



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Managing Globalization

Fourth session, Part II
19-21 November 2007
Bangkok

**PROGRAMME PLANNING AND EVALUATION: PROGRAMME DELIVERY FOR THE
BIENNIUM 2006-2007 IN RESPECT OF SUBPROGRAMME 6, ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND SUBPROGRAMME 7, INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATION AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**PROGRAMME DELIVERY FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007 IN RESPECT OF
SUBPROGRAMME 6, ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The present document describes the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development.

The Committee is invited to review the programme delivery status and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future development of the subprogramme.

Introduction

1. After the introduction of a new reporting format by United Nations Headquarters in 2003, new methodologies for monitoring the biennial programme of work were adopted. Regular and standardized reporting is now required every six months, and it is to include measurable outputs for demonstrating the implementation of the programme of work, as follows:

(a) The establishment of baselines for indicators of achievement at the beginning of the biennium;

(b) Regular data collection with respect to the indicators of achievement to measure the progress achieved against the baselines (including feedback and evidence from the end-users of the secretariat's products and services to substantiate the results achieved during the biennium);

(c) The regular monitoring of progress towards achieving results in the programme of work;

(d) The identification of lessons learned and areas needing improvement, for future programme planning;

(e) The formulation of highlights of results for each programme in the form of an "accomplishment account" to reflect the salient programme achievements in the biennium.

2. In this respect, each subprogramme is required to submit an accomplishment account using data collected at the expected accomplishment level, including statistical data and other relevant information, measured against the indicators of achievement.

3. The Committee is invited to review the progress made so far in the implementation of the programme of work in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development, based on the accomplishment account reported to United Nations Headquarters at the 18 month mark. The Committee is invited to provide the secretariat with guidance for the future development of the subprogramme.

I. PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007 IN RESPECT OF SUBPROGRAMME 6, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. The following table is extracted from the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007¹ as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004:

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/59/6/Rev.1).*

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Increased national capacity to develop and implement effective, gender-responsive policies and programmes in partnerships with civil society and the private sector for enhancing environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management	(a) Increased number of measures taken to promote sustainable, gender-responsive national policies and programmes in environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management
(b) Increased national capacity for transboundary cooperation and for monitoring progress at the national level in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992	(b) (i) Increased number of measures taken to strengthen transboundary collaboration on sustainable development (ii) Increased number of measures taken at the national level to improve sustainable development monitoring mechanisms

5. Presented below is a summary based on the 18-month report reflecting the accomplishment accounts for the subprogramme.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2006-2007

A. Expected accomplishment (a)

(accomplishment accounts for 2006-2007, based on the 18-month report with progress achieved as of September 2007 in attaining the desired results)

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	(a) Increased national capacities to develop and implement effective, gender-responsive policies and programmes in partnerships with civil society and the private sector for enhancing environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management
<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	(a) Increased number of measures taken to promote sustainable, gender-responsive national policies and programmes in environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management

<p>1. Setting</p>	<p>More than half of the world's population live in Asia and the Pacific, the region that has experienced the world's most rapid economic growth in recent decades. Such economic growth helped 270 million people escape poverty from 1990 to 2004. Nevertheless, in 2004, some 670 million people were living on less than a dollar a day.</p> <p>The rapid economic growth of the region coincides with declining environmental sustainability as manifested in the erosion of the natural resource base, rising levels of pollution and waste, which results in threats to human health, and the increasing evidence of climate change. The basis for interventions by ESCAP to reduce environmental pressure is a recognition that environmentally unsustainable economic growth needs to be changed in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and 7 (ensure environmental sustainability). With that in mind, activities are designed to further the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which advocates poverty eradication while stating that fundamental changes in production and consumption patterns are indispensable to achieving sustainable development.</p>
<p>2. End-users</p>	<p>Policy-makers at all levels are the main target group for the activities of ESCAP in enhancing the effectiveness of sustainable development policies. One tool used by ESCAP to advance the implementation of government policies is the promotion of active and meaningful involvement by other national-level stakeholders, including civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations, local governments and the private sector.</p>
<p>3. Intermediaries</p>	<p>Partnerships have been developed and maintained with (a) numerous collaborating centres and research institutions, (b) other United Nations organizations and agencies, including the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Environment</p>

