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Regional Perspectives on the Implementation of the Environment Dimension of the SDGs

Jonathan Gilman

UN Environment Asia and the Pacific

Integrated approach to SDGs

Regional entry points for action:

- ✓ **Sustainable finance**
- ✓ **Regional Environmental Governance**
- ✓ **Belt and Road Initiative**

Brief History of the Integrated Approach



1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment – Introduction of Principle 13: “States should adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to their development planning”

1980 World Conservation Strategy (WCS) – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) introduces the concept of Sustainable Development. “[There is a need to] integrate every stage of the conversation and development processes, from the initial setting of policies to their eventual implementation and operation.”

1987 United Nations’ World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) released its report Our Common Future and popularized sustainable development. “The ability to choose policy paths that are sustainable requires that the ecological dimensions of policy be considered at the same time as the economic, trade, energy, agricultural, industrial, and other dimensions”

1992 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio Earth Summit) defined Agenda 21 as a tool to foster a “balanced and integrated approach to environment and development questions”

2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The report from the Summit calls for: “Integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner.”

2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) “The Future We Want” outcome document acknowledges that: “Since 1992 there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development....[calling for a high level political forum to] enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross sectoral manner at all levels.”

2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” calls for “achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.”

Integrated Approach in the 2030 Agenda



Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible.

We are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.

We also stress the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to implementation of the new Agenda by the UN development system.

Sustainable development recognizes need... preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent.

Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda

- Integrated national financing frameworks
- Comprehensive framework, which mobilizes public finance, sets appropriate public policies and regulatory frameworks, unlocks the transformative potential of people and the private sector, and incentivizes changes in consumption, production and investment patterns in support of sustainable development
- Mobilizing public expenditures- tax reforms, linking financing to policy making;
- Private sector investment- guidance and regulation to promote private investment flows; green finance- banks, stock exchanges, accessing investment for SMEs
- Increased and better coordinated and focused ODA

Integrated Financing for SDGs



- 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa -National integrated financing frameworks
- Mobilizing public finance by linking financing & policy making, [SDGs & NDCs costing](#); [emissions tagging](#); [Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Review](#)
- Better use of ODA incl. [Climate Finance coordination](#)
- Mobilizing & guiding private finance through appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks ([FDI investment guidelines incl. management of investments in natural resources to ensure social and environmental safeguards](#); [National Sust. Finance Forums](#), [Green Bonds](#), [private bank/investor guidance](#), [social & environment corporate reporting](#) [stock exchanges](#), [training financial regulatory staff](#) etc)
- National Sustainable Financing Frameworks for SDGs [Sustainable Finance Roadmaps](#)

Lessons Learned on applying an integrated approach



- Use of single sector entry points to ‘pull in’ other sectors- stronger leadership over programmes
- Time is needed- average programme 9-10 years
- Technology is key- 40% of programmes adopt or scale up new or indigenous technologies
- Need good data- 25% developed & applied new & innovative assessments tools for monitoring
- Diverse range of partners, stronger programmes - communities, govt, private sector, CSOs, thematic associations
- Scope for multi SDG impact- 75% programme supported 7 plus SDGs

Regional Environmental Governance



UN supported intergovernmental forums

- Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific
- Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development
- Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Intergovernmental Forums & Secretariats

- ASEAN
- South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- etc

South South & Triangular Cooperation Forums

Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership; Regional Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health; Acid Deposition Network for East Asia; Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum; etc

Second Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific Bangkok, 5-8 September 2017



- Coherent implementation of SDGs & Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Data development planning and monitoring SDGs & identify emerging environmental challenges
- Need to promote sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency to combat pollution
- Need enhanced environmental cooperation at regional and national level including through Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Greater Mekong Sub-region, Asian Development Bank's Core Environment Programme
- Strengthen partnerships for SDG action through the UN environment Pacific Office
- Marine debris and plastics pollution
- Sound management of chemicals and waste in context of rapid industrialization are key to pollution reduction
- Green finance

ASEAN & the Belt and Road Initiative



- Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and Indonesia have joint belt and road deals with China, mainly in railway construction
- Mohan/Boten Economic Cooperation Zone between China and Laos (& Myanmar, Vietnam discussions)
- Joint Statement Between ASEAN and China on Production Capacity Cooperation
- Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation Among Lancang-Mekong Countries
- Sustainable finance- China-ASEAN Interbank Association
- China-ASEAN Forestry Cooperation Forum
- 300 Chinese-funded enterprises have been set up in 26 economic cooperation zones in eight ASEAN countries, US\$1.77 billion
- China-ASEAN Forum on Marine Science and Technology Cooperation

The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan



Promote cooperation on eco-environmental protection with higher standards and at deeper levels to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project: China-ASEAN Partnership on Eco-friendly Cities

Project: Mekong River Environmental Cooperation Platform

Project: China-Cambodia Environmental Cooperation Base

Project: China-ASEAN Environmental Technology and Industrial Cooperation Demonstration Bases

Project: Study on Green belt and Road Fund

International Coalition for Greening the Belt and Road Initiative



Led by both UN Environment and China Ministry of Environment Planning

Open to any organization, institution, investor and business

Assist investors and stakeholders with promoting green and sustainable investments

Help BRI countries to achieve goals and targets associated with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement

Core functions of the Coalition

- 1) Knowledge and lessons learned exchange
- 2) Policy dialogue
- 3) Capacity building
- 4) Pooling expertise and resources

Greening the Belt and Road Initiative in ASEAN



Assessment and Action Report on Greening BRI in ASEAN

Joint UN Environment & China (Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Commerce, Academy of Sciences) ; identify opportunities for progressing on SDGs

- Review current and proposed Belt and Road Investment Projects in ASEAN Countries, potential impacts
- Identify action to strengthen and promote:
 - ✓ Environmental investment laws and regulations (FDI)
 - ✓ Environmental Impact Assessments
 - ✓ Green Finance
 - ✓ Inform development of an ASEAN Greening the BRI Project

gilmanj@un.org

Thank you