

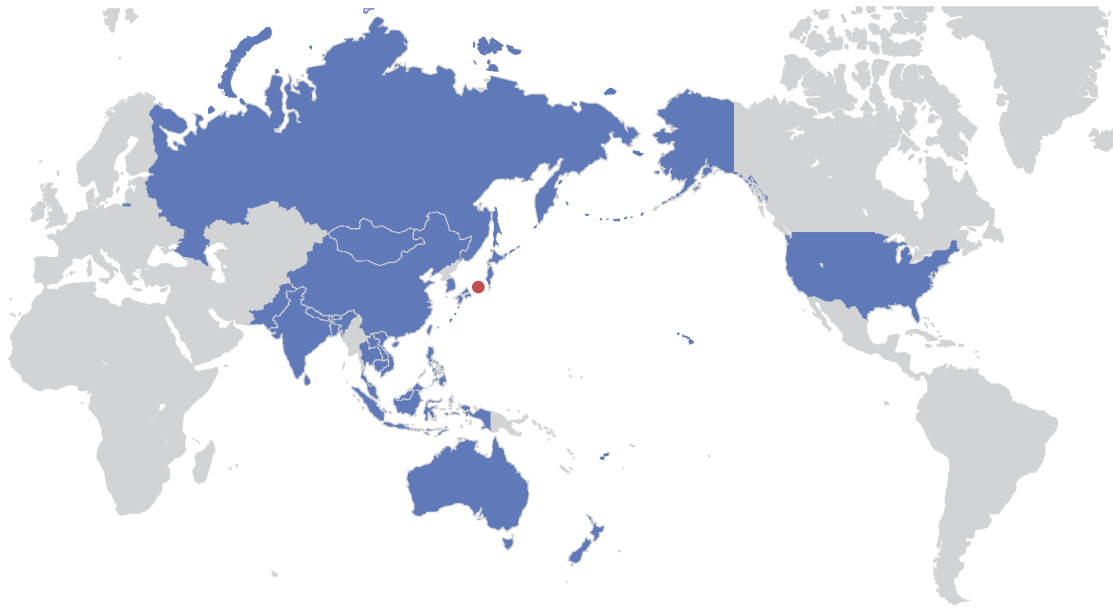
20 years of Research & Capacity Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Time for Celebration?

Linda Anne Stevenson

Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

3rd Workshop of the Southeast Asia Regional Downscaling (SEACLID/CORDEX) Southeast Asia Project
1-2 June 2015, Manila, Philippines

An Inter-Governmental Network of 22 Countries in the Asia-Pacific region fostering Global Change and Sustainability Research



** Pacific Island Countries, Singapore, Myanmar and Maldives are approved countries whose scientists are eligible to receive funding under APN awards.*

