

Asia-Pacific Just Transitions

Assessing the Activities, Strategies, and Needs of Asia-Pacific
Climate, Agri-food, and Environmental Organizations



The Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, formerly the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, is a vibrant hub of researchers, community leaders, policy-makers, artists, and communicators that advances research, policy, and work related to marginalized communities. It engages in innovative narrative, communications, and cultural strategies that attempt to reframe the public discourse around marginality and inclusion and respond to issues that require immediate and long-term action.

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This white paper was produced by researchers from the Othering & Belonging Institute's **Global Justice Program**, which focuses on cross-sectoral themes that connect the local to the global and vice versa by examining structural marginality and promoting global inclusivity while taking into account local complexities and knowledge productions. To achieve our goals, we ground our work in the fundamental inquiry of how to successfully build inclusive, democratic, and citizenry-based societies.

We highlight the need for **climate justice partnerships that foster just transitions** regardless of the framework used, and that retain the transformative power of the Just Transition framework when used. It also emphasizes the need to support the objectives, strategies, and activities of Asia-Pacific organizations, and to take seriously the social, political, and economic needs of the communities in which they work.



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Highlights of the White Paper

COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE ASIA-PACIFIC have long stood at the frontlines of environmental change, facing deep histories of extraction and new forms of “climate colonialism” under global decarbonization. This white paper, *Asia-Pacific Just Transitions: Assessing the Activities, Strategies, and Needs of Asia-Pacific Climate, Agri-food, and Environmental Organizations*, by the Global Justice Program at UC Berkeley’s Othering & Belonging Institute, examines how regional actors are advancing equitable, locally grounded, and reparative climate transitions.

The study combines a content analysis of 796 organizations in 60 countries and territories across six subregions,¹ mapping how Just Transition (JT) and related frameworks are applied; and a regional survey of 60 organizations exploring their communities of focus, strategies, frameworks, and views on international partnerships. The study reveals that while explicit “Just Transition” language is most common in industrialized or resource-dependent economies, equivalent principles—climate justice, food sovereignty, Indigenous self-determination, and agrarian reform—are present in every subregion.

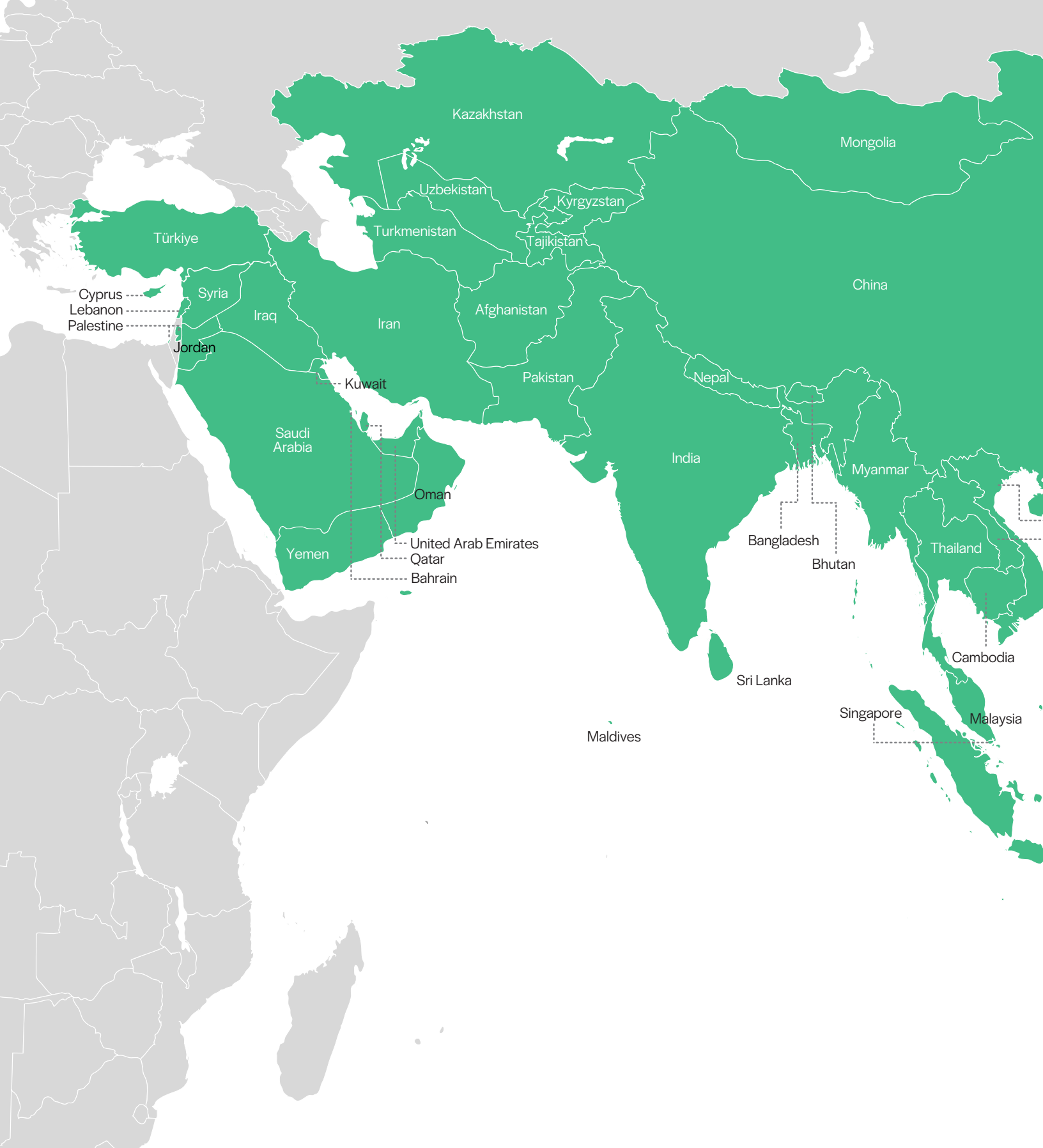
Key findings:

- **Shared goals:** Democratizing resource governance, securing livelihoods, and restoring ecosystems.
- **Regional patterns:** *Central Asia*—focus on state-led renewable and water initiatives; *East Asia*—focus on energy justice and food sovereignty; *Oceania*—focus on climate justice tied to decolonization; *South & Southeast Asia*—focus on agrarian and labor justice; *West Asia*—focus

on climate work linked to sovereignty and workers’ rights.

- **Communities served:** General population, Indigenous, rural, low-income, women, youth, farmers, and fisherfolk.
- **Strategic focus:** To advance food sovereignty as a short term solution, with the goal of transforming economies toward sustainability and autonomy as a long term solution.
- **Partnership critique:** Global North institutions often reproduce power imbalances; regional actors call for direct, flexible funding, technology transfer, and policy sovereignty.

Just transitions in the Asia-Pacific are already underway, led by thousands of grassroots and regional organizations. Achieving true global climate justice requires the Global North to move from extractive to reparative partnerships—centering local leadership, redistributing resources, and sustaining solidarity, reciprocity, and repair.



Map of the Asia-Pacific Region



Democratic People's
Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Republic of
Korea

Japan

Taiwan

Hong Kong

Viet Nam

Lao People's
Democratic Republic

Philippines

Palau

Brunei

Malaysia

Indonesia

The Federated
States of Micronesia

Marshall Islands

Nauru

Kiribati

Papua
New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Timor-Leste

Tuvalu

Samoa

Australia

Vanuatu

Fiji

Niue

Tonga

New Zealand

Asia-Pacific Just Transitions

List of Asia-Pacific Countries and Territories

Afghanistan	Nepal
Australia*	New Zealand*
Bahrain	Niue*
Bangladesh	Oman
Bhutan	Pakistan
Brunei Darussalam	Palau
Cambodia	Palestine*
China	Papua New Guinea
Cyprus	Philippines
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea†	Qatar
Fiji	Republic of Korea
Hong Kong*	Samoa
India	Saudi Arabia
Indonesia	Singapore
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Solomon Islands
Iraq	Sri Lanka
Japan	Syrian Arab Republic
Jordan	Tajikistan
Kazakhstan	Taiwan*
Kiribati	Thailand
Kuwait	Timor-Leste
Kyrgyzstan	Tonga
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	Türkiye
Lebanon	Turkmenistan
Malaysia	Tuvalu
Maldives	United Arab Emirates
Marshall Islands	Uzbekistan
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Vanuatu
Mongolia	Viet Nam
Myanmar	Yemen
Nauru	

* Our survey analysis and survey included regional countries and territories beyond the UN “Regional Groups of Member States of Asia-Pacific Group.” These include the countries of Australia and New Zealand, the self-governed territories of Hong Kong and Niue, and the non-UN Member States of Palestine and Taiwan. These countries and territories were included due to their geopolitical importance and contributions to just transitions in the Asia-Pacific region.

† We were not able to research or contact any organization in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Executive Summary

FOR DECADES, COMMUNITIES ACROSS ASIA–PACIFIC have been at the forefront of environmental transformation and climate vulnerability. The region encompasses immense ecological diversity and deep histories of colonial extraction, uneven development, and labor exploitation. Today, as the global race toward decarbonization and “green growth” accelerates, Asia–Pacific peoples face both the intensification of climate impacts and the reconfiguration of extractive economies under new forms of climate colonialism.

This white paper, *Asia–Pacific Just Transitions: Assessing the Activities, Strategies, and Needs of Asia–Pacific Climate, Agri-food, and Environmental Organizations*, documents how local and regional organizations are confronting these challenges and shaping pathways toward just transitions that are not only low-carbon but also equitable, locally grounded, and reparative. Conducted by the Global Justice Program (GJP) at the Othering & Belonging Institute, UC Berkeley, the study draws on two complementary methods of data collection:

- 1. An online content analysis** of 796 organizations across 60 countries and territories in six subregions—Central Asia, East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia—identifying where and how the *Just Transition (JT)* and related frameworks are employed; and
- 2. A comprehensive survey** of 60 Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations, assessing their communities of focus, strategies, frameworks, needs, and evaluations of international partnerships.

Together, these methods illuminate the diverse ways

in which Asia-Pacific organizations are advancing climate, food, and environmental justice within distinct political, economic, and ecological contexts.

Findings from the Online Content Analysis

Across the Asia–Pacific, explicit use of the *Just Transition* framework remains limited. References to “Just Transition” appear mainly in industrialized economies (such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia) and in resource-dependent economies (such as Indonesia and Kazakhstan), where decarbonization and energy-sector transformation are more central to national agendas. Elsewhere, organizations articulate *just transition* principles through alternative or complementary frameworks—most commonly sustainable development, climate justice, food sovereignty, agrarian reform, Indigenous self-determination, and environmental protection.

Despite uneven use of the JT terminology, the principles and practices of just transitions are widespread. In every subregion, organizations are building economic and political power to shift from extractive to regenerative systems. Key cross-cutting findings include:

- **Central Asia:** National and local initiatives in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan center sustainable development, water security, and renewable energy, often within state-led or donor-driven frameworks. Civic restrictions limit grassroots engagement, but community-based and youth organizations emphasize ecological restoration and disaster resilience.

- **East Asia:** Countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan link environmental policy to economic modernization and equity. Civil society efforts highlight energy justice, food sovereignty, and urban sustainability, while Indigenous-led movements in Mongolia and Taiwan emphasize traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation.
- **Oceania:** Island nations foreground adaptation, Indigenous stewardship, and the protection of land and marine territories. Pacific NGOs and coalitions—such as the Pacific Climate Warriors—tie just transitions to decolonization, self-determination, and loss and damage advocacy, though funding remains dominated by international NGOs.
- **South Asia:** Grassroots movements in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka focus on food sovereignty, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods. Labor unions and farmers’ federations advocate for equitable transitions that center workers’ and smallholders’ rights amid rapid industrialization.
- **Southeast Asia:** Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam show strong activity around agrarian justice, deforestation, and energy transition. Organizations blend community-based environmentalism with resistance to extractive capitalism and foreign investment projects.
- **West Asia:** Gulf States and surrounding countries exhibit growing engagement with renewable energy framed through state-led “green growth,” while civil society organizations—especially in Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan—frame climate work as part of broader struggles for social justice, sovereignty, and labor rights.

Across all regions, the JT framework’s prevalence correlates with industrialization, yet the underlying commitment to equitable transitions is universal. Most organizations, whether explicitly or implicitly invoking just transitions, are striving for structural change: to secure livelihoods, democratize resource governance, and repair ecological damage.

Findings from the Survey

Survey responses deepen and complement the content analysis by providing direct insights from Asia–Pacific organizations. According to these responses:

- **Communities and Issues:** In addition to the general public, communities of focus include rural and low-income populations, Indigenous peoples, farmers, fisherfolk, youth, and women. Primary climate and socio-environmental concerns include rising temperatures, water shortages, drought, pollution, coastal erosion, governance and decision-making processes, deforestation, and food insecurity.
- **Strategies:** Short-term strategies prioritize education, advocacy, policy reform, and strengthening local capacities for food and energy sovereignty. Long-term strategies emphasize systemic transformation—the reorganization of economies toward sustainability, solidarity, and autonomy from extractive global value chains.
- **Frameworks:** Frameworks vary across the region. Food sovereignty and agroecology are prominent in South and Southeast Asia; Climate justice and rights-based approaches are prominent in East and West Asia; and sustainable development and resilience-building are prominent in Central Asia and Oceania.
- **Partnerships:** Non–Asia-Pacific organizations and Global North institutions are believed to have a somewhat adequate understanding of regional risks and priorities, and international partnerships with such organizations and institutions are believed to reproduce asymmetries of power, funding dependency, and policy imposition.
- **Demands:** Global North NGOs and multilateral institutions must: Redirect climate finance toward locally designed and community-controlled initiatives; Provide unrestricted and long-term funding rather than project-based grants; Support technology transfer, labor rights, and policy sovereignty; Foster partner-

ships as well as amplify and center the voices and knowledge of Asia-Pacific organizations; And confront the structural inequalities rooted in Global North policies and practices—from debt regimes to extractive trade—that perpetuate environmental harm in the region.

Significance

This white paper demonstrates that Asia-Pacific just transitions are not singular but plural—woven from the region’s political, cultural, and ecological diversity. Critically, these findings affirm that supporting just transitions in the Asia-Pacific requires listening to and resourcing regional organizations on their own terms. Global North engagement must evolve from extractive partnerships toward reparative just transitions—approaches that redress historical and ongoing inequalities, redistribute resources, and amplify local leadership in shaping post-carbon futures.

Just transitions in the Asia-Pacific are already under way, led by thousands of organizations advancing climate justice through interlinked struggles for sovereignty, equity, and regeneration. The challenge for the international community is not to define these transitions for the region, but to stand accountable to them—transforming the political and economic relations that have long undermined Asia-Pacific peoples and ecosystems. By foregrounding the voices and visions of regional actors, this white paper charts a path for global climate justice grounded in solidarity, reciprocity, and repair.

Introduction

THE GLOBAL JUSTICE PROGRAM (GJP) at the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley is dedicated to bridging and supporting climate justice movements worldwide. In our research and in this white paper, we focus on how Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations are combating the drivers of the climate crisis, managing the impacts of the climate crisis, and forging strategies to build climate resilience. We do so to help ensure that efforts to support climate justice in Asia-Pacific are accountable to the objectives, strategies, and activities of Asia-Pacific organizations and communities, and to build robust and impactful relationships with Asia-Pacific organizations.

The Asia-Pacific region sits at the center of the global struggle over climate justice and just transitions.² Long shaped by histories of colonial extraction and uneven development, the region now faces the possible reproduction of such dynamics under the guise of sustainability—what critics call “climate colonialism.”³ These new extractive frontiers are emerging around transition resources and renewable energy manufacturing and infrastructures.⁴ These dynamics are transforming landscapes, economies, and livelihoods—often in ways that privilege global supply chain imperatives and global corporate power over community well-being and ecological integrity.

