



UN
DP

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



United Nations Development Programme

Asia-Pacific Regional Centre

APRC Annual Report 2012

About APRC

The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) is the technical arm of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. APRC acts as a hub of development knowledge, an advocate for equitable human development and inclusive growth, a promoter of South-South cooperation, a facilitator of regional dialogues on sensitive development issues and a broker of effective development assistance.

What We Do

APRC supports 24 UNDP Country Offices across the Asia-Pacific region by providing tailored policy advisory services, project backstopping, programming assistance, operations and knowledge management support. APRC implements the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme and additionally develops regional and sub-regional projects in response to transnational challenges such as migration, climate change, HIV and natural disasters. APRC addresses additional transnational issues by fostering regional cooperation amongst development partners from governments, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and academia.

Areas of Expertise

By combining applied research, policy advice, advocacy and knowledge sharing techniques we work in the areas of inclusive growth, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development. We also provide expertise on the cross-cutting issues of HIV and health, gender, development effectiveness, South-South cooperation and offer advice and training on strategic communications, project management and knowledge management.

Value Proposition

APRC provides internationally grounded quality policy expertise and advisory services on short notice at less than market prices. Our in-depth familiarity with the Asia-Pacific region allows us to identify emerging issues and create regional initiatives that produce permanent transformative solutions to development problems. Our in-house policy expertise is complemented by the facilitation of thematic knowledge networks and regional communities of practice. We work in multidisciplinary task teams and offer an integrated package of policy, technical, programme and management services. We foster collaboration between development partners and deliver long-term engagement on development issues.

Quick Facts

- ❖ APRC was established in 2005
- ❖ APRC operates from two locations: Bangkok, Thailand and Suva, Fiji
- ❖ 24 Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific benefit from APRC policy advisory services
- ❖ US\$100 million is the total value of the Regional Programme (2008-2013) implemented by APRC
 - ❖ APRC manages 14 regional and multi-country projects implemented jointly with 20+ co-financing partners
- ❖ APRC has seven in-house practice teams and four interdisciplinary task teams of policy advisors and development experts

Spreading the Word about our Work

\$170,000 000 + commitments from global environment funds mobilized with APRC support for 35 countries in Asia-Pacific to advance policies and practical solutions to environment and climate change challenges;

55 000 + people across Asia-Pacific supported the social media campaign to select the winners of the 2012 N-Peace Awards.

100 women advocates for peace and security from six Asia-Pacific countries recognized as role models in building and restoring peace in their communities.

29 000 + likeminded professionals from six countries share knowledge through 20 UN-facilitated Solution Exchange communities.

20,000 people received “Good Men Passport”, a key learning resource to fight violence against women through innovative communication campaign in Cambodia

180 + articles and 7 global media outlets such as BBC World, Al Jazeera, and ABC TV featured the 2012 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report *One Planet to share*.

14,000 + visits to the web portal of the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on climate change since its launch in May 2012.

13,000+ downloads from the APRC E-Library of the comparative study *Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific*.

6+ months running on CNN International: the APRC Public Service Announcement on energy access.

21,000+ Thai Airways flights in 2012 that screened the APRC Public Service Announcement *What Is the Sound of Tree Not Falling?*

Best film award at the Adaptation Film Festival in Bangkok for the BBC film *Hard Rain*, commissioned by APRC as a complementary advocacy tool to the 2012 Asia-Pacific HDR on climate change.

Platinum prize won by the APRC film *Revealed: Himalayan Meltdown* at the 45th Worldfest International Film Festival, the world’s oldest independent film festival.

Contributing to Development Change for the Future We Want

The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) implements the Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific (2008-2013). The overarching goal of the Regional Programme is to promote regional initiatives for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

An independent external evaluation, conducted in 2012, found the Regional Programme (RP) highly relevant given the external constraints of its operation in a vast, diverse region. According to the evaluation, the RP initiatives generally met the three 'regionality' principles of: (i) producing regional public goods; (ii) addressing issues of regional (cross-border & trans-boundary) dimensions; and (iii) addressing issues common to multiple countries in the region. The three most recognized and appreciated roles of the Regional Programme and Regional Centres were: *provider of technical support* to country programmes; *knowledge promoter, manager and facilitator*, connecting UNDP's country level experience and organization-wide knowledge in programme planning and implementation; and *knowledge leader* in advocating, contextualising and applying new ideas in the region.

Achieving the MDGs, Advancing the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Countries in the region last year engaged in dialogues and took actions to accelerate their MDG achievements. Jointly with UNDP BDP, APRC supported **Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia** (Java Central), **Philippines and Nepal** to prepare MDG Action Plans by applying the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) methodology. This helped the governments in redirecting MDG acceleration strategies to foster collaboration between ministries to harmonize their programmes and budgets. MDGs Action Plans in Indonesia, which targeted MDG5 achievement on maternal health, and in Cambodia, which focused on its MDG3 achievement, were endorsed by key stakeholders and donor agencies. In Bhutan the findings of the MAF informed the discussions of the National Forum on Employment. In Nepal the government started implementing elements of the MDG Action Plan on sanitation.

In response to emerging regional challenges, *the 2011/2012 Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report* was launched at a high-level South Asian Forum in **India**. The Report advocates for accelerated and equitable achievement, particularly of the nutrition and health-related MDG targets. It stimulated high level policy dialogues with inter-ministerial participation, including at an ASEAN multi-sectoral MDG workshop in **Myanmar** and a series of sub-regional consultations on the Asia-Pacific perspectives for a post-2015 development agenda.

