

# UN ENVIRONMENT in Asia and the Pacific

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## Outline

- GEO 6 Update on environmental trends in GMS
- Regional cooperation mechanisms
- Priorities for cooperation on Green Economy
  - ✓ Green finance & business
  - ✓ Investing in natural capital
  - ✓ Climate change & energy
  - ✓ Sustainable agriculture
  - ✓ Green economy policy analysis & data

# GEO 6: State and Trends



Fish consumption in the Mekong Region is 46 kilograms/person annually

Agricultural land quality significantly decreasing while area is significantly increasing in Southeast Asia

Water used in agriculture: 250 liters per USD GDP, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the world

In ASEAN: 30% coastline severely eroded; 60% mangroves cleared and 80% reefs bleached

40% of the region's women are employed in agriculture but only few owns farms; lack access finance, extension services

Overall agricultural employment is decreasing due to urbanization

The expansion of commercial agriculture is considered the primary driver of deforestation in GMS countries.

Increasing resource inefficiency : Asia 3.5 kg/\$ v 1.2 kg/\$ rest of world

Over-fishing of majority of fish stocks or species in Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, South China Sea

# Regional Cooperation Mechanisms



## Intergovernmental

- Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (March 2017) & SDG roadmap
  
- Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on Environment (September 2017)
  - Asia Pacific Clean Air Coalition
  - [Regional Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health](#)
  - The Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption
  - Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
  - Coordinating Body for South East Asian Seas
  
- [ASEAN Institute for Green Economy](#)
- China-ASEAN Environment Cooperation Centre

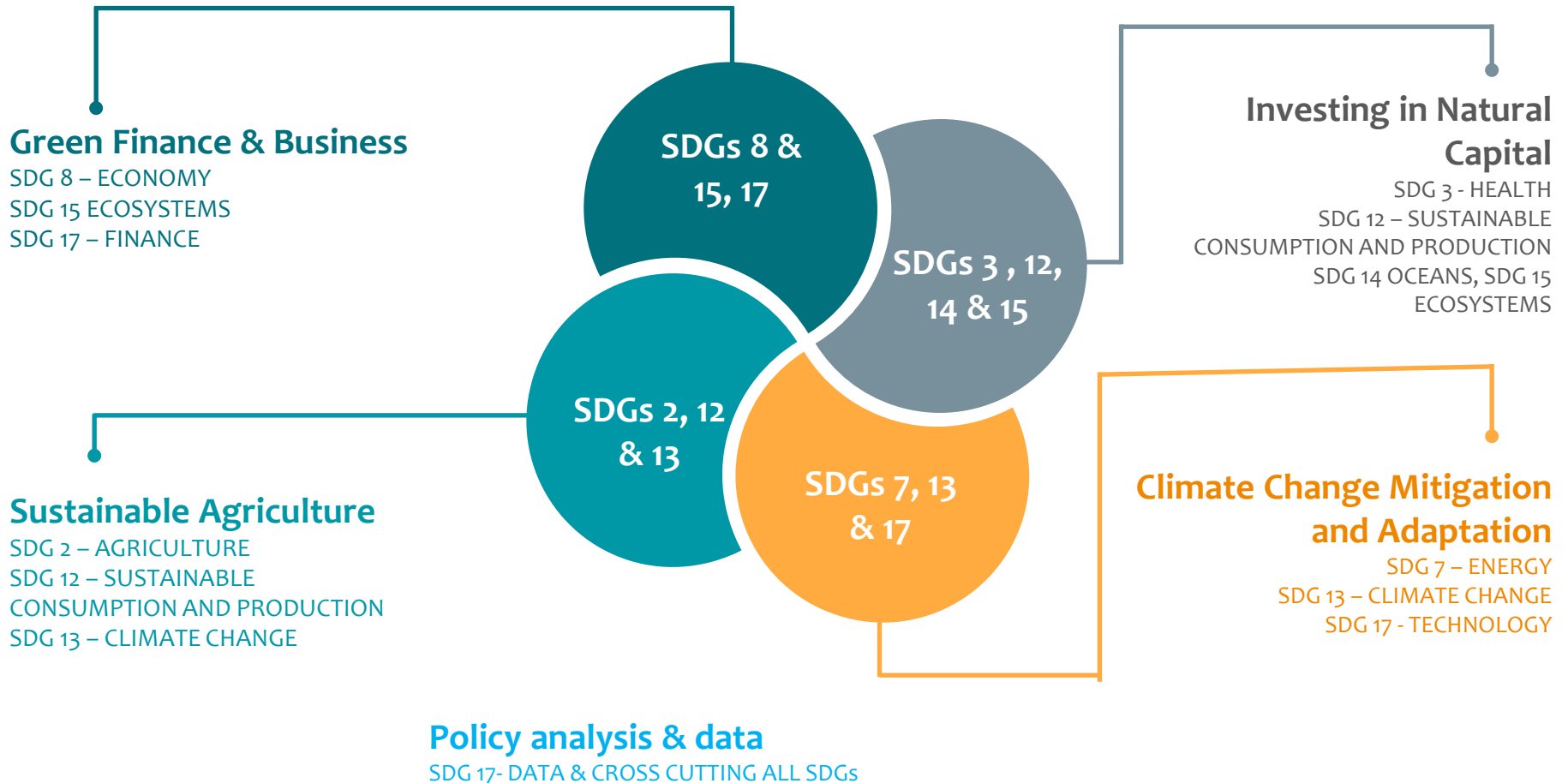
## UN system

- Poverty Environment Initiative (UN Environment, UNDP)
  
