



ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP Work on the Environment and Development: Partnership with member States and Stakeholders



ESCAP at a Glance

One of the five regional commissions of the United Nations



53

MEMBER
STATES

9

ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS



Asia and the Pacific Covers

40%

WORLD
LAND AREA

60%

WORLD
POPULATION

Environment and Development Division (EDD) is one of the eight Divisions of ESCAP, dedicated to supporting member States in advancing sustainable development, including enabling low emission and climate resilient development, addressing air pollution, protecting oceans and natural resources, promoting sustainable urban development, and strengthening access to information and public participation.





Areas of partnership

1

Low-emission
and climate-
resilient
development



2

Air
pollution



3

Ocean
protection



4

Sustainable
urban
development



5

Access to
information
and public
participation



Contact

➤ Click on each
thematic area
to learn more

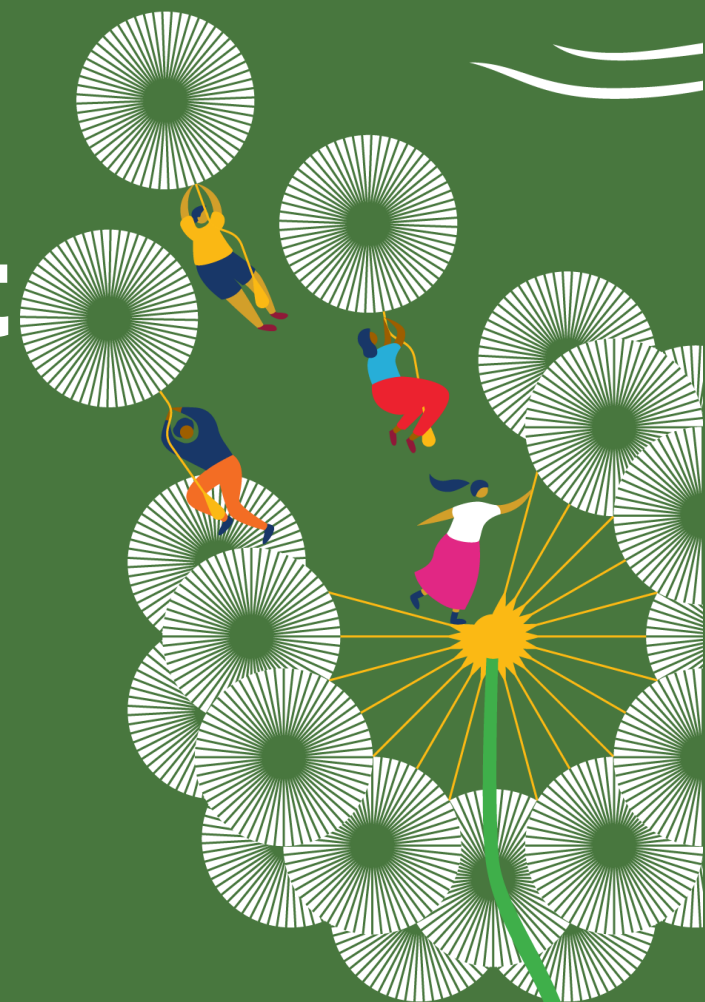


Low-emission and climate-resilient development

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the international community committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a view to 'holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels'.

However, current emission pathways mean that the world is on the path to warming above the agreed threshold. There is an urgent need to raise climate ambition and strengthen climate action.

- [Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level](#)





LOW-EMISSION AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

➤ Click on each icon to learn more



Net-zero policy review
and NDC3.0 support



Greenhouse gas
emission inventories



Annual assessment
reports and regional
dialogue



Youth Climate
Engagement



Nature-based solutions



Integrated risk
assessment and analyses



**Seoul Initiative
Network on Green
Growth**



Urban climate
action



Air pollution

Air pollution levels have increased significantly in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in urban areas. The region experiences some of the highest concentrations of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) globally, leading to millions of premature deaths annually and contributing to climate change.

Although air pollution affects high and low-income countries alike, low- and middle-income countries experience the highest burden, with the highest concentrations being seen in Central Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia. Strengthening regional cooperation is a key response.

- [Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level](#)





AIR POLLUTION

➤ Click on each icon to learn more



**Regional Action Programme
on Air Pollution (RAPAP)**



Regional Approaches to
Transboundary Airsheds



Pan-Asia Partnership for
Geospatial Air Pollution
Information



Integrated management of crop
residue burning



Air pollution control technologies



Ocean protection

Oceans are highly impacted by climate change but also offer critical solutions. The greenhouse gas reduction potential of ocean-based climate actions is immense, as is the need to build coastal resilience. Regional and transboundary cooperation is essential to boost coordinated action and investments to harness this potential.

