

Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultations

Validation Workshop on the Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultation Report

Date: Wednesday 25 May 2022 (9:00-12:00)

Ballroom, 7th Floor, The Landmark Bangkok, Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok

Hybrid Meeting (In-person and ZOOM, with English-Thai and Thai-English Interpretation)

Summary Report

A validation workshop on the Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultation Report was organized in a hybrid mode, both in-person (at the Landmark Bangkok Hotel) and virtually on Zoom meeting, with simultaneous translation and live streaming to UNDP Thailand Facebook which included sign language interpretation. The last of a series of Stockholm+50 National Consultations in Thailand was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand and UNDP in Thailand, in collaboration with the Embassy of Kenya in Thailand. This event aimed to discuss and validate the Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultation Report and identify the next steps, opportunities, and avenues for cooperation in preparation for the Stockholm+50 convened by the United Nations General Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden, from 2-3 June 2022. The objective of the national consultations is to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues as they relate to the national context.

The event Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Kesrat Sukasam from UNDP Thailand. The keynote session was addressed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), the Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, the Ambassador of Kenya to Thailand, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand. The keynote session was followed by the presentation on main areas and key points of the draft Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultation Report and the stakeholder feedback session. The workshop was closed by the UNDP resident Representative in Thailand. The live streamed video of the event can be accessed at: <https://fb.watch/dLLT7jIn29/>.

There was a consensus that the Stockholm+50 could be the time to take the bold steps towards the action needed. The findings from national consultations echoed that pressure on nature and human environment will only be truly reduced through, among others, reconciliation partnership and networking, enabling access to knowledge and innovation, improved and more inclusive data management, increased opportunities for community-based and nature-based solutions, more equitable sustainable financing and incentive measures, and better coordinated sustainable development initiatives.

Keynote Addresses

Dr. Pinsak Suraswadi, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), delivered an online keynote address. He thanked the Governments of Sweden and Kenya for their strong support and the UNDP for the active organization of the Stockholm+50 national consultations in Thailand including this validation workshop. He complimented on Stockholm+50 national consultations in Thailand and the report thereon for reflecting the opportunity for the whole-of-society and whole-of-government to elicit their perspectives on environmental challenges and partnership opportunities, as well as to identify solutions and recommendations to cope with global environmental crises and accelerate SDG implementation in post-pandemic recovery. He stated that Thailand is moving forward in ensuring balanced economic development under the 20 Year national strategy through the 13th economic and social development plan endorsed by the Cabinet. The 13th edition of the five-year implementation plan aims to strengthen sustainable economic growth and environmental conservation, prepare the country to deal with emerging crises such as climate change, and improve the people's livelihoods. Dr. Suraswadi stressed that Thailand is determined to tackle climate change to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065. In addition, national environmental sustainability policies are in place, including: (a) restructuring of the energy framework under the 4D1E policy consists of digitization, decarbonization, decentralization, and de-regulation, and electrification to produce more than 30% of electric vehicles; (b) national biodiversity framework and plans adopted in reaching global biodiversity and sustainable development goals, and increasing forest and green area to cover 55% of the area in the country; and (c) national plastic management roadmap of 2018-2030 aiming to achieve a 100% plastic recycling by 2027. He urged all parties to cooperate in this mission to reduce plastic usage and hoped that this meeting would provide good recommendations, cooperation, and clear guidelines from all parties to move towards a systematic change in line with the 20-year national strategy and the Bio-Circular-Green Economic (BCG) model that leaves no one behind.

H.E. Mr. Kiptiness Lindsay Kimwole, the Ambassador of Kenya to Thailand, delivered an online keynote address by thanking all participants for contributing to the Stockholm+50 national consultations in Thailand, including those presented in the validation workshop. He complimented the Royal Thai Government and all stakeholders in Thailand for playing their role in national consultations in dealing with the climate and other environmental crises. He stressed that urgent action is needed now to reverse the environmental catastrophes, and that the Stockholm+50 international meeting provides a window of opportunity for all to reflect on the urgency and follow-up recommendations, including those to be agreed during the upcoming global conferences on ocean in Portugal in June-July and on biodiversity as well as on other conventions. The Ambassador reflected on the need to accelerate concerted action on balancing economic development and environmental protection through equitable and effective implementation of global commitments, nature-based solutions, and renaturing ecosystems in the midst of industrialization. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between countries in preparing for the next crisis by channeling more resources into developing and implementing green policies in all sectors – Thailand's sufficiency economic

philosophy and bio-circular-green economic model are good examples to build on. He concluded by inviting Thailand to work with Kenya in taking bold actions on climate change and pollution.

