









Greater Mekong Subregion Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP)

Dialogue Towards a GMS-wide Policy Platform for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

18-20 July 2023 (in-person and online) 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Bangkok time) Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

To join the Policy Dialogue online, click here to register in advance.

A confirmation email will be sent once registered.

AGENDA

Background

The Asian Development Bank's GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP) aims to facilitate the Core Environment Program Strategic Framework and Action Plan's implementation. To that end, it will work to ensure that the SDGs and NDCs related to climate change and biodiversity are put into action. To put it another way, by helping to create more "green and climate-friendly" projects under the GMS Regional Investment Framework, it will help GMS become a more integrated, inclusive, resilient, prosperous, and sustainable subregion. By focusing on (i) combating climate change, (ii) bolstering climate and disaster resilience, and (iii) improving environmental sustainability, CCESP supports ADB's Strategy 2030 operational priorities.

As stated in the Paris Agreement, "adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems..." The National adaptation plan (NAP) is highly recommended to realize this Paris Agreement goal. NAPs allow for multi-sector medium- and long-term adaptation planning priorities to be included. Since climate change will have societal effects, critical sectors and infrastructure will be impacted, vulnerable groups and communities will suffer more, critical habitats and species must be protected while also enhancing their benefits, and a country's obligations under the UNFCCC must be met, the NAP process makes it possible to identify the systems and capacities needed to integrate adaptation into development planning, decision making, and budgeting. The NAPs' overarching goal is to institutionalise adaptation as a central tenet of development, so making communities, ecosystems, and economies more robust in the face of climate change.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) is defined as "the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It aims to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change". The GMS countries have recognized EBA as a critical strategy for sustainable and resilient development of the agriculture and water resources sectors in policies including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), NAPs, National Biodiversity Strategy, and Action Plans (NBSAPs), climate change master plans and sectoral development plans. Despite this, gaps remain. For instance, the approach has not been adequately mainstreamed in the water resources sector – a deficiency that will also impact the agriculture sector. Other barriers include farmer adoption constraints due to a lack of financial incentives and tenure security issues which discourage investment in measures that generate ecosystem benefits in the longer term.

Rural communities in the GMS (comprising 67 percent of the GMS population) are on the frontline of climate change and most vulnerable to losses and damages, and many communities lack the resources and capacity to deal with them; therefore, adaptation needs to be implemented locally where vulnerability is experienced. Communities and households need government assistance, planning, and policy reform to create enabling conditions for effective climate change adaptation. While significant strides have been achieved in developing policy and regulatory frameworks and an increase on capacities of governments on mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM), there are challenges however to current national policy and legal instruments which permeate and are relevant to issues to community-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Moreso, much effort is needed to ensure that community-based adaptation (CBA) and community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) are mainstreamed into local development processes.

To generate insights that will institutionalize a partnership mechanism to operationalize the national adaptation plans and attract private sector participation in the GMS, the CCESP is hosting dialogues towards a GMS-wide policy platform for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM). The first dialogue will be held on 18-20 July in Bangkok, focusing on enhancing fit-for-purpose CCA and DRM planning and actions at national and regional levels in the agriculture and water resources sectors.

Policy dialogue objectives

To achieve this goal, the dialogue will:

- 1. Engage with countries in the GMS, national and sectoral stakeholders as well as regional actors and stakeholders involved in planning, implementing, or funding climate change adaptation to identify priorities and share lessons on NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM in key critical sectors (i.e., agriculture and water resource sectors).
- Explore interests and opportunities on how to set up a regional partnership mechanism to operationalize priorities on NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM and attract private sector participation in the GMS.
- 3. Identify options and mechanisms to close the gap in financing the priorities on NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/EbA_NAP.pdf

Expected Outcomes

The primary outcomes of the dialogue are:

- 1. Identifying priority actions on NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM in the agriculture and water resource sectors.
- 2. Interests among GMS government agencies, and other national and regional stakeholders in establishing a multistakeholder partnership mechanism to operationalize the national adaptation plans and attract private sector participation.
- 3. Identification of financial options to close the adaptation financing gap, and potential selected CCA and DRM priorities for formulating climate investment plans in the agriculture and water resource sectors.

