



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21: REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992

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*The Information contained in this Regional Report is also available on the World Wide Web, as follows:
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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International

EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)

REGIONAL PRIORITY: To promote regional subregional cooperation and programmes for capacity building at national level for implementation of Agenda 21

STATUS REPORT: ESCAP has found that adjusting to the changing global economy is a constraint on the Member Countries' implementation of the objectives recommended in Agenda 21.

An up-to-date comprehensive study analyzing the pollution intensity of the Region's export structure has not been attempted. However, for the biennium 1994-1995 ESCAP proposed to review, within the framework of the UNDP's fifth inter-country programme, the current patterns and policies of trade and commerce, tariff and non-tariff barriers, trade flows of agricultural products within the region, and to analyze which environmental measures can be non-tariff barriers. ESCAP is presently conducting a project for assessing the inter-relationship between trade and environment through a number of case studies and a regional meeting. The perception on trade and environment issues in the region varies with export structure of individual countries. However, a common thread runs against the environment issues becoming non-tariff barriers. The measures such as eco-labelling and introduction of ISO 14000 are at the initial stage of debate and understanding. These projects are attempting to help bridge information gap on trade and environment issues in the region.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: No specific information.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information

3. Major Groups: Major groups are involved in the dissemination of information on trade and environment issues.

4. Finance: "Inter-relationship between environment and trade" funded by the Government of Republic of Korea for US\$ 81,600 (1994).

"Interrelationship between environment and trade" funded by the Government of Republic of Korea for US\$ 60,800 (1996).

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Regional experts were involved in the studies but no formal cooperation structure was envisaged.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Highlight activities aimed at the poor and linkages to the environment

Theme study on rural poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific to examine rural poverty alleviation from various angles. The study addresses major issues concerning rural poverty alleviation in the perspective of sustainable development, macroeconomic reforms and changes in the development strategies as well as the impact of sustainable development of agriculture and provides policy recommendations to alleviate rural poverty in the light of the major findings of the study.

The project on the effect of price liberalisation and market reforms on poverty situation of rural communities and farm families to assist developing countries formulate appropriate policies that

mitigate the negative aspects of price behaviour related to market reforms and price liberalization undertaken for primary sector development.

The project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment is field testing in eight participating countries the innovative success-case-replication methodology designed to enhance the incomes of the rural poor by replicating successful micro-enterprises.

The project on sustainable agricultural development strategies for the least developed countries to study the existing agricultural development strategies in terms of environmental sustainability and key areas of primary sector of participating countries.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** No information
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

NB: Developed countries, where domestic poverty alleviation is not a major concern may wish to briefly describe their position regarding global poverty alleviation.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The per-capita consumption of resources in ESCAP region is very low. However, keeping in view the growing magnitude of the population, ESCAP is promoting projects for the conservation of resources and efficiency in their use through technical assistance, advisory services, dissemination of information, development of manuals and guidelines and training programmes. Major attention has been concentrated in the important areas of energy and fresh water.

For the promotion of energy conservation and efficiency, the following activities have been executed by ESCAP in recent years in collaboration with various international, regional and national institutions/NGOs working in energy-related areas such as the AIT (Asian Institute of Technology), IIEC (International Institute for Energy, Conservation), CI (Consumers International), ECCT (Energy Conservation Center of Thailand), and EMC (Energy Management Centre, India):

1. National strategies and regional cooperation in energy efficiency promotion (a regional workshop conducted in March 1994);
2. Energy-environment strategies for urban transport (a regional meeting conducted in May 1994);
3. Energy conservation and efficiency centers: building and managing of effective institutions (a regional workshop was conducted in May 1995);
4. Energy efficiency standards and labelling (a regional meeting was held in September 1994);
5. Role of consumer organizations and other NGOs in promoting energy efficiency (a regional workshop was conducted in November 1994);
6. Energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings and related legislation (a regional workshop was held in November 1996);

7. Promotion of investment in domestic manufacturing of energy-efficiency appliances (a regional workshop was conducted in September 1995);

Several other activities in the area of energy efficiency and conservation, and new and renewable sources of energy have also been implemented through the funding support from the Governments of Australia, China and Japan as follows:

1. Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Symposium, APRES'95, with Exhibition, held in July 1995 in Sydney, Australia, followed by a Study Tour in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth
2. Regional Workshop on Wind Energy Development and Utilization held in Beijing, China, in May 1995, and a Regional seminar and Study Tour on Geothermal Development held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, in April 1996.

Additional activities funded by the Government of Japan included:

1. Promotion of commercial energy conservation consulting services in countries of the ESCAP region (workshops were conducted in 1993 and 1994 at 10 locations in the region)
2. Training programme for energy efficiency centre managers from transitional and developing ESCAP countries (regional seminars were held and fellowships were awarded in 1995 and 1996.)

For improving water consumption, a series of projects were implemented on efficient and economic use of water. The main activities undertaken were to promote water conservation through demand management; economic use of water through pricing; and application of technological devices for water saving as well as reduction of losses in water transmissions.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: No information

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Policy promotion and human resources development were the main thrust of the activities conducted so far.

3. Major Groups: Involvement of women were promoted on water resources development.

4. Finance: Since UNCED a series of Japanese-funded projects worth about half a million US dollars have been implemented to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency. In addition about US\$ 120,000 were utilized under the PACE-E programme being completed in collaboration with UNDP.

About US\$ 500,000 were made available by the Government of Japan and the Netherlands on projects related to efficient and economic use of water.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has long been promoting dialogue amongst member Governments for promoting sustainable development, and in this context, the role of population trends, in particular growth and distribution. The secretariat has also actively promoted activities at the national and regional levels, designed to provide a better understanding of the inter-relationships between population trends, resource utilization, environment and sustainable development .

