

SDplanNet-Asia & Pacific

Sharing Tools in Planning for Sustainable Development

Background

Sustainable development planning in Asia-Pacific is an ongoing activity primarily dating from Agenda 21 (which called for all developing countries to have a national strategy for sustainable development by 2005) and reinforced by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. While many countries in the region have undertaken such activities, there is little evidence of plans being mainstreamed into economic development plans or guiding annual budgets.

Accordingly, there is a need for sustainable development practitioners in Asia-Pacific to learn additional skills from their peers and external experts. Establishing an online community of practice is a way of providing this needed upgrading of planning abilities.

MISSION: To help professionals involved in development planning share innovative approaches for integrating sustainable development into plans, strategies and budgeting processes at local, sub-national and national levels.



Who will benefit from participating in the network?

- Persons from national governments who are responsible for developing and coordinating national development plans and strategies, including planning and finance departments, as well as environment, natural resources, education, health, and community development departments
- Persons from sub-national and local governments who are responsible for developing and coordinating development plans and strategies
- Persons from organizations who have a mandate and interest in advancing approaches for integrating sustainable development into decision-making

Major components

The SDplanNet-AP network focuses on approaches that facilitate forward-looking analysis and adaptive strategy-making and identify important linkages and trade-offs among economic, social and environmental issues. Examples of approaches include, but are not limited to: the use of scenario outlooks for long-term planning; indicator information systems to measure progress towards improved quality of life and sustainability; integrated assessment techniques such as sustainability assessment and integrated policy appraisal; creation and operation of multi-stakeholder councils and advisory groups; and innovative financing mechanisms such as payment for ecological goods and services.