	<p>Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, (c) subregional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission and (d) international financing institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.</p> <p>Some of the key partners are the University of South Australia, the University of Technology, the University of South Wales and the Australian Habitat Studies (Australia); the National Development and Reform Commission, and the China Standard Certification Centre (China); the People Centred Economic and Business Institute (Indonesia); the Japan Water Forum (Japan); the Korean Association of Public Finance and Economics, Kangwon University, the Korea Overseas International Cooperation Agency, the Korea Environment Institute, the Korea National Institute of Environmental Human Resources Development, the Korea Business Council for Sustainable Development, and K-Water (Republic of Korea); and the University of Nebraska (United States of America).</p> <p>Other institutions include the Asian Institute of Technology, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the International Drought Information Centre, and the System for Analysis, Research and Training secretariat.</p>
<p>4. Challenge</p>	<p>The major threats to environmental sustainability in the Asian and Pacific region lie in its fast, environmentally unsustainable patterns of economic growth.</p> <p>Although international agreements and mandates, including the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, recognize that natural resources are critical inputs to economic and social development, including poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and access to safe drinking water, health services and education, national policymakers in the region often prioritize economic growth over environmental sustainability. This may be</p>

	<p>attributed to the fact that economic growth is far better recognized as an indicator of the success of a country (and its political leaders) and as a necessary short-term condition for meeting the needs of the population. The misperception that environmental sustainability and economic growth are opposites often impedes the pursuit of environmentally sustainable economic growth. Planning perspectives and political systems that reward short-term achievements lead to the neglect of the long-term issue of environmental sustainability. Where policies that encourage environmental sustainability have been established, countries often suffer from an inadequate capacity to formulate, monitor and implement such policies.</p> <p>Enhanced political will and human and institutional capacity to deal with environmental issues are therefore necessary for the implementation of effective and efficient policies that support environmental sustainability. Resolving the conflict between economic development on the one hand and environmental sustainability on the other by exploiting win-win synergies between the two is the key to transforming the region's development so that it incorporates environmental sustainability.</p>
5. Events/Actions	<p>The Environment and Sustainable Development Division of ESCAP has provided various opportunities for representatives of governments, civil society and the private sector to deliberate on policies and programmes in environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management through its policy studies, demonstration projects, publications, training and forums through which participants share knowledge and experience.</p> <p>The Division's work in these areas has focused on promoting policies and strategies that support the development of more environmentally sustainable economic growth through such activities as the Second Green Growth Policy Dialogue: Role of Public Policy in Providing Sustainable Consumption Choices, held in Beijing in May 2006, and the launching of the Regional Help Desk on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Asia and the Pacific. The Third Green Growth Policy Dialogue: Greening of Business and the Environment as a Business Opportunity was held in June 2007. The Division examined sustainable infrastructure development through the First Policy</p>

