STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND
Fostering collaboration for sustainable development

SEI Asia, with support from the Swedish government (Sida), launched the Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF) programme in 2018 to enhance the current 2030 Agenda efforts in Asia and the Pacific. SCF aims to foster regional and inter-regional cooperation, partnership and policy dialogues for sustainable development and environmental sustainability through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and strengthened collaboration.

In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, SCF delivered its goals by maximizing virtual platforms to extend its outreach to transboundary partners in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

1. Mainstreaming human rights and gender
In collaboration with Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), and the SEI Asia gender research cluster, evidence-based human rights and gender equality approaches are integrated throughout programme implementation through capacity building such as direct coaching and providing open online courses.

2. Strengthening inter-regional cooperation
The Asia-Europe Environmental Forum organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation, focused on Sustainable Consumption and Production, brought diverse perspectives of antimicrobial resistance, sustainable garments, single-use plastics and inclusive food value chains.

SEI led the discussion on inclusive food value chains and highlighted the need to shift from the dominant food systems model that relies heavily on chemical input, monoculture, and large industrial systems. Policies that help secure tenure for small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples; and multi-stakeholders and multi-rights holder platform are crucial for the shift to a more sustainable and equitable food value chain.
Reduced climate risk
1. Setting a global scene and opportunities to influence political environments and support family farming and smallholder farmers
2. Foster formation of multi-stakeholder platforms and strategies to promote farmers’ rights, welfare, and economic empowerment
3. Strengthen regional collaboration related to climate change, water security, water management, and conservation
4. Advocacy in confronting unjust power structures faced by Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders and promoting gender equity
5. Connected with existing civil society networks and women’s rights movements working on land-grabbing and natural resource management issues
6. Provide practical resources to strengthen NNGS’ group resilience to climate related and other natural hazards
7. Amplifying youth voices in addressing gaps in policies and building a resilient world
8. Filling the gap of DRR policies across the region and actions to strengthen the regional networks and youth movement.

Sustainable resources use and resilient ecosystem
1. Public-private engagements that have led to the acceleration of climate solutions
2. Drive climate finance solutions in Asia,
3. Provides a platform for multi-stakeholder cooperation to support G7 insights from its research on SDGs and Climate Change
4. Global discussions on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Improved health and well-being
1. Enhance capacity in citizen science approaches to protect people’s health and environment
2. Platform for regional stakeholders to discuss and advance citizen science approaches towards environmental justice
3. Citizens’ empowerment, gender equity, and health promotion in addressing pollution from toxic chemicals
Promoting Regional Dialogue

The programme provides technical and financial support for initiating, organizing, and hosting strategic regional events that highlight key issues that are 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.

AGRICULTURE 1 180

Sustaining Family Farming in Asia Through Inclusive, Farmer-Driven Approaches
Partner: Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)

Focus & Highlights:
- Aimed to promote and strengthen multi-actor partnerships and contribute positive policy changes to support family farming in line with the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNFFD).
- Emphasized the critical role of family farmers in transforming agriculture and food systems.

WATER 3 210

Women, Water, Climate: Tackling the Challenges
Partner: Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

Focus & Highlights:
- Provided the platform to promote crucial dialogue between experts, youth water professionals and women community leaders in tackling key challenges surrounding water, climate and women.
- Organized by WWP in partnership with NetWwater (NWW) and Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific (SISWP).

CLIMATE FINANCE 2 7,450

The Climate Finance Track at the AVPN 2020 Virtual Conference
Partner: Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Limited

Focus & Highlights:
- Offered a deep dive into innovative financial instruments that can help facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon economy and enable effective adaptation.
**4 PREVENT AND REDUCE URBAN POLLUTION FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS**

**IPEN-SEA Virtual Conference 2020:**
Citizen Science in Southeast and East Asia
Partner: EcoWaste Coalition Philippines

**Focus & Highlights:**
- Offered a platform for regional stakeholders to discuss and advance citizen science approaches towards addressing pollution from toxic chemicals, showcasing the experience of NGOs and communities.
- Featured various perspectives of citizen science in addressing development goals, gender equality and policy outcomes as well as protection of citizen’s health from urban pollution effects.

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**5 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

**Platforms for the inclusion of non-normative genders and sexualities (NNGS) in CCA policy and action**
Partner: The University of Auckland

**Focus & Highlights:**
- Provided a first step in acknowledging the challenges NNGS face alongside their great capacity to adapt to climate change and participate in local-level resilience building efforts.
- Participants highlighted their strong capabilities through strong social networks, local wisdom and solidarity.

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**6 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth**
Partner: Children and Youth International (CYI)

**Focus & Highlights:**
- Promoted and advocated research to safeguard child rights in the context of environmentally hazardous events through the sharing of best practices on DRR and youth involvement.
- Leveraged the knowledge on regional youth activities and its policy implication in the region through informing the policy mechanism of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

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**7 GENDER**

**Grounding and Empowering: Nourishing the Grassroots for Transformative Change**
Partner: Non-Timber Forest Products

**Focus & Highlights:**
- Highlighted the effective approaches rooted on cultural values, knowledge, and the successes of grassroots women environmental defenders working on current issues related to land-grabbing and natural resource management.
- Identified and shared successful and resilient activism strategies and facilitated the planning of collective interventions in national and regional policy processes.