Yet across the Asia-Pacific region, movements for climate resilience and justice are pushing back against global supply chain imperatives and global corporate power—past and present—and demanding transitions that are not only low-carbon but also equitable, locally grounded, and reparative. These intersecting forces are shaping visions and practices of a just

transition in the Asia-Pacific, and communities, institutions, and policymakers are navigating the contradictions between extraction and empowerment in the era of decarbonization.⁵

Bridging and advancing climate justice and just transitions movements⁶ worldwide requires taking seriously these challenges and opportunities, and understanding how Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations are negotiating them. To ensure that efforts to support climate justice and just transitions in Asia-Pacific are accountable to the objectives, strategies, and activities of Asia-Pacific organizations and peoples themselves, and to build robust and impactful relationships with Asia-Pacific organizations, the GJP carried out two complementary methods of data collection:

1. online content analysis of materials (websites, publications, and social media) by Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations;
2. a comprehensive survey of Asia-Pacific climate, agrifood, and environmental organizations.

This study analyzed data from **796 organizations spanning 60 countries and territories** across the Asia-Pacific region. Many of these organizations operate as networks, linking local grassroots movements to address a wide range of environmental issues, including agricultural sustainability, climate resilience, and Indigenous rights. The research covered countries and territories across six subregions of the Asia-Pacific: Central Asia, East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia.

In our online content analysis, we focus on whether Asia-Pacific organizations explicitly use the Just Transition (JT) framework—an umbrella framework that encompasses multiple principles, processes, and practices (e.g., sustainable development, food sovereignty, agrarian reform) that build economic and political power to shift from extractive economies to regenerative ones. We first focus on the explicit use of the JT framework in Asia-Pacific because it is a framework that has been increasingly adopted in the Global North, and because Global North collaborations with Asia-Pacific countries, territories, and organizations are increasingly taking shape under this banner. We ask:

- **Where in the Asia-Pacific region is the JT framework used, by which organizations, and in what sectors?**

Ultimately, we aim to identify how such organizations employ multiple principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from extractive economies to regenerative economies—whether under the banner of the Just Transition framework or other frameworks and principles that foster just transitions. We ask:

- **What are such organizations' populations and issues of interest? What frameworks do they use?**
- **What are their needs and what support do they request? What is their assessment of the activities of non-Asia-Pacific civil society and government organizations?**
- **What are their demands upon such organizations and the international community?**

Across our online content analysis and survey analysis, we aim to shed light on the multiple principles, processes, and practices of Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations that collectively foster Asia-Pacific just transitions, and to help ensure that Global North collaborations with Asia-Pacific countries, territories, and organizations are accountable to such work. The remainder of this paper outlines our research methodology, our findings, the significance of these findings, and a call to

action for future research and advocacy.

Online Content Analysis of Asia-Pacific Organizations

Methodology

THIS STUDY AIMS TO ASSESS where and by which climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations the Just Transition framework and related frameworks are being employed across the Asia-Pacific region. The primary method used for the first portion of the study was an online content analysis, which involved systematically identifying explicit references to the Just Transition framework in organizational websites (i.e., mission statements, program descriptions, project descriptions, and other website content), publications (i.e., gray literature produced and made available by the organization), and social media (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, and other official organization accounts), and synthesizing such information accordingly.

To deepen our understanding of the activities of such organizations and the frameworks they employ, we also examined whether organizations referenced other climate, agri-food, and environmental action frameworks in their online content—frameworks such as sustainable development, food sovereignty, conservation, and climate justice. This helps to explore and contextualize the application of Just Transition principles in different regional contexts. To achieve these objectives, especially in relation to populations of interest, we also identified key issues related to Indigenous rights, peasant rights, and human rights.

We assessed a diverse range of organizations to capture efforts at different scales and across sectors within each country or territory, including social movements, universities and research centers, local, regional, and international NGOs, government initiatives, unions, and social enterprises. While such organizations and their frameworks and activities were

cataloged in our database (**appendix A**) and synthesized for our online content analysis, we recognize that additional organizations outside our database may exist and contribute to the broader picture of Just Transition efforts in the region.

Ultimately, this multi-level approach enabled us to identify where and how Just Transition-related activities are taking place, providing a comprehensive view of efforts across various sectors and scales within the Asia-Pacific region, and helping us refine our approach to the second portion of this study: a comprehensive survey of climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations across the region in order to further assess and support Just Transition-related activities.

Organization Identification and Data Collection

Climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations were initially identified using the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) List of Accredited Organizations,⁷ our regional networks, Google Search, and, where search engines presented limitations, generative AI tools were employed to enhance the search process. This was particularly helpful for countries and territories with less online visibility or where language barriers made information retrieval more challenging. Social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram were also useful for identifying organizations with limited online presence or those relying on social media for communication.

The research covered countries and territories across six subregions of the Asia-Pacific: Central Asia, East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia. Countries and territories were selected based on the United Nations Department for General Assembly

and Conference Management database of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.⁸ However, additional countries and territories from the region that were not included in the UN database were included in the research due to their geopolitical importance or innovative approach across the region, such as Australia, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Niue, Palestine, and Taiwan. In total, our database included 796 organizations across 60 countries and territories.

In countries and territories where English is widely spoken, either due to historical colonial influences or substantial international civil society involvement, website content was easier to analyze. For others with dual-language websites or those predominantly in native languages, Google Translate was used to support translation efforts. However, more intensive searching was often required, relying on local language terms and alternative search platforms.

In some cases, organizations that did not explicitly mention “Just Transition” or related frameworks and concepts on their websites had referenced these terms in news articles or blog posts, meriting their inclusion in our assessment and synthesis. For instance, while Caritas, an international organization, includes “food sovereignty” in its mission, local organizations in Indonesia and Timor-Leste may not consistently use the term on their “About” pages, but they may mention it in related articles or posts.

Relevant Contexts Influencing Methodology and Just Transition Strategies

We identified six distinct but related contexts across the Asia-Pacific region that shaped the searchability of climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations, as well as the nature of the frameworks and concepts they employ and their activities. We responded to such dynamics by recognizing how they might inform gaps and/or overrepresentation in the organizations catalogued and subsequently synthesizing their frameworks, concepts, and activities.

1. Political Repression and Civil Society Engagement

In countries with centralized political power, governance, and planning (and thus in all territories), politi-

cal repression significantly limits the social space for citizens’ civic participation.⁹ Research in these contexts should focus on identifying state-led initiatives and international organizations operating within these highly controlled spaces, using search terms such as “state-led climate initiatives.” Recognizing the utility of international NGOs in capturing relevant data on Just Transition efforts in these regions is also important.

2. Conflict and Instability

In conflict-ridden countries like Syria and Afghanistan, Just Transition efforts tend to prioritize community resilience, food sovereignty, and the rebuilding of self-sufficiency.¹⁰ These regions are characterized by localized, often cooperative-based, and women-led initiatives that focus on survival and long-term recovery. These initiatives align closely with Just Transition principles by addressing both environmental and social justice in a decentralized, justice-driven manner. In these contexts, local movements, often operating in difficult conditions, are the most effective actors. Therefore, research should emphasize grassroots efforts through search terms like “cooperative agriculture,” “community-based food sovereignty,” and “women-led recovery,” which capture the localized, justice-oriented approaches to environmental resilience and sustainability in these conflict zones.

3. Social Media and Networks

Access to social media plays a pivotal role in shaping Just Transition movements across the Asia-Pacific. In regions with open access to digital platforms, such as India and Bangladesh, grassroots movements utilize social media for advocacy, coordination, and resource mobilization, amplifying their voices and connecting with larger networks. In contrast, in countries like China, where social media is relatively regulated, grassroots movements must take different approaches to organizing and disseminating information. These groups often use alternative methods, such as operating through local platforms or offline networks. Research should take into account these differences in digital access, using terms like “WeChat AND environmental advocacy” and “state-controlled AND digital activism.”

4. Industry and Labor

In most Gulf States, migrant labor plays a central role in large-scale infrastructure projects, including those related to green transitions. However, these workers often lack legal protections and face exploitative working conditions, raising significant concerns about labor rights.¹¹ While these projects are often framed as part of a green or just transition, they conflict with Just Transition principles, which advocate for fair labor practices and equitable participation in the benefits of such transitions. The broader environment of labor repression and civic restriction further disempowers migrant workers and those advocating for their rights.¹² Research in these regions should focus on the intersection of labor rights and environmental justice, using search terms such as “migrant labor in green transition,” “labor exploitation in energy projects,” and “worker rights in Gulf infrastructure development” to capture the labor dynamics that affect Just Transition efforts.¹³

5. Religious and Cultural Influences

Religious and cultural practices play a significant role in shaping Just Transition activities, especially in Muslim-majority countries. In these countries, religious practices such as zakat (charitable giving) drive many social welfare programs, which often align with the goals of Just Transition by focusing on poverty alleviation, food distribution, and social welfare. To capture the influence of religion on Just Transition efforts, research should include search terms such as “Islamic charity and environmental justice,” “zakat-based welfare programs,” and “religion and social welfare in climate adaptation.” These terms will help focus on the intersection of religious charity and Just Transition principles, especially in the Gulf context.

6. Grassroots Organizations versus International NGOs

The distinction between international NGOs and local grassroots organizations is particularly important in regions such as the Pacific Islands and South Asia. In Pacific Island nations, international NGOs dominate the civil society landscape due to their larger budgets and ability to implement large-scale projects. These organizations are crucial for addressing regional en-

vironmental challenges but may struggle to engage deeply with local communities, whose needs can vary significantly from island to island.

In contrast, countries like India and Bangladesh are home to vibrant grassroots movements that focus on issues such as food sovereignty, Indigenous rights, and environmental justice. These movements are often more attuned to local needs and solutions, even if they don't always use Just Transition language. To differentiate between these two types of organizations, researchers should use search terms such as “international NGOs in Pacific Islands,” “large-scale climate initiatives,” and “local grassroots organizations in South Asia.” This will enable a clearer understanding of how Just Transition is being implemented in each region.

Understanding the diverse political, social, and environmental contexts of the Asia-Pacific is crucial for developing effective Just Transition strategies. Regional dynamics, including limited political space, conflict, labor exploitation, and social norms, all shape how Just Transition principles are applied. Methodologies should therefore be tailored to reflect these dynamics, with specific search terms that focus on the unique challenges and opportunities in each subregion. By considering these factors, researchers can develop more nuanced understandings and regionally relevant approaches to supporting Just Transition efforts across the Asia-Pacific.

Data Analysis

This study analyzed data from 796 organizations spanning 60 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region. Many of these organizations operate as networks, linking local grassroots movements to address a wide range of environmental issues, including agricultural sustainability, climate resilience, Indigenous rights, and renewable energy transition.

The research methodology enabled a comprehensive understanding of the diverse and multifaceted approaches being implemented within the region to advance Just Transition principles and related frameworks. By capturing data on both local and regional efforts, the study highlighted the critical role of local organizations in crafting region-specific solutions to environmental challenges. Additionally, the analysis

underscored the varying influence of international NGOs compared to local organizations in shaping Just Transition efforts across the region. This approach facilitated a deeper exploration of how these organizations interact, collaborate, and influence the overall trajectory of Just Transition initiatives.

Findings

In our online content analysis, we found that the Just Transition framework is not explicitly referenced among most of the Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations we studied. The prevalence of explicit references to the Just Transition framework corresponds with a nation's degree of industrialization, and with organizations that focus on energy more so than other sectors. Despite this, we found that all the organizations we studied employ multiple principles, processes, and practices (e.g., sustainable development, food sovereignty, agrarian reform) across numerous sectors in service of just transitions—that is, building economic and political power to shift from extractive to regenerative economies. The following sections include findings from each sub-region.

Central Asia

The concept of Just Transitions in Central Asia is evolving in response to challenges such as arid climates, extractive economies, and centralized political power, governance, and planning. Initiatives across the region are emerging, focusing on sustainable development, environmental protection, and social equity. While the formal adoption of Just Transition frameworks varies, key efforts address environmental issues including water scarcity, climate change, and natural resource management, while also preserving traditional knowledge and practices. These efforts aim to foster sustainable livelihoods, protect vulnerable communities, and promote equitable decarbonization. Civil society and government-led initiatives emphasize ecological restoration, climate adaptation, and the expansion of renewable energy, although grassroots involvement varies.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

Central Asia is shifting toward sustainability with a growing emphasis on green economy principles,

renewable energy, and community-based resilience. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are leading efforts to integrate just transition principles into national strategies, focusing on energy transition, renewable energy, and water management. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan prioritize community-based solutions, emphasizing rural development, environmental education, and disaster resilience. Turkmenistan, while still navigating its sustainability path, incorporates sustainable development alongside traditional knowledge and grassroots initiatives, with labor rights also playing a critical role.

The region shares a post-Soviet legacy of centralized planning and environmental degradation, particularly in the areas of water and land management. Sustainability frameworks are increasingly shaped by climate vulnerability, addressing issues such as desertification, glacier retreat, and water scarcity. Kazakhstan is a regional leader in green economy vision, while smaller states rely on international support and regional institutions for sustainability projects.

Government agencies lead large-scale climate and environmental initiatives, while NGOs and research institutes focus on agroecology, renewable energy, and public education. Art-based platforms and youth networks are increasingly engaging the public in environmental justice, despite constraints on civic space in several countries and territories. The active involvement of NGOs, universities, and government bodies remains crucial in advancing sustainable development, particularly for marginalized communities, including women, youth, and Indigenous groups.

Country-Specific Highlights

Kazakhstan, a regional leader in the green transition, is advancing its environmental policy through the Ministry of Ecology, with a focus on a green economy, sustainable resource management, and biodiversity preservation. Efforts include reducing fossil fuel dependence and promoting environmental justice, with NGOs like Artcom Platform and Qazaq Green advocating for renewable energy and carbon neutrality.¹⁴

Kyrgyzstan emphasizes community-centered sustainability, with NGOs such as Bio-KG promoting organic farming and MoveGreen addressing air pollu-

tion and disaster risk. Camp Alatoo supports sustainable resource management, and regional groups foster democratic youth organizing, gender equality, and environmental justice.

Tajikistan's NGOs, such as Little Earth, focus on community-based sustainability, promoting climate empowerment, renewable energy adoption, and capacity building in rural areas. Civil society intersects with global frameworks, with donor-funded projects supporting land and water management.

Turkmenistan's environmental efforts are constrained by limited space for civil society organizations; however, the country participates in regional programs for water management and desertification control, with state-led, technocratic frameworks and minimal grassroots involvement.

Uzbekistan integrates sustainability through government reforms and strategic partnerships. The

Ecological Movement advocates for legislation and environmental monitoring, while universities focus on climate resilience and the conservation of desert biodiversity. Interest in the green economy and renewable energy is growing despite limited civic space.

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Equity and Rights: Central to just transition initiatives across the region is the emphasis on protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, especially Indigenous groups, women, and rural workers. Efforts focus on promoting inclusive development and ensuring social safeguards in environmental policies.

Community-led Approaches: Effective just transition strategies across Central Asia recognize the importance of engaging communities as active participants in planning. This approach promotes long-term sustainability by ensuring that local needs, knowledge, and priorities are at the center of the transition process.

