



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Office, Jakarta
Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

The Regional Bureau's Science Support Strategy 2014-2021

Promoting Science for Peace and Sustainable
Development in Asia and the Pacific
through South-South Cooperation





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PREFACE

In Asia and the Pacific region, among the greatest challenges to sustainable development and social equity include: the vital role of the ocean for the health and well-being of humanity; increasing populations and economic development; rising demand for the earth's finite freshwater resources, in particular in urban areas, where, by 2050, more than 70% of the world's population will live; the unprecedented rate of biodiversity loss; the issues related to climate change; the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits; and the particular needs of Small Islands Developing State (SIDS).

The strategy clarifies how the Regional Bureau will contribute to the building of peace and sustainable development in Member States of Asia and the Pacific through enabling science-policy interface. Specifically, it presents the Regional Bureau's thematic priorities and modalities of cooperation, which in turn will help prioritize and streamline its programmatic activities. As such, it is considered as a rolling strategy in the same way that the 37 C/4 is, in order to retain flexibility over eight years and allow the Organization to adapt to new developments and changes in the external environment.

Through its dedicated international programmes and structures, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and Science Professionals in the region will provide policy-relevant, timely and reliable scientific information, data, statistics, and

capacities/expertise in diverse fields such as oceans, freshwater, biodiversity and ecosystems, disaster risk reduction, climate change, science, technology and innovation to foster green societies and economies across Asia and the Pacific.

Our challenge will be to strengthen the sharing and management of knowledge, data and innovation on science-related issues along the strategic directions of 37C/4. Through the promotion of scientific cooperation, UNESCO's science programmes in Asia and the Pacific region will help to bring new ideas to catalyze innovative solutions and foster new ways of working (collect and disseminate data, transform information into knowledge, build stronger policies for the benefit of all, etc) with the aim of linking science more tightly with policy and peace for sustainable development of societies through South-South Cooperation.

The UNESCO Regional Science Bureau will work in close collaboration with its regional partners (National Commissions, Category 2 institutes/centres, chairs, steering committees, etc) to create the enabling conditions necessary to ensure that major development issues are addressed in a sustainable manner according to the needs of the Member States.

Shahbaz Khan

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1. INTRODUCTION

UNESCO's global mission as defined in the Organization's Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4) is:

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO – pursuant to its Constitution – contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

The same medium-term strategy sets two strategic science objectives:

1. Promoting the interface between science, policy and society and ethical and inclusive policies for sustainable development;
2. Strengthening international science cooperation for peace, sustainability and social inclusion

While the 37 C/4, adopted by 195 Member States of UNESCO, guides the Organization's strategic direction, this Regional Support Strategy is an initiative of the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific to clarify its strategic programme priorities and approach in the field of science.

This Science Support Strategy is built at a critical time when world is actively development the Post-2015 Agenda to respond to the global challenges. Asia-Pacific challenges of sustainable development, such as poverty eradication, removing inequalities and enhancing resilience, require crosscutting and multi-sectoral policy making based on sound scientific analysis and innovations. Promoting the balanced integration of the economic, socio-cultural and environmental dimensions in policy-

making and development planning process at all levels is the core of the catalytic actions for transformation towards sustainable development. In this context, the role of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) needs to be strengthened at all levels to respond to the needs of the region.

The main functions for STI to guide and support the Post-2015 agenda include the following:

- Science needs to help develop a thorough understanding of the origin, scope, complexities and inter-relatedness of key challenges of this century.
- STI needs to help address these challenges by steering a number of important transformational shifts in key sectors, such as energy, food, and water. Sustainability Science could be an effective approach to help better understand and address the multi-faceted challenges.
- STI needs to focus on foresight and on mobilizing and using 'big data' for modeling, scenario development, and monitoring to ensure the transformational shifts lead towards sustainability.



