

MISSION

To provide science, technology, policy and capacity support to developing countries to integrate ecosystem management approach into their national policies and development plans to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services for human well-being.

MANDATE

To synthesize science findings for decision-making on ecosystem management and is supported by three inter-related initiatives:

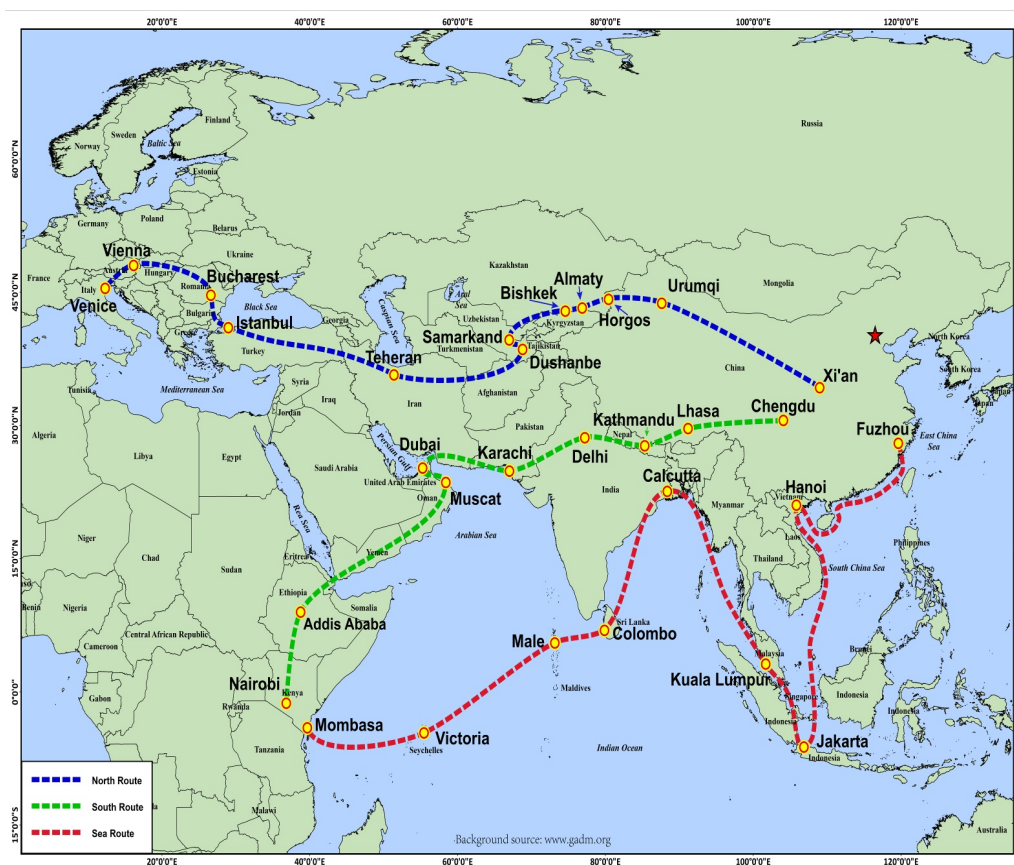
1. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
2. Making the Case through Assessment and Demonstration
3. Science-Policy Interface

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UNEP-IEMP Bulletin will be issued on a quarterly basis to inform you of our achievements and lessons learned through activities and projects executed. Please feel free to share with us your feedback to further improve our work and the information shared with you. Please forward these directly to info@unep-iemp.org

Establishment of Silk Road Survey and Assessment (SRSA) Office



Demonstration routes of the Silk Road Survey and Assessment. Photo: UNEP-IEMP

Reviving the routes: taking the first step towards climate action

In January, UNEP-IEMP announced a three-year integrated ecosystem survey and assessment along the Silk Road land and sea routes. The survey will be under the aegis of the 'Belt and Road' initiative proposed by China, providing a unique opportunity to further promote regional sustainable development and ecological civilization. It will be one of the key strategic initiatives of UNEP-IEMP's Flagship Programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) which will focus on coordinating ecological conservation and livelihoods improvement in the context of climate change. Through this initiative, the key activities to be undertaken are as follows: scientific assessment, policy dialogue and capacity building.

