

# Thai Pavilion COP23 Side Event

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017

## Evidence-Based Decision Making: Strategic Funding of Climate Research in Thailand

Panel Response from Asia-Pacific Network  
for Global Change Research (APN)

Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson





## Response from APN

- Brief overview of APN and where climate change sits in the APN research agenda
- Main focus of APN's climate activities
- Example of climate change project and its impacts
- Driving force behind APN climate research agenda
- Positive impacts and constraints

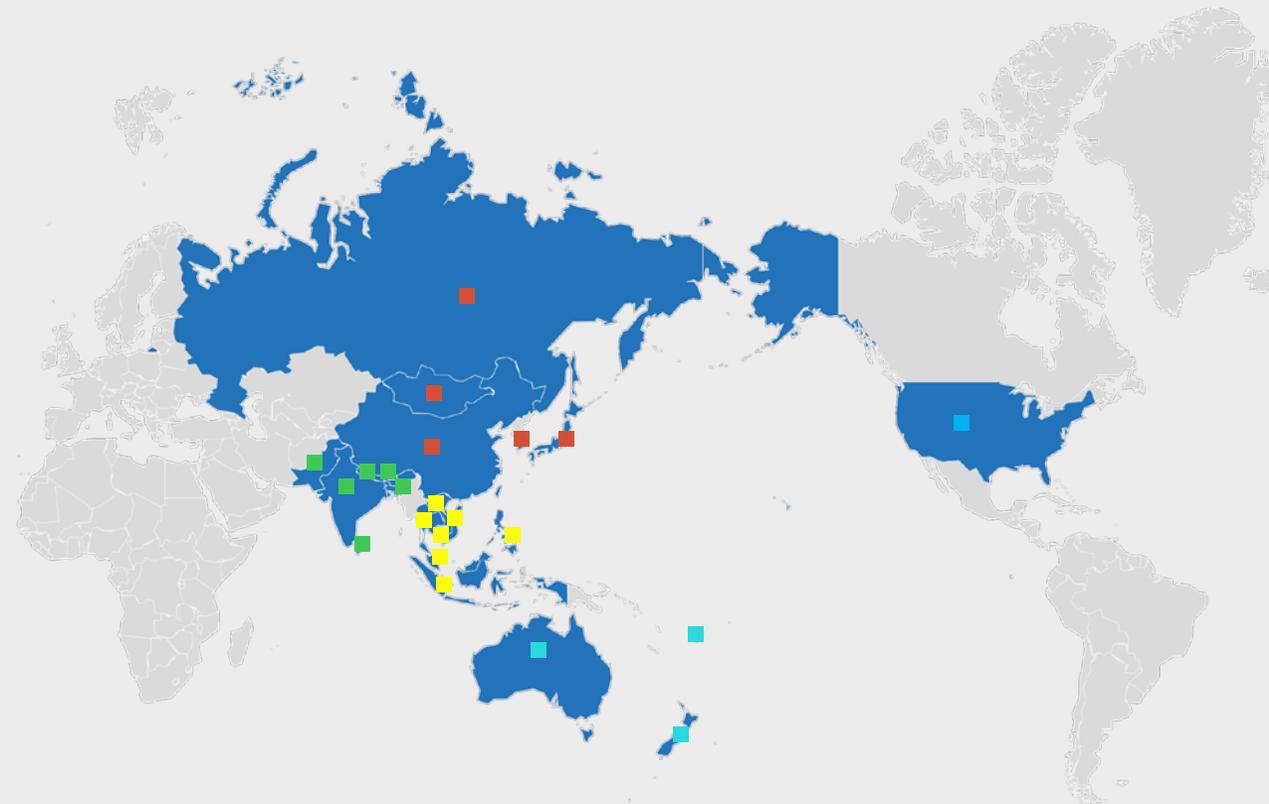


❖ Source: APN Third Strategic Phase Report (<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/2025>)

# Brief overview of APN and where climate change sits in the APN research agenda

## Member countries

- 22 member countries
- + approved countries



- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- China
- Japan
- Mongolia
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Australia
- Fiji
- New Zealand
- United States of America

❖ Individuals and organizations in **Maldives, Myanmar, Pacific Island States and Singapore** are able to participate in all APN programme activities and are considered to be from an APN approved country under the programme membership participation criterion.

# Brief overview of APN and where climate change sits in the APN research agenda

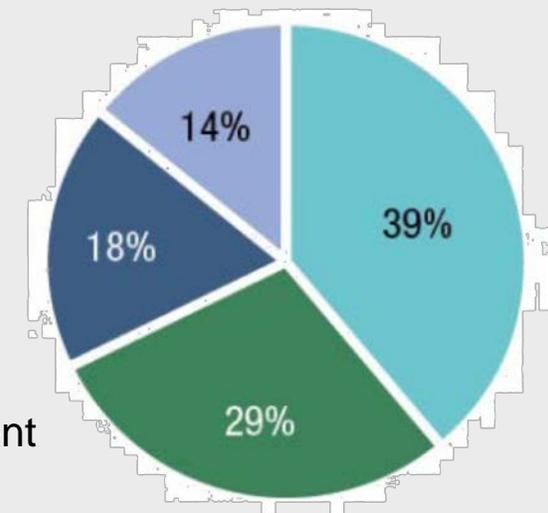
- Vision
- main goal
- research agenda

**Vision:** An Asia-Pacific region that is successfully addressing the challenges of **global change** and **sustainability**

