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GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

## GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program



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January 2022 | Issue 1

## Welcome to the CCESP Newsletter!

This is the newsletter for the ADB regional technical assistance (TA 9915) on the [Greater Mekong Subregion \(GMS\) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program \(CCESP\)](#), where the CCESP team will share the latest project updates and upcoming activities, as well as news, publications, videos and other content relevant for the GMS countries and the project's six priority themes. This is the inaugural issue, and we will be sending regular updates as necessary. We hope you find the information useful and practical as you pursue solutions for climate change and environmental sustainability in your countries and across the subregion.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for future newsletter issues, please email Elga Reyes at [elga@ramboll.com](mailto:elga@ramboll.com).

We look forward to more collaboration and implementing the CCESP with you.

— CCESP Team

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## CCESP kicks off project with online Inception Workshop—over 100 stakeholders joined



The [GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program \(CCESP\) Inception Workshop](#) was held online on 23–24 September 2021, which gathered more than 100 participants from the different GMS countries. The workshop was co-hosted and co-chaired by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The event formally marks the start of the implementation of ADB's TA 9915 or the GMS CCESP.

The workshop focused primarily on the assessments and plans presented in the draft Inception Report and the expected results under each of the six themes of CCESP. The proposed workplan and implementation approach of the program

were also presented. Presentations on the priority themes and workplan included panel discussions that comprised members of the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE), representatives of relevant government ministries and departments from the GMS countries, key development partners, and members of civil society and academia.

Feedback from the workshop have been taken on board by the CCESP team and have been included in the final Inception Report submitted to ADB, which is currently pending approval (*see related story below under Project Updates*).

[Download workshop materials](#)

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## IN FOCUS

### [COP15 in Kunming: How the biodiversity conference affects the GMS countries](#)



Delayed by the pandemic, the first part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity or COP15 finally took place in Kunming, Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China. Yunnan is one of the areas covered by the CCESP and it signals how COP15 could be a significant impetus for the work of the program.

[Download key findings](#)

### [From Glasgow to the GMS: COP26 takeaways and implications](#)

## for climate action in the subregion



Asia accounts for 50% of the global greenhouse gas emissions, and this is expected to increase further—thus, achieving the climate goals will rely on the success of Asian countries in scaling up and implementing their climate ambitions, and this includes the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

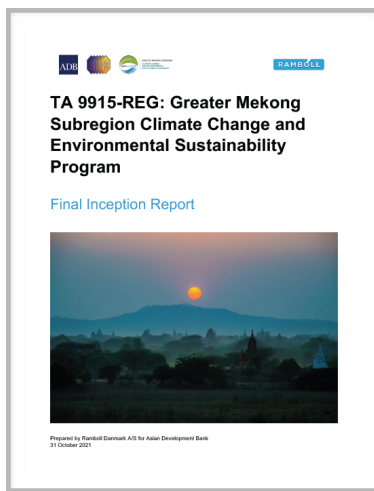
[Download key findings](#)

### PROJECT UPDATES

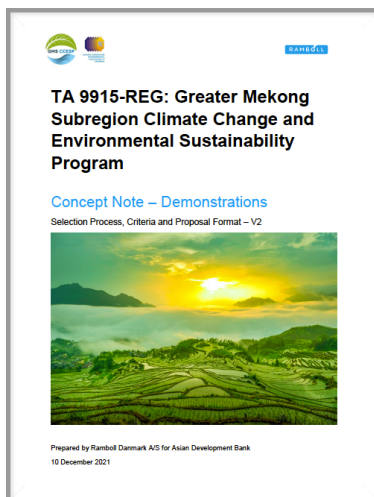
#### **ADB approves additional \$2 million funding to support green and resilient post-COVID-19 recovery in the GMS**

An additional \$2 million grant funding from the Climate Investment Fund–Technical Assistance Facility (CIF–TAF) was approved on 17 October 2021 by ADB. This grant will support green and resilient COVID-19 recovery in the GMS, covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam, through the CCESP TA. With this funding, the CCESP will provide policy support, build institutional and technical capacities, and demonstrate innovative options to build back cleaner, greener, and more climate-resilient economies. The CCESP team is currently reaching out to the WGE focal points and coordinators to determine activities and areas of support for green post-COVID-19 recovery.

**[CCESP Final Inception Report awaits ADB approval](#)**



The consulting team from Ramboll submitted the Final Inception Report to ADB on 4 November 2021. This report incorporates comments from ADB, WGE focal points and coordinators, and other stakeholders who gave feedback during the Inception Workshop. A key highlight of the document is the inputs from the consultation on demonstrations with each country (except Myanmar) following the workshop. The report is pending approval from ADB. [Read the key report findings](#) | [Download the Executive Summary](#)



## CCESP team conducts bilateral consultations on demonstrations

Further to the dialogue during the CCESP Inception Workshop, the CCESP team held bilateral consultations with Cambodia, the PRC, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam to discuss the demonstration projects under the program, the selection process, and criteria. A presentation that provides an overview was delivered by the team and included the initially identified possible demonstrations for each country that are aligned to the CCESP priority themes. The concept note was also shared to the WGE focal points and coordinators. Feedback from the discussions helped shape the final Inception Report and the next steps of the program. More recently, the concept note and presentation have been updated, which will be discussed during a new round of bilateral meetings. [Download updated concept note](#) | [Download updated presentation](#)

