



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP) Project

Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC)

23-25 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Report of Status and Progress of the SCS SAP Project implementation

[THAILAND]

[Department of Marine and Coastal Resources]



Updated National Coordination Framework

Focal Ministry: [Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment](#)

Executing (leading) Agency: [Department of Marine and Coastal Resources \(DMCR\)](#)

Key Partner Organizations: -

National Focal Points: [Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin \(MRCD, DMCR\)](#)

National Technical Focal Point: [Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin \(MRCD, DMCR\)](#)

Focal Point for mangroves: [Mrs. Daorong Jaijing \(MCD, DMCR\)](#)

Focal Point for coral reefs: [Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin \(MRCD, DMCR\)](#)

Focal Point for seagrass beds: [Mrs. Sumana Kajonwattanakul \(MCRDI, DMCR\)](#)

Focal Points for LbP: [Director of the Waste and Hazardous Substance Management Division \(PCD\)](#)

Focal expert on Economic Valuation: [Miss Suhatai Pisarnkul \(Policy and Planning Division, DMCR\)](#)



Status of PCA/GSA signature and amendment

Time of signing the first PCA: 14 Oct 2022 to 28 Jun 2024

Time of signing the amended PCA: 28 Jun 2024 to 30 Jun 2025

Amendment for all 3 components: n/a

Amendment for only component 1: 28 July 2024

If not signed yet, time schedule for signing PCA/GSA: n/a

Challenges resulting in the delay: Vacant of national coordinator

Solutions to speed up: Accelerate the recruitment of the national coordinator



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA

Timing issues (intime, delayed, extended):

- Funding: Delays in funding transfers both externally and internally.
- Uncontrollable factors, e.g., monsoon, timing for organizing some committee meetings, timing for engaging local community members in the activities.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA

List of changed activities and reasons:

Mangrove:

- At Bandon Bay, additional activities have been set forth to increase the capacity of local communities regarding their legal rights in community mangroves. Therefore, there will be training exercises on 'mangroves for the community' with emphasis on the promotion of LMMA approach.

Reason:

- DMCR has promoted LMMA as a means to implement the 30x30 target (landscape and seascape). Therefore, the change in activities can achieve both regional and global goals.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA

List of changed activities and reasons:

Coral reefs:

- At Si Chang, MSP has been carried out with in-kind contribution from the DMCR (co-finance). The remaining SCA-SAP budget will support the MSP relevant activities, such as the socio-economic study and utilization of artificial reefs, as well as setting boundary buoys outside the coral reef area.
- At the Losin, with co-financing from the DMCR and the private sector for some activities, the remaining budget will support the development of educational and awareness-raising initiatives for the MPA of Losin Island, being designated by law.

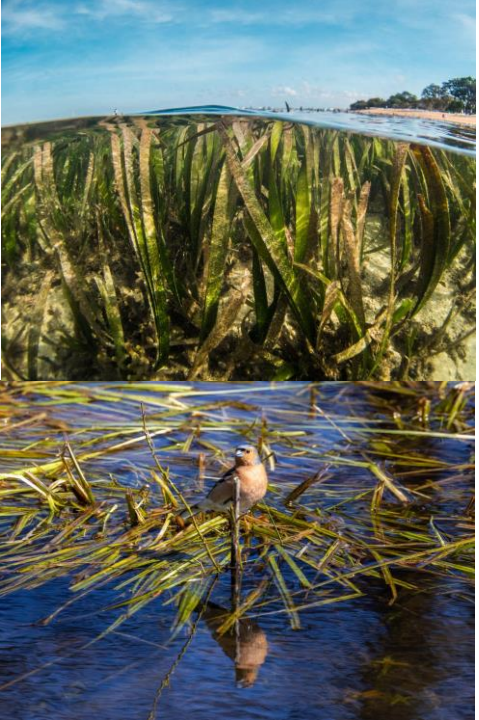


Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

List of changed activities and reasons:

Seagrass:

- The activities have been changed from seagrass plantation, for which the preliminary study demonstrated failure, to seagrass habitat conservation and protection.
- The proposed new activities will focus on the development of Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) in Bandon Bay through trainings, resources mapping, resource-utilization mapping, and establishment of measures for LMMA. After the LMMA is developed, there will be efforts to publicize them to relevant resource users.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

List of changed activities and reasons:

Reason:

- The seagrass plantation survival rate is very low
- DMCR has promoted LMMAs as a means to implement the 30x30 target. Therefore, the change in activities can achieve both regional and global goals.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Mangroves

National Output	Welu River	Bandon Bay	Pak Panang
1.1.1 Declaration of mangrove as National Park and Protected Areas	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 35,440 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline survey Patrolling WS on ecotourism & communication materials Local veggies for community food initiative Mangrove crab conservaton area Waste collection 	16,334 completed on-going completed	8,371 completed on-going 50% completed	10,735 completed on-going on-going - completed -
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 3,078 ha of mangrove forest	N/A	completed	N/A
1.1.4 Replanting of 1,163 ha of deforested mangrove land	Completed (5.52 ha)	Completed (4.8 ha)	On going (5.52 ha)
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 38.4 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.8 ha for each site in Thailand 	Completed	Completed	80%
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological amd socio-economic indicators at sites	planning	Indicators agreed	planning

Summary for Key Achievements: Mangroves



- Baseline information and the status of the mangrove ecosystem have been completed across all project sites, with in-kind contributions from DMCR.
- Mangrove zoning maps (conservation, rehabilitation, and utilization zone etc.) are currently being developed. These draft zoning maps and measures for each zone will support the ministerial regulation on mangrove forest conservation areas.
- SMART Patrolling is conducted monthly to monitor and control encroachment in all project sites; no illegal cases have been found in these areas.
- Capacity-building activities have been conducted for local agencies and communities, focusing on understanding relevant laws and regulations. Awareness-raising and educational activities targeting the community and youth have been undertaken through training sessions, public events, and communication materials to emphasize the importance of mangrove and coastal ecosystems.
- For the mangrove utilization zone, the project supported coastal communities to establish 'food from the forest' initiatives to increase alternative income and food security in Bandon Bay. The project also supports the establishment of seed-orchard nurseries operated by the community to enhance mangrove conservation and ecotourism in Pak Panang.
- Mangrove habitat restoration has been fully implemented in the target area, with contributions from DMCR and involvement from communities and the private sector. For enrichment planting, more than three different species of mangroves have been planted, such as *Avicennia marina*, *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre, *Barringtonia asiatica*, and *Bruguiera sexangula*, etc. depending on the location.
- Monitoring indicator agreed for Bandon Bay are marsh crab (*Sesarma mederi*), Nypa palm, and sea otter.

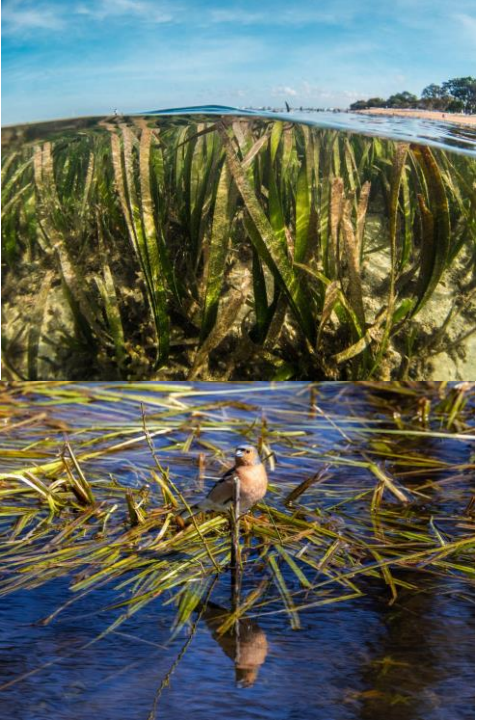


Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Coral reefs (1)