**Main goal:** Supporting **regional cooperation** in global change research On issues particularly relevant to the region and **engaging developing countries** in the region to undertake policy-relevant research

**Broad Research agenda:**

- **Climate Change and Climate Variability**
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Changes in the Atmospheric, Terrestrial and Marine Domains
- Resources Utilization and Pathways for Sustainable Development
- Risk Reduction and Resilience



# Main focus of APN's Climate Activities

## Climate Adaptation Activities and Projects

- Climate change is one of five main thematic areas in APN's research and capacity development agendas. APN is also a partner organization under the NWP of the UNFCCC.
- Currently funding 25 projects under its Climate Adaptation Framework <http://www.apn-gcr.org/programmes-and-activities/focused-activities/climate-adaptation-framework/>

APN has undertaken over **100 projects on adaptation**. A flavour of current activities focused on **enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability** to climate change:

- Risk and resilience in the Pacific: Exposure and response to adverse impacts to climate change
- Optimizing climate change adaptation through enhanced community resilience (Cambodia & Viet Nam)
- Integrated, resilience-based planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Asia-Pacific
- Enhancing women farmers adaptive capacity to address the challenges of climate change



# Example of Climate Change Project and its Impacts

**Successful policy-relevant project that helped Sri Lanka form its National Adaptation Plan**

## **Vulnerability of Homegarden Systems to Climate Change and its Impacts on Food Security in South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India):**

Changes in temperature and rainfall, current status of the diversity in homegardens, socio-economic characteristics of homegardeners, and the extent to which climate shocks have influenced the usage of adaptation strategies by the homegardeners under changing climate were studied in three sites in Sri Lanka and one site each in India and Bangladesh.

### **IMPACTS**

- Effectively interacted with decision makers and communities to assess vulnerability of home gardens
- Addressed gap analysis in climate adaptation strategies, particularly at local levels, and raised awareness on strategies for resilience
- Succeeded in developing long-term relationships with homegardeners and with decision makers, particularly in terms of assisting governments to develop effective adaptation strategies
- Project scientists were called upon to serve in many national level committees that deal with food security and climate change issues

# Driving force behind APN's Research Agenda

**2017 Calls for  
Proposals for  
funding from  
August 2018**  
(121 proposals  
received)

- › **South Asia**
  - Policy-relevant research on implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
  - Extreme events related to monsoon and climate change
  
- › **Southeast Asia**
  - Disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate change
  - Community resilience to climate change impacts in vulnerable areas
  - Energy, ecosystems in a changing climate, low carbon society
  - Water, agricultural productivity, nutrient management
  
- › **Temperate East Asia**
  - Climate change impacts on the global supply chain
  - Climate change and human security (water-food-energy nexus)
  - Water treatment technology transfer in the context of Paris Agreement
  - Extreme events related to monsoon and climate change



## Science-Policy Dialogues



### Feedback from recent SPD on Climate Change: Low Carbon & Adaptation Initiatives in South and Southeast Asia (2017)

- Include scientists in the policymaking process related to activities that contribute to targets set by individual countries' NDCs under the Paris Agreement and provide capacity building on technology transfer
- Strengthen international cooperation for achieving conditional targets under countries' NDCs, and sharing experiences and best practices among policymakers and scientists
- Ensure an equal role for women in the climate arena, including in decision-making processes
- Involve the public and other stakeholders at the local level to promote understanding of the consequences of inaction or late action
- Ensure long-term capacity building for both scientists and policymakers to understand their respective roles in dealing with climate change

## ➤ Positive Impacts

## ➤ Constraints

### Positive Impacts in numbers (2010-2015)

- Funded **182** projects
- **Over 60%** of all projects are led by developing country researchers/practitioners
- APN research projects directly engaged over **2600** people
- More than **180** peer-review publications, over **640** tangible outputs

### Constraints

- Lack of capacity of researchers in developing countries to undertake climate change science that is policy-relevant (this can be alleviated by APN's capacity development programme)
- Lack of financial resources (difficult to sustain activities beyond the limit of APN funding)
- While APN works effectively with UNFCCC and IPCC, there is need for more meaningful science-policy engagement and effective dissemination of policy-relevant science to decision makers. Goal: to ensure a large number of the 180 publications and the gray literature are picked up by the IPCC AR6



## Products and outputs

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>APN E-Lib</b>        | Reports, proceedings, guides, tool kits and other output from APN funded projects<br><a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/">www.apn-gcr.org/resources/</a>                                      |
| <b>Science Bulletin</b> | Peer-reviewed articles from APN funded projects<br><a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=7">http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=7</a>               |
| <b>Policy Briefs</b>    | Policymaker-oriented concise summary of APN project outputs<br><a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=10">http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=10</a> |
| <b>APN Updates</b>      | Regular email updates from the APN Secretariat<br><a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/eml/lists/?p=subscribe&amp;id=4">http://www.apn-gcr.org/eml/lists/?p=subscribe&amp;id=4</a>                        |



Thank you!



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