

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Accessing Climate Change Adaptation Funds for Asia and the Pacific



Scientists believe that Asian and Pacific Island countries are particularly vulnerable to rising sea level and extreme weather events.



■ Eligible Asian countries



■ Eligible Pacific island countries

CHALLENGE

The people of Asia and the Pacific are highly vulnerable to impacts from climate change and climate variability due in part to the high concentration of people living in vulnerable coastal areas and river basins. Many countries in the region are experiencing frequent and intense flooding, drought and storm events. Key economic sectors, especially in developing economies in the region, are already feeling the negative effects.

Globally, the financing needs for climate change adaptation in developing countries to 2050 are estimated at \$100 billion annually. Various climate change funds associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have been established, and a goal has been set to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 for both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Much of this is expected to come from the private sector as well as international and domestic sources.

Identifying and gaining access to these resources is essential to countries in the region if they are to successfully adapt to climate change. However, many developing countries face major capacity challenges in preparing high quality adaptation project proposals to access these funds. At present there is no adequate mechanism in Asia and the Pacific meeting this need.

USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC

Helping nations in Asia and the Pacific obtain financing for actions to address climate change is the purpose of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Adapt Asia-Pacific program. Funded through USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) and implemented by AECOM, the program is designed to share information and best practices about climate fund requirements and help governments build capacity to access the existing pool of climate change adaptation finance from international and other sources.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

The following Asian countries are eligible to participate in USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor- Leste and Vietnam. Eligible nations in the Pacific include: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



Many countries in Asia and the Pacific may need assistance to access new funds to adapt their people and economies to climate change.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

Under contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), AECOM International Development (AECOM) implements the five-year USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project to assist eligible Asian and Pacific countries in gaining improved access to finance for climate change adaptation. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is establishing a facility that provides a combination of technical assistance, capacity building and networking related to accessing climate change adaptation financing. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also works with regional, international and U.S. partners to share and replicate best practices among national and local stakeholders.

USAID

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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is an integrated knowledge transfer, capacity building and technical assistance program that links climate funding organizations with eligible Asia-Pacific countries and helps prepare projects that increase resilience to the negative impact of climate change.

Principal activities under USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific include:

- Building national capacity to prepare specialized adaptation projects through technical assistance;
- Facilitating access to climate change adaptation finance;
- Organizing focused training and peer-to-peer learning; and
- Promoting regional networking and training through regional events, including an annual forum.

SUSTAINABLE IMPACTS

As with all its regional programs, RDMA seeks to demonstrate measurable impact on the ground and the creation of sustainable programs. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will measure program impact in terms of:

- Stakeholders/institutions with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change;
- Climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to financing;
- People benefitting from program-supported projects;
- Projects with a specific gender component; and
- Individuals and institutions that received capacity building support.

To build project sustainability, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will:

- Employ stakeholder-driven programming that ensures country ownership of program-supported activities;
- Facilitate counterpart exchange, including twinning partnerships, which leverage country knowledge and commitment;
- Collaborate closely with development partners through strategic partnerships; and
- Integrate capacity building courses, good practices and tools developed through USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific into the curricula of universities, training institutions and similar organizations in the region.

PARTNERS

RDMA works to address regional and transnational development and environment priorities in cooperation with a range of multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

For USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, strategic partnerships are being forged with a number of institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network, The Energy and Resources Institute, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, World Bank, Yale University, and others.

AECOM International Development (AECOM) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) are implementing partners.