



STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENT DIMENSIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

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Cover photo: Giant clams, forest habitat, and community-based fishing activities representative of Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14, and 15.

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Preface

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) intentionally emphasize environmental sustainability more than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

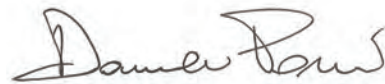
The importance of the SDGs' environmental dimensions in delivering sustainable development and ensuring a prosperous future for all is now widely recognized. Whether that attention translates into meaningful action depends on how effectively policy makers integrate the environmental dimensions of the SDGs into development policies, plans, and programs including those for investment. Understanding the SDG interlinkages is critical. Achievement of SDG targets could either positively or negatively influence the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. At the same time, addressing the environmental dimensions could also either positively or negatively influence the achievement of several SDG targets.

In 2017, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated a technical assistance (TA) project, Supporting the Implementation of Environment-Related SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, to help policy makers integrate SDGs 12, 14, and 15—and select SDG targets that are environment-related—into their countries' development plans, policies, and programs. The TA project aims to understand and help ADB developing member countries (DMCs) address the issues and challenges behind effective integration of these SDGs into their national development process. The TA project aims to build DMCs' capacity to strengthen policy making and implementation of the environmental dimensions of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, including identifying and leveraging new sources of finance, and enhancing monitoring and reporting systems. The TA project will prepare an inventory of tools and methods that policy makers can use to better (i) understand the critical interlinkages within and between environment-related goals and targets; (ii) promote policy coherence and integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs; and (iii) develop and select appropriate indicators, policies, and institutional arrangements to support the effective implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, with special emphasis on SDGs 12, 14, and 15.

ADB, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and UN Environment, held a Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific on 21–22 February 2018, in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss issues and challenges encountered in implementing the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. ADB presented and validated the preliminary results and findings of the TA project's regional stocktaking, and discussed how 15 of ADB's DMCs are approaching implementation of select environment-related goals and targets. At the same time, the workshop created cross-country learning and

knowledge-sharing opportunities. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to share tools, methods, and approaches that could be used to integrate the environmental dimensions of the SDGs into national and local contexts. The workshop was attended by more than 100 participants from government, international organizations, nongovernment organizations, civil society, and private sector from across Asia and the Pacific.

This *Knowledge-Sharing Workshop Proceedings* summarizes the discussions and information shared during the event. ADB extends its sincere appreciation to those who participated in and contributed to the discussions, including the organizers, facilitators, presenters, discussants, and government participants from Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. ADB also thanks the ADB, UNESCAP and UN Environment staff involved in the workshop preparations and the TA project team comprising of Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, and Ma. Antoinette Virtucio, senior environment officer, of the Environment and Safeguards Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB and the following consultants: Simon Olsen and Eric Zusman (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies), Robert Steele, Charina Cabrido, and Nucharat Tuntiwigit. The workshop presentations and the draft inventory of tools are available online at <https://environmentgoals-asiapacific.squarespace.com/>.



Daniele Ponzi
Chief, Environment Thematic Group
Asian Development Bank

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BAPPENAS	Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional (National Development Planning Agency)
CEP	Core Environment Program
EDD	Environment and Development Division
EO	Earth Observation
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
ICM	integrated coastal management
IGES	Institute for Global Environment Strategies
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PEI	Poverty Environment Initiative
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PNLG	PEMSA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development
PRC	People's Republic of China
Q&A	questions and answers
SCP	sustainable consumption and production
SDCC	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programmer

TA	technical assistance
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Introduction

A. Workshop Background

In 2017, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated a technical assistance (TA) project, Supporting Implementation of Environment-Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific,¹ to equip policy makers with the knowledge and tools to integrate SDGs 12, 14, and 15² and select environment-related SDG targets that have a direct relationship with responsible consumption and production, and marine and terrestrial ecosystems (Figure 1) into their development plans, policies, and programs. Many other environmental dimensions of the SDGs exist and have interlinkages with these select environment-related goals and targets, including SDG 13 on climate action. If growth is to be environmentally sustainable, these select environment-related goals and targets should be given at least equal consideration alongside government's economic, social, and climate change priorities.

Under the TA project, ADB, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and UN Environment, held a Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific on 21–22 February 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was timely since SDGs 12 and 15 will be reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2018 and, therefore, countries would increase their attention on these SDGs' implementation.

¹ ADB. 2016. *Regional Technical Assistance for Supporting Implementation of Environment-Related Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/215401/50158-001-tar.pdf>.

² SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14 on Life Below Water, and SDG 15 on Life on Land.

Figure 1: Select Environment-Related Goals and Targets



Notes: Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action also has a strong environment focus and is a significant issue for many countries in the region and for the achievement of environmentally sustainable growth. It has many interlinkages with the select environment-related goals and targets, for example, through support for climate change mitigation reducing air pollution and ecosystems-based adaptation also benefiting ecosystems. However, due to the Paris Agreement on climate change, significant financial and other resources are already being directed toward its achievement. Further, the risks that countries neglect Sustainable Development Goal 13 are far less than those for other environmental dimensions.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Workshop Objectives and Participation

The workshop had two main objectives: (i) for ADB to present and validate the preliminary results and findings of the TA project’s regional stocktaking on how 15 of ADB’s developing member countries (DMCs) are approaching implementation of the select environment-related goals and targets; and (ii) to reflect on next steps to strengthen the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs through national development policies, plans, and programs. To achieve these objectives, policy makers presented and discussed how they were integrating the select environment-related goals and targets into their national policies, plans, and programs. Participants discussed the tools, methods, and approaches that could be used to support that integration, and shared experiences, issues, and challenges they faced.

The workshop was attended by more than 100 participants from government, international organizations, nongovernment organizations, civil society, and private sector from across Asia and the Pacific (Appendix 1). Participants’ backgrounds were in finance, planning, and environment, to allow debate and enable wider discussion on the issues and challenges in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

C. Workshop Structure

Following an opening plenary and context setting, the 2-day workshop was divided into five parts: (i) issues and challenges faced; (ii) country perspectives on integration of select environment-related goals and targets from ministries of finance, planning, and environment; (iii) innovative tools and approaches for integrating the environmental dimensions of the SDGs; (iv) regional initiatives, tools, and approaches; and (v) moving forward with implementing the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. This was followed by a closing session (Appendix 2). Sessions were mainly held as part of the plenary, with presentations followed by panel discussion, and questions and answers. The session on issues and challenges was in the form of a knowledge café, where participants had a chance to discuss more freely the issues and challenges related to institutional arrangements, enabling policies for implementation, budgeting and allocation, and monitoring and reporting progress in two groups related to SDG 12 or SDGs 14 and 15. Profiles of the facilitators, presenters, and discussants are provided in Appendix 3.



Eric Zusman, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, ADB consultant, introducing the knowledge-sharing workshop on strengthening the environment dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

2. Opening Plenary and Context Setting

A. Opening Plenary

The opening plenary included a call to action to implement the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDGs 12, 14, and 15. This session addressed the SDGs, including their environmental dimensions, environmental issues facing Asia and the Pacific, the imperative to urgently address these issues, and the importance of strengthening the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, including links to economic and social progress.

“The SDGs acknowledge that the central goal of poverty eradication cannot happen without attention to the environment.”

- Nessim J. Ahmad



Nessim J. Ahmad, deputy director general, concurrently chief compliance officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB, providing opening remarks during the opening plenary.

Nessim J. Ahmad, deputy director general, concurrently chief compliance officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), provided the first set of opening remarks. He welcomed participants and thanked the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and UN Environment for jointly organizing the workshop.

ADB is working to support its developing member countries (DMCs) to achieve the SDGs, which will explicitly frame its new Strategy 2030 and guide ADB operations. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNESCAP, ADB monitors progress on the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific and the three institutions issue a joint report each year. The 2018 report, *Transformation Towards Resilient and Sustainable Societies*,³ was launched at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

in March 2018 and will serve as the Asia and Pacific region’s input to the High-Level Political Forum discussions. He discussed three challenges facing the SDGs, and especially their environmental dimensions: policy integration, financing, and data and monitoring.

³ United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme. 2018. *Transformation Towards Resilient and Sustainable Societies*. Bangkok: United Nations. <https://www.adb.org/publications/sustainable-resilient-societies-asia-pacific>.

Policy integration. A total of 86 out of 169 SDG targets directly or indirectly seek to reduce environmental damage or emphasize the critical role of natural resources and ecosystem services in ensuring human well-being and prosperity. If implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs is to be promoted, they need to be well integrated into national and sector policies, plans, and programs, and aligned with locally adapted priority targets and indicators. Many successful approaches exist and have the potential to be replicated and scaled up. These range from market-based instruments, through regulatory responses, to environmental impact assessments at project level. Governments, the business sector, and others are taking a second look at the huge body of experience in tackling environmental issues, which can be leveraged to help deliver the SDGs. ADB is seeing a new generation of cross-sector and integrated programs, such as the biodiversity conservation corridors in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and policy-based lending for air quality management in Mongolia. These multisector programs focus on strengthening policies and regulatory frameworks, creating incentives for the private sector, building institutional capacity, and leapfrogging polluting technologies.

Finance. Achieving the SDGs will require much more effective domestic resource mobilization and a shifting of all financial flows to support sustainable development. ADB's recent flagship study, *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs*,⁴ estimates that developing Asia will need to invest \$26 trillion from 2016 to 2030 to maintain growth, eradicate poverty, and respond to climate change—or \$1.7 trillion a year for infrastructure alone. Innovative ways to mobilize additional financial resources are needed. ADB's 2017 report, *Catalyzing Green Finance*,⁵ looked at how the region can scale up and source private sector finance to support green economies. It also highlighted the need to develop a pipeline of bankable green projects that could spur financing from institutional investors, commercial banks, and capital markets. The establishment of a green financing platform in the People's Republic of China (PRC) is one active example—with a \$0.5 billion loan from ADB, it is expected to leverage about \$4 billion to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) find the knowledge to switch to cleaner production and have easier access to commercial bank loans to help implement this.

Data and monitoring. Nearly all agencies interviewed for the TA project identified this as a major issue. If the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) posed a challenge in this area, the SDGs pose even more of a challenge given the number of new indicators to be monitored compared to the MDGs—about 230 for the SDGs versus 48 for the MDGs. Indicators should be adapted to reflect local situations, and accurate and timely data should be available to monitor these indicators. This is especially true for indicators on environmental sustainability which have always proven difficult to measure and report. One key concern is that monitoring is often driven by the availability of data, rather than its relevance for national priorities. Most of the environmental indicators currently being reported on make use of traditional

⁴ ADB. 2017. *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/publications/asia-infrastructure-needs>.

⁵ ADB. 2017. *Catalyzing Green Finance*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/publications/green-finance-catalyzing-facility>.

statistical data. Nontraditional data sources need to be embraced to monitor progress, such as real-time data to monitor air quality or remote sensing to monitor forest cover, and more use also needs to be made of qualitative indicators. Capacity needs to be built so those who collect and manage data can also work with more innovative data technologies and new data sources, especially in this age of big data. ADB is working with national statistics offices across Asia and the Pacific to build capacity for data collation and management.

“For too long, prosperity and environment were considered a trade-off, but this should not be the case anymore.”

- Isabelle Louis



Isabelle Louis, deputy regional director, UN Environment Asia and the Pacific, providing opening remarks during the opening plenary.

Isabelle Louis, deputy regional director, UN Environment Asia and the Pacific, offered a second set of opening remarks. She noted that it is particularly important to take an integrated approach to address the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

She then highlighted pollution from plastic and marine litter as critical issues that require more attention. The lack of proper plastic waste collection and disposal facilities is dispersing plastic throughout the environment and, ultimately, into the ocean, where it accumulates producing further environmental, economic, and social problems. As such, the marine ecosystems that provide food, livelihood, and income to the millions of people

living in coastal areas—including in the GMS, are threatened by plastics and marine litter coming from land.

Such challenges call for regional and national cooperation. Sustainable consumption and production agendas at regional and national levels require partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society to be successful. The sustainable management of plastic will also benefit from greater engagement with the private sector. UN Environment is helping to support finance facilities that will enable greater flows of private capital to help governments address the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Tapping into new sources of funding and investment and harnessing sustainable private finance will be crucial to fund the ambitious global agenda that governments in Asia and the Pacific have committed to.

UN Environment is also emphasizing valuing natural capital by establishing a natural capital risk register in the GMS. This register will help identify areas where natural capital and its benefits are most at risk, as well as the key private sector actors that draw on natural capital. This will allow more focused support to increasing public and private sector investments and action to conserve and grow natural capital. Through integrated approaches, effective solutions can be found to sustainably consume natural resources while protecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems.



Stefanos Fotiou, director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP, providing opening remarks during the opening plenary.

Stefanos Fotiou, director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP, delivered a third set of opening remarks. He highlighted the need for a platform for coordinated work on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. He then pointed to two important documents that could inform such a platform: the *Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development In Asia and the Pacific*,⁶ and the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development⁷ (the main outcome document of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific).

