



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 41273-01
Research and Development Technical Assistance (RDТА)
May 2009

Preparation of the 2010 Asian Environment Outlook

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AEO	–	Asian Environment Outlook
MCED	–	Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development
RSDD	–	Regional and Sustainable Development Department
SOE	–	state of environment
TA	–	technical assistance
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	–	United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Type	–	Research and development technical assistance (RDTA)
Targeting Classification	–	General intervention
Sectors (subsectors)	–	Multisector: agriculture and natural resources (land-based natural resources management), energy (energy efficiency and conservation), transport and ICT (transport management and policies)
Theme (subthemes)	–	Environmental sustainability (environmental policy and legislation, eco-efficiency)
Climate Change	–	Climate change mitigation and adaptation
Impact	–	Regional (high)
Partnerships	–	United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

Vice-President	U. Schäfer-Preuss, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development
Director General	X. Yao, Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD)
Director	N. Ahmad, Environment and Safeguards Division, RSDD
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. A state of environment (SOE) report has been prepared by the United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) every 5 years since 1985. Since 1990, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided technical and financial support to UNESCAP for the preparation of the SOE report and the organization of the associated Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED). In addition, in 2001 and 2005 ADB published a companion document to the SOE, the Asian Environment Outlook (AEO) to provide its developing member countries with (i) in-depth analysis of key trends in environmental performance and management and (ii) high-level policy advice to improve the mainstreaming of environmental considerations in economic development planning and decision making.

2. The assessments provided by the SOEs and the AEOs have been consistently used by a wide range of stakeholders including policy makers, researchers, civil society representatives, and the wider public. The SOE reports, and more recently the AEO reports, have also been key inputs to the MCED meetings, highlighting policy options for priority environmental issues.

3. Recent discussions among ADB, UNESCAP, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have stressed the need for the SOE report to become less a descriptive and scientific publication and more an analytical report to better support policy discussions, planning, and decision making. As a result, instead of having two separate publications in 2010, the three organizations have decided to jointly produce the 2010 AEO.

4. The 2010 AEO will serve as a key input and background resource document for the 2010 MCED meeting scheduled for mid-2010 in Kazakhstan. Given the timing, and in view of the need to start preparing the report soon, UNESCAP requested in 2008 ADB and UNEP technical and financial assistance in preparing the publication. A technical assistance (TA) Fact-Finding Mission was fielded in January 2009 to respond to this request and consider how best to provide ADB assistance through proposed TA for the 2010 AEO.¹ This TA has been formulated to provide support to the preparation of the joint publication in time for the MCED 2010 meeting and for further launching and disseminating its findings and outputs at several associated events related to sustainable development, environment, and climate change. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

II. ISSUES

5. Despite robust economic growth in recent years, countries in the Asia and Pacific region have generally made limited progress in achieving environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth. From an environmental standpoint, this has resulted in such problems as worsening urban air and water pollution, continuing soil erosion, accelerated desertification and water scarcity, and the loss of endangered species and vital natural habitats, including forests and coral reefs. Without timely and proper interventions to shift economic growth patterns, these environmental problems and the compounding effects of climate change—shortages of water and food and greater risks to health and life that are already happening—will worsen in the future. The challenge to the region is, therefore, to ensure that the ongoing environmental degradation is halted so that it will neither undermine development processes nor reverse the

¹ The research and development TA concept entered the Regional and Sustainable Development Department 2008–2010 regional TA program on 9 July 2007 under the title Asian Environment Outlook 2010. The TA is classified as category B (simple project). It first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 15 April 2009.

poverty reduction gains achieved. It is now widely believed that this goal can be achieved through a shift to an environmentally sustainable growth pattern, also called "green growth."

6. Asian and Pacific societies are likely to face worsening environment-related risks during the 21st century, as most countries in the region are already highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Climate change projections indicate that extreme weather and such hydrological hazards as floods and droughts are likely to become more frequent and intense, and that poor and marginalized groups will be the most vulnerable to related risks because of their existing exposure to water, food, and health insecurity. The projected rate and magnitude of climate change and its likely impacts are far beyond the adaptive capacity of many communities, especially the poorest. Options and capacity to mitigate these risks will largely depend on the resilience of socioeconomic and environmental systems facing these mounting environmental pressures and worsening risk profiles.

