

# ESCAP Executive Training on Environment and Development

*5 and 12 October 2022*

## Background

ESCAP's work on the environmental futures of Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> shows that the region faces multiplying and converging environmental risks. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly targets associated with the environment, has been insufficient across the board and in some cases even regressed.<sup>2</sup> However, a different and more healthy future is possible. Shifting development trajectories towards a green, resilient, and more equal Asia-Pacific—in line with the 2030 Agenda, requires interventions to raise climate ambition, protect the ocean, build healthy and sustainable cities, safeguard the interconnected human and planetary health and manage pollution including air pollution.

The third edition of ESCAP Executive Training on Environment and Development is organized by the Environment and Development Division (EDD) to inform and support dialogue among senior policy and decision makers on the current environment and development situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Building on the success of previous editions of the Executive Training, this year's training will continue to provide tools and methodologies to address evolving trends and challenges of long-term environmental and development issues the Asia-Pacific region faces to attain the best possible outcome for the environment and human well-being.

## Scope

This two-day virtual capacity development training program will take place on 5 and 12 October 2022.

The programme will cover two substantive themes, which ESCAP member States have identified as the priorities for regional cooperation, and each will have a specific focus:

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<sup>1</sup> ESCAP. (2020). Raising Ambitions for a Healthy Environment in Asia and the Pacific.

<sup>2</sup> ESCAP. (2022). Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report: Widening Disparities Amid COVID-19.



1. **Nature-based Solutions to Raise Climate Ambitions:** A panel discussion on nature-based solutions for climate change and two interactive sessions on tools and methodologies to enhance investment in nature-based solutions and on promoting ocean-based solutions to climate change through enhanced cooperation in science, research and innovation.
2. **Creating Healthy and Sustainable Cities:** Planning for healthy and sustainable cities, improving urban air quality and localizing, monitoring and reporting.

Additionally, a recording of the **Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific**, which was held on 14 September 2022, will be made available for participants as integral part of the Executive Training. The event featured a 1) high-level dialogue on opportunities to operationalize the environment-health nexus, 2) thematic discussions on climate, biodiversity, food systems and health, and 3) an open dialogue on strengthening governance and enabling environment.

Background documents can be found on the event webpage available at this [LINK](#).

As the training programme will be highly interactive, participants are invited to come prepared with ideas, challenges, and success stories on environment and development issues to share.

## Target Group

The training program is designed for policy and decision makers from national, subnational, and local government institutions that deal with key sectoral policies impacting environmental sustainability; human health; climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation planning; city planning; and local resource management.

## Method of Delivery and Certification

This training program will be delivered during the course of three days and will cater for participation from different time zones from across Asia and the Pacific to the full extent possible.

The trainings will be conducted in the form of interactive webinars using Zoom and recordings of the webinars will be made available to participants after the sessions on the [SDG HelpDesk](#).

A certificate of attendance will be issued to participants who attended a session on one thematic area. Participants who attend all three sessions will be issued a “Leader” certificate after the training.



## Training Programme Schedule

Wednesday 14 September, 2022	Wednesday 5 October, 2022	Wednesday 12 October, 2022
<b>Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific</b> <i>Session 1: Opening and high-level dialogue on opportunities to operationalize the environment-health nexus</i>  10:00-11:30	<b>Nature-based Solutions to Raise Climate Ambitions</b> <i>Session 1: Panel discussion on nature based solutions for climate change</i>  10:00-11:45	<b>Creating Healthy and Sustainable Cities</b> <i>Session 1: Planning for healthy and sustainable cities</i>  11:30-12:30
<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific</b> <i>Session 2: Thematic discussions on health, climate change, biodiversity loss, and food systems</i>  12:30-14:25	<b>Nature-based Solutions to Raise Climate Ambitions</b> <i>Session 2A: Interactive session on tools and methodologies to enhance investments in nature-based solutions</i>  12:30-13:30	<b>Creating Healthy and Sustainable Cities</b> <i>Session 2: Improving urban air quality</i>  13:00-13:50
<b>Break</b>		
<b>Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific</b> <i>Session 3: Open dialogue on strengthening governance and enabling environment</i>  14:35- 16:00	<b>Nature-based Solutions to Raise Climate Ambitions</b> <i>Session 2B: Interactive session on promoting ocean-based solutions to climate change through enhanced cooperation in science, research and innovation</i>  13:30-14:30	<b>Creating Healthy and Sustainable Cities</b> <i>Session 3: Localizing, monitoring and reporting</i>  14:00-15:30

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