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# Incorporating Stakeholder Climate Change Priorities into SEA: Lessons Learned from Asia

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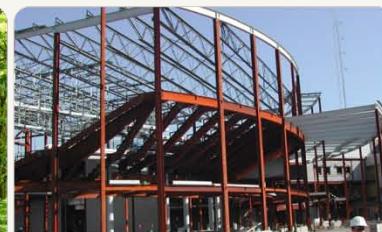
**WATER**



**NATURAL RESOURCES**



**ENVIRONMENT**



**INFRASTRUCTURE**



**ENERGY**

# Project Background

- Asia Regional Center of Excellence on Climate Change and Development (ARC) Feasibility Assessment, USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA)
  - Assess regional climate change needs
  - Determine if a COE would benefit the region
  - If so, identify the technical and capacity gaps that a COE could support





# Extensive Stakeholder Consultations

Phase/stakeholder group	Location	Number of participants
Phase 1: USG stakeholders	Washington, DC	103
Phase 2: USAID/RDMA and Regional stakeholders	Bangkok, Thailand	27
Phase 3: USG and Non-USG stakeholders	Washington, DC <i>one-on-one discussions</i>	14
Phase 4: Regional consultations	Manila, Philippines	42
	Dhaka, Bangladesh <i>Including representatives from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives</i>	43
	New Delhi, India	41
	Jakarta, Indonesia <i>Additional representatives from the Pacific, SPREP and ASEAN</i>	83
	Bangkok, Thailand <i>Additional representatives from Vietnam and Lao PDR</i>	20
	Beijing, China; Guangzhou, China	24
Phase 5: Additional USG, US research institutes, academia, think tanks	Washington, DC	59
<b>Total</b>		<b>456</b>

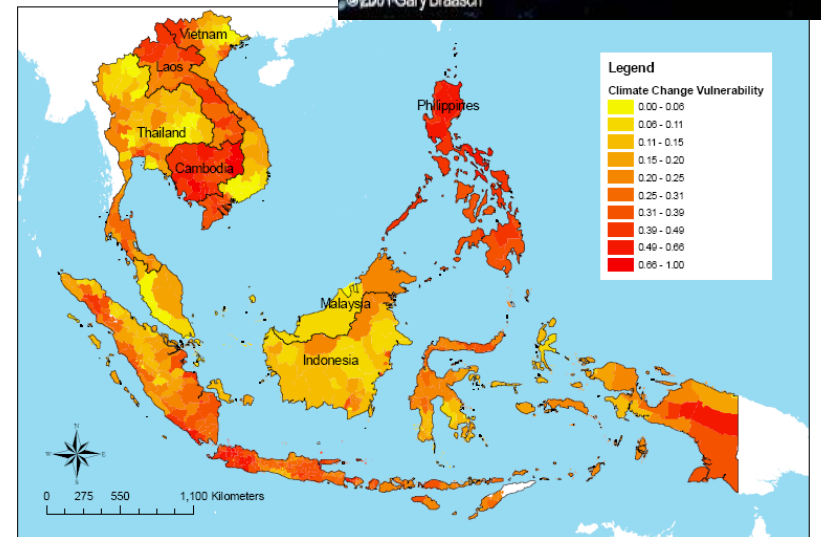


# Geographic Representation



# Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts

- Increased energy demands to respond to economic growth in Asia
- Major adaptation challenges – large population, high vulnerability, low adaptive capacity in many places
- Need to rapidly scale-up solutions and access climate funding



# Priority Technical Gaps

- The ARC assessment team categorized a range of technical gaps that limit the ability of Asia-Pacific countries to develop climate-resilient low carbon economies:
  - Contextual Data
  - Best Practices
  - Cross-sectoral Tools
  - Access to Climate Funds
  - Decision-making

# Contextual Data

- Technical Gaps:
  - Lack of adequate baseline data on current climatic conditions
  - Lack of locally relevant models of climate change
  - Need for an improved understanding of climate impacts on particular sectors
- Relevance to SEA:
  - Analysis of climate change impacts should begin at the screening stage and move forward for evaluation throughout the SEA process
  - Consideration of long-term climate trends and identification of major stressors within policy frameworks could have wide cross-sectoral application, beyond the existing scope of the SEA
  - Compilation of relevant climate data should include documentation of the methodology used for analysis

# Best Practices

- Technical Gaps:
  - Need to identify affordable best practices that can be scaled up for greater impact
  - Need for standardization, harmonization, or comparative analyses to identify the ‘best in class’ methodologies
- Relevance to SEA:
  - The SEA process should identify a range of best practices for alternative analysis and assessment should evaluate applicability in the environmental, social, and economic circumstances of the partner country
  - Evaluation of best practices at various levels of analysis could provide a framework for consistent approach and application
  - Incorporation of ME indicators in the SEA process provides a platform for adaptive management and to evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation efforts

# Cross-sectoral Tools

- Technical Gaps:
  - Need for decision-support tools that consider interactions between sectors such as food, energy, water, and health
  - Stakeholders specifically expressed the need for tools that incorporate economic parameters and cross-sectoral linkages
- Relevance to SEA:
  - The SEA process is structured to integrate consideration of environmental, social, and economic factors
  - Assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts assist in the identification of cross-sectoral linkages
  - Screening and scoping should include a full range of stakeholders from various backgrounds to ensure that relevant resource areas and concerns are identified at the earliest stage of analysis
  - The methods of analysis and cross-sectoral linkages, particularly cumulative impacts, could inform other levels of assessment outside of the SEA process