7. Asia's rapid economic growth in recent years, combined with brisk urbanization and continued population increase, is changing consumption patterns for a wide range of material, energy, and water resources to an unprecedented degree. Various forms of waste—solid waste, air pollutants, greenhouse gases, lost heat, contaminated water, and lost water—are generated with costs to human health and economic efficiency that threaten the prosperity of the region and its advances in poverty reduction. Efficiency of resource use in production and consumption remains low by global standards and generates a lot of waste per unit of products or services created. Improving resource efficiency is becoming increasingly important to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. New approaches to reducing, reusing, and recycling wastes are essential to the sustainable future of Asian and Pacific economies.

8. The call to adopt environmentally sustainable economic growth has been issued in different forms, including the SOE 2005 and its associated fifth MCED. This call is even more urgent now, as climate change has highlighted the impact of economic growth on environmental systems, and regional governments increasingly struggle to mainstream concern for the environment into economic planning and decision making. In relation to this, UNESCAP and its partners, including ADB, have recently moved beyond the advocacy phase of promoting green growth into capacity building and pressure for policy action regionally and nationally. This requires deeper insights into factors affecting the environmental sustainability of economic growth and better support for decision makers and key stakeholders, including those in the private sector, regarding policy options.

9. With respect to ADB, recent institutional and corporate strategy developments have reaffirmed the centrality and urgency of the green growth agenda. In particular, through its long-term strategic framework 2008–2020 (Strategy 2020),² ADB has confirmed the importance of environmentally sustainable growth in its mission to reduce poverty by identifying environmental sustainability as one of the three pillars of the strategy and environmental investments as one of the five core areas of operations. ADB's *Environment Policy* (2002) and several other sector policies with environmental relevance provide additional guidance. In response to Strategy 2020, several new programs and activities are emerging to deal with the environmental and climate change challenges facing the region. Collaboration with UNESCAP, UNEP, and other partners for the 2010 AEO is considered an essential element of this response.

² ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank 2008–2020*. Manila.

10. It is not yet sufficiently clear how environmentally sustainable economic growth can best be characterized and promoted, especially in terms of the key economic policy drivers or the indicators that may be useful for monitoring sustainability outcomes. There is an urgent need to (i) understand the nature of sustainability and the linkages between economic growth patterns and social and environmental outcomes, (ii) monitor progress towards decoupling economic growth from environmental pressure, and (iii) explore policy options that are applicable to Asian and Pacific development contexts. The 2010 AEO exercise will thus be centered on making green growth operational and, in particular, on its two key dimensions of enhanced resilience³ and resource efficiency.

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

11. The intended impact of the proposed TA is to improve the understanding of decision makers and key stakeholders regarding the main trends and policy implications of promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth. In particular, the TA is expected to document and disseminate in the region analyses of key factors affecting environmental sustainability, such as the resilience and resource efficiency of economic development processes. TA findings will include priority options and recommendations for sustainable development policy and financing.

12. The outputs of the TA will be (i) the 2010 AEO (main report), (ii) a 2010 AEO highlights or summary, (iii) short policy briefs for ministerial readers, and (iv) the launch of the main report and other TA outputs, as well as their dissemination at associated international events on the environment. The primary output of the TA is the publication of the 2010 AEO, which will assess environmental sustainability patterns and prospects for Asian and Pacific developing countries, especially in terms of the resilience and resource efficiency of economic growth in the region, with recommendations to decision makers regarding high-priority policy actions, financing mechanisms, and other interventions to promote sustainable development. Secondary outputs will include the highlights or summary of the main publication, ministerial policy briefs, and the extensive dissemination of the findings of the report, to be initiated by a major media launch during the MCED meeting in 2010.