In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Jon Åström Gröndahl, the Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, expressed his pleasure to be part of the launch of the Stockholm+50 national consultations in Thailand in April, where more than a hundred of stakeholders from government, youth, civil societies, private sector, and international organizations discussed a way towards a healthy planet for all. Proudly representing Sweden, in the journey towards sustainability of the global society, he underlined that it takes strong political will and vision of political leaders in our countries to make bold decisions on tackling climate and environmental challenges. The Ambassador reflected on his hope for Stockholm+50 to be a catalyst for inspiring and advancing stronger political commitments and decisions on climate action and the sustainable future of the global communities. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to Thailand's national consultation report which can serve as a basis for Stockholm+50 and future political dialogues with Thailand.

Ms. Gita Sabharwal, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand, delivered her keynote address by expressing her pleasure to join the discussion on Thailand's Stockholm+50 consultation report, thanking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Embassies of Sweden and Kenya, and UNDP Thailand for co-convening these consultations. She mentioned that she would be at the Stockholm+50 international meeting to discuss UN's experiences with Thailand in promoting sustainable consumption and production through resource efficiency and circular economy as well as effective utilization of science and technology and joint partnership initiative on green economy. Ms. Sabharwal focused on several key points raised in the report that linked to UN development system in Thailand, including: (a) the need for data innovation, inclusivity and strengthening statistical capacities, particularly in environment-related SDGs; (b) gender perspectives in achieving sustainability; (c) partnerships among various stakeholders for SDG implementation and localization; and, (d) private sector engagement and partnership through the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) on CO2 emission reduction, support for SMEs sustainability across value chains, scaling up the principles of responsible investment and banking, biodiversity action in the private sector, clean technologies in the oil and gas sector and regenerative furnaces and scrap processing machines in steel and aluminum manufacturing, chemical fingerprinting of smoke and haze sources, waste management and recycling, joint programming through Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) for green recovery, and a proposal on establishing a pooled funding mechanism for the SDGs capitalized by the government and the private sector. She looked forward to learning more from the findings and recommendations of the Stockholm+50 national consultation report in line with the Leadership Dialogues.

Summary of Key Findings from Thailand's National Consultation Report

Ms. Ampai Harakunarak, National Coordinator, UNDP Thailand, presented on the background, concepts, process and activities, stakeholder groups, key themes and sectors, main points discussed as well as findings of Stockholm+50 national consultations in Thailand.

Stockholm+50 is a commemoration of 50 years since the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on Human Environment. To enhance the action and sustainable transformation agenda launched at the Stockholm Conference in 1972, the Government of Sweden, with the support of the Government of Kenya, will host a crucial international meeting under the theme "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity." The Stockholm+50 aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change, and the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans. Leading up to the international meeting, national-level consultations were held under UNDP's leadership in Thailand and other countries. The objective of the Thailand national consultations is to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues as they relate to the national context.

Based on the guiding questions, the national consultations in Thailand discussed issues relevant to Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues in the Thai context. A summary of main points discussed is as follows:

- The reasons to (re)connect with nature are two-fold: its positive association with enhanced socio-economic performance and human wellbeing, and pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors.
- The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) is Thailand's core approach toward sustainable development, creating a positive impact on building resilience and self-immunity of people and communities particularly during crises, leading the society toward sustainability transitions.
- A sustainable and green finance ecosystem, notably the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and sustainability bonds, has been introduced to help reduce financial risks stemming from climate change, forest resource depletion, environmental degradation, and social issues.
- For vulnerable and marginalized people, as well as local communities often employed in agriculture and services sectors, an important means of strengthening their capability and skills, particularly to achieve an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, is to apply local wisdom, tested knowledge and understanding, and appropriate technology.
- Key enabling environment for delivery commitments on the ground includes: provision of evidence-based policy advice; building capacity of local stakeholders (including marginalized and vulnerable groups); promoting policy research and knowledge networks; measures for aligning public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities; and, engaging in dialogues and partnerships across development sectors and administrative levels.
- Many of Thailand's businesses and industries have delivered on their commitment to integrating SDGs into business strategies, while prioritizing clean energy and high-value bio-based or "S-curve" industries, supporting government efforts in line with the Bio-Circular-Green Economic (BCG) model. The BCG model capitalizes the country's strengths in biological diversity and cultural richness and employs technology and innovation to transform Thailand to a value-based and innovation-driven economy.

The national consultations in Thailand identified key challenges, opportunities, solutions, and recommendations as follows.

Challenges – creating equal opportunity for all; restoring and regenerating a positive relationship with nature; building a more secured society against external shock (i.e., COVID-19, climate change); learning to be adaptive and resilient; reaching net-zero emissions; developing resource efficiency; and achieving zero waste.

Opportunities – enabling balanced and inclusive environment to address inequality; redefining the country's competitive edge during the Covid-19 crisis; aligning Thailand's development trajectory and environmental policies and plans with the global agenda, goals, and commitments; prioritizing conservation for biodiversity through public, private and community-based partnerships; and strengthening partnerships for climate action.

Solutions – create equal opportunity for all to engage in resource decisions and nature restoration; accelerate actions for recovery in key COVID-affected sectors and value chains; produce and consume sustainably and control pollution; strengthen collective actions and effective partnerships; and, scale up green finance mechanisms for climate action and biodiversity investments to support inclusive and sustainable development.

Recommendations – seek potential integration or synergies among development drivers or sectors to reduce costs, reduce risks, and increase positive impacts; provide adequate and inclusive access to socio-economic development opportunities for all, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis; focus on inclusive and sustainable recovering through green and circular economy practices; emphasize partnership building through existing policy initiatives (i.e., sufficiency economy philosophy, bio-circular-green economy model, and SDGs localization); and ensure women's access to financial resources for livelihoods.

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback Session

The stakeholder feedback session was moderated by Ms. Sukanya Thongthumrong from UNDP Thailand. The panelists included: Mr. Prasert Sirinapaporn, Deputy Secretary-General, ONEP; Mr. Krit Jitjang, President, Kasikorn Bank; Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang, Senior Researcher, Thailand Environment Institute; Ms. Aminta Permpoonwiwat, Youth4Climate and GYBN Thailand; and Mr. Sakda Saenmi, Director, Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand (IMPECT).

Mr. Sirinapaporn emphasized the importance of inclusivity (women and youth) and working effectively across generations in addressing environmental issues. He identified challenges and solutions for achieving balanced and sustainable economy, including addressing marine debris and plastic waste using knowledge/information and technology, promoting public awareness on sustainable production and consumption, relying on evidence-based data and a data-driven approach in driving national strategies, applying SDG index and environmental performance index (EPI) as a tool to move the country toward sustainable development, synergies between climate change and biodiversity actions, and collaboration between various development sectors and stakeholders. He referred to the biodiversity conservation law and Community Forest Act, and outlined some of relevant policies by the government,

including the five-year development plans, the bio-circular-green economy model, plastic waste management and recycling roadmap, nature-based solutions for conservation areas in line with international standards, a long-term national goal on zero carbon and low carbon emissions in energy and transport sectors, and a national strategy to increase the country's forest cover by 55%.

Mr. Jitjang emphasized inequality in financial inclusion and the importance of policy support related to financial infrastructure and access to financing, particularly for people with low income. He outlined strategies and approaches taken by the KBank to promote sustainable development in line with global frameworks and agreements. This includes innovative financial products and services, financial inclusion through personal loan products, financial product and service innovations that promote environmental conservation through the extension of credits for energy and environmental conservation, and corporate environmental management focusing on achieving zero carbon emissions.