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in Central Asia

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Environmental policy development, green economy, resource management	General population, low-income, rural workers
International NGOs	Climate justice advocacy, legal aid, community mobilization	Indigenous groups, women, environmental defenders
National/Regional NGOs	Organic farming, disaster risk reduction (DRR), livelihood training	Farmers, rural communities, women, Indigenous peoples
Universities/Research Centers	Sustainability research, capacity building, policy analysis	Policymakers, local authorities, youth, and civil society
Social Enterprises	Eco-tourism, renewable energy projects, circular economy	Urban poor, youth, small business owners
Unions/Farmer Federations	Labor rights, green job training, land tenure advocacy	Rural workers, landless farmers, smallholders

Green Economic Innovation: The region is undergoing a shift toward green economic development, with focus on renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and resource management. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are particularly focused on promoting renewable energy sources, while Turkmenistan integrates traditional practices with modern sustainability efforts.

Barriers: Challenges to the successful implementation of just transitions in Central Asia include political and economic dependencies on fossil fuels and extractive industries, limited technical capacities, and political repression in certain countries (e.g., Turkmenistan). Additionally, regions like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan face obstacles related to funding and infrastructure for large-scale environmental initiatives.

Conclusion

Central Asia is charting its own path toward just transitions, marked by a growing recognition of the need for sustainable, inclusive development. While the region faces significant challenges, especially in terms of political stability and economic dependencies, a diverse range of actors, including government bodies, NGOs, and community organizations, are laying the groundwork for a more equitable and sustainable future. The success of these efforts will depend on continued collaboration between the government and community efforts, local empowerment, and the integration of both traditional knowledge and innovative solutions in the transition process.

East Asia

The landscape of just transitions work across East Asia reflects diverse national contexts, institutional frameworks, and sociopolitical priorities. While the term “Just Transition” is rarely used explicitly, its core tenets—climate justice, equity in decarbonization, community resilience, and support for vulnerable populations—are evident in the policies, grassroots initiatives, and NGO strategies across the region.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

East Asia exhibits a fragmented yet growing alignment with just transitions. Japan and South Korea integrate sustainability into public policy with strong governmental leadership, although civil society

plays a secondary role. China, by contrast, has an active civil society presence pushing for legal reform, environmental education, and green development alongside state-led initiatives.

Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Mongolia each show distinctive trends. Taiwan combines robust public research institutions and civil society engagement, Hong Kong leverages NGOs and social enterprises to scale sustainability in urban spaces, and Mongolia blends environmental justice principles with Indigenous leadership in conservation.

Across all types of organizations, regional activities encompass forest and marine conservation, renewable energy transition, green supply chains, sustainable agriculture, and citizen education. Although the just transition label is inconsistently applied, many of these interventions mirror its values.

Country-/Territory-Specific Highlights

China's sustainability is driven by both centralized planning and a strong NGO sector. Groups such as Friends of Nature, ClientEarth China, and Global Environmental Institute (GEI) focus on legal reform, biodiversity conservation, and civic engagement. National frameworks emphasize green infrastructure and energy transition, though equity integration remains uneven. The Green Belt and Road Initiative represents China's outward-facing sustainability push.

Hong Kong's urban-focused sustainability field is led by a mix of international NGOs and local actors. Groups such as Friends of the Earth HK and Rooftop Republic promote education, green finance, biodiversity, and eco-literacy. While the just transition label is rare, environmental justice and community empowerment are growing priorities.

Japan's approach is policy-led, supported by a dense network of NGOs and research bodies. Friends of the Earth Japan and the Japan Climate Initiative promote climate justice and energy equity, while government actors such as the Ministry of Environment drive mainstream policy. Education and awareness are emphasized, though equity-focused frameworks are less explicit.

Mongolia uniquely integrates Indigenous knowledge

and environmental justice into national sustainability work. Organizations such as the Mongol Ecology Center and Breathe Mongolia focus on youth engagement, clean air, and land protection. Biodiversity and sustainable grazing are promoted by WWF and cooperative-led models, emphasizing bottom-up inclusion and resilience.

South Korea blends top-down environmental policy with strong civic engagement. Government agencies, such as the Korea Forest Service, lead sustainability efforts, while civil society groups, including the Korean Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM) and peasant movements, advocate for energy justice, food sovereignty, and climate resilience. Women’s rural organizations bring Indigenous and intergenerational knowledge into agricultural sustainability.

Taiwan integrates government leadership with active participation from civil society. Ministries spearhead research-based environmental policies, while groups like RE-THINK and Taiwan Environmental Protection Union (TEPU) promote waste reduction, coastal protection, and youth education. University centers bolster policy through climate data and governance tools, aligning practices with the ideals of just transition.

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Equity and Rights: From South Korea’s peasant-led food movements to Mongolia’s Indigenous conservation efforts, environmental justice is increasingly shaping programming. Legal aid, gender equity, and civic engagement form key components. Environmental justice initiatives are vital in tackling social

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in East Asia

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Climate policy, reforestation, rural development, and environmental monitoring	General population, rural workers, and youth
International NGOs	Environmental law, biodiversity conservation, and anti-nuclear campaigns	Indigenous peoples, women, and environmental defenders
National/Regional NGOs	Food sovereignty, environmental education, pollution reduction	Farmers, rural communities, and Indigenous peoples
Universities/Research Centers	Just transition policy research, environmental education, and capacity building	Policymakers, students, and local authorities
Social Enterprises	Urban farming, renewable energy projects, eco-tourism, waste management initiatives	Urban poor, youth, social entrepreneurs
Unions/Farmer Federations	Green job training, land rights, and agroecological practices	Peasant communities, Farmers, rural workers, and small-scale producers

disparities and ensuring equitable access to green economic opportunities.¹⁵

Community-led Approaches: Projects in Mongolia, Hong Kong, and South Korea showcase the importance of bottom-up planning. Educational initiatives and localized adaptation strategies build capacity and ensure sustainability.

Green Economic Innovation: Japan and China are at the forefront of integrating green technology and finance into sustainability strategies. Taiwan's circular economy models and Korea's rural innovation programs reflect broader regional shifts toward green jobs and economies.

Barriers: Despite progress, barriers remain, including political resistance to rapid transition (e.g., China and South Korea), economic dependence on high-emission industries (e.g., fossil fuels in Japan), and coordination challenges in vast rural areas (e.g., Mongolia). Political centralization in China, urban-rural disparity in Japan, and funding dependence in Mongolia further complicate the process. Just transition frameworks are often applied implicitly, limiting visibility and coherence across national plans.

Conclusion

East Asia's approach to just transitions is characterized by a combination of government-driven policies and strong civil society movements focused on environmental justice, sustainability, and equitable development. While challenges persist, particularly in aligning policies with the needs of vulnerable communities, the region is witnessing increasing efforts to adopt frameworks that promote fair, inclusive, and sustainable transitions to low-carbon economies.

Oceania

The landscape of just transitions work across Oceania is shaped by extreme climate vulnerability, Indigenous leadership, and resource limitations. While the concept of "just transition" is not widely used, the values underpinning it—resilience, equity, and cultural preservation—are embedded in many local and regional practices. The region encompasses both industrialized nations, such as Australia and New Zealand and Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

creating stark contrasts in capacity, frameworks, and implementation strategies.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

Just transition frameworks in Oceania are still evolving, with a strong emphasis on community empowerment and the integration of Indigenous knowledge. While governments in countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji have begun implementing policies to support climate resilience and sustainable development, many NGOs are advocating for a more inclusive approach to environmental and social transitions. In nations such as Fiji, Tonga, and Papua New Guinea, there is a focus on blending traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) with modern conservation practices, ensuring that local communities benefit from environmental protection efforts.

In countries with significant Indigenous populations, such as Australia and New Zealand, there is growing recognition of the need to respect land rights and incorporate Indigenous cultural values in conservation strategies. The trend across the region leans heavily towards marine conservation, food sovereignty, and the development of sustainable livelihoods, particularly in coastal and rural areas.¹⁶ Community-led development, particularly in climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture, is critical for building resilience in Oceania's most vulnerable populations.¹⁷

While wealthier nations, such as Australia and New Zealand, have formalized environmental governance, Pacific Island nations emphasize adaptation, resilience, and rights-based community empowerment. TEK and customary governance are foundational in shaping environmental and food systems across the Pacific. National governments typically lead the strategy in wealthier countries, but civil society, community-based groups, and regional institutions such as SPREP play vital roles in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Frameworks in the region often blend traditional values with emerging global climate priorities, particularly in areas such as climate adaptation, food security, biodiversity conservation, and clean energy.

Country-/Territory-Specific Highlights

Australia combines national science-based planning with strong NGO advocacy on climate and biodiversity. CSIRO, Landcare Australia, and the Climate Council exemplify state–civil society collaboration in advancing sustainable land use and clean energy transitions.

Cook Islands' environmental governance is shaped by customary tenure and marine conservation norms. National and donor-supported initiatives promote renewable energy, climate adaptation, and sustainable fisheries.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) emphasizes marine conservation and food security through customary governance and traditional knowledge. Regional and donor partnerships support sustainable fisheries and climate adaptation.

Fiji a regional leader in climate diplomacy, embedding just transition principles in blue economy and community-based resilience strategies. National frameworks emphasize the protection of ecosystems and gender equity.

Kiribati's environmental agenda prioritizes climate migration, coastal defense, and water security. Civil society and government actors collaborate with international partners to expand access to solar energy and food system resilience.

The Marshall Islands, which are facing rising sea levels, aligns traditional governance with global climate advocacy. National policies support coastal protection and solar energy, while NGOs foster youth-led resilience planning.

Nauru's environmental policy focuses on land rehabilitation, renewable energy, and water access. Pacific frameworks and external financing help mitigate the impact of limited natural resources and institutional capacity.

New Zealand integrates the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori values into national environmental policy. The government collaborates with unions and iwi (tribes) to advance renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and just transition planning.

Niue prioritizes biodiversity, marine protection, and renewable energy within its national sustainability framework. Traditional knowledge informs conservation, supported by NGO and development partnerships.

Palau advances marine conservation through traditional practices, such as bul and initiatives such as the Palau National Marine Sanctuary. Environmental education and co-management frameworks guide sustainability.

Papua New Guinea sustainability efforts are grounded in customary land rights, with NGOs addressing forest conservation, food systems, and climate resilience. Resource governance remains a persistent challenge.

Samoa blends traditional ecological knowledge with formal climate and disaster risk strategies. Civil society promotes watershed protection, agroecology, and youth education as pillars of local resilience.

The Solomon Islands relies on community-based marine management and food sovereignty frameworks. Church networks and NGOs play key roles despite institutional and funding constraints.

Tonga's climate strategy encompasses reforestation, disaster preparedness, and renewable energy initiatives. Local councils, women's networks, and faith-based groups support adaptation efforts.

Tuvalu's national planning centers on climate displacement, sea-level rise, and just transitions. Public programs combine sea wall construction, cultural preservation, and regional advocacy.

Vanuatu promotes Indigenous knowledge and local governance in climate adaptation. Civil society collaborates with councils on agroecology, gender equity, and disaster resilience. Vanuatu has also brought the case of climate adaptation and reparations accountability before the International Court of Justice.¹⁸

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Equity and Rights: Many initiatives center on Indigenous self-determination and equitable access to resources. Policies in New Zealand and local projects across the small islands developing states (SIDS) foreground cultural justice and shared governance.

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in Oceania

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Adaptation planning, energy transition, policy reform	General population, rural communities, Indigenous peoples
International NGOs	Biodiversity, clean energy, food security, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) integration	Indigenous communities, coastal communities, women, youth,
National/Regional NGOs	Customary land stewardship, Disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihoods	Rural communities, elders, and smallholder farmers
Universities/Research Centers	Climate research, sustainable development, ecosystem management	Policymakers, local authorities, youth, researchers
Social Enterprises	Circular economy, eco-tourism, local food systems	Women, Indigenous entrepreneurs, coastal groups
Unions/Farmer Federations	Advocacy for green jobs, rural development, and sustainable agriculture	Workers, smallholders, displaced communities

Community-led Approaches: Across Oceania, local councils, traditional leaders, and youth networks play a central role in climate action. Participatory governance ensures that adaptation aligns with local priorities and values.

Sustainable Livelihoods: Strategies such as nature-based solutions, marine protection, and agro-ecology support ecological and social resilience. Countries and territories are experimenting with integrating traditional practices and international climate tools.

Marine and Coastal Conservation: Due to the region's dependence on marine ecosystems for food and livelihoods, significant efforts are dedicated to marine conservation and ensuring climate resilience for coastal populations.

Barriers: Limited technical capacity, donor dependence, and geographic isolation hamper implementation in SIDS.

Conclusion

Oceania showcases a unique approach to just transitions, where cultural heritage, Indigenous governance, and local sustainability practices intersect. While formal just transition frameworks are not widely adopted, the region emphasizes community-based development, integration of Indigenous knowledge, and sustainable environmental management. The future of just transitions in Oceania will depend on regional cooperation, local leadership, and empowering vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change and safeguard natural resources for future generations. These diverse sustainability models,

rooted in justice, sovereignty, and adaptation, align with the principles of a just transition, even if the term itself is not always formally used.

South Asia

The landscape of just transitions work across South Asia is shaped by a rich history of social movements, climate vulnerability, and developmental inequities. While the term “Just Transition” is rarely institutionalized in policy, its principles—social equity, environmental justice, and inclusive development—are deeply embedded in grassroots organizing, union advocacy, and environmental defense. Civil society, peasant movements, and Indigenous-led organizations play a major role in shaping climate responses across the region.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

In South Asia, Just Transition frameworks are being adopted gradually, with strong civil society engagement but uneven state support for just transitions. India and Bangladesh host many decentralized, community-driven sustainability initiatives, while Nepal and Sri Lanka exhibit growing integration of nature-based solutions and participatory planning. Pakistan and Afghanistan face more significant institutional barriers due to political instability and resource constraints. Maldives and Bhutan, though smaller, present innovative models rooted in climate adaptation and cultural resilience.

Environmental justice frameworks—though not always labeled as such—guide the work around food sovereignty, women’s rights, energy access, and adaptation. Research centers and NGOs promote agroecology, disaster risk reduction, and rights-based advocacy, while social enterprises and unions introduce green livelihood models. The concept of just transitions is increasingly relevant as countries and territories face rising climate impacts, rural-urban migration, and energy insecurity.

Country-/Territory-Specific Highlights

Afghanistan, despite experiencing protracted conflict, hosts many local NGOs (e.g., Afghanistan Relief & Sustainable Development Organization (ARSDO), Sustainable Development Organization of Afghanistan

(SDOA), Organisation of Green Future Afghanistan (OGFA)) which advance renewable energy, agroecology, and community resilience. Civil society promotes food sovereignty, gender equity, and local environmental governance amid limited state capacity.

Bangladesh is a frontline climate-vulnerable country with strong agroecological movements. Nayakrishi Andolon leads biodiversity-based farming. NGOs (e.g., the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF) and the Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN)) focus on seed sovereignty, mangrove restoration, and community-led disaster resilience.

Bhutan integrates environmental protection and happiness-based governance. Policies rooted in Gross National Happiness emphasize the conservation of forests, the use of renewable energy, and sustainable farming practices. Civil society complements this with education and community engagement, although the discourse on just transition remains relatively nascent.

India is a hub for grassroots-led sustainability. India’s landscape is shaped by Indigenous organizing, environmental justice campaigns, and food sovereignty movements. Organizations like Ekta Parishad and Navdanya promote land rights and agroecology, while civil society groups challenge extractive development. Although policy integration remains uneven, bottom-up approaches deeply reflect the values of just transitions.

Maldives, as one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable nations, focuses heavily on adaptation, marine conservation, and climate finance. NGOs and government agencies collaborate on coastal protection, waste reduction, and youth engagement. While small in scale, the country’s sustainability efforts align with just transition ideals through their emphasis on resilience and inclusion.

