



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

**Second Meeting of the SCS SAP Steering Committee**

30-31 January 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**



## REPORT OF THE MEETING

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

#### 1.1. Welcome address

1. Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Thailand as host country of the second steering committee meeting. He informed that Thailand is fully committed to contribute and advance the objective of the Strategic Action Programme. He thanked UNOPS for the outstanding leadership and execution of the project, particularly the organization, dedication and effectiveness in overseeing the implementation of the project which has significantly contributed to project success. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the participating countries for their commitment to fostering regional cooperation and collective action. He stressed that the meeting provides a good opportunity to review the project progress and address emerging challenges, and through open dialogue and share responsibility, the steering committee can overcome any obstacle and achieve the shared vision for a sustainable South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. He encouraged the steering committee to actively engage in the discussion, share insights and contribute ideas that will prepare and move the project towards its success. He encouraged the steering committee participants to use the meeting as a catalyst for cooperation, innovation, and success in safeguarding the South China Sea region.

2. Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck, UNEP representative and Task Manager of the project welcomed and thanked the participants to the first face-to-face meeting of the steering committee which has long been overdue. She briefly presented the status and progress of the project particularly the new execution arrangements with UNOPS taking over the entire project due to the withdrawal of SEAFDEC as executing agency, the strengthening of the project coordination team with the recruitment of key project staff such as the Senior Project Manager and Senior Assistant, and the signing of three out of six project cooperation agreements with participating countries. She hoped that more agreements would be signed in the near future. She stressed that the project is implementing the Strategic Action Programme which was approved back in 2008, and that the majority of the project work is done at the national level. The GEF, through its International Waters focal area promotes transboundary cooperation which gives the project the regional agenda. Since the project approval in 2016 by GEF, the project has been slow with the execution due to changes on project execution and deliverables.

3. Ms. Vanderbeck stressed some key points to consider in the execution of the project. First is the updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and the Strategic Action Programme which is the typical approach of GEF to transboundary management of large marine ecosystems. She suggested modernizing the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to include new emerging topics such as sustainable blue economy. The TDA should also include the socioeconomic dimension and the intersectoral coordination or the nexus approach for coordination amongst critical sectors. Second, the project promotes at the national level the interministerial coordination mechanism through the National Inter-Ministry Committees to endure policy coherence and working with the whole government and society. There may be a need for a regional coordination mechanism at the regional level. Currently, UNEP has a Regional Seas Programme where COBSEA represents the region. However, COBSEA works only with the Ministry of Environment and may need some revitalization to ensure interministerial coordination mechanism at the regional level. The project can give the impetus to this transformation, building from the national interministerial coordination mechanism to a similar structure at the regional level. Third is project sustainability. As projects come and go, and so as not to rely on external donors for resources to sustain activities, there may be a need to look at innovative financing mechanisms such as conservation finance to generate revenues. The project needs to have a legacy on sustainability both at national and regional level. Finally, the project has to focus now on the regional level as most of the activities were done at the national level. There is a need now to integrate the worked on the habitats and land-based sources of pollution activities at the national level, as an input

to the transboundary diagnostic analysis. She stressed that the project is not just about a particular country but is a part of a community of practice in the region.

4. Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, UNOPS Vienna Representative and Head of Portfolio of Water Environment and Climate of the United Nations Office for Project Services welcomed and thanked the Government of Thailand and participants for the opportunity to be together and discuss the course of the project and the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme. She informed the Steering Committee of UNOPS experiences and tools in managing transboundary water portfolio including the roles and responsibilities as executive agency of the project and hoped that UNOPS was able to provide added value in putting up and implementing the project in close coordination with the countries.

