SEI Asia's policy support

October 2018

SEI Asia works with a diversity of partners at different scales to produce policy action for environmental sustainability and social equality. Our policy support work covers issues from local to national to regional and is inclusive of stakeholders from government to interest groups to civil society groups. In addition, our outreach includes the private sector – a critical actor in the drive to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SEI Asia’s policy support works through three conduits: building evidence, policy advisory and strategy development. Research provides the basis of this support: building evidence generated from data that is analyzed using innovative social and natural science methods and models. Policy developers often require specific expertise or consultation on scientific matters that coincide with SEI’s research areas. This advisory is provided directly to clients and based on previous research, in addition to the advice and support from SEI’s Asia and globally based experts. Policy is also developed through long-term partnerships, with the aim of developing strategy in new or critical policy areas, such as water resources management, climate adaptation, or sustainable agriculture.

Areas of Work

SEI Asia’s policy support reaches across all our thematic research areas:

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
- Energy Futures
- Water Resources Management
- Gender, Environment and Development
- Transforming Development and Disaster Risk
- Urban Health and Wellbeing

Photo (above):
© CLEMENS GRÜNBUHEL / SEI
Selected projects

Analysis of Green and Sustainable Agriculture Policy: As Lao PDR develops a coherent approach to its sustainable agriculture policy, this collaborative effort with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry seeks to develop a framework of principles outlining common standards for green agricultural production and processing.

Sustainable Intensification and Diversification in Lowland Rice Systems of Northwest Cambodia: An assessment of technical and managerial options for development of currently unproductive rice systems. SEI Asia tracks livelihoods in Northwest Cambodia and analyzes household types for their suitability to the various proposed options.

Chindwin Futures: Support for building up Myanmar’s first river basin organisation, which manages and guides natural resources management in the Chindwin watershed area. This multi-stakeholder platform allows policy development and validation for regional resource governance across state actors, businesses and local communities.

SUMERNET: Policy guidance and support for the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), the longest-running and largest research network for sustainability across the Mekong. SUMERNET helps to bridge science and policy by supporting policy-relevant research and outreach with partners working on sustainable development in the Mekong Region’s six countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). The policy component supports research teams to ensure their research is relevant, and connects to, policy demands.

Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2: Raising awareness and starting conversations in regard to critical policy arenas among regional actors, including community-based organizations, NGOs, governments, regional organizations and the private sector. The Fund promotes strategic dialogue in a wide spectrum of sustainability issues in the region through events, workshops, training, online resources, coaching, and mentoring. It additionally identifies regional policy issues and initiates a conversation on joint solution pathways.