Recognizing the importance of the above, ESCAP organized the Expert Group Meeting on Population Environment and Development, as a preparatory meeting for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population

Conference (APPC) held in Bali, Indonesia in August 1992. One of the sessions at the Fourth APPC was devoted to a discussion of issues related to population, environment and development. The Conference noted that "understanding the interdependence between the people, their development activities and the environment was of crucial importance". It further noted that "in many countries high population growth and density had caused various environmental problems, such as land degradation, deforestation, air and water pollution, threats to biological diversity from habitat destruction and rising sea-level due to the so-called greenhouse effect". It also "expressed concern about the deterioration of environmental quality resulting from the recent rapid economic development in some countries" (see APPS No. 115). In view of the above, the Conference recommended (see: Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development) that:

(1) More research needs to be undertaken to improve understanding of the complex synergy between population, resources, environment and development. Moreover, this knowledge must be used in formulating policies and strategies for sustainable development. The conceptual framework and appropriate analytical tools and indicators need to be developed further.

(2) A comprehensive data collection and information system on key aspects of population, development and resource linkages that have implications for environmental quality must be developed to support planning, implementation and management, and evaluation of, as well as research on, population and sustainable development programmes.

(3) Governments should formulate policies and strategies and implement programmes regarding appropriate technologies, keeping in mind the interaction between population and the environment, as well as their long-term sustainability. Such policies could include development of environmentally friendly technology, reforestation, improvement of the quality of air and water, waste recycling and the phasing out of environmentally harmful technology. Furthermore, countries should formulate enforceable measures to promote greater harmony between population, resources, environment and development so as to achieve improved quality of life on a sustainable basis.

(4) There is a need for appropriate interdisciplinary programmes to develop information, education and communication (IEC) activities, human resources, and environmental and population-related educational materials for all groups in the community. In this regard, institutions at all levels, governmental and non-governmental, formal and informal, private and public sector, should be involved and supported.

The ESCAP secretariat's programme of work since then has been guided by the above recommendations and by the programme areas identified in Chapter 5 of Agenda 21.

The secretariat's programme on population and development, funded mainly by UNFPA, has addressed the interrelated aspects of research on the interrelationships between population and environmental dynamics, dissemination of these findings to planning and policy makers through national and regional meetings, and the promotion of utilization of these findings in the planning and policy process through technical assistance and capacity building for integrated policy formulation and planning. Some of the activities have also addressed the need to strengthen local-level planning through the development of appropriate data and information systems. In particular, ESCAP has implemented projects on:

(i) Population and Environment Dynamics, Poverty, and the Quality of Life in Asia and the Pacific region: Country Case Studies and Regional Synthesis". Budget US\$ 287,013.00 (UNFPA)

(ii) Use of Population Data for Local Area Development Planning in the countries of the ESCAP region. Budget US\$698,894.00 (UNFPA).

Both of these projects have been completed and the reports are being finalized for distribution.

In addition, there are other projects that ESCAP has carried out relating to urbanization, and on women and development, which have implications for policies and programmes on sustainable development.

REGIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No information	

<p style="text-align: center;">Cross-Sectoral Issues</p> <p>1. Decision-Making Structure: No information</p> <p>2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information</p> <p>3. Major Groups: No information</p> <p>4. Finance: No information</p> <p>5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information</p>	
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AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: Promoting Sustainable Human Settlements Development

REGIONAL PRIORITY:	
<p>STATUS REPORT: Urban Environment was included in the programmes of work 1994-95 and 1996-97.</p> <p>Urban land markets in most countries of the region are increasingly subject to speculative investments, making land too costly for low-income households. ESCAP has found that at least the following five poverty-habitat issues are linked to the problem of access to land in the region: 1. Land occupied by the urban poor is often unsuited for human settlements; 2. Much of the land settled by the poor is often illegally occupied; 3. Since provision of public services may be seen as <u>de facto</u> legitimisation, governments refrain from servicing these sections; 4. Illegality is also closely linked to government unwillingness to recognise community-based organisations seeking to secure basic infrastructure; and 5. The poor often need to be centrally located for access to work, but these are generally locations of greatest insecurity, rapid rise in land prices and intense land use conflicts. ESCAP organized a Workshop on Land Management in Asia, Bangkok, May 1995 and subsequently published "Municipal Land Management in Asia - A Comparative Study".</p> <p>Human settlements activities in the field of urban environmental management have focused on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization. ESCAP continued to strengthen the Regional Network of Local Authorities' (CITYNET) activities in urban environmental management through support to CITYNET seminars, workshops and to TCDC advisory services and exchange programmes in area of solid waste management. Guidelines on participatory approach to urban environmental management, were published as a CITYNET publication, supported by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific, October 1996. The publication was based on experiences from China, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.</p> <p>In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and CITYNET, ESCAP implemented a project entitled Promotion of Environmentally Sound and Healthy Cities. Under this project, ESCAP prepared a technical publication on the operationalization of the Healthy Cities Programme and convened a sub-regional seminar on the promotion of environmentally sound and healthy cities in Bangkok, 23-27 October 1995. Participants were trained in applying a diagnostic manual on environmentally sound and healthy cities and encouraged to consider establishing national networks of environmentally sound and healthy cities. In the course of the seminar, draft outlines of healthy city projects were developed by the participating cities. From 15 to 18 January 1996, ESCAP in cooperation with CITYNET, WHO and the United Town Development Agency (UTDA) convened a Regional Seminar and an Euro-Asian Forum, hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. This provided an opportunity for further exchange of experiences and discussions of the healthy city concept.</p>	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in 1993, resulted in a mandate regarding the work programme for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 focusing on capacity-building activities. The Thematic Committee (please refer to Chapter 8 for details) has reiterated the recommendations from this meeting and has recommended an increased involvement of ESCAP in helping to promote appropriate interdisciplinary programmes addressing sustainable human settlements development.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The human settlements activities of ESCAP are concentrated at the level of urban governments for managing delivery systems for shelter, basic infrastructure and services by developing the human resource capacity within local authorities and NGOs. Special emphasis on issues on how to manage urban poverty, productivity and the environment, support to micro-enterprises, and the production and application of low-cost building materials.