- [Partnership for Action on Green Economy](#) (UN Environment, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR)

# Priorities for future cooperation on green economy



*Economic growth with improved human well-being & social equity, reduced environmental risks and ecological scarcities*



## Project: National Green Finance & Business Roadmaps

- Work with governments>>>develop policies and strengthen regulatory frameworks to better align private sector incentives with public goals, including incentivizing the private sector to adopt sustainable practices, and foster long-term quality investment.
- Work with private sector to adopt greener operations and investments >>> reductions in air, water and land pollution, reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improved energy efficiency

### UN Environment's experience:

- The UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System,
- UNEP Financial Initiative
- Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative
- Natural Capital Finance Alliance
- Poverty Environment Initiative

### Examples:

- Env SDGs, NDCs costing
- Green bonds
- Stock Exchange ESG reporting
- National Sust. Finance Forum
- Training on environment financial regulators,

- Naming & faming- sharing sustainable business practices
- FDI investment reviews
- Mainstreaming environment into bank lending mechanisms
- Integrating natural capital into corporate decision making
- Accounting for and managing NR revenue flows

## Project: National Ecosystems Assessments (Vietnam)

- Increased individual and institutional ability to participate in ecosystem assessment processes under Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Increased use of evidence related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in policy development and decision-making in all relevant sectors

# Project: Mobilizing Public Private Partnerships and Investment for Natural Capital in GMS

Preparation of Natural Capital Risk Register for GMS/ASEAN

Pilot activities in number of high risk geographic areas and associated habitats the following activities:

- Mapping of natural capital assets and ecosystem service flows for identified natural capital-related risks
- Consultations with government(s) and private sector to develop options for strengthening the enabling regulatory and policy environment for natural capital investments
- Consultations with private companies and financial institutions to better understand their dependencies and impacts on natural capital natural capital and integrate these risks and opportunities in their investments, operations and supply chains.
- Guidance Note on Scaling up Investment in Natural Capital for national and local government officials in high risk areas identified in the Natural Capital Risk Register for GMS (translated into local languages as needed)
- Guidance Note on Integrating Natural Capital Risks and Opportunities in Operations for private companies and financial institutions



## Project: Working towards market transformation in ASEAN in favor of higher efficient lighting

- **Regional Policy Roadmap for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).** The test methods for lighting products were agreed in 2016, the next step is to formalize a Regional Policy Roadmap for MEPS.
- **National Lighting Policy Roadmaps** and capacity building activities for Policy Makers. The objective is to support each country in establishing the required legal and administrative framework to implement the regionally agreed test methods, MEPS and support policies. This will include a specialized program for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar who currently have limited energy efficiency programs.
- Capacity Building on **monitoring, verification and enforcement** for Compliance and Enforcement Authorities. Effective monitoring, verification and enforcement (MVE) is essential for ensuring the compliance of lighting products available in the national markets with the regional MEPS and policies. This work package is aimed at building the capacity of compliance officials to implement the regionally agreed MEPS scheme.

Addressing food security, vulnerability to climate change & resource efficiency

- Founded in 2011: UN Environment and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- Public-private partnership
- Main objectives:
  - *Reduce vulnerability, enhance food security and resource efficiency*
  - *Serve as a knowledge repository, expertise, networks*
  - *Catalyze sector transformation through new alliances and by creating shared value*
- ✓ 2015: Launch of world's first Standard on Sustainable Rice Cultivation, along with Performance Indicators

## 70 institutional members

### International Orgs

UNEP, FAO, IFC

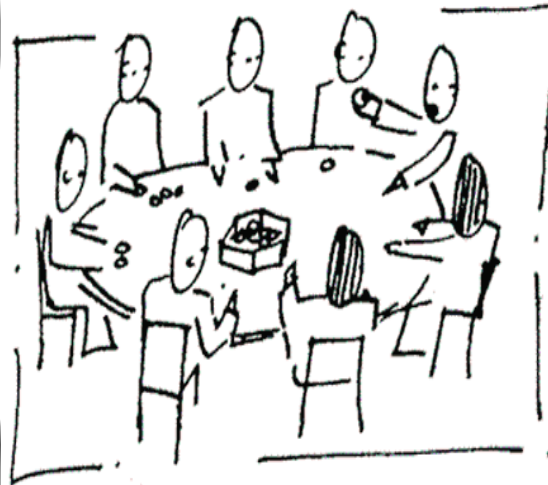
### Governments

CAM, INDO, Lao PDR,  
PHILS, SL, TH, VN

### Input suppliers

BASF, Bayer, Syngenta,  
Dow AgroSciences, IFA

**Food industry** Ahold,  
Mars, Ebro



### Traders/Importers

Louis Dreyfus Commodities, Olam  
International, Sunrice, Tilda, van  
Sillevoeldt Rijst, Westmill, Veetee

### NGOs

Rainforest Alliance, FairTrade,  
Wildlife Conservation Society,  
Solidaridad, WWF

### Research

IRRI, Punjab Agricultural Univ, Sri Lanka  
Rice R&D Institute, NACA, NAFRI (Lao  
PDR), INPI

### Producer Groups

Prime (Myanmar)  
Nestle Paddy Club Malaysia

### ASEAN Green Economy Assessment & Policy Report

- Green finance & investing in environmental sustainability
- Promoting SCP systems
- Measuring progress towards an inclusive green economy in region
- Targeted policy recommendations for ASEAN Ministerial bodies

Working with ASEAN Institute for Green Economy.

Thank you

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