



Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research

Developments in Climate Change Research

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What is the APN?

The **A**sia-**P**acific **N**etwork for Global Change Research (**APN**)

- ★ Inter-Governmental Network of 21 member countries to foster global change research in the Asia-Pacific region;
- ★ Established in 1996;
- ★ Secretariat in Kobe, Japan, since 1999;
- ★ Provides financial support towards scientific research (ARCP) & capacity building activities (CAPaBLE).

Financial Resources

APN is financially supported by the Governments of:

Australia

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & Arts

Japan

Ministry of the Environment, Hyogo Prefecture

New Zealand

Ministry for the Environment

Republic of Korea

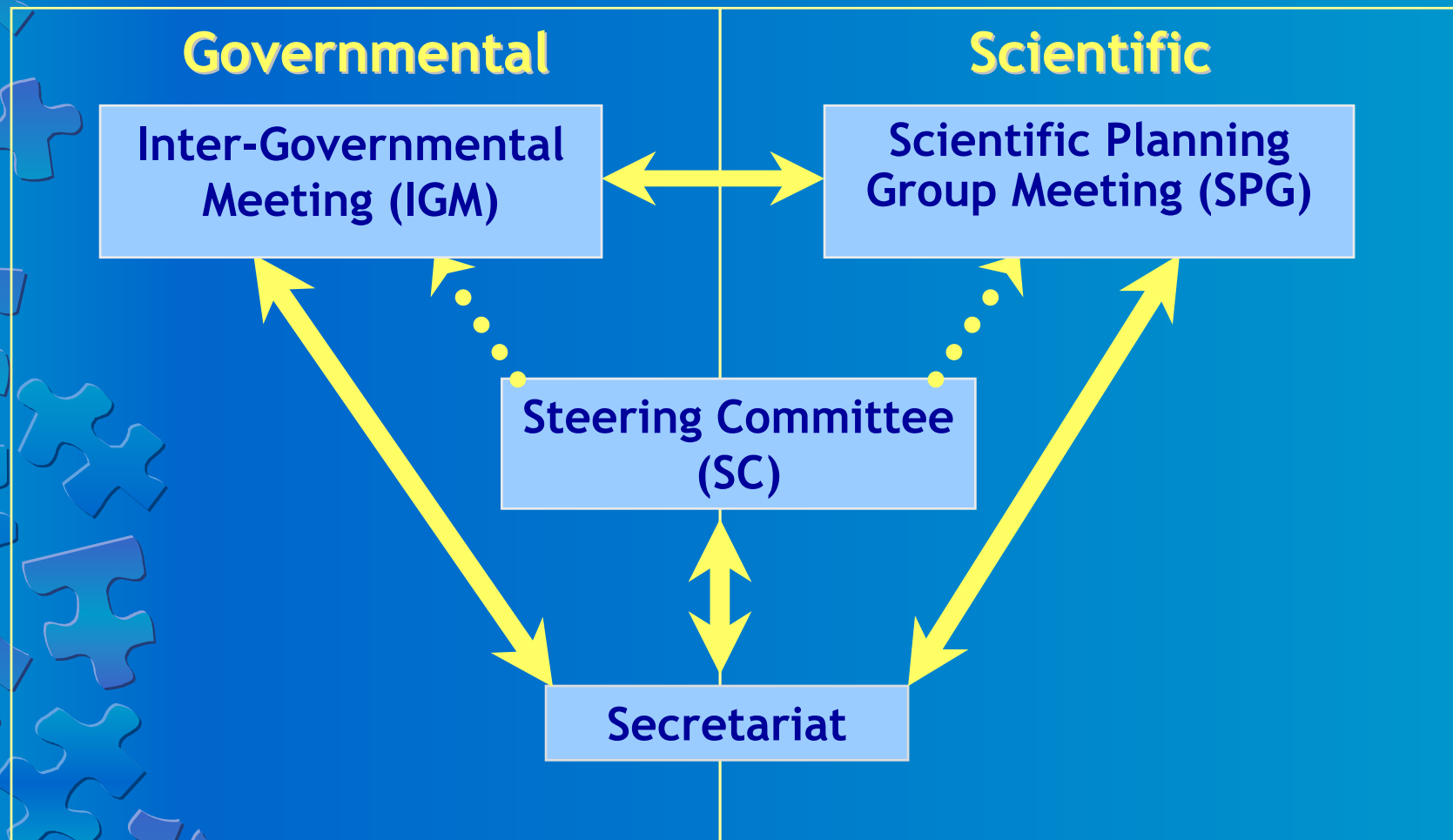