“When it comes to environmental sustainability there has been more regression than progress.”

- Stefanos Fotiou

Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, SDCC, ADB, followed the opening remarks with an overview of the TA project and the objectives of the workshop. She explained that the TA project was designed to (i) ensure that the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, particularly SDGs 12, 14, and 15, are not neglected given the environmental threats facing the region; and (ii) help strengthen the capacities of ADB’s DMCs to integrate the environmental dimensions of the SDGs into their national policies, plans, and programs. She provided a brief overview of the schedule of the TA project, noting that the workshop brought the first phase to a conclusion, with a second phase planned to work with three DMCs to help integrate and implement the select environment-related goals and targets.

Eric Zusman, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), ADB consultant, followed with an interactive exchange with participants to understand expectations for the workshop. That exchange involved participants listing three words that defined what they hoped to achieve for the workshop. The terms “integration” and “action” were raised by the largest number of participants (Figure 2).

⁶ UNESCAP. 2017. *Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development In Asia And the Pacific*. <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDGs-Regional-Roadmap.pdf>.

⁷ UNESCAP. 2017. *Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017*. Bangkok.

Figure 2: Word Cloud
(on what participants want to achieve from the workshop)



Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Context Setting

This session was designed to set the scene on progress with the environmental dimensions of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific. It focused on sharing the results and findings of the TA project's regional stocktaking on how 15 of ADB's DMCs⁸ are approaching implementation of the select environment-related goals and targets, and regional partners' perspectives and efforts on implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

Moderator: **Eric Zusman**, IGES, ADB consultant

Emma Marsden presented the draft results and findings of the TA project's regional stocktaking that aimed to answer four questions:

- (i) Which of the select environment-related goals and targets are issues and/or priorities for DMCs in the region?

⁸ The 15 DMCs are split across four regions: ADB's East Asia and Central and West Asia regions combined (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and the PRC), Pacific region (Fiji, Samoa, and Timor-Leste), South Asia region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka), and Southeast Asia region (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, and Viet Nam).

- (ii) What kinds of activities have countries already initiated to address the SDGs and environmental priorities?
- (iii) What are the main issues, challenges, and barriers to countries leveraging the SDGs to effectively address their environmental issues and/or priorities?
- (iv) How can the development and environment communities help countries overcome these issues, challenges, and barriers?

To complete the stocktaking, the TA project undertook three rounds of research, each time diving deeper into the status of integration of the select environment-related goals and targets into the region’s national policies, plans, and programs. The final round involved semistructured in-country interviews with government and other relevant stakeholders to validate the findings of the desk study work undertaken during the first two rounds and gain insights that could not be obtained from desk review alone.

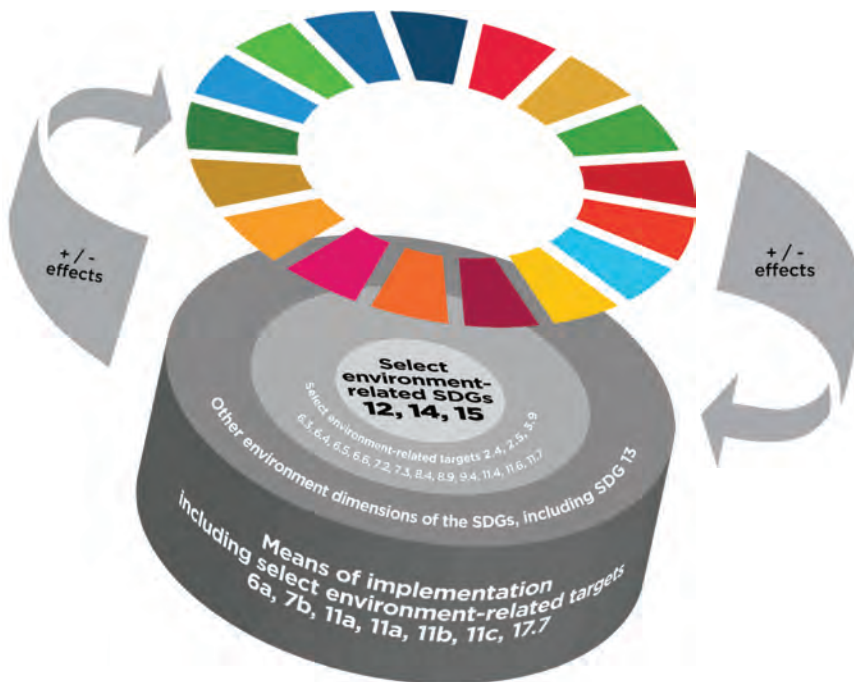
The preliminary results and findings were:

- (i) Many regionally important environmental issues overlap with the select environment-related goals and targets.
- (ii) Many countries are starting to leverage the SDGs to address these issues, but at target level, issues and priorities being addressed are varied and interlinkages are not reflected.
- (iii) Deeper integration is needed to effectively address interlinkages (Figure 3).

“To effectively address interlinkages requires changing mind-sets, behaviors, capacities, mandates, and the way institutions work together at all levels.”

- Emma Marsden

Figure 3: Sustainable Development Goal Interlinkages



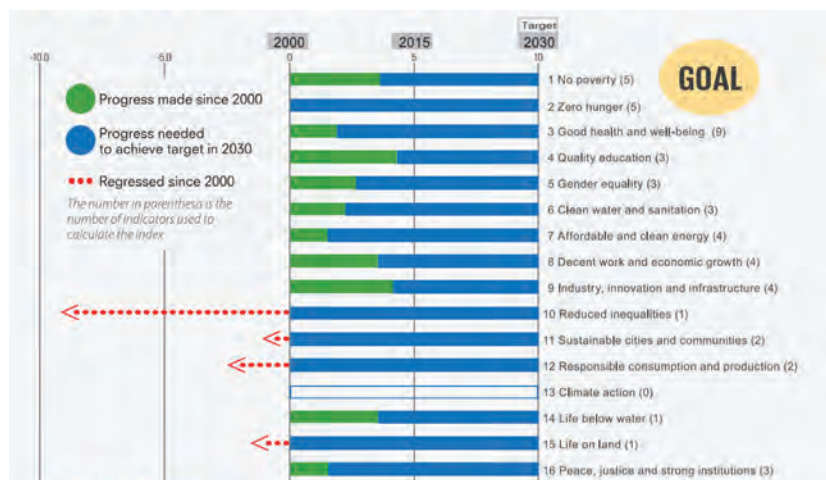
SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

- (iv) Taking a whole-of-government approach as opposed to making decisions in linear silos alters the extent to which critical interlinkages between environment, economy, and society can be addressed.
- (v) Top barriers for the Asia and Pacific region, including coordination, human resources, financing data and assessment, and developing monitoring indicators, are also barriers at the global level.
- (vi) Development partners are working to help overcome these barriers and address capacity needs; examples from the region, such as the GMS biodiversity conservation corridors project in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam; the Green Financing Platform to address air pollution in Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei region in the PRC; Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia's program on SDG 14 in the Philippines; and the SWITCH-Asia Initiative's Sustainable Consumption and Production Program in Sri Lanka, show that integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs is possible.
- (vii) Many existing and innovative tools can help countries integrate SDGs 12, 14, and 15 into national policies, plans, and programs.
- (viii) To strengthen implementation, further guidance is needed on how these tools can be applied to address the barriers and facilitate integration.

Katinka Weinberger, chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division (EDD), UNESCAP, offered perspectives and efforts on implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. She remarked that there has been the least amount of progress and some regression with environment-related SDGs (Figure 4). She then provided an overview of the status of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 15 in Asia and the Pacific. She concluded by stressing the importance of dynamic and holistic frameworks that bring out SDG interactions, interministerial and cross-sector cooperation, stakeholder engagement as a driver for transformational societal change, and improving environmental data systems.

Figure 4: Progress Toward the Sustainable Development Goals



Source: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. 2017. *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2016: Sustainable Development Goals Baseline Report*. Bangkok: United Nations.

Jonathan Gilman, regional policy coordinator, Strategic Policy and Programmes, UN Environment, shared perspectives on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. He highlighted that the notion of integration is not new—it can be found in key international policy documents that date back to 1972. He also underlined where integration is mentioned in documents related to the 2030 Development Agenda. He noted that there have been several valuable lessons from work on integration—for example, using single sectors as an entry point to pull in actions from other sectors. He concluded by discussing the example of an International Coalition for Greening the Belt and Road Initiative (the Belt and Road Initiative is a program of activities that the PRC launched to build six transnational economic corridors).

Herath Gunatilake, director, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, ADB, shared ADB's perspective on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. He noted that the SDGs are central to most of ADB's work, and that there was significant scope for improvement in addressing environment under the 2030 Development Agenda due to unfinished business under MDG 7. He then pointed to efforts ADB is making to achieve progress on the environment. The examples he raised ranged from shifting to more sustainable infrastructure through investing in natural capital, to improving environmental governance. He concluded by highlighting that ADB is currently revising its corporate results framework in line with the SDGs, which will help strengthen its approach to environmental sustainability.

3. Knowledge Café: Issues and Challenges

The aim of the knowledge café was to create an environment for engaged and thoughtful conversations and dialogue among participants on four topic areas in relation to effective integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12, 14, and 15 into national policy, plans, and programs. Participants were split into two groups, one looking at SDG 12 and the other at SDGs 14 and 15.

Facilitators: **Robert Steele**, Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultant (overall and group facilitator for SDGs 14 and 15) and **Prae Piromya**, vice president, Sustainability, Pace Development (group facilitator for SDG 12)

A. Introduction

The knowledge café was organized using The World Café method.⁹ Four topic areas were addressed by each group in rotation: (i) institutional arrangements, (ii) enabling policies for implementation, (iii) budgeting and allocation of resources, and (iv) monitoring and reporting progress. Conversations centered around four questions: (i) what best practice might look like, (ii) the challenges to achieving this, (iii) ideas for overcoming the challenges, and (iv) how to sustain integration and progress to 2030 and beyond. Each topic area had a table facilitator (ADB staff, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [UNESCAP] staff and interns, and ADB consultants) who helped facilitate the conversations as well as summarize the discussion.

B. Sustainable Development Goal 12

Institutional Arrangements

Participants agreed that policy coherence among ministries is key to effective integration of the SDGs, including SDG 12. Undertaking Voluntary National Reporting was considered an important starting point as well as reviewing public expenditure (e.g., budget tagging exercise) to provide a baseline. The challenges of working within existing institutional frameworks are varied. Some developing member countries (DMCs) have political instability and frequent government and institutional change. This affects their ability to establish coherent institutional arrangements. Institutions that have been given responsibility for SDG 12 are often those that have little power and influence over key ministries, such as finance, planning, and trade and industry. Thus, it is helpful when more powerful ministries are given

⁹ The World Café. World Café method. <http://www.theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/>.



Knowledge café participants discussing how to effectively integrate Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14, and 15 into national policy, plans, and programs.

the role of overall SDG coordination. Knowledge capacity for SDG 12, which is not equal in all ministries, lack of financial resources, and timely reporting and sharing of data at national level also make SDG 12 coordination difficult.

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) establishing one institution responsible for overall SDG coordination with a mandate to coordinate and work with all ministries and disrupt sector-based planning as has been done in Bhutan;
- (ii) identifying and mapping out each ministries' roles and responsibilities in relation to SDG 12, and then creating new mechanisms for ministerial cooperation as has been done in Nepal, the People's Republic of China, and Viet Nam;
- (iii) obtaining high-level political support (i.e., President or Prime Minister) as in Indonesia and Japan;
- (iv) creating a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility for SDG 12 by including different stakeholder groups, including private sector and civil society, in institutional arrangements; and
- (v) engaging youth through education by including SDG 12 in the curriculum from primary school to university.

Enabling Policies for Implementation

Participants agreed that SDG 12 should be incorporated into all sector plans with performance indicators, so that the focus is on tangible actions by respective ministries who are then held accountable for delivery. This depends on interministerial cooperation—multiple ministries must work together and take on the mandate to achieve SDG 12, rather than requiring environment ministries to address it on their own.

“To create the environment for effective SDG 12 focused policy formulation, institutional barriers must first be identified and addressed, and existing plans and policies examined to find where they conflict.”

- SDG 12 Group on Enabling Policies for Implementation

One challenge is the language or jargon that is often used in association with responsible consumption and production, which is not understood by all stakeholders. Noncompliance with policies is also a huge challenge, as enforcement of laws and regulations is still very weak in many DMCs.

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) engaging with stakeholders to teach them and learn about challenges and potential solutions at national and local level while also supporting research on SDG 12 policies internationally and nationally;
- (ii) developing mandated standards and guidelines for achieving responsible consumption and production in each sector;
- (iii) requiring policy makers to participate in training courses to learn about environmental issues and the importance of delivering on not only SDG 12, but all the SDGs as an integrated whole;
- (iv) screening policies in relation to all three dimensions of sustainable development and analyzing conflicts and trade-offs across the SDGs— if there is conflict or noncompliance with other policies, they should be reworked and proposed again to address the issue of policy coherence; and
- (v) ensuring continuity through changing governments and political leadership by institutionalizing policies along with checks and balances as with the example of Japan.