To ensure inclusive participation in the Post-2015 development agenda-setting process, UNDP APRC co-organized *Parliamentarian and Civil Society Forum on Post-2015 Development Agenda* in two sub-regions: **Manila** (Southeast, East, Northeast, and the Pacific) and **Dhaka** (South, Southwest, North, and Central Asia). Eighty three members of parliament and 70 civil society representatives from **25 Asia-Pacific countries** adopted Declarations recommending the inclusion of democratic governance and human rights principles in the post-2015 framework. The Declarations will be submitted to the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 at their meeting in **Bali, Indonesia**, at the end of March 2013, and will inform the regional and global policy formulation and dialogue. The UN Millennium Campaign, UN Women, UN Population Fund, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the International Parliamentary Union collaborated with UNDP on these Forums.

Gender Equality and Women's Political Participation

APRC at WORK

15 policy makers from **Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Fiji, and Tonga** are better able to integrate gender issues in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies and MDG-based national sustainable development strategies. Their improved capacity in this area is a result of their participation in the first regional course on gender responsive economic and policy management, facilitated by APRC.

24 countries took part in **two e-discussions** on the specific needs of key HIV-affected women and girls and the linkages between HIV and violence against women in the region. These insights and an APRC-led review of these issues, contributed to the call for greater focus and attention to the needs of these groups in ASEAN and SAARC Declarations in 2012.

3 universities in **Thailand** and the **Philippines** introduced gender-aware economic course syllabi; **Penang state** in Malaysia shared its successful gender-responsive budgeting initiative for potential replication in **Bhutan**. These are some of the results emanating from the APRC-led regional capacity development initiative on gender and macroeconomic issues.

The inclusiveness of political systems to allow greater gender equality made small but effective gains in Asia in 2012. At the end of 2012, women constituted 18.0 per cent of parliamentarians in Asia, a 0.2 per cent increase from 2011. Recognizing that it will take at least 50 years to reach gender parity in national assemblies if no fast-track institutional reforms are introduced, UNDP took the lead in connecting countries in the region to identify strategies to accelerate women's political empowerment.

A series of sub-regional dialogues in Dhaka, **Bangladesh** (2011), Manila, **Philippines** (2011), and Ulaanbaatar, **Mongolia** (2012) galvanized politicians, parliamentarians, and civil society activists to engage in advancing the role of women in politics. APRC developed a policy framework, "Gender Equality in Elected Office in Asia-Pacific: Six Actions to Expand Women's Empowerment", which highlights six institutional reforms that national authorities could select to develop national action plans for political equality. In recognition that these are national processes, APRC launched the framework in 2012 and invited stakeholders from **Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam** to apply it in developing their own national action plans. Mongolia and Viet Nam have since started implementation through Parliamentary Steering Committees where durable change is occurring; and with elections in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives in 2013, the roll out of more national action plans would help UNDP's efforts to reduce political inequality in the region. The number of women elected to Parliament in 2012 elections increased in **Timor-Leste** and **Mongolia** by 8.5% and 6% respectively, mostly due to introduction of quotas and changes in the electoral laws. In **Papua New Guinea** the actual number increase of one woman MP to three, represents a leap forward in terms of attitudes and voting behaviors. Representatives from all three countries joined UNDP-led regional fora and networks that explored institutional reforms to enhance women's political equality in Asia and the Pacific. While correlation can be seen between UNDP efforts and positive changes in these countries, evidence needs to be sought to explore if and how UNDP efforts have contributed to these positive changes. The evaluation of the democratic governance area of the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme, conducted in 2012, recognized that UNDP's ability to engage with governments can influence the enabling environment for women's political empowerment.

Women Building Peace

The UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security acknowledged over a decade ago the pivotal role of women in conflict resolution and sustainable peace; UN member states were called upon in 2005 to continue the implementation of the Resolution through development of National Action Plans, while the awareness about translating the international commitment into local agendas for women, peace and security has started gaining momentum only recently. The renewed global focus on women, peace and security and on promoting women as leaders in peace is also reflected in Asia. **Nepal** and the **Philippines**, the only two countries in Asia with National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325, are focusing on the implementation of these plans. **Indonesia** has a final draft National Action Plan, and **Afghanistan** started a similar process.

The **N-Peace network**, facilitated by APRC and UNDP Country Offices in **Afghanistan, Nepal, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines**, connects civil society organizations, women's organizations and government stakeholders within and across countries to articulate their positions on policy matters, build coalitions to advocate common concerns and foster their skills in conflict prevention, dispute resolution, reconstruction and peace-building. A series of ten national N-Peace advocacy forums helped to increase awareness about the UNSCR 1325 and related national policies in Nepal and Timor-Leste; expanded the role of civil society organizations and women's organizations in the Philippines and Afghanistan; fostered engagement between civil society and government to discuss policies related to women and peace in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Over 150 women trained as trainers to advocate for peace and security, shared expertise and country experience on policy advocacy and promotion of women in policy making. The Indonesian trainers helped women in **Papua** to understand the importance of UNSCR 1325 and to work together. The trainers from Nepal and the Philippines plan to advocate for the implementation of their National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 at the local level.

In 2012 N-Peace members and national networks nominated 100 women for their contribution to restore and sustain peace in their communities. 55, 000 people supported the social media campaign showcasing the 2012 N-Peace awards winners. Amongst those selected winners is the first male champion of women's role in peace building.

OTHERS about OUR WORK

President of the Republic of the Philippines Benigno S. Aquino III:

"The awardees ...have already blazed a trail and shown us the course we must take... We have already started, through our participation in networks like N-Peace, through which we have been allowed to share our best practices and strategies."