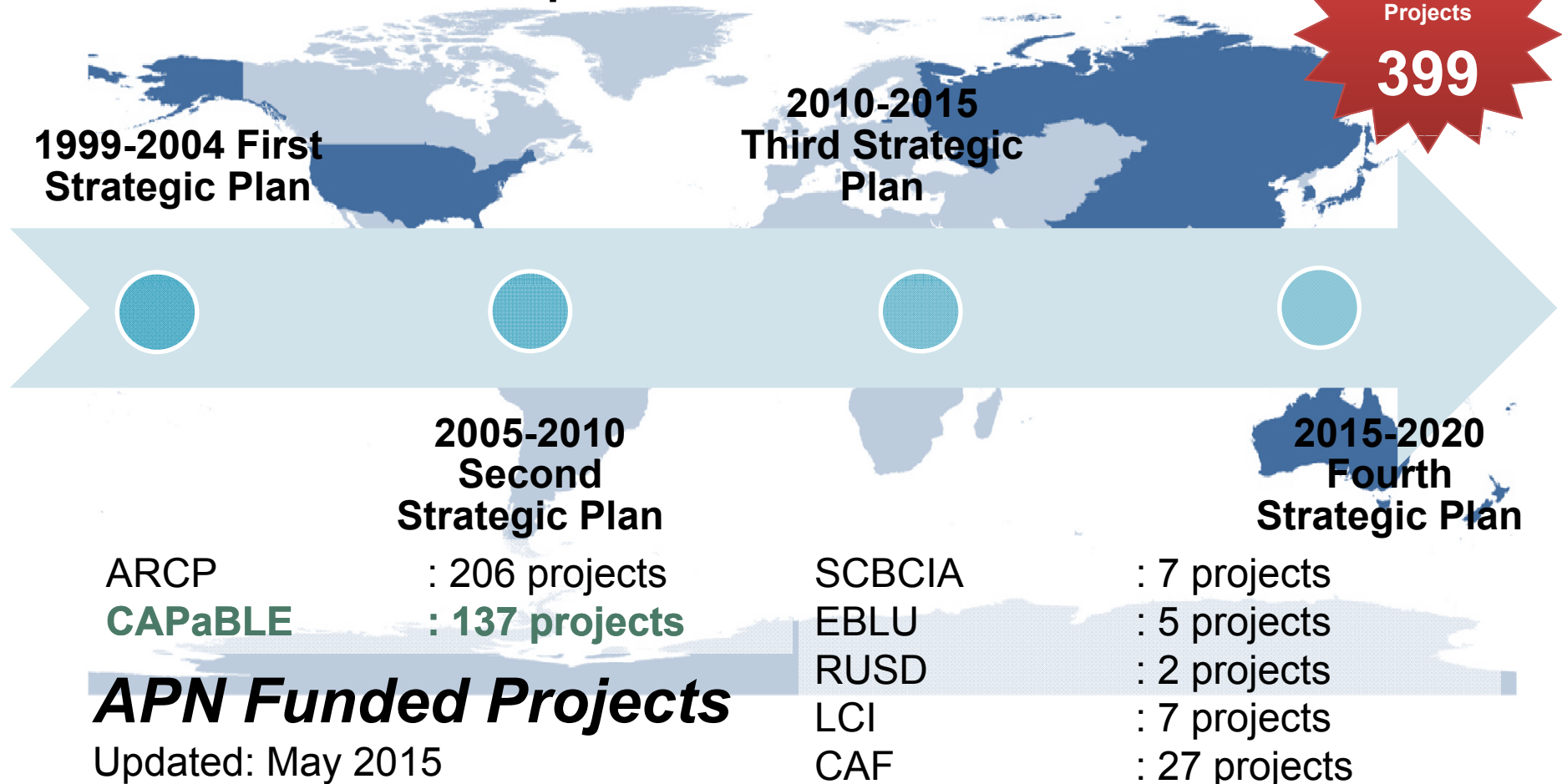
- Established **1996**
- Secretariat in **Kobe**, Japan since 1999
- Financial contribution from three donor countries (2014 & 2015): **Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand**
- Financial Resources: **US\$ 3.4 Million** (2014/15)