B. Methodology and Key Activities

13. The TA will produce the following outputs:
- (i) **Output 1: 2010 AEO.** The report will be jointly produced by ADB, UNESCAP, and UNEP, with UNESCAP ultimately responsible for finalizing and publishing it. The report will be prepared by a select group of international experts and other contributing organizations coordinated by the three agencies.
 - (ii) **Output 2: 2010 AEO highlights or summary.** The team of experts will prepare a publication presenting the highlights or a summary of the main report, emphasizing its major findings and key policy recommendations.
 - (iii) **Output 3: 2010 AEO policy briefs.** A number of topical policy briefs will be prepared based on the main report as additional TA products. These briefs will

³ Resilience has been defined as the ability to recover from or adjust easily to adverse impacts or change. Applied to ecological systems and by extension to socioeconomic systems, resilience is the capacity of a system to bounce back and return to its original state after a disaster or major impact or change. More generally, resilience is the amount of disturbance a system can absorb and remain in the same state and the degree to which a system is capable of recovery and self-organization. Resilience has been increasingly used as a term describing a system's capacity to adapt to climate change.

be published as short, attractive documents intended to provide ministers and other key policy makers with cutting-edge analysis of policy options on specific topics such as renewable energy, climate change and resilience, resource efficiency, and environmental vulnerability, among others.

- (iv) **Output 4: Launch and dissemination of the main report and associated TA outputs.** Through the TA, the principal findings of the analysis will be launched during the MCED 2010. Other major environment-related events will be identified for disseminating the findings and outputs of the report. These may include the 2010 Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan and the Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in 2010.

14. A few additional thematic studies associated with the 2010 AEO main report will be prepared by UNESCAP and UNEP, using their own resources and focusing on specific areas such as low-carbon development and resource efficiency.

C. Cost and Financing

15. The total TA cost is estimated at \$613,000 equivalent. ADB will finance \$500,000 as a grant from its TA funding program (TASF-IV). UNEP will provide on a parallel basis, \$90,000 equivalent, and UNESCAP will provide, on a parallel basis, \$23,000 equivalent for the TA. Details of the cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

16. The TA will be implemented over 15 months commencing in May 2009 and ending in August 2010.

17. ADB is the Executing Agency for the TA, which will be co-implemented by ADB and UNESCAP in close coordination with UNEP. ADB will take the lead in recruiting and managing consultants for the TA, in close coordination with UNESCAP, in consultation with UNEP, and in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2007, as amended from time to time). Three individual international consultants will be recruited under the regional TA. A sustainable development policy specialist will be responsible for oversight and quality control of the main report and its preparation, with inputs of 5 person-months. An environment policy specialist will be recruited for 3 person-months and a resource economist for 4 person-months. The outline terms of reference are in Appendix 3. Additional individual national consultants, including a publication and communication specialist, will be hired to carry out technical editing and other work related to the launch events; promotion of the report; and production of report highlights, brochures, posters, and other promotional materials, both web based and not. All consultants will be intermittently based in UNESCAP headquarters office in Bangkok.

18. ADB, UNESCAP, and UNEP will jointly prepare the outputs of the TA. UNESCAP, in consultation with ADB and UNEP, will be the agency in charge of organizing the MCED meeting in 2010 and responsible for managing the finalization and publication of the 2010 AEO, including research coordination and text preparation, collaboration, expert discussions and review, and the editing and printing of the report and other promotional materials. UNESCAP will take the lead in launching and promoting the report. TA support for MCED and other environment-related events will be included in the international sustainable development policy specialist's contract as a provisional amount. The TA will provide support for resource persons, including ADB staff, who will participate in the MCED meeting and related launch events.

19. Disbursement under the TA will be made in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook*.⁴

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 equivalent on a grant basis for the Preparation of the 2010 Asian Environment Outlook, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

