

Terms of Reference
Midterm Review for Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase II on
Enhancing Regional Collaboration for Environmentally Sustainable and Socially
Equitable Development Policies and Practices in Asia

1. Background

With support from the Government of Sweden, the Strategic Collaborative Fund Programme (SCF Phase II) on Enhancing Regional Collaboration for Environmentally Sustainable and Socially Equitable Development Policies and Practices in Asia, is managed by SEI's Asia Centre from 2018-2022. SEI administers the fund which supports events focused on environmentally sustainable development, gender equality and poverty reduction in Asia.

The SCF2 programme aims at building capacity, developing regional collaborations and enabling learning for enhanced regional dialogues on key environmental issues. The programme contributes to effective regional policies which help towards achieving the SDGs, through strategic policy events, with particular attention on disadvantaged and marginalized groups such as, but not limited to, women, children, ethnic minorities and other environmentally vulnerable groups based on their specific contexts.

Cognizant of the fact that a human rights-based approach and gender equality are key in achieving sustainability, SCF2 promotes the issue of regional collaboration and dialogues for transboundary environmental policy development, as well as fostering dialogues with other regions, particularly East Asia and Europe. The planned activities strive to increase the chances of achieving SDG targets by emphasizing a collaborative partnership approach.

The SCF2 programme consists of four components:

Component 1: Inter-regional cooperation platforms. These platforms are central to the dialogue between South East Asia and other regions. Specifically, SCF2 links to the existing China-ASEAN Environment Cooperation Forum, which is the prime inter-regional policy development forum to address issues related to shared resources and impacts of trade expansion. Similarly, SCF2 connects with the Asia-Europe Environment Forum, part of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which enables a dialogue between the two regions on matters other than commerce, but equally important for the region's prosperity and development.

Component 2: Regional collaboration. Whereas ASEAN has brought progress in regional integration, collaborative efforts towards SDG achievement are still limited and poorly coordinated. SCF2 plans to increase regional cooperation on critical transboundary environmental issues, including pollution, water governance, energy flows, natural resources use efficiency and climate change. However, these environmental issues are linked to the development agenda, including poverty reduction, social and gender equality and human rights. SEI will provide

systematic and substantial support for conveners in initiating, organizing, and hosting key regional events to address regional issues and enhance the regional collaboration towards SDGs. The programme support consists of providing coaching, financial resources technical expertise as well as encouraging regional collaboration efforts towards the achievement of SDGs and policy development.

Component 3: Capacity building and support. The programme supports regional partners in implementing a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming in their collaborative activities. It will be achieved through the development of open online courses and coaching for selected partners. This ensures that poverty reduction, human rights-based approach and gender become central to regional environmental and climate change policy and dialogue, with the intent of achieving SDG integration.

Component 4: Programme management. This ensures that SEI will effectively and efficiently manage the proposed programme, engage with the right boundary partners, provide the appropriate level of expertise where it is needed, and continue to develop an SDG agenda, which is specific to the region and the requirements of regional collaboration while maintaining an international focus.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the midterm review is to take stock of programme progress against initial plans, assess where the programme stands now against the expected outcomes, work plan and its set targets, and to make solid recommendations for the best way forward to ensure the programme achieves its agreed objectives

The midterm review will serve as a guide for all parties concerned (Sida, SEI and the granted event organizers) to help improve the effective implementation of the remaining period.

3. Stakeholder involvement

The main stakeholders in the midterm review are Sida, SEI, and the programme partners and grantees (See List of grantees). The conclusions and recommendations from the midterm review will be useful to all stakeholders, who should therefore, to the extent deemed practical and helpful, be involved in:

- Providing feedbacks for the review methodology and plan
- Providing information and their views on programme implementation, progress, challenges, outcomes and recommendations
- Discussing and commenting on preliminary findings of the midterm review report
- Receiving the final conclusions and recommendations from the midterm review

3. Midterm review focus

The midterm review shall focus on (not necessarily in order of importance)