Ministry of Environment

United States of America

National Science Foundation/ US Climate Change Science Program



Unique Institutional Framework



5 Key Themes

- ★ **Climate**
- ★ **Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Land Use**
- ★ **Changes in Atmospheric, Terrestrial & Marine Domains**
- ★ **Use of Resources (food, water, energy, materials) & Pathways for Sustainable Development**
- ★ **Crosscutting & Science-Policy Linkages**

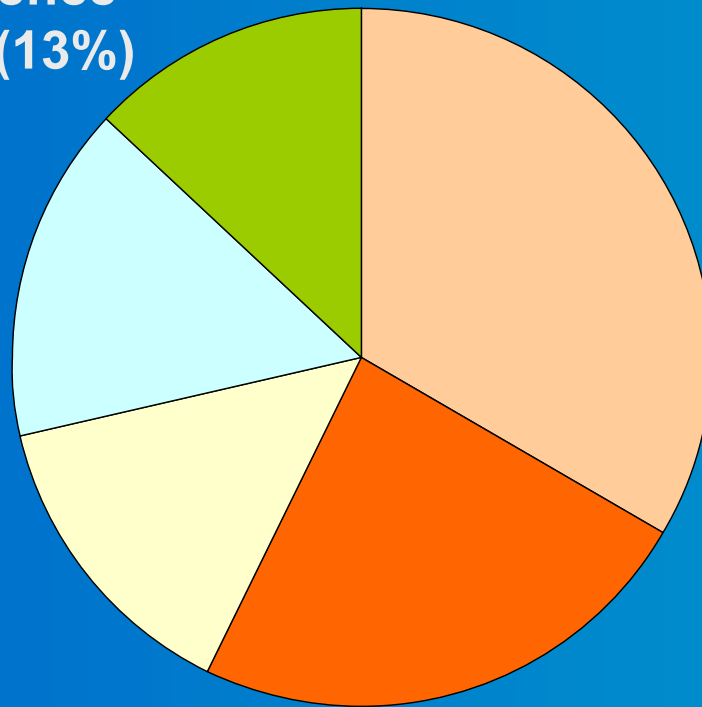
(Source: APN Strategic Plan 2005-2010)

Theme Distribution 2007-2009 (ARCP)

**Crosscutting and Science-
Policy Linkages (13%)**

**Use of Resources and
Pathways for Sustainable
Development (15%)**

**Changes in Atmospheric,
Terrestrial and Marine
Domains (14%)**



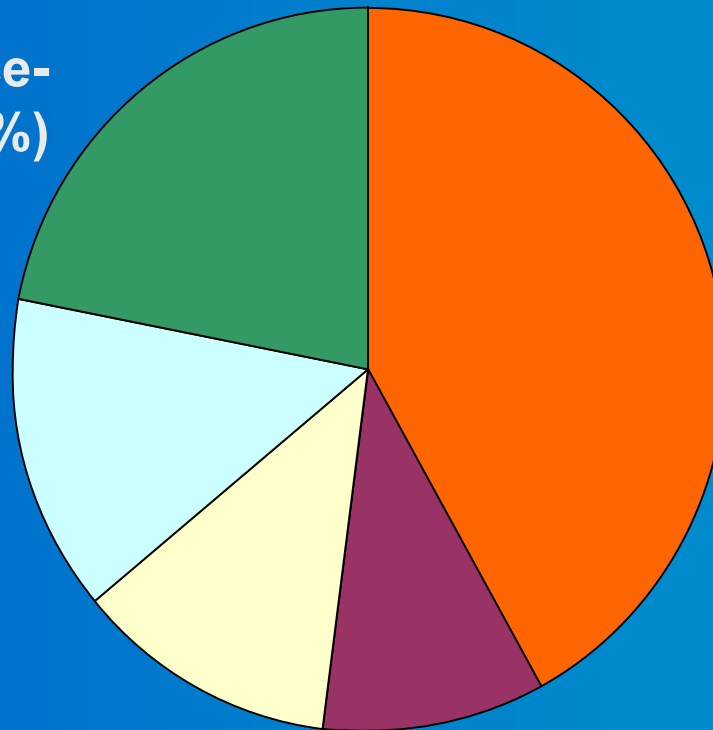
**Ecosystems,
Biodiversity and Land
Use (24%)**