ESCAP is also supporting the capacity-building of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) which has city authorities as members and NGOs as associate members. Its activities include exchanging experts for advisory services and general experiences, organizing training and study tours, and applying joint research within the region.

3. Major Groups: The urban poor have a prominent position in the programme of work for this sector.

4. Finance: No information

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to #2.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

REGIONAL PRIORITY: To promote regional subregional cooperation and programmes for capacity building at national level for the implementation of Agenda 21

STATUS REPORT: ESCAP has found that the promotion of sustainable development in the region is hindered by the weakness of institutions and legislation, particularly in the enforcement of measures for environmentally sound and sustainable development. In addition, there seems to be no standard way for rationalising the requirements of Agenda 21 in the Region, but each country has designed their own principles according to the political, economic, ecological and cultural context of the individual country.

Integrating sustainable development in decision-making is an important feature in the work of ESCAP which has been carried out at Ministerial level meetings prior and after the Rio Conference. The Commitments stemming from this engagement resulted in the first meeting of the Committee on Environmental and Sustainable Development in Bangkok in April 1993 where a Regional Strategy Plan was endorsed for action. The following 9 programme areas formed the plan: 1. Assessment and monitoring of environment and sustainable development trends; 2. Ecosystem management and rehabilitation; 3. Development of policy-making capacities and policies, including guidelines and management tools; 4. Strengthening institutional, legislative and human resources development; 5. Promotion of environmentally sound technologies; 6. Promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation; 7. Promotion of environmental awareness, communication and public participation on sustainable development activities; 8. Regional dimensions of global environmental issues; and 9. Financial mechanisms. Complementary to the Framework of the Regional Strategy Plan a matching Work Programme for the biennium 1994-1995 was implemented, including activities for integrating sustainable development in decision-making. The work programme also addressed many other aspects of Agenda 21 and in most cases involved an integration of environmental issues into the decision-making process (please refer to individual chapters).

Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, was formulated in the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok 22-28 November 1995. Various aspects emphasized in the Chapter 8 are reflected in the programme areas of the Regional Action Programme, for instance, 13: Institutions and legislation, 16: Use of economic instruments, 17: Mutually supportive trade and environment policies, and 18: Natural resource accounting.

Work programme for biennium 1996-97 includes various activities with special attention on integration of environmental considerations into economic policy making, reflecting the recognition in the ESCAP Commission resolution (52/8) in April 1996 on "--- the need for an integrated, multi-sectoral approach through comprehensive policies and programmes and adequate resources to address the environment and development issues confronting the policy planners and decision-makers in the Asian and Pacific region".

The activities directly related to this chapter are being implemented for the period 1996-97 under the project title: "Integrating environmental considerations into economic decision making processes". A series of sub-regional and regional expert group meetings will be held to view and exchange experiences on (i) institutional prerequisites at national, provincial/local and sector level for integrated policy-making, and on (ii) modalities of environmental assessment as tools for integrated decision-making processes, and to draw best practices from them.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet): ESCAP has adopted the resolution 49/7 on integrating environment and development. The Regional Strategy Plan constituted the overall decision-making process within the realms of ESCAP. ESCAP has a Division for the Environment and Natural Resources Management to implement the plan liaised with other ESCAP Divisions and Member States regarding the proposed projects.

The Thematic Committee on Environmental and Sustainable Development of the Commission was adopted at the first meeting on the Environment and Sustainable Development held in Bangkok in April 1993 with the task of formulating recommendations and proposing projects to fill the gap within the system as a follow-up to UNCED. The Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development has undertaken annual reviews on the state of the sectors that comply with the programme set out by CSD (please also refer chapter 40).

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to the Status Report.

3. Major Groups: Policy makers at national, state or local and sectoral levels (especially those who are involved in the areas of economic and environment policy-making) would be the major groups playing a role in the implementation of this programme.

4. Finance: The activities of the project: "Integrating environmental considerations into economic planning" is estimated to cost US\$ 665,000. It has been financed by extra-budgetary funding from the Government of Japan.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to #1.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Montreal Protocol and its Amendments

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFCCC was signed in 1992.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The optimal range of power system transmission and distribution (T&D) is 5-10%. However, in Asia and the Pacific, many countries have T&D losses of 15% or more. In order to counter this unsustainable use of energy ESCAP proposed two projects for the biennium 1994-1995. One called "Reduction of transmission and distribution losses in power systems" was proposed under the programme of work for 1994-1995 to limit the losses in power system transmission and distribution through human resource development at seminars and training courses based on the experience gained from the successful implementation of energy conserving measures by the Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO).

The second project called "Utilization of agricultural biomass for sustainable rural development", entailing the establishment of a regional network for disseminating the results of the UNDP-funded Regional Energy Development Programme; preparing and distributing audio-visual materials and initiating a Sub-regional training programmes on the utilization of biomass energy conversion technologies; and establishing a think-tank on the subject.

During 1993-97, the ESCAP secretariat has been assigned the role of an executive agency for the UNDP-funded "Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and Environment" (PACE-E) together with the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). The PACE-E programme includes training and advisory services in six main programme areas, namely Energy and Environment Planning (EEP), Coal Development and Utilization (CDU), Natural Gas and Petroleum Development (NG & PD), Electric Power System Management (EPSM), Rural Energy Environment Development (REED) and Energy Conservation and Efficiency (C & E).

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The activities in this sector are following the Framework for Regional Strategy Plan.

The PACE-E programme implementation is guided by the Energy-Environment Advisory Group (EEAG) and implemented through a regional network of focal points nominated by participating governments.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: ESCAP is collaborating within the UNDP-financed Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E) which extends from 1993 to 1997 concentraing primarily on capacity-building within the region. Please also refer to the Status Report.