Nepal demonstrates growing alignment with just transition values through community forestry, nature-based adaptation, and rural resilience. Local cooperatives and NGOs support sustainable agriculture and Indigenous governance structures. While national coordination is limited, grassroots initiatives are central to Nepal’s sustainability progress.

Pakistan has a mixed landscape. Civil society groups (e.g., Lok Sanjh, Pakistan Kissan Movement (Tehreek)) advocate food sovereignty, seed rights, and peasant organizing. National policies focus on net-zero and disaster preparedness, but energy transition remains top-down and fossil-dependent.

Sri Lanka, despite political instability, has seen a growing emphasis on agroecological farming, biodiversity conservation, and community-based adaptation. Civil society groups focus on sustainable livelihoods, Indigenous knowledge, and environmental education, though coordination with national policy frameworks remains fragmented.

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Equity and Rights: Across the South Asian region, Just Transition work is firmly centered on ensuring that vulnerable communities, particularly Indige-

nous peoples, women, and marginalized farmers, are included in the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future. The region’s organizations emphasize redistributive justice, land rights, and gender equity as core to climate action. Indigenous knowledge and grassroots leadership guide many environmental programs.

Community-led Approaches: Many successful initiatives place communities at the center of decision-making, ensuring that local knowledge and practices are integrated into climate adaptation and sustainability efforts. The region showcases strong traditions of participatory governance and bottom-up planning. Local institutions, cooperatives, and movements play a central role in implementation.

Green Economic Innovation: Agroecology, organic farming, sustainable fisheries, and micro-enterprise

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in South Asia

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Adaptation planning, energy transition, policy reform	General population, rural communities, Indigenous peoples
International NGOs	Biodiversity, clean energy, food security, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) integration	Indigenous communities, coastal communities, women, youth,
National/Regional NGOs	Customary land stewardship, Disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihoods	Rural communities, elders, and smallholder farmers
Universities/Research Centers	Climate research, sustainable development, ecosystem management	Policymakers, local authorities, youth, researchers
Social Enterprises	Circular economy, eco-tourism, local food systems	Women, Indigenous entrepreneurs, coastal groups
Unions/Farmer Federations	Advocacy for green jobs, rural development, and sustainable agriculture	Workers, smallholders, displaced communities

development provide viable alternatives to extractive economies, particularly in rural and coastal areas.

Barriers: Political instability, elite capture, and a lack of institutional coordination hinder the broader adoption of just transition principles. Donor dependence and limited decentralization further restrict the development of locally tailored responses.

Conclusion

South Asia's sustainability ecosystem is rooted in community resistance, environmental stewardship, and calls for justice. While explicit just transition frameworks are rare, the region's vibrant civil society, peasant unions, and local cooperatives provide a model for what equitable, bottom-up transitions can look like. Strengthening state accountability and scaling inclusive economic models will be key to advancing just transitions in the face of increasingly severe climate challenges.

Southeast Asia

The landscape of just transitions work across Southeast Asia reflects a dynamic yet uneven integration of social equity, environmental protection, and inclusive development. While not every country or organization explicitly uses the term "Just Transition," the region hosts a vibrant array of activities and frameworks that align with its core principles: fair and equitable decarbonization, climate resilience, and the protection of marginalized communities.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

Just Transitions frameworks are explicitly embraced in countries like Indonesia and Vietnam, primarily through their participation in the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs). These agreements aim to replace coal with renewable energy sources while supporting livelihoods and ensuring social safeguards. Regionally, the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and other intergovernmental bodies have promoted guidelines around inclusive and sustainable energy development.¹⁹ In the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia, the concept of just transition is widely embedded in advocacy and civil society movements, although it is not always explicitly reflected in policy.

Across all types of organizations, key pillars of just transitions—including community participation, Indigenous rights, sustainable livelihoods, and climate equity—are increasingly visible.

Country-/Territory-Specific Highlights

Brunei's environmental strategy is led by government agencies with a focus on biodiversity conservation, freshwater protection, and environmental education. National frameworks emphasize ecological sustainability in alignment with economic diversification, but with limited involvement from civil society.

Cambodia's environmental governance emphasizes land tenure, agroecology, and youth participation. Civil society leads community mapping and climate education, while national initiatives promote biodiversity and rural livelihoods. Frameworks center on inclusive governance and food sovereignty.

Indonesia, a regional leader in just transition planning, advances energy equity, forest protection, and coastal resilience. Civil society champions environmental justice and anti-coal advocacy, while government policy integrates circular economy and low-carbon development goals.

Laos' environmental strategies focus on biodiversity conservation and watershed protection, shaped by donor engagement and state planning. Customary land rights and protected area governance are central, with NGOs supporting agroecology and community forest management.

Malaysia blends Indigenous knowledge, climate justice, and eco-cultural education into national and local frameworks. NGOs and research centers are leading efforts in cave conservation, renewable energy access, and biodiversity restoration, with a growing focus on Indigenous stewardship.

Myanmar, despite political instability, civil society continues to sustain grassroots efforts in women's empowerment, agroecology, and disaster preparedness. Parallel systems of governance support community-led land rights, climate adaptation, and food sovereignty amidst shrinking civic space.

The Philippines, a regional leader in resilience and

equity-based climate policy, integrates disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods, and youth organizing. NGOs drive clean energy transitions and rights-based development within a robust civic and policy ecosystem.

Singapore's sustainability efforts are led by the state, with a focus on green infrastructure, eco-certification, and circular economy planning. Civil society contributes through urban permaculture, environmental education, and community resilience programs.

Thailand integrates Indigenous and feminist frameworks into national environmental strategies. Civil society advances agroecology, water justice, and biodiversity protection, while community-based organizations advocate for land rights and participatory governance of rivers.

Timor-Leste centers its environmental policy on na-

ture-based development, gender equity, and cultural preservation. National strategies promote agroecology and climate resilience, supported by civil society-led initiatives focused on peacebuilding, seed saving, and food sovereignty.

Vietnam's environmental agenda prioritizes forest governance, land reform, and sustainable livelihoods. Civil society and academic institutions collaborate on wildlife protection, pollution monitoring, and community-based adaptation, adopting a rights-based, ecosystem-centered approach.

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Equity and Rights: Across the board, just transition work emphasizes protecting the rights of those most vulnerable to environmental and economic shifts—especially Indigenous peoples, women, and small-scale farmers.

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in Southeast Asia

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Energy transition planning, green economy, climate resilience	General population, low-income, youth, rural workers
International NGOs	Climate justice advocacy, legal aid, community mobilization	Indigenous groups, women, environmental defenders
National/Regional NGOs	Agroecology, land rights, DRR, livelihood training	Farmers, forest dwellers, women, Indigenous peoples
Universities/Research Centers	Just transition policy research, capacity building, and climate modeling	Policymakers, local authorities, youth, and civil society
Social Enterprises	Urban farming, renewable microgrids, eco-tourism, zero-waste business	Urban poor, youth, social entrepreneurs
Unions/Farmer Federations	Green job retraining, land tenure advocacy, climate-smart agriculture	Rural workers, landless farmers, smallholders

Community-led Approaches: Most effective activities engage communities as planners, not just beneficiaries, promoting long-term sustainability.

Green Economic Innovation: From Singapore's climate finance tools to Malaysia's circular economy and Indonesia's forest-based carbon credits, there's a growing emphasis on green innovation.

Barriers: Political repression (e.g., Myanmar), limited technical capacity (e.g., Laos, Cambodia), and economic dependence on fossil fuels or extractive industries (e.g., Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia) pose challenges.

Conclusion

Southeast Asia presents a diverse yet deeply engaged landscape for just transitions. While there is no one-size-fits-all model, organizations across sectors are laying the groundwork for inclusive, community-centered, and climate-resilient development. The success of these efforts depends not only on policy and finance, but also on empowering local communities, recognizing traditional ecological knowledge, and fostering regional cooperation rooted in equity and justice.

West Asia

The landscape of just transitions work across West Asia is deeply influenced by water scarcity, rapid urbanization, and political instability. While few countries or organizations explicitly reference "just transitions," the principles of equitable environmental governance, sustainable resource management, and community empowerment are present in national agendas and civil society actions. Efforts in the region often focus on climate resilience, food and water security, and women-led sustainability initiatives.

Regional Trends and Framework Adoption

West Asia faces complex socio-political dynamics that impact the implementation of environmental policies. Resource-rich states, such as the Gulf countries, focus on top-down sustainability through national visions and urban greening initiatives. Other nations prioritize agriculture, water conservation, and enhancing the resilience of civil society. Although regional collaboration is limited, multilateral partner-

ships and national programs are increasingly incorporating sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and environmental education.

Government centers often anchor climate planning and agricultural reform, while national NGOs and women-led organizations advance environmental awareness and youth engagement. Education, green entrepreneurship, and eco-literacy are common entry points for action.

The adoption of just transition frameworks varies across the region. Countries, such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar lead renewable energy and carbon reduction efforts, working to diversify economies away from fossil fuels. Environmental conservation and water scarcity remain pressing challenges, with innovative solutions like water management and desert agriculture emerging. In contrast, countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen rely heavily on international support and NGOs to address environmental and social issues exacerbated by conflict, with a growing network of civil society groups focused on sustainability, climate justice, food sovereignty, and social rights.

Country-/Territory-Specific Highlights

Bahrain's sustainability is guided by national frameworks that emphasize biodiversity, urban greening, and agriculture, led by the Supreme Council for Environment. Civil society plays a minor role but supports education and youth outreach on conservation.

Cyprus' environmental efforts are led by active NGOs focused on sustainability education, biodiversity protection, and climate justice. Organizations like FOE Cyprus and Terra Cypria reflect strong bottom-up governance and a culture of public environmental engagement.

Iran's environmental activities are shaped by academic and civil society actors amid political constraints. Core efforts include water management, biodiversity conservation, and reforestation in drought-prone regions, with a growing emphasis on ecological education.

Iraq's post-conflict priorities center on wetland restoration, environmental education, communi-

ty-based stewardship, and the restoration of the country's seed banks, which were destroyed following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. Organizations like Nature Iraq integrate traditional knowledge with water justice and ecosystem recovery.

Jordan, a regional leader in integrated climate strategy, aligns national policy with environmental literacy, biodiversity protection, and green energy. NGOs and public institutions support agroecology, water efficiency, and the inclusion of young people.

Kuwait's environmental efforts are mainly government-driven, with focus areas such as marine protection, waste reduction, and public awareness. Civil society efforts remain limited but are emerging.

Lebanon's environmental governance faces challenges, but NGOs advance agroecology, community resilience, and waste reduction. Initiatives link environmental justice to civic engagement and decentralization.

Oman's state-led frameworks promote land use planning, desert agriculture, and marine conservation. Academic and NGO actors supplement with education campaigns and resilience strategies.

Qatar's national development plans integrate green infrastructure, education, and urban sustainability. Institutions such as Earthna support the development of environmental policy, while school programs drive awareness and education.

Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 anchors a top-down shift toward afforestation, clean energy, and conservation. Government partnerships with research institutions aim to broaden public participation.

Syria, due to the ongoing conflict, faces constraints in its environmental efforts. Still, grassroots and diaspora groups work on ecological education, organic farming by women, democratic land use, food systems, and environmental restoration within the context of recovery.

Turkiye combine state planning with active civil society, Turkiye's sustainability efforts focus on sustainable agriculture, forest protection, and climate literacy. NGOs promote agroecological practices and community-led adaptation.

The United Arab Emirates' national visions and agencies lead the way in clean energy, water innovation, and urban ecology. Youth empowerment and private sector engagement are increasingly integrated.

Yemen, despite ongoing instability, features environmental programming that supports food security, climate resilience, and women's inclusion. NGOs and donors drive sustainable agriculture and water management.

Key Cross-Cutting Themes

Youth Engagement: Youth engagement emerges as the most prominent theme across West Asia. Many organizations implement education and awareness campaigns targeting students and young people, recognizing their critical role in shaping future sustainability practices. This focus is especially visible in countries such as Jordan, Qatar, and the UAE, where youth-led initiatives and environmental literacy programs are central to national and NGO strategies.

Conflict and Post-Conflict Recovery: Environmental programming often intersects with post-conflict reconstruction, especially in countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Here, sustainability work doubles as a tool for recovery, peacebuilding, and restoring local livelihoods. Themes such as ecosystem rehabilitation, climate resilience, and food security are embedded within broader recovery and humanitarian efforts.

Community-led Approaches: Many organizations employ grassroots or participatory methods, particularly in Lebanon, as well as rural areas of Iran and Turkiye. These efforts include traditional ecological knowledge, cooperative agriculture, and local conservation projects. While national strategies are often centralized, community-driven initiatives remain vital for ensuring relevance and sustainability at the local level.

Food and Agriculture: Food sovereignty and agroecological farming are key concerns across the region. Water-efficient agriculture, desert farming, and sustainable land management appear frequently, reflecting the centrality of agriculture to both economic livelihoods and climate resilience. Initiatives often prioritize rural communities and women farmers.

Organizational Landscape and Target Populations in West Asia

Organization Type	Activities	Target Populations
Government Initiatives/Centers	Policy development, environmental regulation, economic diversification, research, public awareness campaigns, natural resource management, conservation projects, and capacity building.	General population, rural communities, low-income, youth, Indigenous peoples
International NGOs	Advocacy, policy reform, climate change awareness, environmental protection, human rights, and community mobilization.	Marginalized groups, Indigenous groups, women, youth, and environmental defenders
National/Regional NGOs	Sustainable development, agricultural innovation, environmental education, community engagement, ecological restoration, water and waste management, and promoting sustainable livelihoods, food banks.	Farmers, rural communities, smallholder farmers, women, displaced populations, youth, migrant workers
Universities/Research Centers	Research and development on environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, water management, climate change, and socio-economic development.	Policymakers, local authorities, students, researchers, and youth
Social Enterprises	Implementing sustainable agricultural practices, waste management, renewable energy projects, and eco-tourism initiatives, while promoting environmental awareness and social responsibility.	Urban poor, social entrepreneurs, youth, local communities, small businesses
Unions/Farmer Federations	Advocacy for farmers' rights, promoting sustainable agriculture, fair labor conditions, training programs, community mobilization, and policy engagement.	Rural workers, landless farmers, smallholder farmers, agricultural workers

Biodiversity and Ecosystems: The protection of fragile ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal zones, is a recurring focus. Organizations across West Asia are engaging in reforestation, habitat restoration, and conservation education, especially in contexts vulnerable to desertification and climate change.

Conclusion

West Asia's landscape of sustainability and just transitions is shaped by intersecting social, environmental, and political dynamics. While the language of "just transition" is not widely adopted, its core principles—equity, inclusion, and resilience—are reflected across diverse organizational strategies. Governments lead on policy development and resource management, while NGOs, universities, and social enterprises carry forward initiatives in environmental education, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture. Youth engagement stands out as a regional priority, along with a growing emphasis on gender inclusion, food and water security, and biodiversity protection. In conflict-affected contexts, environmental programming also serves as a pathway for recovery and peacebuilding. Despite structural challenges including centralized governance, limited regional coordination, and ongoing conflict, West Asia demonstrates a multifaceted and adaptive approach to sustainability. Advancing a just and resilient future will require deepening civic engagement, strengthening local capacities, and embedding justice more explicitly into environmental planning and practice.

Survey of Asia-Pacific Organizations

Methodology

Survey design

THE SURVEY CONTENT WAS DESIGNED with the advisory support of internal and external reviewers with expertise in our structural focus areas of food systems, environment, energy, and climate, as well as reviewers with expertise on global corporate power, finance, worker rights, and democratic rights. We drew from reviewers in different institutional roles and relationships to Asia-Pacific social movements, including policy advocacy, labor organizers, and grassroots community-based organizations.

