

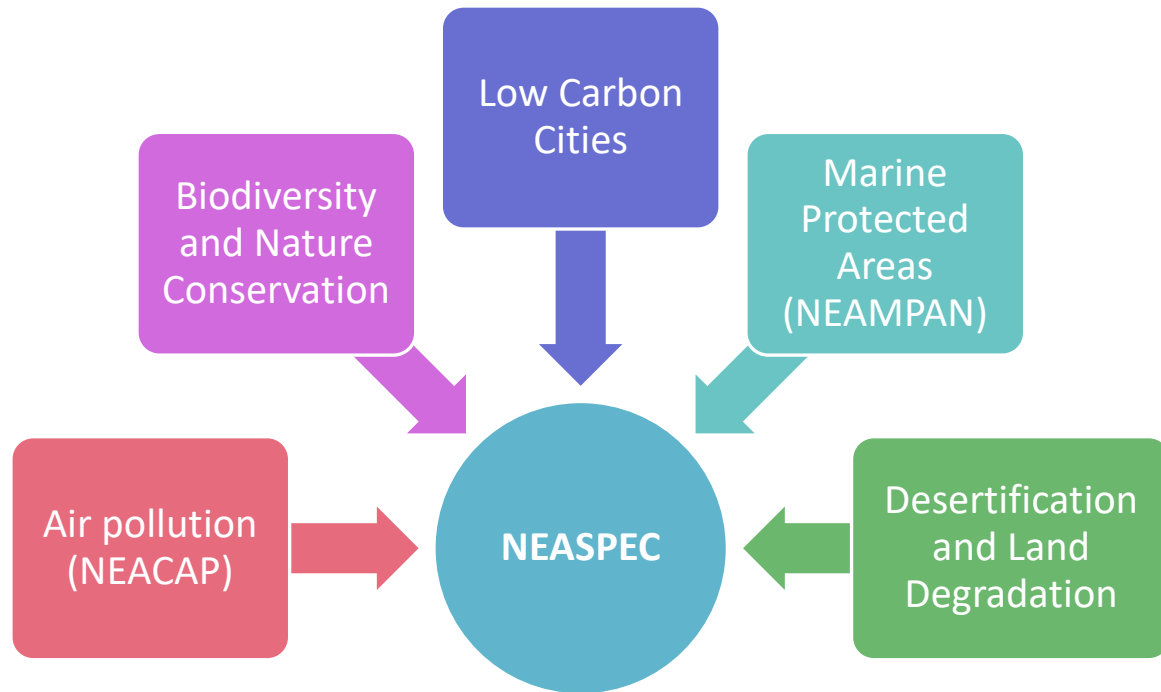
Meeting of NEASPEC National Focal Points

**NEASPEC in Progress and Planned
Activities**

NEASPEC Secretariat

7 April 2022

NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025



Approved by member States at NEASPEC SOM-24 in October 2020

NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025

1. Introduction

Since 1993, North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) has served as a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework in North-East Asia with membership of six countries: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. NEASPEC has pursued a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to address subregional environmental challenges.

The Framework for NEASPEC adopted at the third Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-3) in 1996 sets out the principal objective of the Programme as "to promote subregional environmental cooperation and sustainable development efforts for enhancement of quality of life and well-being of present and future generations". Furthermore, the Vision Statement for NEASPEC adopted at SOM-6 in 2000 calls on member States to "promote common policy dialogue on approaches and views, and coordinated actions on subregional environmental issues".

NEASPEC during 2010-2011 has strengthened the secretariat arrangement with ESCAP from interim to permanent following to the establishment of the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia. In this connection, after a study on challenges and opportunities of NEASPEC in 2012 and a series of consultations, the SOM-20 in 2016 adopted the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2016-2020 to share a long-term view on the direction of NEASPEC and to enhance the efficiency of NEASPEC.

