

A stylized world map in light blue and grey, centered in the background. Overlaid on the map are numerous colorful, concentric and intersecting lines in shades of green, blue, red, and yellow, resembling orbital paths or data connections. 

# Webinar Series: **Entry Point on Global Environmental Commons**

Entry points for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

06 April 2020

# Parallel Online Consultation for Entry Points:

Entry point 1 – Human well-being and capabilities

Entry point 2 – Sustainable and just economies

Entry point 3 – Food systems and nutrition patterns

Entry point 4 – Energy decarbonization and universal access

Entry point 5 – Urban and peri-urban development

***Entry point 6 – Global environmental commons***



# Entry Point 6: Global Environmental Commons

Lead Agency



In collaboration with:



# Global Environmental Commons

Securing the *global environmental commons* entails living within planetary boundaries, conserving and sustainably managing these globally shared resources and ecosystems as well as their shared vulnerabilities and risks. As these environmental commons ignore frontiers and are intrinsically linked, managing them sustainably requires concerted and integrated action.



# I. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



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Asia and the Pacific Region Hosts Tremendous Biodiversity:

- 17/36 global biodiversity hotspots
- 7/17 of the worlds Megadiverse countries
- The highest marine biodiversity in the world
- The longest and most diverse coral reef systems
- < half the worlds remaining mangroves areas
- Highest sea grass diversity
- Worlds highest number of species

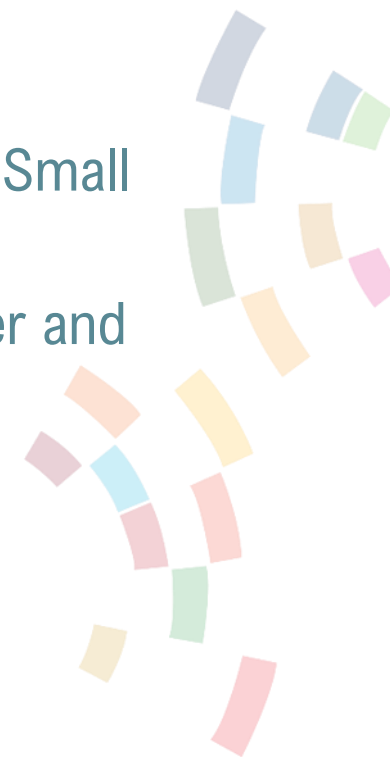




# I. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*However, Asia and the Pacific is also experience devastating environmental degradation:*

- Home to areas most vulnerable to climate change i.e. glacier high mountain & Small Islands Developing States.
- Many countries that are exposed to unhealthy levels of pollution (air, soil, water and ocean),
- Large levels of overall environmental degradation :
  - 10.6% of the worlds total natural forests have been lost in the region.
  - Over 40% of coral reefs
  - 60% of coastal mangroves
  - ~ 80% of the regions coral reefs are currently at risk..



# I. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Although territorial waters under protection have increased along with total forest area; these **efforts are falling short to preserve marine biodiversity**
- The total forest area has increased in Asia since 1990 but hides the continuing loss of natural forests behind the expansion of planted forests, and sub-regional trends.
- Home to 6/10 of the top global carbon emitters & contributes to **over half of the worlds total greenhouse gases.**
- Transboundary smoke haze pollution due improper land use practices is becoming a regional **air quality issue** for South East Asia.