Venue and Participants

The policy dialogue is an in-person event and is planned for three days at the Sukosol Hotel in Bangkok, on-line participation will also be an option.

The target participants are as follows:

- GMS WGE representatives
- Representatives from GMS agencies for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and water resource sectors, forestry, and biodiversity conservation
- Relevant national and regional NGOs and civil society
- Relevant private sector stakeholders
- Development partners
- Academic institutions
- ADB and TA team

Contact

The policy dialogue is managed by Dr. Xi Jiao, CCESP Co-Team Leader and Thematic lead for Theme 1 (Climate and Disaster Resilience).

Please contact the following for further information:

Dr. Xi Jiao, Co-Team Leader and Thematic Lead for Theme 1 at xjiao@ramboll.com

Ms. Yujie Zhang, Event Manager at yizhang@ramboll.com

Ms. Agata Sliwa, Communications Specialist at AGSA@ramboll.dk

GMS CCESP TA Team at gms-ccesp@ramboll.com

Tuesday 18 July 2023

8:30-09:00

Registration

Opening remarks

- Mr. Thalearngsak Petchsuwan, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB

09:00-09:30

Welcome and introduction to agenda of the policy dialogue

 Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader

Session 1: National adaptation plans (NAPs) and policy coherence in climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM)

This session will introduce participants to national adaptation plans, their elements, steps, and how to implement them, as well as the importance of these plans in enhancing the resilience of the GMS, particularly in the agriculture and water sectors. It will also be discussed how to formulate NAPs using available resources. This session provides a foundational understanding of NAPs for those with varying levels of prior knowledge. In addition, the session will also address policy fragmentation and achieved policy coherence in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the governance and management of the agriculture and water sectors. The experience of Bangkok in achieving policy coherence in DRR will also be discussed.

9:30-10:15

Keynote Speakers:

- Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, UNEP
- Dr. Tavida Kamolvej, Deputy Governor, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)

10:15-10:30

Group Photo and Coffee Break

SESSION 2: NAP, CCA AND DRM POLICIES AND PRIORITIES IN THE GMS

Session 2.1: Findings on Vulnerability Assessments and identified priority adaptation options in the GMS

10:30-10:50

This session will review the findings of the agriculture and water sector vulnerability assessments. According to the assessment, it will briefly identify the most significant climate change hazards and risks for the GMS countries and highlight the highest priority adaptation options for the agriculture and water sectors.

Presenter:

• Ms. Cynthia Nitsch, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok

Session 2.2: Progress and Prospects on CCA and DRM in the GMS countries

This session will provide each country with the opportunity to share the current status of each country's NAP or pertinent adaptation or disaster risk reduction strategy, and related national priorities in the water and agriculture sectors. The following questions can guide the presentations:

10:50-12:30

- What is the current status of CCA and DRM planning in your country? Please focus on recent and key developments.
- What good practices and lessons on CCA and DRM planning, policies, and practice can you share with other countries?

- Can you identify the challenges and gaps that your country encountered in CCA and DRM planning, policies and practice and how did you overcome them? Do you still need support for them?
- What are the CCA and DRM priorities in the agriculture and water resource sectors in your country?

Presenters:

- Mr. Kong Chanthan, Vice Principal Director and Climate Resilient Specialist, National School of Local Administration, Cambodia
- Mr. Qian Zhaohui, Senior Programme Manager, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China
- Mr. Khampasong Khamvene, Deputy Director of Adaptation Division, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
- Mr. Suphat Phengphan, Environmentalist, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- Ms. Nguyen Thu Hien, Official, Climate Change Adaptation Division, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam

Moderator:

• Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB

12:30-13:30

Lunch Break

Session 2.3: Panel Discussion - Deepen the implementation of identified priority CCA and DRM options in the agriculture and water sectors

This session will respond to the priorities discussed in the previous sessions by providing options or reflections on how these priorities can be pursued most effectively by the various GMS member states and what the ADB and other multilateral organizations can do to make this a reality.