Respondents were informed that we intend to use the information gathered from the survey to facilitate collective dialogue, collaboration, and thought leadership amongst our Institute and climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations across Asia-Pacific. To foster trust and accountability, respondents were also informed that we intended to share the findings from the survey with their organization, including through this white paper.

Respondents were asked to select-one, select their top three choices, and write-in short responses to answer questions about their organization. These survey questions are available in **appendix B**. Write-in responses pertained only to the respondent's information, organizations the respondent's own organization is partnered with, and any additional information the respondent wished to share and that was not already covered in the survey. Responses were not anonymous.

Survey audience and dissemination

The survey was distributed directly to the climate,

agri-food, and environmental organizations identified and recorded in our database, which we also used for the online content analysis portion of this body of work. These organizations were initially identified using the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) List of Accredited Organizations, our regional networks, Google Search, social media platforms and, where search engines and other such tools presented limitations, generative AI tools were employed to enhance the search process. This was particularly helpful for countries and territories with less online visibility or where language barriers made information retrieval more challenging. The research covered countries and territories across six sub-regions of the Asia-Pacific: Central Asia, East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia.

The criteria for dissemination and participation were:

1. the organization identifies as an NGO, nonprofit, or community-based organization; a government entity or initiative; a university or research center; a social enterprise; or a union;
2. the organization is based in Asia-Pacific;
3. the organization works on climate, agri-food, and/or environmental issues.

Organizations that completed the survey but did not meet these criteria have not been included in these findings. The list of organizations that completed the survey and meet these criteria is available in **appendix A**.

Survey instrument

The survey was designed and disseminated through Microsoft Forms, a web-based platform used to

create and conduct online surveys. The survey collected information about respondents' roles in their organization, the organization itself and their partner organizations, as well as the missions, approaches, and needs of Asia-Pacific organizations that are working on climate, agri-food, and environmental issues across the region. The survey was distributed in Arabic, English, Hindi, Indonesian, Mandarin Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese.²⁰ The survey questions are available in English in **appendix B**.

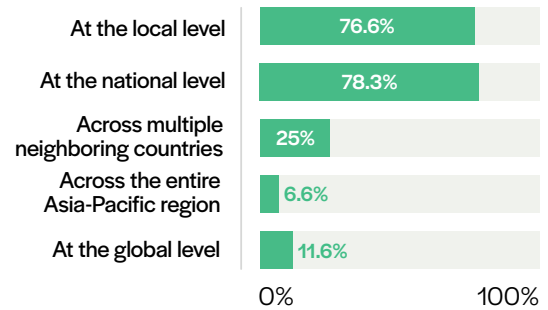
Who we heard from

The survey ran from August 15 to September 30 and was extended twice to reach as many Asia-Pacific countries and organizations as possible. During this period, we heard from a total 60 unique Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations.

Location: We heard from respondents whose organizations are based in 29 countries and operate across all six regions of Asia-Pacific as defined by the United Nations. Several of the participating organizations operate in multiple countries and regions, and the regions most represented include South Asia (29 organizations), Southeast Asia (23 organizations), and West Asia (12 organizations). The countries most represented include Indonesia (8 organizations), India (6 organizations), Afghanistan (5 organizations), Malaysia (5 organizations) and Pakistan (5 organizations).

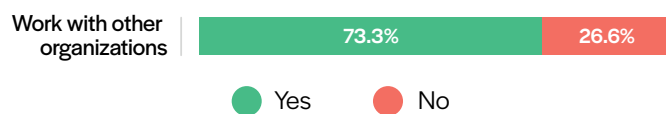
Scale: We heard from respondents whose organizations work at and across diverse scales. The dominant operational focus is the local–national scale, with many organizations operating at both the local and national level. 76.6 percent of organizations operate at the local level while 78.3 percent operate at the national level suggesting that most organizations are grounded in local contexts but engage with national-level networks or policy. A quarter (25 percent) operate across multiple neighboring countries, reflecting increasing regional coordination (e.g., in ASEAN, South Asia, or the Pacific Islands). A smaller subset (11.6 percent) identifies global-level work—typically advocacy networks, research institutes, or regional coalitions with international partnerships. Just 6.6 percent of organizations operate across the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Most organizations responded that they work at the national level (78.3%) and the local level (76.6%)



Partners: We heard from respondents whose organizations maintain diverse partnerships. Most respondents' organizations work with other organizations in Asia-Pacific (73.3 percent). Fewer respondents' organizations work with organizations outside of Asia-Pacific (45 percent). We found that organizations that work at the local level largely work with other organizations in Asia-Pacific (79.5 percent), while fewer that work at the local level work with organizations outside Asia-Pacific (56.4 percent).

Most organizations responded that they work with other organizations in Asia-Pacific (73.3%)



Language: Respondents overwhelmingly spoke English (93 percent) with Bahasa Indonesia (8.3 percent) and Arabic/Hindi (5 percent each) being the next most common languages.

Findings

Our survey of Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations focused on the following matters:

1. Organizations' populations and issues of interest;
2. Organizations' strategies and goals;
3. Organizations' use of frameworks;
4. Organizations' needs and requests;

- Organizations' assessment of the activities of non-Asia-Pacific organizations;
- Organizations' demands upon non-Asia-Pacific organizations and the international community. In this section, we detail the most compelling findings that we believe to be indicative of areas to facilitate collective dialogue, collaboration, and thought leadership among our institute (and other such institutes in the Global North) and climate, agrifood, and environmental organizations across Asia-Pacific.

Organizations' populations and issues of interests

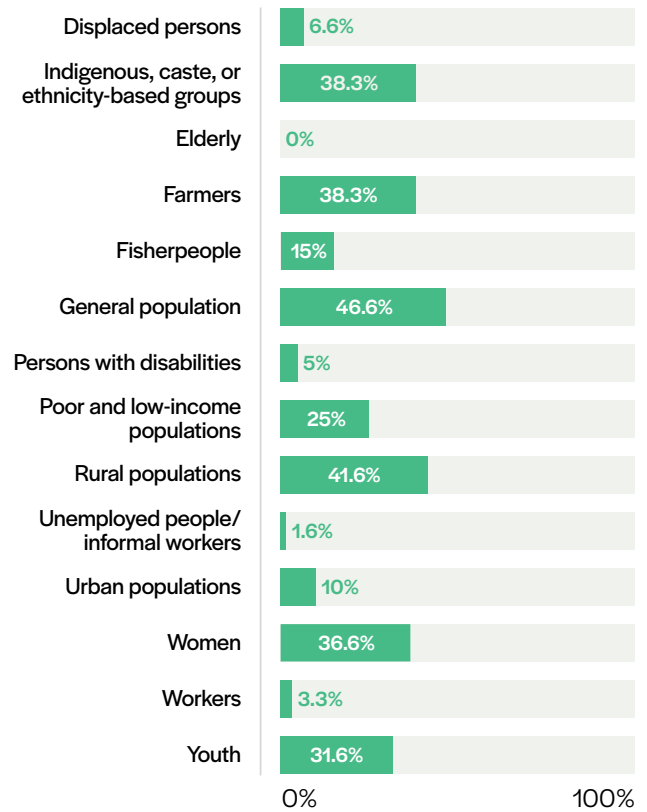
SURVEY What are the primary communities your organization serves?

Among the organizations we heard from, 46.6 percent serve the general population and 41.6 percent serve rural communities, with substantial overlap among farmers (38.3 percent) and Indigenous, caste, or ethnicity-based groups (38.3 percent). Women (36.6 percent), youth (31.6 percent), and poor and low-income populations (25 percent) also appear frequently, often alongside rural or marginalized identities—suggesting multidimensional vulnerability frameworks. Smaller but significant subsets include fisherpeople (15 percent), urban populations (10 percent), and displaced persons (6.6 percent).

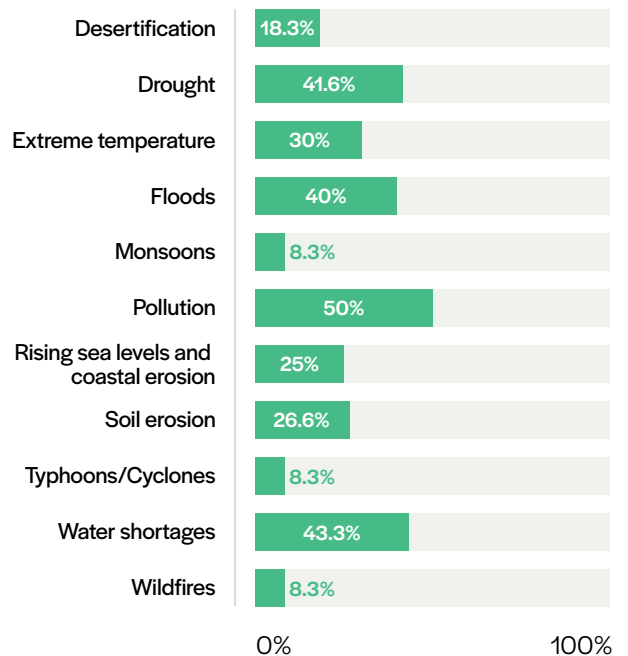
SURVEY What are the primary climatic problems your organization is trying to address?

Among the organizations we heard from, pollution (50 percent) and water shortages (43.3 percent) received the most responses, showing widespread concern for pollution overall, followed by hydrological scarcity, and resource competition. Drought (41.6 percent) and flooding (40 percent) are nearly as prevalent. Extreme temperature (30 percent), soil erosion (26.6 percent), rising sea levels and coastal erosion (25 percent), and desertification (18.3 percent) were also significant. Among the organizations we heard from, the least prevalent climatic problems of concern were monsoons (8.3 percent), typhoons/ cyclones (8.3 percent), and wildfires (8.3 percent).

Most organizations responded that they primarily serve the general population (46.6%), rural populations (41.6%), indigenous, caste, or ethnicity-based groups (38.3%), and farmers (38.3%)



Most organizations responded that the climate problems they are primarily concerned with are pollution (50%), water shortages (43.3%), and drought (41.6%)



SURVEY What are the primary socio-environmental problems your organization is trying to address?

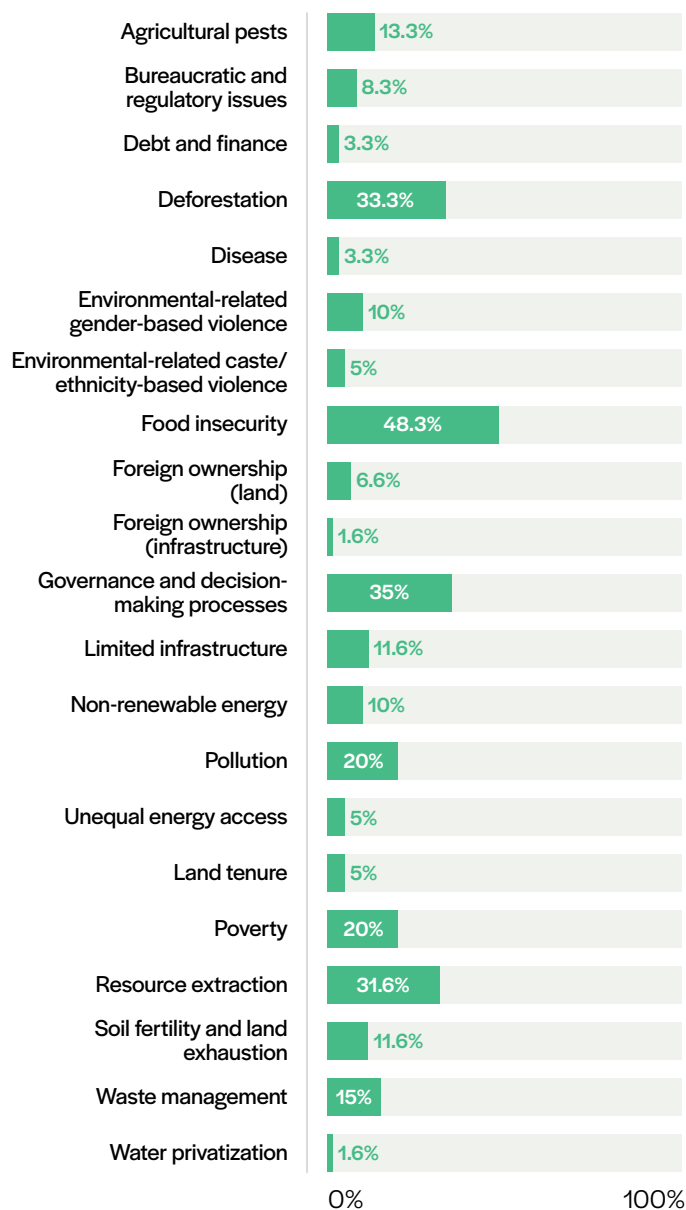
Among the organizations we heard from, the majority responded that the socio-environmental problems they are primarily concerned with are food insecurity (48.3 percent), governance and decision-making processes (35 percent), deforestation (33.3 percent), and resource extraction (31.6 percent), along with poverty (20 percent), and pollution (20 percent). Other major socio-environmental problems of concern include waste management (15 percent), agricultural pests (13.3 percent), soil fertility and land exhaustion (11.6 percent), and limited infrastructure (11.6 percent). Among the least prevalent socio-environmental problems of concern were debt and finance (3.3 percent), disease (3.3 percent), foreign ownership (infrastructure) at just 1.6 percent and water privatization and rights also at 1.6 percent.

Organizations’ strategies and goals

SURVEY What does your organization believe are the short-term solutions to the issues your organization is trying to address?

Among the organizations we heard from, the majority responded that the short-term solution to the issue they are trying to address are to advance food sovereignty (51.6 percent), increase or improve environmental regulations such as emissions and fuel quality standards, protected areas, etc. (48.3 percent), and to advance Indigenous peoples’ rights (40 percent). Other major short-term solutions include increased access to low-carbon, livelihood-enhancing technologies such as agricultural equipment, clean cook stoves, etc. (30 percent), advancing farmers’ land rights (28.3 percent), advancing women’s rights (28.3 percent), and improving waste reduction and management (25 percent). Among the least prevalent short-term solutions were improving infrastructure such as dams, reservoirs, and seawalls (10 percent), and not a single organization identified the cancellation or mitigation of external national debt as a short-term solution.

Most organizations responded that the socio-environmental problems they are primarily concerned with are **food insecurity (48.3%), governance and decision-making processes (35%), and deforestation (33.3%)**



SURVEY What does your organization believe are the long-term solutions to the issues your organization is trying to address?

