Advancing environment statistics, environmental and ecosystem accounting in Asia-Pacific

A demand-driven approach to statistical capacity development

**Expert Group on Environment Statistics
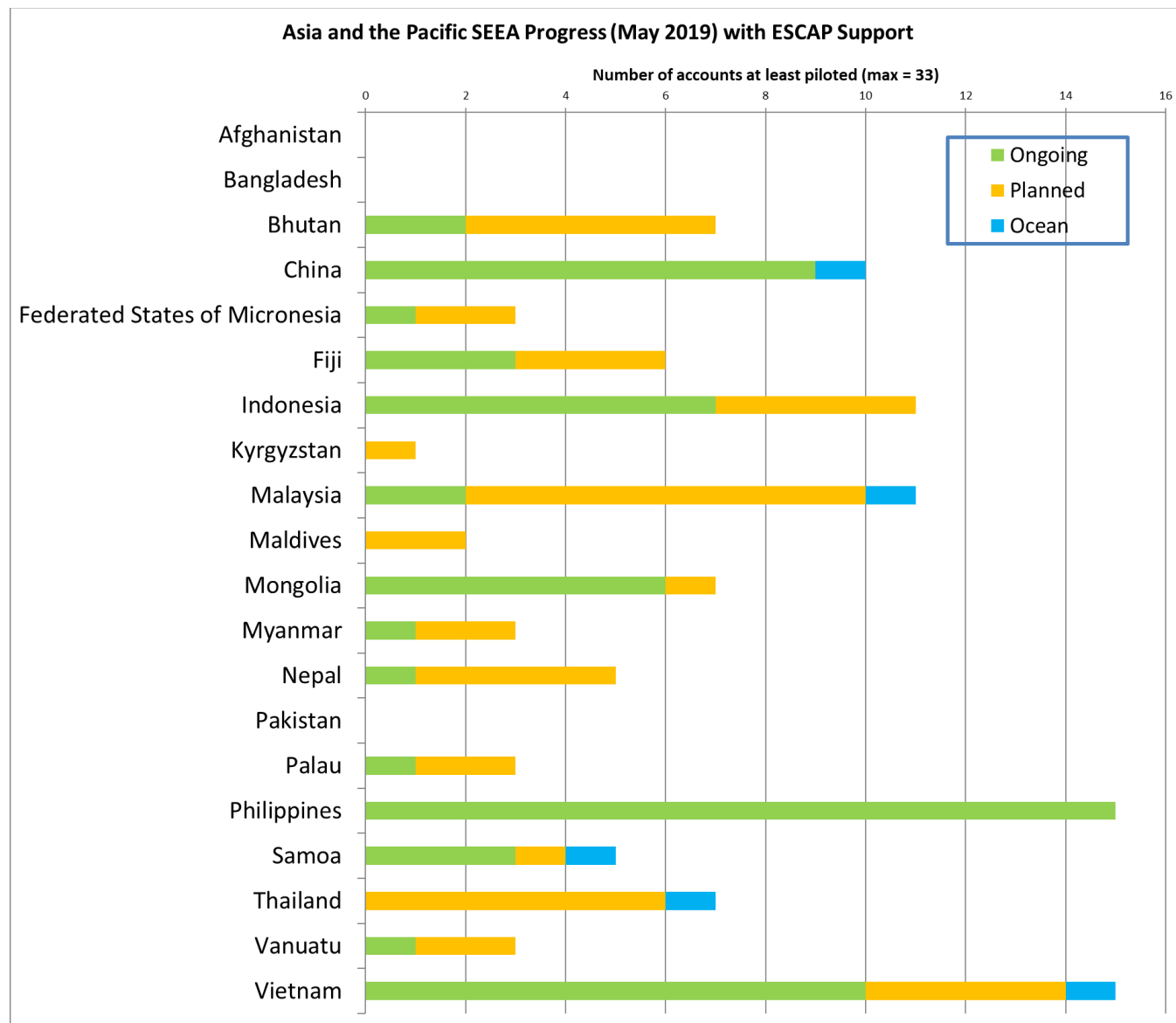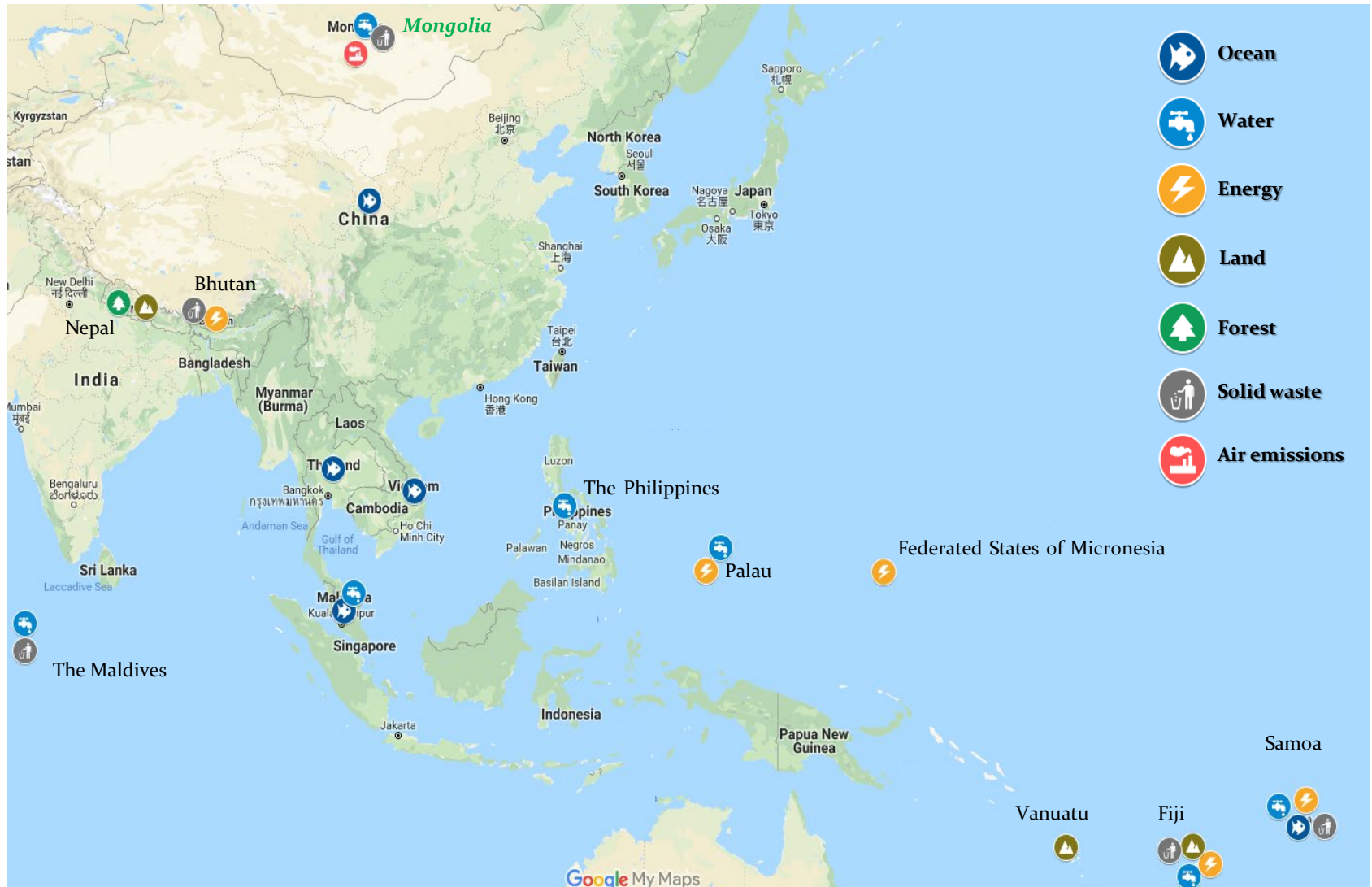10-19 November 2020**