Dr. Sakkhamduang focused on challenges and opportunities in addressing climate change, including national targets on achieving net-zero emissions through sectoral action plans and climate adaptation through waste management and nature-based solutions in tourism, particularly during the pandemic. She outlined some solutions as including sustainable consumption and production such as in agricultural and manufactural sectors, public-private-community partnerships, bio-circular-green economy model, and support of inclusive resilience and adaptation.

Ms. Permpoonwiwat outlined four key concerns from the perspectives of young people, including (a) nature-based solutions, awareness raising, and inclusiveness for addressing multi-dimensional challenges of climate change and for living in harmony with the nature; (b) green technological innovation, green financing and investment, and green skills to provide decent and green jobs; (c) decreasing the generation gap and increasing intergeneration participation through optimized continuous education, training, dialogues, and networking; and, (d) inclusive and transparent financing for achieving sustainable development goals. She added that ground truth solutions and cross-sectoral collaboration are needed to transform the society and achieve a more sustainable future for all.

Mr. Saenmi emphasized on inclusiveness and peaceful coexistence in managing natural resources. He focused on ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups who live in and rely on forest resources and ecosystems, engaging them in addressing environment-related issues through the use of local wisdoms and tools and mechanisms to bring back their traditional way of life that allows the people to live together in harmony with the nature and leave no one behind.

Additional views and suggestions from the participants include: (a) highlights from the Stockholm+50 Asia and the Pacific regional consultation on the importance of intergenerational equity, the need to balance more effective economic growth and environment, drawing on indigenous knowledge, and involving marginalized groups and women in decision making; (b) rethinking sustainable development within the framework of cooperative to meet common economic, social, and/or cultural needs and aspirations through

a jointly-owned and democratically controlled by the people to improve their livelihoods and protect their interests; and, (c) the need for a development framework that defines a clear direction for environmental sustainability, particularly to enable ethnic minorities the rights to self-determination and to use their potential to the fullest for living in harmony with the ecosystems they inhabit.

Conclusion, Next Steps, and Closing

The closing remarks was delivered by Mr. Renaud Meyer, UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand. He stressed on two keywords that are in the tagline of the Stockholm+50 international meeting, which are responsibility and unique opportunity. He mentioned that, as part of the UN system, UNDP has a mandate to find long-term solutions. In his words, “the minorities and indigenous groups need to be taken care of, as the nature is not just a concept but an ecosystem where people live. Often, they are pointed out as culprits for the degrading quality of those ecosystems. Still, we are hearing more and more that indigenous knowledge combined with technology are extremely important to solutions ahead. He emphasized that, with this responsibility, there is an opportunity, and it is all about transforming this very dramatic Covid-19 pandemic into a lesson learning process. We have abused nature to satisfy greed. People are convinced that this isn't sustainable. Our existence as humanity is threatened if we don't find a solution. This Covid-19 recovery provides a unique opportunity to rethink this relationship between people and nature.”

Based on the national consultations, he offered four takeaways. The first is to return to the Covid-19 recovery and foster nature-based solutions – there is a need to listen to those doing them, especially the ethnic communities. The second, the private sector is more ambitious than the government itself because its profitability is at risk – there is a need to hold them accountable and make sure the coherence exists in the work they are undertaking and that they continue with all stakeholders to influence government and policies so that this is sustained. The third is the need to empower the community – there is a need to combine top-down with bottom-up and listen to people who want to be listened to and to take the future into their own hands. Today, with knowledge, education, exposure, and connectivity, many are aware of their potential and individual responsibilities. Plastic bags are a small example showing that small actions can lead to a large impact. The fourth and last point is how to enable the community empowerment, inclusive, and involvement approach in finding solutions and implementation – there is a need to localize solutions, be context-specific and listen to the locals. Find local approaches to local problems, link them back, and update them back to policies. He further stressed that these four elements are essential to the three and a half months of discussions, during the national consultations.

Mr. Meyer concluded by saying “We have a lot of milestones ahead of us and a lot of milestones to continue the discussion and a lot of action in the community and make sure all this is cohesive and coherent towards a sustainable model. With BCG model, Thailand has a very interesting concept. We need to translate this real, serious action, and we need everyone.”