“Achieving responsible consumption and production should be viewed not as a cost, but as an investment and revenue generator.”

- SDG 12 Group on Budgeting and Allocation of Resources

Budgeting and Allocation of Resources

Participants agreed government and private sector partnership is needed to deliver SDG 12. To ensure budget allocations and resources are sustainable to 2030 and beyond, long-term, mutually beneficial, and equitable partnerships need to be established, as well as breaking down barriers between ministries and ensuring interministerial coordination. Forums and other platforms for stakeholder engagement, particularly related to finance and resource mobilization for SDG 12, would be beneficial to governments.

It was discussed that policy development is not necessarily the best place to invest, funds are better earmarked for implementation and enforcement. SDG 12 policies may be in place, but implementation does not align with intentions. Financing is one reason for this, linked directly back to political commitment and will, as well as short-term thinking with planning horizons being too short at all levels. Lack of capacity for implementation and corruption also play a factor. Conducting institutional reviews and performance checks to increase accountability for budgets is important.

Separate budget allocations are needed, as the main challenge to delivering SDG 12 is that it does not usually feature in the budgeting and allocation of resources by finance ministries. Changing mind-sets regarding environmental protection and natural resource consumption is the first challenge; SDG 12 is seen as environmental, and many do not understand that it is strongly linked to innovation, investment, economic diversity, and growth. Language is often a barrier, as the environment sector uses different language to finance ministries, making communication of this

message difficult. Lack of policy mapping also means that investments in resource conservation and efficiency do not get translated into the budget and resource allocation. Use of a common language between ministries with respect to SDG 12, use of policy mapping, and stronger coordination between finance, planning, and budgeting officers from respective ministries implementing policy actions linked to SDG 12 would be beneficial.

Budgets should not necessarily be bundled and allocated together. For example, environmental tax revenues could be allocated to finance SDG 12 implementation and enforcement although, as most DMCs do not measure their environmental footprint or natural resource consumption, it could be difficult to establish such a tax. Macroeconomic policies are also needed to increase investment in SDG 12, for example, incentives for using environment-friendly services and responsible production initiatives and programs could be established.

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

Participants agreed that a monitoring and reporting system for effective implementation of SDG 12 would necessitate having frequent and regular monitoring and reporting with comparability and relevance of data across all sectors—for example, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has created a reporting standard and indicator framework that businesses across the globe use—and the full participation and ownership of monitoring and reporting processes by all sectors and stakeholder groups. However, siloed institutional arrangements and lack of coordination between sectors result in the fragmentation of data, no data convergence, inconsistencies with international and national indicators, lack of standardized methodologies, lack of data sharing systems, and no verification of data. Institutional memory within ministries with regard to monitoring and reporting systems is also an issue, as usually only one person in the ministry has this capacity, and there is no handover to the next person when they move.

Regarding private sector data, as most businesses in Asia and the Pacific are SMEs, they do not have the capacity or resources to measure, monitor, or report consumption- and production-related data. This is a huge data gap that is missing. Mandates or incentives to collate this data also do not exist. There are also no systems in most DMCs to monitor consumption and production at the community level.

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) ensuring policy makers are aware of and understand how SDG 12 cuts across all other SDGs, and that to achieve the SDGs, it is crucial to monitor and understand what is happening with SDG 12;
- (ii) identifying more impactful indicators directly relevant to stakeholders;
- (iii) institutionalizing frequent and regular monitoring and reporting on SDG 12 along with performance evaluation and incentives;
- (iv) legislating mandatory responsible consumption and production reporting by businesses;

- (v) developing capacity for monitoring and reporting, including data management and mobilization of financial and technology resources;
- (vi) using Earth Observation and geographic information system technology more;
- (vii) developing simple and participatory monitoring and data sharing and reporting systems for use by governments, the private sector, and communities; and
- (viii) establishing national systems for environmental data verification, using organizations that are independent and not politically based or biased.

C. Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15

“Mind-sets with regard to natural resource consumption, biodiversity protection, and thinking about the environment in general need to be changed; political will to invest in the environment is required.”

- SDGs 14 and 15 Group on Institutional Arrangements

Institutional Arrangements

Participants agreed that in general, different ministries and sectors lack coordination in addressing biodiversity issues. It is important to have a high-powered umbrella institution (or institutions, such as a politically powerful interministerial or cabinet-level committee) that is mandated to coordinate and steer different public sector, private sector, and civil society organizations working on SDGs 14 and 15. Focal points of established government institutions with a mandate for biodiversity should also be directly involved in the management of, and monitoring and reporting for SDGs 14 and 15. The main challenge to working within existing institutional arrangements was the overlapping mandates of ministries, often creating win-lose trade-offs between economic decisions and environmental sustainability, exacerbated by the lack of a common language between different ministries when talking about the SDGs, and in particular SDGs 14 and 15.



Knowledge café participants discussing how to effectively integrate Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14, and 15 into national policy, plans, and programs.

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) increasing awareness of all policy makers and institutional leaders to the vital necessity of protecting and regenerating ecosystems for future economic and social development, e.g., investment in biodiversity protection will result in financial benefits;
- (ii) creating a sense of ownership of the SDG implementation process by all stakeholders, with roles and responsibilities identified and agreed on, as well as measurable progress and performance indicators for SDGs 14 and 15 that have direct influence on policy making and political decisions;
- (iii) strengthening human resources within ministries with an emphasis on the SDGs and their integration and implementation—this could possibly entail the creation and institutionalization of an SDG cell or team within all ministries and implementing agencies; and
- (iv) implementing screening mechanisms, such as Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness (GNH) Screening Tool, to be used by planning divisions in all ministries when drafting policies, to include other ministerial perspectives on their draft policy and ensure better alignment and coherence.

Enabling Policies for Implementation

Participants agreed that biodiversity policies should not be developed in a siloed manner that isolates them in ministries of environment, but that they should cut through the mandate of all ministries. It was suggested that each ministry be required to produce an action plan based on the crosscutting aspects of SDGs 14 and 15 to facilitate their integration as is being done in Viet Nam. Clusters of ministries based around SDGs 14 and 15 could also be established to develop a comprehensive policy framework for them. Private sector participation in policy development discussions is also required to ensure more effective biodiversity policies that can bridge to and be acted on by other sectors. Screening mechanisms for use when drafting policies were again seen as important. It was also identified as crucial that policies are linked to measurable biodiversity outcomes.

The challenges are different across Asia and the Pacific, but there was general agreement that the lack of political will is one of the biggest challenges for effective biodiversity policy formulation and implementation. Stronger political will would result in governments spending more money to address environmental issues, though activities should demonstrate a measurable return on investment. Policies related to SDGs 14 and 15 are sometimes overlapping and redundant, and conflict with other sector policies. For example, protected areas get opened for uses other than ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. The policies themselves are not necessarily the problem, but the lack of ministerial coordination, a culture aligned with implementing policies in an integrated manner, systems, and human resources. There is also little or no space for the community to be involved in policy development.

“Communities experience the outcome of conflicting policies and unsustainable practices; thus, they should be involved in all stages of policy decision-making.”

- SDGs 14 and 15 Group
on Enabling Policies for
Implementation

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) having an overall vision and plan for the integration of SDGs that all sectors support and work toward together;
- (ii) taking a results-based policy approach to enable policy coherence with SDGs 14 and 15, linking policies to measurable biodiversity outcomes;
- (iii) ensuring multistakeholder engagement and participation in policy assessment, formulation, review, and revision;
- (iv) ensuring alignment of international, national, and local targets and indicators with policies;
- (v) internalizing environmental costs and benefits in all policies, plans, and programs through interministerial and private sector coordination at domestic and international levels; and
- (vi) strengthening institutions' ability to address SDGs 14 and 15 in terms of structure, systems, and human resources.

Budgeting and Allocation of Resources

Participants agreed that investment synergies (including blended finance and cofinancing involving both public and private sector) and longer-term integrated budgeting processes were needed. They also agreed that in allocating resources, environment should be weighted equitably with economic and social issues and priorities and data integration for all the SDGs supported. DMC budgets are linked with priorities, and environment is not prioritized in most DMCs in comparison to economic and social issues—though both aspects depend on products and services provided by nature. Therefore, biodiversity protection and restoration, marine or terrestrial, do not receive sufficient and appropriate budget in relation to the importance of these ecosystems to economy and society.

The most important aspect to address is the political will to give environment a higher priority in the overall national development agenda and better integrate it into the budgeting and allocation of resources. This requires changes in mind-sets regarding the environment and its relationship to economic and social development. For economic models and mental thinking to shift, baseline data and information is needed, as well as relevant case studies to demonstrate and show the potential and actual return on investment of investing in SDGs 14 and 15. The lack of expertise on financing for biodiversity is also a concern. Strengthening government and financial institutions' understanding of the tools, methods, and approaches related to financing biodiversity protection and restoration are needed.

Ideas for improving budgeting and allocation of resources for SDGs 14 and 15 included (i) developing results-based policies, (ii) prioritizing investments that can leverage co-benefits, (iii) encouraging public-private partnerships for investment, (iv) integrating SDG interlinkages into national budgets, (v) conducting expenditure reviews and budget-tagging processes, (vi) monitoring long-term budgets, and (vii) identifying and avoiding biodiversity trade-offs. Long-term strategic budgeting until or beyond 2030 is required, and resource mobilization should come from all sectors and sources, with continuous and responsive monitoring and evaluation. Incorporating the lessons learned along the way into financing and budgeting process should also be effectively done.

“Budgets allocated for environmental issues are often ad hoc or project-based, rather than permanent allocations stemming from long-term plans, and these budgets seldom reach local level.”

- SDGs 14 and 15 Group on Budgeting and Allocation of Resources

Monitoring and Reporting

Participants agreed that DMCs must have a robust, participatory strategic planning process that embeds risk and assumptions, to which indicators and monitoring systems should be aligned and designed for. Targets and indicators associated with environmental transformation should be applicable to and implementable at national and local levels. To be sustainable, monitoring systems should be centralized with regard to sharing of data and reporting back nationally and to the international biodiversity frameworks that countries have ratified. This requires data reporting platforms to be harmonized at a national level, and harmonization between national and international levels. Monitoring and reporting on SDGs 14 and 15 should be results-based and linked to elections, contracts, and promotions—meaning more accountability.

One of the most important challenges is the lack of recognition by governments as to the vast lack of sufficient and up-to-date baseline data on environmental parameters in almost all DMCs. This is exacerbated by data gaps at different administrative levels, budget and resource constraints, the ad hoc nature of methodologies for data collection and management, and lack of coordination in collation and sharing of data. In part this problem is driven by donors, as international organizations that fund projects all apply different indicators and use different standards and methodologies, and the results are not required to be reported to a central government portal or database. National and local level methodologies need to be rationalized against international standards and methodologies. Managing and sharing this big data especially from the private sector also needs to be addressed.

To overcome these challenges and sustain integration and progress, the following could be beneficial:

- (i) prioritizing and accelerating the development of environmental indicators and building of baseline datasets, using standardized methodologies for data collection and management;
- (ii) legislating for interministerial and sector coordination in the collation and sharing of data, as well as for the private sectors involvement which may entail providing incentives;
- (iii) ensuring environmental indicators have local relevance—it should be clear who the end users of the data are, and headline indicators should be created for attention-grabbing on environmental issues;
- (iv) ensuring multistakeholder engagement and participation in monitoring and reporting from national to local levels;
- (v) harmonizing data collection methodologies, both internationally and nationally, as much as possible, with more attention and resources given for pre- and post-implementation data collection;
- (vi) ensuring data monitoring and reporting systems incorporate mechanisms for verification and accountability, which directly feeds back to policy makers and the decision-making process; and
- (vii) increasing human resources and technical capacity at national and local level within ministries and implementing agencies with respect to data collection and management.

“Monitoring should be applied to both government and nongovernment action, including the private sector, through mandatory biodiversity (sustainability) reporting systems.”

- SDGs 14 and 15 Group on Monitoring and Reporting

4. Country Perspectives

This session (split into two panels held on the afternoon of day one and the morning of day two) focused on how countries are integrating the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policies, plans, and programs. Country representatives from ministries of finance, planning, and environment shared how they understand integration in relation to the select environment-related goals (SDGs 12, 14, and 15) and targets, and issues and challenges faced.

