

Supplementary Appendix: Compendium of Case Studies on Synergies in Asia and the Pacific



ESCAP
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Acknowledgments

This *Compendium of Case Studies on Synergies in Asia and the Pacific* is developed as a supplementary appendix to the *Asia-Pacific Synergies Report: Advancing Synergistic Solutions to the Triple Planetary Crisis and the SDGs*, which is a collaborative product of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Imperative for Operationalizing Synergies

As the Asia-Pacific region navigates the complex intersections of climate change, biodiversity loss, and systemic pollution, the need for integrated, cross-sectoral action has never been more evident. While high-level reports frequently emphasize the theoretical value of synergistic approaches—strategies that align multiple policy goals to maximize co-benefits—translating these concepts into tangible results remains a persistent challenge.

This supplementary compendium bridges that gap. It offers a unique, ground-level perspective into how stakeholders across the region are actively operationalizing synergies. By showcasing over 140 real-world case studies, this document shifts the focus from ‘why synergies matter’ to ‘how they are executed in practice,’ serving as a practical blueprint for policymakers, project developers, and communities striving to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2 Purpose of the Appendix

This compendium compiles a diverse array of case studies from across Asia and the Pacific. While the main *Asia-Pacific Synergies Report* synthesizes regional trends and highlights select featured practices, this appendix provides the broader, localized evidence base. It is designed to offer actionable insights, guiding the development, execution, and scaling of concrete synergy initiatives across different institutional and geographic contexts.

2. Case Study Framework and Template

Each case study is presented using a consistent, user-friendly format derived directly from the online submission portal. This structure allows readers to quickly identify the socio-environmental mechanisms that deliver synergies:

- **Title and Type of Initiative:** Identifies the project, policy, or guidance.
- **Author / Provider and Location:** The country, region, and submitting entity.
- **Relevant SDGs:** Specific targets and indicators addressed.
- **Background and Issue:** The main environmental and social issues targeted, objectives, and local context.
- **Chosen Approach:** The actions taken and the roles of the actors involved.
- **Achieved Synergies and Mitigated Trade-offs:** A description of how multiple objectives were balanced and the measures used to assess results.
- **Enabling Factors and Remaining Issues:** Key elements essential to success, such as governance, coordination, funding, alongside ongoing challenges.
- **Lessons Learned:** Advice for replication and practical recommendations.

3. Directory of Synergistic Actions

The case studies are categorized into major themes specifically aligned with the structural chapters of the *Asia-Pacific Synergies Report*. The following is a comprehensive directory of the case studies featured in this compendium, sorted by their primary thematic chapter assignment. Cases marked with an asterisk (*) designate featured report cases that currently lack corresponding inputs in the database.

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Chapter 3

Conserving biodiversity through nature-positive pathways



Case Study No. (click to navigate)	Title	Target Country	SDGs	Type of Initiative
16	100 OECMs Project	Japan	13, 15, 17	Project
17	Agritage Viet Nam: Reviving Agricultural Heritage and Ecotourism for Locally Led Adaptation in the Uplands of Son La Province	Viet Nam	2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 15	Project
18	Agro-Photovoltaic Integration: Solar Power Plant Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Mongolia	Mongolia	2, 3, 7, 9, 13	Project
19	Agroforestry and Livelihood Diversification for Climate-Resilient Sustainable Future in Lal Barahi, Assam	India	1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15	Project
20	Application of agroecology towards sustainable development in Hoi An City, Viet Nam	Viet Nam	1, 2, 6, 8, 12	Movement
21	Basic Policy for Kanagawa Water Source Environment Conservation and Restoration (2005-2025)	Japan	6, 11, 15, 17	Policy
22	Biomass Energy Generation in Maniwa City	Japan	7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17	Project
23	Central Java Land Subsidence Roadmap	Indonesia	6, 11, 13, 14, 15	Policy
24	Coastal Project: Building Resilience of Cambodian Communities Through Infrastructure and Diversified Livelihoods	Cambodia	1, 13, 14, 15	Project
25	Community Forest Management in Bhutan - A Sustainable Resource Utilization and Strategy of Rural Poverty Alleviation	Bhutan	1, 2, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17	Community Model
26	Demonstration of Wastewater Treatment for Reduction of Coastal Water Contamination from Manora Island, Karachi	Pakistan	6, 11, 13, 14, 15	Project
27	*Eco-function Zoning Map for Biodiversity and Supply Chain Risk Screening in China	China	10, 11, 13, 14, 15	Project
28	Empowering Community Resilience Through Reforestation and Coral Reef Restoration in South Malekula, Vanuatu	Vanuatu	3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 15, 17	Project
29	Endeavor to Mitigate Forest & Peatland Fire with Stakeholder Engagements in Indonesia and Japan	Indonesia	6, 11, 13, 15	Project
30	Four major rivers weir construction	Republic of Korea	6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15	Project
31	Independent Sustainable Water and Ice Supply System for Coastal Rurals and Fishermen Communities	Indonesia	2, 7, 11, 13, 17	Project
32	Installation of Solar Plants at Agricultural Farms for Power Supply in Ulaanbaatar Suburbs	Mongolia	3, 13, 15, 17	Policy

PROJECT

Son La
Viet Nam

Agritage Viet Nam: Reviving Agricultural Heritage and Ecotourism for Locally Led Adaptation in the Uplands of Son La Province

SDGs: 2.4, 5.5, 11.4, 12.2, 13.2, 15.1

Relevant frameworks and documents:

NAP (2021-2030), National Green Growth Strategy (2021–2030); Net Zero 2050 Commitment (COP26); Son La Provincial Rural Tourism Plan (2022–2030); FAO GIAHS Framework

Background and issues

Ethnic minority communities in Son La Province depend on fragile mountain ecosystems which are increasingly affected by climate change impacts such as erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, floods, and landslides. These stresses threaten food security, biodiversity, and cultural continuity. Top-down agricultural modernization has marginalized indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge (ITLK) systems and practices that are foundational and once sustained these landscapes.

Chosen approach

The chosen approach integrates Indigenous Knowledge revival, locally led adaptation, and capacity building. Actions include community mapping, documentation of cultural assets, 15 organic demonstration plots (1,000 ha), terrace rehabilitation, agroforestry, and soil restoration. Ecotourism and value addition empower women in tea and food production. Local communities, cooperatives, researchers, and government partners collaboratively implement and govern these initiatives.

Achieved synergies & mitigated trade-offs

Agroforestry and terrace restoration enhanced biodiversity and heritage; women-led enterprises increased income and cohesion. Yield losses were offset by diversified crops and eco-tourism. Outcomes include 30% soil erosion reduction, 20 native species reintroduced, and improved livelihoods for 150 households.

Enabling factors / remaining issues

Enabling factors included strong community ownership, cultural pride, inclusive institutions. Remaining issues involve limited financing, slow policy uptake, intensifying climate extremes, and youth out-migration—addressed through eco-tourism jobs and integration into provincial budgets for sustainable adaptation.



Lesson learned: Start with community reflection to define issues and heritage assets. Empower women and youth as change agents. Use cultural heritage to motivate action and ensure transparent, community-led fund management for sustainability.

Resource and acknowledgement: APN Project: [Regional partnership for localisation of NDC through community-led “local adaptation innovation hubs” in the Asia-Pacific region.](#)

Study provided by Ho Ngoc Son and Dinh Thi Huyen, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry.