National Output	Si Chang	Koh Lan	Koh Tao	Koh Mak	Koh Kra	Losin
<p>1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 6 coral reef sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group to drive MSP / develop management plan Management capacity on Article 20 Training on coral rehabilitation Environmentally-friendly diving standard 	38.2	133.6	350.4	12.8	1,340.6	12.8
	✓	✓			✓ ✓ ✓	✓
<p>1.2.2 Management approaches (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 6 coral reef sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-economic impacts from MPA Feedbacks on enforcement of Article 20 Underwater waste / ghost gear collection Training on sustainable tourism Coral rehabilitation with communities 						
			✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓	✓

Summary for Key Achievements: Coral reefs (1)



- Two working groups to implement the MSP of Koh Si Chang and Koh Lan, and one committee for the Koh Kra Archipelago Marine Protected Area have been appointed. DMCR conducted meetings to inform members of their roles and responsibilities and to discuss the action plan.
- DMCR has arranged the training program on coral reef rehabilitation for volunteer divers.
- DMCR is in the process to formally endorse and set up environmentally diving standard.
- Baseline information and the status of the coral reefs have been completed across all project sites with in-kind contributions from DMCR and co-financing (in cash and in-kind) from the private sector at Koh Losin, as well as from local conservation groups of Koh Tao and the Koh Mak Coral Reefs Conservation Group.
- A socio-economic survey was conducted to understand the impact of establishing MAP at Koh Kra. The results found that most interviewees agree on the establishment of Koh Kra MPA following Article 20. Nevertheless, some are still concerned about utilization, such as resting of fishing vessel in the areas during storms at sea and are unclear about the zoning and measures for each zone. For Koh Losin, interviewees agreed on the establishment of Koh Losin MPA, and the results found a low negative impact on users (tourists and fishermen).



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Coral reefs (2)

National Output	Si Chang	Koh Lan	Koh Tao	Koh Mak	Koh Kra	Losin
<p>1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline survey and data collection • Measures for management mechanism • Training on buoys management • Study on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) • Smart Patrolling 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 6 sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on SCS SAP monitoring framework • Agreed on indicators with local stakeholders 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary for Key Achievements: Coral reefs (2)



- SMART marine patrols were conducted in all project sites. Additionally, underwater trash collections were also conducted in collaboration with tour operators and volunteers at Koh Tao, Koh Mak, and Koh Losin.
- Capacity building – Training for trainers on coral reef conservation, diving for conservation were conducted for local agency staff, coastal community groups, and volunteers. Awareness-raising and educational activities on coral reef conservation have been conducted for various audiences through a series of training sessions on relevant laws and regulations, and coral transplanting
- Monitoring indicator agreed for coral reefs are as follows:- 1) Koh Mak: status of coral reef, black spine sea urchin, 2) Koh Lan: status of coral reef, butterfly fish, giant clam and number of tourist (sea walking), 3) Koh Tao: status of coral reef, grouper fish, parrot fish, 4) Koh Kra: status of coral reef in zoning areas, parrot fish, and number of sea turtle (nesting), and 5) Koh Losin; status of coral reef, butterfly fish and parrot fish and number of tourist.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Seagrass

National Output	Bandon Bay
<p>1.3.1 The seagrass area of 1,402 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey for baseline information • Dugong Conservation Plan and Seagrass Management Measures in the process of development 	<p>1,402</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>1.3.3 Designation of new Marine Protected Area focusing on seagrass area identified in the prioritized listing of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) of Bandon Bay • Determine the actual areas for joint demarcation leading to the announcement of LMMA • Publicize the LMMAs to relevant resource users 	<p>planning</p> <p>planning</p> <p>30%</p>
<p>1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on SCS SAP monitoring framework • Agreed on monitoring indicators and monitoring mechanism 	<p>50%</p>