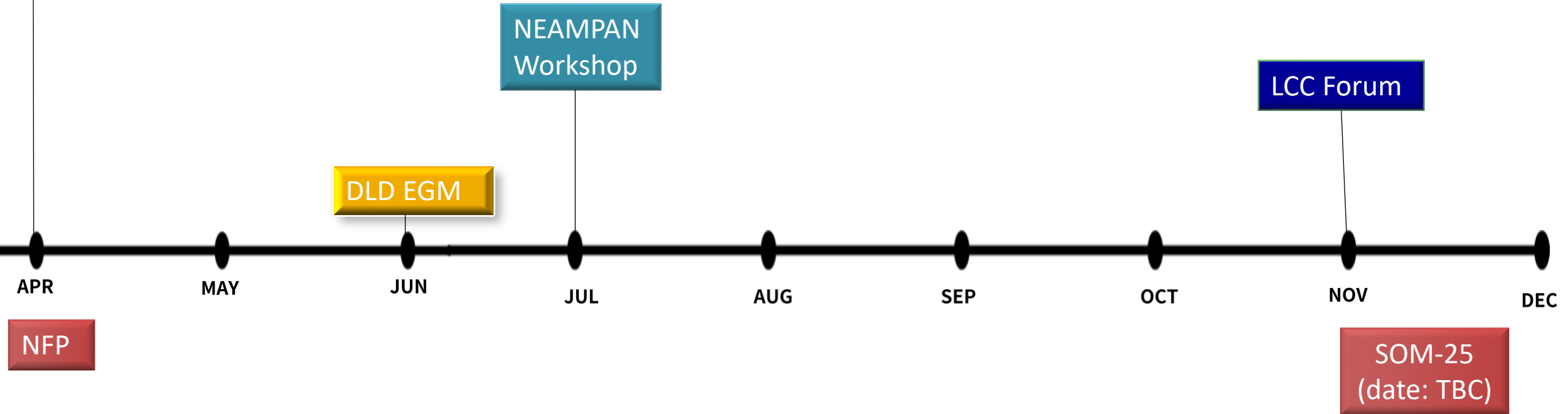
The Strategic Plan has served as a guiding document for developing and implementing NEASPEC work in five programmatic areas: (a) Transboundary Air Pollution; (b) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation; (c) Marine Protected Areas, (d) Low Carbon Cities, and (e) Desertification and Land Degradation. The Strategic Plan supports strengthening and institutionalizing cooperation platforms, namely, the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN), the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform (NEA-LCCCP), and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), which enable the NEASPEC work to move from short-term, project-based to long-term, programmatic approach. The approaches of the Strategic Plan also support the NEASPEC work to become more strategic towards strengthening science-policy linkage, operating stakeholder platforms, sharing knowledge, and linking the work with regional and global goals.

Having built on the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and reflecting new development during its implementation, the programmatic areas of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 are (a) Air Pollution, (b) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, (c) Marine Protected Areas, (d) Low Carbon Cities,

NEASPEC Main Activities 2022

NEACAP: Policy and Technology Cooperation (research projects on Policy analysis and BAT) plus policy dialogue (Q4)

Biodiversity and nature conservation project on big cats plus project wrap-up meeting (Q3)



Air Pollution (2021-2022)

3rd Meeting of NEACAP Science and Policy Committee (30 April 2021)

Output 1: Policy Cooperation

1. **Policy analysis report:** prepared by 2022 and published by 2023
2. **Policy dialogues:** review the intermediary report and finalize the report

Lead expert:

Mr. Klimont Zbigniew, Leader, Pollution Management Research Group, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

National experts:

- China, Japan, and Mongolia: **pending nomination**
- ROK: two experts nominated
- Russia: 1 expert nominated

- Inception Meeting with all SPC member and experts (Q2)
- Policy dialogue 1 with the intermediary report (Q4)

Output 2: Technology Cooperation

- Best Available Techniques (BAT):

Review paper as reference for understanding current processes

Consultant:

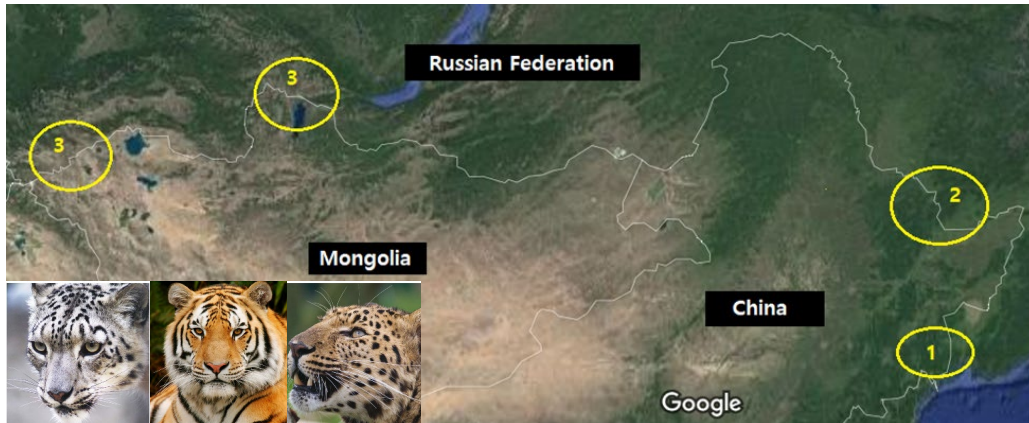
Mr. Ram Lal Verma, Head, Air Pollution Cluster, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRCAP-AIT)

- Finalization of the review paper on BAT (Q2)
- Presentation at SOM-25

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (2021-2022)

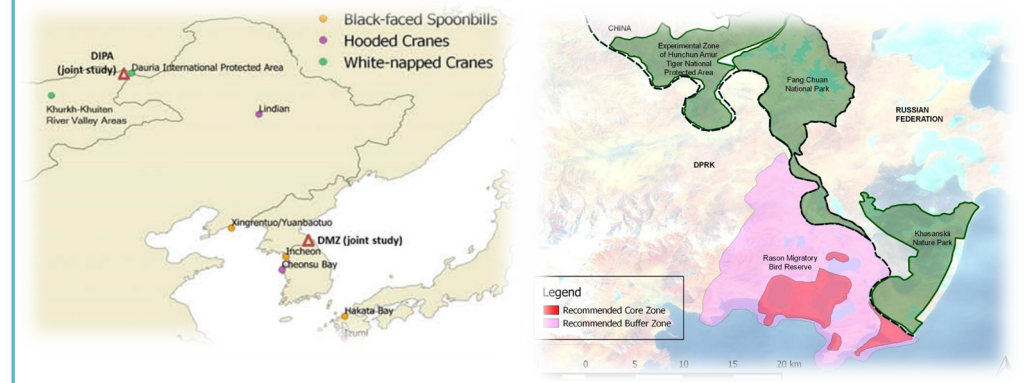
Project “Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia”

- **Implementing period:** January 2020 – December 2022
- **Completed activities:** Desk research and field study at the Lesser Khingan Mountain areas and the Mongolia-Russian border; and Project review workshop in October 2021
- **Planned in 2022:**
 - Desk research and capacity building activities at the Sino-Russian border; and
 - Outreach materials including project reports
- **Plan:** follow-up project on conservation of snow leopards along the Mongolia-Russian border



Report on “Transboundary cooperation among protected wetlands in the Tumen River Estuary”

- **Planned in 2022**
 - Report launch
 - Inter-governmental consultation among border countries; and
 - NEASPEC side event at the COP14 of Ramsar Convention in November 2022
- **Plan:** follow-up project on connectivity conservation focusing on migratory bird species and their habitats including transboundary wetlands



Marine Protected Areas (2021-2022)

NEAMPAN Steering Committee

- **Date:** 23 April 2021 (virtual)
- **Key topic:** NEAMPAN activities and progress focusing on NEAMPAN workshop plans
- **SC members' suggestions:** Increase of NEAMPAN activities to raise awareness and visibility

NEAMPAN Workshop 2021

- **Date:** 15 July 2021 (virtual)
- **Key topic:** (1) key findings from the NEAMPAN study project and (2) experience sharing on sustainable MPA management
- 90+ participants; simultaneous interpretation for English-Chinese/Japanese/Korean and Russian