Moderator: **Simon Hoiberg Olsen**, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultant

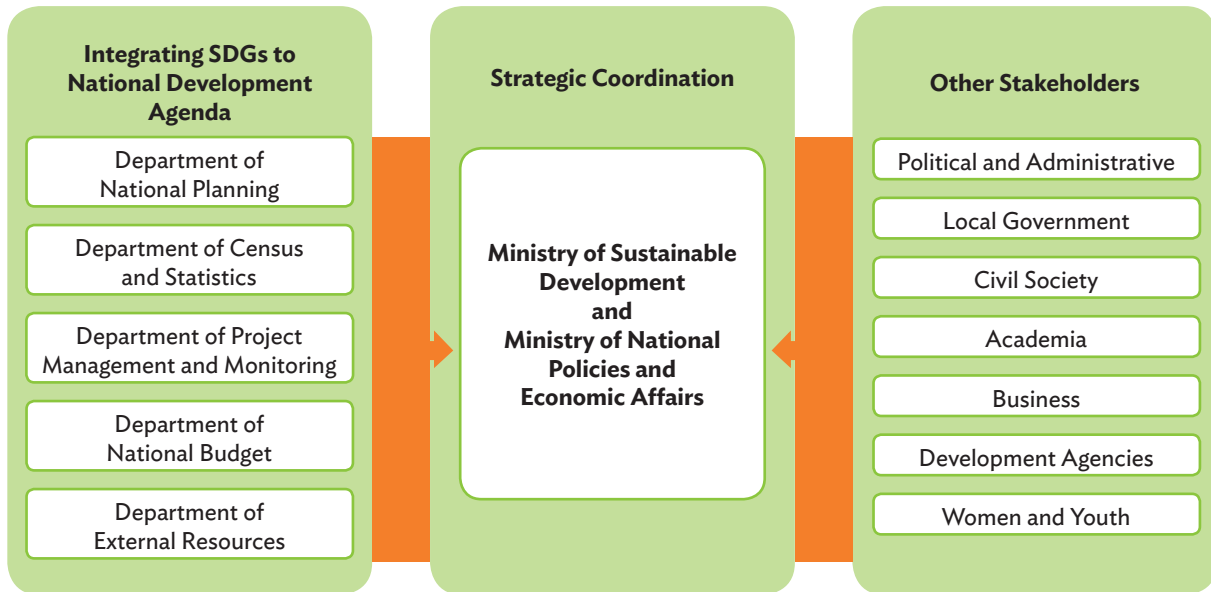
A. Panel 1, Planning and Finance Ministries

Presentations

MFA Mubarak, director, Department of National Planning, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Sri Lanka, delivered a presentation on how Sri Lanka is integrating the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, including the role of the Department of National Planning and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (Figure 5). He shared how the government had already mapped the global SDGs against national policy frameworks to achieve a three-phase implementation of nationally relevant targets. Through the Sustainable Development Act a supporting legal framework has been established. Mapping of key existing national policies and strategies relevant to the environmental dimensions of the SDGs has also been undertaken. The Department of National Planning shared that they would be responsible for matching policy proposals to the SDGs and have developed submission guidelines to ensure that SDG relevant projects will be identified and provided with budgets for implementation.

Mary Jane M. Dela Rosa, supervising economic development specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines, presented how the Philippines is integrating the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, including the role of NEDA. She shared that all 17 SDGs had been incorporated into the current Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017–2022, which is the basis for budget appropriations. For the environmental dimensions, Chapter 20 of the PDP on Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment would be key to implementation (Figure 6). She also said that corresponding strategic plans at subnational level would equally be required to reflect the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Regarding SDG indicators, she shared that 73 of 155 indicators are reflected in the PDP results matrix. She highlighted logistical challenges in engaging different stakeholders as well as building adequate capacity for the evaluation of performance.

Figure 5: Sri Lanka’s Institutional Arrangements for Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals



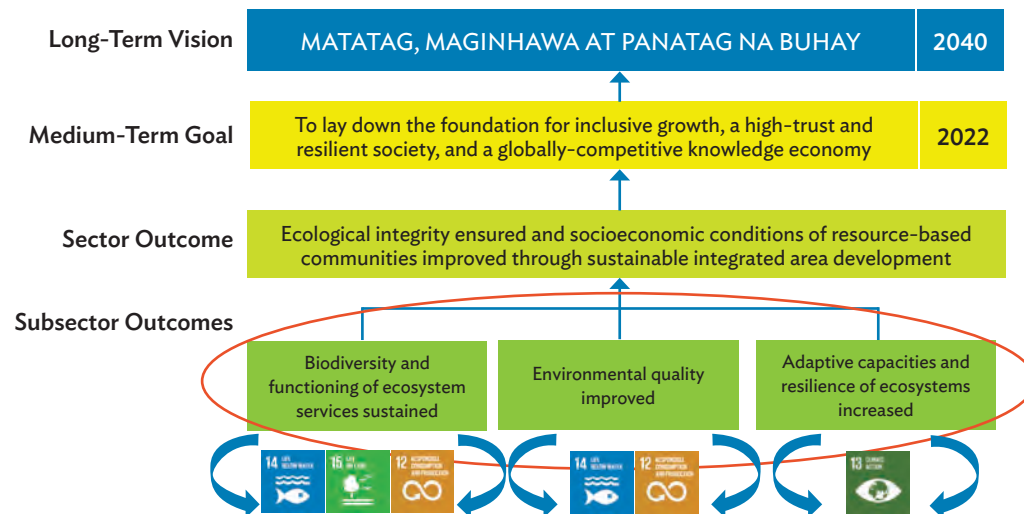
SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

Source: Government of Sri Lanka, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs.

Figure 6: Mapping the Philippine Development Plan to Sustainable Development Goals 12 to 15

PDP Chapter 20

Strategy Framework to Ensure Ecological Integrity, Clean, and Healthy Environment



PDP = Philippine Development Plan.

Note: Translation of long-term vision is a Secure, Comfortable, and Stable Life.

Source: Government of the Philippines, National Economic and Development Authority.

Panel Discussion and Questions and Answers

Paul Steele, chief economist, International Institute for Environment and Development, provided comments on the importance of planning and finance ministries in ensuring integration, and the institutional and budgeting arrangements needed, including the need to understand the political economy context. He said that the SDGs are not just a whole of government matter, but that a “whole-of-society” approach would be needed. He also said that ministries of finance are key to the integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Environment ministries need to be financially literate and strategic, to ensure that their policy and project proposals focus on the timing of annual budget calls, and to engage with working groups on budgeting and development. He also emphasized that environmental aspects should be included in budget oversight processes to enable evaluation regarding environment-related goals and targets.



Ir. Wahyuningsih Darajati, director of Forestry and Water Resources, Conservation, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia, providing comments during the country perspectives session.

Joko Tri Haryanto, senior researcher, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia, discussed climate budget tracking and the climate finance landscape in Indonesia. He said that biodiversity loss and climate change represented two main challenges to attaining the SDGs in Indonesia, and that, therefore, climate budget tagging (mitigation and adaptation) is being mainstreamed into the budget planning process. He also shared that Indonesia is looking at green bonds and *Sukuk* bonds, as additional fiscal policy tools to steer policies in a greener direction. His intervention was supplemented by comments from **Ir. Wahyuningsih Darajati**, director of Forestry and Water Resources, Conservation, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) on ingredients for successful integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, including participation, clear targets, sufficient budget, effective platforms and communications, and monitoring and evaluation.

The ensuing discussion, questions, and answers highlighted the importance of integrating the environmental dimensions of the SDGs not only nationally, but also at local government and subnational levels. Experiences were shared by the Philippines on SDG localization. Discussions also touched upon the use of natural resources as a source of wealth creation. This was explained as part of the emerging agenda on natural capital. Natural resources should not just be viewed as providing a subsistence level of livelihood support, but provide a source of real wealth that can generate employment and income to lift people out of poverty.

In terms of future steps, the response was that there would be growing demand from ministries of planning and finance for integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, but that this demand needed to be fed by technical support from ministries of environment. In that sense, ministries of environment would be required to give more emphasis to integration and working across governments and less on working on stand-alone environmental programs and projects so that environmental literacy could be spread throughout government.

B. Panel 2, Environment Ministries

Presentations

Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, head, Division of Science and International Cooperation, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam, said that MONRE has 19 specific Viet Nam SDG targets for the environment that are part of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Figure 7). The targets focus on pollution control, water, natural resource management, protection of marine, coastal and water environments, nature conservation, and biodiversity development. She said that the General Statistics Office is conducting a review of global SDG indicators to clarify the availability of national data. Challenges include determining budgets to implement planned road maps.

Ariuntuya Dorjsuren, director general, Climate Change and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MOET), Mongolia, presented the work of MOET to produce the Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia (SOM), which links the SDGs with Mongolia's national long-term development policy (Figure 8). She said that the production of the SOM had started with a visioning exercise and situation analysis where aspirations were compared with current existing strategies to arrive at a baseline. Following this, different pathways were derived from the identified starting point, including feedback loops and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. She discussed the implementation framework, including responsible groups, targets, indicators, and accountability mechanisms. One major highlight was that Mongolia has experimented with exercises to move from linear to systems thinking. While systems thinking will be necessary to address the linkages between and among the SDGs, it is challenging to change the current predominantly linear approach of most government agencies.

“Use economic language and perspectives to convince finance ministries that environment-related goals and targets are a priority—their implementation needs to be viewed as source of revenue growth and not just a cost to business-as-usual.”

- Joko Tri Haryanto

Figure 7: Viet Nam’s Sustainable Development Goals Related to Natural Resources and the Environment

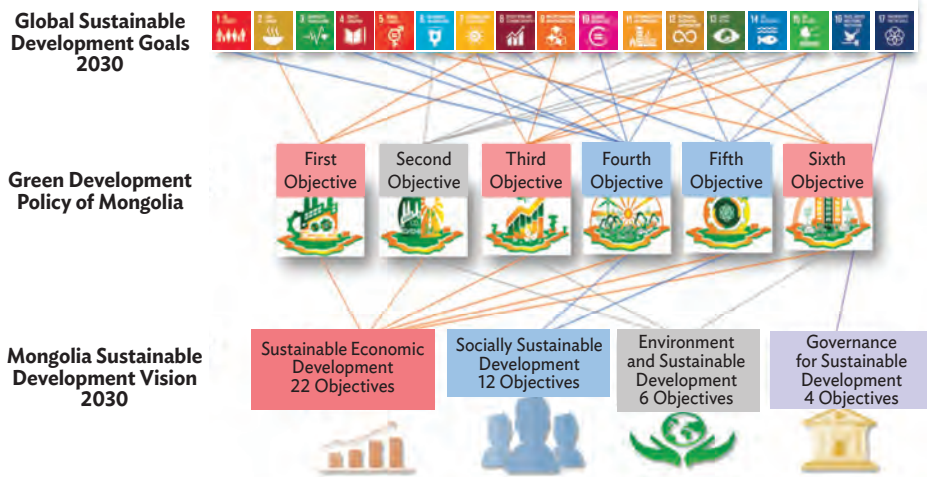
17 VSDGs on natural resources and environment were assigned to MONRE including goals, targets, and specific tasks as follows:

VSDGs	Targets	Task
VSDG 3. Ensure a healthy life and enhance welfare for all citizens in all age groups	3.8a	2
VSDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1.d	1
	6.3.b	4
	6.4	5
	6.5	7
	6.6	8
VSDG 12. Ensure sustainable production and consumption	12.2.a	3
	12.4.b	2
	12.5.a	6
	13.1.a	3
VSDG 13. Respond in a timely and effective manner to climate change and natural disasters	13.3.a	5
VSDG 14. Sustainably conserve and utilize the ocean, the sea, and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1	6
	14.3	4
VSDG 15. Sustainably protect and develop forests; conserve biodiversity; develop ecosystem services; combat desertification; prevent the degradation of and rehabilitate soil resources	15.1	4
	15.5	6
	15.6	4
	15.8	5
17 Targets		66 Tasks

MONRE = Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, VSDG = Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal.

