

Asian Co-benefits Partnership
Organisational Profile and Work Plan for 2022-2023
Last updated in Feb.2023

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Organisational Profile and Work Plan (Work Plan, hereafter) is a document that outlines and updates the ACP's functions and yearly activities. The Work Plan is developed through consultations with the ACP Advisory Group members. Those consultations are intended to keep the work of the ACP relevant and timely. They are also intended to leverage the strengths of the ACP members to bring a more integrated approach to development and climate change in Asia by focusing on four operational elements: 1) Promote Science-based Policies; 2) Mobilise Finance to Implement Solutions; 3) Build Critical Capacities; and 4) Coordinate Partners and Communicate Impacts.

A. Organisational Profile

1. Background

The people live in Asia are experiencing multiple planetary crises: approximately 90 percent of the region's people breathe unhealthy air¹; heat waves, intense storms, rising sea levels, and other climate change impacts are already adversely affecting the health and well-being of much of the region²; and Asia's progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been slow and insufficient. Fortunately, there is an opportunity that lie in tackling these crises together. One of the main opportunities involves co-benefits. Co-benefits—or the multiple benefits resulting from actions that address air pollution, climate change, and other sustainable development priorities—have been gaining attention from Asia's policymakers, businesses, and the development community. The growing appeal reflects the realization that it is possible to save time, resources and boost sustainability with solutions that leverage synergies and avoid trade-offs across multiple issues.

2. Room for Progress

It is increasingly common to see co-benefits featured in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), clean air plans, and carbon finance and development projects. They have also been a core theme in high-profile reports such as the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report and Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions* written by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP). There is nonetheless scope for policymakers, businesses, and the development community are mainstreaming co-benefits in policy and practice in Asia.

In 2010, the ACP was launched as an informal and interactive platform to raise awareness and share information with the ultimate goal of mainstreaming co-benefits in Asia. Since the ACP was established, the growing knowledge of co-benefits has led to some of the policy and project-level changes mentioned above. These signs of progress are encouraging; however, many policymakers still lack the scientific knowledge and evidence-based tools to consistently factor co-benefits into policies and pursue funding for concrete projects.

¹ UNEP, CCAC, and APCAP. 2019. *Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific. Science-based solutions*, Bangkok: UNEP

² IPCC. 2018. *Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.*

3. Reforming the ACP

In 2020, discussions were held on how the ACP could be relaunched to address some of these needs. The ACP White Paper 2020 was drafted to offer some suggestions toward that end. It concluded that the ACP could be reorganised around three action areas: 1) mobilising finance, 2) strengthening policies and institutions, and 3) build capacities to implement co-benefits solutions. As there are discussions on expanding the scope as well as creating a project based financing mechanism under the East Asia Acid Deposition Network (EANET) where Japan is taking a leading role, a reformed ACP could help actively contribute and support coordination across organizations working on these three areas. The remainder of the concept note outlines how the ACP could transition into a partnership that would serve this catalytic role.

4. Objectives for the Reformed ACP

The overarching objectives of an updated ACP would be as follows:

- 1) Provide science-based policy analysis and support multi-stakeholders coordination and communication on co-benefits; and
- 2) Offer needs-based capacity building to demonstrate on-the-ground progress of priority solutions.

These two objectives are a logical extension of the ACP's current focus on information sharing and knowledge management as well as its efforts to develop co-benefits policies and projects and strengthen regional cooperation on co-benefits.¹

5. Four Essential Operational Elements and Potential Outcomes for a Reformed ACP

The two above overarching objectives for an updated ACP would be pursued through the four essential operational elements and outcomes described below.

1) Promote Science-based Policies

Changes to regional, national, and local air pollution policies should be guided by new and robust science. The ACP will work with Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and other partners to identify and support the implementation of science-based solutions to air pollution and climate change.

- ➔ Projects with ACAP, UNEP, Clean Air Asia (CAA), SEI, IIASA, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), ICIMOD, RRC.AP (AIT) and other partners could be developed to strengthen a targeted number of policies (including policies related to NDCs and SDGs) and institutions to deliver co-benefits and meet broader economic and social development objectives.

2) Mobilise Finance to Implement Solutions

Policymakers need concrete examples and funding for co-benefits projects. The ACP will work with partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and bilateral/multilateral donors to determine how existing climate finance and development assistance mechanisms could fund key solutions (i.e. through recognizing co-benefits in climate projects).

¹ Please see the ACP website for information: <http://www.cobenefit.org> for additional information on the ACP. The current ACP receives approximately 8 million yen in funding; the proposed expansion of work under the ACP would involve consolidating several non-ACP existing activities on co-benefits while increasing efforts to secure external funding.