⁴ ADB. 2008. *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook*. Manila.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Impact Improved and wider understanding of key trends relating to the environmental sustainability of economic growth and associated policy implications, especially in terms of priority options and recommendations, for sustainable development policy and financing</p>	<p>Increase in number of national development strategies and ADB country partnership strategies (CPS) that integrate environmental sustainability objectives</p> <p>Increase in amount of ADB projects with environmental sustainability as theme till achievement of Strategy 2020 targets</p>	<p>National development plans and similar reports (poverty reduction strategies papers, new fiscal stimulus package reflecting green new deal opportunities, and sector development plans)</p> <p>CPS, country environmental analysis, regional cooperation strategy and program, country operations, business plan, environment thematic report and environment program</p> <p>Annual Reports of ADB, UNEP, and ESCAP</p> <p>Back-to-office reports of consultations with UNEP, UNESCAP, and country governments</p>	<p>Assumption Commitment, resources, and adequate capacity of UNESCAP, ADB, and UNEP to jointly produce TA outputs, with UNESCAP having the ultimate responsibility for finalizing the main report and organizing the MCED meeting</p> <p>Risk Lack of commitment and capacity by national governments and regional institutions</p>
<p>Outcome Documentation and dissemination of analyses on environmentally sustainable economic growth in the region, with a focus on resilience and resource efficiency</p>	<p>The 2010 AEO main report is launched at MCED by mid-2010 and in other environment-related events</p>	<p>Events proceedings</p>	<p>Assumption Strong participation of senior decision makers and key stakeholders—will attend MCED and other environment-related meetings</p> <p>Risk Lack of organizational capacity, especially in UNESCAP</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. 2010 AEO main report</p> <p>2. 2010 AEO highlights or summary</p> <p>3. 2010 AEO policy briefs</p>	<p>2010 AEO main report published by December 2009</p> <p>2010 AEO highlights or summary published by October 2009</p> <p>2010 AEO policy briefs</p>	<p>RSDD report on knowledge products completed in 2009 and 2010</p> <p>RSDD report on knowledge products completed in 2009 and 2010</p> <p>RSDD report on</p>	<p>Assumption AEO report is prepared on schedule</p> <p>Risk Delays in report production</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
4. Launch and dissemination of the 2010 AEO main report	published by October 2009 The 2010 AEO main report is launched at MCED by mid-2010 and at other environment-related events.	knowledge products completed in 2009 and 2010 Events proceedings	
Activities with Milestones Preparation of the 2010 AEO Main Report and Highlights or Summary 1.1 Finalize the main report outline by May 2009. 1.2 Finalize terms of reference and hire consultants by May 2009. 1.3 Prepare draft and layout of the report by August 2009. 1.4 Circulate draft report for review by August 2009. 1.5 Discuss the draft main report in a workshop by September 2009. 1.6 Finalize the main report by November 2009. 1.7 Publish the main report by January 2010. 1.8 Prepare the highlights or summary of the report by November 2009. 1.9 Publish the highlights or summary by December 2009. Launch and Dissemination of the 2010 AEO Main Report 2.1 Identify resource persons for the MCED meeting by December 2009. 2.2 Prepare for the MCED meeting by January 2010. 2.3 Present the main findings of the report at MCED by June 2010. 2.4 Present the main findings in other major environment-related events, to be decided.			Inputs ADB: \$500,000 UNEP: \$90,000 UNESCAP: \$23,000

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AEO = Asian Environmental Outlook, MCED = Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, RSDD = Regional and Sustainable Development Department, TA = technical assistance, UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme, UNESCAP = United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Total Cost
A. Asian Development Bank Financing^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	
i. International Consultants	255.00
ii. National Consultants	25.00
b. International and Local Travel	40.00
c. Reports and Communications	40.00
2. Training, Seminars, and Conferences	
a. MCED and Other Environment-Related Events	30.00
b. Resource Persons ^b	40.00
3. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs ^c	20.00
4. Contingencies	50.00
Subtotal (A)	500.00
B. UNEP Financing^d	
1. Consultants	
a. Reports and Communications	70.00
2. Training, Seminars, and Conferences	
a. MCED and Other Environment-Related Events	20.00
Subtotal (B)	90.00
C. UNESCAP Financing^d	
2. Training, Seminars, and Conferences	
a. MCED and Other Environment-Related Events	23.00
Subtotal (C)	23.00
Total	613.00

MCED = Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme, UNESCAP = United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

^a Financed by the technical assistance funding program (TASF IV) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

^b Travel support will be provided to ADB staff and other experts as speakers or resource persons in MCED and other related meetings.

^c Includes cost for support staff, supplies and materials, document reproduction, and other administrative cost particularly for the MCED meeting.