Source: Government of Viet Nam, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

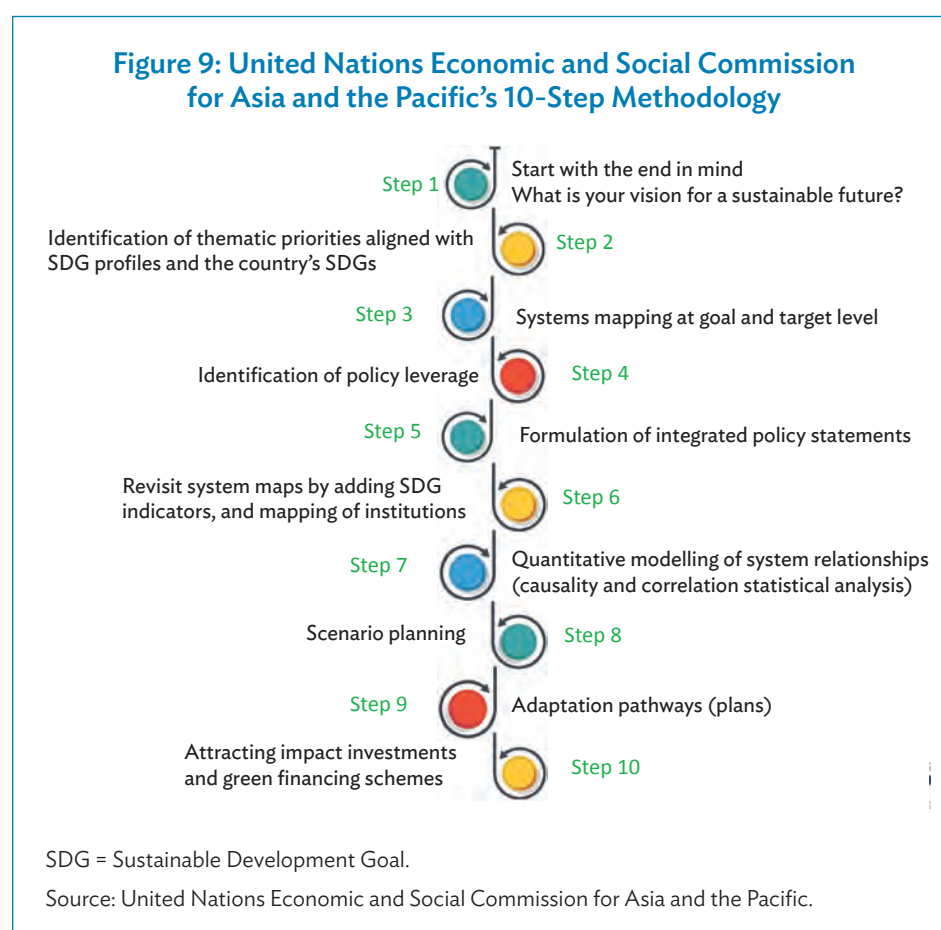
Figure 8: Linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and Mongolia’s Long-Term Development Policy Document



Source: Government of Mongolia, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Panel Discussion and Questions and Answers

Aida Karazhanova, economic affairs officer, EDD, UNESCAP, provided additional information on the work on the SDGs shared by **Ariuntuya Dorjsuren**. UNESCAP is engaged in helping Mongolia produce their SOM. She shared a 10-step flowchart (Figure 9) describing the sequence of activities involved in producing such an outlook and emphasized the importance of visioning, policy mapping, identifying leverage points, and quantitative and qualitative modeling, among others. She also shared the results of a comparison between data and perception, which showed a difference between data-based and perceived needs with regard to environmental issues. This implies that people and policy makers are not necessarily deciding a course of action based on scientific information, but that other factors play a role as well.



Kinga Wangmo, planning officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan, said that Bhutan is already ahead on implementing many of the environment-related goals and targets since key legislation and cultural context naturally promoted environmental sustainability. Bhutan already prioritized SDGs 1, 13, and 15. She emphasized by example the importance of highest level political support and shared experience on the GNH Screening Tool, where policies are scored according to their

potential contribution to GNH objectives before they are approved. She also said that financing represents a challenge, since Bhutan is expected to graduate from least developing country status in 2021. Bhutan must look for other types of funding aside from development assistance. However, attracting foreign direct investments still represents a challenge. Data availability and human resource capacity especially at local levels were also highlighted as challenges.

The ensuing discussion, questions, and answers raised the point that since SDG 12 contains so many cross-sector issues, it may not ultimately be well-placed solely under the responsibility of environment ministries or implementing agencies. The perspective was also raised that SDGs are sometimes anchored in different institutions, but mechanisms or tools must be used to facilitate a sharing of SDG responsibilities across ministries, for example, reporting or indicator mechanisms. Other participants highlighted that even though government action plans were important, there should be space and/or encouragement to allow action plans and initiatives to emerge from nonstate actors. Some countries encourage separate action plans to be developed by different stakeholders, while others bring in different voices and inputs during formulation of consolidated action plans. It was also shared that top-down mapping was one way of developing policies, but that bottom-up processes that involve different stakeholders was another important element of integrating the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. What emerged from the discussion was that it is a challenge to expand implementation of the environment-related goals and targets beyond traditional roles, and involve also financial institutions, academia, private sector, and other stakeholders, but that the knowledge and capacity of other sectors would also be useful.

5. Innovative Tools and Approaches

This session focused on presenting the technical assistance (TA) project's draft inventory of tools, approaches, and methods for integrating the select environment-related goals and targets into national development policies, plans, and programs; and introduced a variety of innovative tools and approaches for addressing the issues and challenges of integrating the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moderator: **Eric Zusman**, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultant

A. Presentations

Robert Steele, ADB consultant, presented the TA project's draft inventory of tools. He began his presentation by highlighting some of the tool-related findings from the regional stocktaking (Chapter 2). These included: (i) a lack of awareness and understanding of the systemic relationships between economic, social, and environmental dimensions; (ii) institutional management and coordination systems and enabling policies are weak links in effective use of available tools; (iii) capacity development, and linking national SDG plans with financing sources and investment opportunities are both significant challenges; and (iv) data collection, management, sharing, and reporting are not strong either nationally or to meet international obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Further, government and other key stakeholders are not familiar with the tools available, thus, are not effectively using the available resources.



Participants offering their views on how to strengthen the environment dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

“Some developing member countries are beginning to use systems thinking-related tools and approaches for Sustainable Development Goal integration.”

- Robert Steele

He then shared the objective of the TA project's inventory of tools; to identify tools that have strong relevance and track record within the policy cycle, match the expressed needs of developing member countries (DMCs) for integration, and have proven effective in facilitating stakeholder engagement and integration given the importance of SDG interlinkages. He also said that at the time of the workshop, 73 tools were identified as applicable to SDGs 12, 14, and 15. The inventory breaks down the tools according to use classification, policy cycle relevance, and how and when they are best applied. The tools also provide links to international and regional case studies. In concluding, he reiterated that there are already a good number of proven and innovative tools available for DMCs to freely access and use to support effective integration, but that their effective use for integrating the select environment-related goals and targets depends on supportive institutional arrangements and coordination, financing and resources, and good and timely data.

“Understanding the interdependencies of key elements is key to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.”

- Aneta Nikolova

Aneta Nikolova, environmental affairs officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), highlighted that integrated approaches have evolved over the past 50 years, starting with the Club of Rome report *Limits to Growth*¹⁰ in 1972 and proceeding onward through Rio+20 to the development of the 2030 Agenda. After presenting some key statistics and trends on water resources in Asia and the Pacific, she shared some systems observations related to water, pointing out the strong links between water security, economic activity, and human development; and the crucial role that water plays in ensuring the provisioning of ecological services. She also emphasized the importance of governance, scientific data, and stakeholder engagement in SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) implementation. She then went on to share UNESCAP's six-step systems thinking methodology for supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, using examples from pilots on the implementation of SDG 6 in Fiji, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan. She stressed the importance of identifying and mapping causal linkages among variables and factors involved in DMCs' water management systems, and finding the right high impact leverage points with multiple influences throughout the system. She highlighted Sri Lanka's efforts to integrate the SDGs into their national planning process, sharing their own systems' model for inclusive transformation and their systems mapping of institutional convergences around the 17 SDGs, with one specific example of their mapping of agencies with relevance to the achievement of SDG 6. She concluded by sharing UNESCAP's next steps in the methodology's development.

Paolo Manunta, infrastructure specialist, European Space Agency onsite support, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB, presented on the use of Earth Observation (EO) tools. He began his presentation by saying that an analysis performed by the Group on Earth Observations, Earth Observations for SDGs initiative¹¹ showed there is great potential for using EO in contributing to monitoring the SDG targets (169) and indicators (230). Most opportunities for using the European Union's Copernicus program data and services exist with SDGs 2, 6, 11, 13, 14, and 15. He stressed the free and open data policy of the program. Moreover, with the scale and coverage that presently exist, data on all scales from local to national, regional, and even global is available.

¹⁰ D. Meadows et al. 1972. *Limits to Growth*. London: Earthscan. <https://www.clubofrome.org/report/the-limits-to-growth/>.

¹¹ Earth Observations in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <http://eo42030agenda.com/>

He then spoke about EO data characteristics that make it an attractive tool for monitoring the SDGs, including the consistency and comparability of data over time and space, its complementarity with traditional statistical methods to communicate and visualize the geographic dimensions and context of SDG indicators, and the diverse types of measurements that can be accessed from EO technology, such as with optical cameras (e.g., infrared sensing of vegetation vigor) and microwave instruments that can provide all-weather, day-night capabilities. To highlight the potential, he shared an example of EO use for SDG target 15.2 (by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests) in Viet Nam through a program called the Global Forest Observations Initiative,¹² and by the Thematic Exploitation Platform,¹³ a one-stop shop for forestry remote sensing services. A final example was the use of EO derived information for marine and coastal environments; the Thematic Exploitation Platform¹⁴ is being used to monitor suspended particulate matter on the ocean surface around coastal areas in Indonesia (SDG target 14.1 on preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds).

László Pintér, Central European University and senior fellow and associate, International Institute for Sustainable Development, addressed 10 key points that should be kept at the forefront of the design, assessment, and use of monitoring and reporting tools. Key messages highlighted started with the fact that the environment goal in the MDGs (MDG7) was mostly symbolic and fragmentary to the other seven goals. Furthermore, monitoring of the MDGs was not based on a whole-system sustainable development framework, and there was little resource mobilization in support of the institutional foundations for monitoring and reporting at the scale needed. He said that consistent reporting has been constrained by weaknesses in statistical monitoring and the effective use of EO systems and data. Stressing the multiple roles that monitoring plays in decision-making, he stated that for the success of the SDGs, establishing indicators and baselines early in the process is essential, and integrating multiple types of data from multiple sources will be required along with linking historical trend data to projections and transition pathways. He also said that it is important to build from existing data, indicators, and reporting mechanisms and invest in human capacity development and institution building to better manage the SDGs as a system of targets, with trade-offs and synergies in mind. He stressed that engagement with different stakeholders is essential, and this will require coordinated monitoring and reporting across scale. He concluded by stating that access to up-to-date indicators, progress reviews, and projections must be simple, free, relevant to the users, interactive, and user-friendly to be successful.

B. Questions and Answers

A question and answer session was held following the presentations. One observation was that governments are still looking at integrating the SDGs into existing systems instead of designing and building new systems. The focus should be on consensus building in decision-making and policy convergence for which more tools should be identified. The use of EO satellite tools and regional scaling at high resolution was queried. The technology for this is already available, but the costs are also higher, so a business case needs to be made for using high resolution data. A participant inquired if there is a list or a directory of responsible international bodies who are the focal points

“Earth Observation is likely the only source of global information for many of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, especially for areas that are remote or otherwise hard to reach.”

- Paolo Manunta

¹² Global Forest Observations Initiative. www.gfoi.org.

¹³ Forestry Thematic Exploitation Platform. <https://forestry-tep.eo.esa.int/>.

¹⁴ Coastal Thematic Exploitation Platform. <https://coastal-tep.eo.esa.int>.

for environment-related goals and targets. UNESCAP shared that its Statistical Division has an SDG data portal that could become a focal point for reporting. It was also queried if any work was being done on localizing methodologies for monitoring and reporting—in Samoa, while they have integrated targets and indicators into their development plan, monitoring methods are not necessarily aligned with them and monitoring methodologies prescribed for reporting to international bodies do not align well with the local context. It was recognized that there is currently not equivalency between many local priorities, monitoring methods, and nationally and globally agreed common metrics, but that localizing is a long-term evolutionary process. The discussion concluded with a recognition that capacity building is needed for governments to adapt tools, approaches, and methodologies to their local context, which will greatly help localize the SDGs.

C. Knowledge Walkabout

Several tool experts were invited to give 5-minute elevator pitches and presented some of the tools included in the TA project’s draft inventory of tools:

Albert Salamanca, senior research fellow and unit manager, Stockholm Environment Institute, discussed their SDG Interaction Scoring Framework Tool (<http://www.nature.com/news/policy-map-the-interactions-between-sustainable-development-goals-1.20075>).

Steve Arquitt, senior modeler and policy analyst, Millennium Institute, talked about iSDG (<https://www.millennium-institute.org/isdg>).

Mark Eigenraam, director, Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting, spoke about the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seearev/seea_cf_final_en.pdf).

Jessica Alvsilver, technical advisor, Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Asia Pacific, United Nations Development Programme, discussed BIOFIN (<http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>).

Xin Zhou, principal policy researcher, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, talked about their SDGs Interlinkages and Network Analysis Tool (<https://pub.iges.or.jp/pub/sustainabledevelopment-goals-interlinkages>).

Participants then had the opportunity to participate in group learning discussions with the tool experts. The knowledge walkabout allowed for more in-depth sharing of how the tools worked and examples of their use in different contexts and countries.



Participants discussing the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) with Jessica Alvsilver, technical advisor, BIOFIN Asia Pacific.

6. Regional Initiatives, Tools, and Approaches

This session was on lessons from regional initiatives that focused on integrating the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national plans, policies, and programs. Participants shared examples of tools and approaches that can be used for integration, along with examples of good practice and lessons learned from their experiences of addressing the select environment-related goals and targets.

