

Towards Post-2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity **Opportunities and Challenges for Asia-Pacific Region**

Presented by:

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Highlights from the region: Understanding/integrating nature's values



Growing interest and initiatives on valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and natural capital accounting (e.g. TEEB, WAVES, SEEA-EEA)

Examples 1: TEEB country studies (2012-2017)

- Informed the Sustainable Hydropower Development Policy and the Alternative Renewable Energy Policy - Bhutan
- Informing land reclamation and coastal development plans for Manila Bay - Philippines

Example 2: Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) initiative (2016-2019)

- Review data availability and develop plans for advancing SEEA-EEA - India and China

Example 3: TEEB for Agriculture and Food (2018-2022)

- Economic evaluation of the 'eco-agri-food systems' to highlight externalities and dependency of agricultural sector on natural and social capital, and provide policy recommendations - China, India, Malaysia and Thailand

Remaining challenges & opportunities

- Focus should be on utilizing valuation and accounting initiatives to bring about changes in policies, economic and investment decisions
- Integrate natural capital accounts with economic governance metrics

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Highlights from the region: Transforming key economic sectors



A growing number of initiatives aimed at transforming the operations of key economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry), linked with specific commodities, through market-based instruments and voluntary standards/certification

Example 1: UN Environment/GEF project “FSC Certification of Ecosystem Services (ForCES)”

- Apply the FSC Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services to strengthen the business case for sustainable forest management - Nepal, Indonesia and Vietnam

Example 2: : UN Environment/GEF project “Sustainable Tea Landscapes”

- Sustainable land management to mitigate land degradation in tea-producing landscapes - India, China, Vietnam and Sri Lanka
- Strong focus on small holder farmers, achieving better soil health by reducing agrochemicals while achieving increased production and income.

Example 3: Sustainable Rice Platform

- A network of more than 80 institutional members including key agri-food players (e.g. Mars Food, Olam International)
- Key challenges faced by the rice sector have been addressed, through enhancing the resilience of rice landscapes and improving efficiency in natural resource use while conserving biodiversity

Remaining challenges & opportunities

- Initial successes need to be widely replicated and scaled up to achieve transformational change in key economic sectors



Highlights from the region: Innovative financing



Growing recognition of the need for significant investments and private finance towards sustainable and deforestation-free land use models at scale. There have been emerging initiatives focused on leveraging and unlocking private finance for sustainable land use

Example 1: Sustainable land use financing initiatives

- Financing facilities established to pioneer the transformation towards sustainable land use, catalyzing public and especially private sector investment for deforestation-free commodity production, restoration of degraded land and improvement of smallholder farmer livelihoods
- Supported by private sector partners (e.g. BNP Paribas, Rabobank)
- Provide blended finance that de-risks private sector investment and develops financial products (e.g. green bonds) to attract much larger-scale financing

Examples 2: Natural Capital Finance Alliance

- A global alliance of financial institutions pioneering tools and best practice to manage natural capital risks and opportunities, and integrate natural capital considerations into their business models.

Remaining challenges & opportunities

- Lack of bankable/commercially viable projects (e.g. restoration projects)
- Demonstrating genuine environmental benefits (through strong environmental and social impact frameworks)
- Need to be scaled-up to achieve the level where tangible impacts could be realized



Highlights from the region: Ensuring an integrated approach



Increased realization of the need for an integrated approach – by ensuring synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions, strengthening links with SDGs, and mainstreaming gender into biodiversity planning, management and monitoring

Example 1: National level efforts towards ensuring synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions, and strengthening links with SDGs in the development and implementation of NBSAPs

- Synergies action plans and roadmaps developed to guide the implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs in Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- Guidelines prepared and pilot activities conducted in the Pacific region with SPREP

Examples 2: National level efforts towards mainstreaming gender considerations into the implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs

- Action plans and roadmaps developed to guide the gender-responsive implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs in Lao PDR and Myanmar

Remaining challenges & opportunities

- Strengthened linkages between NBSAPs and SDG-related efforts proven effective in identifying entry points for mainstreaming biodiversity into socio economic sectors and foster cross-sectoral collaboration
- Ensuring an integrated approach – should continue to be a focus in the development and implementation of the post-2020 framework



Towards post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Issues for consideration

- **Changes need to be made within and especially beyond the Convention to achieve the necessary level and pace of transformative change. Engage from early stage with institutions beyond the “usual suspects” (e.g. agreements beyond biodiversity-related Conventions and Rio Conventions), financial institutions, private sector (industry associations);**
- **Further focus on concepts and approaches through which transformative change could be realized - sustainable agriculture, biodiversity-positive commodity supply chains, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, etc.;**
- **Consider better integration of natural capital/biodiversity in green economy-related policies and strategies (in addition to climate and energy);**
- **Explore options and take a decision on the future of NBSAPs, based on the assessment of current barriers to NBSAPs being integrated into national finance and development planning;**
- **Develop targets and implementation mechanisms that actively promote collaboration across biodiversity-related conventions and beyond.**

Thank you



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