

A SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGY'S OBJECTIVES, DESIRED OUTCOMES AND PLANNED ACTIONS

THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE

KNOWLEDGE AND ADAPTIVE RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- > Climate change is predicted to have wide-ranging impacts in the Asia-Pacific region but these will vary markedly. Further analysis is needed to determine locally specific vulnerabilities and responses.
- > Policy makers will need to deal with uncertainty and cannot delay action.

Objective 1: To build knowledge of regional climate systems and support adaptive planning and adaptive measures.

Outcomes

- > An improved knowledge base is informing appropriate adaptive responses to climate change in vulnerable areas and communities of the region.
- > Adaptive capacities and responses are improving.

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > monitoring sea-level and climate, including regional scenario analysis and risk analysis to inform policy responses in the Pacific
- > understanding regional climate systems, including support for improving the communication of results to policy makers and planners
- > integrating climate change vulnerability analysis and planning for disaster preparedness and mitigation programs in Asia and the Pacific
- > expanding existing disaster preparedness, including for tropical cyclone warning systems in the Pacific
- > improving analysis of the vulnerability of water resources, agriculture, forests, fisheries and biodiversity in key geographic zones to climate change, and developing appropriate policy and technical responses
- > developing adaptive planning and adaptive measures in the Pacific
- > increasing awareness and gender-sensitive education programs to build community resilience in the Pacific and elsewhere
- > developing new livelihoods programs that involve both men and women, and initiatives to build the resilience of natural ecosystems and the communities they sustain
- > integrating climate change vulnerability analysis and adaptive planning into all aid projects, and
- > participating in multilateral initiatives to support adaptation to climate change in the region.

ENERGY

- > The Asia-Pacific region depends largely on conventional fossil fuel technologies to meet its current energy needs, resulting in high and unsustainable greenhouse gas emissions.
- > Emissions must be reduced in significant emitting countries to avoid dangerous global climate change impacts.

Objective 2: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in significant emitting countries through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Outcomes

- > Policy frameworks for energy efficiency, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies are being strengthened.
- > Energy efficiency is increasing and the development, use and transfer of cleaner energy technologies are growing.

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > implementing climate change mitigative measures through the Global Environment Facility
- > developing capacities in energy policy and introducing energy efficiency planning and management through regional partnerships
- > developing and implementing energy efficiency measures
- > removing institutional barriers to the adoption of renewable energy sources in the Pacific
- > building awareness of efficient and affordable clean energy, including renewable sources, and building community capacities (involving both men and women) to adopt clean energy technology
- > initiating strategic activities to complement large-scale energy and infrastructure projects where these activities can leverage mitigative outcomes, and
- > integrating energy efficiency and clean energy strategies into all relevant aid activities

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- > Approximately 20 per cent of global emissions are credited to deforestation.
- > Reducing deforestation and supporting reforestation are likely to be highly cost-effective mitigation measures.

Objective 3: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reforestation and avoided deforestation.

Outcomes

- > Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced through reforestation and lower rates of deforestation in the region.
- > Sustainable forest management systems are supporting the livelihoods of forest communities.
- > Governance arrangements for forest management are improving.

Actions

The Australian Government's \$200 million Global Initiative on Forests and Climate (mostly aid) will support projects in selected developing countries (particularly in South-East Asia and the Pacific) to:

- > assist in building technical capacity to assess and monitor forest resources, and to develop national forest management plans
- > support effective governance arrangements, including regulatory and law enforcement arrangements to protect forests by, for example, preventing illegal logging
- > promote the sustainable use of forest resources and diversification of the economic base of forest-dependent communities
- > support practical research into the drivers of deforestation
- > encourage reforestation of degraded forest areas, and
- > support pilot approaches to providing incentives to countries and communities to encourage their sustainable use of forests and reduce the destruction of forests.

THEME: WATER

SAFE WATER AND SANITATION

- > Pollution inflows to rivers, wetlands and aquifers have reduced water quality to levels that threaten the health of people, plants and animals dependent on the resource.
- > Many communities do not have access to safe and reliable water sources.

Objective 4: To improve access to safe water and sanitation.

