

Fostering the Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere Approach to Translate Global Goals into Local Actions

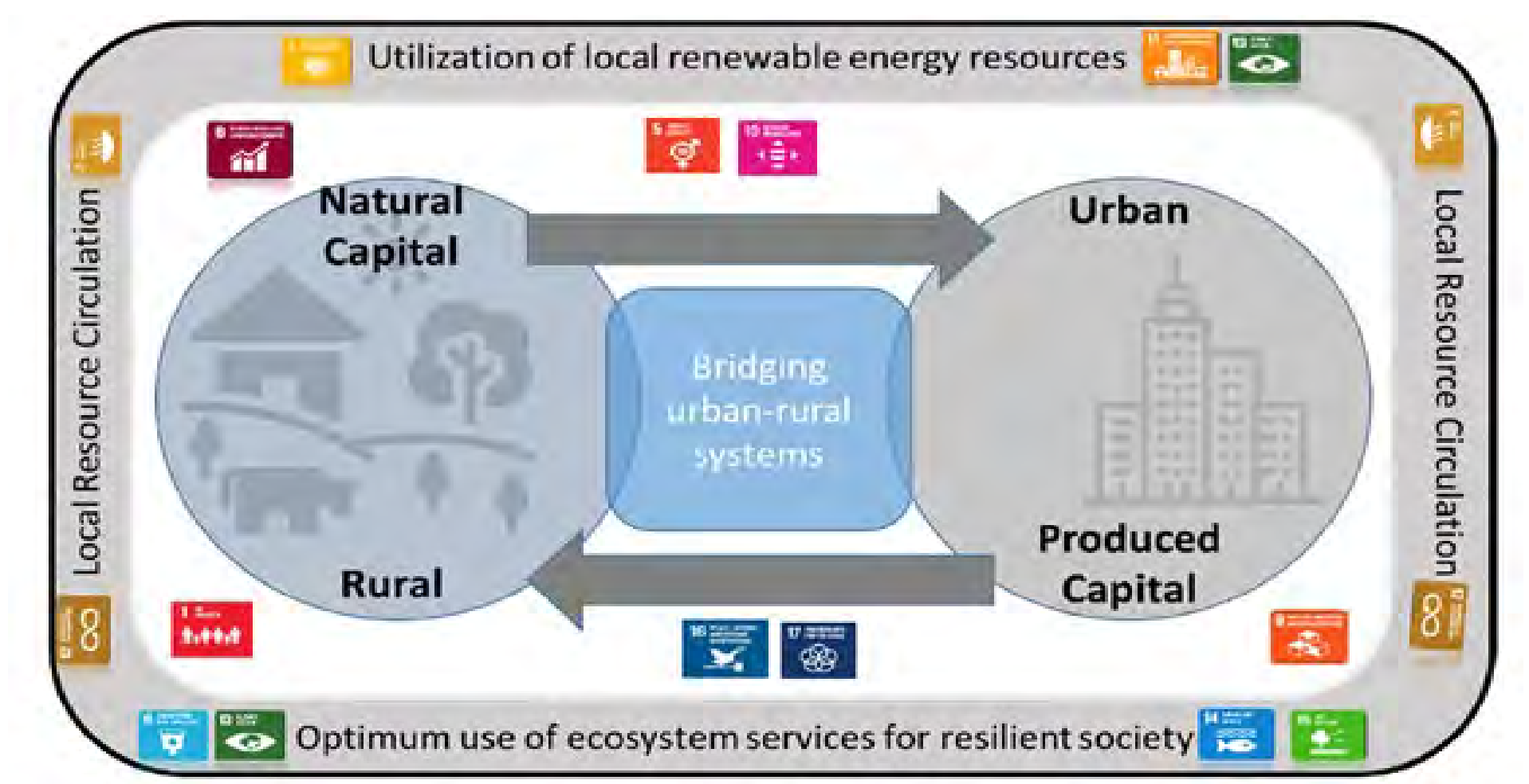
– Lessons from National Scoping Workshops in ASEAN Countries –