2. VISION AND MISSION

Vision: Fostering Science for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

Sustainable solutions - whether at the global, regional or country level - will require creativity, new advances in scientific knowledge, discoveries and innovations. Innovation geared towards sustainable development has the potential to lift economic growth, create green jobs, and boost social development while at the same time contributing to environment protection and conservation. By fostering dialogue, cooperation, networking, capacity building and knowledge-sharing with the scientific community, decision makers, and civil society in the Asia-Pacific region as well as at country level, the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will contribute to the ultimate Vision where Member States will be able to 'meet society's needs via science based solutions'.

Mission

UNESCO is known as the “intellectual” agency of the United Nations. At a time when the world is looking for new ways to build science knowledge and policy for sustainable development, people must rely on the power of intelligence to innovate, expand horizons and sustain the hope of a new humanism. UNESCO exists to help bring this creative intelligence to life; for it is in the minds of men and women that the defenses of peace and the conditions for sustainable development must be built. Working to create holistic policies that are capable of addressing the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development, reaffirm the founding principles of the Organization and enhance its vision of promoting the

interface between science, policy and society for peace, sustainability and social inclusion. In this regard, the Bureau will carry out the following mission:

- To work with Member States on key issues and problems in Asia-Pacific region, in order to engage science in the service of human needs and improve both environment and quality of life of the region's peoples.
- To mobilize science, technology, innovation and policy, for enabling Member States in the region on addressing new and emerging challenges that could facilitate to set a course for a sustainable future.

The below statement captures UNESCO's strategic orientation which is the source of inspiration of Regional Science Bureau's mission stated:

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.



3. SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY

“Today, in a world changing quickly, on a planet under pressure, we need more science, we need more scientists. Science is a force that brings people together, to join hands in the pursuit of knowledge. Science is our best ally to tackle the consequences of climate change, to foster the innovation all societies need today.”

This message by the Director General of UNESCO on World Science Day 2013 guides UNESCO’s work in the Asia and the Pacific region to harness the power of the sciences for lasting peace and sustainable development. Due to complex transboundary climate change, environment, water, energy and food challenges we need to realize the full potential of all sciences for development and peace, which are inseparable and essential for the future that we want. Green societies have to be knowledge societies. In order to identify emerging and fast-evolving environmental challenges, green societies need to have the capacity to imagine innovative solutions, generate new knowledge and deliver real-world change. Science holds many of the answers to the complex questions faced by Asia and the Pacific region.

Post-2015 Development Challenges and Opportunities in the Region

During the past 3 - 4 decades a number of planetary boundaries have been exceeded, and the question of sustainability has now become a pressing issue. We probably have another 3-4 decades to address and fix the key global challenges of our time. The Post-2015 Development Agenda needs to respond to new global and regional realities, which indicate that humanity is facing numerous unprecedented and inter-connected socio-economic and environmental sustainability challenges, including:

- Poverty, social and economic exclusion
- Hunger, food security
- Existing and new diseases

- Climate change and disaster impacts
- Massive pollution of water, soil and air
- Unsustainable energy use
- Threats to oceans (acidification, overfishing)
- Intensifying ecological footprints, biodiversity loss
- Water scarcity and water quality deterioration
- Population growth and urbanization
- Peace and security
- Access to quality education

These global challenges present an urgent agenda for all countries including Asia and the Pacific region, through inclusive and horizontal cooperation. Besides, the challenges are hugely complex with strong inter-connections. The task to address the above challenges is phenomenally complex, and therefore science has to play a major role in helping to understand the complexities and multi-dimensional character of sustainable development.

The High Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development held in Pattaya, May 2014, has highlighted the need for strengthening science, technology and innovation and their interfaces to ensure transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, particularly the LDCs.

Scientific as well as relevant indigenous and local knowledge play a critical role in helping to meet the development

challenges of today and tomorrow. Based on progress achieved towards the Millennium Development Goals, the Post-2015 Agenda should be built in an inclusive manner, so as to take into account not only increased economic wealth but also equitable access to education for all (including the sciences), reducing the gap in the availability and transfer of sustainable technologies between developing and developed countries, and the need to ensure social inclusion in an era of major social transformation.