3. Major Groups: The PACE-E programme seeks to involve the relevant government authorities and policy decision makers.

4. Finance: The magnitude of financial resources made available for the PACE-E (1993-97) is: US\$ 3,260,952 (UNDP), \$3,734,660 (Australia), \$257,738 (France). In addition, in-kind contributions were made by E-7 Group, France, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to #2.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

As a part of the Framework of Regional Strategy, activities to combat land degradation and promote environmentally sound management of national parks and nature reserves have been made priorities for ESCAP. The Work Programme for 1994-1995 applied to this sector and contained three additional projects to the overall programme. These were proposals from the Thematic Committee on Environmental and Sustainable Development, one called "Integrating geoscience into land use planning" involving the formation of a regional Forum of experts and land use planners to discuss geoscience data and prepare pilot studies on integrating geoscience in land use planning. The second project, titled "Monitoring of land-use changes for appropriate planning", was primarily concerned with the promotion of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing data by holding one Expert Working Group Meeting on standardization of GIS, and one Working Group Meeting on regional information exchange (please also refer to chapter 40 for more information concerning GIS). The third project titled "Sustainable development of coastal ecotourism", comprised case studies on the effect ecotourism has on fragile ecosystems, a regional workshop to discuss environmentally sound ecotourism, and disseminate the experiences gained from these activities through reports, training materials, resource papers and country reports.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** Please refer to the Status Report
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Please refer to the Status Report
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** The total amount for the three proposed projects was estimated to be US \$ 395,000, with US \$ 150,000 spent on the "Integrating geoscience into land use planning" (US \$ 20,000 in 1994 and 130,000 in 1995); US \$ 120,000 for the "Monitoring of land-use changes for appropriate planning" (US \$ 60,000 in 1994 and US \$ 60,000 in 1995); and for the "Sustainable development of coastal ecotourism" was estimated to cost US \$ 125,000 (US \$50,000 in 1994, and US \$ 75,000 in 1995).
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Capacity building in the management of protected areas, rehabilitation of mangroves, peoples participation and wildlife conservation are among the areas that ESCAP undertakes in order to promote conservation of biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific region. These activities are carried out in cooperation with concerned governments and international organizations including the World Bank, World Conservation Union, World Wildlife Fund, Smithsonian Institution, the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks, the Forest Department of the Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, among others.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** International Convention on Biological Diversity
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Focus was on capacity and institution building toward effective protected area management.
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** Activities for this section have been supported by the World Bank and UNEP.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Close cooperations have been provided by countries and international organizations in Asia and the Pacific region. World Bank, UNEP, IUCN, WWF, Smithsonian Institution and related UN organizations and various Forest Departments of the Governments in the region have worked closely in this area.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification

Particularly in Africa

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The problems and issues of desertification and land degradation are being addressed in the ESCAP region through the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP), which has been operational since 1988, and which brought together countries of the region to design and draft the Asian Annex to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It has also provided, among others, technical and financial support toward the preparation of National Action Programmes to combat desertification in China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. ESCAP's role is seen as a major regional partner, together with UNEP, UNDP and the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and other concerned international organizations and agencies in the region in promoting the regional implementation of the Asian Annex to the Convention.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Asian Annex). The ESCAP resolution 51/11 on strengthening the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) provided guidelines for cooperation among the concerned countries and develop a programme of work.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The prime objective of the regional network is toward capacity and institutional building.

3. Major Groups: The major groups are invited to the meetings to report on their activities and provide views.

4. Finance: The regional network has been supported by UNDP and UNEP since 1988.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: ESCAP serves as the secretariat of DESCONAP and the activities of this regional network are undertaken in close cooperation and collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, FAO, WMO, UNESCO, and non-governmental organizations.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: No information

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** No information
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

This sector was included in the Work Programme for the biennium 1994-1995. Two additional projects to the programme was proposed. The first project titled "Utilization of agricultural biomass for sustainable rural development" (please also refer to chapter 9 and 21) which focuses on capacity-building, entailed establishing a regional network for dissemination of information on the results of the UNDP-funded Regional Energy Development Programme; preparing and distributing audio visual materials and initiating Sub-regional training programmes on the utilization of biomass energy conversion technologies; and establishing a think-tank on the subject.

The second project: "Income generation for disadvantaged rural groups on marginal lands", which also has implications for combatting poverty and strengthening the role of the farmer (chapter 3 and 32), through setting up revolving credit funds using locally trained personnel and relying on selected national government-owned financial institutions.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: ESCAP coordinates the Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific to promote cooperation and joint activities on sustainable rural development.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to the Status Report

3. Major Groups: Please refer to the Status Report

4. Finance: "Utilization of agricultural biomass for sustainable rural development" activity was estimated to cost US \$ 150,000 (US \$ 50,000 in 1994 and US \$ 100,000 in 1995).

For the project: "Income generation for disadvantaged rural groups on marginal lands" ESCAP provided 20 per cent of the funds for the revolving funds as a security, plus the cost of training of the extension officers and evaluation meetings. With 6 participating countries, an average number of beneficiary of 250 per country and the loan individual seize not exceeding US \$ 1,000, the ESCAP guarantee will be approximately US \$ 300,000, spending 30% in 1994 and 70% in 1995.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to the Status Report

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:**Convention on Biological Diversity**

No information

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** No information
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: No information

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** No information
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:**The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**

Through the adaption of mechanisms to implement Agenda 21 activities, ESCAP has been promoting coastal and marine environmental protection. These mechanisms include the work programme for 1994-1995, the formulation of various guidelines based on surveys, the development of a methodology for integrated assessment of industrial and urban development in coastal areas, and the initiation of a regional working group on marine environment and oceanographic studies to share information and experiences. The cooperation between ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank led to a study promoting investment in the coastal areas in the People's Republic of China, Viet Nam and Cambodia to enhance environmental resources.