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard

At the Women Leaders Forum, Rio+20 United Nations Conference, Prime Minister Gillard showed support for N-Peace which she said would help strengthen gender equality in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

Afghanistan MP Farkhunda Zahra Naderi:

"When this process started [*the N-Peace Awards*] the news was spread amongst lots of people, up to the point that boundaries and borders did not matter anymore. So people were talking about a united peace which I found very exciting."

Asia-Pacific Human Development Report

The participatory preparation and presentation of the *Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2012 One Planet to Share* to various audiences contributed to greater awareness of the relationship between climate change, poverty reduction and human development.

The findings of the Report were discussed at the **Rio+20 Conference**, at the UNEP **Asia SWITCH Forum** on sustainable consumption and production and at the **2012 World Cities Summit** in **Singapore**. The Report was launched in **22 countries** by political and government leaders. President's Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono speech at the APHDR global launch in **Jakarta, Indonesia** in May 2012 urged decision-makers to read and use the report. The **Samoa** Prime Minister Honorable Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Luefesoali'i Malielegaoi, stated that the Report "informed his Government's position at the Rio+20 Summit".

In **Viet Nam** the report provided UNDP with a lens to address the issue of climate change and the topical issue of fossil fuel subsidies in a high level workshop organized with the participation of the National Commission on Climate Change. In **Lao PDR** it contributed to a joint UNDP-British and Foreign Commonwealth Office-led forum to discuss climate change in the Southeast Asia region. In **Pakistan**, the Report was presented in conjunction with the launch of the national climate change policy, positioning UNDP's work on climate change at a strategic level. In **Myanmar** high level discussions on the Report took place in partnership with the Myanmar Development Resource Institute. It was followed by UNDP convening a forum linking discussions toward the run-up to Rio+20 with development partners in Yangon. In **the Maldives** the report influenced the preparation of the country's briefing note on "Rio+20 and the Maldives".

The flagship Asia-Pacific Human Development Report (APHDR) is an important regional public good and key advocacy tool for country stakeholders. Since its inception in 2003, APHDR stimulated dialogues within the region, bringing to the fore critical regional issues from a human development perspective.

Three reports were produced under the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme (2008-2013):

2008: Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives: Accelerating Human Development in Asia-Pacific;
2010: Power, Voice and Rights - A Turning Point for Gender Equality for Asia and the Pacific; and
2012: One Planet to Share - Sustaining Human Progress in a Changing Climate.

In 2012 an external expert assessment of results of all three reports found that:

- i) The Asia-Pacific Regional Human Development Reports are widely recognized as distinctive high quality and relevant UNDP regional products that explore human development challenges common to Asia-Pacific;
- ii) The reports skillfully address complex human development challenges and opportunities common to many if not all countries of such a diverse region;
- iii) The APHDR team has developed and utilized an excellent participatory model of Reports development, including extensive Asia-Pacific Human Development Network (AP-HDNet) e-discussions and consultations;
- iv) The APHDRs have positively raised UNDP's profile at the country or regional level through launches or other advocacy events.

APRC at WORK

In five countries in the region, the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) methodology developed by APRC identified the national portfolio of investments and institutional arrangements for managing climate change expenditures. This methodology is now used by the **World Bank and DFID**, and applied in **Tanzania, Zambia, Honduras, and El Salvador**. The reviews led to further innovations including the development of climate related budget codes for tracking climate finance in **Nepal**, governance reforms to establish government mechanisms for scrutinizing climate expenditures in **Thailand**, the integration of climate change concerns within local development programming in **Bangladesh**, and innovative climate financing policies in **Cambodia**.

127 representatives of ministries of finance, planning and environment from **22 countries from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Europe** exchanged experiences and lessons to review methodological approaches in implementing CPEIRs and articulating policy and institutional reforms. UNDP APRC facilitated this *Governance of Climate Finance* workshop jointly with the World Bank, in collaboration with the UK DFID, GIZ, AusAID and USAID.

Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change

Current cost estimates for adapting to climate change are US\$50 billion per year for the Asia-Pacific region and for mitigation they are as high as US\$15-20 billion in some countries like Indonesia. However, funding from official development assistance (ODA) alone is unlikely to meet the financial demands of developing countries to address climate change adaptation and mitigation. While continuing to seek international climate finance, there is a positive trend in the region, for governments to focus on domestic resources and other ODA flows as a starting point for climate financing and as a foundation for scaling up responses with international assistance.

In 2012, five countries - **Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Samoa, and Cambodia** - completed a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR), which helps countries to review how their own national climate change policy aims are reflected in public expenditures more broadly and how institutions might be adjusted to ensure that financing a response to climate change is delivered in a coherent way across government. The exercise facilitates discussions and engagement of relevant government units on climate change issues in the context of national development planning, budgeting, and expenditures. Through the CPEIR, Nepal, for example, showed the need to channel more funds to local agencies that are better placed to deal with climate challenges, instead of to national authorities. In Thailand, CPEIR recommendations were adopted by the government as a mechanism to implement the forthcoming Climate Change Master Plan (2012-2050). While CPEIRs are on-going in **Viet Nam** and **Indonesia**, APRC secured support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to expand the climate finance/development finance work in South East Asia.

To further inform decision-makers about the importance of these Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Reviews, APRC placed strategic editorials in newspapers across Asia, including in the *Japan Times* special edition for the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank Group in Tokyo.

APRC at WORK

APRC supported awareness raising as well as rapid assessments/gap analyses processes in **5 countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam)** and **10 country briefs** in support of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. APRC is currently preparing a SE4ALL Regional Assessment based on these reports.