The MDGs have helped improve the lives of billions, but much more needs to be done to reduce inequalities and to address environmental challenges. The Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will take a leadership role in the science domain, both by providing its support to Member States across the region to positioning itself in the post-2015 framework by proposing new ideas and indicators to feed into the discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Heads of State and high-level representatives recognized the important contribution of the natural, social and human sciences to sustainable development and social inclusion. Fostering international scientific collaboration and strengthening the science-policy interface are crucial to address sustainable development and social transformation challenges. The main imperatives guiding the work of UNESCO in the areas of natural

and social and human sciences, and their contribution to sustainable development are:

- the conservation, sustainable use of, and equitable access to natural resources and the sharing of benefits arising thereof;
- the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to help address inequalities and to increase resilience
- the promotion of social inclusion on the basis of the universal declaration of human rights and ethical principles .

An effective science-policy interface will require a regular and systematic

assessment of scientific and other relevant knowledge in relation to social transformation and intercultural dialogue, climate change, biodiversity and key ecosystems such as fresh water and the ocean.

Through normative and technical assistance for ethically based inclusive public policies, UNESCO will accompany countries' efforts to develop their own innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities posed by sustainable development. The establishment of institutional and human capacities will be central to achieve this. Hence, the highest priority needs to be given to the promotion of capacity development in the sciences, especially at the national level, and to the enhancement of the capacity of societies to take informed decisions about their future.



STI Strategic Focus Areas

During 2014-2021, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will assist Member States of Asia-Pacific region in building knowledge societies based on science and sustainable development by focusing on three main axes:

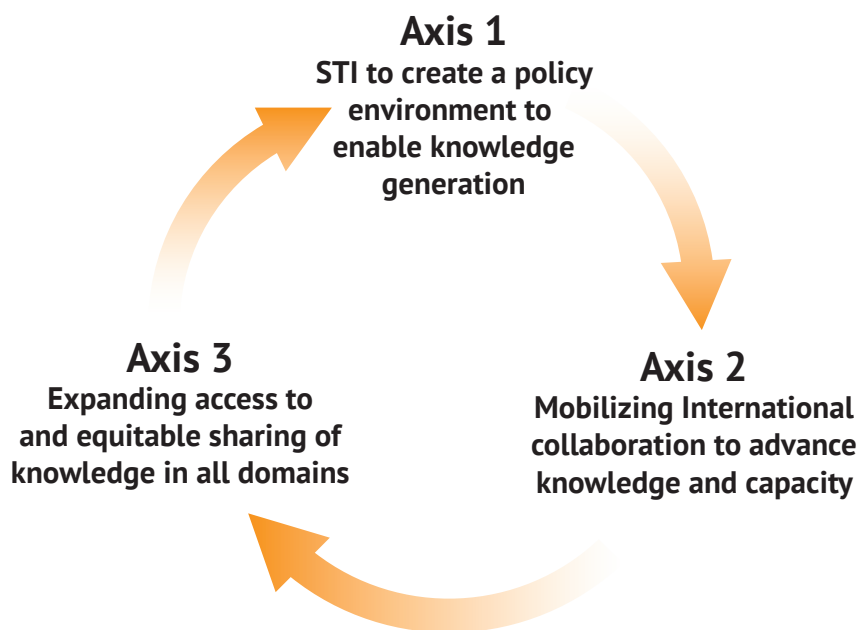


Figure 1. Three main axes for STI focus

Axis 1:
Science, Technology and Innovation:
Creating a policy environment to enable knowledge generation and application

The development of knowledge societies involves the implementation of public policies which are based on holistic scientific research in order to address the profound and complex global and regional challenges and social transformations taking place in all Member States. Specifically, UNESCO will work to provide sound policy advice in assisting countries of the region to invest in STI, to develop national science policies, to reform their science systems and to build capacity to monitor and evaluate performance through STI indicators.

Axis 2:
Mobilizing international collaboration to advance knowledge generation and capacity development

Since its foundation, UNESCO is the catalyst for, and the promoter of, major international scientific programmes in the field of marine, freshwater, ecological, earth and the basic sciences and is working to create and share knowledge to bridge knowledge divides. The Organization appears today as the pioneer and leader in international scientific cooperation. Through the programmes such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the International Geosciences

Programme (IGCP), a significant body of scientific knowledge has been created and disseminated all over the world.