- 1) Contribution of the programme implementation to the outcomes: assess how the programme contributes to promoting environmental sustainability, improving policy dialogues and regional collaboration and partnership, addressing gender inclusiveness, human rights integration and poverty reduction. The review assesses to what extent has the programme achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results. The review also looks into what are the significant impacts that the programme has achieved against the set outcomes and objectives.
- 2) Relevance of the programme: assess how the programme addresses relevant issues and priorities in the regional context (Asia, with a specific focus on South East Asia) and align with SEI's priorities and capacity support
- 3) Current programme design and implementation: assess whether the design and way the programme has been implemented are appropriate and sufficient to achieve the programme goals and objectives.
- 4) Current status: assess its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges the programme is facing in achieving its stated goals and objectives.
- 5) Current mode of operation: assess the realistic prospects of achieving the expected outcomes by the end of the programme, given its stage of implementation and remaining time and resources. Assesses to what extent has the programme delivered, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.
- 6) Governance structure and organizational arrangements: Assess, in terms of the effectiveness, the roles and responsibility of all active proponents of programme management and ongoing management process.
- 7) Results-Based Management (RBM) of this programme: assess and review the current monitoring system, including the programme MEL framework, in terms of its effectiveness and sufficiency for the programme's requirements to monitor and evaluate outcomes.
- 8) Contribution to the capacity strengthening of organizations and partners resulting from the programme's support: assess how the programme benefits organizations and partners in the region, especially in terms of coaching and MOOC learning and know-how to achieve environmental sustainability, while addressing gender inclusiveness, human rights integration and poverty reduction. The review asks how these benefits have been sustained and can be further improved.
- 9) Risks identification and management: review how has SCF programme identified and managed risks.
- 10) Correlation between proportion of funding and expected role and influence: to assess the relation between different proportions of funding to events, and the expected role and influence of SEI and the programme can give, as well as the impacts of this contribution to the whole event.
- 11) Assess how the aspects of environment, gender equality and human rights are well integrated in the programme and the supported events.

4. Recommendations

The final midterm review recommendations should consider, but not limited to, the following questions:

- 1) To what extent has Sida-Strategic fund contributed to the inter-regional and regional policy dialogue collaboration, agenda setting and decision making around environmental sustainability with the emphasis on gender inclusiveness, human rights integration and poverty reduction in the region?
- 2) Should there be further improvement on the integration of environment, gender equality and human rights?
- 3) Does the programme address emerging issues and priorities in the region?
- 4) Is the programme achieving good progress? If not, which components need to be expedited, and how and why is this the case?
- 5) Does the current design, implementation plan and current mode of operation lead to achieving the outcomes as originally planned by the end of programme period? If not, what should be modified and how?
- 6) What changes, if any, to the present governance structure should be considered?
- 7) Is the current RBM system being implemented sufficiently? Otherwise, what can be further improved?
- 8) What is the most identifiable development impact of the SCF program and how are they perceived by other organizations and partners?
- 9) To what extent are benefits supported by the SCF programme being sustained?
- 10) To what extent has SCF programme achieved its objectives of assisting organizations to increase know-how on the thematic topics and better integrate gender, rights-based approach towards environmental sustainability?
- 11) How can the SEI-Asia mitigate the negative effects of the programme's implementation, if any?
- 12) Any specific recommendation to SEI-Asia regarding the improvement of programme's implementation in the remaining programme period, especially on how to strengthen the programme to become more gender-responsive in the programming and institutionalise accountability mechanisms towards gender equality in its activities?

5. Methodology

The Consultant shall develop and propose a more detailed review methodology and plan in consultation with SEI to be conducted. The following are indicative sources that can be considered to be included in the review.

- Review of documentation and online platforms:
 - 1) SCF Programme Fund documents – approved by Sida in September 2018
 - 2) Agreement on Strategic Collaborative Fund – signed by Sida and SEI in March 2018
 - 3) Subgrantee agreement with CAEC – signed by CAEC and SEI in June 2018 and its ToR
 - 4) Subgrantee agreement with ASEF – signed by ASEF and SEI in August 2018 and its ToR
 - 5) Subgrantee agreements on the Regional Environmental Event Support under Component 2 in 2019 and 2020 (6 in 2019 and 7 in 2020), ToRs and full event reports
 - 6) Consultancy agreements on MOOCs under Component 3 in 2018 and 2019
 - 7) 2018 Annual Progress Report and its Financial Report – submitted to Sida by SEI on 11 May 2019
 - 8) 2019 Annual Financial Report and its Financial Report – submitted to Sida by SEI on 18

May 2020

9) SCF webpage and communication products

10) MOOCs on gender and human rights

- Data verification and collection of complementary information and views can be conducted online or in-person. This may conclude key informant interviews and site visits.

Key informant interviews are expected to include, but not be limited to, the programme donor (Sida), SEI- Asia, the organizers of granted events, and participants in the granted events.

It can be expected that a visit will be arranged to Bangkok for meetings at SEI-Asia and Sida Regional Office, as well as participation in one granted event in the region upon practical considerations.