NEAMPAN activities in 2021

Workshop on MPA management and Networking: Experiences and opportunities for collaboration in East Asia

- **Date:** 13-14 October 2021 (virtual)
- Jointly organized with the China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center, in conjunction with the East Asian Seas Congress 2021

Fourth Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean

- **Date:** 27 October 2021(virtual)
- A session on “Ocean-climate nexus: blue carbon” with the Environment and Development Division of ESCAP
- Experts from IOC-UNESCO, NOWPAP/CEARAC, National University of Singapore and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation

Planned in 2022:

- NEAMPAN workshop or webinar
- 7th International Marine Debris Conference (Sep. Busan)
- **Issues for consideration:** A follow-up project on marine protected areas in NEA



Low Carbon Cities (2021-2022)

Project “Leveraging Science, Technologies and Innovation for Low Carbon and Resilient Cities (ESCAP funded project)”

Project component	Key elements	Project partners
1 Identification and selection of cases	Cases in ICT, sustainable mobility, land use and nature-based solutions, clean energy, sustainable waste management, building energy efficiency → fed into the knowledge sharing, the capacity building and the compendium report	ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP), China
2 Knowledge Sharing	<p>International Forum on Low Carbon Cities (online), 23-24 Nov 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joined by 350 participants including the nominated cities of Mongolia and Russia Presented best city cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ China: Chongqing, Shenyang, Beijing, Huzhou ✓ Japan: Kobe, Kitakyushu, Toyama ✓ ROK: Incheon, Jeju, Gwangju 	Incheon Metropolitan Government, Incheon Climate and Environment Research Center, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, iGDP, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
3 Capacity Building – Mongolia	<p>Training workshop on STI for Low Carbon and Resilient Cities, 16-17 Dec 2021 (Hybrid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joined by 80 local trainees from ministries, departments, local governments/cities Tailor made training courses –responded to the priority needs of local stakeholders 	CCRCC, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and iGDP

2022

- **The Compendium report** published on 4 April 2022
- **2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities (Q4)** - Working group meeting was held on 6 April 2022



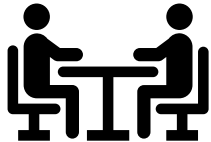
Desertification and Land Degradation (2021-2022)

- **The stock-taking study on the interlinkage of DLD and climate change**
 - Examined the existing scientific assessment on carbon emissions from land use change and management in North-East Asia
 - Reviewed main assessment results based on different methodologies
 - Identified gaps in the assessments, policy implications for mitigating carbon emissions and areas for collaborative work within scientific community and between countries
 - Suggested recommendations for subregional approach

Plan:

- (1) Expert group meeting in 2022 (Q2)
- (2) support nomination of experts to join the Expert Group Meeting on the DLD-Climate nexus in NEA

NEASPEC Activities 2022 – Operation



The 25th Senior Officials Meeting

- Host country: Japan
- Date: to be confirmed



NEASPEC Secretariat in transition

- Under recruitment



NEASPEC website renovation

- Open to the public in April 2022

The image shows two screenshots of the NEASPEC website renovation. The left screenshot displays the 'ABOUT US' section, which includes a navigation menu (ABOUT, OUR WORK, MEETINGS, RESOURCES, NEWS, CONTACT US) and a main heading 'ABOUT US'. Below this, there is a descriptive paragraph about NEASPEC and three columns of content: 'Overview', 'Structure', and 'Senior Officials Meeting', each with a 'Learn More' link. The right screenshot shows the 'RESOURCES' section, featuring a navigation menu and a large image of a modern building. Below the image, there are three resource cards: 'Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for Low Carbon and Resilient Cities', 'Comparative Study on Low Carbon City Development in China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea', and 'Air Pollution: An Introduction to Its Causes, Effects, and Solutions'. At the bottom of the right screenshot, there is a detailed timeline of NEASPEC work on air pollution and process towards NEASPEC.

NEASPEC 25th Senior Officials Meeting