Coastal environmental management plans have been developed for Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tonga. The present plan is to follow-up on these through national workshops for capacity building and identification of investment projects. Together with UNEP, ESCAP has also developed the South Asian Seas Regional Action Plan the implementation of which is promoted through the SACEP Secretariat.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Regional Action Plan for Asian Seas, originally adopted in 1981, was revised at the Bangkok meeting in 1993, and the Co-ordinating Body on the Sea of East Asia (COBSEA) was established with the mandate of coordinating, initiating, reviewing and approving activities related to this sector. ESCAP has also cooperated with UNEP in setting up the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The main thrust of ESCAP's capacity-building activity related to this sector is the assistance given to promote a wide range of objectives from institutional and legislative strengthening to the support of micro-enterprises in coastal areas. ESCAP has also been collaborating with UNDP and SACEP on surveys for capacity-building of coastal environmental management in South Asia. A planning guideline for coastal environmental management plan was prepared by ESCAP to promote national capacity in this area.

3. Major Groups: No information

4. Finance: ADB funded the project on coastal environmental management for South China Seas for US\$ 100,000.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to the Status Report and #2.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: ESCAP has published a number of reports on the state of fresh water resources, and has conducted a survey which exposed that a large majority of the countries in the region have a national policy on the issue.

In addition, in the programme of work for 1994-1995, ESCAP suggested a project designated "Protection and recharge of groundwater resources", comprising state-of-the-art reporting on groundwater recharge methods applicable under the climatic conditions of region, and mathematical models on the contamination of groundwater caused by surface pollutants. It also included setting up of a workshop to explain the implications of the above mentioned reports, and to select possible sites for pilot projects concerning groundwater recharge in consultation with the countries in the region.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: ESCAP coordinates the activities of the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific which is comprised of agencies involved in the work on water resources. The Task Force meets semi-annually to exchange information and to identify activities for joint implementation and projects of common interest.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to the Status Report

3. Major Groups: No information

4. Finance: The estimated cost for the "Protection and recharge of groundwater resources" activity was US\$150,000 (US\$50,000 in 1994, and US\$100,000 in 1995).

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Please refer to #1.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: ESCAP and UNEP have conducted a project called "Preliminary Assessment of Illegal Traffic in Dangerous and Toxic Products and Wastes in the ESCAP Region" designed to follow up on the UN General Assembly resolution related to the issue. The Regional Expert Group Workshop was held in July 1992 with the participation of 15 countries and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The issue was also partly discussed at the Expert-level Workshop on the Prevention of Illegal Traffic in Hazardous Waste in Tokyo, March 1994. The report has been made for (a) the preliminary assessment of environmental and health implications of illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products and wastes; (b) the list of national contact points in the ESCAP countries relevant to international traffic of such wastes and products; (c) the report on national legislation and institutional mechanisms; and (d) the information on illegal traffic of such wastes and products in the ESCAP region. After the Workshop, the related guidelines were published under the title "Guidelines for the Development of a Legal and Institutional Framework to Prevent Illegal Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products and Wastes" (1994, ST/ESCAP/1375).

ESCAP and UNEP have continuously made efforts for the development of regional or subregional arrangement for the monitoring and management of illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products and wastes through its further collaboration.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Please refer to the Status Report

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: ESCAP has launched a study to compile information on the state of application of technologies for the control and prevention of pollution, especially industrial pollution.

The ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific has been advocating balanced and environmentally sound fertilization, and integrated pest management in its programme of training, advisory service and publications.

The major capacity building issue was the legislative and institutional arrangement which is presently too weak to deal with this issue.

3. Major Groups: Representatives of major groups were invited to the expert-level workshop in Tokyo in March 1994.

4. Finance: Establishing laboratories for testing of toxic chemical and products in some of the countries and upgrading of laboratories in a number of them, would be required as this involves provisions of financial support.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Regional cooperation would be an effective means for capacity building. The project-provided opportunities for exchange of information among the various countries who were represented by participants from the Customs Department, Environment Department, Shipping Department, etc.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

ESCAP has reviewed the state of hazardous waste management and held a Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management in Bangkok, August 1993. As an outcome of the Workshop, the related guidelines were published as "Guidelines on Monitoring Methodologies for Water, Air, and Toxic Chemicals/Hazardous Wastes" (ST/ESCAP/1354), December 1994, which consists of guidelines for: (a) air quality monitoring; (b) monitoring of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes; (d) the country case studies for environmental monitoring in selected ESCAP countries.

Moreover, ESCAP has also published a reference text of hazardous waste minimisation, entitled, "Manual for Hazardous Waste Management" (1994, ST/ESCAP/1419) in order to enhance waste minimisation/waste prevention in view of (a) the experiences in the developed countries; (b) the need of waste minimisation; (c) treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes; (d) programme implementation, monitoring, and enforcement; (e) review on hazardous wastes in the ESCAP countries; (f) the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes; and (g) human resources, training, and public education in hazardous wastes.

As part of the follow-up actions, a Training Workshop on Industrial Audit for Waste Minimisation was held in Bangkok in December 1996 as the follow up action and further elaboration for minimisation of hazardous wastes in the ESCAP region.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: No information

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Major capacity building issues are elaboration of policies, strengthening of institutions and human resources development.

3. Major Groups: No information

4. Finance: A project was implemented with financing by the Netherlands for US\$ 500,000. The project on Industrial Audit for Waste Minimization financed by the Government of Japan was US\$ 140,978.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Regional cooperation could be an effective means for capacity-building.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes and Sewage-related Issues

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: ESCAP has undertaken, both independently and in collaboration with the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), projects on urban waste management. The Proceedings of the CITYNET/LIFE Regional Training Workshop on Waste-water Management, Colombo, July 1996, are currently in print. The publication contains a

selection of papers on issues of waste-water management and experiences gained in a number of Asian cities.

