SDGs.
- Created of ARTNeT on STI – a network on Science, Technology and Innovation policies aiming to provide guidance, by means of research, information and knowledge dissemination and capacity-building, on STI policies to researchers and policymakers in the region.
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION/REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – FACILITATING THE REPLICATION OF BEST PRACTICES – RESAP

Through its Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP), ESCAP has promoted the application of space and geographic information for disaster risk reduction and inclusive and sustainable development. Through RESAP, countries without their own space programme have been able to access and effectively utilize space-derived data, products and services for disaster management. For example, in times of disaster and emergency – and to avoid loss of life and minimize economic losses – ESCAP responds to requests from disaster-affected member States by immediately mobilizing satellite derived knowledge and services through RESAP. Satellite-derived products and services include near real-time scenes and archived satellite imagery as well as damage maps provided from other RESAP members and ESCAP’s strategic partners such as UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNOOSA, UN-GGIM, regional and international organizations on space science and technology applications.

ESCAP has helped strengthen regional cooperation and support through enhancing the work and reach of RESAP, ultimately resulting in the development of an Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018 – 2030). With ESCAP’s support, the Plan of Action was adopted by member States through resolution 75/6 in May 2019 and will guide work in the region for the next decade on enhancing cooperation and contribution of space applications for achieving the SDGs.

REGIONAL SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RESAP)

Ongoing

Asia-Pacific region
UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)/UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), RESAP members

Promote the application of space technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support disaster risk reduction and inclusive and sustainable development

Key results achieved:

• Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Space Applications, 2018 – 2030 – outlining the modalities, priorities and strategies for the use of space applications through regional cooperation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Plan of Action includes 188 actions in the following thematic areas:
  • disaster risk management
  • natural resource management
  • connectivity
  • social development
  • energy
  • climate change.
CHAPTER 2: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

TRIANGULAR COOPERATION AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – TSUNAMI TRUST FUND

The devastation brought on by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami led to the establishment of a Multi-donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. The Fund began in 2005 with an initial contribution of $10 million from Thailand. Since then, it has benefitted from financial and in-kind contributions from the governments of Bangladesh, Germany, India, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden and Turkey. The Trust Fund's key objective was to build and enhance tsunami early warning capacities at various levels by responding to the needs of Indian Ocean and South-East Asian countries. The scope of the Fund has since expanded to include climate and disaster preparedness, specifically in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the South-Western Pacific.

In 2011, a milestone was achieved in early warning systems: the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) became fully operational. The IOTWMS was established through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, however the Trust Fund continues to be one of its key contributors. The Trust Fund leads training and capacity-building at the regional, national and local levels. It also provides technical support for the development of standard operating procedures for tsunami warning and emergency response.

The Trust Fund has also supported the establishment of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), an intergovernmental institution that provides cost-effective warning products and services, particularly for tsunamis and extreme weather systems. The RIMES initiative is especially important for countries with limited domestic capacity in hazard monitoring and early warning.

More recently, the Trust Fund began working on slow-onset disasters – natural phenomena that could be detected through early warning. In less developed countries, such disasters often go undetected due to a lack of capacity or institutional mechanisms. To help overcome these challenges, ESCAP has supported activities aimed at building capacity for climate preparedness in highly vulnerable countries. One such initiative, spearheaded through the Trust Fund, is national climate outlook forums (or “monsoon forums” as they are popularly known, as they convene around the start of the monsoon season), which support the dissemination of seasonal forecast information to help understand potential impacts.

ESCAP TRUST FUND FOR TSUNAMI, DISASTER AND CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS IN INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

2005 – ongoing

- Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries
- Bangladesh, Germany, India, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey

Key results achieved:
- Developed the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, which became operational in 2011.
- Established the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System.
- Created “Monsoon Forum”, national climate outlook forums to support information dissemination on seasonal forecast information.

In Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries

Bangladesh, Germany, India, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey

• Develop tsunami early warning capacities by responding to the needs of Indian Ocean and South-East Asian countries
• Strengthen climate and disaster preparedness, with an emphasis on Small Island Developing States of the South-Western Pacific
REGIONAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – TOWARDS THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION 40TH ANNIVERSARY

2018

Asia-Pacific region

Indonesia, Thailand, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Key results achieved:

• Addressed South-South regional cooperation issues in support of the 2030 Agenda, including trends, challenges and opportunities.
• Launched first Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, providing a platform for heads of development cooperation and South-South cooperation agencies to engage in knowledge-sharing, exchanging experiences, lessons learned and good practices in South-South cooperation.
• Provided regional inputs to the outcomes of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference for South-South Cooperation, held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires, reaffirming the importance of South-South cooperation in the 2030 Agenda.

INTER-REGIONAL SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION: FORUM FOR EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION (FEALAC) FUND

2018 – ongoing

East Asia and Latin America

Governments of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)

A multi-donor fund to support inter-regional projects and promote capacity development and cooperation across the following areas:

• trade and investment promotion
• science, technology and innovation
• infrastructure and transport
• public policies and public-private alliances for sustainable growth
• public policies to reduce inequality and enhance

The FEALAC Fund shows how the two regional commissions can play a stronger role in inter-regional exchanges, dialogue, and knowledge sharing on joint areas of interest.
ANNEX

LIST OF DONORS IN 2018-2019

BILATERAL DONORS

Australia
Bangladesh
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Canada
China
Fiji
Germany
Hong Kong, China
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Macao, China
Malaysia
Maldives
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
New Caledonia
Pakistan
Palau
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Thailand
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Children’s Fund
United Nations Office for Project Services
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
2030 Agenda Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Fund

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Development Bank
Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation
Islamic Development Bank
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Energy Foundation
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Inc. (Vital Strategies)
International Association of Public Participation Australasia
Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Rockefeller Foundation
Shanghai Forum
The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations’ regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries policy-oriented sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region, which is underpinned by normative and capacity development work.

With its strategic focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ESCAP has developed a regional road map, identifying six priority areas of engagement and five complementary avenues of implementation and partnership.

The Technical Cooperation Highlights 2018-2019 presents the achievements of ESCAP’s technical cooperation programme over the past two years to support the implementation of the Regional Road Map in Asia and the Pacific across the region.