Summary for Key Achievements: Seagrass

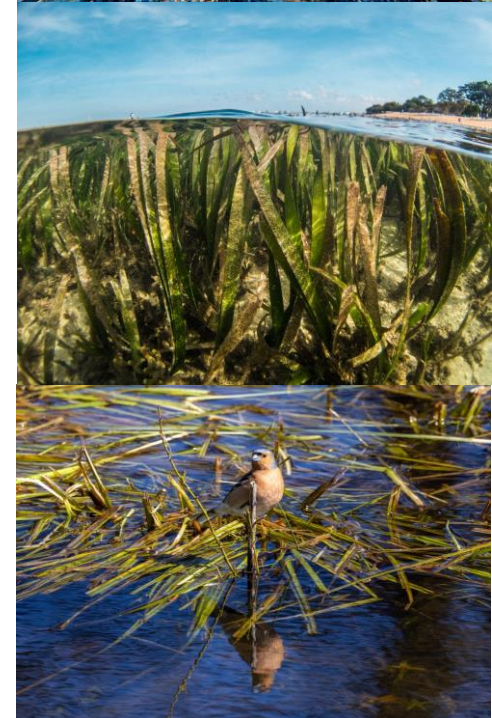
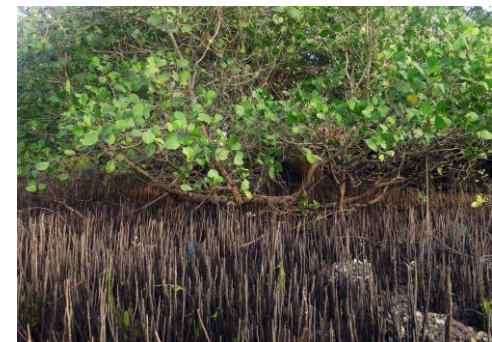
- The base line survey for seagrass bed in the area was completed.
- The draft dugong and habitat conservation plan was completed and presented to the Surat Thani Provincial Marine and Coastal Resources Committee in March 2024.
- Awareness-raising, educational activities, and public relations materials emphasizing the importance of seagrass and its conservation were developed and disseminated during public events such as World Oceans Day in June, targeting communities and youth.
- There are some changes in Seagrass Activities in Bandon Bay. Seagrass planting at a pilot site, Koh Sret, in 2023, resulted in a very low survival rate. Additionally, the establishment of a new MPA could not be achieved within the project timeline due to lengthy process requirements. As a result, the proposed new activities will focus on promoting the management of coastal areas by local communities and authorities through Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs).



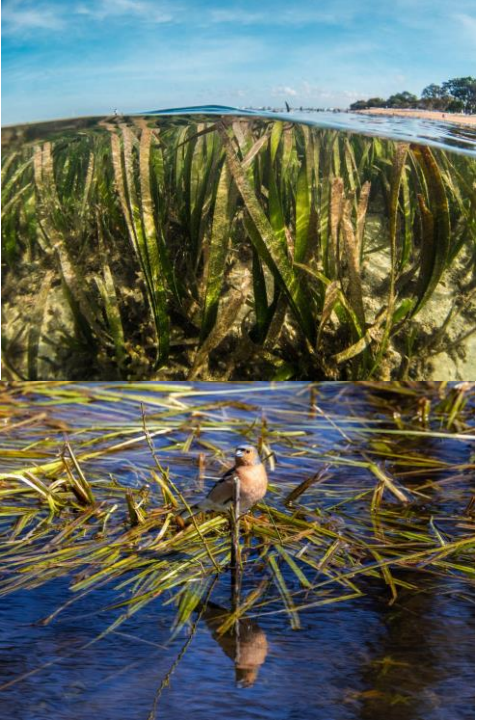
Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Wetland

National Output	Don Hoi Lot
<p>1.4.1 Integrated management plan developed and under implementation of a tidal flat, and associated policy, legal, and institutional reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline survey and data collection • Assessed the effectiveness of law enforcement • Legalized conservation group • Supported marine conservation activities (fish aggregating devices) • Waste collection with local communities • Agreement on sustainable use of razor clam • Training on value-added razor clam products (sustainable use) 	<p>41,600 ha</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>90%</p>
<p>1.4.2 Declaration of the wetland area with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft marine and coastal resources management plan 	<p>10,735 ha</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on SCS SAP monitoring framework • Monitoring indicators and monitoring mechanism 	<p>41,600 ha</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>