^d Indicative figures as of March 2009. Financing of UNEP and UNESCAP will be provided on a parallel basis.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

A. Sustainable Development Policy Specialist (international, 5 person-months)

1. The sustainable development policy specialist will undertake the following tasks:
 - (i) Provide technical oversight and quality control for the preparation of the report and associated outputs such as the policy briefs and the executive summary or highlights.
 - (ii) Prepare draft text for the introduction (chapter I) of the report based on the storyline provided by the steering group.
 - (iii) Revise the various drafts of the report based on a review of the technical background papers, thematic reports, chapter drafts, and the inputs and perspectives of experts. Provide recommendations and technical inputs to the other authors of the report, on request, and through United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and/or Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultants as appropriate.
 - (iv) Review and edit the entire text of the report for quality to ensure, in particular, the logic, structure, and flow of the storyline and the consistency of concepts, methodologies, terminology, and data use, as well as suggest additional text as needed.
 - (v) Participate in steering group meetings as appropriate and advise on the production of the report and associated outputs.
 - (vi) Serve as a resource person or participate as appropriate in expert group meetings.
 - (vii) Assist in identifying resource persons and experts for meetings and workshops.
 - (viii) Manage technical assistance (TA) support to the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) and other environment-related events, using the provisional amount included in the contract.
 - (ix) Perform other quality control and oversight tasks as requested by ADB and the steering group.

B. Environmental Policy Specialist (international, 3 person-months)

2. The environmental policy specialist will undertake the following tasks:
 - (i) Prepare the text for high-level policy recommendations (section IV) and other assigned parts of the report and associated outputs, based on a review of the technical background papers, thematic reports, chapter drafts, inputs and perspectives of collaborating institutions, discussions of the expert group, and steering group recommendations, as well as additional research covering the following:
 - (a) Building greener, resource-efficient, resilient, and inclusive economies and societies in Asia nationally by addressing the following questions and others to be determined in the discussions of the expert group and the steering group:
 - (1) What are the major enabling conditions and policies that synergize environmental protection and economic growth?

- (2) What are the major enabling conditions and policies that would drive gains in efficiency (institutional and governance aspects of resource-use transitions)?
 - (3) What are the potential points of intervention and policy sequencing to maximize the double and triple dividend outcomes of resource efficiency (economic, social, and environmental) and guide Asian and Pacific economies towards higher environmental sustainability?
 - (4) What are the major enabling conditions and policies that would drive gains in resilience (institutional and governance aspects of transformation through resilience)?
 - (5) What are the potential points of intervention and policy sequencing to maximize the double and triple dividend outcomes of resilience (including climate resilience) interventions and guide Asian and Pacific economies towards sustainability?
 - (6) Are there specific policies that can synergize resource efficiency and resilience, including climate resilience, related to sustainable consumption and production?
 - (7) As many of these policies are probably not new, what are the usual policy bottlenecks? Which countries are on their way to opening them up and may be successful in making the sustainability transition? Which countries are most likely to be at risk?
- (b) Regional and international action to support resource efficiency, resilience (including climate change resilience), and inclusiveness:
- (1) What are some of the regional and international policy processes that can potentially impact on resilience and resource efficiency? What are the trends in those processes, their potential outcomes, and the implications for Asian and Pacific countries?
 - (2) What are the key points of intervention and priorities for policy makers regionally and internationally to support resilience and resource-use transitions?
- (ii) Carefully review final versions of the entire text and provide constructive comments, inputs, and suggestions, especially on the policy briefs and the highlights to be extracted from the main report.

C. Resource Economist (international, 4 person-months)

3. The resource economist will undertake the following tasks:

- (i) Take primary responsibility for, and conduct oversight of, section III on sustainability themes, covering chapters on resource efficiency, low-carbon development pathways, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods (to be confirmed), including a review of texts, rewriting, coordination with lead authors, and providing substantive inputs as needed and as per guidance from the expert group and the steering group.
- (ii) In close coordination with the sustainable development policy specialist, undertake, at various stages of the preparation process, technical review of the entire publication draft to ensure the consistency of data use, concepts, and methodologies, as well as any other aspect required to ensure the credibility of the report.

- (iii) Serve as a resource person and provide inputs to expert group meeting(s) and the MCED launch, as appropriate.
- (iv) Participate in coordination meetings.
- (v) Provide updates on progress in preparing texts and flagging specific concerns to ADB and UNESCAP, as appropriate.
- (vi) Provide other assistance to the publication team as requested by ADB and UNESCAP.