In addition, ESCAP proposed the "Utilization of agricultural bio-mass for sustainable rural development" (please refer to chapter 9 and 14) project for the conversion of bio-mass from the traditional direct combustion into a variety of uses, such as animal nutrition, composite manure or base material for building and packing substances in order to decrease the polluting effects of the bio-mass. This involves an improvement of bio-mass energy conversion technologies and also allows for other residual utilization in the context of environmentally sound and sustainable technologies.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No specific information.
- 4. Finance:** "Utilization of agricultural bio-mass for sustainable rural development" activity was estimated to cost US\$150,000 (US\$50,000 in 1994 and US\$100,000 in 1995)
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** Please refer to the Status Report

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: No information

Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 1. Decision-Making Structure:** No information
- 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information
- 3. Major Groups:** No information
- 4. Finance:** No information
- 5. Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was

24.b Increasing the proportion of women decision makers.

Percentage of women:

in government %

in parliament %

at local government level %

24.2.e assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.

24.2.f and 24.2.c formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development.

24.2.d establishing mechanisms by 1995 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

The limited involvement of women in the Region with regards to sustainable development activities is seen by ESCAP as an obstacle for the achievement of Agenda 21 objectives. However, a growing participation of major groups, including women, has happened in the region in terms of coordination, training, information dissemination, research policy-making and project design, although this increasing trend varies greatly between the Member States. ESCAP has promoted the full involvement of women in the regional strategy and the programme of work by convening a meeting between governments and NGOs representatives on Women and Environment.

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.4 establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21.

25.6 reducing youth unemployment

25.5 ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth -- gender balanced -- have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

ESCAP and UNDP have studied the variety of Youth and Children activities and institutions which has provided a classification of institutions and a recognition of the importance and forefront role they play in the promotion of environmental education and awareness of sustainable development. In addition, ESCAP has been encouraging youth organizations to promote the Universal Code of Environmental Conduct (UCEC) by publishing a Handbook for Youth Organizations on the issue.

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.3.a establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments:

26.3.b strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies

26.3.c involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

27.5 developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively.

27.6 reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation.

27.8 promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.

27.7 establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

In Asia and the Pacific region, there are over 2,000 NGOs involved in national and regional-level activities relating to sustainable development and in many cases, NGOs are involved in the implementation of Agenda 21. ESCAP also relies upon NGOs to collect and disseminate information in collaboration with ESCAP, and to raise public awareness, improve environmental education and training, and give voice to the opinions of stakeholders.

Ch. 28: ESCAP' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.2.d encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

In order to enhance the process of a local Agenda 21, the Thematic Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (please refer chapter 8 for details) proposed to undertake a project called "Development of Agenda 21 at Local Authority Level" with the objective of promoting the integration of environmental issues in the municipal policies and disseminate the results of the project through the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) and other established networks. The activities of this project includes carrying out pilot studies in a limited number of cities where city development management and planning is undertaken in the context of rapid urbanization; organize sub-regional meetings to discuss and explain the results; and identify follow-up actions at the country and sub-regional levels to further promote public awareness at the local level. The project was estimated to cost US \$ 200,000 (US \$ 70,000 in 1994, and US \$ 130,000 in 1995).

See also chapters 7 and 21, where most of the work in human settlements issues has been implemented at the local level. This has certainly contributed to the localizing of environmental issues.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.2 full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.

29.3 a to e (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

30.6 increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output.

30.18.a encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs.

List any actions taken in this area:

ESCAP organized a three-day Symposium of Private Sector involving business and industry in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in November 1995. They dealt with issues of their participation in the promotion of sustainable development. They identified ISO 14000 to play a significant role in that regard.

30.18.b increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.3.b improving exchange of knowledge and concerns between s&t community and the general public.

31.9 developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.5.c promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

32.5.e developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

32.5.f enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

The proposed project "Income generation for disadvantaged rural groups on marginal lands" (please refer to chapter 3 and 14) also has implications for strengthening the role of farmers through setting up revolving credit funds with the expected outcome of breaking the poverty spiral of the clients participating in the project. ESCAP provided 20 per cent of the funds for the revolving funds as a security, plus the cost of training of the extension officers and evaluation meetings which was estimated to cost US \$ 300,000.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The actual financing for implementing sustainable development is considered a major constraint both within the region and for ESCAP as an organization. The situation is worsened by a rarity of prudent and sensible economic policies with adequate safeguard for environmental protection

at the national level and the trend of decreasing ODA funds which is the main source of financing sustainable development in many of the region's countries.

ESCAP has held a Regional meeting on Financing of Environmentally Sound Development where funding mechanisms and efforts to obtain additional funds was addressed. In addition to the meeting, ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank have conducted a study on how to finance Environmentally Sound Development (please refer to Chapter 38).

CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:

The Framework of Action for Sustainable Development of policy-making capacities includes the application of natural resource accounting, market-based instruments, the cost and benefits of the utilization of resources, and the advancement of appropriate models for sustainable development. These were discussed in ESCAP forums and expert level meetings.

ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES: No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

The programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 addresses technology transfer.

The issues were raised at the Second and Third Sessions of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development and at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development held in November 1995.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION: No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:

No information

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development: The work in environmental education that is taking place in the ESCAP is directed at different groups, for example, schoolchildren, teachers, university students and lecturers, organizers of non-formal environmental education activities, various government officials, government planners, engineers, industrial managers and the general public. region. Numerous reference and resource materials, curriculum structures, learning sequences and corresponding training outlines are available.

b) Increasing public awareness: The Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 (RAP), (adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, November 1995): under the programme area concerned with Environmental education, public awareness and training stresses the integration of environment and development concerns in order to achieve sustainability. The RAP identifies that a critical issue in this regard is how to communicate information and knowledge and the adoption of appropriate actions to achieve the desired goals. It calls for refined, re-oriented, integrated, action-oriented, context-specific, culturally acceptable education, training and information programmes and materials, including environmental education plans and improved curriculum for school and out-of-school programmes at primary, secondary and tertiary, levels.

