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# APAN Newsletter

*Empowering adaptation practitioners with  
knowledge toward a climate-resilient  
Asia and the Pacific*

**April - June 2022 Issue**



## MESSAGE FROM THE APAN SECRETARIAT

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to the APAN Newsletter!

On behalf of the APAN Secretariat, I am pleased to re-launch this communication channel – after a long pause - to highlight essential adaptation and resilience work taking place in the region. For this issue, we have rounded up important updates on climate change along with the myriad of themes we are covering at the moment, especially from the recently concluded Bonn Climate Change Conference. We also have news, features, international environment-related celebrations, events, and announcements from partners.

More than ever, APAN's goal to assist countries in protecting natural ecosystems and building climate change resilient and sustainable human systems and economies has never been so timely. The IPCC tells us that climate change has already caused climate injustice and dangerous disruption to the natural world. 3.3-3.6 billion people live in countries highly vulnerable to climate impacts and the Asia-Pacific region concentrates many of these hotspots. People in informal settlements are the most at risk. Unfortunately, it is only going to get worse unless we act now!

The APAN Newsletter will continue to act as a platform for building a community of adaptation practice, where practitioners and partners share stories, articles, announcements, and events. APAN welcomes newsletter contributions from all adaptation practitioners.

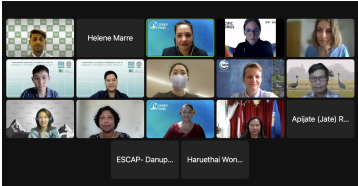
We will publish our next issue in September 2022. This issue will cover news and events from July to August. Kindly submit your contributions by 5th September through our email: [apan.secretariat@un.org](mailto:apan.secretariat@un.org).

APAN looks forward to receiving your newsletter contributions.

**Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, Climate Action Sub-programme and Head of APAN Secretariat, UNEP Asia and the Pacific Region Office**



## NEWS



### **Main Story: Universities are increasingly stepping up for locally-led adaptation and resilience action: what are some of their critical success factors when partnering with communities?**

APAN organized a webinar on 12 May 2022 to foster the scale-up and uptake of successful partnerships between academic, research institutions, and communities in Asia and the Pacific. The webinar brought together researchers, academics, university students, and project managers across the region to discuss their initiatives' success factors and challenges in working together with communities to close local adaptation and resilience knowledge gaps.

[Read more](#)



### **Global News: Bonn Climate Change Conference makes progress in several technical areas, but much work remains**

The Bonn Climate Conference underlined the enhancement of resilience to adapt to the effects of climate change. To build adaptation to frequent and intense heatwaves, floods and storms, and Loss and Damage, the conference identified key outstanding issues needing solutions. The conference was held in Bonn, Germany from 6 to 16 June 2022.

[Read more](#)



### **Global News: 'Think resilience' to protect against climate and other catastrophes**

“Think resilience” had been the resonating message at the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction conference held last 27 May in Bali, Indonesia. 184 countries reviewed the efforts made to protect communities against a rising number of climate hazards and other global catastrophes, leading to the development of the “Bali Agenda for Resilience,” which encapsulated the aims of countries to prevent the world from facing 1.5 disasters a day by 2030.

[Read more](#)



### **Global News: Stockholm+50 issues call for urgent environmental and economic transformation**

*“If we do not change, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, will only accelerate,”* said Inger Andersen, Secretary-General of Stockholm+50 and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme. The conference came to a close on 3 June with a call for real commitments to urgently address global environmental concerns, and for a just transition to sustainable economies, that work for all.

[Read more](#)

### **Regional News: In South Asia, record heat threatens future of farming**

India and Pakistan are at the frontline of intense and prolonged heatwaves, which affected over a billion people. With temperatures closing to 50 degrees celsius, the two countries are now faced with energy and food shortages.



UNEP underscores work with national and local governments in Asia to devise creative solutions to spare people from extreme heat.

[Read more](#)

### **Adaptation-mitigation nexus: Climate finance alliance launches Asia network to promote investment**

Asia and the Pacific welcome a new finance alliance network: Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ). The initiative aims to deepen cooperation with regional financial institutions and promote investments in decarbonization and renewable energy.

[Read more](#)



### **Water and climate change: Pacific Climate Change Center Builds Capacity On Climate Resilience And Safe Water Access**

Held on 27 May 2022, more than 70 participants from eleven Pacific countries and Timor-Leste joined the ninth executive training course designed to enhance climate resilience and rural safe water access focusing on the most vulnerable population without or with limited access to safe drinking water.

[Read more](#)



### **Nature-based Solutions: Fiji taps into nature-based solutions to boost its ecosystems and economy**

With rising global temperature and melting glaciers, increasing sea level is one of the environmental challenges caused by climate change that small island developing states need to contend with. In this article, Mr. Joshua Wycliffe, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment in Fiji, discussed the ways and means his country has embraced Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as part of a national plan to combat the impacts of climate change.