Panelists:

13:30-14:20

- Dr. Rathana Peou Norbert-Munns, Climate Foresight and Scenarios Development expert, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
- Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, Principal Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, ADB
- Mr. Tara Buakamsri, Thailand Country Director, Greenpeace Southeast Asia

Plenary discussion:

Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

Facilitator:

Dr. Albert Salamanca, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok

SESSION 3: EBA POLICIES AND PRIORITIES IN THE GMS

Session 3.1: Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in water and agriculture sectors: policy and practice

14:20-14:40

This session will share insights on EBA in agriculture and water resources sectors in the GMS and highlight good practices, challenges, and recommendations regarding policy and implementation and pathways to scaling up.

Presenter:

 Ms. Chloe Pottinger-Glass, Research Associate, and Dr. Ridhi Saluja, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok

Session 3.2: Progress and prospects on EBA in the GMS countries

This session will provide each country with the opportunity to share the current status of each country's EBA policy and practices, successes and challenges in implementing policies and projects focusing on EBA in the agriculture and water sectors. The following questions can guide the presentations:

- What has been your country's experience devising policy and implementing EBA policies and projects focusing on water and agriculture sectors? What have been the successes and challenges?
- What are the current priorities for EBA in your country in the water and agriculture sectors?
- Are there mechanisms of intersectoral collaboration for promoting EBA?

Presenters:

14:40-16:10

- Mr. Ith Chumnan, Vice Head of EIA office, Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- Mrs. Liqiong Yang, Senior Engineer, Yunnan Institute of Ecological and Environmental Sciences, PRC
- Mrs. Sengphasouk Xayavong, Deputy Director of Division, Department of Water Resources, Lao PDR
- Mr. Pipat Ruangnam, Expert on Mass Promotion and Coordination, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- Mr. Nguyen Xuan Dung, Head of Ecology and Landscape Division, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Viet Nam

Moderator:

• Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, Principal Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, ADB

Coffee Break (included in the session 3.2)

Session 3.3: Panel Discussion - deepen the implementation of identified priority actions on EBA in the agriculture and water sectors

This session will respond to the priorities discussed in the previous sessions by providing options or reflections on how these priorities can be pursued most effectively by the various GMS member states and what the ADB and other multilateral organizations can do to make this a reality.

Panelists:

- Mr. Stefano Zenobi, Data and Transparency Specialist, WWF
- Dr. Ho Huu Loc, Assistant Professor, Water Engineering and Management, AIT
- Ms. Jian Wang, Program Manager/Head of the Department of Sustainable Energy and Environment, Mekong Institute, Thailand
- Mr. Sey Peou, Policy Manager Cambodia, Conservation International (CI)

Plenary discussion:

· Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

Facilitator:

. Ms. Sushmita Mandal, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok

17:15-17:30

16:10-17:15

Wrap up and closing of the 1st day:

 Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

8:30-9:00

Registration and recap

SESSION 4: CBA/CBDRM POLICIES AND PRIORITIES IN THE GMS

Session 4.1: Enhancing Community-Based Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region – good practices challenges, opportunities, and priority actions for scaling up

9:00-9:20

This session will share insights on CBA and CBDRM in the GMS, highlighting good practice, challenges and recommendations in terms of policy and implementation and pathways to scaling up.

Presenter:

• Mr. Noel Puno, TA-9915 Community-based CCA and DRM Specialist

Session 4.2: Progress and prospects on CBA/CBDRM in the GMS countries

This session will provide each country with the opportunity to share the current status of each country's CBA/CBDRM policy and practices, and their experiences and challenges in implementing policies and projects and in institutionalizing CBA and CBDRM. The following questions can guide the presentations:

- What has been your country's experience devising policy and implementing CBA and CBDRM?
 What have been the successes and challenges?
- What are the current priorities for CBA and CBDRM in your country?
- Are there mechanisms to ensure coherence between CBA and CBDRM?