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## CCESP CALENDAR

- WGE Annual Meeting | late February 2022, online (final schedule TBD, a

separate email invitation will be sent)

## Key CCESP activities in the next 6 months (with tentative dates)

- Release of WGE Annual Meeting Report | 18 February
- Report on baseline surveys from pilot sites for various demonstrations | 25 March
- CCESP Newsletter, Issue 2 | 27 May
- Report on workshop on MRV for low carbon transitions in agriculture and transport sectors | 24 June
- Release of green freight knowledge product | 24 June
- CCESP Annual Report 2020 | 24 June

## Related events

- [Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum: Innovative Solutions for Asia and the Pacific](#) | 26–28 January 2022, online

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## NEWS, BLOGS, AND ARTICLES

### Climate and disaster resilience

- [Cambodia praised for addressing climate change issues at COP26](#)

### Low carbon transitions

- [COP26: Nations, firms commit to sustainable agriculture](#)
- [Connecting with \[Lao PDR\]](#)
- [Asia's eating habits are changing and the environmental impact could be huge](#)

### Climate smart landscapes

- [Will the COP26 global deforestation pledge really save forests?](#)

### Environmental quality through pollution control and sustainable waste

## management

- [Fresh loans to improve waste plan](#)
- [Methane: A deadly climate problem with a simple solution](#)

## Digital technologies from climate actions/environmental sustainability

- [\[Viet Nam\]: Southeast Asia's next digital powerhouse](#)
- [How the data revolution will help the world fight climate change](#)

## Financing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure

- [Climate finance meets low-carbon agtech](#)
- [How carbon pricing can drive green recovery and growth](#)

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## PUBLICATIONS



### [Climate Risk Country Profile: Thailand](#)

This publication synthesizes climate characteristics and projections, vulnerability to natural hazards, sectoral climate change impacts, and adaptation priorities in Thailand. Country profiles are also available for other GMS countries: [Cambodia](#), [PRC](#), [Lao PDR](#), and [Viet Nam](#).

### [Community Resilience Partnership Program](#)

The Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) aims to help Asia and the Pacific scale up investments in climate adaptation—especially at the community level—targeting the nexus between climate change, poverty, and gender. This brochure provides an overview of the CRPP, including its types of support for communities in the region. CRPP responds to the COP26 goal of scaling up



**Community Resilience Partnership Program**

Supporting investments that reach vulnerable and at-risk communities

**What is the Community Resilience Partnership Program?**

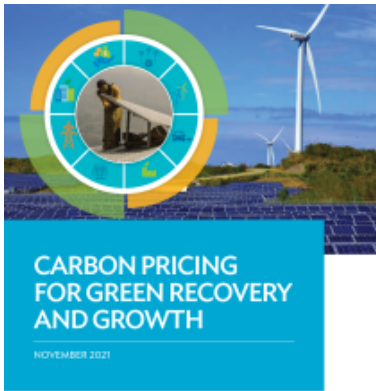
The Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) is intended to help countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific make investments in disaster adaptation, especially investments at the community level, that explicitly target the issue of disaster vulnerability, recovery and gender. CRPP aims to support countries to meet their commitments to the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The CRPP is aligned with the goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Resilience and Disaster Preparedness.

- The CRPP responds to the SDG goal of halving up adaptation to protect communities and vulnerable nations, and mobilizing finance for climate adaptation measures between the end of the 2000 and mid-2020s commitments.
- The CRPP is aligned with the goal of the Global Commission on Adaptation to help principles for locally-led adaptation.



climate adaptation financing and measures.



**CARBON PRICING FOR GREEN RECOVERY AND GROWTH**

NOVEMBER 2021

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



**Carbon Pricing for Green Recovery and Growth**

This publication discusses how carbon pricing instruments can be designed to help achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emission targets while enabling economic recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION, DISASTER RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

OCTOBER 2021

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



**Digital Technologies for Climate Action, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Sustainability**

This publication aims to inform and influence the strategic deployment of digital technologies in developing Asia to help tackle climate change, build climate and disaster resilience, and enhance environmental sustainability.

**VIDEOS**





## Greening Development in the People's Republic of China

Throughout 3 decades of collaboration, ADB and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have sought to balance economic progress with environmental sustainability. A new book on [Greening Development in the PRC](#) shares the narrative of the country's efforts to promote green development and ecological restoration as well as accomplishments resulting from its partnership with ADB. [Watch the video](#)



## Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural Initiatives in Cambodia

Cambodia, an agriculture-based economy, has seen worsening impacts of climate change, including intense rainfall, high temperatures, and sea level rise. ADB, with support from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience of Climate Investment Funds, assisted Cambodia to prepare the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience and demonstrate innovative climate smart agriculture techniques. [Watch the video](#)

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