UNDP Myanmar incorporated recommendations based on the “Energy Plus” approach in its scoping study for UNDP programming for Rural Energy and Environmental Conservation 2013-2015. UNDP India used the “Energy plus” approach to prepare for GEF submission a project on “Scale Up of Access to Clean Energy for Rural Productive and Domestic Uses”.

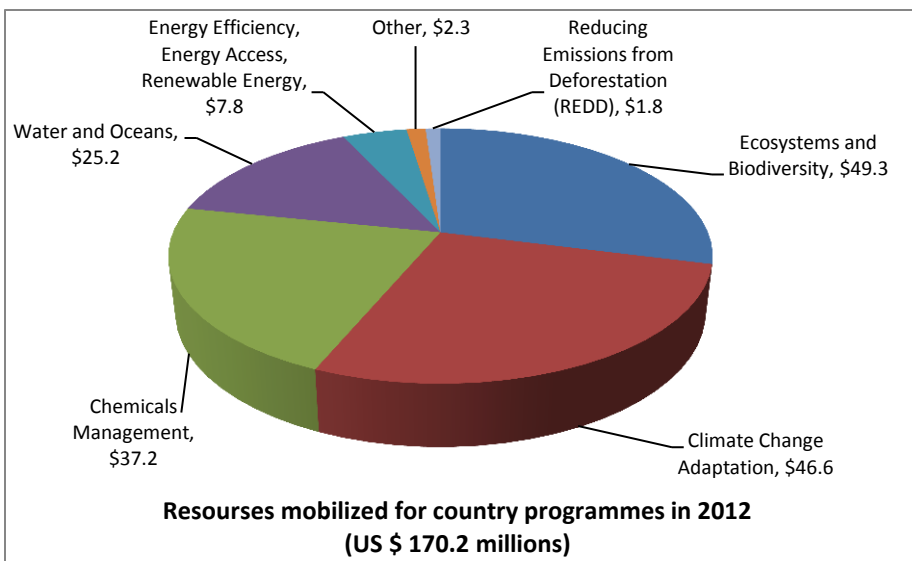
An APRC-produced Public Service Announcement (PSA) on *Energy Access*, inspired by the flagship report, was aired by CNN International and adapted by the UN Foundation as its own PSA for the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All Global Campaign.

Sustainable Energy for All

To support development partners and governments in their commitments to the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) objectives, APRC launched in January 2012 a flagship publication “Towards an Energy Plus Approach for the Poor: A Review of Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Asia and the Pacific”. The publication contributed to the body of knowledge on expanding access to energy for the poor. It includes an Action Agenda Note and a set of 17 country-case studies from **China, Nepal, Fiji Islands, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and the Philippines**. The publication was used in various dialogues and as a programming tool. UNDP support has contributed to 14 governments in the region joining the SE4ALL initiative (**Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam**).

Accessing Environment Finance

APRC assists Asia-Pacific countries to access financial resources from global environment funds and to combine private, public, grant and loan financing. Financial resources are then used to enhance the capacity of countries to design and implement policies and programmes promoting green, low emission and climate resilient initiatives. UNDP APRC experts and advisors supported 370 projects and interventions valued at more than US\$ 480 million in every country in the region. In 2012 APRC based experts played a key role in helping countries from the region secure more than US \$170 million in commitments from various global environmental trust funds.



Resilient Nations, Resilient Region

Countries in Asia continue to strengthen their capacities to monitor and respond to natural disasters. The tsunami warning system for the entire Indian Ocean region, fully functional since 2011, was tested in real life in April 2012 when an 8.7 earthquake struck North Sumatra. The tsunami early warning centers in Indonesia, India, and Australia analyzed the seismic data and disseminated tsunami warning bulletins within minutes leading to large-scale evacuations. The response was a major change from 2004 when none of the countries had any mechanisms in place to issue tsunami warnings and over 230,000 lives were lost.

UNDP played a crucial role in establishing and strengthening the tsunami warning system by supporting regional and national technical and policy interventions and institutions to coordinate their response to the tsunami threat. An evaluation in 2012 highlighted UNDP's significant contributions to the current level of preparedness and resilience of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and other Indian Ocean countries against tsunami and coastal hazards. Interviews and desk reviews provided evidence of UNDP's "high quality trainings, manuals, drills, and modeling on tsunami risk assessment guidelines to enhance preparedness, mitigation, and early warning systems in these countries". The evaluation recognized UNDP's critical regional role as a much needed catalyst that should be continued.

APRC at WORK

National loss databases are operational in **Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iran, Orissa and Tamil Nadu states in India. Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Lao PDR** are establishing databases as a tool to monitor disaster risk and prepare disaster management plans, and as criteria for allocation of funds, based on levels of risks.

75 government officials from **Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste** were trained and equipped with skills to use disaster loss databases and monitor disaster risks at the sub-national level.

12 government officials each from **Cambodia and Timor-Leste** better understand the disaster risk assessment process after learning from the experience of **Sri Lanka** in Risk Assessment and Management for Coastal Hazards.

Upholding International Norms and Commitments

More than 20 **Anti-Corruption Agencies** (ACAs) were established in the Asia-Pacific region since the early 1990s. In many countries, these institutions failed to meet people's expectations, and in particular, failed to investigate grand political corruption. However, Asia also hosts some of the most renowned anti-corruption agencies in the world including that in **Singapore, Hong Kong, and Indonesia**. UNDP APRC took the lead in promoting the success of ACAs in the region as a model. Based on a series of comparative studies of the institutional arrangements and conditions for their success, new norms to hold ACAs accountable and core principles to safeguard their integrity and independence from outside interference were drafted by UNDP APRC specialists. These were subsequently fine-tuned and adopted by over 30 anticorruption agencies at the International Conference on Principles for ACAs in **Jakarta** in November 2012. The Conference, convened by the Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission, UNDP and UNODC, became the first international forum to adopt guiding principles for the independence and effectiveness of ACAs. UNDP is now supporting the dissemination of the "Jakarta Principles," which were already used in policy discussions on new legislation in **Myanmar, Vietnam, and Somaliland**. The Principles will be submitted to the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption in September 2013 in Panama for further political support by governments around the world.