Summary for Key Achievements: Wetland



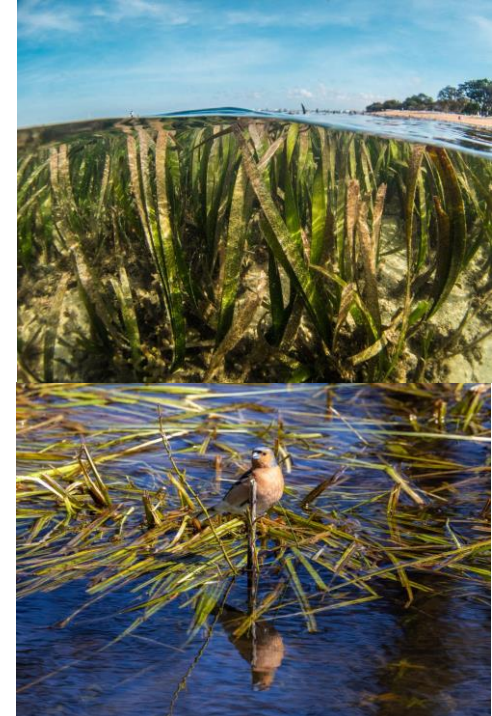
- 90% of activities have been completed.
- Baseline information on the wetland ecosystem, including data on shorebirds and migratory birds, has been completed.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the DMCR and local authorities to promote the sustainable use of razor clams and coastal resources.
- The project supports women's and elders' groups by providing training on razor clam products to increase their income (evaluation of income increase is in planning).
- The DMCR conducted discussions with local stakeholders to identify appropriate materials, methods, and locations for installing artificial fish habitats (fish houses). Following agreement with local stakeholders, 100 artificial fish houses were installed.
- Capacity building and awareness programs were conducted to educate the community about the importance of wetlands, relevant laws and regulations, and the issue of IUU fishing. Local agencies also participated in patrols of the wetland area.
- Trash collection activities were conducted in wetland areas with collaboration from the public and youth.
- Monitoring indicators include razor clams and hard clams.

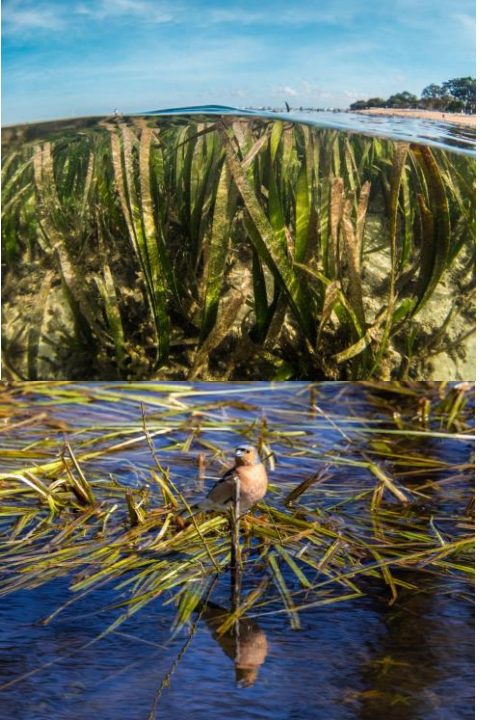
Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA (cont.)

Key achievements up to present: Land-based pollution

Component 2 : some activities has been initiated by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) e.g., regional meeting on LbP.