Outcomes

- > Pollution of domestic water supplies is declining as a result of improved waste management and sanitation.
- > Access to safe water and sanitation systems is improving.

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > investing in partnerships for better water, sanitation and waste management policy and infrastructure
- > investing in related infrastructure for safely re-using water, and technology for treating water
- > investing in measures to improve water-use efficiency, particularly in agriculture, to complement investments in infrastructure
- > building capacities to maintain water supply and sanitation facilities
- > developing water safety plans to reduce the risk of water-related diseases
- > developing community-led total sanitation schemes, and
- > developing initiatives that address key sources of pollution.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- > Demands on fresh water supplies from domestic, agricultural and industrial users are escalating and many water sources, both surface and groundwater, are over-allocated and ecologically stressed.
- > Climate change will exacerbate water shortages, flooding and drought in many areas of the region and could impact adversely on water quality, habitat and biodiversity.

Objective 5: To strengthen integrated water resources management, particularly through planning and allocation processes.

Outcomes

- > The knowledge base for determining water balances and sustainable yields for key water sources and aquatic biodiversity is improving.
- > Institutional capacities and regulatory frameworks for integrated planning and management of water resources are being strengthened.
- > Management of water, land and other environmental assets is becoming more

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > developing initiatives for integrated management of key river basins and aquifers, taking account of climate change
- > monitoring, modelling (hydrologically) and assessing water resources, including aquifers, to underpin policy and planning
- > building human resource and institutional capacities in water management, including policy, regulatory frameworks, negotiated planning schemes, risk management approaches, community participation and stakeholder engagement, measurement and monitoring systems, environmental flow allocation and water trading
- > implementing the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management
- > establishing links with rural development strategies to support improved land management practices that reduce water pollution and protect water yield and quality, and
- > reducing or eliminating land-based activities that pollute rivers, wetlands, coast and marine ecosystems.

integrated and participatory.

- > Adaptive responses to the impacts of climate change on water resources are improving.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES

- > A lack of institutional capacity undermines sound policy setting for environmental management.
- > Devolution of management responsibilities requires capacity building at local levels of government.

Objective 6: To strengthen institutional capacities for environmental management.

Outcome

- > Capacities in environment policy development and management are being strengthened.

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > developing initiatives to address critical knowledge gaps and strengthen environmental planning, assessment, monitoring and reporting
- > building technical capacities in environmental management across the resource management, energy and infrastructure sectors, including capacities to monitor and analyse trends
- > strengthening technical capacities through gender-equitable scholarships, work placements, links between education and research institutions, and exchanges that address critical knowledge and skills gaps
- > building institutional capacities needed for devolution of responsibilities for natural resource and environmental management
- > increasing regional dialogue and action on environment policy and management practices
- > increasing the networks of terrestrial and marine protected areas, and
- > implementing multilateral environment agreements in the region.

THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- > Even where good environmental management legislation exists, poorly developed regulatory frameworks and weak enforcement regimes limit their value.
- > Regulatory mechanisms alone will not halt and reverse the decline in key environmental assets in the region. A holistic, partnership approach is needed.

Objective 7: To improve enabling mechanisms for environmental management.

Outcome

- > Implementation frameworks for managing natural resources and the environment are more effective.

Actions

Continued, new or expanded support for:

- > mainstreaming environmental management into the coordinating (planning and finance) functions in partner governments
- > developing initiatives that promote better coordination, engagement and participation across ministries, and with industries, civil society, men and women, and communities
- > developing frameworks that integrate a range of locally relevant enabling mechanisms for environmental management
- > developing regulatory frameworks, administrative guidelines, and capacities to implement and enforce existing legislation for forestry, land tenure, coastal zones, catchment management, waste management/pollution control, pest and disease control, wetlands and protected areas management
- > introducing innovative and effective incentive mechanisms tailored to local needs, including linking payments for ecosystem services to natural resource management
- > improving environmental governance to protect vulnerable assets, including coasts, marine ecosystems, wetlands, forests and rivers
- > promoting good environmental governance in partnerships to implement regional and national initiatives, and
- > ensuring that Australian environmental standards are met in the planning, assessment and management of all aid activities.