20-year milestone
399 projects
25 million \$US



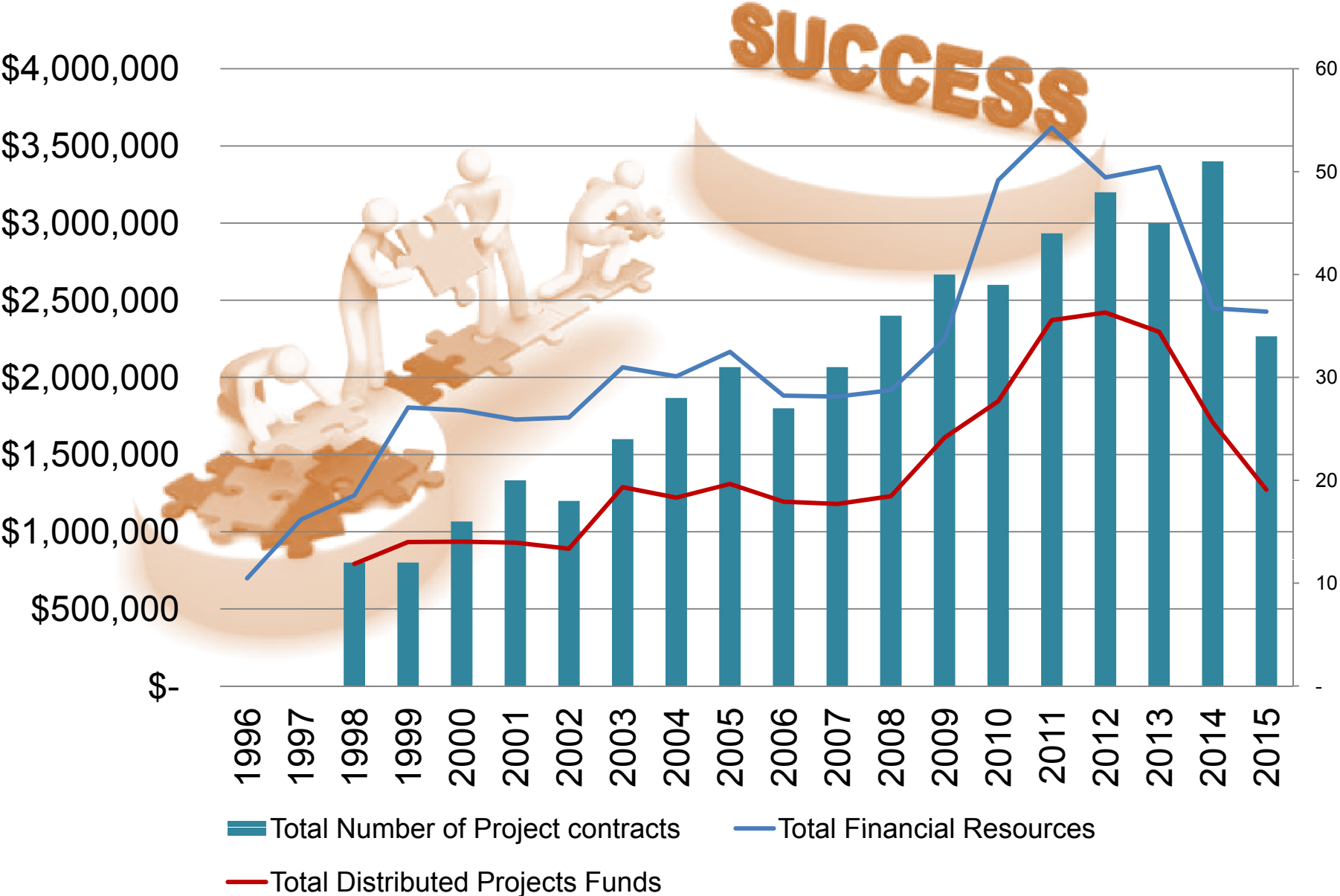
Projects
399



APN Funded Projects

Updated: May 2015

APN Financial Resources Distribution



APN 3rd Strategic Phase (2010-2015)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

60 Projects completed

- **175** Collaborators
- **44** Peer-reviewed papers
- **161** Publications; Workshops/ Conference proceedings, policy briefs, toolkits and manuals, synthesis reports
- **4,117** People Engaged: Scientists, decision makers and general public
- **83%** of projects produced publications in addition to APN Technical Reports
- **223** Events Conducted
- **72%** of projects were policy-relevant and/or engaged policy makers via various approaches
- **90%** of projects provided monetary co-financing

Highlights of Best Practices (1)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhancing the climate change adaptation capacity of local government units and scientists in the Philippines

- a) High level of local policy makers participation led to enhanced capacity on vulnerability assessment and climate change adaptation planning
- b) Effectively disseminated project outcomes at science, policy and community levels
- c) Influenced local level policy makers (Local Government Units) to integrate climate risk management and climate change adaptation plans into annual investment and land-use plans for municipalities
- d) Built partnerships among local institutions