All of these major international scientific collaborative programmes contribute to building scientific capacity of UNESCO Member States in Asia-Pacific, and will be used as the core scientific knowledge base for, among others, raising awareness on the importance of science education, disaster-risk reduction, engineering science, and biodiversity preservation.

Axis 3:

Expanding access to and equitable sharing of knowledge in all domains

Advances in science and technologies create enormous new potential for information and knowledge exchanges and for the emergence of new patterns of communication and exchange of ideas. In a relatively short time, STI education has moved from a rigid, fixed system to a highly mobile structure. Not least to note, one of the main consequences of technology today is mobility. Internet, whether fixed or mobile, and mobile telephony, together with traditional media such as radio and TV broadcasting, enable large parts of the world's population to have quasi-permanent access to information and knowledge from almost everywhere on the planet and at any time. The right to access these new technologies and all aspects of knowledge available through these technologies is fundamental to the mandate of UNESCO.

To foster access to knowledge as a mainspring of innovation, the Jakarta Office will continue to promote and support the utilization of ICTs in domains such as access to culture and

related knowledge systems, monitoring World Heritage Sites, recording, registering and sharing knowledge about Intangible Cultural Heritage, or digitalizing museum's collections. The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IHCAP), a Category-2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, is working with many countries in Asia and the Pacific to restore and digitalize intangible cultural heritage related data, disseminate and use it for education and promotion purposes. The Jakarta Office will promote the use of tools such as Open Access (OA) - the online availability of scholarly information to everyone, free of most licensing and copyright barriers to enable global knowledge flows for the benefit of scientific discovery, innovation and socio-economic development of researchers, innovators, teachers, students, media professionals and the general public.

The UNESCO network of Chairs and Category-2 centers will serve as a regional platform to strengthen South-South cooperation in the domain of STI to increase in the capacity for management of STI throughout developing countries of the region.



4. THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL SCIENCE BUREAU

Over the next eight years, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will continue to develop regional flagship programmes, support regional networks and foster science - policy interface through the UNESCO major science programmes on science, technology and innovation (STI), strengthen STI capacities, and enhance regional scientific cooperation for advancing inclusive sustainable development. It will exercise leadership in ocean and fresh water issues and develop holistic solutions to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will be centrally involved in bridging the multiple gaps between science, policy and society by mobilizing and supporting multidisciplinary scientific knowledge to inform decision-making, while at the same time recognizing and promoting the ethical, social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty by encouraging the design and application of effective innovative approaches and policies. Policy-making will be coupled with concrete action through UNESCO programmes on the ground at the national or regional levels, through mechanisms to provide science policy advice and capacity-building that is robust, socially inclusive, rights and ethically-based.

In response to the emerging global sustainability challenges, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will put into practice integrated science for sustainable development, or sustainability science. Sustainability science draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a transdisciplinary way in order to identify, understand and address economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges. The Bureau in close collaboration with field offices will also focus on concrete mechanisms or examples of how STI will be driven/achieved in the region. Initiatives will be developed, such as the Pacific-Europe Network for Science, Technology and Innovation (PACE-NET Plus project); a project funded by the European Commission to further bi-regional science, technology and innovation cooperation to generate new knowledge for addressing priority challenges in the Pacific region.

The Bureau will also pay special attention to the opportunities offered by green growth approaches, by working with Member States to provide a reference policy framework, highlighting the opportunities that a greener economy could generate for a more sustainable growth in countries of Asia and the Pacific region, facing challenges such as water supply, food production, sustainable energy, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, poverty, weather extremes and environmental degradation.



5. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Rationale

The Regional Bureau's Science Support Strategy outlines the guiding principles, mission statement, strategic orientations, and working methods of all activities relating to science programmes in Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the strategy underscores the need to support Member States in Asia-Pacific to engage in the process to develop a set of initiatives and actions in line with the global Development Agenda beyond 2015 (the SDGs).