Theme Distribution 2007-2009 (CAPaBLE)

**Crosscutting and Science-
Policy Linkages (22%)**

**Use of Resources and
Pathways for Sustainable
Development (14%)**

**Changes in Atmospheric,
Terrestrial and Marine
Domains (12%)**

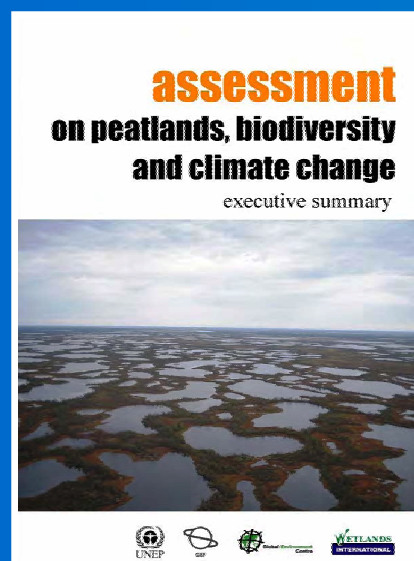


**Climate
(42%)**

**Ecosystems, Biodiversity
and Land Use (10%)**

Publications of ARCP/CAPaBLE Activities

**Project Output:
Policy
Guidance for
Integrated
Management
of Tropical
Peatlands to
Increase
Resilience to
Climate
Change**



**Brief, Annual
Publications of
APN Activities**

Climate Change: Status in A-P Region

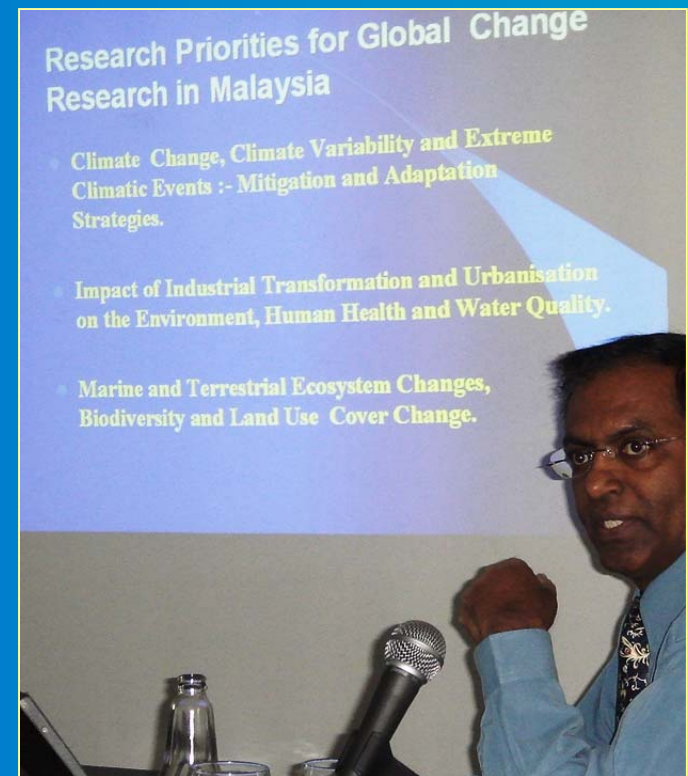
- ★ Have a strong climate change research component present and integrated in government programmes
- ★ Climate change research being funded/co-funded by institutions (funds are from national or international sources)
- ★ Significant progress in climate change research in terms of greater government recognition and increased funding (though resourcing is still insufficient)



(Source: Member Country Reports, 12th IGM, Mar 2007)