High-level Meetings on the “Costa Rica Green Hub”

Strengthening cooperation with Latin America on ecosystem management

Honorable Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica His Excellency Edgar Gutiérrez invited representation from UNEP-IEMP to participate in a high-level working meeting on the “Costa Rica Green Hub”, held in the province of Heredia, Costa Rica. The Costa Rica Green Hub – an agile and pragmatic knowledge sharing platform on sustainable forest management and ecosystem services – is an initiative of the Government of Costa Rica that benefits from the technical expertise of FUNDECOR, country’s leading environmental NGO, and is also supported by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE).

The meeting brought together international experts and key stakeholders to discuss the guiding framework, governance structure and financial instruments of the Green Hub initiative, which is expected to be officially launched in April 2016. Silvia Cazzetta, Senior Fellow and Focal Point of UNEP-IEMP’s collaboration in Latin America represented the Centre. The visit served as a valuable opportunity to strengthen UNEP-IEMP’s alliance with FUNDECOR, which was initiated in the year 2015.

As a follow up to this mission in Costa Rica, UNEP-IEMP supported FUNDECOR in the organization of another high-level meeting, “From Costa Rica to the World: the Green Hub Initiative”. Held in March 2016, at the premises of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) in Beijing, the event was attended by representatives of the Chinese Government, diplomats, scientists and technical experts.

During the sidelines of the visit to China, FUNDECOR representatives were also invited to participate in the development of a new proposal of the NSFC-UNEP Joint Research Programme. This is done in cooperation with the South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Delegates at the “Costa Rica Green Hub” high-level meeting in Beijing. Photo: Cristina Weidlich

Launch of South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) Forum Secretariat

Setting the compass for South-South cooperation in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

Delegates at the first two sessions of the South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) Forum – held on the sidelines of COP20 in Lima (2014), and of COP21 in Paris (2015) respectively – called for the establishment of a Platform for Promoting SSSCC (SSCCC Platform) and also recognized the SSSCC Forum as the appropriate setting for bringing together policy-makers to exchange views on South-South co-operation and provide strategic directions.

In January 2016, UNEP-IEMP established a Secretariat for the SSSCC Forum, with the view to re-launch it as a *standing policy advisory mechanism*. Beside the annual Forum series in the context of the UNFCCC COP, which will continue, new streams of activity will be developed to strengthen engagement with policy processes and enhance dialogue among stakeholders. This will create a solid basis for delivering policy services for the SSSCC Platform, which will be developed over time. In the years to come, the Forum will continue to promote SSSCC and facilitate the scaling up of South-South action on the ground.

EbA South Team's Field Missions to the three Pilot Countries



Native species nursery for building a green belt to protect the new Benichab city in Mauritania. Photo: EbA South

Facilitating the EbA implementation and planning in Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles

From February to March 2016, the EbA South Project Management Unit, Technical Advisor and International Consultants conducted field missions in Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles to support the national teams in the planning and implementation of activities for the upcoming year. Highlights of each mission are provided below.

In **Nepal**, the mission's activities enabled a long-term EbA research programme to be launched at selected field sites (Chiti and Jita/Taksar) in partnership with Tribhuvan University. In consultation with locals, the project's adaptation experts designed additional EbA interventions to the ones currently being implemented, which will strengthen and diversify livelihoods in the post-earthquake period.

In **Mauritania**, the approach of planting climate-resilient indigenous species to both establish protective green belts around settlements (e.g. "New Benichab") and to generate 'non-timber forest products' (NTFPs) was very well received by the local communities and high-level decision makers. Two demonstration sites – covering a total of 208 hectares – in degraded areas were selected to serve as a leading example of the Pan-African Great Green Wall Initiative for Mauritania's 10 partner countries. To increase technical capacity for dune fixation using an EbA approach, a national EbA training workshop was held in February at the demonstration sites and benefitted nearly 50 local experts. To complement this training, the results of a national survey of indigenous NTFP species – commissioned by the EbA South Project – were used to inform the selection of species at the project's field sites.

