China Trust Fund

Strengthening strategic cooperation on environmental conservation
In 2012, UN Environment and China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection (China MEP) signed a framework agreement on strategic cooperation. Its overall objective was to strengthen mutual support and to build the capacity of developing countries to address environmental issues, sustainably develop their economies and increase awareness of environmental challenges.

China MEP has since pledged $2 million annually to the China Trust Fund, which focuses on capacity building in African, ASEAN and Central Asian regions and South-South cooperation. The Trust Fund has the following priority areas:

**Phase I: USD 2 Million annually 2013 – 2015**

- Optimal utilization of an ecosystems approach for the protection of biodiversity and human well-being
- Implementing environmental obligations and achieving environmental goals through strengthened governance and institutions
- Addressing environmental problems and compliance with the requirements of multilateral environmental agreements
Phase II: **USD 2 Million annually 2016 – 2018**

- Sharing and exchange of theory and practice on **green development** and contributing to the progress in building a green Belt and Road
- Fulfilling obligations set out in the **multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals** and provision of a platform for experience sharing and technology transfer

- Capacity building programs on **ecosystems and biodiversity** in the ASEAN region and Mainland Southeast Asia
- Building capacity to tackle **water, air and soil-based pollution** and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- Establishing an institution for enhancing capacity and sharing best practices on the **use of environmental technology**
HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

Over 94 knowledge products including publications, case studies, videos, tools and guidelines, which are disseminated widely through online platforms and public events.

Reach across 81 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

69 workshops, consultations, meetings and high-level events focused on knowledge exchange and cooperation between Member States, attended by at least 1,598 individuals representing stakeholders from both the public and private sector.

Supports UN Environment’s wider scope of work and environmental policy framework, contributing to a larger portfolio worth over USD 73 million – over 10 times the value of the China-MEP contribution.

Engagement with 59 partner institutions from the various sectors of government, business, academia and civil society for the project delivery.

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Several tools and knowledge products developed under the China Trust fund projects have already supported capacity building and strengthening of collaboration amongst and within countries while also supporting the achievement of larger programmatic results of UN Environment. The work continues, and here are the key achievements so far:

**Ecosystem Management**

- Transboundary cooperation and increased capacity among the Mekong countries in advancing the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and integrating ecosystem management into basin-wide development strategies.
- Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) principles incorporated by Lao PDR and Myanmar in collaborative initiatives and agreements with foreign institutions.
- Increased capacity of Central Asian countries to revise and implement their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) through transboundary learning and collaboration.
- Increased capacity of Central Asian countries to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns into economic and development frameworks and policies.
- Facilitated regional dialogues and technology transfer on tracking and monitoring resources, utilizing resources, species identification, joint research and monitoring tools.
Knowledge products and tools include:

- Report on Ecosystem Management Capacity Building for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation
- Web story on Genetic Resources for the Benefit of All
- Webinar on Capturing Value and Implementing The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in Policymaking: Lessons Learned and Experiences in Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Valuation and Their Links to NBSAPs
- Webinar on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Implementation with a focus on ecosystem services Publication: Indicators and Information systems for Biodiversity and Development - Guidance from the Pan European region
- Publication on Indicators and information systems for Biodiversity and Development - Guidance from the Pan European region
Environmental Governance

• Strengthened implementation of NBSAPs with country reviews and priority settings
• Biodiversity and ecological conservation prioritized in the new ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020
• Increased capacity to implement environmental law and improved enforcement in Seychelles and Kenya
• Tools on enforcement, guidelines for environmental offenses and prosecution, and training manuals developed as essential components of civil, administrative and criminal actions on environmental law

Knowledge products and tools include:

• Report on Experiences and Good Practices in China and ASEAN on Biodiversity Planning and Implementation
• Webpage on ASEAN Biodiversity
• Publication on Enforcement of Environmental Law: Good Practices from Africa and Asia
• Webpage on the first Africa-Asia Inter-regional Expert Meeting on Enforcement of Environmental Law
• Training Manual of Environmental Law in Malawi
• Handbook of Environmental Liabilities under Environmental and Other Laws in Vietnam
• Judicial Training Modules on Environmental Law for Kenyan Magistrates and Judges
Outcomes and Impact to Date

Chemicals and Waste

- Supported African and Asian countries in the process of ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which went into effect in August 2017, after 50 ratifications. Currently, there are a total of 128 signatories and 84 ratifications.

- Facilitated regional dialogue and knowledge sharing, and published a guidebook on technology, policies, and standards related to the adoption of low Global Warming Potential (GWP).

- Created a regional information platform on Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) use, research, laws and regulations which is now operational and accessible.

- Strengthened capacity and reinforcement of regulatory frameworks in the Southeast Asia Pacific region on the sound management of PBDEs.
Knowledge products and tools include:

- Information flyers in English, French and Spanish on the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Workshop proceedings on the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint
- Market Analysis Report of Promoting Elimination of the Use of Lead Paints in China
- Workshop proceedings on Elimination of Lead Paint in China
- Brochure on PBDE management
Resource Efficiency

- Promoted inclusive green economy in the Asian region, with specific reference to China Trust Fund projects as the foundation for future work in joining the Partnership for Action on Green Economy
- Increased capacity of city officials in creating resource efficient cities
- Strengthened and operational Asia Pacific Green Public Procurement and Eco-labelling Network, with 222 members from multi-sectoral groups communicating and sharing lessons via various fora
Knowledge products and tools include:

- Report on Stocktaking on Inclusive Green Economy in Central Asia and Mongolia: A sub-regional Perspective
- Webpage on Green Economy
- Brochure on South-South Cooperation: Sharing National Pathways Towards Inclusive Green Economies
- Background Papers: Bolivia’s Living Well, South Africa’s Green Economy, Thailand’s Sufficiency Economy, and China’s Ecological Civilization
- Short videos on the UN Environment and Green Growth Knowledge Platform
- Report on Comparative Analysis of Green Public Procurement and Ecolabelling in China, Japan, Thailand and the Republic of Korea: Lessons Learned and Common Success Factors
- A compendium featuring six successful examples of green public procurement implementation in four different Asia-Pacific countries