UNESCO's global primary resources used in this regard are the intergovernmental programmes in basic sciences (IBSP), ecology (MAB), geology (IGCP), hydrology (IHP), and oceanography (IOC). In addition, the Category-2 institutes and centres, UNESCO chairs, Associated Schools and other networks combine expertise for programme delivery through joint designing and implementation of activities at national and regional level.

These programmes not only provide a framework for cooperation but also promote and enable the development of international and regional networks. Bringing people and knowledge-producing institutions together to solve problems on emerging diseases, floods, climate change, and an array of other issues is vital for the future of the region.

Working to achieve the MDGs and advance the Post-2015 Agenda requires the Asia-Pacific region to address enduring challenges of poverty, social inequality and rapid environmental change. The Bureau believes these interlinked challenges should be addressed together, by drawing on the science programmes in order to reinforce and enhance knowledge-sharing among local and regional networks on issues related to sustainability.

This strategy takes into consideration the advantages offered by UNESCO's science networks in the region, and focuses primarily on initiatives that would put these networks to their most effective use. A particular emphasis is placed on ensuring that interventions are realized through a genuinely multisectoral approach, based on UNESCO's global priorities - Gender Equality, Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). These will be closely aligned with the recommendations from the UN Scientific Advisory Board - created by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and lead by UNESCO - to strengthen the linkage between science and policy and ensure that up-to-date rigorous science is appropriately reflected in high-level policy discussion, particularly in areas relevant to sustainable development.

Link with UNESCO's Mid-Term Strategy 37 C/4

The 37 C/4 document adopted by the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2013 defines the main orientations for actions in UNESCO's fields of competence for the next eight years. This common strategic vision for the Organization provides guidelines to sharpen UNESCO's role and enhance its impact and delivery at global, regional and local levels.

In the field of Science, the main lines of action for science knowledge and policy for sustainable development are presented under strategic objectives 4 and 5. These objectives will be implemented under five main lines of action and twelve expected results, as indicated in Table-1. In these fields, the Bureau will work towards a stronger, rules-based international order where multilateral cooperation is effective and development is inclusive, rooted in respect for regional key challenges.

While taking advantage of the recent achievements in promoting science as a driver and an enabler of regional development in Asia-Pacific, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will pay special attention to the Gender Equality and Least Developing Countries (LDCs), in order to promote the strengthening of policies as well as institutional and professional capacities, and to assure effective and sustainable implementation of science programmes for sustainable growth and peace.

Regional Initiatives

The following regional initiatives linked with UNESCO's medium term strategy (37C/4) and IHP, MAB and IOC programs will be promoted:

BRIDGES

Biosphere Reserves in Diverse Global Environment for Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific.

FORCE

Fostering Resilient Communities - a natural disaster and climate change education initiative.

WISER

Water Informatics for Sustainability and Enhanced Resilience for Asia and the Pacific.

The above regional flagships will be delivered through two cross-cutting initiatives:

COMPETENCE

A Comprehensive Programme to Enhance Technology, Engineering and Science Education in Asia; aimed at enabling power of connectivity across the region.

STAR

Sustainability Transformations Across the Region – a program to promote trans-disciplinary science towards sustainable societies; aimed at demonstrating sustainability science principles through UNESCO's IHP, MAB and MOST programs.