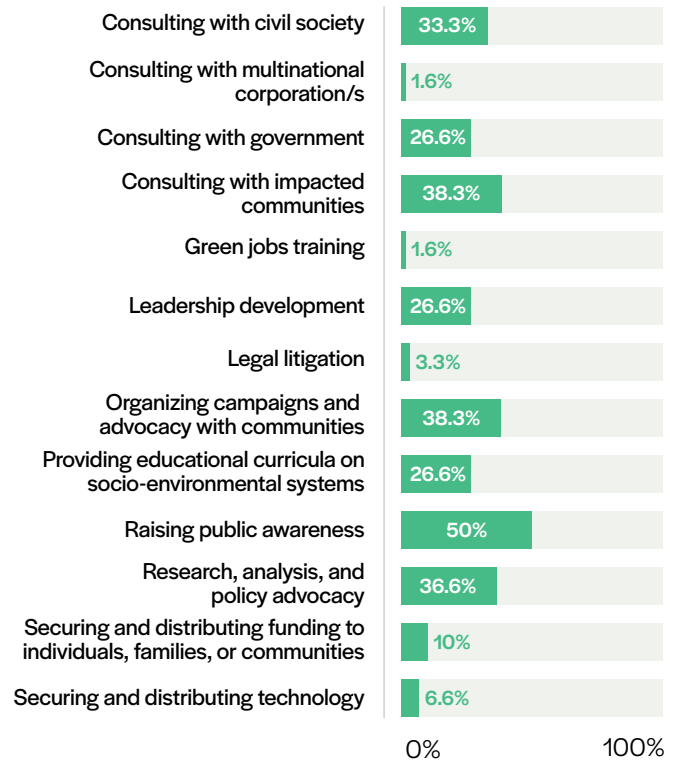
Among the organizations we heard from, the majority responded that the long-term solution to the issue they are trying to address are to develop shared ownership models, closed-loop supply chains, and redesign economic systems for ecological and social well-being (43.3 percent), incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into policy and practice (33.3 percent), ensure food sovereignty (28.3 percent), and scale up sustainable agriculture such as agroecology, reduced petrochemicals, soil restoration techniques, etc. (26.6 percent). Other major long-term solutions that were identified include eliminating poverty (25 percent) and incorporating climate and socio-environmental education into primary and secondary education (25 percent). Among the least prevalent long-term solutions were to improve public transportation infrastructures (5 percent), reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the top-emitting countries (3.3 percent), and to strengthen regulations for multinational corporations (3.3 percent).

See page 33 for visual.

SURVEY What work is your organization actively doing to advance toward these short and long term solutions?

Among the organizations we heard from, the majority responded that the work they are actively doing to advance toward these short and long term solutions includes raising public awareness (50 percent), organizing campaigns and community advocacy (38.3 percent), and consulting with impacted communities (38.3 percent). Over a third are advancing research, analysis, and policy advocacy (36.6 percent), while a third are consulting with civil society (33.3 percent), and over a quarter are consulting with government (26.6 percent). Fewer are focused on funding or technology distribution (10 percent and 6.6 percent respectively), indicating less direct resource transfer capacity, and very few reported legal litigation (3.3 percent), green jobs training (1.6 percent), or consulting with multinational corporations (1.6 percent).

Half of the organizations that responded are actively raising public awareness to advance toward their short and long-term solutions (50%)



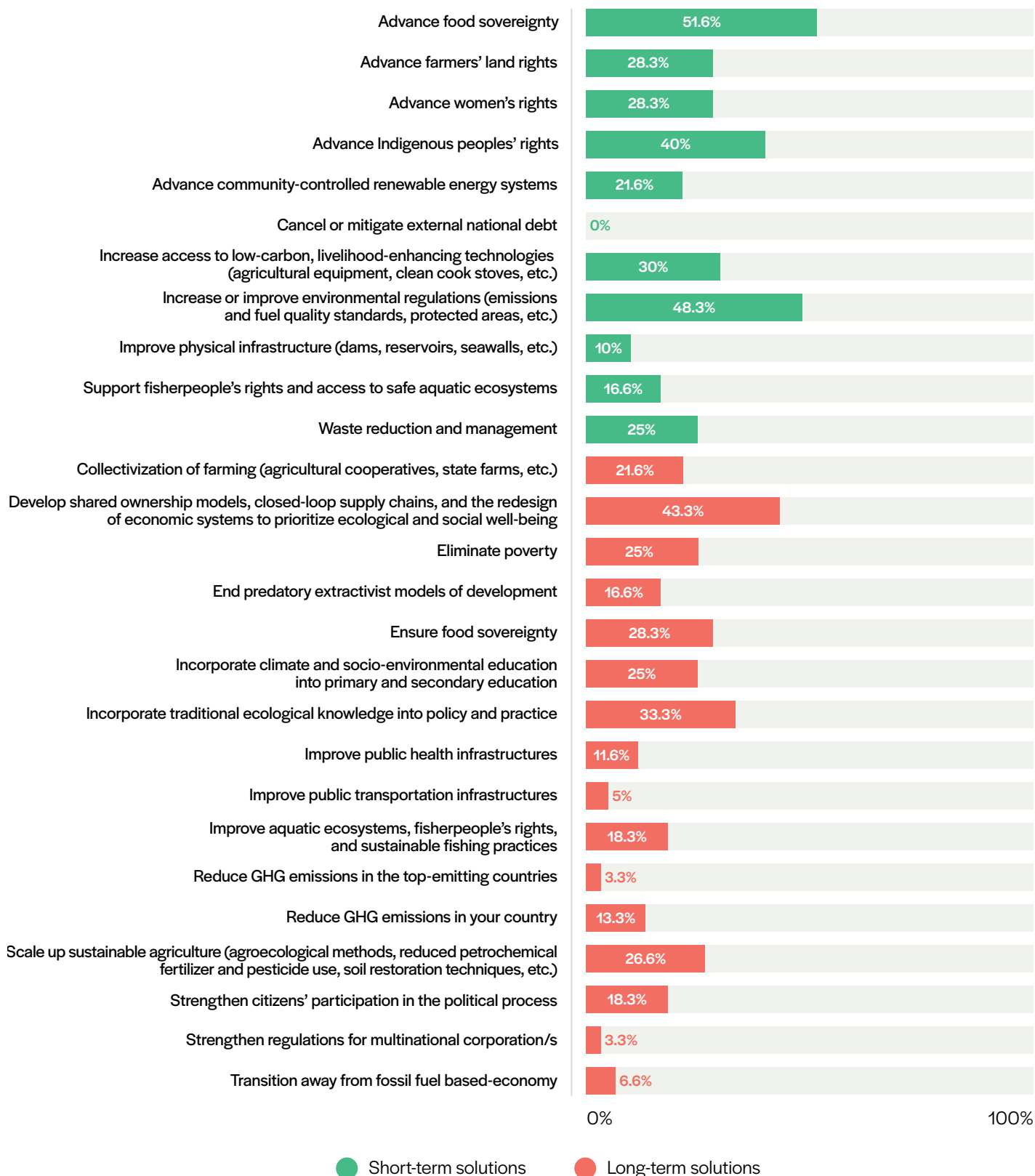
Organizations' use of frameworks

SURVEY Is your organization using particular frameworks or concepts to guide its work?

Among the organizations we heard from, over a third responded that the particular framework or concept they use to guide their work is conservation (36.6 percent), followed by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (26.6 percent), environmentalism (26.6 percent), and ecology (25 percent). Human rights (21.6 percent), and traditional knowledge (23.3 percent) were also prominent frameworks and concepts. Other major frameworks and concepts include circular / regenerative economy (20 percent) followed by anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, and/or anti-capitalism (20 percent), and food sovereignty (20 percent).

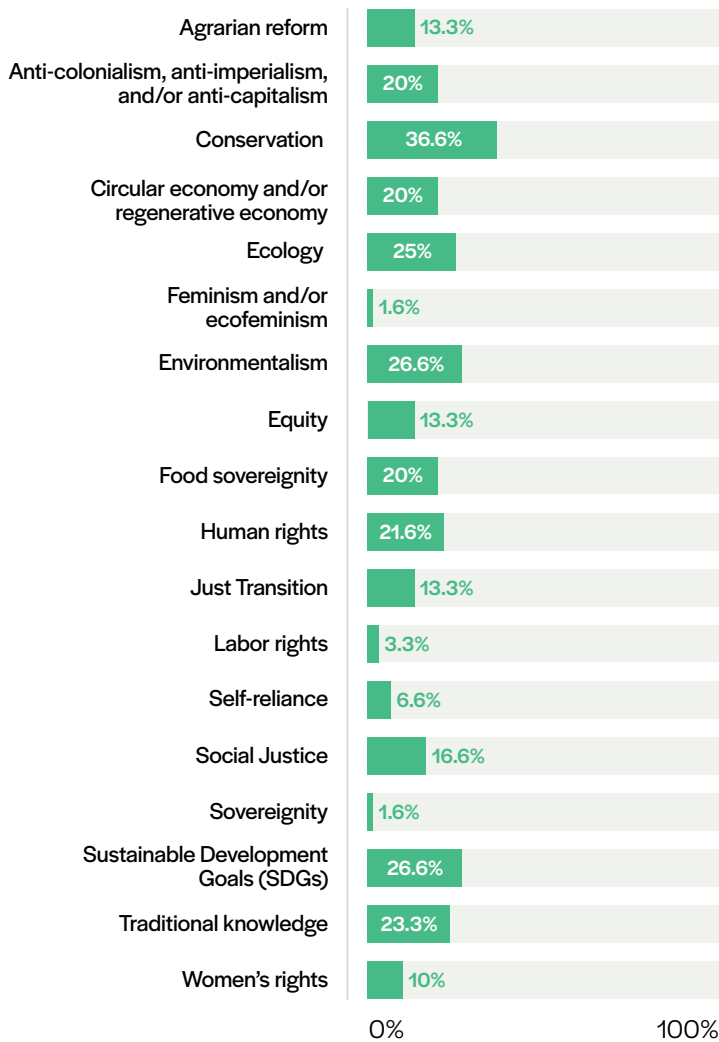
Fewer organizations responded that they use a Just Transition framework or concept to guide their work (13.3 percent). Among those organizations guided

Most organizations responded that the top short-term solution is to advance food sovereignty (51.6%) and that the top long-term solution is to develop shared ownership models, closed-loop supply chains, and redesign economic systems for ecological & social well-being (43.3%)



by the framework of Just Transition, all were based in China (1), Afghanistan (1), Australia (1), Palestine (1), Indonesia (2), and Malaysia (2).

Most organizations responded that the particular framework or concept they use to guide their work is conservation (36.6%)



Organizations' needs and requests

SURVEY What kinds of material support does your organization need to remedy the challenges it seeks to address?

Among the organizations we heard from, nearly all responded that the material support they need to remedy the challenges they seek to address is funding (91.6 percent). Other major needs include

specialized training including IT, Research & Development, funding procurement, etc. (56.6 percent), staff training (51.6 percent), and research (51.6 percent). The least prevalent need was technology and intellectual property transfers (11.6 percent).

See page 35 for visual.

SURVEY What kinds of institutional support does your organization need to remedy the challenges it seeks to address?

Among the organizations we heard from, the vast majority responded that the institutional support they need to remedy the challenges they seek to address are connections to international funders (96.6 percent), connections to international organizations and networks (95 percent), and connections to regional organizations and networks (85 percent). Fewer organizations responded that they need legal advice (23.3 percent).

Organizations' assessment of the activities of non-Asia-Pacific organizations

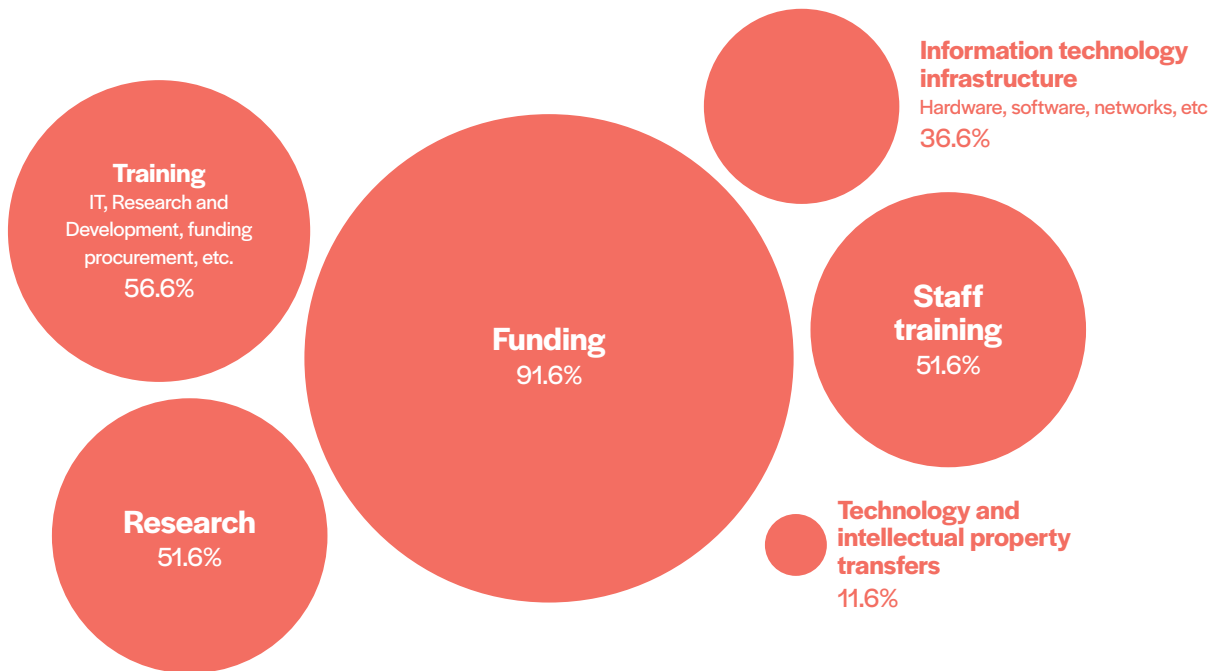
SURVEY Overall, how effectively do Global North NGOs address the most important environmental, agri-food, and climate problems that affect the communities or constituencies your organization serves?

Among the organizations we heard from, most view Global North NGOs' work on Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate problem areas as somewhat effective (56.6 percent) and not effective (25 percent), with fewer considering their work very effective (18.3 percent).

SURVEY Do you think people outside of Asia-Pacific adequately understand the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific Peoples?

Among the organizations we heard from, most believe that people outside of Asia-Pacific somewhat understand (58.3 percent) the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific Peoples. Fewer organizations believe that people adequately understand (21.6 percent) or do not understand (20 percent) such risks.

The majority of organizations responded that they need **funding (91.6%)**, and **training namely IT, Research and Development, funding procurement, etc. (56.6%)**



SURVEY Do you think environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations outside of Asia-Pacific adequately understand the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific peoples?

Among the organizations we heard from, most believe that environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations outside of Asia-Pacific somewhat understand (61.6 percent) the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific peoples, with fewer believing they understand (28.3 percent) and do not understand (10 percent) such risks.

Organizations demands upon non-Asia-Pacific organizations and the international community

SURVEY What can Global North NGOs do to support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations more effectively?

Among the organizations we heard from, most be-

lieve that Global North NGOs can support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations by providing unrestricted funding (46.6 percent) and by focusing on shifting policies and practices within their home countries to reduce the exploitation and extraction of land, resources, and labor from the Asia-Pacific region and Asia-Pacific peoples (35 percent). Many organizations also believe that Global North NGOs can support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations by fostering working relationships and partnerships between Asia-Pacific organizations and Global North civil society (30 percent), amplifying and centering the voices and knowledge of Asia-Pacific organizations to Global North governments and civil society (30 percent), advocating for increased regulations on multinational corporations (28.3 percent), and by providing skill-based training (26.6 percent). Few organizations believe that Global North NGOs can support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations by reducing their activities in the Asia-Pacific region (3.3 percent).

SURVEY What should Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations demand from the international community to address the social and environmental problems facing Asia-Pacific communities?