Indigenous peoples (IPs) and ethnic minorities are increasingly gaining recognition as key stakeholders in national and international processes and policies; they are integrally involved in UN REDD+ programmes and related national policies and in the Rio+20 process and climate change-related negotiations. To promote inclusive dialogues on critical issues around the needs and rights of indigenous peoples in the region, UNDP/APRC and OHCHR, under the UN Indigenous People's Partnership, supported the regional preparatory meeting of the World Council of IPs. The forum adopted the *Asia Declaration* that identifies key recommendations, which can be used as reference for post-2015 and human rights dialogues. At the country level, APRC organized high-level dialogues in the **Philippines** and Indonesia on IP issues resulting in positive policy changes. **Indonesia** has included *masyarakat adat* in the development of the National REDD+ strategy and drafted related legislative and policy measures.

Significant global and regional developments in the human rights-based response to HIV took place in 2012 due in part to on-going advocacy efforts through inter-governmental processes and national commitments. Taking the opportunity of a stronger engagement of governments in the region to address the legal barriers to HIV responses, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against key affected populations, APRC increased the body of knowledge of HIV related laws and strengthened the capacity of key stakeholders to advocate for legal reform. This result was achieved through the launch and effective dissemination of two key pieces of work on human rights and the law, *Sex Work and the Law* and *Lost in Transition*. Both publications received extensive coverage by first tier media outlets including *AFP, Xinhua, The Washington Times, and Voice of America*, and the medical journal *Lancet*, the world's foremost leader in the field of public health. APRC worked with regional bodies, a group of countries and CSOs to disseminate strategic knowledge and advance policies on HIV and the law. The draft AP Regional Programme evaluation, commissioned by the Evaluation Office, concluded that the Regional Programme made significant contributions toward research and awareness-raising on new dimensions and issues on HIV, human rights, and sexual identity and that it led to some important actions at the international and national levels.

“Breaking the Silos”: APRC Teams Working across Thematic Areas

APRC’s initiative on *Management of Natural Resources for Equity and Sustainability*, established following up to the 2011 global conference on Managing Extractive Industries for Human Development, kicked off with an e-discussion on extractive industries, which attracted nearly **400** participants and featured **59** contributions from all over the world over the course of seven weeks. The cross-thematic approach allowed a strong integration of environment, governance and poverty reduction perspectives on this issue, which informed programming in (amongst other) **Mongolia** and **Timor-Leste**. UNDP Country Offices in **Papua New Guinea** and the **Philippines**, with technical support from APRC, assisted their governments to promote extractive industries for sustainable human development. International Organizations (e.g. ADB) and think tanks (e.g. Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, the University of Queensland) approached APRC to explore working together in this subject.

An APRC team of governance and HIV and health specialists and UNDP Country Offices supported the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in six countries to address sexual orientation and sexual identity (SOGI) human rights issues by facilitating meetings between civil society groups and human rights commissioners and the production of capacity assessment reports in **India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka**. As a result of this engagement process and technical support from UNDP, a section on SOGI people was included for the first time in the Bangladesh Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submitted on 9 October 2012.

The APRC team of specialists, working across a range of thematic areas, assisted UNDP **Maldives** Country Office in developing a three year programme for ‘Strengthening Democratic Governance in Maldives’. Governance and crisis prevention experts helped convert the Transition Programme in **Sri Lanka** to a peace time Local Governance Programme. Both countries started programmes that are focused on strengthening governance in post conflict scenarios.

Poverty and HIV and health specialists jointly with the UNDP Country Offices supported **Indonesia** and **Cambodia** to develop their social protection programmes and to include specific provisions for the vulnerable groups and populations. As a result, in partnership with the government of Indonesia the UNDP Country Office initiated a HIV-sensitive social protection project, a first step toward the country’s future engagement in social protection. In Cambodia, the cross-thematic team contributed to the development of a monitoring framework for the National Social Protection Strategy.

APRC facilitated South-South Cooperation Exchanges

Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines shared country experiences in making their economies greener and responsive to environment, poverty and climate concerns. Their South-South learning exchanges will continue thanks to their participation in the UNDP/UNEP Poverty and Environment initiative that supports country-led efforts to integrate poverty and environment in development planning.

Thailand shared its experience on HIV in the context of the Thai universal health coverage scheme with **Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines**. Thailand International Cooperation Agency and the National Security Office were the lead agencies.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of **Bhutan** hosted a study tour for the ACCs from **Timor-Leste and the Maldives**. The ACCs shared experiences and good practices in investigation, prevention, and public education. An APRC report documented the proceedings of this South-South exchange.

A High Level Seminar on Climate Change South-South Cooperation at COP18 in Doha, organized by **China** with support from UNDP China and APRC, brought together government officials and legislators from **Bangladesh, Maldives, Grenada, and Ethiopia**.

10 municipal government representatives from **7** countries (**Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand**) produced innovative cross-sector vulnerability assessments and inclusive urban action plans to climate change based on 2012 APHDR analysis.