	<p>Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network and by holding the Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficient and Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. In June and July 2006, it provided government officials from countries in the region with training on green growth through the Seoul Initiative Leadership Programme on Green Growth, and students with training through the Young Leaders Training Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. In follow-up to the First Regional Policy Dialogue: towards Green Growth in Asia and the Pacific, it conducted a round table on prospects of green tax and budget reform and the principle of revenue neutrality. In March 2007, the Division held the OECD/UNDESA/ESCAP Workshop on Developing Sustainability Strategies in Asia. It also organized the Policymakers' Forum: Economic Policy and Financial Innovation for Investment in Forest Environmental Services, held in May 2007.</p> <p>The Division's work on climate change included organizing the Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Innovative Options for Non-annex I Countries' Participation for Climate Change Action, in March 2006, the Workshop on Mainstreaming Policies and Investment in Low Carbon: Opportunities for New Approaches to Investment and Flexible Mechanisms, held in August 2006, the Workshop on the Carbon Market and Private Sector Participation, held in February 2007, the ESCAP/UNFCCC Workshop on Climate Change Technology Needs Assessments and Technology Transfer, held in June 2007, and the Seventeenth Asian and Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, also held in June 2007.</p> <p>The Division's work on natural disaster management included organizing the Regional Workshop on Mitigation, Preparedness and Development for Tsunami Early Warning Systems, held in June 2006, and the Expert Group Meeting on Integration of Water-related Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation into Socio-economic Development Plans, held in November 2006. The Typhoon Committee was provided with assistance in the development of the Strategic Plan for 2007-2011, adopted at the 39th Session of the Typhoon Committee in December 2006. Pilot community-based multi-hazard early warning systems for two out of three communities in Sri Lanka (the third to be completed in</p>
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	<p>2007) have been inaugurated. A national workshop on community-based disaster risk management for a sustainable multi-hazard and tsunami early warning system was held in December 2006.</p> <p>The Division's work on water resources management included organizing thematic sessions on integrated water resources management and on disaster risk management in Asia and the Pacific at the Fourth World Water Forum, held in March 2006; preparing for the Asia-Pacific Water Summit; and commemorating World Water Day 2007: Coping with Water Scarcity, by organizing, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, an event in March 2007.</p> <p>Work on energy resources consisted of holding the Regional Workshop to Promote Implementation of National Strategies on Integration of Rural Energy Policies and Programmes on Access to Energy Services in December 2006; a seminar on policy options for enhancing community-based rural renewable energy service provision in March 2007, in association with the International Conference on New Villages with Renewable Energy; and a session on energy for sustainable development policy in Asia and the Pacific for the Asian Energy Week 2007 conference.</p>
6. Results	<p>Government officials and participating organizations of ESCAP members have taken a number of measures to promote sustainable, gender-responsive national policies and programmes in environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management. They have done so as a result of (a) the policy issues raised and deliberated at sessions of the Commission and the Committee on Managing Globalization as well as policy forums and expert group meetings, (b) participation in ESCAP trainings and technical cooperation projects, and (c) having used publications, guidebooks, websites and other information materials produced by ESCAP. The measures taken by members include applying an environmental and socio-economic co-benefit approach to urban environmental management, adopting national energy policies to better address rural energy issues, replicating pilot projects on mini-hydropower plants, initiating plans to replicate community-based multi-hazard early warning systems, promoting a green tax and budget reform, increasing awareness of the need to involve ministries of</p>

	<p>finance in developing strategies for investment in forest ecosystem services and of the need to use environmental services concepts to justify government spending on natural resources management, developing action plans to protect species, and enhancing abilities to secure Global Environment Facility funds.</p>
7. Learning	<p>Among the challenges faced by the Division was the issue of securing funds to pursue activities. Some of the challenges have been addressed to a certain extent by organizing meetings back-to-back with other events organized by ESCAP or partner organizations and by making use of such technologies as teleconferencing. The Division has identified great potential for partnership with the private sector. Creative ways of ensuring that relevant nominations for meetings have also been explored and should be considered in the planning of future meetings in order to ensure the best use of funding.</p> <p>Capacity-building is a continuing and long-term process. Given the short timespan and small budget of projects, together with their being neither regular nor ongoing, it has been difficult to maintain strong contacts and receive feedback from partners. A change in the working procedure in order to ensure continuity and regular follow-up would be helpful.</p> <p>Regional advisory work in drafting national communications strategies for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and assistance in drafting project proposals to the Global Environment Facility were helpful to members.</p> <p>The expected accomplishment is often too ambitious, making it difficult to achieve given the short time frame of work. More guidance with examples of appropriate expected accomplishments and indicators would be useful.</p>