Key points

- ESCAP follows a "**demand-driven**" approach to supporting member States in their needs for environment statistics and accounts

- The starting question is "what are priority environmental challenges?" rather than "which type of account?"

- The approach uses **tools**
  - **Diagnostic** Tool
  - **Inventory** Template
  - **Training** modules
  - **Multi-stakeholder workshops** (sub-regional and national)

- The approach has resulted in implementation of SEEA-CF, FDES or ocean accounts by 20 countries

Results

- ESCAP-supported countries
- not including sub-regional. special workshops, or SIAP training
- at least one account piloted
- not all accounts supported by ESCAP
- other accounts in the region not directly supported by ESCAP (e.g., India)

Asia and the Pacific SEEA Progress (May 2019) with ESCAP Support

Number of accounts at least piloted (max = 33)

Legend: Ongoing, Planned, Ocean

Countries (top to bottom): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam

Implementation strategy

1. • Institutional and policy readiness
2. • Diagnostic Tool for self-assessment
3. • Inventory relevant data
4. • Work Plan with agreed tasks and timelines
5. • Capacity Building on priority statistics (SEEA & FDES)
6. • Compile data for pilot statistics
7. • Improve & finalize → Publish as official

Our experience with the approach

What works	What doesn't work
Using **existing** institutional mechanisms (takes time to establish new ones)	Working **without high-level support** (no support = no commitment, no demand)
Rapid assessment to work plan (can be done in one day national workshop)	NSO working **alone** (Don't ask what your clients can do for you, ask what you can do for your clients)
A **champion** (can motivate collaboration and funding)	Consultants creating **one-time outputs** (no involvement = no capacity building)
Doing what you can with **available** data	
Publishing pilot (in progress) work for feedback	**Not engaging** users (policy & planning) (results won't be used)
Share the success with stakeholders, other countries and international community	Working **without an inter-departmental assessment** (unclear priorities and lack of agreement)
May focus on "**feasible**" rather than "priority" as proof of concept (sometimes difficult to establish priorities)	