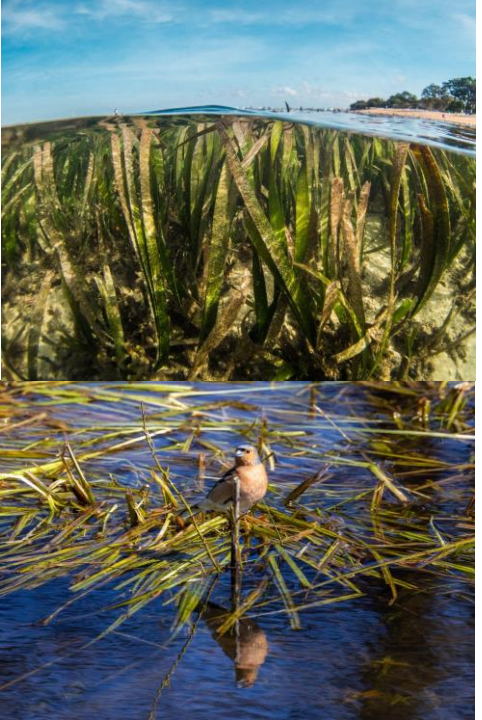
: Note that LbP is one priority area being comprehensively implemented through program (e.g. Clean Seas Campaign), project (e.g. SEA circular) and platform (e.g. Working Group on Marine Litter) led by UNEP/COBSEA.





Highlights on the country report on achievements in implementing the SAP during 2008-2021

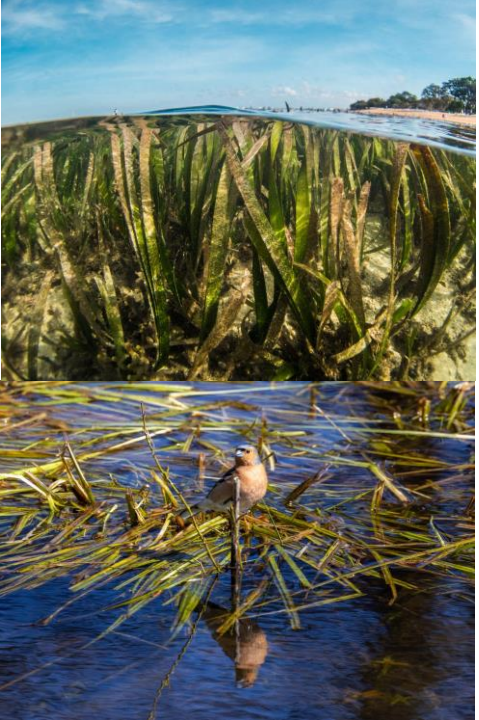
- Time of adoption for publication:
 - Thailand NIR Part I, completed in February 2024 and not yet published.
- Key achievements on management of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and LbP;
 - In 2021, established two Marine Protected Areas namely;
 - 1) Koh Kra (Kra Island), Nakhon Si Thammarat province
 - 2) Koh Losin, Pattani province



Highlights on the country report on achievements in implementing the SAP during 2008-2021

Law, Policy, Regulation and Strategies;

- National Dugong Conservation Plan Phase 1 B.E. 2563-2565 (A.D. 2020-2022)
- Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (A.D. 2015)
- Marine Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) 2015-2019
- The Act of the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management B.E. 2558 (A.D. 2015)
- The 4th Master Plan for Integrated Biodiversity Management (2015-2021)



Highlights on the country report on achievements in implementing the SAP during 2008-2021 (cont.)

Law, Policy, Regulation and Strategies;

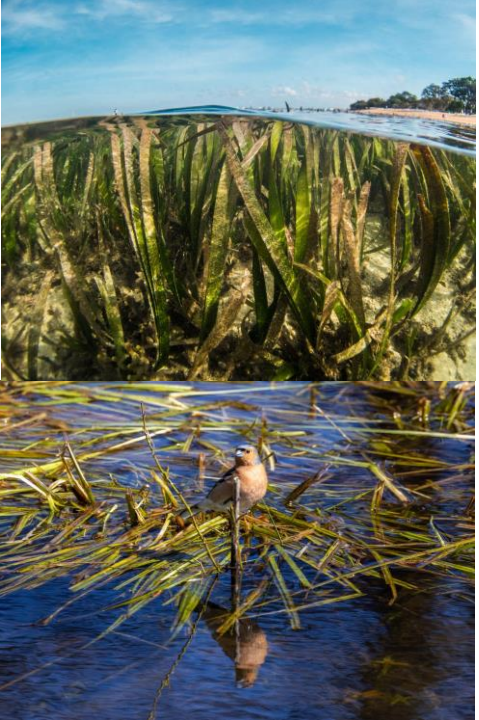
- The Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan B.E. 2560 to 2564 (A.D. 2017 to 2021)
- Thailand's 20-Year National Strategy
- National Park Act B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019)
- Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019)
- The Maritime National Interests Protection Act B.E.2562 (A.D.2019)



Highlights on the country report on achievements in implementing the SAP during 2008-2021 (cont.)