Presenters:

9:20-11:10

- Mr. Ouk Navann, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Local Community, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
- Ms. Chen Danyu, Deputy Director of Addressing Climate Change and Regional Cooperation
 Division, Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, PRC
- Mrs. Sonekham Phommahaxay, Deputy Director of Disaster prevention Division, Department of Social Welfare, Lao PDR
- Ms. Duangnapa Uttamangkapong, Director Section of Natural Disaster Policy Sub Division,
 Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand
- Le Viet Hung, Deputy Director, Department of Disaster Safety Control Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam

Moderator:

 Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader

Coffee Break (included in Session 4.2)

Session 4.3: Panel Discussion - deepen the implementation of identified priority actions on CBA/CBDRM in the GMS

11:10-12:00

This session will respond to the priorities discussed in the previous sessions by providing options or reflections on how these priorities can be pursued most effectively by the various GMS member states and what the ADB and other multilateral organizations can do to make this a reality.

Panelists:

- Ms. Bui Viet Hien, Program Officer Climate Change and Resilience, UNDP Vietnam
- Ms. Sophoan Phean, National Director, OXFAM in Cambodia
- Ms. Thi Thanh Hang Pham, Senior Resilience Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization

Plenary discussion:

· Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

Facilitator:

Mr. Noel Puno, TA-9915 Community-based CCA and DRM Specialist

12:00-13:00

Lunch Break

SESSION 5: MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR CCA AND DRM IN THE GMS

13:00- 13:20

Session 5.1: Introduction of establishing a multistakeholder platform for CCA and DRM in the GMS

This session and following 3 sessions will delve deeper into **multi-stakeholder participation** towards establishing the GMS-wide platform – a partnership mechanism to operationalize the national adaptation plans and attract private sector participation.

 Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader

Session 5.2: Multi-stakeholder participation in CCA and DRM in the GMS countries

This session will provide each country with the opportunity to share insights of their country's experiences and challenges in engaging multi-stakeholder participation in CCA and DRM. The following questions can guide the presentations:

- What has been your country's experiences in engaging multi-stakeholder participation in CCA and DRM planning and implementation?
- What have been the successes and challenges?
- Are there mechanisms or platform to ensure multi-stakeholder participation?

Presentations:

13:20-15:15

- Dr. Hak Mao (TBC), Director of Climate Change Adaptation, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
- Ms. Li Xiang, Project Officer, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC
- Mr. Khampasong Khamvene, Deputy Director of Adaptation Division, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
- Miss Jansima Saengsuriya, Director of Participation Support Section, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand
- Ms. Vu Thi Thanh Nga, Researcher, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam

Moderator:

Ms. Pareena Prayukvong, TA9915 Deputy Team Leader and National Consultant for Thailand

Coffee Break (included in the session 5.2)

15:15-17:15

Session 5.3: Panel Discussion - what other platforms could ensure that CCA and DRM planning in the agriculture and water sectors is effective?

Each resource person will quickly introduce their programs and offer opportunities for GMS countries, partners and stakeholders to improve their NAP, DRM, EBA, and CBA/CBDRM planning and implementation.

Panelists:

- Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, UNEP
- Dr. Margaret C Yoovatana, ASEAN-CRN Focal Point, Senior Policy and Plan Specialist Department of Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- Ms. Bouanong Lathouly, SUMERNET Fellow & SUMERNET Young Professional Network
- Mr. Saroeun Soeung, Executive Director, NGO Forum Cambodia

Plenary discussion:

Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

Facilitator:

 Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, Deputy Director, SEI Asia, Programme Director, SUMERNET and MTT

Wrap up and closing of the 2nd day:

17:15-17:30

 Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader

Thursday, 20 July 2023

8:30-9:00

Registration and recap

Session 6: Panel Discussion Financing CCA and DRM Priorities

This session will delve deeper into **funding**, a crucial aspect of implementing the NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM. In this section, subject matter experts will discuss the financial approaches and products that must be developed, supported, or enhanced to support the identified priorities and ensure the needs of vulnerable groups and communities are met. Existing strategies like green bonds, national budgets, microfinance, and debt exchanges will also be discussed. The objective is to provide participants with a variety of potential financing alternatives.