More information:

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/1646>

Highlights of Best Practices (2)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Promoting sustainable use of waste biomass in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand - combining food security, bio-energy and climate protection benefits

- a) A detailed country-level analysis and results comparison among participating countries
- b) Closer collaboration between national, local policy makers and municipal staff from the project implementation stage
- c) Produced local language guides and distributed among local government officials
- d) Identified potential donors to continue project activities in other cities

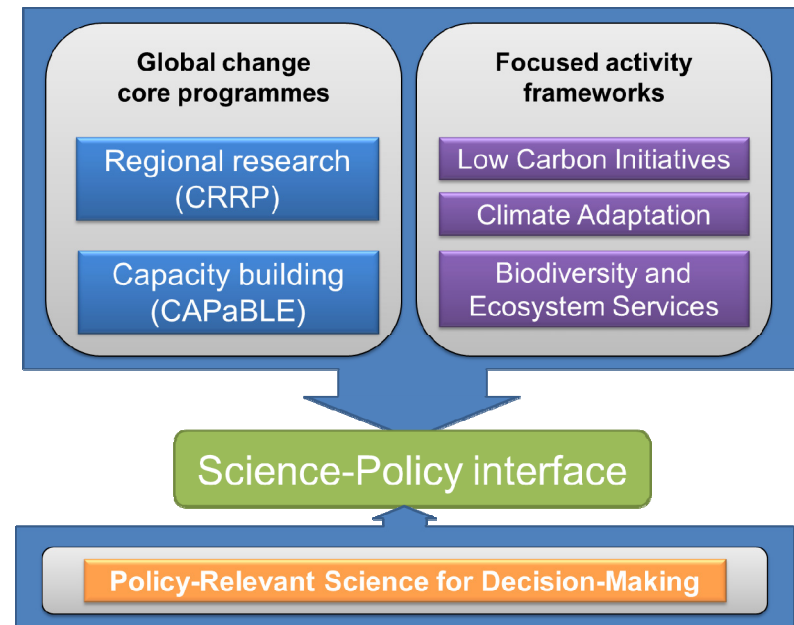
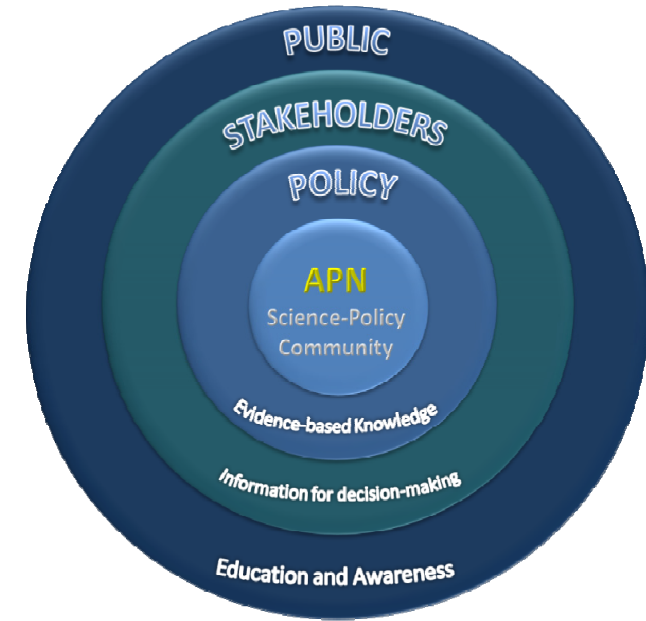


More information:

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/1662>

4th strategic Phase 2015-2020 APN Action Agenda

- **Research Agenda**
 - Climate Change and Climate Variability;
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Changes in the Atmospheric, Terrestrial and Marine Domains;
 - Resources Utilisation and Pathways for Sustainable Development; and
 - Risk Reduction and Resilience.
- **Capacity Development Agenda**
- **Science-Policy Agenda**