- ➔ To develop project ideas, the ACP will solicit suggestions from the member of advisory group, ACP members and various international organisations/donors; this may involve changing the nature of the advisory group
- ➔ To attract wider audience and stakeholders, including the private sector, the ACP website will become the platform for virtual meetings that demonstrate outcomes of the co-benefits projects.

3) **Build Critical Capacities**

Policymakers and other stakeholders require knowledge of evidence-based decision-making tools as well as supportive enabling reforms to select and implement air pollution solutions. ACP will work with CAA, ACAP, APCAP, TEI and UNEP to meet needs for these other identified capacities.

- ➔ Co-benefits trainings (i.e. Co-benefits Tool Workshops) in countries and cities in Asia will build capacities to develop integrated air pollution and climate change policies and deliver co-benefits
- ➔ Capacity building on the existing co-benefits tools and develop new tools.

4) **Coordinate Partners and Communicate Impacts**

The newly consolidated set of activities will require enhanced coordination across partners and improved communication beyond partners. The ACP will coordinate across partners responsible for the proposed operational elements. Efforts will also be made to find suitable links with relevant regional air pollution initiatives and agreements such as a EANET, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Agreement, the Malé Declaration, the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) programme, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) and relevant international initiatives such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). It will also extend the engagement of a broader set of stakeholders such as Ministry of Finance or Planning that could lead to action on mobilising finance.

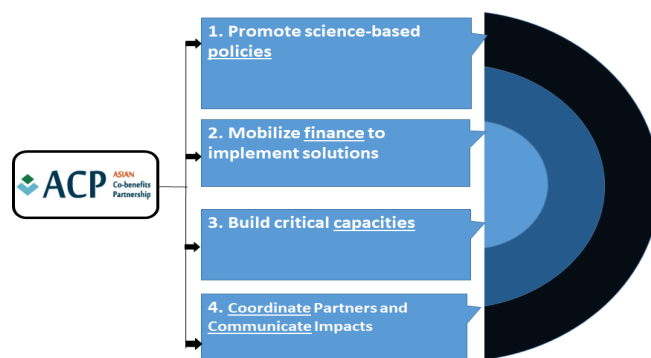


Figure 1: Four Essential Operational Elements of the Reformulated ACP

6. ACP Organisation and Governance

6.1 Joining the ACP

The ACP members can include various organisations or individuals that are interested in or willing to working on co-benefits in countries in Asia, including government agencies, international development organisations, academe, civil society and the private sector etc. The members can contribute to any activities described in the work plan.

The ACP recognises that views on co-benefits are inherently diverse – some groups are interested in the linkages between climate change and development while others focus on linkages between climate and particular sectors (energy, transport, and industry) or environmental media (air, water, and waste). To ensure the inclusive character of the ACP, co-benefits will be viewed in a broad sense – that is, co-benefits between development and climate.

6.2 ACP Advisory Group

The ACP receives guidance and oversight from an Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will ensure that the priorities of Asian countries are adequately reflected in the activities of the ACP. It will also contribute those activities. The Advisory Group has representatives from two groups.

- a) Asian country representatives: Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, China; Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia; Ministry of the Environment, Japan; Korea Environment Institute, Korea; Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Pollution Control Department), Thailand
- b) International organizations and networks: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Clean Air Asia (CAA); Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT); Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI); UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP); UN Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN Environment); UN University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

The Advisory Group maintains contact by email and/or teleconferences and holds a minimum of one face-to-face meeting each year.

6.3 ACP Secretariat

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) (Japan headquarters) will continue to serve as the Secretariat for the ACP.

The main tasks of the Secretariat include:

- a) Document ACP activities, including Work Plan and the Advisory Group meeting minutes;
- b) Oversee development and dissemination of key publications, website operation with good practice map update are also overseen by the Secretariat.
- c) Oversee implementation of the Work Plan;
- d) Organise and promote ACP activities, including meetings, seminars, workshops or projects;
- e) Maintain communication with members of the ACP;
- f) Assist members of the ACP in developing co-benefits policies and projects in Asia;
- g) Ensure active participation of Asian countries in ACP activities; and
- h) Carry out other activities as appropriate.

The ACP Secretariat will make efforts to engage partners outside the Advisory Group. This could involve soliciting project ideas for small-scale demonstration projects, hosting workshops and webinars virtually, and inviting partners to present their activities in these virtual workshops.