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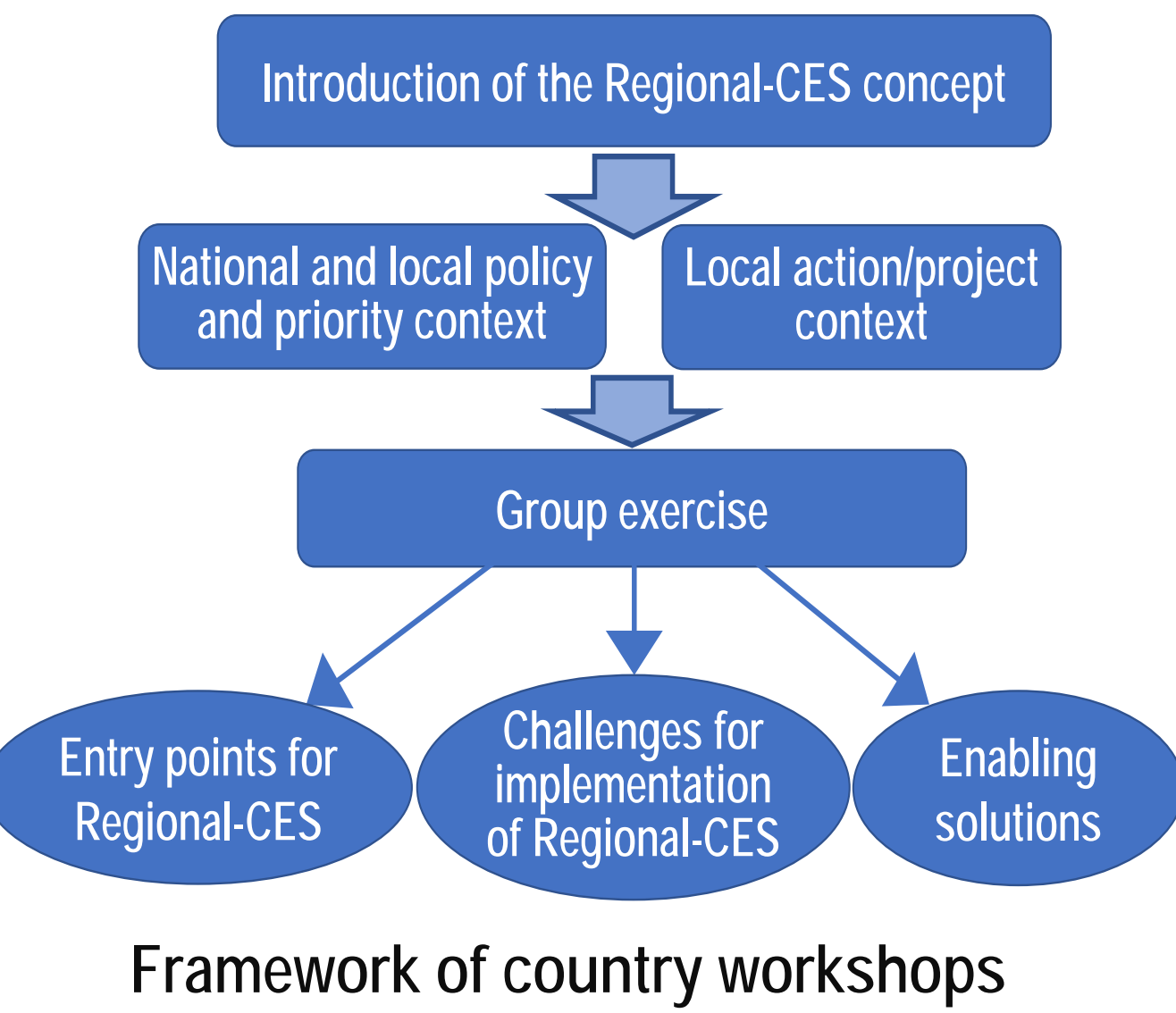
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What is the Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES)?

The Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES) aims to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in both urban and rural communities with maximum utilisation of local strengths and resources. It brings together existing approaches, such as rural-urban linkages, ecosystem-based solutions for decarbonisation, and resource circulation for economic revitalisation and resilient society.



Regional-CES concept



How has the Regional-CES Concept been fostered ?

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) conducted the Regional-CES Scoping Project to assess the potential of promoting the Regional-CES concept in Asia. The scoping project organised workshops to engage key national and local stakeholders in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. The workshops consisted of a series of sessions to explain the Regional-CES concept, to discuss and identify opportunities for applying Regional-CES based on each country's context, and to share practices that may have been conducted under similar frameworks or concepts.

Potential Entry Points

Country	Potential entry points
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource circulation Ecosystem-based adaptation Rural-urban linkages R&D on circular economy (CE), green technology/product development
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and climate resilient development Water food nexus in rural-urban linkage Revitalisation by utilising local resources and enhancing rural-urban linkages
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced urban expansion with preserving green areas and protecting rural spaces Sustainable resource management Spatial planning for disaster and environmental risk management

Challenges/Issues for Regional-CES

Country	Challenges for Regional-CES
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budget/funds for integration and climate mitigation Mismatched priorities for localisation of development based on conflict of policies at the local and national levels Lack of shared knowledge and information, and infrastructure to realise circular economy Wasteful duplication of plans from various agencies at various levels Insufficient means to implement plans/weak implementation
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of location-based law and regulation Incompatibility between top-down implementation efforts and local demands Lack of understanding on local available resources Insufficient financial supports/research funds, lack of awareness and networking Different approaches between urban and rural settings
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban bias whereby urban areas have a strong position compared to rural areas Lack of infrastructure, and human resources with necessary skills Lack of inter-municipality coordination Lack of community involvement/consultation in formulating and implementing spatial planning Different culture/tradition between urban and rural areas

Enabling Solutions

Country	Enabling measures
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harnessing of key resources such as human, nature, and finance Forward-looking actions/policies Strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and linkages Sustainable funding sources Sharing sufficient knowledge of Regional-CES-related best practices/successful models to increase awareness and empower stakeholders
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws and regulations should be reviewed based on locations, and effectively enforced Enhancing rural and urban linkages for sustainable society Establishment of local stakeholder platforms (e.g.: Regional-CES platform) Community participation/consultation to formulate and implement spatial planning Promotion of sustainable agriculture, and enhancing vocational training Provision of infrastructure
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing spatial planning with accurate mapping Community engagement to formulate and implement spatial planning Effective law enforcement Addressing conflicts between land ownership rights and spatial regulations Promotion of sustainable agriculture, and enhancing vocational training

Lessons learnt from the three workshops

Participants understood the relevance of the Regional-CES concept to national sustainable development pathways and line policies in each country. They acknowledged its potential to advance transformative actions towards low-carbon society, resource circulation, and living in harmony with nature at local, national and regional levels. The importance of aligning the concept to specific local contexts, such as local needs, policy relevance and priorities, was also recognised.

Way forward

The lessons learned from national workshops will facilitate a regional level, cross-learning mechanism on applying the Regional-CES to tackle sustainability challenges through localisation in a range of different national, sub-national and local contexts.