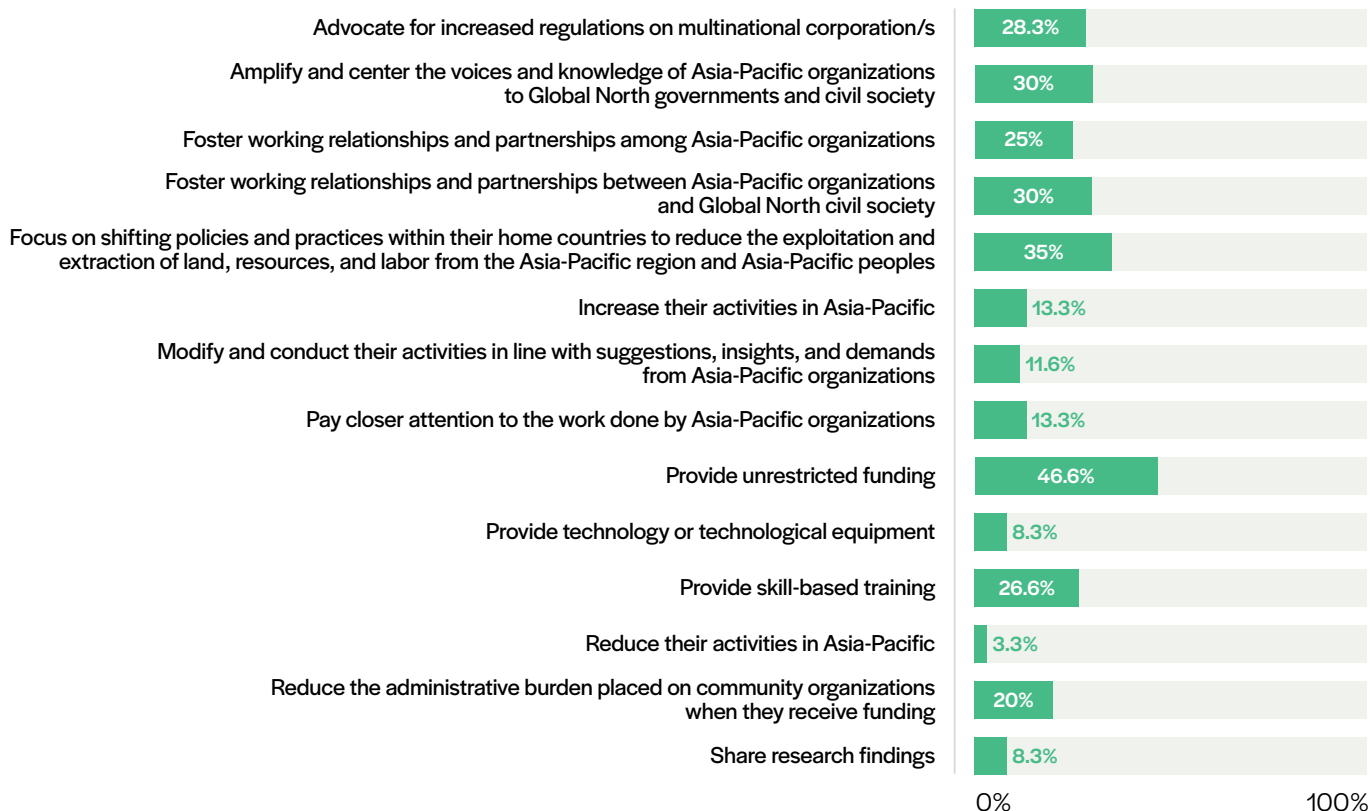
Among the organizations we heard from, the most common demand is for the international community to cut greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel financing (50 percent), and to increase access to unrestricted public funds (36.6 percent), as well as to challenge the economic exploitation of Asia-Pacific’s natural resources by multinational corporations (30 percent), for there to be a genuine commitment to transparent, equitable, and mutually beneficial trade agreements (26.6 percent), and increased access to unrestricted private funds (23.3 percent). Very few organizations believe that such demands should include public investments in Asia-Pacific public health infrastructures (6.6 percent).

Significance

Multiple frameworks for Asia–Pacific just transitions

The survey confirms the findings of our online content analysis: across the Asia–Pacific, most environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations do not rely exclusively on the Just Transition framework. Rather, they blend it with sustainable development and frameworks that protect resources and the natural environment—Conservation, Environmentalism, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Ecology being among the most frequently cited. Only a minority explicitly use the Just Transition label, yet the principles underpinning it—equity, participation, redistribution, and sustainability—run through nearly all responses.

Most organizations responded that to support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations more effectively, Global North NGOs should provide unrestricted funding (46.6%) and to focus on shifting policies and practices within their home countries to reduce the exploitation and extraction of land, resources, and labor from the Asia-Pacific region and Asia-Pacific peoples (35%).



These findings validate that the region's just transition landscape is plural and adaptive, not monolithic. From South Asia's rights-based grassroots movements to Oceania's Indigenous governance systems and East Asia's green innovation networks, organizations are localizing transition frameworks to match distinct sociopolitical and ecological realities. The survey reinforces that "Just Transition" functions as an umbrella concept—a constellation of interlinked practices and frameworks that together seek to replace extractive, high-carbon, and hierarchical systems with regenerative, community-controlled alternatives.

At the same time, the survey reveals that the Asia-Pacific is not merely absorbing global just transition discourse but redefining it through decolonial and reparative perspectives. Frequent references to anti-colonialism, anti-capitalism, and anti-imperialism underscore that the region's organizations are situating climate justice within a broader struggle against historic and ongoing extraction.

Alternative economies and development trajectories

The survey highlights that Asia-Pacific organizations view just transitions as inseparable from economic transformation and social justice, not as a narrow technical project of decarbonization. The most common long-term priorities—the development of shared ownership models, closed-loop supply chains, and the redesign of economic systems to prioritize ecological and social well-being, as well as the incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge into policy and practice, and ensuring food sovereignty—collectively articulate a vision of sovereign, circular, and post-extractive economies.

In the short term, respondents prioritize rights-based and sovereignty-oriented approaches: food sovereignty, stronger environmental regulations, and Indigenous rights top the list, followed by access to low-carbon, livelihood-enhancing technologies, land rights, and women's rights. These choices suggest that Asia-Pacific just transition actors are advancing justice through agrarian, gender, and territorial struggles as much as through climate or energy sectors. Such findings mirror our content analysis, where

Reparative Just Transitions and Just Transitions:

"Just Transition"—as used by unions, governments, and international institutions—has often been procedural or distributive, "reparative Just Transitions" highlights historical and structural dimensions. In other words, shifting from simply fairness in transitioning to a low-carbon economy, to justice through repairing historical, colonial, and financial harms that made unjust transitions necessary in the first place.

community-led initiatives and localized adaptation strategies consistently anchored regional approaches from Central to West Asia.

Across both short- and long-term visions, respondents emphasize that mitigation and technology are secondary to advancing food sovereignty and transforming ownership, livelihoods, rights, as well as environmental regulations and policies. A relatively small percentage identified GHG reduction as a primary goal—an affirmation that for Asia-Pacific actors, climate justice is not a technical endpoint but a social process of decolonizing economies and restoring community sovereignty.

This bottom-up redefinition of transition—reparative just transitions—links climate action to debt relief, fiscal sovereignty, and value capture. By situating ecological repair within economic self-determination, respondents advance what can be called a reparative-sovereign transition model—where environmental restoration, social reproduction, and economic democracy converge.

The Global North's role in enabling reparative just transitions

Consistent with the survey's emphasis on structural transformation, respondents view support from the Global North not as benevolent aid but as a matter of accountability and reform. The top-ranked demand—greater commitment to reducing GHG emissions and fossil-fuel financing—underscores a justice-based

understanding of mitigation responsibility. Organizations insist that the Global North must first transform its own extractive, carbon-intensive systems before claiming to support just transitions elsewhere.²¹

Equally, calls for unrestricted and decolonial finance reflect frustration with conditional funding and transactional aid. Respondents prefer flexible, trust-based partnerships that enable Asia–Pacific organizations to define their own priorities. They also call on Global North NGOs to amplify Asia–Pacific voices within international forums and to advocate for corporate accountability in their own countries and territories—linking finance reform, governance equity, and epistemic justice.

The survey thus importantly confirms that solidarity, not charity, is the operative principle. Respondents want relationships and partnerships that expand fiscal and political sovereignty, challenge debt dependencies, and redistribute decision-making power within international institutions. The emphasis on partnership and voice also aligns with the region’s cross-sectoral collaboration trends: community advocacy, research and policy work, and multilevel coordination with civil society and government.

Taken together, these findings reaffirm that Asia–Pacific organizations are building an integrated movement for reparative just transitions—one grounded in community sovereignty, ecological regeneration, and structural transformation of the global financial and political order. The survey not only substantiates the patterns identified in our online content analysis but deepens them, showing that across the region, the demand is clear: climate justice must mean economic justice, epistemic justice, and self-determination for Asia–Pacific peoples.

CONCLUSION

Toward Reparative Just Transitions in the Asia-Pacific Region

THIS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS HOW the Asia-Pacific region sits at the geographic and political epicenter of competing futures for low-carbon development. Long histories of colonial extraction, structural dependency, and development finance governed by creditor priorities have left many countries and territories with limited fiscal policy space and enduring inequalities. With the global green transition now intensifying demand for minerals, industrial capacity, and grid infrastructure, the region has become a primary arena where new forms of extraction—extraction marketed as “sustainable”—risk reproducing older injustices under a greener rhetoric. Foreign state-backed capital, multinational commodity chains, and domestic state-led industrialization together create transition frontiers that too often prioritize supply-chain timelines and geopolitical security over community welfare, land rights, and ecological integrity.

In response, a broad and increasingly coordinated political movement led from the Global South is advancing a reparative vision of transition. This movement combines demands that are practical (debt relief, grant-based climate finance, locally controlled value-capture) with moral and juridical claims (reparation for historical emissions and colonial expropriation, recognition of differentiated responsibility).²² Over the past two years these demands have moved into the institutional sphere as well as onto the streets: regional coalitions such as the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance and allied Global South networks have launched campaigns linking debt cancellation, reparations, and just transition agendas; mass mobilizations and coordinated protests have targeted the IMF and World Bank meetings; and civil society calls for a binding, multilateral debt-re-

structuring mechanism have grown louder. These developments underline that reparations are not merely rhetorical: they are being operationalized as demands for concrete shifts in financing architecture and conditionality.

Institutional shifts have been uneven but meaningful. The creation and operationalization of international loss-and-damage financing mechanisms represents a partial institutional acknowledgment that vulnerable countries and territories require new flows that do not replicate debt dependencies. Yet advocates emphasize that loss-and-damage alone is not reparations; it must sit alongside grant-based adaptation finance, debt relief, and broader structural reforms that dismantle the financial subordination of low-income states. Parallel campaigns pressed on the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and G20—demanding not only more money but changes to modalities: fewer loans, more grants, debt swaps for climate and biodiversity, and transparency and participation in debt workouts. Evidence that debt servicing now eclipses climate finance in many low-income countries and territories has sharpened critique of the prevailing orthodoxies of conditional lending and austerity.

At the same time, geopolitical competition for critical minerals and industrial capacity is restructuring the region’s political economy. State-backed investments, strategic stockpiling, and “de-risking” policies by high-income states are accelerating extraction, refining and processing projects across the Asia-Pacific.²³ This re-embedding of state power in mineral chains has two contradictory consequences: it can create opportunities for regional indus-

trialization and value-capture, but it also deepens the scale and speed of interventions that threaten to dispossess communities and externalize environmental and social costs. Critically, the militarization or securitization of mineral supply chains—where access and reliability trump distributive justice—can lock countries and territories into extractive boom-and-bust dynamics rather than durable, diversified development.

These converging dynamics—debt dependence, the geopolitics of minerals, and nascent reparations politics—and the findings from this survey yield three central takeaways for policy and research in the Asia-Pacific.

Reparations as structural reform, not charity.

Movements' insistence on reparations reframes the problem from one of "aid" to one of liability and structural redistribution. This reframing requires policymakers to move beyond ad hoc funding windows toward mechanisms that reduce debt burdens (debt cancellation, debt-for-climate swaps), expand grant finance, and institutionalize participation rights for affected communities in financing decisions. Guided by movement demands, reparations should aim to restore fiscal sovereignty and create fiscal space for public investment in social and green infrastructures.

Prioritize local value-capture and governance over raw extraction. For transitions to be just, policies must emphasize onshore processing, technology transfer, and community benefit sharing rather than simply becoming mineral exporters for foreign value chains. This requires enforceable local content rules, transparent contracts, stronger land and FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent) protections, and regional industrial strategies that resist capture by narrow geopolitical bargains. Development finance institutions need to reorient from loan-driven models toward catalytic equity and grant instruments that support local capacities and environmental safeguards.

Link climate finance to debt and governance reform.

Operationalizing reparative finance entails coupling climate funding with debt relief and governance reforms that prevent future subordination. Examples include debt-for-climate swaps, restructuring

that limits debt service to sustainable thresholds, and creditor frameworks that make private bondholders share adjustment costs. At the multilateral level, progress will require greater representation of Global South priorities in IMF/World Bank governance and new international instruments (e.g., a UN debt convention or a formal loss-and-damage replenishment mechanism) that institutionalize responsibility and transparent dispute resolution.

Finally, the ethical and political demands of climate reparations create a test for solidarity politics in the region. If reparations are to be more than symbolic, they must transform the legal-financial architecture that reproduces extraction and dependence. That requires not only technical redesigns of finance but also political alliances—between labor movements, Indigenous communities, anti-debt coalitions and transformative policies—that can translate global moral claims into enforceable policy and institutional changes. Asia-Pacific's position at the intersection of critical minerals, state capital, and vibrant social movements makes it both especially vulnerable and especially consequential: how the region negotiates reparative demands will materially shape whether the energy transition becomes a vehicle of restitution and democratic development, or reiterates the long history of extractive inequity.

As the Just Transition framework and other frameworks for reparative climate action proliferate among major international organizations and institutions based in the Global North, there is the risk that these frameworks and the multiple principles, processes, and practices that foster just transitions will be stripped of their transformative power and the insights and imperatives outlined above. It is thus imperative that as their collaboration with and support of Asia-Pacific climate, agri-food, and environmental organizations continues and grows, Global North countries, organizations, and institutions persistently take seriously and uplift the multifaceted efforts towards reparative just transitions, beginning with their role in the crisis, and in service of just transitions globally.