B. Work Plan

Promote Science-based Policies	Mobilize Finance to Implement Solutions	Build Critical Capacities	Coordinate Partners & Communicate Impacts
Asian Development Bank (ADB)			
•	•	•	•
Clean Air Asia (CAA)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for strengthening ambient air quality and emission standards and related policy frameworks • Technical support for Ministries of Environment, Energy, Transportation, Planning and sub-national and local governments towards mainstreaming of air quality and climate measures in national programs and frameworks • Air Observatory Unit in China, targeting policymakers and practitioners in the coal-fired power and manufacturing sectors • Annual China Air reports • Clean Air and Climate Action Plan (CAAP) development and implementation; Roadmap development for air quality and climate actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for cities to implement cost-benefit analysis of measures and programs and development of financing plans based on the results • Roll-out of Guidance Framework on Financing Air Quality Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional partnerships with Ministries, sub-national and local, and academic institutions to deliver needs-based training programs on air quality and climate change through various programs including the IBAQ, Asia Blue Skies, Pathways for Clean Air and Clean Energy, SolutionsPlus, etc. • Regional programmatic trainings on air quality management components, including sector-specific interventions such as for transport and coal industries • Annual air quality management workshop for China cities, tackling different emission sector-specific measures • Facilitating technology transfer and adoption by cities through policy and technical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Event for Southeast Asia on Sustainable and Inclusive Solutions for Air Quality and Climate Change • Better Air Quality Conference • Fostering Communities of Practice (policy and decisionmakers, NGOs/CSOs, industry partners) • Blue Gull Partnership in China • Campaigns: Youth for Clean Air in India; I am a +Bluer campaign in China; regional BreatheLife focal; CARE for Air social media campaign
Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)			
•	•	•	•

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malé Declaration • CCAC Supporting National Action Planning (SNAP) • ASEAN Assessment • Development of integrated assessment on air pollution and climate change for Pakistan which will lead to the development of Clean Air Plans for 4 provinces in collaboration with Ministry of Climate Change and Clean Air Asia • Research project on air pollution and the world of work undertaking country studies in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia • Development of integrated assessment on air pollution and climate change for Thailand in collaboration with IGES and the Thai Pollution Control Dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on emission inventory development and air pollution mitigation assessments in Pakistan, Maldives, Thailand and Cambodia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP • Malé Declaration
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISAP 2022 • SLCP Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIASA-Japan Co-benefits Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Better Air Quality Project (IBAQ) Co-benefits Training • Training on co-benefits quantification tool in Indonesia and Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACP Secretariat: update website; develop newsletters; disseminate publication; communication with concerned countries, organisations and experts
Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ)			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing contributions to IIASA, including for IIASA-MOEJ research projects, also supporting IIASA-Japan Co-benefits Workshop. • Providing contributions for publication on “Air pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based solutions”, and dissemination of the report-based solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-benefits/JCM cooperation with Mongolia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam • Promoting SDGs (co-benefits) through JCM • Providing contributions for co-benefits tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing contributions to IBAQ (CAA, IGES, ACAP) and APCAP (UNEP), including supporting for the APCAP Joint Forum, many co-benefits/air/climate/health-related workshops for capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing contributions to ACP • Providing contributions to EANET (UNEP, ACAP), including for the EANET project-fund under the expanded scope.
<p>Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission standard for Smelter Industry • Emission Standard for EURO 4 in Indonesia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Research Institute and Air pollution Expert • Collaboration with Research Institute and Motorcycle Industry Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, Indonesia has been coordination with the Indonesian Association and research Institute • The other hand, Indonesia also has been cooperation with International Organization to work together on air pollution issues (UNEP, EANET etc)
<p>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Pollution Control Department (PCD), Thailand</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission Standards as Euro 5 and 6 in 2024 and 2025 respectively • Establishing an electric vehicles and electric boats in Thailand with targeted EVs in 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Incentives for Electric Vehicle Industry • No excise tax for people who is purchasing EVs • DPF demonstration Project on heavy diesel vehicles (truck and bus) in Thailand • Green Port Project to switching diesel truck to be electric trucks in ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration Project between Japan and Thailand on Sustainable Management of PM2.5 Prevention and Reduction Measures • Collaboration Project between US.EPA and PCD on Emissions Permitting • Collaboration Project between UNEP CCAC SEI IGES and PCD on SNAP to update emission inventory in Thailand • ASEAN Haze Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thailand has been cooperated with international organizations such as EANET, APCAP, the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Agreement etc. To work together on air pollution and climate change issues.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Maekong Forum • EANET Forum 	
Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), China			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on implementation of ‘dual control’ system of CO₂ emission and emission intensity and incorporating carbon emission related information into environment credit evaluation system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize seminar and give lectures in local cities on coordinated progress on pollution reduction and carbon emission cut, mainly introduce relevant policies on coordinated progress on pollution reduction and carbon emission cut at the national and international levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of the existing cooperation mechanisms and platforms, on the one hand, increase local pilot cities and improve the local influence of the project; On the other hand, seek to jointly carry out co-benefits projects in third countries and disseminate some good practices
Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Korea Environment Institute (KEI), ROK			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical supports for the Ministry of Environment towards developing CO₂ abatement plans and achieving a net-zero goal by 2050 • Formulating implementation strategies for net-zero goal • Analyse the costs and benefits of CO₂ abatement policies and their impacts on the economy by using a comprehensive economic model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for the government or Ministry of Environment to implement cost-benefit analysis of measures and develop financing plans based on the results • Seek opportunities to emphasize the importance of financing R&D projects related to climate change and air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a seminar or expert forum to introduce the benefits of reducing CO₂ emission and the concept of co-benefits • Build institutional partnerships with local and academic research institutions to introduce co-benefits • Facilitating technology transfer to the local governments and research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work together with the South Korean government and international organizations on air pollution and climate change issues
Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting science-based policies through regional cooperation for addressing air pollution transboundary issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With member countries of the Malé Declaration and partners, RRC.AP is seeking opportunities to mobilize financial resources from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to build capacities of Asian countries on Air Quality Management (AQM) through various projects. For example, currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue strengthening regional intergovernmental cooperation in South Asia (through Malé Declaration) on