Moderator: **Eric Zusman**, Institute of Global Environment Strategies, Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultant

A. Presentations

Kartika Anggraeni, project manager, Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SWITCH-Asia Initiative), discussed lessons from 10 years of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) implementation in Asia. SWITCH-Asia Initiative aims to promote sustainable products, processes, services, and consumption patterns (SDG 12) and reduce poverty (SDG 1) by improving cooperation with European retailers, producer and consumer organizations, and the public sector. It works at three levels: (i) funding grant projects, including in Bhutan (green procurement), India (green retail), and Thailand; (ii) connecting stakeholders via their network facility; and (iii) supporting policy makers. Lessons learned include selecting the right sector to work with, especially when considering the potential for replication; levers for change are more effectively enabled by involvement of the right stakeholders; and, it is more effective to take a multidirectional approach (top-down and bottom-up concurrently) that addresses policy issues while implementing action on the ground through pilot projects. She concluded by stating that to see real progress, more attention should be focused on multistakeholder engagement in global value chains and facilitating and enabling entrepreneurs to adopt SCP practices.

Aimee T. Gonzales, executive director, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), presented on the implementation of SDG 14 through integrated coastal management (ICM). PEMSEA's Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2015 is a regional declaration of commitment to implement a shared vision adopted by 14 countries. Their ADAPT strategy and action program on climate change and disaster risk reduction and management advances the role of partnerships and innovative financing (e.g., blue carbon) and operationalizes blue economy principles through ICM as means for achieving the SDGs, particularly SDGs 6, 11, 13, 14, and 17. She shared a range of tools that PEMSEA has developed, including a regional and 10 national State of Oceans and Coasts reports; a Seas of East Asia

“It is crucial to engage with the private sector on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

- Kartika Anggraeni

“It is important to provide and use adaptive and calibrated tools to fit the local situation, train local trainers to deliver capacity development programs, and share best practices, especially on data collection and knowledge management.”

- Aimee T. Gonzales

“The window for making the right infrastructure choices is narrow, as once infrastructure investment decisions are made, capital and technology is locked in for many decades.”

- Sumit Pokhrel

knowledge bank; a local government SDG tracking tool; port safety, health, and environmental management certification; integrated information management systems; and the Ocean Investment Facility. Finally, as an example of their work on localizing the SDGs, she shared the Ansan Declaration, endorsed by the Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) members, and acted on through the implementation of ICM to improve conservation efforts, protect biodiversity, adapt to climate change, reduce pollution, and build sustainable communities. The PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2016–2021 is being aligned with the SDS-SEA 2015 and SDGs by setting timebound targets, reporting regularly, and sharing information among members and outside the network. In concluding, she recommended that planning should include resource mobilization to build capacity and communication needs, and be demand driven (from stakeholder needs) with a coordinated and coherent approach from donors.

Sumit Pokhrel, deputy technical program head, GMS Environment Operations Center, Core Environment Program (CEP) of ADB, presented on landscape management and regional collaboration in the GMS. He first described how project actions need to ensure long-term environmental sustainability by addressing and reducing environmental risk and ensuring environment safeguards. He shared that the demand for green investment in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) far outweighs the annual financial supply from public funds and international donors, thus the need for private sector investment and involvement. He then shared how the GMS CEP is facilitating investment in protected areas, biodiversity corridors, and landscape management—\$120 million investment to end of 2017, with a total valuation of ecosystems services in biodiversity conservation corridors of \$9.3 million. He stressed that this represents potential for value chain development and jobs. He went on to describe the CEP’s land management approach in more detail, highlighting the shift from project-based assessment to upstream strategic planning and a more multisector approach, for which SEA is an effective tool. The CEP’s approach also involves promotion of investment incubation, market-based mechanisms, private sector engagement, and building and strengthening systems’ capacity by policy and knowledge support. He concluded by stressing the need for tools, whatever they may be, to be contextual and relevant to the targeted user.

Joje Davetanivalu, environmental planning adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) presented on their regional initiatives, tools, and approaches. The SPREP 2017–2026 Strategic Plan’s four regional goals include strengthening resilience to climate change, healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems, improved waste management and pollution control, and commitment to and best practice of environmental governance. SPREP also works to meet regional and international Multilateral Environmental Agreements that support implementation of SDGs 12, 14, and 15. It is currently using various tools, approaches, and methods to achieve its goals. Policy instruments and frameworks that SPREP works under include the Clean Pacific Strategy (SDG 12), the Oceanscape Framework (SDG 14) and the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (SDG 15). Information and knowledge management tools and coordination mechanisms include its climate change portal, the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal, the Pacific

Environment Information Network and the Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment. He concluded by laying out the key challenges that the Pacific region faces, such as lack of enforcement and compliance; technical, financial, and human resource constraints; lack of sufficient and mature monitoring and evaluation systems and data; and coordination within and among the different sectors. Thus, tools need to be adaptable to the country and regional situation and culture.

Ryan Meintjes, programme analyst, Poverty–Environment Initiative (PEI) Asia–Pacific, discussed integrated planning, budgeting, and investment tools for achieving the SDGs. PEI is a joint UNDP–UN Environment program that has been working with countries from Asia and the Pacific to improve the livelihood of poor people who depend on natural resources, and improve their resilience to climate change and other external shocks. PEI has used a range of different tools, approaches, and methods in different countries to address the poverty–environment–climate (P–E–C) nexus. About 60 P–E–C mainstreaming tools have been documented in PEI’s global and/or regional¹⁵ compendium, broken down by country and under four results areas—integration, investments, institutions, and information. Narrative materials provide descriptions of experiences in a tool’s application at the country level, along with the results achieved. He described progress with P–E–C mainstreaming in terms of macroeconomic plans, sector strategies and plans, monitoring processes, financing, and implementation at subnational levels. He then set out institutional changes required for P–E–C mainstreaming, including the need for substantive engagement of environment ministries in development planning and implementation, capacity building, and learning.

B. Panel Discussion and Questions and Answers

Robert Steele, ADB consultant, provided comments on the presentations shared. Starting with SCP, he said that one way the lack of tools directed toward SCP at policy level could be addressed was with increasing engagement with stakeholders, particularly the private sector, to borrow from tools that have been developed to help business rethink nature as a crucial and valued asset. He also commented on the need to localize tools, and the need to contextualize for local relevance. He said that capturing experiences and results from the region on the various tools used was important for SDG implementation. He said that dissemination is important and that it is important to find the best way to get users to find the platforms that can help them learn about the available tools and how they can be used; and provide them with real case examples and other support. These platforms need to be simple to navigate, use, and be interactive. They should be updated constantly, with very fast and efficient feedback for user questions and interactions.

The ensuing discussion, questions, and answers raised the point of how to best deal with the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, since there does not appear to be any changes in the policies and mind-set despite the issues and challenges being known.

¹⁵ Poverty–Environment Initiative (PEI) Asia–Pacific. Integrated planning and budgeting for the SDGs, poverty–environment actions and approaches to reach sustainable development goals. <https://spark.adobe.com/page/KN1tXA623V8Cf/>.



Mark Eigenraam, director of the Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting (IDEEA) Group, responding to a question on behalf of the private sector.

Kartika Anggraeni offered two actual examples. The first example she gave concerned sustainable product innovations in Viet Nam, which was a successful project. SMEs involved in the project retained a sustainability mind-set 2 years after the project had been completed—with the businesses continually trying to reduce waste and innovatively creating new products out of waste. She emphasized that mind-sets can be changed, but that active and continuous engagement with the target group is needed, with advising and handholding through the process. Her second example was in Indonesia (with the World Wide Fund for Nature [WWF]), where the Ministry of Trade and Industry agreed to change the national policy for timber certification. Since December 2016, Indonesia has been able to ship certified timber to the European Union without due diligence—it takes time to change government policy, but with the right process and approach, change can happen.

Aimee Gonzales emphasized the importance of political will, there are case studies to show lessons learned, but most impactful for politicians and policy makers is success stories. Focusing on youth development was a key leverage for change—champions or transformers who are charismatic and inspirational are needed.

Sumit Pokhrel added that there has been much technological advancement and changes are happening, but taking advantage of these opportunities is the key issue. Governments have limited capacity and cannot use all the tools. The key is to select those that have the most impact and influence. Legal underpinning is also important for tools to have an impact. He stated that political will is important, but must be targeted as political willingness to create policy incentives and opportunities. If opportunities can be demonstrated, policy makers should be willing to act on them. However, too little emphasis is placed on showing tangible opportunities aligned with new technologies and practices, though the private sector does this well. The mind-sets of those outside the conversation need to change, but also the mind-sets of those inside it.

Jope Davetanivalu said that in working with 21 Pacific island countries and trying to get them to buy into various approaches, two things needed to be established to find success—trust and respect. He related that each country has its own culture, and cultural sensitivities must be respected. At the national level, experience from Fiji showed that political influence is very important, and the key is convincing political leaders that sustainable development is vital to their country’s well-being and prosperity.

Ryan Meintjes said that the annual economic and social survey UNESCAP publishes shows that poverty in the Asia and Pacific region has been going down. Thus, not all news or data is negative. However, with reference to the environment, this unfortunately is not the case. He said that the World Values Association assesses social capital in their annual values survey, with social trust improving yearly. They assess trust in terms of environment as well, and the results show that institutional trust is lacking. People want to protect the environment and leave something behind for their children. Institutionally speaking, this is not working—thus, the rise of green parties in many countries. It is the mind-set of government in terms of environment that has not changed, but in terms of social capital thinking, mind-sets are changing.

Robert Steele agreed that aspirational messages need to be coupled with real opportunities for people, organizations, and governments to engage with, act on, and benefit from environmental protection and sustainable development. The lack of effective monitoring and reporting of timely information and data is one of the barriers to change, but also one of the main leverage points for change, as well as an opportunity to benefit. He added that the success in terms of systemic impacts of investment in environment and sustainable development policies, plans, and programs is not well measured.

“Contextualization is important.”

- Jope Davetanivalu

“Traditional parties are strong on environmental statements in their campaign manifestos but not actually doing much.”

- Ryan Meintjes

7. The Way Forward

This session showcased how government, private sector, and civil society are planning to move forward with implementing the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It covered actions related to: (i) Institutional Arrangements, (ii) Enabling Policies for Implementation, (iii) Budgeting and Allocation of Resources, and (iv) Monitoring and Reporting Progress.

Moderator: **Smita Nakhoda**, senior results management specialist, Strategy, Policy, and Results Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

A. Presentations

Yoichi Fukui, deputy director, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan, said that a challenge in the case of Japan pertained to mainstreaming SDGs into existing policies. He emphasized that high-level commitment was instrumental in setting up the SDG Headquarters, comprised of all 17 ministries, and to create implementation guidelines. Out of 140 national policies on SDG implementation, more than 20 were proposed by the Ministry of Environment. Another challenge is public awareness—only a small percentage of company chief executive officers are aware of the SDGs. Recognizing this, Japan has undertaken awareness raising through regular stakeholder meetings since 2016, which the private sector particularly has been actively participating in. Such meetings focused on material life cycles, forestry, energy-self supply, and others. Cities and towns are also showing leadership and good practice by acting on the environment. It was also emphasized that many companies in Japan are actively promoting sustainable development and produce many useful practices. However, these are not well-known outside Japan, thus, a key activity is to help promote Japan's activities internationally. He also said that while integrated action is important, it is also important to prioritize or sequence policy action to achieve necessary outcomes.

Poch Sovannady, deputy director general of planning, Ministry of Planning (MOP), Cambodia, shared the process of SDG localization and integrating SDGs into Cambodia's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). The MOP oversees localization of the SDGs in the Cambodian context. Of the global targets, government prioritizes 98 targets. Cambodia is currently updating its NSDP (2019–2023) and the SDGs, including environment-related goals and targets, will be integrated into that plan. This document is adopted by the national assembly and signed by the Cambodian King, which gives it power. In addition, the Environmental Code, which is being drafted, will provide further



Panelists discussing the way forward with strengthening the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

legal support to progress on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Nineteen multistakeholder working groups provide inputs into drafting of the plan; but one challenge is that Cambodia has yet to engage with the private sector in its development. This will be a priority. Responsibility for SDGs 12, 14, and 15 is shared by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. He also said that experience from implementing the MDGs is helping the government address the SDGs, but capacity and lack of financing represented two persistent challenges, especially at subnational level.

B. Panel Discussion and Questions and Answers

Owen Migraso, executive director of Center for Environmental Concerns–Philippines, shared a perspective from civil society on engaging with SDG processes, and highlighted issues that should be recognized for progress on the SDGs. Civil society organizations view environmental issues as a human rights issue in an integrated perspective. He highlighted the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism as a mechanism for strategic civil society engagement promoting development justice, which is a concept that calls for a greater recognition of the historical responsibilities that some countries and actors have had in degrading the environment and increasing inequalities. He also said that engagement is very much a capacity development process since awareness is relatively low also across civil society organizations. He said that land use in several countries in the Asia and Pacific region, is still a challenge, as is political discontinuity that can disrupt progress.