Projects and programme;

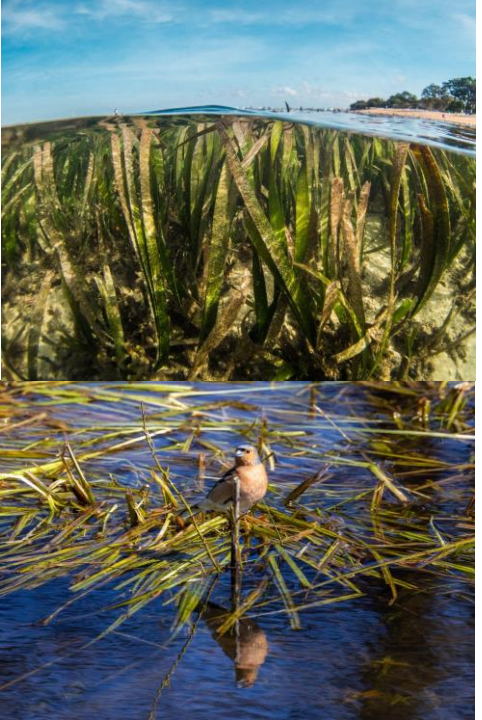
- Several projects and programs have been implemented along the coastal area by DMCR, DOF, DNP, NGOs, international organizations, and private sectors.
- These efforts focus on marine and coastal management, resource conservation, protection, and rehabilitation, coastal tourism, climate resilience, capacity building for government staffs and coastal communities, and awareness raising.



Status in documenting good practices

Good practices are in writing process.

Time of finalization and submission for publication: **Q1 / 2025**



Participation in the Special Forum on South China Sea and Roundtable

- Total participants: 8
- Number of local representatives: 7
- Number of presenters in the forum: 3
- Number of talks in the roundtable: participated = 3, talks = 2
- Highlights on networking following the special forum: n/a



Challenges encountered in the implementation of the SCS SAP Project and Recommendations

Present challenges. recommendations and action points.

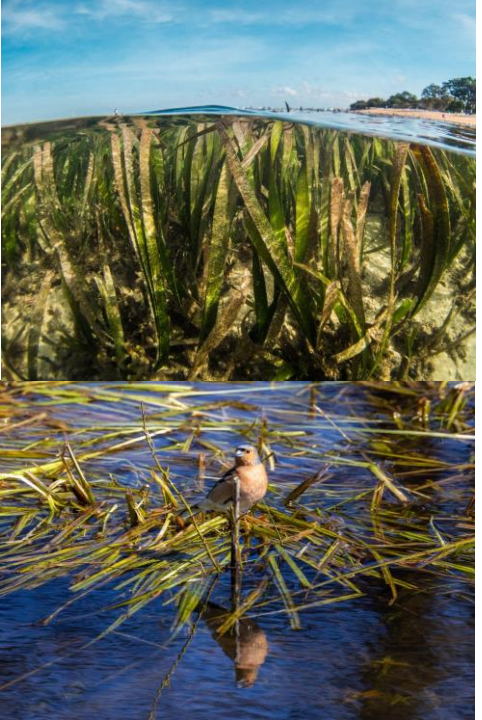
Challenges

1) Climate phenomena;

- Increasing seawater temperatures result in massive coral bleaching at all project sites
- Changes in rainfall patterns lead to flooding at the mangrove project site in Bandon Bay

2) Delay of funding;

- Delay of payment 2 and 3 results to delayed of project activities implementation and project's staff salary.



National data and knowledge management systems and tools (Agenda 6)

List of systems and tools developed (past and present):

Existing national data platforms;

- 1) Central Information Center for Marine and Coastal Resources
- 2) Thailand Biodiversity Information Facility (TH-BIF)