Notably, 32 out of 41 ESCAP member States located along seas have incorporated at least one ocean-based climate measure in their NDCs, with many adopting ecosystem-based approaches, including blue carbon sequestration, marine ecosystem protection, and the establishment of marine protected areas.

➤ [Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level](#)





OCEAN PROTECTION

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Annual regional
dialogue on oceans*



Regional Decade
Programme on Ocean Science*



SDG14
Accelerator



**Initiative for Regional Cooperation
on Ocean-based Climate Action
(OBCA Initiative)**



Ocean cities

*Region-wide initiative



Sustainable urban development

Cities and urban centres act as accelerators for social and economic progress in the Asian and Pacific region. Yet, rapid, inefficient and unplanned urbanization together with unsustainable consumption and production patterns and changes in lifestyles in cities over recent decades have resulted in environmental degradation and vulnerability to disaster and climate change risks. We see hope in the dynamism and resolve of the region's cities – not just in recovering from the pandemic, but also as testing grounds for policy and innovation. The path to a sustainable future for Asia and the Pacific depends on decisive action in cities and urban centres across our region.

- [Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level](#)





SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

➤ Click on each icon to learn more



**Asia-Pacific SDG
Localization Platform**



Climate change and
urban finance



Smart cities



Asia-Pacific Mayors
Academy



**Asia-Pacific
Urban Forum**



New Urban Agenda



Land subsidence
management

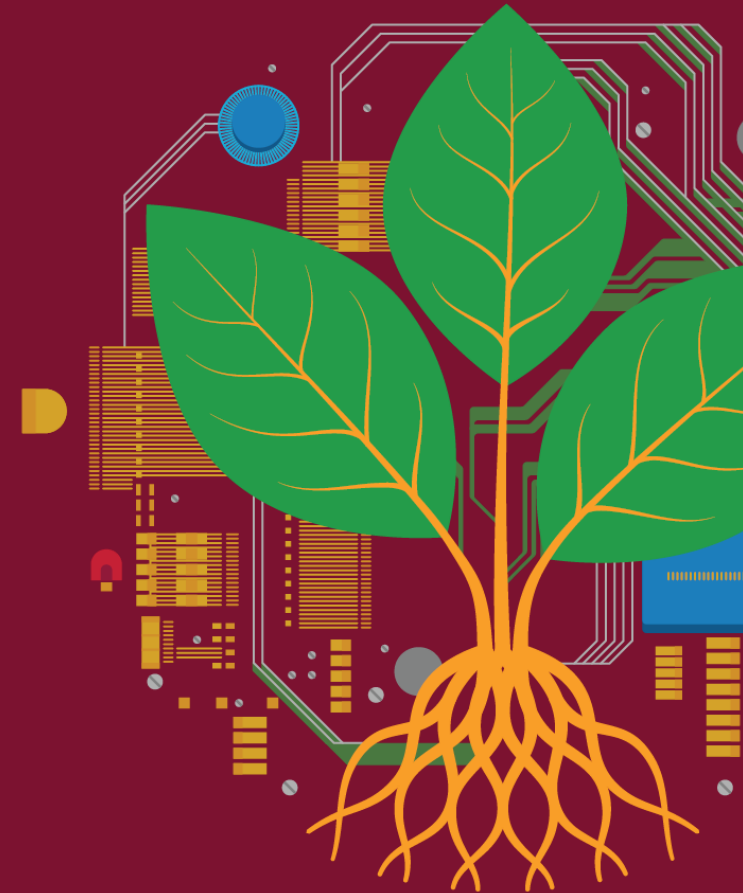


Access to information and public participation

In 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (76/300) adopted a resolution on “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”.

In Asia and the Pacific, only 24 countries recognize the right to a healthy environment in their constitutional provisions. ESCAP aims to foster access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (known also as ‘access rights’) in Asia and the Pacific.

- [Learn more about the support ESCAP EDD provides at the national level](#)





INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

➤ Click on each icon to learn more



Subregional frameworks and national implementation



Integration into thematic priority areas



Asia-Pacific Environmental Rights Observatory



Ways for member States to access ESCAP EDD support and partnership

- **Direct liaison with the Environment and Development Division**
Reach out directly to EDD for thematic or technical assistance and collaboration via email at escap-edd@un.org
- **Outreach via the Technical Working Group**
Connect with the national members of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development (TEG) for initial guidance and coordination.
- **Request through UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC)**
Submit initial requests through UNRC, leveraging its coordinating role among the broader UN system in your country.
- **Formal requests through Permanent Missions**
Submit official requests via your country's Permanent Mission to ESCAP, the primary channel for formal communication and engagement.