Yuan Yuan, manager, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Regional Hub, People’s Republic of China, shared a perspective on sustainability reporting and the private sector. The SDGs are relevant to the private sector, but companies need to know

“Multistakeholder approaches are important because they can generate common ground and trust among often different stakeholders.”

- Yuan Yuan

how they can engage and report on relevant targets and indicators of the SDGs, specifically SDG 12. Sustainability reporting is an important step for companies to recognize where and how they can contribute to the SDGs. GRI works beyond the SDGs, focusing on governance, and social and environmental aspects. She highlighted that measurement is key to progress, and that the GRI reporting standards are an example to improve reporting on environmental issues. The SDG Compass, which was developed with UN Global Compact and GRI, aims to show companies where the alignments between business operations and SDGs are placed and how they can report. However, companies wish to know more precisely how they can report against mostly descriptive SDG targets. GRI is working with a multistakeholder corporate action group, focusing on how the data GRI generates can be leveraged to contribute to the SDGs and how good practices can gain a wider audience. Currently, a challenge for GRI is that only 90 of the SDG targets have clear linkage with the GRI disclosure process, and there is a need to further identify and develop linkages where none yet exist (e.g., SDG 14). Supply chains are a potentially important aspect to consider, since supply chains connect SMEs to the larger business environment.

Anshuman Saikia, regional programme support coordinator, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia, said that the environment had been largely forgotten in sustainable development and that IUCN has reorganized to fit with the directions of the 2030 Agenda. He said that conservation of the environment should not be an end in itself, but a means to achieve other development issues, and he urged governments to view the environment-related SDGs together with other, non-environmental SDGs. He identified nature-based solutions as one way to progress in an integrated manner. He shared information on various IUCN standards on key biodiversity areas and said that they relate directly to biodiversity SDG targets, such as 14.5, 15.1, 15.4, 15.5, and 15.8, among others. He said that engaging the private sector is key, but how they can be involved needs to be better understood by both sides. Examples that help private sector engagement include formulating a clear strategy for engaging the private sector to set traditionally opposed stakeholders at ease, as well as biodiversity valuation, management of biodiversity risks, management of supply chains, and others.



Participants exchanging views and opinions on how to strengthen the environment dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

The facilitated questions and answers brought out more information on how to involve the private sector. It was said that consumers would be one key entry point to steering the private sector toward more sustainable patterns of production. Governments' role is not to support the private sector with finances to engage, but rather to provide them with the knowledge and capacity to help them engage. Participants also shared that the issue with non-involvement of private sector has a lot to do with non-involvement of consumers, and that strategies should be sought to activate the consumers. Other questions centered on how to help the private sector find out how and how much they contribute to the SDGs, and if they contribute enough. Others again reflected that the private sector is understanding the need to act, purely from a business sense perspective, as failure to incorporate sustainability into core business operations will risk future profits.

8. Closing Session and Workshop Evaluation

A. Closing Session

Eric Zusman commented on the rich and dynamic discussions during the workshop. He suggested that the importance of learning had featured strongly in discussions and that the workshop itself had been a learning opportunity for all involved.

Emma Marsden thanked all participants, facilitators, presenters, and discussants for sharing their insights. She said that the technical assistance (TA) project team would make sure that the stocktaking report to be published would reflect the additional learnings from the workshop, the country profiles would be shared with the subject developing member countries (DMCs), and the draft tools inventory would be updated before publication and dissemination.

Herath Gunatilake thanked Emma Marsden and the TA project team for organizing the workshop. He also thanked United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and UN Environment for their involvement and looked forward to forging stronger partnerships in the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also thanked all participants for openly sharing their knowledge.

He stressed that while perhaps many of the issues discussed pertaining to integration were not new, pressures on the environment were becoming progressively more serious, demanding concerted action. On the positive side, the situation with the environment was increasingly being recognized by governments, who are increasingly willing to work toward solutions. Patience in changing mind-sets is needed, as this is a gradual process. He reminded everyone that the tools shared could help with integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and stressed the need to develop capacity, mobilize resources,

“Creative ways to facilitate cooperation should be sought to allow governments to work within the constraints of their current institutional frameworks.”

- Herath Gunatilake



Participants in the knowledge-sharing workshop on strengthening the environment dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific posing for the group photo.

tackle indicators, and include those beyond government, especially the private sector and civil society, to achieve better outcomes.

He noted that the task to achieve the environmental dimensions of the SDGs was indeed daunting and that no single solution could be found to the combination of complex problems, but that, through concerted efforts, a stronger balance toward the environment could be achieved. Successful practices exist, but require scaling up; as do good policies and regulations, but governments need to get better at implementing them. An understanding budgetary processes, including their political aspects, is also vital for environment ministries to work more effectively with finance and planning ministries. He recognized that there was demand for assistance on the SDGs, and specifically their environmental dimensions, and that ADB should seek adequate resources to help its DMCs take an integrated approach.

B. Workshop Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, all participants were encouraged to complete an evaluation form; a total of 49 completed forms were collected. Participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the duration and relevance of the workshop. The overall assessment of the workshop was excellent–good (Appendix 3).

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Country or Organization	Participant
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsen Kotanjyan, third secretary, United Nations Desk, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Napoleon Dewan, assistant chief, Green Economics Division • Asadul Haque, assistant chief, Economics Relation Division • Dipanwita Saha, senior chief assistant, Ministry of Environment and Forests
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phub Dhendup, chief forestry officer, Divisional Forest Office, Sarpang • Kinga Wangmo, planning officer, Gross National Happiness Commission • Tashi Yangzome Dorji, program director, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vann Momyneath, deputy secretary general, National Council for Sustainable Development, Cambodia • Sourn Sokhim, undersecretary of State, Ministry of Planning • Poch Sovannady, deputy director general of planning, Ministry of Planning
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ir. Wahyuningsih Darajati, director, Forestry and Water Resources, Conservation, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) • Joko Tri Haryanto, senior researcher, Ministry of Finance
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoichi Fukui, deputy director, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of Environment
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arman Abenov, director general, Center for Trade Policy Development, Ministry of National Economy • Gulshat Mazhitova, official, Ministry of Energy • Aday Nygmanov, Center for Trade Policy Development, Ministry of National Economy
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yo Saysoulinh, director, Planning Division, Department of Planning and Cooperation • Thidalath Vongxaya, technical officer, Department of Pollution Control • Saleumsack Xayyamonh, director, Strategic Environmental Assessment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Research Policy

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Country or Organization	Participant
Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariuntuya Dorjsuren, director general, Climate Change and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism • Tuvshinjargal Ganbaatar, officer, Climate Change and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism • Doljinsuren Jambal, director, Development Policy and Planning Division, National Development Agency • Davaanyam Surenjav, researcher, Sustainable Development Institute, National University of Mongolia
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dev Raj Joshi, programme director, National Planning Commission Secretariat • Bidya Nath Jha, regional forest director, Mid-Western Forest Directorate, Ministry of Forest • Tuls Narayan Maharjan, mechanical engineer, Ministry of Population and Environment
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadeem Ahmed, advisor (social policy), SDG Support Unit • Muhammad Saleh, assistant chief, Poverty Alleviation and SDGs, Ministry of Planning Development and Reform
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Jane M. Dela Rosa, supervising economic development specialist, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff, National Economic and Development Authority • Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer, director, Policy and Planning Service, Department of Environment and Natural Resources • Libertie Masculino, supervising statistical specialist, Philippines Statistics Authority
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saufua Maiava, research officer, Ministry of Finance • Frances Brown Reupena, environment sector coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment • Mose Topeto, principal statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Mahesan, additional secretary, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs • MFA Mubarak, director, Department of National Planning, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs • Douglas Nanayakkara, secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development • Mrs. I. Sabalingam, senior assistant secretary, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs • Uchita de Zoysa, sustainable development advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
Timor-Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cesar Melito Martins, Sustainable Development Goal coordinator, General Directorate of Statistics
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nguyen Tuan Anh, deputy director general, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment • Dang Phuong Loan, official, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment • Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, head, Division of Science and International Cooperation, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

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Country or Organization	Participant
Asia Europe Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazyna Pulawska, project manager, Singapore
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nessim J. Ahmad, deputy director general, concurrently chief compliance officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC) • Palitha Bandara, senior project officer (natural resources and environment), Sri Lanka Resident Mission • Herath Gunatilake, director, Environment and Safeguards Division, (SDES), SDCC • Paolo Manunta, European Space Agency onsite support, SDCC • Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, SDES, SDCC • Smita Nakhoda, senior results management specialist, Strategy, Policy, and Review Department • Deborah Robertson, young professional, SDES, SDCC • Ma. Tonette Virtucio, senior environment officer, SDES, SDCC
ADB Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charina Cabrido • Simon H. Olsen, Institute for Global Environment Strategies • Robert Steele • Nucharat Tuntiwigit • Eric Zusman, Institute for Global Environment Strategies
ADB's Core Environment Program, Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Operations Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan McLeod, communication and knowledge management specialist • Sumit Pokhrel, deputy technical program head, Greater Mekong Subregion Core Environment Program
ADB Youth for Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sahil Nair, youth project designer
Centre for Environmental Concerns-Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owen Migraso, executive director
Central European University, Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • László Pintér, acting head of department; and senior fellow and associate, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SWITCH-Asia Initiative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kartika Anggraeni, project manager
Global Reporting Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuan Yuan, manager, Regional Hub, People's Republic of China
Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Eigenraam, director
Institute for Global Environment Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xin Zhou, principal policy researcher
International Institute for Environment and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Steele, chief economist
International Union for Conservation of Nature, Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anshuman Saikia, regional programme support coordinator
Millennium Institute, United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Arquitt, senior modeler and policy analyst
Pace Development, Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prae Piromya, vice-president, Sustainability

continued on next page

Table continued

Country or Organization	Participant
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimee T. Gonzales, executive director
Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia-Pacific, Bangkok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Meintjes, programme analyst • Prashanthi Subramaniam
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jope Davetanivalu, environmental planning adviser
Stockholm Environment Institute Asia, Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Salamanca, senior research fellow and unit manager
The Asia Foundation Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim DeRidder, regional director, Environment Programs
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Asia Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Alvsilver, technical advisor, Biodiversity Finance
United Nations Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Gilman, regional policy coordinator, Strategic Policy and Programmes • Isabelle Louis, deputy regional director, UN Environment Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Environment and Development Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvain Delavergne • Stefanos Fotiou, director • Samuel Hayden • Aida Karazhanovam, economic affairs officer • Yanan Liu • Aneta Nikolova, environment affairs officer • Hitomi Rankine, environment affairs officer • Joao Resende • Subhi Sharma • Melissa Smith • Benedetta Nimshani Khawe Thanhrige • Katinka Weinberger, chief, Environment and Development Policy Section • Sara Zanetti
World Wide Fund for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luz Teresa Baskinas, vice-president, Project Development, Philippines • Enkhee Devee, Altai Sayan program manager, Mongolia • Vishaish Uppal, team lead, Governance Practice • San Nguyen Van, governance focal point and forests program advisor, Viet Nam
Yunus Center, Asian Institute of Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faiz Shah, head, Development Management

Appendix 2: Knowledge-Sharing Workshop Program

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2018		
8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.	Registration	
Opening Plenary		
9 a.m.–9:10 a.m. 9:10 a.m.–9:20 a.m. 9:20 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nessim J. Ahmad, deputy director general, concurrently chief compliance officer, SDCC, ADB • Isabelle Louis, deputy regional director, UN Environment Asia and the Pacific • Stefanos Fotiou, director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP 	
9:30 a.m.–9:40 a.m.	Overview of the Technical Assistance Project and Objectives of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, ADB 	
9:40 a.m.–9:55 a.m.	Introductions and Expectations from the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Zusman, IGES, ADB consultant 	
9:55 a.m.–10:05 a.m.	Q&A	
10:05 a.m.–10:10 a.m.	Group Photo	
10:10 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	SDG Exhibit with Tea/Coffee Break	
Context Setting		
10:30 a.m.–10:50 a.m.	Results and Findings of the TA Project’s Regional Stocktaking Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, ADB 	
10:50 a.m.–11 a.m. 11 a.m.–11:10 a.m. 11:10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.	Regional Perspectives and Efforts on Implementation of the Environment Dimensions of the SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katinka Weinberger, chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD, UNESCAP • Jonathan Gilman, regional policy coordinator, Strategic Policy and Programmes, UN Environment • Herath Gunatilake, director, Environment and Safeguards Division, ADB 	
11:20 a.m.–11:40 a.m.	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussant: Grazyna Pulawska, project manager, Asia-Europe Foundation • Moderator: Eric Zusman, IGES, ADB consultant 	
11:40 a.m.–12 noon	Q&A	
12 noon–1 p.m.	Lunch	
Knowledge Café		
1 p.m.–1:10 p.m.	Instructions for Knowledge Café <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Steele, ADB consultant 	
1:10 p.m.–2:40 p.m.	Knowledge Café Session: SDG 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prae Piromya, vice-president Sustainability, Pace Development 	Knowledge Café Session: SDGs 14 and 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Steele, ADB consultant
2:40 p.m.–3:10 p.m.	SDG Exhibit with Tea/Coffee Break	

