

Goal of Approach:

There is by now a wide array of climate adaptation initiatives in the Asia and the Pacific region. They provide a rich source of information for future adaptation efforts; however, the lessons they produce lack integration, coordination, and synthesis. Such an effort would also probably reveal significant needs to address remaining gaps in understanding that are required to be filled by new research, assessment, and fostering integration, and access to finance and technologies through capacity building. The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), a part of the Global Adaptation Network was launched as a regional network in October 2009 and aims to assist the region to build climate resilience of human systems, ecosystems and economies through the mobilization of knowledge and best practices, enhanced institutional capacity and informed decision making processes, and facilitated access to finance and technologies. Loss and damage has been identified as one of the areas for generating knowledge to enhance understating.

Input provided by: APAN

Main elements of the implementation strategy

APAN aims to fulfil its objective through the mobilization and sharing of knowledge and technologies to support adaptation capacity building, policy-setting, planning and practices primarily to the policy makers and national institutions in order to contribute to climate policies at the national level.

The activities of APAN are organized around a framework of knowledge management, capacity development, and adaptation integration.

- Adaptation knowledge management fills gaps when adaptation domains need improved understanding, such as in identifying ways to better manage risk and uncertainty or build resilience, overcome limits etc to adapt, or where there is a need for improved dissemination of existing knowledge.
- Capacity development recognizes the need for both strengthening the knowledge and skills of different actors at different levels to plan, design, implement, and evaluate appropriate adaptation measures, and to acquire financing and technologies for implementation as well as for integrating adaptation into development planning at different levels and in different adaptation domains.
- Adaptation integration covers different adaptation domains or areas of particular concern such as agriculture and food security, water resources, health and sanitation, disaster management, coastal and islands, and mountains etc, and the need for integrating adaptation into policies, strategies, plans and actions.

To be able to effectively coordinate across such a large region, APAN works through a regional hub in collaboration with implementing sub-regional nodes (SRNs) and partner institutions in the Asia Pacific region building upon existing networks and initiatives. Sub-regional nodes designated under APAN coordinate activities with national partner institutes in each sub-region. APAN has five Sub-Regional Nodes covering five sub-regions in Asia-Pacific. SRNs are organisations whose key functions are to lead the implementation of the sub-regional activities of the Network in collaboration with the regional hub and national implementing partners. APAN also has three Thematic Nodes (TNs) on water, agriculture and mountains reflect the current priorities of the region and are composed of

organizations with specific expertise on their respective thematic areas.

Targeted beneficiaries

Key beneficiaries include the policy makers, climate change focal points, national and local planners, communities, development partners and the private sector.

Any significant lessons learned

Climate change and its adaptation is a complex issue to deal with, considering the spectrum of problems and the variation in the capacities of the stakeholders in the region to deal with the issues. Huge gaps also exist in the knowledge on climate adaption, not in the availability of the information on adaptation *per se* but in the translation of the information into usable knowledge and in communicating the right information to the right stakeholder to make an informed decision at the right time. This remains a huge challenge, one that the network is constantly looking to overcome. In the time since the establishment of the network, a lot of effort has been made to facilitate informed decision making on climate adaptation in the region.

One of the key efforts was to establish a database on good adaptation practices to climate change which also includes practices on loss and damage. The database comprises of good practices from across the region outlining different approaches to climate adaptation and loss and damage to climate change. A total of a 135 are currently included in the database. The purpose of the database is to enhance exchange of good practices, help in possible replication of the good practices and ideally, be useful to policy makers. Approximately 20% of the good practices are from Southeast Asia, of which 50% are directly or indirectly related to loss and damage. For Southeast Asia, the good practices compiled are related to Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

Main findings from the good practices in Southeast Asia, point towards the inadequacy of integration of climate change efforts into policies, planning, and operations: Adaptation and mitigation efforts are still largely implemented in isolation, with poor understanding of the interaction and co-dependency on each other to meet global, regional and national climate change goals; an on-going critical need for national and regional decision-makers to prioritise and allocate financial and human resources to address the adverse effects of climate change in all sectors, including the development of proper tools to measure the impacts of adaptation efforts, including actions related to them such as financing, technology transfer and capacity building; public sector funding tends to focus mostly on large-scale infrastructural projects, with small-scale and 'soft' interventions usually being poorly executed, monitored and followed-up on; technology transfer must urgently be enhanced, including offering economic incentives to the private sector to change over from unsustainable/non-eco designs: Investments for adaptation by the private sector remain low, with greater emphasis being placed on mitigation and other projects that generate high financial returns and/or are heavily subsidised; the donor field is relatively crowded in the GMS, especially in terms of rural development (education, health, income generation), although substantial opportunities remain for long-term adaptation work and/or linking existing work to on-going climate change adaptation/mitigation efforts; and development of awareness-raising programmes for the public remains an on-going need, together with developing climate change education programmes in school curricula.

Resource requirements

A network such as APAN relies greatly on its partner institutions and its nodes for gathering relevant information. First hand research is also conducted by the network to assess the current trends on adaption, to provide relevant information to the different stakeholders. APAN works through its nodes plus partnerships with other climate networks, INGOs, UN bodies and donors in the region. APAN actively consults with the countries through sub regional consultations and conferences to share its activities, get information from various stakeholders regarding the needs, gaps and trends on adaptation the particular sub region and develops capacity building and knowledge products to address the needs expressed by the countries in the region.

To operate at the regional level, the total budget of APAN is USD 2.5 million per annum. This is not exclusive to the work related to loss and damage but covers all APAN activities including knowledge generation, knowledge management, capacity building, maintenance of the databases on good practise and technologies, website, web portal and APANs publication.

Potential for replication or scaling-up

In the near future, APAN will further build and enhance partnerships, in addition to the network of SRNs and TNs already established under current phase of APAN work. These nodes in turn will link to National Partners or Centres of Excellence in all countries of the region. APAN activities led by thematic nodes will address management challenges that are common to several sub-regions, for example water resources management. Interregional knowledge sharing and collaboration with similar initiatives in other regions, as well as APAN's participation in global processes and dialogues will be facilitated by global partners, such as the Global Adaptation Network (GAN). APAN is also going to conduct a workshop and assessment on loss and damage in each of its sub region this year, pilot training modules in Bangladesh and Cambodia which comprise loss and damage, synthesis the current thinking and prepare policy brief on loss and damage.

Any additional information

APAN along with the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, another initiative on climate adaptation in the region, managed by UNEP, has developed a regional knowledge sharing system that promotes dialogue and improves the exchange of knowledge. The two programmes together maintain a web portal, websites and e- newsletters, and a major climate change regional forum for the region