At the NGO/Media Symposium on Environment and Development, held in association with the Ministerial Conference in November 1995, the need for access to information was stressed together with regional networking.

A project is ongoing on promotion of environmental awareness in rural communities with collection of community-level reports on the environment from 15 selected countries in the region; involving local NGOs and media for development of information material and training material for community leaders. A regional meeting is to be held 4-6 June 1997.

Publications issued - include, Report on State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Citizens reports on state of the environment in Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia (prepared by AFEJ); Reporting on the Environment: A Handbook for Journalists (AFEJ); quarterly newsletter - ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment; bi-monthly ESCAP News Briefing : selection from regional newspapers.

c) Promoting training

The implementation of sustainable development in the region is constrained by the paucity of trained personnel, low level of literacy, especially among women, and the low level of public awareness and citizens participation with regards to sustainable development and the environment.

ESCAP - The Regional Information Service and Education Network (under the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP)) - information exchange on education and training in remote sensing and sharing of the facilities in the region for this purpose. Human Resources Development has an ongoing project on training for trainers for youth participation in development with environmental education elements. Training workshops for environmental journalists are regularly organized by the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists . UNEP/ROAP operates the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (NETTLAP).

ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS:

Non-governmental organizations : awareness raising through formal and non-formal educational methods, including inter-personal communication, campaigns, mass media and use of traditional forms and music, organization of nature camps of the RAP.

Media personnel : instrumental in conveying information on the environment to the public at large. In 1988, ESCAP established the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ); it has chapters in 15 countries of the region, each with their own work programme. Through AFEJ, contacts are

maintained with the International Forum of Environmental Journalists, Inter-Press Service and other regional media organizations.

Private Sector : environmental impact assessments and publicity of industrial standards; pollution prevention methods; enforcement, awareness, information and education to ensure compliance with environmental regulations (recommendation by the Private Sector Forum held in association with the Ministerial Conference held in Bangkok in 1995).

Women : grassroots communities and informal education; environmental protection campaigns (e.g. Chipko); programmes to promote environmental education in schools (Women in Environment, Nepal); ESCAP water and sanitation project.

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION OF THE LABOUR ACTIVITIES: No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.

Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.

Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

REGIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: ESCAP is conducting a project which intends to enhance the regional capacity for environmentally sound and sustainable development for the institutional setting and policy modalities for integration of environmental considerations into economic planning and decision-making processes as well as into the framing of development strategies and policies of ESCAP developing countries. The project will include a review of the institutional modalities for making policy decisions and undertaking coordination between ministries/agencies and an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses; a critical analysis of the types of measures being used to integrate environmental considerations and of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in terms of perceived effectiveness in achieving stated policy objectives. Also included in the project are studies on modalities for environmental assessment to assist in policy development. The first phase of the project, which is financed by the Government of Japan, has a budget of US \$665,000 (please refer to Chapter 8).

Moreover, ESCAP is also planning to organize case studies for selected small economies on exploring the potential use of a modelling framework for sustainable economic development and methodology for integrating environmental considerations into economic planning. These projects are expected to provide some options and solutions for conflicts in priorities between promoting economic growth and exports and protecting the fragile environment and making development sustainable. Although policies have to date being biased in favor of economic growth in the hope that growth itself will provide a solution, policy makers are more and more frequently being called upon to devise new ways and means of promoting growth as well as sustainable development so that the depletion of natural resources can be arrested and living conditions improved. The provision for these tasks are set at US\$16,000 to cover two countries.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state: After the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, ESCAP decided to conduct a review process of the implementation of Agenda 21 through the legislative Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The first session was held in October 1993, the second in October 1994, and the third in October 1996.

A regional Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was established with ESCAP providing the Secretariat support following the 1990 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok. This Committee undertook the responsibility to promote joint activities and enhance cooperation among the member agencies to promote the implementation of Agenda 21. It started with establishment of a database taking the 1994-95 work programme into consideration. Among the joint activities were the preparation of the report of 1995 State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, organizing of the 1995 Ministerial Conference, preparation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development with a view to promote implementation of Agenda 21 and sharing of publications to conduct training programme. A joint project was on development of environmental indicators which is being pursued for testing at the country level. The total project cost is in the order of US\$100,000.

ESCAP works closely with UNEP and other UN agencies in order to disseminate information to Governments and the public. For example, ESCAP publishes newsletters jointly with UNEP (UN Asia Pacific News, Asia Pacific Environment), training and awareness programmes for journalists and NGOs, publications and other public awareness activities. The publication of Regional Information and Communication Strategy for Asia and the Pacific (1995-2000) formulated by Governments, NGOs and the media has enhanced inter-agency cooperation. It has identified other areas for joint action, for example, on monitoring and assessment of the environment, human resources development, exchange of information through the ESCAP and UNEP regional newsletter on the environment.

ESCAP also worked closely with the Asian Development Bank in organizing a number of operational activities which included the development of investment projects on environment in the coastal areas of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Hainan Island of China (please refer to Chapter 17), climate change and support to convention, and on financing of sustainable development. It assisted in the organization of the Ministerial Conference and the publication of the 1995 State of the Environment Report. ADB also supports an energy and air pollution, and related capacity-building project for capacity building and cooperation among North-East Asian countries. The total amount of support for all activities was in the order of \$1 million. ESCAP, together with ADB, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, is promoting the sub-regional cooperation on environment in North-East Asia with a view to alleviate transboundary issues of energy and air pollution through exchange of information and capacity building and also on the issue of ecosystem management.