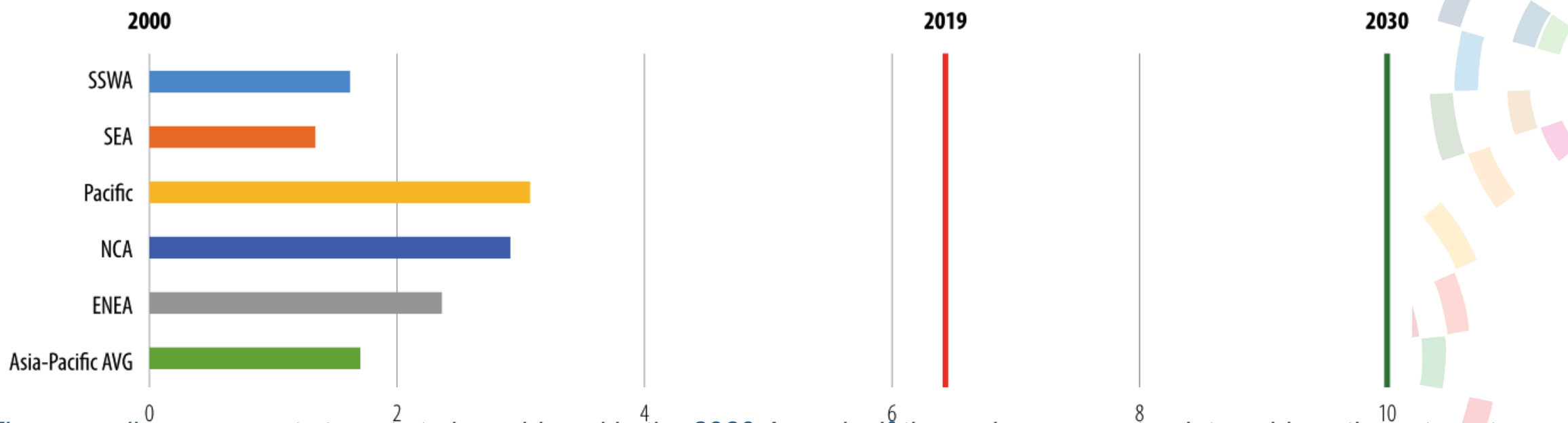
# I. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- South and South East Asia are the subregions in which most people were affected by desertification. Erosion and degradation has intensified across the region and resulted in displacement of indigenous persons, loss of biodiversity and reduction in important forests products.
- A growing concern is also pollution of soils, freshwater streams and the ocean, including, but not limited to, marine plastic litter, with half the world's plastics being manufactured in Asia.



## II. PROGRESS AND KEY CHALLENGES FOR ACCELERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### Sub-regional snapshot of progress and overall progress in Asia and the Pacific



*Note: The green line represents targets to be achieved in the 2030 Agenda. If the region was on track to achieve these targets across the six areas, the red line would have been hit by 2019.*

## III. COUNTRY LEVEL ANALYSIS ON ACCELERATION TOWARDS THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS

- The region has accelerated with country endeavours to protect oceans, mountain biodiversity and to preventing the extinction of threatened species.
- South East Asia have increased efforts to combat marine litter though national and regional actions plans.



## INDONESIA

Best practice for accelerated progress to protect significant marine areas and areas important for mountain biodiversity thanks to the development and implementation of a sustainable roadmap in 2014, enlisting the financial sector to contribute to the national commitments to address climate change. In 2018, this was followed by the adoption of Indonesia's first sovereign green sukuk (bond).



## AUSTRALIA

Accelerated progress in protection of the ocean and in protection of mountain biodiversity

This progress can be attributed to:

- sound government policies and regulations (Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, Tasmanian Forest Conservation Fund)
- strong enforcement
- active participation (Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2030 includes innovative initiatives encouraging indigenous engagement)





## UZBEKISTAN

Made efforts to improve **domestic material consumption** intensity, driven by technological advancements in key industries that has seen many of the ageing equipment being replaced to reduce inefficiencies, leading to resource consumption decreasing by **54.51% over 2000-2016**.

## AFGHANISTAN

Fast progress in **protecting and preventing the extinction of threatened species** through:

- blending development and conservation goals
- adding 15 new species to the National Environment Protection Agency's Protected Species List
- promoting community-based natural resource management that engages and empowers local communities.



# III. COUNTRY LEVEL ANALYSIS ON ACCELERATION TOWARDS THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS

## BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO ACCELERATION

- Lack of political commitment
- Lack of cooperation for the adequate management of environmental commons
- Lack of implementation of laws and regulations coupled with low levels of public awareness and stakeholder engagement
- Lack of information and capacity gaps
- Lack of adequate financing





## IV. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATION

### **1- Strengthen political commitment for the integrated management and protection of the environment.**

Policy measures that are grounded in the commitment to sustainability, including in the aftermath of COVID-19, adopting government stimulus packages and rationalizing fossil fuel subsidies for decarbonization and greening of the economy.

### **2- Strengthen global, transboundary and regional cooperation on preserving wildlife and its habitat.**

Enhancing regional cooperation on preserving wildlife and its habitat, collectively banning illegal trade of wildlife and adopting international sanitary standards in particularly in response to the current COVID 19 situation.



## IV. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATION

### **3- Adopt adequate economic models and financing strategies to decarbonize and green the economy**

i.e. fiscal measures should include environmental and social safeguards

### **4- Develop and strengthen partnerships, education and outreach.**

i.e. expanding the role of the private sector, civil society as well as indigenous peoples and local communities through innovative and diverse participatory governance models

### **5- Focus on science, data, monitoring and technology.**

i.e. strengthen national capacities for monitoring and reporting on the environmental and disaster-related dimension of the SDGs, including on status, trends, risks, threats and conservation needs for biodiversity and all ecosystems



# Thank You

