

As described in the description of work, SUSTAIN EU-ASEAN focuses on climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials issues, aiming to enhance collaboration between researchers in the EU and the ASEAN region in these topics. After meeting many interesting and interested projects from the EU and ASEAN in the pre-cluster meetings, in Brussels and Bangkok respectively, SUSTAIN EU-ASEAN was able to group the projects into two broad thematic clusters: *cities* and *natural resources*.

Cities

As suggested by the name, this cluster involves projects working in urban areas. The projects involved all work in cities, but on a wide range of topics: ICT to improve energy efficiency in neighbourhoods, ICT to encourage more sustainable transport mode usage, general innovative sustainable transport policies, urban climate change adaptation, converting industrial food waste to biogas, and urban water management strategies, to name but a few.

The huge significance of this cluster is underlined by the high, and rapidly growing rates of people who live in cities in the ASEAN region, and the significant current and forecast environmental problems in cities, air quality, water supply and climate change adaptation, amongst others.

Natural resources

Whilst not mutually exclusive to the *cities* cluster, the *natural resources* cluster involves projects whose focus tend to be found in areas outside of cities. Furthermore, amongst the projects in this cluster, a certain level of methodological similarity could be and was observed, further strengthening the case for placing them in a cluster together. These topics are also of huge importance, given the great strain put on natural resources by the region's rapid growth.

The *natural resources* cluster includes projects operating in a wide range of fields, including terrestrial system analysis and modelling, earth-observation of environmental conditions, standardisation of mineral reserves information, global hydrological observation and modelling and river basin management, product production sustainability, including farming and production, ICT products for improving (inter)regional transport systems, fostering sustainable farming practices, freshwater biodiversity information systems and fisheries information systems, amongst others.