Highlights of Capacity Development Initiatives

Access to affordable medicines has direct linkages to long-term socio-economic impacts. Several countries are now taking steps to protect their rights to affordable medicines, which are increasingly threatened by growing intellectual property regimes. APRC's work to provide support and build the capacity of UNDP Country Offices on intellectual property rights, TRIPs, and access to affordable medicines resulted in concrete policy advancements. A regional meeting convened by APRC resulted in the organization of the first national consultation on the subject in **Myanmar** with strong support from the UNDP Country Office. This event generated specific recommendations to the government to help draft the country's first intellectual property rights law. **Indonesia** plans to organize the first national consultation on the subject as a result of a UNDP-supported roundtable in the country. **Cambodia** and **the Philippines** have also started similar initiatives. It is worth noting that none of these UNDP Country Offices had ever worked on this issue prior to 2012; APRC's assistance contributed to strengthening their knowledge, skills, and confidence to support the national effort on this particular issue.

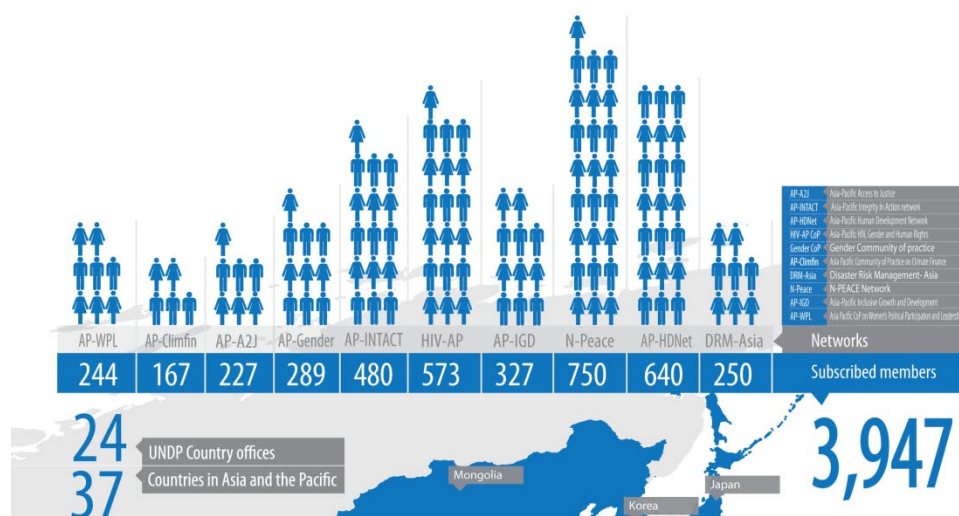
In 2012 APRC has been helping ministries of environment and natural resources in several countries to design and implement climate change adaptation plans and programmes. A key capacity gap in partner countries is at the local government level while at the same time it is here that the most needs exist in helping to address the challenges of climate change. Capacities were strengthened specifically with regard to accessing and combining climate finance at national level, as well as designing ways to channel those resources to local levels. Specific examples include **Lao PDR, Timor-Leste and Cambodia** where adaptation funds are being programmed in ways that will use and strengthen existing inter-governmental cash transfer systems. In addition, the APRC team explored relevant experience from across the region on local level climate finance. A case study based on the Andhra Pradesh experiences in the roll out of state-level climate change strategies in India was shared widely through the global outreach site of the Adaptation Learning Mechanism.

Growing Sustainable Knowledge Communities

Regional Communities of Practice and networks continue to be the mainstay of APRC's knowledge sharing approach. In response to demand from Country Offices and development partners, APRC launched two new communities of practice in 2012. Ten thematic communities of practice connecting nearly 4000 members are facilitated by APRC.

The **Community of Practice on Climate Finance** was established to generate and share knowledge on the design and management of climate funds. An e-discussion on this topic triggered responses from over 250 governmental, academic and civil society experts. The examples of good practices were captured in two products: a comparative paper *National Climate Funds: Learning from the experience of Asia-Pacific* and a set of seven case studies with lessons from **Bhutan, Lao PDR, China, Micronesia, Tuvalu, Thailand, and Cambodia**. At a regional clinic, 60 managers of well-established and soon-to be established climate funds learned from each other's expectations and experiences. Virtual learning platform and twinning arrangement between successful funds and future funds are the community's next steps. Countries in Asia-Pacific will have more opportunities to access significant volumes of national and international public and private climate finance. This Community of Practice is helping its members to design appropriate institutional and financial mechanisms to receive and utilize the climate finance resources effectively.