ESCAP has been collaborating with intergovernmental bodies in formulating their respective sustainable development programmes of action. The bodies are: ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN); South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP); and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) which have already formulated their plans for the implementation of Agenda 21. ESCAP also holds regular meetings with subregional bodies such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), ASEAN, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Forum Secretariat, and the Mekong River Commission. In addition, ESCAP signed memoranda of understanding with a number of them.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:

Effectiveness of existing international agreements or instruments require a mutually reinforcing system of international and national environmental legislation. While international legal instruments establish a harmonized set of obligations, national legal instruments reflect these obligations for appropriate implementation. A number of countries in the Asian and Pacific region have not yet incorporated these obligations in the national legislation primarily due to weak capacities in drafting for promulgation and implementation of such legislation. ESCAP is assisting the countries in the region through technical assistance, training and advisory services for the purpose.

Thus, in order to assist the countries in effectively meeting the national obligations, ESCAP conducted a review of the status of implementation of Ramsar Convention on Wetland Management at the cost of about 15,000 US dollars. The review covered 24 countries in the Asian and Pacific region examining the main constraints in the implementation of the conventions at national level and made recommendations to overcome the constraints.

In support of the Basel Convention on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the Secretariat undertook an inter-country project on the preliminary assessment of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes in the ESCAP region. The project costing about US\$ 160,000 involved 13 countries from which information was collected on national legislation and regulations, mechanisms and manpower capabilities for the implementation of the Convention (please refer to Chapter 19).

United Nations Convention on Desertification (please refer to Chapter 12)

In order to promote the implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ESCAP has promoted development of a regional strategy and a network for capacity building. ESCAP has also organized regional seminars, consultative meetings and workshops. ESCAP is in the process of preparing regional input to COP3 to be held in Kyoto in December 1997.

ESCAP, in cooperation with UNEP and World Conservation Union (IUCN), assisted in the development of a proposal for the establishment of a regional law centre at the National University of Singapore. This centre has now been established and is running training programmes for enhancing the national capacities for support to the international conventions.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade					
3.	Combating poverty					
4.	Changing consumption patterns					
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability					
6.	Human health					
7.	Human settlements					
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making					
9.	Protection of the atmosphere					
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources					
11.	Combating deforestation					
12.	Combating desertification and drought					
13.	Sustainable mountain development					

14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development					
15.	Conservation of biological diversity					
16.	Biotechnology					
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources					
18.	Freshwater resources					
19.	Toxic chemicals					
20.	Hazardous wastes					
21.	Solid wastes					
22.	Radioactive wastes					
24.	Women in sustainable development					
25.	Children and youth					
26.	Indigenous people					
27.	Non-governmental organizations					
28.	Local authorities					
29.	Workers and trade unions					
30.	Business and industry					
31.	Scientific and technological community					
32.	Farmers					
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms					
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building					
35.	Science for sustainable development					
36.	Education, public awareness and training					
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building					
38.	International institutional arrangements					
39.	International legal instruments					
40.	Information for decision-making					

Additional Comments

ESCAP is a member of the Task Force on Environmental Statistics set up by the United Nations Statistical Commission and will also be following the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics and the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Environmental Data.

Information for decision making constitutes a core area in the work programme of ESCAP and has several dimensions including collection of statistics, standardization, monitoring, assessment and analysis, development of indicators, modelling, training and capacity building. Some of the activities within these

dimensions are conducted in cooperation with the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

The secretariat implemented a project on the development of environmental statistics costing US\$ 387,000 from 1994-1996. Under this project, six national compendiums were developed on environmental statistics, a handbook on Environmental Statistics was formulated and two expert group meetings were organized. A follow-up project involving 41 countries has been developed at the cost of US\$ 600,000 under which curriculum will be prepared and training courses will be held for institutional capacity building in environmental statistics.

ESCAP also implemented a project on environmental assessment under which the report, 1995 State of the Environment Report in the Asian and Pacific, was published which included 25 chapters covering all the important dimensions included in the Agenda 21. In addition, the project involved establishment of national focal points for state of the environment reporting in the countries. Guidelines were also published on the State of Environment reporting in Asia and the Pacific. The total cost of the project was about US\$ 400,000 funded by the Government of Japan and the Asian Development Bank (Reference to Chapter 38).

ESCAP, in response to the need of the developing countries, has also initiated a multi-year, multi-disciplinary project for research and studies on applications of advanced satellite data for sustainable natural resources and environmental management. This project is being implemented in collaboration with 20 scientific and technological teams selected from 15 ESCAP member countries. Studies and research will focus on the use of various data collection sensors in combination with GIS, satellite-based positioning system in monitoring global change, global climate system, biomass and fundamental productivity as a part of carbon cycle, monitoring of water and energy cycle etc. It will also develop scientific methodologies for natural resources mapping. This project, with a cash support of US\$ 2.5 million and strong TCDC contribution, is anticipated to make a far-reaching impact on national capacity building for environmental protection and natural resources management using space technology.

ESCAP is also implementing a project on indicators for sustainable development. During the first phase of the project, a regional meeting was organized in which 13 countries participated. The Meeting helped in evaluating the efforts being conducted towards the development of indicators of sustainable development in the region, exchange of information and modalities for coordinating national regional and international efforts. It also reviewed the procedure for pilot testing of indicators at national level. The second phase of the project involves national testing of indicators. China and the Philippines have already confirmed their participation in national testing while Maldives and Pakistan are still considering to be included for national testing of indicators. The total cost of the project is about US\$ 84,000.

Modeling is another area covered by ESCAP. It has recently published. "Modeling Framework for Sustainable Development; A Methodology for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Planning". A project is also being promoted to build national capacities through potential use of modeling framework. The total cost of the project is US\$ 16,000 (reference to Chapter 37).

Efforts have also been made on the development of natural resource accounting. A project was implemented in 1994-1996 period towards this end with the cost of US\$ 479,000. The output of this were six national case studies, the development of guidelines and two training activities. With the assistance of UNDP and UNEP, studies were conducted on natural accounting leading to the publication "Natural Resource Accounting: A Framework and Guidelines" (ST/ESCAP/1368) and also an evaluation of natural resources.

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