Climate Change: **Priorities in A-P Region**

- ★ Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability assessment
- ★ Climate modelling and prediction
- ★ Earth observations
- ★ GHG Emissions/Mitigation
- ★ Climate extremes and related disasters
- ★ Negotiation strategy for post-Kyoto regime and other Kyoto Protocol-related research



(Source: Member Country Reports: 12th/13th IGM, Mar 2007 and 2008)

Climate Change: Challenges in A-P

- ★ Limited research and institutional capacity to conduct climate change research;
- ★ Limited financial resources/inadequate funds;
- ★ Networking and complementation among local research institutions;
- ★ Data availability, sufficiency, reliability;
- ★ Physical attributes of the country: size, topography;
- ★ Mainstreaming research into policy processes: still some concern in region that there is insufficient evidence to support climate change related policy-making.

(Source: Member Country Reports, 12th IGM, Mar 2007)

Global Change: Other “Hot” Issues (in A-P Region)

- ✦ water, agriculture/fishery & food security
- ✦ marine, terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, land-use/cover
- ✦ forestry, natural resource management and governance
- ✦ industrial transformation & urbanization – social/physical aspects, mega-cities



(Source: Member Country Reports: 12th/13th IGM, Mar 2007 and 2008)

Research & Institutional Capacity

Constraints:

- ★ Lack of Human resources: emigration, shortage, finding well-qualified and well-trained scientists, no funds to recruit scientists
- ★ Inadequate financial resources
- ★ Outdated facilities/laboratories
- ★ Getting policy-makers to tour research institutions
- ★ Unsatisfactory utilization of research results – particularly in mainstreaming research results into policy processes

(Source: Member Country Reports, 13th IGM, Mar 2008)

Research & Institutional Capacity

Capacity Development Needs:

- ★ (Technical) assistance in proposal writing/ enhancing competitive capacity/identifying research priorities
- ★ Training/capacity building on the use of appropriate research methods, models, vulnerability assessments, etc.
- ★ Effective research coordination/collaboration at national, regional and global levels
- ★ Research infrastructure/modern laboratory equipment; provision of facilities: venue, etc.; assistance in management of activities

(Source: Member Country Reports, 13th IGM, Mar 2008)

Science–Policy Developments

Mainstreaming research into policy:

- ✦ Major challenge, but with significant developments recently
- ✦ Establishment of committee/council/unit(s) within governments (e.g. Climate Change Cell in Bangladesh)
- ✦ Tasks include reviewing existing research, submitting policy recommendations, training programmes for government focal points
- ✦ Science-policy dialogue: through government hearings, interactions with relevant ministries, etc, national/regional fora, etc.
- ✦ but more formal mechanism is desirable

(Source: Member Country Reports, 12th IGM, Mar 2007)

Science–Policy Developments

Ongoing Hurdles:

- ★ Science-policy interface mechanisms are weak or non-existent in some APN countries
- ★ Lack of policy-maker interest/awareness and/or commitment
- ★ Research findings: unsatisfactory quality, of disbelief in, non-publication of.., local language
- ★ Difficulty in mainstreaming cross-cutting global change issues across governmental sectors, including formulation of cross-sectoral policies



(Source: Member Country Reports, 12th and 13th IGM, Mar 2007 and 2008)

Institutional Support

Areas where assistance is sought from the APN & the International Community:

- ★ Funding support for research and capacity building activities
- ★ Establishing channel/mechanism for sharing research results/accessing data, etc.
- ★ Encouraging involvement of scientists in the region in research and CB activities
- ★ Facilitating science-policy linkages
- ★ Linking with partner research programmes and facilitating regional collaboration

(Source: Member Country Reports, 13th IGM, Mar 2008)



Uniqueness of the APN

- ★ Network consisting of both policy-makers and scientists to enhance research
- ★ APN decision-making always after thorough discussion among/with scientists
- ★ Collective decision-making by all member countries, developed and developing.
- ★ Collaborative research projects **by** or **with** the participation of **developing countries**

Therefore;

- ★ Enable and encourage research and capacity building/enhancement projects based on both policy needs and scientific gaps

Thank you

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