Presenter/Facilitator:

9:00-10:30

 Dr. Ornsaran Pomme Manuamorn, Climate and Sustainable Finance Expert, World Bank, Climate Bonds Initiative, and Fiscal Policy Research Institute

Panelists:

- Dr. Sivapuram V.R.K. Prabhakar, Research Manager (Adaptation), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- Ms. Yingjie Chen, Senior Program Officer, Greenovation Hub, China
- Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, Principal Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, ADB

Plenary discussion:

· Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

Session 7: Panel Discussion - Private Sector Engagement in CCA and DRM

This session will focus on the role of the **private sector** and aims to discuss the challenges, opportunities and examples on how the private sector can participate in financing the implementation of priorities on NAPs, EBA, and CBA/CBDRM. Speakers are encouraged to offer novel ideas based on what they have seen in their sectors.

Facilitator:

 Mr. Noel Peters, Principal Investment Specialist (Climate Finance), Private Sector Operations Department, ADB

10:45-12:00

Panelists:

- Mr Callum Mackenzie, Co-Founder & Managing Director Yunus Thailand
- Mr. Rene (Butch) Meily, President, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
- Dr. Srinivasa Rao Gattineni, Asia Insurance Coordinator, Syngenta Foundation
- Mr. Yin Virak, Executive Vice President and Group Chief Treasury Officer, ACLEDA Bank Plc., Cambodia

Plenary discussion:

Reflection and insights from GMS countries and participants

12:00- 13:00

Lunch Break

Session 8: World Café - Identification of Priority Actions

This will be a world café in which participants circulate and reflect upon gaps, opportunities and priorities for CCA and DRM, incorporating NAP, EBA and CBA/CBDRM. The discussion from this session will inform the development of climate investment plans.

A facilitator will remain at each table. Participants will spend 20 minutes at each table before moving to the next table.

- **1. Financing:** What are the barriers and opportunities for financing CCA and DRM in the GMS? What potential solutions would be most effective? How can the private sector be engaged?
- 2. Institutional barriers and enablers: What mechanisms are already working well and what are the gaps/challenges? How can sectoral synergies be enhanced? What silos will need to be addressed?
- 3. Social inclusion and gender responsivity: What are key issues that need to be addressed in order to scale CCA and DRM in a socially just and gender equitable manner that benefits all in the GMS, and particularly vulnerable groups and communities?
- 4. Multi-stakeholder platform: What are the barriers and opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement to support CCA and DRM in the GMS? What would be priority actions to support the development of a multistakeholder platform and its core activities? What sub-regional cooperation is possible?
- **5. Adaptation in practice:** What are key sectoral priorities in the water and agriculture sectors? What CCA and DRM measures are working well and should be scaled?

Moderator:

• Mr. Gonzalo Fuentes Dellepiane, TA-9915 Knowledge Management Specialist

15:00- 15:30

13:00- 15:00

Coffee Break and Networking

Session 9: The way forward: priorities and actions for NAPs, EBA and CBA/CBDRM in the water and agriculture sectors of the GMS.

This session will report the key messages and findings of the World Café and synthesize these with the assessment results.

15:30-17:15

(Facilitators will report back findings from each table (5 minutes each), followed by 15 minutes of plenary discussion)

Moderator:

Ms. Pareena Prayukvong, TA9915 Deputy Team Leader and National Consultant for Thailand

Vote of Thanks and Close Remarks

17:15-17:30

- Representative(s) from the GMS countries
- Representative(s) from ADB and TA team