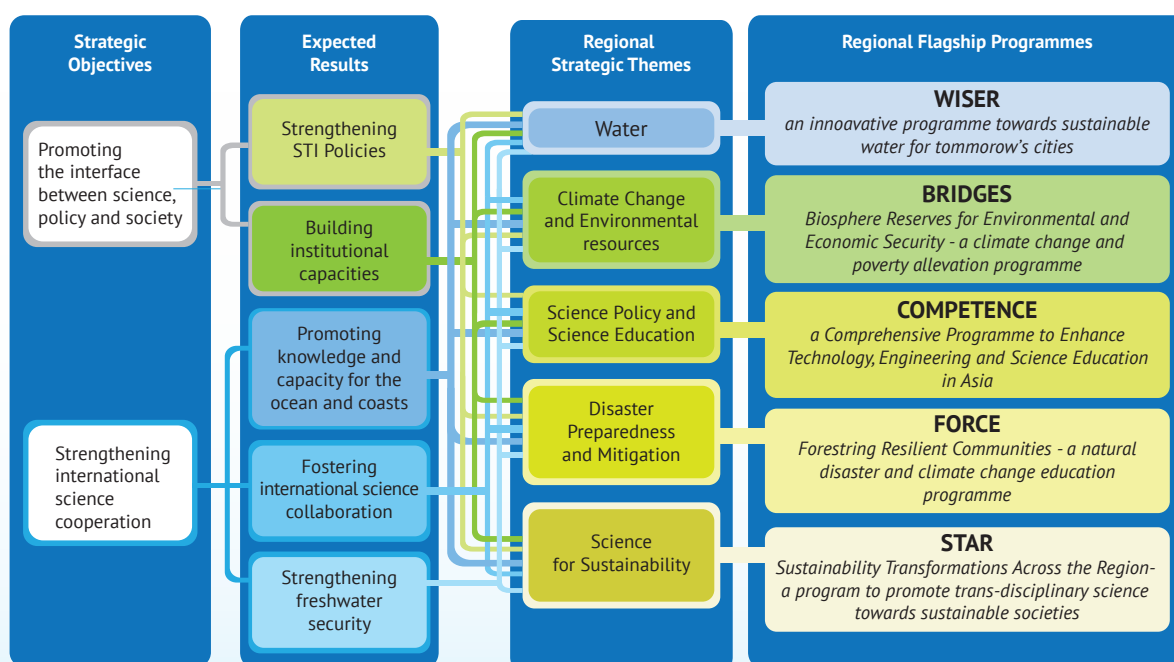


Figure 2. Linking Global and Regional Medium Term Strategic Objectives



6. PARTNERSHIP

Forging Partnerships and Networks

UNESCO will work with a wide range of partners in all of its fields of competence. Regional partnerships are a key enabler for meeting global challenges and generating sustainable change and long-lasting impact. Partnerships are firmly embedded in UNESCO's way of working at global, regional and national levels. By joining forces with its partners, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific can leverage resources, expertise and competences to promote UNESCO's ideals and values, to achieve internationally agreed development goals, and to strengthen visibility and impact of its action. The Regional Bureau has a long-standing tradition of partnering with institutions, entities and individuals of many kinds –

governments, the wider UN family, other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private sector companies, corporate and philanthropic foundations, media organizations, parliamentarians, Goodwill Ambassadors and many other specialized networks in UNESCO's field of activities such as the Category-2 Centres, Clubs for UNESCO, UNESCO Associated Schools and UNESCO Chairs.

Mobilising the Wider UNESCO Science Family

UNESCO Science Professionals in the region will work as one team by building on UNESCO programmes such as the International Hydrological Program (IHP), Man and the Biosphere Program, (MAB) Network of UNESCO Category-2 centres and chairs.



7. ENABLING REGIONAL SCIENCE SUPPORT STRATEGY

Delivering on the Post-2015 Agenda

In keeping with its mandate to promote science knowledge and policy for sustainable development, as well as provide guidance on issues related to inclusive knowledge societies especially on Science, Technology and Information (STI) in support of internationally agreed development goals, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will bring together relevant stakeholders from its funding, research and policy networks to assist Member States in Asia-Pacific on achieving the MDGs and to the development and implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. Science has an immediate role to play and by stimulating cooperation around the science-related issues, the Bureau will work to ensure that science is used to the benefit of regional and international development.

Science, technology and innovation has a cross-cutting role to play in development. While the advancement of fundamental science is a global benefit to humanity in its own right, in the context of specific development goals after 2015 it has a supporting role to play in advancing international ambitions on global growth, environ-

ment, food security, health and a variety of other public policies including disaster risk reduction. For that reason, including specific targets with respect to science, technology and innovation, as part of broader public policy goals would present the most appropriate way ahead.

The Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific - in line with the recommendation from the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability - will position itself as "a better interface between policymakers and the scientific community, which, in turn, can contribute to a deeper understanding of the drivers and impacts of sustainable development and point to innovative and effective ways of addressing them". The Bureau will therefore work to promote an environment where there are adequate incentives for local, regional and international stakeholders to create scientific knowledge base and place it at the service of Asia-Pacific region, through showcasing of best practices, strengthening of science policy interface and on-ground demonstration of sustainability science.

Ensuring Programme Effectiveness, Impact and Visibility

The Bureau has identified a number of strategic directions in support of the Regional Science Support Strategy:

- **Develop Coherent and Demand-driven Country-based Programming Tools**

The Bureau has produced UNESCO Country Programme Documents (UCPDs), articulating the organization's role within individual Member State Development Plans and within the Joint UN Programme and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The strength of the UCPDs is that they are demand-responsive, as they were developed via joint consultations between the Bureau and the respective governments, National Commissions for UNESCO and other national stakeholders.

- **Strengthen Programme Delivery and Effectiveness**

Considering UNESCO's broad mandate and limited resources, it is crucial that programme delivery remains effective and relevant to societal problems, now and in the future. The strategic direction of the Regional Bureau will be to continue to shift its portfolio from the current large number of smaller, short-term initiatives towards a coherent and consolidated regional science programme. This will provide opportunities for building stronger partnerships, including with other UN agencies.

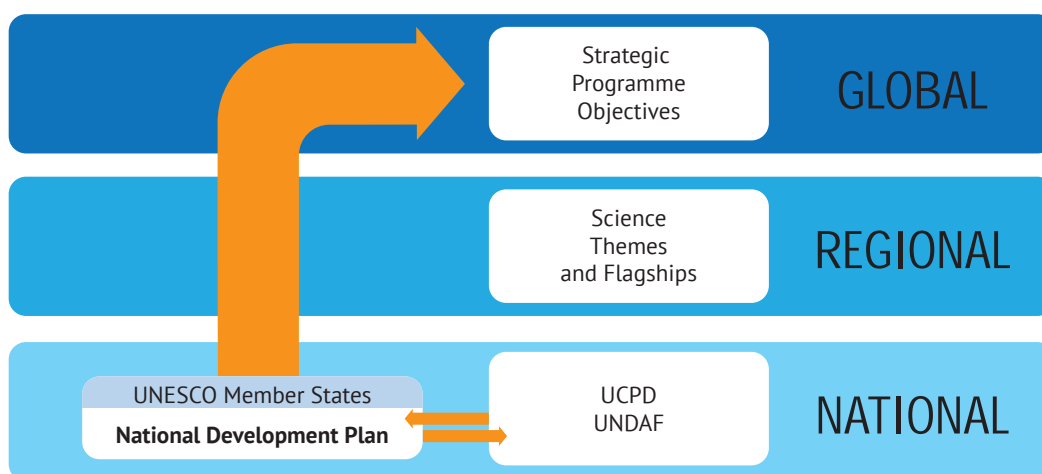


Figure 3. Linking Global and Regional Medium Term Strategic Objectives

- **Deliver as One and develop strong partnerships**

The Bureau is fully committed to UN reform aimed at improving coherence and synergy between the various programmes, funds, and agencies, so that the full diversity and depth of expertise across the UN is mobilized to respond effectively to the global challenges of the 21st century. As such, the Bureau actively supports other UNESCO Offices and UN country teams in the region to incorporate science, technology and innovation approaches in joint programming and UNDAF design and its implementation. The UN system in Asia and the Pacific region has established a UN Regional Directors team (UNDG-AP). The UNDG-AP has a

role in guiding UN reform at the country level by providing quality support and advice to the Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in the region. UNESCO is represented in the UNDG-AP by both the Director of the Regional Bureau for Science (Jakarta) and the Director of the Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok). This new modality is expected to significantly improve interaction, cooperation and 'Delivery as One' in the region. The quality of programme delivery will also be ensured via the development and maintenance of effective partnerships between stakeholders in the wider region.

Resources

The comparative advantage of the Bureau lies in its broad in-house science expertise, strong regional networks, financial support mechanisms, and communication strategies to address regional development challenges.