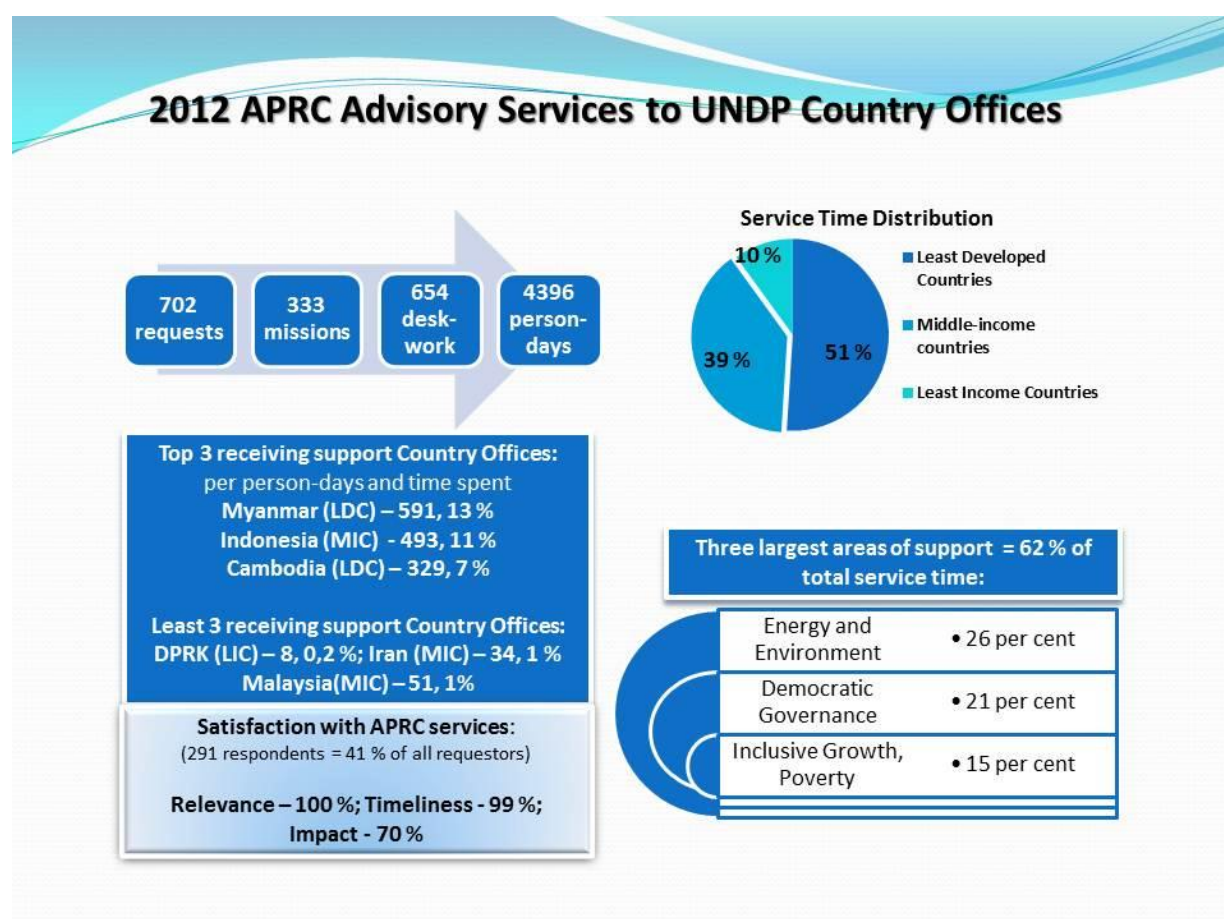
The **Community of Practice on Women's Political Participation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific** was created in response to the pressing concern of women's chronic under-representation in political institutions across the region. The launch of a policy framework *Six Actions to Expand Women's Empowerment* took place in the lead-up to start this important Community of Practice. As a first activity, APRC facilitated an e-discussion on the status and prospects for women in political and decision-making positions in Asia-Pacific. 45 contributions from more than **18 countries** from Asia-Pacific and other regions highlighted challenges to women's political participation and leadership at national and sub-national levels and necessary steps advance women's engagement in political life.



The UN Solution Exchange facilitation service, supported by APRC, assisted in the establishment of the first two communities on Municipal Governance and Development and Sustainable Resource Management in Afghanistan. These communities innovatively use email and mobile phones to ensure increased access for members. At the end of 2012, 20 Solution Exchange communities in six countries (**India, Bhutan, Pacific region, Russia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan**) connect over 29, 000 members.

APRC Services in Support to UNDP Country Offices

In 2012, the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre responded to 702 requests for support from all 24 UNDP Country Offices in the region through a combined service time of 4,396 person-days. The total service time has increased year on year by 20 per cent from 3,671 person-days in 2011. Most requests for support were for technical advice - 44 per cent of total service time, followed by support to programming and project formulation - 16 per cent, and policy advice - 13 per cent. **China, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Samoa** Country Offices increased the number of their requests for support from APRC compared to 2011. The top three requesting Country Offices were Myanmar (61 requests), Indonesia (58) and **Bhutan** (55), and the least requesting Country Offices were **DPRK** (4), **Iran** and **Samoa** (14 requests each). Only 2 per cent of respondents thought the support received did not create an impact on the Country Office's work.



In 2012, **Myanmar** was a priority country for the provision of APRC support for the formulation of the new Country Program Document (CPD) and the new level of UNDP engagement in the country. The comprehensive advisory and technical support package consisted of support in all substantive areas/pillars of the new CPD (Democratic Governance, Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment, and Poverty Reduction) and ranged from early diagnostics, scoping, and identification of programming strategies, to dialogue with development partners and subsequent preparation of the programmatic interventions. The total number of work days, dedicated to the Myanmar Country Office by the APRC advisers reached 591 days or equivalent of 3 full time APRC advisers working for the Myanmar CO for one year.

Managing for Results

In 2012 the Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI) of the United Nations Development Programme conducted an audit of the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre. The audit covered the activities of the Centre for the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 May 2012. During the period reviewed, the Centre recorded programme and management expenditures totaling \$37 million. OAI assessed the Regional Centre as satisfactory, which means “Internal controls, governance and risk management processes were adequately established and functioning well. No issues were identified that would significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity.” (UNDP, OAI, Report # 981, 16 November 2012)

APRC by the Numbers

US \$ 19,896,766 Asia-Pacific Regional Programme Expenditures in 2012;

63 international and **43** national professionals;

25 + knowledge products published and disseminated in 2012, ranging from flagship policy and advocacy reports to comparative studies and compendiums of good practices;

127 cases with total contract value of **US \$ 49,579,348**, submitted by **20 Country Offices** and reviewed by the Regional Advisory Committee on Procurement, hosted in the APRC

