STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND

Highlights 2021
SEI Asia, with support from the Government of Sweden launched the Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2) programme (2018-2023) to enhance the current 2030 Agenda efforts in Asia and the Pacific.

SCF2 fosters regional and inter-regional cooperation, partnership and policy dialogues for sustainable development and environmental sustainability through capacity building, knowledge sharing and strengthened collaboration.

The programme aims to strengthen capacity and enable learning for enhanced regional collaboration and effective policy influence towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cognizant that human rights and gender equality are key in achieving sustainability, SCF2 promotes regional collaboration for transboundary environmental policy development and fosters dialogues with other regions, particularly East Asia and Europe.
The integration of human rights and gender equality is central to the SCF2, as it champions regional and inter-regional collaboration for transboundary environmental policy development.

In collaboration with Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), evidence-based human rights and gender equality approaches are integrated throughout the programme through interactive dialogue with partners and by providing open online courses.
The Asia-Europe Environmental Forum organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation, discussed four important thematic streams to promote circular food systems:

- Agriculture
- Small and medium enterprises and food circularity
- Food policy and security during the pandemic
- International food trade

The session led by SEI recognized the need to unpack the current food system inequalities and promote policy transition to a sustainable, inclusive and circular food system.

The Forum gathered policy makers to discuss and agree on actions for enhancing mutual cooperation and led to the development of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Enhancing Green and Sustainable Development Cooperation.

SEI also supported the review of the current China-ASEAN Strategy and Plan of Action (2021-2025) which was adopted in November 2020 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China.
In 2021, SCF2 supported 24 events with 20 consortium partners and brought together over 1,800 participants from 764 organizations in Asia and beyond, including policy actors, women, farmers, marginalized groups, youth, businesses, civil society organizations (CSOs), media and key stakeholders from diverse sectors.

- **2021 OUTREACH**
- **GRANTEES:** 7
- **PARTNERS:** 20
- **EVENTS:** 24
- **SESSIONS:** 35
- **PARTICIPANTS:** > 1,800
- **OUTCOMES**
  - Changing attitudes & behaviour
  - Enhancing capacities
  - Improving decisions

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

- Policy makers
- CSOs
- Private sector
- Government agencies
- Academia
- Researchers
- Grassroots communities
- Youth
- Women
- Minor ethnic groups
- Indigenous Peoples
01 INTEGRATING HUMAN-RIGHTS APPROACH

- Participatory research tools to redress the unequal power relations
- Overview of relevant policies and frameworks linked to human rights
- Implementation of human rights instruments to bring transformative change
- Streamline the human-rights conversations related to equal access to resources

02 ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

- Enhance understanding of the differentiated impacts
- Critical role of Indigenous and rural women in the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP)
- Improve the decision-making processes to be gender inclusive
- Empower people through data, information and spaces for meaningful participation

03 COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Leverage the voice of the communities affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters
- Identified intersectional approaches to address climate change
- Promoted collective actions for mitigating adverse impact of climate change
- Transboundary collaboration to strengthen long term solutions to climate change

04 REDUCING POVERTY

- Capacity building on establishing market linkages for complimentary livelihood activities for women
- Ecogically-friendly livelihood that is suitable to the vulnerable groups
- Climate resilience as an outcome of social protection programmes, to build resilience, enhance lives and well being
- Policies to improve livelihood of Indigenous and rural women
The programme provides technical and financial support for initiating, organizing, and hosting strategic regional events highlighting key issues linked to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The goal is to enhance regional collaboration and partnership to lead efforts toward policy development and regional sustainability.

## PROMOTING REGIONAL DIALOGUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshwater Ecosystems</th>
<th>Agrobiodiversity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>&gt; 300 Participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>&gt; 100 Participants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Towards Mainstreaming Ecosystems Services in National Policies for Sustainable Management of Freshwater Ecosystems in South and Southeast Asia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Systems in ASEAN.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Partner**

**Focus & Highlights**

- Provided platforms and opportunities for policy makers, concerned local communities and key stakeholders to put collective actions and drive impacts of the intended actions in freshwater ecosystems.
- Aimed to equip policymakers, practitioners, partners with knowledge and inspiration to mainstream ecosystem services, inclusiveness, and gender-sensitive response into decision making processes to improve resilience of rural communities of South and Southeast Asia.
- Aimed to strengthen policy actions towards agrobiodiversity mainstreaming in regional gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) initiatives for sustainable food systems (SFS) in Southeast Asia.
- Created an opportunity for future engagement of, and collaboration with, Indigenous youth on agrobiodiversity and sustainable food system.
Air Pollution

> 300 Participants

Sustainable and Inclusive Solutions for Air Quality and Climate Change: A Virtual Regional Learning Event for Southeast Asia.

Partner

Focus & Highlights
- Addressed the persisting threats that air pollution and climate change pose to human health and well-being, particularly in Southeast Asia that is home for many megacities and emerging urban regions.
- Built a coalition of changemakers to identify and implement solutions to air pollution and climate change using gender equality and human rights-based approaches to ensure participation and representation of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

> 200 Participants

Towards a Climate Resilience Society for All: Harnessing the Transformative Power of Inclusive Social Media and Digital Platforms for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building in Southeast Asia.

Partner

Focus & Highlights
- Promoted good practices and experiences of using social media and digital platforms to promote inclusive climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Emphasized the importance of creating a shared understanding and vision of how to use inclusive social media within the policy-making bodies has been acknowledged at the national level.

Gender and Migration

> 24 Participants

Engendering Climate-Induced Migration Perspectives from Asia.

Partner

Focus & Highlights
- Recognized the agency of women as active agents rather than passive victims of climate change and explored actions for creating just and equitable systems and processes, especially accounting for marginalized social groups.
- Underlined the voices of the communities and identified the vulnerabilities and challenges faced when analysed through the gender and intersectional lens. The events aimed to influence policy decisions by conveying key findings to government and non-government experts.
COMMUNICATION AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

73

61,600

Communication & policy products

Online engagement

SCF Communication Channels

SCF2 webpage
> 6,700 page views in 2021

Monthly SCF2 newsletter
> 1,000 subscribers

Social media platforms
> 80,000 followers

FROM EVENTS TO POLICY OUTCOMES

Strategic Inter-Regional Policy Strategy Support

Regional Policy Support for ASEAN

Policy Recommendations Co-Production

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@SEI_Asia
SEI-Stockholm Environment Institute
Stockholm Environment Institute
scf@sei.org