B. Expected accomplishment (b)

(accomplishment accounts for 2006-2007 with the most recent progress achieved in attaining the desired results)

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	(b) Increased national capacity for transboundary cooperation and for monitoring progress at the national level in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992
<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	(b)(i) Increased number of measures taken to strengthen transboundary collaboration on sustainable development (ii) Increased number of measures taken at the national level to improve sustainable development monitoring mechanisms
1. Setting	The setting is the same as that of expected accomplishment (a) above.
2. End-users	Policymakers at all levels are the main target group for the activities of ESCAP in enhancing the effectiveness of sustainable development policies. One tool used by ESCAP to advance the implementation of government policies is the promotion of active and meaningful involvement by other national-level stakeholders, including civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations, local governments and the private sector.
3. Intermediaries	Partnerships have been developed and maintained with (a) numerous collaborating centres and research institutions, (b) other United Nations organizations and agencies, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Habitat, the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations University, and (c) international financing institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. Some of the key partners are the University of South Australia and the University of Technology (Australia); the National Development and Reform Commission, the State Environmental Protection

	<p>Administration, the China Standard Certification Centre, the Chinese Academy of Science and the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Studies (China); the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Japan Wildlife Research Centre, the National Institute for Environmental Studies, the Japan Environmental Technology Association and the Central Research Institute for Electric Power Industry (Japan); the Irbis Center of Mongolia; the Korean Association of Public Finance and Economics, the Korea Institute of Public Financing, Kangwon University, the National Institute for Environmental Research, the Korea Electric Power Research Institute and the Korea Energy Economics Institute (Republic of Korea); WWF-Russia, CMP United Business Media and the Centre for Energy Environment Research Development (Thailand); the Policy Studies Institute, and Department for International Development (United Kingdom); the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, and Columbia University (United States of America); the Asian Institute of Technology, the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme International Environmental Technology Centre, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, CityNet and the Eurasia Economic Community.</p>
<p>4. Challenge</p>	<p>The challenge is the same as that of expected accomplishment (a) above.</p>
<p>5. Events/Actions</p>	<p>At the Second Green Growth Policy Dialogue, members requested that ESCAP develop eco-efficiency indicators to be used for measuring the eco-efficiency of economic activity in the region. The Expert Group Meeting to Develop Eco-efficiency Indicators of Economic Growth was held in January 2007. The ESCAP <i>State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005</i> report was released and cited by the <i>International Herald Tribune</i> and <i>Time Magazine</i>.</p> <p>In March 2007, ESCAP presented the green growth approach at The China Development Forum, which was organized by the Development Research Center of China's State Council. It serves as a forum for the Government of China, and international business and academic communities.</p>

	<p>The Regional Implementation Meeting assessed progress in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the areas of energy, industry, air pollution and climate change. It conveyed a message from Asia and the Pacific to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session.</p> <p>ESCAP has refocused the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment towards having policies to promote environmental sustainability. Activities have been implemented to identify innovative approaches by local governments to achieve win-win solutions to issues concerning the environment and the economy. These include the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on ongoing successful programmes and policies, and the replication of successful practices. A study tour on environmental, social and economic benefits of household composting and the UNCRD/ESCAP/SACEP National 3R workshop were held in February 2007, and the 4th Kitakyushu Initiative Network meeting was held in June 2007.</p> <p>In July 2006, ESCAP jointly organized regional consultations on the International Climate Regime Beyond 2012 in order to discuss the regional strategy and perspectives on climate change.</p> <p>The Regional Dissemination Workshop on Energy Integrated Urban Planning, held in March 2006, detailed studies of three selected cities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to identify specific projects that address energy problems by analysing the cities' socio-economic development patterns and linking them to clean and environmentally benign energy solutions.</p> <p>In July 2007, the Division held an expert group meeting on sustainable development indicators for the electric power sector.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Division secured support for the implementation of Phase 4 of PDR-SEA, which focuses on building the capacity of national disaster management offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam to lead the process of institutionalizing community-based disaster risk management into the development process.</p> <p>With the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme and</p>
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the World Bank, ESCAP presented the Disaster Impact Calculator at the Sixth DPRI-IIASA Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management, held in August 2006. In November 2006, it organized both a national and a regional workshop on the methodology of the Calculator. In July 2007, ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme ran a workshop on the Calculator and the application of its methodology to the routine assessment of the socio-economic impact of natural disasters for the development of a database on disaster impacts in the region.