215 colleagues from **24 UNDP Country Offices** trained in operations and finance management and in IPSAS and cost-recovery transaction fees at four learning events, hosted by APRC

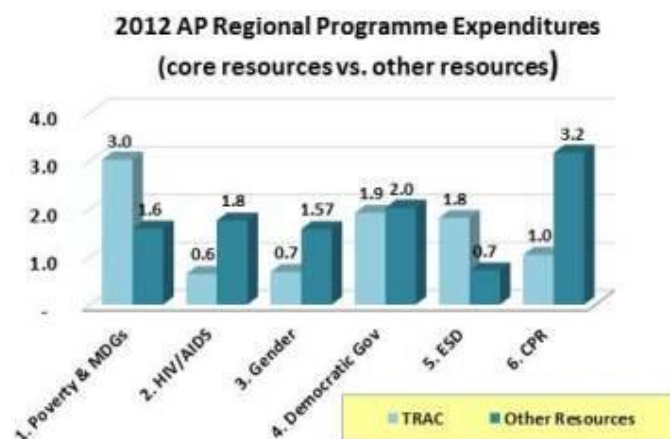
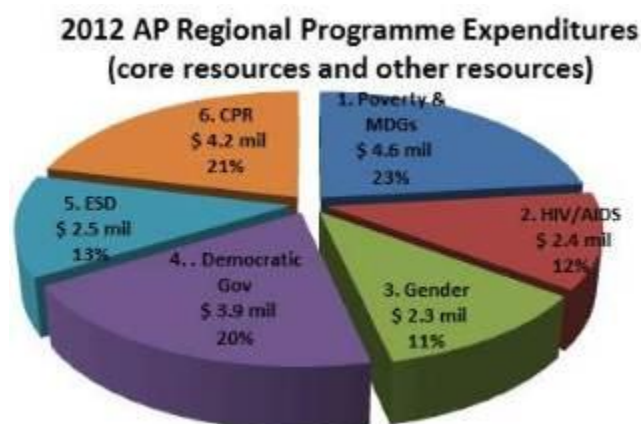
APRC actively supported the United Nations Development Group (Asia-Pacific) in its priority function – quality guidance and advice to UN Country Offices for their UN Development Assistance Framework. APRC, as a focal point on behalf of UNDP (the co-convening agency together with WHO), for the preparation of the common Country Programme Document and One Programme in **Bhutan**, provided quality assurance support and facilitated tailored trainings as requested by the UN Country Team.

The member agencies of the undg (A-P) continued developing thematic background papers on emerging issues in the Asia-Pacific region. APRC co-led and shaped the focus and messages of the social protection issue brief, which was published and shared with UN Country Teams in 2012. The recently established undg (A-P) thematic working group on urbanization is chaired by UN Habitat and co-chaired by UNDP/APRC.

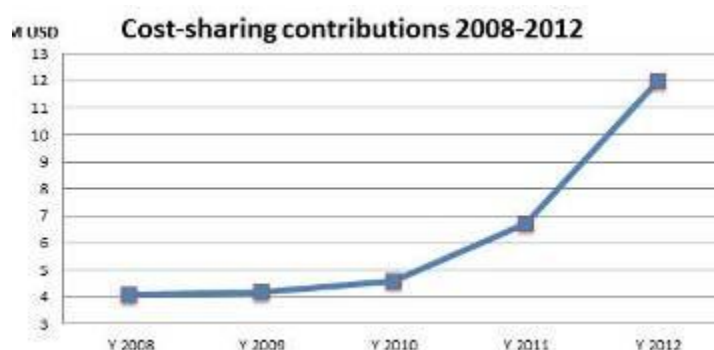
APRC conducted comprehensive Results Based Management, monitoring and evaluation and project management trainings to **Maldives, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Thailand** Country Offices. Altogether **100 people** participated and overall 100 per cent satisfaction rating was received for all four trainings.

APRC organized, co-designed and co-facilitated the regional training on the ‘Practical Monitoring and Data Collection Methods’. **26 participants** from **12 Country Offices** took part in this training.

2012 Financial Results in a Snapshot



The figure and the graph above show the breakdown of expenditures by practice for APRC Bangkok and Suva. The total expenditures for both amount to US \$ 19, 896,766.



The financial support from our partners to UNDP regional projects and initiatives, implemented by APRC - Bangkok and the Pacific Centre-Suva, amounts to US\$ 11,990,599 in 2012; in the period 2008-2012 the 14 regional and sub-regional projects under the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme attracted cost-sharing contributions from development partners totaling US\$ 31,532,950.

Top donor countries in 2012 were **Australia, Sweden, South Korea and US**, as well as **the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)**.

In 2012 APRC awarded US\$ 659,129 in grants to eleven civil society organizations for the implementation of joint public advocacy and capacity development initiatives in the areas of gender equality, democratic governance, crisis prevention, and HIV, health and development.

2012 APRC Annual Report

*Design and layout credits: Maya Nyagolova, Ramya Gopalan, Saowani Bunwong/UNDP APRC
Cover photo credits: please find as followings;*



Devin Bubriski/UNDP Bangladesh



Kazi Arifur Rahman/UNDP Picture This/Bangladesh



Jayanta Roy/UNDP Picture This/India



Ajay Parelkar/UNDP Picture This/India



Sachinsan/UNDP Picture This/India



©Leonardo Sexcion/UNDP Picture This/Philippines



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**United Nations Development Programme
Asia-Pacific Regional Centre**

3rd Floor United Nations Service Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Phranakorn
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: +66 (0)2 304-9100

Fax: +66 (0)2 280-2700

Email: aprc.th@undp.org

Website: <http://asia-pacific.undp.org>

February, 2013