6. Qualification of Reviewer Expected qualifications:

- 1) International or regional consultant with academic and professional competencies in fields related to environmental sustainability, gender and development;
- 2) At least **10 years** of relevant experience especially in Asia region;
- 3) Substantive experience in regional programme monitoring and evaluation;
- 4) Excellent English writing and communication and analytical skills.
- 5) Demonstrate ability to assess complex situations, succinctly distilling critical issues, and drawing forward-looking conclusions and recommendations;
- 6) Willingness to travel within the region (Asia, especially Southeast Asia).

Desirable qualifications:

- 1) Substantive experience in reviewing and evaluating similar projects, preferably those involving Swedish International Development Agency or other major donors;
- 2) Highly knowledgeable of participatory monitoring and evaluation processes;
- 3) Familiarity with the issues, challenges and priorities in developing countries within the region, in the area of environmental sustainability, which addresses gender inclusiveness and poverty reduction;

7. Tentative timeframe, activities, work plan and outputs

No	Date	Activities	Outputs	Estimated Working days	Remarks
1.	Sept/Oct 2020	Review programme documents, partners' event/communication products and SCF online platforms	Documents and platforms reviewed	4	
2.	Sep/Oct 2020	Finalizing review methodology and plan in consultation with SEI and SIDA	Review methodology and plan finalized	2	
3.	Nov 2020	Attend one granted event	Granted event attended	1	At least one day. Event in the region/BKK. Dates to be Confirmed.
4.	Nov 2020	Verification and collection of complementary information and views & debriefing for preliminary findings to Sida and SEI-Asia	Debriefing notes	5	Given the current travelling limitations, it is also consider doing data collection online instead of fieldwork or limit fieldwork travelling to the minimum. Virtual approach will be applied. Dates to be decided
5.	End of Nov – early Dec 2020	First draft of midterm review report submitted to Sida and SEI-Asia	First draft midterm review report	6	
6.	Early Dec 2020	Presentation the result to SEI and Sida	PPT	1	
6.	Mid-Dec 2020	Sida and SEI-Asia to return feedback to first draft		-	
7.	End of Dec 2020	Final draft of midterm review report submitted to Sida and SEI-Asia	Final draft MTR report	2	
8.	Mid Jan 2021	Sida and SEI-Asia to return feedback to final draft		-	
9.	End of Jan 2021	Final midterm review report submitted to SEI-Asia	Final MTR report	2	
Total Working Days				23	

The following shall be contributed by Sida and SEI-Asia:

- Consultations and information sharing with all relevant stakeholders on the purpose and work plan of the midterm review before the commencement of work
- Introductory letters /email and contact addresses
- Feedback on proposed work schedules and draft reports

7. Reporting format

The contents of the report shall:

- Reflect the areas of particular interest to Sida and SEI-Asia (see sections 3 and 4).

Not exceed 30 pages, including an Executive Summary not exceeding 2 pages.

List of programme partners and grantees (2018 – 2020)

No.	Grantees	Events
1.	Samdhana Institute	Challenges & Opportunities on Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices & Rights-Based Sustainable Development: A Southeast Asian Forum
2.	WWF Greater Mekong	Regional Consultation to Promote Actions to Improve Asian Deltas Resilience
3.	Forest Peoples Programme	9th Southeast Asian human rights and business conference
4.	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR	Building effective and harmonised regional policy on sustainable agriculture
5.	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)	"Grassroots Community Resilience" at the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum 7 (APUF-7)
6.	Cuso International	Silver Linings – Transforming gender through climate dialogue
7.	Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Limited (AVPN)	The Climate Finance Track at the AVPN 2020 Virtual Conference
8.	EcoWaste Coalition Philippines	Prevent and Reduce Urban Pollution from Toxic Chemicals: Citizen Science in Southeast and East Asia
9.	Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme Asia	Grounding and Empowering: Nourishing the Grassroots for Transformative Change in Asia Women Environmental Defenders Retreat
10.	Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)	Empowering Community Women in Asia: Addressing Climate-Related Water Security Challenges
11.	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)	Making Family Farming Sustainable and Viable in Asia: Strengthening Farmer-Led Multi Actor Partnership Platforms for Family Farming
12.	The University of Auckland	A transcultural dialogue between NNGS groups dealing with climate change across Southeast Asia and the Pacific
13.	Children and Youth International (CYI)	Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policymakers in Dialogue with Children & Youth
14.	Global Initiatives	Responsible Business Forum and the Roundtable for the Environment and Social Inclusion
15.	Asia-Europe Foundation	Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) 2020
16.	FECO/CAEC	China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum 2019 (CAECF)