Expertise:

Science specialists in the Bureau, Cluster and country offices in the region act as authorities on important subjects including freshwater, environmental, marine, earth, basic and engineering sciences, while cross-cutting experts provide support on topics such as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), science policy advise, disaster risk reduction, climate change, indigenous and local knowledge systems. As the Regional Science Support Strategy and related Flagship Programmes require a holistic approach, the Bureau will further enhance the intersectoral cooperation between its experts, units and field offices.

Partnerships:

The Regional Science Bureau aims to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism. The Bureau can draw upon a wide range of skills and resources from its strong regional and global networks of institutions and experts. Collaboration will focus on regional dialogue and policies via cooperation with regional bodies such as ASEAN, ASPAC, and SEAMEO. Close cooperation with Category I and II institutions, which are respectively UNESCO and UNESCO-associated institutions, will help to incorporate cutting-edge and innovative science into the Bureau's work. Other partners such as national and regional institutions, universities, National Commissions for UNESCO and CSOs will be mobilized strategically to achieve the highest impact.

Financial:

UNESCO is not a funding agency and its global annual budget for sciences is modest. The Bureau's consecutive biennium programmes and budgets combined with its extra-budgetary initiatives provide a coherent programmatic and financial foundation to pursue the Regional Science Support Strategy. In the coming years, the Bureau will address the financial challenges by ensuring that activities are cost-effective and strengthening development efforts that will build long-term partnerships with governments, bilateral agencies, the private sector, and foundations. Another approach is to develop pilot projects and feasibility studies, as a lead-up to the development of larger donor-funded initiatives. Such endeavours will help to diversify the financial resources and build financial sustainability into the Bureau's programming.

Communication:

The Bureau will make every attempt to connect stakeholders to one another in order to facilitate and strengthen synergies and collaboration. In so doing, the Bureau will not only spark important dialogue but also encourage an atmosphere of openness, acceptance, collaboration and change. The Bureau will also intensify efforts to inform the public about its work on science and related policies, including through the use of ICT, and to enlist the help of the media and others to jointly identify issues and priorities, and stimulate dialogue and participation in solving problems.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Bureau will use a Results-Based Management (RBM) approach in the design and implementation of its Regional Science Support Strategy, where performance is judged against pre-defined benchmarks and delivery targets. All the Bureau's programmes and activities have defined anticipated results that contribute to the achievement of overall regional and global programme objectives. RBM will also put the Bureau in a better position to take well-informed decisions, to learn from successes and failures, and to share these experiences with other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, to deliver the Post-2015 Agenda.

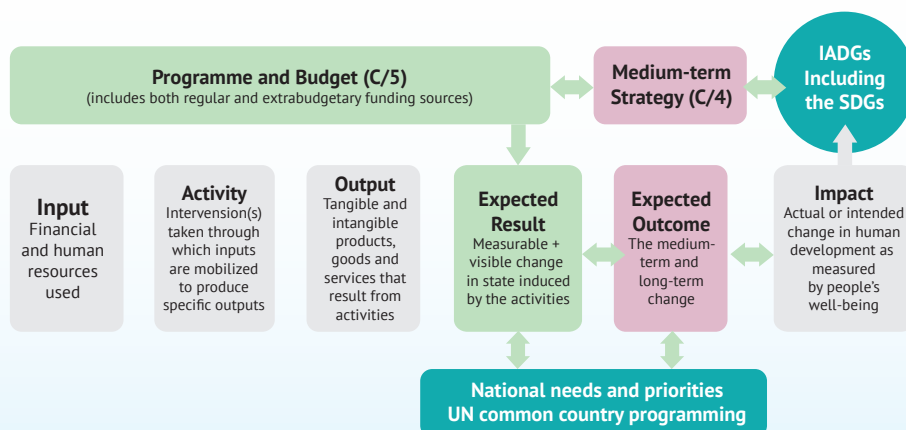


Figure 4. Result-Based Management Approach

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UNESCO as a specialized agency of the United Nations – pursuant to its Constitution – contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

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