APPENDIX A

Full List of Organizations Surveyed

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, KYRGYZSTAN, PAKISTAN, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN

Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA) /
Agrarian Reform Movement Alliance

INDONESIA

Arc En Ciel / Rainbow

LEBANON

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture
and Bioresources (ANSAB)

NEPAL

Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance

AUSTRALIA

Bangladesh Environment and Development
Society (BEDS)

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative (BYEI)

BANGLADESH

Centre for Environment, Technology &
Development, Malaysia (CETDEM)

MALAYSIA

Centre for Peace and Secular Studies

PAKISTAN

جمعية جدائل خضراء البيئية
Environmental Green Trees Association

SYRIA

Food First Information & Action Network
of Sri Lanka (FIAN)

SRI LANKA

Forests for Certain: Forests for Life! (FORCERT)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Forum Kedaulatan Makanan Malaysia (FKMM) /
Malaysian Food Sovereignty Forum

MALAYSIA

Friends of the Mariana Trench

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Green Camel Bell

CHINA

Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy
Environment and Sustainable Economy, Inc.
(Green Convergence)

PHILIPPINES

Greenpeace Southeast Asia (Malaysia)

MALAYSIA

Jaringan JAGA DECA / JAGA DECA Network

INDONESIA

Jibal / Mountains

LEBANON

الجمعية الأردنية لمكافحة التصحر وتنمية البادية
Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and
Badia Development

JORDAN

IRO Organization for Community Development

IRAQ

Kastom Gaden Association / Customary Gardening
Association

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Konfederasi Persatuan Buruh Indonesia (KPBI) /
Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions

INDONESIA

Lanka Organic Agricultural Movement (LOAM)

SRI LANKA

LEADERS Nepal

NEPAL

Malaysian Nature Society

MALAYSIA

Marine Environment Awareness and Response Team

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)

MICRONESIA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, PALAU, GUAM,
NORTHERNMARIANA ISLANDS

Mountain Hazelnuts

BHUTAN

North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS)

INDIA

Olive Ridley Project

MALDIVES

Organization for Sustainable Integrated Development

AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

PAKISTAN

Palestine Heirloom Seed Library

PALESTINE

جمعية الهيدرولوجيين الفلسطينيين لتطوير مصادر المياه والبيئة

Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water & Environmental Resources Development

PALESTINE

Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy

PALESTINE

People and Nature Reconciliation

VIETNAM

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty

BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL,
PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA, THAILAND

Ponlok Khmer / People and Knowledge of Highlanders

CAMBODIA

Progres Foundation / Progress Foundation

TURKMENISTAN

Raks Thai Foundation

THAILAND

Research & Conservation Foundation of Papua New Guinea

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Samsoor Watan Organisation for Environment

AFGHANISTAN

Society for Rural Education and Development

INDIA

Sustainable Development Organization of Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN

Sustainable Goals Organization for Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN

Sydney Environment Institute

AUSTRALIA, INDIA, PHILIPPINES

Taze Zaman / New Era

TURKMENISTAN

Te Mana O Te Moana / The Spirit of the Ocean

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AUSTRALIA

The Habibie Center

INDONESIA

Torang

INDIA

Vava'u Environmental Protection Association

TONGA

Vikas Adhyayan Kendra / Center for Development Studies

INDIA

Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization
(KOTHOWAIN)

BANGLADESH

Water, Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS)

PAKISTAN

Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)

NEPAL

Yayasan Get Plastic Indonesia / Get Plastic Indonesia
Foundation

INDONESIA

Yayasan PATTIRO / PATTIRO Foundation

INDONESIA

Zan va Zamin / Women and Earth

TAJIKISTAN

APPENDIX B

Survey Questions

Part One: Contact Information and Overview of your Organization

Q1. First and Last Name

Q2. Preferred language(s) for communication

Q3. Name of organization:

Q4. Year organization established:

Q5. Your role within the organization:

Q6. Please list the country/countries where your organization operates:

Q7. Please list funding sources (e.g., government, philanthropy, international agencies, individual donors, etc.):

Q8. Please include a website address and any social media links for your organization:

Part Two: Identified Issue Areas, Solutions, and Frameworks of your Organization

Q9. What are the primary communities your organization serves? (Please select your top three choices):

- Displaced persons
- Indigenous, caste, or ethnicity-based groups
- Elderly
- Farmers
- Fisherpeople
- General population
- Persons with disabilities
- Poor and low-income populations
- Rural populations
- Unemployed people/informal workers
- Urban populations
- Women
- Workers
- Youth

Q10. What are the primary climatic problems your organization is trying to address? (Please select your top three choices):

- Desertification
- Drought
- Extreme temperature
- Floods
- Monsoons
- Pollution
- Rising sea levels and coastal erosion
- Soil erosion
- Typhoons/Cyclones
- Water shortages
- Wildfires

Q11. What are the primary socio-environmental problems your organization is trying to address? (Please select your top three choices):

- Agricultural pests

- Bureaucratic and regulatory issues
- Debt and finance
- Deforestation
- Disease
- Environmental/resource-related gender-based violence
- Environmental/resource-related caste/ethnicity-based violence
- Food insecurity
- Foreign ownership (land)
- Foreign ownership (infrastructure)
- Governance and decision-making processes
- Limited infrastructure
- Non-renewable energy
- Pollution
- Unequal energy access
- Land tenure
- Poverty
- Resource extraction
- Soil fertility and land exhaustion
- Waste management
- Water privatization and rights

Part Three: Identified Solutions and Frameworks of your Organization

Q12. What does your organization believe are the short-term solutions to the issues your organization is trying to address?
(Please select your top three choices):

- Advance food sovereignty
- Advance farmers' land rights
- Advance women's rights
- Advance Indigenous peoples' rights
- Advance community-controlled renewable energy systems
- Cancel or mitigate external national debt
- Increase access to low-carbon, livelihood-enhancing technologies (agricultural equipment, clean cook stoves, etc.)
- Increase or improve environmental regulations (emissions and fuel quality standards, protected areas, etc.)
- Improve physical infrastructure (dams,

reservoirs, seawalls, etc.)

- Support fisherpeople's rights and access to safe aquatic ecosystems
- Waste reduction and management

Q13. What does your organization believe are the long-term solutions to the issues your organization is trying to address?
(Please select your top three choices):

- Collectivization of farming (agricultural cooperatives, state farms, etc.)
- Develop shared ownership models, closed-loop supply chains, and the redesign of economic systems to prioritize ecological and social well-being
- Eliminate poverty
- End predatory extractivist models of development
- Ensure food sovereignty
- Incorporate climate and socio-environmental education into primary and secondary education
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into policy and practice
- Improve public health infrastructures
- Improve public transportation infrastructures
- Improve aquatic ecosystems, fisherpeople's rights, and sustainable fishing practices
- Reduce GHG emissions in the top-emitting countries
- Reduce GHG emissions in your country
- Scale up sustainable agriculture (agroecological methods, reduced petrochemical fertilizer and pesticide use, soil restoration techniques, etc.)
- Strengthen citizens' participation in the political process
- Strengthen regulations for multinational corporation/s
- Transition away from a fossil fuel-based economy

Q14. What work is your organization actively doing to advance toward these short and long-term solutions? (Please select your top three choices):

- Consulting with civil society
- Consulting with multinational corporation/s
- Consulting with government
- Consulting with impacted communities
- Green jobs training
- Leadership development
- Legal litigation
- Organizing campaigns and advocacy with communities
- Providing educational curricula on socio-environmental systems
- Raising public awareness
- Research, analysis, and policy advocacy
- Securing and distributing funding to individuals, families, or communities
- Securing and distributing technology

Q15. Is your organization using particular frameworks or concepts to guide its work? (Please select your top three choices):

- Agrarian reform
- Anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, and/or anti-capitalism
- Conservation
- Circular economy and/or regenerative economy
- Ecology
- Feminism and/or ecofeminism
- Environmentalism
- Equity
- Food sovereignty
- Human rights
- Just Transition
- Labor rights
- Self-reliance
- Social Justice
- Sovereignty
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Traditional knowledge
- Women's rights

Part Four: Partner Organizations, Types of Support Your Organization Needs, and Engagement

Q16. At what scale does your organization conduct its work? (Please select all that apply):

- At the local level
- At the national level
- Across multiple neighboring countries
- Across the entire Asia-Pacific region
- At the global level

Q17. Does your organization work with other environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations in the Asia-Pacific region?

- Yes
- No

Q18. Please list the Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations your organization works with, where they conduct their work (if applicable), and a contact person with their contact information (if available):

...

Q19. Does your organization work with environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations outside of the Asia-Pacific region?

- Yes
- No

Q20. Please list the non-Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations your organization works with, and where they conduct their work (if applicable):

...

Q21. What kinds of material support does your organization need to remedy the challenges it seeks to address? (Please select your top three choices):

- Information technology infrastructure (hardware, software, networks, etc.)
- Staff training
- Funding
- Research
- Technology and intellectual property transfers
- Training (IT, Research and Development, funding procurement, etc.)

Q22. What kinds of institutional support does your organization need to remedy the challenges it seeks to address? (Please select your top three choices):

- Connections to international organizations and networks
- Connections to regional organizations and networks
- Connections to international funders
- Legal advice

Q23. Overall, how effectively do Global North NGOs address the most important environmental, agri-food, and climate problems that affect the communities or constituencies your organization serves?

- Very effectively

- Somewhat effectively
- Not effectively

Q24. What can Global North NGOs do to support Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations more effectively? (Please select your top three choices):

- Advocate for increased regulations on multinational corporation/s
- Amplify and center the voices and knowledge of Asia-Pacific organizations to Global North governments and civil society
- Foster working relationships and partnerships among Asia-Pacific organizations
- Foster working relationships and partnerships between Asia-Pacific organizations and Global North civil society
- Focus on shifting policies and practices within their home countries to reduce the exploitation and extraction of land, resources, and labor from the Asia-Pacific region and Asia-Pacific peoples
- Increase their activities in Asia-Pacific
- Modify and conduct their activities in line with suggestions, insights, and demands from Asia-Pacific organizations
- Pay closer attention to the work done by Asia-Pacific organizations
- Provide unrestricted funding
- Provide technology or technological equipment
- Provide skill-based training
- Reduce their activities in Asia-Pacific
- Reduce the administrative burden placed on community organizations when they receive funding
- Share research findings

Q25. Do you think people outside the Asia-Pacific region adequately understand the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific peoples?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

Q26. Do you think environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations outside of the Asia-Pacific region adequately understand the risks that the climate crisis and other agri-food and environmental problems pose to Asia-Pacific peoples?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

Q27. What should Asia-Pacific environmental, agri-food, and climate organizations demand from the international community to address the social and environmental problems facing Asia-Pacific communities? (Please select your top three choices):

- Genuine commitment to transparent, equitable, and mutually beneficial trade agreements
- Greater commitment to reducing GHG emissions and fossil fuel financing
- Increased access to unrestricted private funds
- Increased access to unrestricted public funds
- Increased regulations on multinational corporation/s
- Increased technology transfer

- Improve equitable transnational dispute

mechanisms

- Public investment in Asia-Pacific sustainable agriculture
- Public investment in Asia-Pacific education

- Public investment in Asia-Pacific physical infrastructures
- Public investment in Asia-Pacific public health infrastructures
- Increase the presence of Asia-Pacific organizations in international bodies
- Oppose the militarization of the Asia-Pacific region
- Oppose impunity for gender-based and caste/ethnicity-based violence in environmental/resource-related conflicts
- Challenge the economic exploitation of Asia-Pacific's natural resources by multinational corporation/s

Q28. Please include additional information you would like to share with our team, or use this space to elaborate on any of your answers to the survey questions. (Write-in your response below):

...

Endnotes

- 1** Our survey analysis and survey included regional countries and territories beyond the UN “Regional Groups of Member States of Asia-Pacific Group.” These include the countries of Australia and New Zealand, the self-governed territories of Hong Kong and Nuie, and the non-UN Member States of Palestine and Taiwan. These countries and territories were included due to their geopolitical importance and contributions to just transitions in the Asia-Pacific region. As a note, we weren’t able to research or contact any organization in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to participate in our survey.
- 2** Though the Just Transition framework is not inherently about the climate crisis, it is often invoked in the context of energy transitions away from fossil fuels and to alternative energy sources. See Becca Wilgosh, Alevgul H. Sorman, and Iñaki Barcena, “When Two Movements Collide: Learning from Labour and Environmental Struggles for Future Just Transitions,” *Futures* 137 (2002): <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328722000039>.
- 3** Hamza Hamouchene and Katie Sandwell, eds., *Dismantling Green Colonialism: Energy and Climate Justice in the Arab Region* (London: Pluto Press / Transnational Institute, 2023), <https://www.tni.org/en/dossier/dismantling-green-colonialism>
- 4** United Nations, *Extractive Industries: Transition to Sustainable Systems. Regional Policy Brief*. 2021, https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/05/final_regional_brief_on_extractive_industries.pdf.
- 5** Bishwa Nath Tiwari and Sangji Lee, “Building Policy Coherence to Foster a ‘Just Transition’ Across Asia and the Pacific,” *SDG Asia-Pacific*, April 30, 2025, [https://sdgasiapacific.net/stories/build-](https://sdgasiapacific.net/stories/building-policy-coherence-foster-%E2%80%98just-transition%E2%80%99-across-asia-and-pacific)
- [ing-policy-coherence-foster-%E2%80%98just-transition%E2%80%99-across-asia-and-pacific](https://sdgasiapacific.net/stories/building-policy-coherence-foster-%E2%80%98just-transition%E2%80%99-across-asia-and-pacific).
- 6** The Just Transition (JT) framework is an umbrella framework encompassing multiple principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from extractive economies to regenerative ones. It centers the leadership and rights of workers, frontline communities, and marginalized groups in shaping this transformation, ensuring that the move toward sustainability also advances social, racial, and environmental justice. Because such manifold efforts are place-based and contextual, we refer to them broadly as “just transitions.” Hossein Ayazi, Dimitri Diagne, Elsadig Elsheikh, and Basima Sisemore, “African Just Transitions: Assessing the Activities, Strategies, and Needs of African Climate, Agri-food, and Environmental Organizations” (Berkeley, CA: Othering & Belonging Institute, 2023), belonging.berkeley.edu/african-just-transitions.
- 7** “List of accredited organizations,” United Nations Environment Programme,” United Nations Environment Programme, accessed November 18, 2025, <https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement/accreditation/list-accredited-organizations>.
- 8** “Regional Groups of Member States,” United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, accessed November 18, 2025, <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/regional-groups>.
- 9** “Reports,” *Progres.Online*, last updated May 4, 2025, <https://progres.online/category/reports/>.
- 10** Ting Zhang, “A Conflict-Sensitive Approach to Climate Change in Urbanising Asia-Pacific,” (Working Paper No. 7, The Hague Institute for Global Justice, 2015), https://thehagueinstituteforglobaljustice.org/files/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/working-paper-7-climate-change-in-urbanizing_asia-pacific.pdf.
- 11** Hamouchene and Sandwell, *Dismantling Green Colonialism*.
- 12** Joshua Glass, “Modern Slavery: The Hidden Obstacle to Achieving Climate Justice,” *Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law* 26, no. 1 (2023): 62–85, <https://doi.org/10.4337/apjel.2023.01.03>.
- 13** International Labour Organization, *Green Jobs*

and a Just Transition for Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2022), <https://www.ilo.org/publications/green-jobs-and-just-transition-climate-action-asia-and-pacific>.

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15 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme, *2025 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report: Delivering a Just Transition: Advancing Decent Work, Gender Equality and Social Protection* (Bangkok: United Nations, 2025), <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/SPR250060-2>.

16 Jagjit Kaur Plahe, Shona Hawkes, and Sunil Ponnampereuma, “The Corporate Food Regime and Food Sovereignty in the Pacific Islands,” *The Contemporary Pacific* 25, no. 2 (2013): 309–338, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/cp.2013.0034>.

17 Amit Singh, Atishma Lal, and Janez Susnik, “Living in Oceania,” in *The Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Asia and the Pacific*, eds. Andrew Danise et al. (Cham: Springer Cham, 2024), 348, https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-25463-5_15.

18 Isabella Kaminski, “Nations who fail to curb fossil fuels could be ordered to pay reparations, top UN court rules,” *The Guardian*, July 23, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jul/23/healthy-environment-is-a-human-right-top-un-court-rules>.

19 Sharon Seah et al., *Energy Transitions in ASEAN: COP26 Policy Report* (Singapore: British High Commission and the COP26 Universities Network, 2021), https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6204c9728fa8f5109bfe1183/Energy_Transitions_COP26_Universities_Network_Policy_Report.pdf.

20 Translations were conducted by native speakers familiar with the survey’s thematic context. Particular attention was given to culturally sensitive or conceptually nuanced terms (e.g., “just transition,” “extrac-

tive economies”) to preserve their intended meaning across languages.

21 Matthew G. Allen and Keith Barney, “Resource-making, materiality and the disruptive geographies of the extractive industries in the Asia-Pacific,” *Extractive Industries and Society* 6, no. 3 (2019): 733–736, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2019.06.006>.

22 Olúfemi O. Táíwò, *Reconsidering Reparations: Why Climate Justice and Constructive Politics Are Needed in the Wake of Slavery and Colonialism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

23 Transnational Institute, *State of Power 2025: Geopolitics of Capitalism* (Amsterdam: Transnational Institute, 2025), <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/geopolitics-of-capitalism>.

The Othering & Belonging Institute brings together researchers, community stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify and challenge the barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society in order to create transformative change.



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