<p>in South Asia (under the Malé Declaration framework).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation in Asian region via training and knowledge exchange events. For example, see webinar via URL: https://youtu.be/ynHCDqgSTcw • Provision of free dynamic climate change data downscaling to policy and decisionmakers in Southeast Asia via the S8DS tool 	<p>funding agencies for implementation of air pollution solutions in South Asia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to help mobilize financial resources for climate change adaptation, cities' resilience, and disaster risk reduction include training and mentoring support to climate change adaptation project design teams draft concept notes to access the Green Climate Fund. • Country-specific climate factsheets, online reference learning and guidance materials to support funding request proposal writing. 	<p>implementing 2-year capacity development programme on AQM and PM2.5 reduction in ASEAN countries (supported by the APN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build capacities of the Malé Declaration member countries (South Asia) on AQM and air pollution mitigation. • Promoting the use of S8DS downscaler tool to aid national climate change adaptation planning. • Promoting the use of FloodS tool to aid national climate change adaptation planning • Capacity building on climate change adaptation concept note development to access climate finance, national adaptation plans, and making cities resilient campaign 2030 related issues. • Continue raising awareness on Making Cities Resilient to Climate and Disaster risks via hosting series of thematic webinars building capacities of cities and local governments via conducting regional training workshops on Strengthening Cities Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters 	<p>capacity building, science-policy interface, data monitoring, information sharing and learning, joint air pollution mitigation efforts and planning on AQM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating and promoting partnership on GCF project development for climate change adaptation including establishing collaboration with other relevant organizations for exploring opportunities for climate action, waste and resource management, addressing air pollution, and related issues. • Provide knowledge products (e-learning videos, webinar recordings) to strengthen AP-PLAT website partnering with UN organisations and national and international organisation to convene training and online event on topics relating to nature-based solutions, cities' resilience to climate and disaster risks, national adaptation planning, and promoting the uses of S8 Downscaling and FloodS tools.
<p>UN Environment Programme (UNEP)</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach opportunities: Asia Pacific Adaptation Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of ACP activities/products to APCAP partners through newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport projects: Fuel Economy Policy development; Cleaner and Efficient Fuels and Vehicles Policy Development; Integrating Electric 2-3 Wheelers in Urban Traffic in Southeast Asia • Projects and activities with co-benefits for air quality: Supporting National Action and Planning on SLCPs and Institutional Strengthening; Strengthening capacity to reduce GHGs and SLCPs from waste sector based on circular economy concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of APCAP activities • Facilitate implementation of the top 25 Clean Air Measures in the Air Pollution in Asia Pacific: Science Based Solutions Report with member states and partners • Facilitate regional cooperation through intergovernmental networks including the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia and the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG Help Desk Knowledge Platform • Intergovernmental fora including Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) • Energy Portal and other tools • Member of UN Water, UN Oceans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of ACP activities/products through regional cooperation mechanisms, platforms and products where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-benefits reflected across sectors in the context of the SDGs i.e. energy, transport, social development, statistics etc. • System approach to (co)benefits across environmental, social and economic dimensions e.g. ocean, climate change and cities project; urban energy-water-food nexus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support intergovernmental cooperation for member countries to achieve SDGs • Support development and application of integrated policy approaches to achieve multiple sustainable development benefits in countries in Asia-Pacific