3:10 p.m.–3:50 p.m.	<p>Reporting Back/Presentations from the Knowledge Café Presentation 1: Institutional Arrangements: SDG 12; SDGs 14 and 15 Presentation 2: Enabling Policies for Implementation: SDG 12; SDGs 14 and 15 Presentation 3: Budgeting and Allocation of Resources: SDG 12; SDGs 14 and 15 Presentation 4: Monitoring and Reporting Progress: SDG 12; SDGs 14 and 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Steele, ADB consultant
3:50 p.m.–4:10 p.m.	Q&A
Session I: Country Perspectives: Planning and Finance Ministries	
4:10 p.m.–4:20 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFA Mubarak, director, Department of National Planning, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Sri Lanka
4:20 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Jane M. Dela Rosa, supervising economic development specialist, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines
4:30 p.m.–5 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussant: Paul Steele, chief economist, International Institute for Environment and Development • Panel Discussant: Joko Tri Haryanto, senior researcher, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia • Moderator: Simon Olsen, IGES, ADB consultant
5 p.m.–5:20 p.m.	Q&A
5:20 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	Summary and Closing: Eric Zusman , IGES, ADB consultant
6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception and Dinner
DAY 2, THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2018	
8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.	Registration
9 a.m.–9:10 a.m.	Recap of Day 1: Eric Zusman , IGES, ADB consultant
Session II: Country Perspectives: Environment Ministries	
9:10 a.m.–9:20 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, head, Division of Science and International Cooperation, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam
9:20 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariuntuya Dorjsuren, director general, Climate Change and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
9:30 a.m.–10 a.m.	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aida Karazhanova, economic affairs officer, EDD, UNESCAP • Panel Discussant: Kinga Wangmo, planning officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan • Moderator: Simon Olsen, IGES, ADB consultant
10 a.m.–10:20 a.m.	Q&A
10:20 a.m.–10:40 a.m.	SDG Exhibit with Tea/Coffee Break
Session III: Innovative Tools and Approaches	
10:40 a.m.–11 a.m.	<p>Inventory of Tools for Integrating Environment-Related SDGs into National Development Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Steele, ADB consultant
11 a.m.–11:10 a.m.	<p>Innovative Tools and Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aneta Nikolova, environment affairs officer, EDD, UNESCAP
11:10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paolo Manunta, European Space Agency onsite support, SDCC, ADB
11:20 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • László Pintér, Central European University and senior fellow and associate, International Institute for Sustainable Development
11:30 a.m.–11:40 a.m.	Q&A
11:40 a.m.–12 noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-minute elevator pitches
12 noon–12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Walkabout
12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Lunch

Session IV: Regional Initiatives, Tools, and Approaches	
1:30 p.m.–1:40 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kartika Anggraeni, project manager, Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SWITCH-Asia Initiative)
1:40 p.m.–1:50 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimee T. Gonzales, executive director, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
1:50 p.m.–2 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumit Pokhrel, deputy technical program head, Greater Mekong Subregion Core Environment Program
2 p.m.–2:10 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joep Davetanivalu, environmental planning adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
2:10 p.m.–2:20 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Meintjes, programme analyst, Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia-Pacific, Bangkok
2:20 p.m.–2:40 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussant: Robert Steele, ADB consultant • Moderator: Eric Zusman, IGES, ADB consultant
2:40 p.m.–3 p.m.	Q&A
3 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	SDG Exhibit with Tea/Coffee Break
Session V: Moving Forward with Implementing the Environment Dimensions of the SDGs	
3:30 p.m.–5 p.m.	<p>Facilitated Discussion, including Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoichi Fukui, deputy director, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan • Poch Sovannndy, deputy director general of planning, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia • Owen Migraso, executive director, Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines • Anshuman Saikia, regional programme support coordinator, International Union for Conservation of Nature Asia • Yuan Yuan, manager, Global Reporting Initiative Regional Hub, People's Republic of China <p>Facilitator: Smita Nakhooda, senior results management specialist, Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, ADB</p>
Session VI: Closing Plenary	
5 p.m.–5:10 p.m.	<p>Closing Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Zusman, IGES, ADB consultant
5:10 p.m.–5:20 p.m.	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Marsden, senior environment specialist, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, ADB
5:20 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herath Gunatilake, director, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, ADB
DAY 3, FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2018 (BY INVITATION ONLY)	
9 a.m.–12 noon	Discussions and/or meetings with development partners and target phase 2 countries for the TA project's next steps

ADB = Asian Development Bank, EDD = Environment and Development Division, IGES = Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Q&A = questions and answers, SDCC = Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, SDG = Sustainable Development Goal, TA = technical assistance, UNESCAP = United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

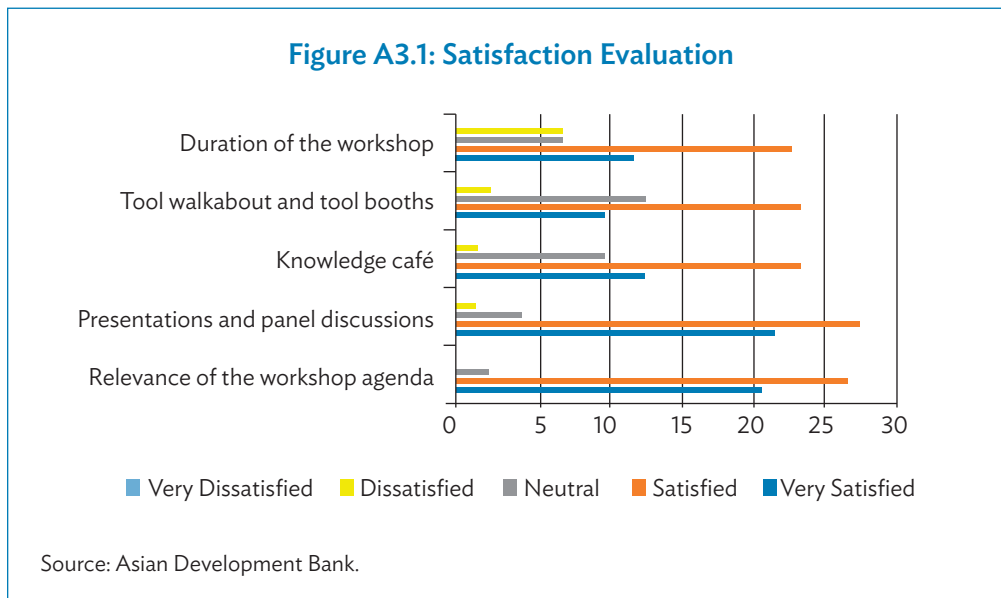
Notes:

1. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
2. SDG 14: Life below Water, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
3. SDG 15: Life on Land, protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

Appendix 3: Workshop Evaluation Results

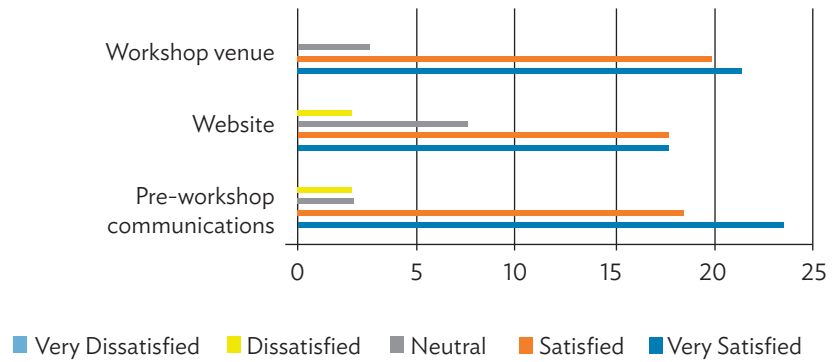
Overall Satisfaction

Participants were asked to evaluate the different parts of the workshop agenda as well as its duration and relevance. Figure A3.1 shows that overall, most participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with these aspects of the workshop: the presentations, panel discussions, and the relevance of the workshop.



A second set of questions pertained to the workshop venue, website, communications, as well as logistical support (Figure A3.2). For these, most people were satisfied or very satisfied, although a few were neutral or dissatisfied.

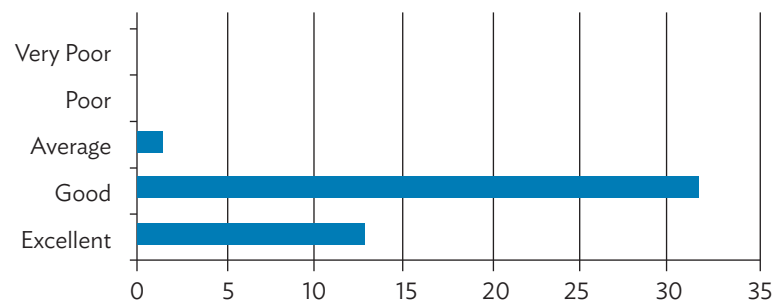
Figure A3.2: Logistics and Administrative Support



Source: Asian Development Bank.

The overall assessment of the workshop by participants was as follows: 12 participants deemed it an excellent workshop; 31 deemed it a good workshop; and 1 participant deemed it average (Figure A3.3).

Figure A3.3: Overall Assessment of the Workshop



Source: Asian Development Bank.

Workshop Strengths

Participants were also asked to provide their responses to the following question: “What were the strengths of the workshop?” and “What did you like most about the workshop?” These were the responses:

- Rich content, good structure, and flow of information and discussion
- Provided various organizations' perspectives
- Exchange of information of countries, update on ongoing initiatives on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), different ways of communications
- Quality of speakers
- Interactive activities involving participants, opportunities to learn about governments' strategies to implement SDGs
- Very practical information, country presentations of implementing SDGs, panel discussions
- Knowledge café
- Recognition of systemic barriers that hinder SDGs
- Informal ambience that stirs casual communication with other participants
- Participatory method

It seems participants were happy with the content, and exchange of information from different governments and organizations. Some also thought the mode of exchange was informal, which encouraged earnest exchanges. And others thought the recognition of systemic barriers to be a good point.

Workshop Weaknesses

Participants were then asked about the weaknesses of the workshop. These were the responses:

- Time management of presentations resulted in reduced time for questions and answers (Q&A); too many presentations
- Stakeholder involvement
- Workshop materials should be uploaded in the website in advance so that the participants can follow easily
- Thorough selection of tools since some tools exist, but are not being used
- Plan ahead what the tools session was trying to achieve
- Extend more time for presentations; schedule is too tight
- More time and emphasis on tools that would promote integration
- Concrete recommendations to overcome barriers and problems in SDG integration
- Field visit (SDG 12)
- Practical examples of tools applied successfully
- Technical content which may be unfamiliar and, therefore, not easily understandable

Overall, this feedback shows that the workshop may have been too dense, with too many presentations for too little time, and in the future, more time for discussions and exchange should be considered. Additionally, clear session objectives would be important, especially for sessions (tools session) that deal with complex content. Participants also called for practical content and examples of successful application of tools to help communicate the use of tools and not just their theoretical application. Perhaps field visits to illustrate practical cases showing action on the SDGs in question could also have been considered.

Workshop Learnings

Participants were asked what they thought they had gained or learned from the workshop. These were some of the responses provided:

- Governmental perspective and needs for the next steps
- New ideas to test in national context
- Integrated approaches, different tools to implement SDGs, country experiences on SDG implementation
- Perspectives of policy makers and/or governments on the SDGs
- Relevance of monitoring and evaluation, issues, and challenges of SDG implementation
- Strong interest from planning and finance ministries to strengthen the environment dimensions of the SDGs
- Lack of representation from the business sector

This shows that participants gained information on what other countries are doing on the environment dimensions of the SDGs, information on possible new approaches to promote environmental concerns in the context of the SDGs, as well as information on pertinent issues and challenges in SDG implementation.

Lessons for Future Workshops

Overall, the evaluation can be said to be positive. More focus could be placed on connecting conceptual ideas and tools with practical cases of application. More involvement of non-typical environment representatives, including nonstate and business sectors, could take better advantage of workshops as a tool to promote dialogue and integrated approaches.

Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific *Knowledge-Sharing Workshop Proceedings*

This publication summarizes discussions and information shared during a Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific. The workshop is an output of a technical assistance project, Supporting the Implementation of Environment-Related SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, to help policy makers integrate SDGs 12, 14, and 15—and select targets that are environment-related—into development plans, policies, and programs. The workshop provided more than 100 participants from government, international organizations, nongovernment organizations, civil society, and the private sector in the region with an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss issues and challenges encountered in implementing the environment dimensions of the SDGs.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