In **Seychelles**, three EbA workshops were organized with key national partners and stakeholders of EbA South. The implementation of EbA activities at the selected sites (on the islands of Mahé, Praslin and Curieuse) was closely coordinated with national partners and local communities, with a particular focus on transplanting mangrove seedlings from nurseries to improve wetland water flow and flood regulation.



*International Mountain Adaptation Specialist Chao Fu observing planted seedlings at project site
Photo: EbA South*



*Project Officer Diwen Tan with local women's group delegate in Nepal
Photo: EbA South Lamjung*

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Project: Consultative and Capacity Building Workshops in the Lower Mekong



Consultative meetings with multi-stakeholders in Cambodia (L) and Vietnam (R). Photo: MinJet Loo

Connecting upper and lower reaches in the GMS

The GMS project team of UNEP-IEMP conducted consultative and capacity building workshops on Phou Khao Khouay National Biodiversity Conservation Area, in Vientiane, Lao PDR (Jan 11), in Pha Taem National Park, Thailand (Jan 14), in Phnom Kulen National Park, Cambodia (Jan 18) and on Tram Chim National Park, in Cao Lanh, Vietnam (Mar 18-20) to identify and prioritize capacity gaps in ecosystem management in the Subregion. Capacity building and awareness raising activities were also included in each workshop to strengthen ecosystem approach in their respective planning processes.

Through these consultations with multiple stakeholders ranging from policy makers and local communities, the need for a regional capacity building framework in the GMS became more and more evident, highlighting the urge for transboundary cooperation in ecosystem management.

In the following months, the GMS team will organize further consultative capacity building workshops in the upper Mekong (Yunnan, China and Myanmar). The final ministerial level meeting will bring together officials from every member country to agree on a framework for capacity building.

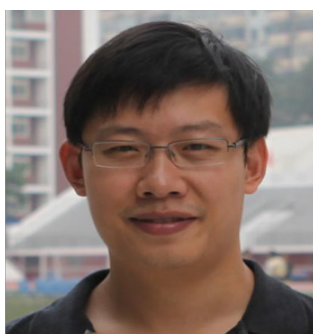


Consultative meetings with multi-stakeholders in Lao PDR (L) and Thailand (R). Photo: MinJet Loo

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10, 2016 – IGSNRR, CAS, Beijing , China	SSCCC Forum Scoping Meeting
June 28, 2016 – IGSNRR, CAS, Beijing , China	Second Science Advisory Group Meeting
June 29, 2016 – IGSNRR, CAS, Beijing , China	Fourth Annual Steering Committee Meeting

STAFF UPDATES NEW JOINEES



Guan Yisong
*Head of Silk Road Survey and
Assessment (SRSA) Office*

Mr. Guan Yisong began his career at the Chinese Renewable Energy Industrial Association. At the end of 2005, he established Easy Carbon Consultancy Co., Ltd. as one of the two founders. As the deputy director of the company, he was mainly responsible for the company management, project management and technology research. Towards the end of 2013, Easy Carbon Consultancy has successfully registered 175 CDM projects, and was ranked No. 1 in China and No. 2 worldwide for its number of registered CDM projects according to the summary by UNEP CDM pipeline. Mr. Guan was one of the key tutors of NDRC CDM capacity building project and the key writers for NDRC dominated books such as CDM Guide Book. In addition to this, he has been actively involved in many studies and reports in climate change sector.



Tatirose Vijitpan
*Climate Change Adaptation
Specialist*

Prior to joining UNEP-IEMP, Ms. Tatirose Vijitpan has worked with the Mekong River Commission Secretariat's Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative; the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia Centre under both The Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET) and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia; WWF Thailand's Energy and Climate Change Unit. She holds a Master of Science on Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management, an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course from the Central European University (Hungary), the University of the Aegean (Greece), Lund University (Sweden) and the University of Manchester (UK).

OUTGOING

Yu Ma worked as a special assistant to the Director of UNEP-IEMP and diligently contributed to the team. We would like to commend him for his hard work, dedication and sincerity. The UNEP-IEMP fraternity wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors.



Yu Ma
Special Assistant, Director



Banana plantations by a local women group in Lamjung District, Nepal. Photo: Diwen Tan

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