ESCAP has strengthened subregional dialogue and collaboration via the North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC). NEASPEC has developed a nature conservation strategy for improving eco-efficiency in North-East Asia and reducing transboundary air pollution from coal-fired power plants through projects and expert group meetings, together with Governments and civil society organizations. In March 2007, NEASPEC held an expert group meeting, as well as the 12th SOM.

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Economic Forum, held in Baku in June 2006, recommended an initiative on a SPECA energy system and the Baku initiative on energy efficiency. The outcomes included a recommendation to the SPECA Governing Council that a coordinated energy system in Central Asia be launched and that policies enabling municipalities to enhance energy efficiency and conservation be strengthened. An implementation plan and measures for the two proposals were endorsed by the SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources at its fourteenth session.

Within the framework of the Inter-governmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy (WG-EPP) met in May 2006, November 2006 and June 2007. It reviewed draft country reports on China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea, which contained statistical analysis of energy data and a review of energy policies. The SOC, held in December 2006, endorsed the country reports and adopted the WG-EPP Work Plan for 2007-2008, including the Energy Outlook study and a business dialogue proposed.

	<p>The third meeting of the Working Group, held in June 2007, reviewed the preparatory status of the Energy Outlook and the Government-Business Dialogue, planned in conjunction with the third Senior Officers Meeting.</p> <p>The work of ESCAP on natural disaster management and the development of a regional early warning system, particularly for tsunamis, in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia is ongoing. In February 2007, the Division oversaw the integration of new offices of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat.</p>
<p>6. Results</p>	<p>As a result of ESCAP initiatives, which have taken place through its policy advocacy, guidance and role as facilitator, government officials and participating organizations of ESCAP members have taken measures to strengthen transboundary collaboration on sustainable development. Such measures include establishing mechanisms for collaboration on nature conservation, fighting the illegal trade of exotic species, promoting city-to-city environmental cooperation, engaging in a regional response to the G8 Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, planning transboundary projects on energy cooperation in North-East Asia, determining strategies on water and energy use in Central Asia and drafting reports on water usage in the subregion, and establishing partnerships to enhance eco-efficiency in North-East Asia. In addition, there was a Commission recommendation (resolution 63/6) for preparatory work on a trans-Asian energy system. Government officials and participating organizations of ESCAP members have also taken measures at the national level to improve sustainable development monitoring mechanisms. These measures include the consideration of the green growth concept in national sustainable development strategy development, the translation of <i>State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005</i> text into local languages, the monitoring of investment in and the results of water resources management for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, the application of the ESCAP Disaster Impact Calculator, and the adoption of an eco-efficiency partnership in North-East Asia.</p>
<p>7. Learning</p>	<p>Among the challenges faced by the Division was the uncertain political situation in North-East Asia, which hindered energy cooperation</p>

	<p>activities there. Because of the political situation in the subregion, full support has not been forthcoming. From this experience, the secretariat has learned to communicate earlier and more frequently in order to facilitate closer collaboration and improve cooperation among participating countries.</p> <p>Capacity-building is a continuing and long-term process. Given the short timespan and small budget of projects, together with their being neither regular nor ongoing, it has been difficult to maintain strong contacts and receive feedback from partners. A change in the working procedure in order to ensure continuity and regular follow-up would be helpful.</p> <p>The expected accomplishment is often too ambitious, making it difficult to achieve given the short time frame of work. More guidance with examples of appropriate expected accomplishments and indicators would be useful.</p>
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