[Read more](#)



### **Climate Change and DRR: Latest report on global disaster risk stresses need for transformative approaches to deal with new risk landscapes**

Reflecting on the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR), SEI researchers offered insights on how countries should tackle disaster risks to accelerate DRR action and move towards more resilient societies. They emphasized the need for transformative solutions as communities grapple with new risk landscapes post the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### **Loss and Damage: Loss And Damage High On The Pacific List For Climate Change Meetings In June**

As Parties prepare for COP27 in Egypt this November, Pacific Island States are discussing a list of priorities for the various climate change negotiations. Small Islands Developing States in the Pacific are putting Loss and Damage as





a top priority. Loss and Damage is when the impacts of climate change are greater than the ability to adapt, be that of ecosystems, communities, or countries.

[Read more](#)

### **Gender and Social Equity: A Crisis within a Crisis: Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence**

Amid climate change and disasters, gender-based violence (GBV) has become rampant. This blog from the Asia Foundation discusses three examples from the Pacific Islands, Timor Leste, and Nepal, showing different strategies for addressing the links between climate change and GBV. It highlighted the need for shifting funding, resources, and power to climate-justice organizations with female, LGBTQ, and indigenous leadership; assessing risks to excluded groups, and collaborating with women to devise new strategies to address GBV.

[Read more](#)



### **Private Sector: Championing early warning and action: How the private sector addresses extreme weather events**

Across Asia and the Pacific, the private sector has become an ally for many countries in improving multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder early warning and early action. In this article, experiences of the private sector's participation in disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, the Philippines, and Haiti provided insights on how partnering with local businesses could make a significant difference in addressing challenges brought about by climate-related disasters. . . .

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## **FEATURE STORY**

### **“I’m proud to have brought the rain back”: reforestation revives Cambodian mountains**

Communities in Cambodia are now harvesting the fruits of their reforestation initiative in Mt. Kulen. Once a hotspot for illegal logging, Mt. Kulen's forest is now on its way to recovery.

Through the support of The Adaptation Fund, UNEP helped the government of Cambodia and its partners in establishing a nursery. The initiative provided materials to grow trees on Kulen and supported local livelihoods. People in Chuop Tasok's community-protected area also received 100,000 seedlings. Saplings were also donated to patrol groups that supported the planting of more than a quarter of a million trees and protected 306 hectares of forest from illegal logging. The increased forest canopy improved the ecosystem of the area. However, the greatest joy and relief the communities have is the return of the rains in their area, which enabled them to farm again.



[Read more](#)

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# EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Unsung warriors: Breaking the bias for disaster resilience in the Koshi basin**

Date: 8 March to 20 September 2022 Venue: Online

## **International Day for Biological Diversity**

Date: 22 May 2022 Venue: Online

## **GCA Local Adaptation Champions Awards**

Date: 10 June to 10 July 2022 Venue: Online

## **World Rainforest Day**

Date: 22 June 2022 | Venue: Online

## **2022 Desertification and Drought Day**

Date: 17 June 2022 Venue: Online

## **World Ocean Conference**

Date: 27 June to 1 July 2022 | Venue: Lisbon, Portugal

## **NbS Conference (Oxford University)**

Date: 5-7 July 2022 | Venue: Oxford University

## **Understanding loss and damage in Asia and the Pacific: science, policy dimensions and mechanisms to avert, minimize and address impacts**

Date: 21 July 2022 | Venue: Online | [Register Here](#)

## **Asia Water Forum**

Date: 8-11 August 2022 Venue: Online

## **COP15: UN biodiversity summit moved from China to Canada**

Date: 5-17 December 2022 | Montreal, Canada

## **Act Now, Speak Now!**

Date: Continuing Campaign | Venue: Online

## **WATCH OUT FOR OUR BI-MONTHLY ADAPTATION DIGEST!**

APAN will be publishing its first Monthly Adaptation Digest on 15 July 2022. This publication will feature a monthly collection of well-curated online learning tools from videos, fact sheets, courses, and publications. The monthly digest will provide links to the latest learning materials to better equip you with information and knowledge as you develop your climate change adaptation and resilience strategies.

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### **Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)**

The [Asia Pacific Adaptation Network \(APAN\)](#) serves as a knowledge platform to equip adaptation practitioners in the region with the information, knowledge, and tools to design, implement and monitor climate change adaptation measures, foster access to technologies and finance, and capacity-building for integrating climate change adaptation into national development policies, strategies, and plans.

With support from the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Japan, APAN was developed and launched by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 2009 under the [Global Adaptation Network \(GAN\)](#). APAN has established close partnerships with key organizations and has become an important adaptation knowledge mobilizer in Asia and the Pacific Region.



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