D. Publication and Communication Specialist (national, 4 person-months)

4. The publication and communication specialist will undertake the following tasks:
- (i) Help ADB and UNESCAP to access additional information to round out the report and related outputs.
 - (ii) Assist with the technical editing of the report and provide comments on the draft.
 - (iii) Organize and supervise the printing and dissemination of the report and associated outputs, including the highlights and corresponding policy briefs.
 - (iv) Liaise and coordinate with UNESCAP staff responsible for organizing the MCED.
 - (v) Perform other duties as assigned by ADB and UNESCAP.
5. **Other Consultants.** Additional consultants may be hired as required to proofread, design, and layout the report and perform other services related to the report launch and communications and other promotional activities.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF THE FINAL REPORT

Resources, Resilience, and Green Growth *Sustainable Development Outlook for Asia and the Pacific, 2010* (Working Title)¹

Part 1

The need for a transition: Out of the crisis into a sustainable future

This section will describe how the sustainable development context is changing. A series of crises signals the tightening of the multidimensional links between a globalizing economy and the natural capital upon which it relies. The need to focus on policies that synergize environmental protection and economic growth is greater than ever. The section stresses that a major crisis can either lead to spiraling negative economic, social, and environmental change or to opportunity for improving the functions and performance of socioeconomic systems through improved resilience and resource efficiency and by addressing other emerging sustainability priorities.

Chapter 1. *The current crisis and the changing sustainable development context*

Chapter 2. *Green growth, resource efficiency, and resilience*

Part II

Sustainability assessment: How are we performing?

This section will describe the current and future performance of Asian and Pacific countries, as far as possible using comparable data and multilevel analysis and focusing on the use of sustainability indicators and other relevant indices. After a conceptual introduction on sustainability, green growth, and the use of sustainability indicators and indexes, each successive subsection of chapter 3 will present data on sustainability and green growth indicators for specific subthemes and by country, with initial conclusions in relation to trends and prospects.² Chapter 4 will draw conclusions on overall performance, trends and trajectories, and future risks and opportunities. It will look at what policy gaps exist and why, pointing the way forward from assessment to new policy directions. The discussion will be supplemented by case studies where appropriate.

Chapter 3. *Sustainability assessment*

Chapter 4. *Trends, risks, and opportunities*

Part III

Towards sustainability: Arenas for action

This section will be future oriented. It will explore key sustainability themes in some detail. Each theme will be analyzed in terms of current status and future scenarios, short- and long-term priorities, and “quick win” policies and interventions, focusing on triple bottom line (economic, social, and environmental) benefits, cost effectiveness, specific sectors, and livelihood and employment benefits. Policy analysis will focus on green growth policies.

¹ This title is preliminary, as it has yet to be agreed by the three agencies.

² These subthemes could include, for example, natural capital, resource efficiency, green jobs and employment, sustainable consumption and production, climate resilience and water security, energy security and low-carbon development. Subthemes are under discussion.

Chapter 5. *Sustainable resource use*

Chapter 6. *Low-carbon development pathways*

Chapter 7. *Resilience and security: Climate, water, and disaster preparedness*

Chapter 8. *Sustainability and society: Inclusive and adaptive governance*

Part IV

The way forward making the sustainability transition: Greening growth and building resilient economies and societies

This section will pull together the conclusions from parts II and III to inform subnational, national, regional, and global policy makers and stakeholders of the way forward toward greening growth and building resource-efficient, resilient, and inclusive economies and societies.

Chapter 9. *Strategic priorities, policy bottlenecks, and "quick wins": A menu of effective policy options*

Chapter 10. *From national to global action: The international and regional policy arena*

Special features. Two- or three-page features will appear in the main report on specific crosscutting issues, e.g., green jobs, sustainable consumption, and sustainable livelihoods, with the specific features and their placement in the report to be determined.

Data tables. These will appear as an annex to the main report (to be confirmed).

Associated Products

Synthesis. Separately presented highlights from the main report will be presented to highlight the main conclusions and storyline.

Policy briefs. Briefs will be published as very short documents intended to provide the ministers and key policy makers with cutting-edge analyses of policy options for specific topics such as renewable energy, climate change (including climate change resilience), resource efficiency, and environmental vulnerability, among others.

Thematic reports. These reports, with a maximum of 50–80 pages, will be separate from the main report but consistent in storyline and look. They will support and complement the storyline of the report but will provide more detailed treatment of specific themes: 1. Resource Efficiency: Economics and Outlook for Asia and the Pacific (with the United Nations Environment Programme as the lead agency); 2. Low-carbon development (with the United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as the lead agency).

Web-versions, CD-ROMs.