Climate Adaptation Framework

- Developed at a scoping workshop in Kobe, Japan, 2012
- Activities of high priority
 - High-resolution **observational, model and downscaled datasets**
 - Sharing of **needs-oriented data**
 - **Calibration and validation** of RCMs; and **analysis** of projections and **assessment** of uncertainties
 - Development and utilisation of **impact, vulnerability, risk and economic assessments**
 - Improvement of **communication skills** of scientists and practitioners
 - **Utilisation** of available information in applications for adaptation
- Partnership Development
 - ICAS-Ibaraki University, UNU, WCRP, ICCCAD, APCSS, CCI-ANU

Capacity Development Agenda

1. Supporting capacity development of **early career researchers** in global change and sustainable development
2. Supporting capacity development of **policy makers, community leaders, resource managers**
3. **Cooperating** with other international capacity development programmes
4. Pursuing existing or creating new fora for **discussion and interaction between scientists and policy makers**
5. **Supporting training workshops for scientists** to develop skills and techniques in providing science-based tools to support policy development
6. **Encouraging stakeholder involvement in all phases** of projects that APN undertakes
7. Conducting **regular synthesis and assessment activities of projects** to identify important outcomes, research gaps, and emerging issues that could be used to support policy development

Capacity Development Needs

1. Researchers need to identify **short-term and long-term actions** when delivering scientific outcomes to policy makers.
2. To motivate scientists to policy-related studies, there needs to be a mechanism to **monitor and evaluate research activities that have been effective on the ground in policy developments** and reward such incentives.
3. The best approach to transfer scientific findings to policy planning is to **hold face-to-face discussions** between scientists and policy makers and identify specific persons required for such dialogue.
4. Even with limited resources, science can reach end users in two ways: i) work closely with **intermediary agents** such as media; and ii) **articulate the impact of scientific findings with human issues** so that policy makers and communities can easily absorb.
5. Policy communities lack interest in science-policy dialogues compared with scientists. To make it more attractive **involvement of a science champion** or respected person in the country is recommended.

Highlights of Issues

SOUTHEAST ASIA (5 HIGHLIGHTED HERE – MORE IN THE TEXT)

1. In the area of implementing programmes suggested by scientists, participants emphasized the importance of having **local champions in the policy sector** who understand the issue and can help implement programmes that matter.
2. **Social media**, such as Facebook, Twitter, etc., needs to be incorporated as part of advocacy and awareness raising efforts to get community support.
3. A science-policy interface has to be actively managed, since governance is about who controls what and how such control is exerted. In this context, **science should be brought to local levels** to contribute critical inputs, so decision makers have a diversity of information to choose from to shape policies at the local level.
4. Partnerships between the science and policy communities need to be looked at with the aim of **identifying what works and what doesn't**.
5. There is a need to **expand partnerships** to other sectors not only the science community. The private sector and development communities need to be included.

Experiences on how to successfully address capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region:

- **Understanding:** regional and cultural diversities that exist in the region; traditional knowledge is powerful (west-knows-best practices are too common.....one size does not fit all)...
- **Educating:** providing better opportunities for young (early career) scientists through training; engaging youth especially in social networking...
- **Creating:** opportunities for informal dialogues with stakeholders at sub-regional levels (addressing common issues, builds trust sense of ownership and less intimidating)...
- **Engaging:** in activities that involve all stakeholders and engaging in and listening to those who are most at risk...
- **Sharing and communicating:** the most important factor across the region is the human factor: sharing information, data, transferring knowledge, experiences and best practices...

Call for Proposals 2015

New Beta Version: Proposal Submission will be via an online service and will be launched June 9th 2015. We welcome you to try out the beta version – which I have the link to.

Just ask me for that!!

APN Website: News, announcements and global change community updates

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/>



APN E-Lib: Archive of publications, completed/ongoing project metadata and outputs www.apn-gcr.org/resources



Become an **APN Friend:** <http://friends.apn-gcr.org/>

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