# Access to Climate Funds

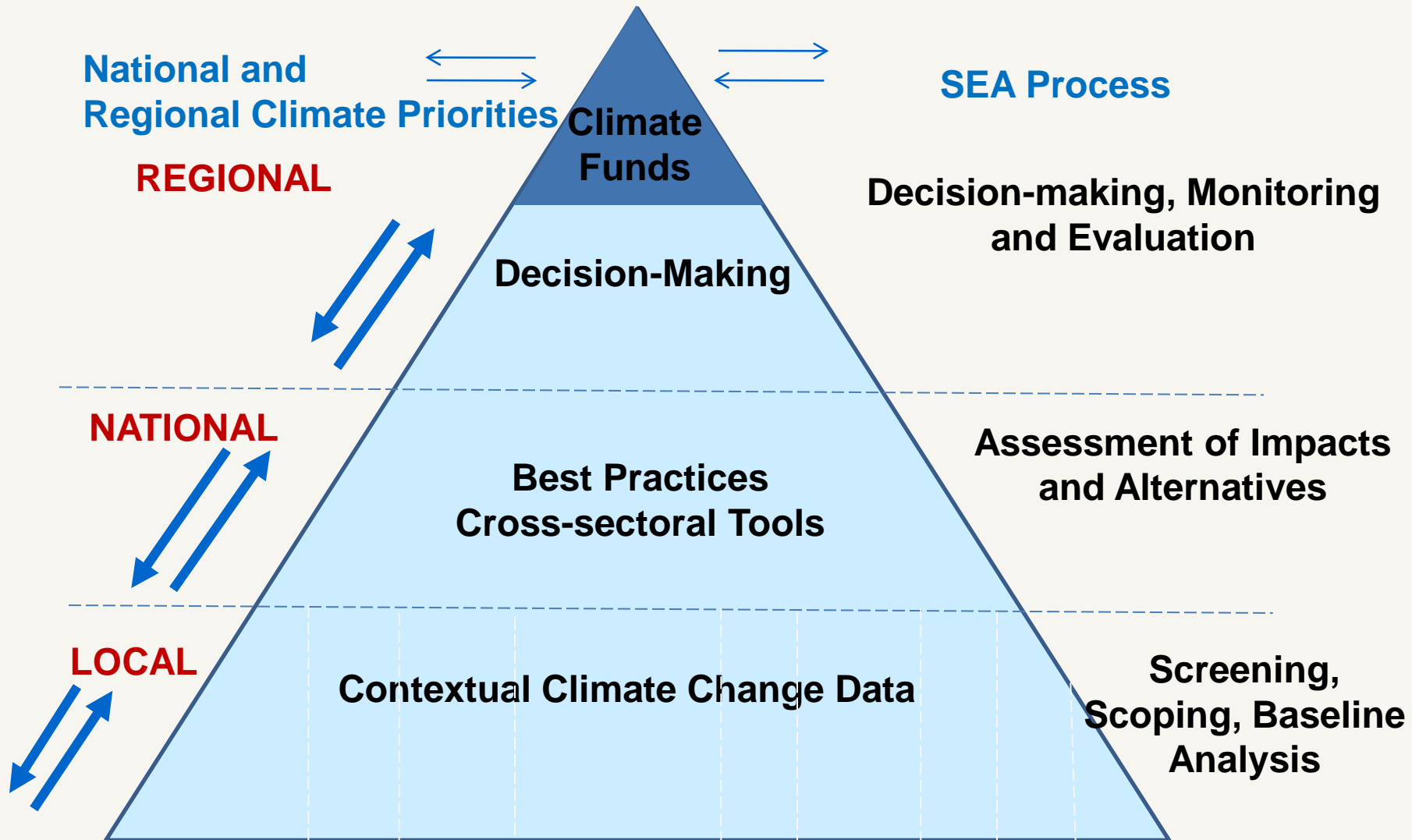
- Technical Gaps:
  - One of the most identified stakeholder priorities was the need to access carbon markets and to understand how to leverage the various natural resource assets
  - Stakeholders stressed the lack of financial, regulatory and legal frameworks to identify projects and manage the flow of funds
- Relevance to SEA:
  - SEA could directly to assist countries to access to climate funds (e.g. identification of land use strategies that include REDD targets)
  - SEA could indirectly to assist countries to access to climate funds (e.g. baseline analysis includes air emissions data)
  - The SEA process could also aid countries in establishing financial and regulatory frameworks to manage climate funds and prioritize projects



# Decision-making

- Technical Gaps:
  - Existing information on projected climate impacts is not well understood by decision-makers
  - Policy makers unsure as to what information is most credible and relevant for their needs
- Relevance to SEA:
  - SEA can serve as the bridge between science and policy by providing context relevant climate data, analysis, and recommendations
  - Decision-making should flow down from national to provincial
  - It is important for the SEA to include consultations of relevant decision-makers at the appropriate government level *throughout the process*

# Relationship between Technical Gaps and SEA Process



# For More Information

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