5. Ms. Lichtenberg stressed the importance of transboundary collaboration in ecosystem-based management. She emphasized the many important services that coastal ecosystems provide in the South China Sea region, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as biodiversity conservation. She further emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement and management and the countries play an important part in the overall stakeholder engagement plan. Open dialogue and collaboration are key to ensure success of stakeholder engagement. Another important aspect emphasized is the setting up of mechanisms to transfer resources and support the participating countries in the implementation of national priorities and activities in the context of the project. She stressed that UNOPS and the project team will accompany and support the national teams in project planning and implementation and will bring all together and integrate these aspects into the regional perspective. As the project workplan is dense with limited timeframe to implement, she stressed the importance of ensuring that the project is well planned and adjusted within the evolving context. She encouraged the Steering Committee to have an open dialogue and share relevant knowledge and best practices in the meeting and commit to implement the project in an effective way.

## **1.2. Introduction of members**

6. In the interest of time, the Secretariat introduced individually the members of the Project Steering Committee and other participants to the meeting, consisting of the chairpersons of the Interministerial Committee (IMC) and National Technical Working Group (NTWG) or designated alternatives from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as implementing agency and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as executing agency. Other UN organizations and national team members also attended as observers. A total of twenty-five participants attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

## **1.3 Opening statements by Interministerial Committee Chairs (IMC)**

7. The Interministerial Committee (IMC) Chairpersons and representatives of participating countries were invited to provide opening statements on behalf of their governments. The highlights are provided below.

8. Mr. Meas Rithy, Deputy Director of the Department of Coastal and Marine Environment, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, representing the National Focal Point who could not attend the meeting, thanked UNOPS and the SCS SAP Project for the invitation and warm hospitality. He stressed that the project is very important for Cambodia as it is about transboundary management and transboundary resource sustainability. As natural resources have no boundaries in administration and management, countries need to collaborate and join their efforts together from the regional, national to local level. The project approaches support the vision of the Ministry of Environment and its new mandate called Clean, Green and Sustainability which the project can take advantage in implementing the targets of the wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass conservation and rehabilitation. Cambodia plans to replant one million mangroves every year which support the project targets on mangrove replanting, coastal rehabilitation and sustainable livelihood of coastal areas. He stressed that Cambodia strongly supports and participate in the project and its activities as it supports the national

targets including SDG 14 targets. Mr. Meas looked forward to sharing and knowing the results of the national implementation and how to move forward the ongoing activities at the regional and national level including sharing information among participating countries to improve marine and coastal habitats.

9. Ms. Wang Hongyan, Program Officer of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, represented the National Focal Point who could not attend the meeting, emphasized that the South China Sea is one of the great areas with great concern to the Chinese government and that China is always committed to the promote the peace and sustainability and development of the South China Sea region. The Chinese government emphasizes great importance on the region, especially in the protection and restoration of mangroves, seagrass and coastal wetlands. The first phase of the project has achieved great success in Guangxi Province, and the second phase of the project is accelerating. She emphasized that President Xi Jinping has announced one belt one road initiative, and noted that five countries gathered in the meeting for one world, one Z. She hoped that the countries participating in the meeting can further understand each other and build a joint mechanism for marine environmental protection. Ms. Wang encouraged the members of the international community to aspire and work together for a brighter future, not only for the marine ecology ecosystem, but also the human community with a shared future for all the mankind.

10. Mr. Dasrul Chaniago, Director of the Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environmental and Forestry, Indonesia, and National Technical Focal Point of the project, expressed his gratitude and high appreciation to the SCS SAP Project for conducting the meeting to discuss the progress and implementation of the project at the regional and national level including other matters that require approval of the Steering Committee. He stressed the importance of coastal areas, habitats and ecosystems such as mangrove forest, coral reefs, seagrass beds and wetlands, which are seriously threatened by the impact of people's activities and economic development such as mangrove cutting and over harvesting, pollution, use of illegal fishing gear, and habitat modification, resulting in high level of habitat loss and decreased regenerative capacities of resources. He emphasized that the SCS SAP Project should ensure to increase the capacity of participating countries as well as strengthen regional cooperation in the South China Sea region for the sustainability of marine ecosystem. Mr. Chaniago hoped that the MOU between the Government of Indonesia and UNOPS that is still pending will be signed soon so that Indonesia can benefit from the implementation of the project.

11. Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin, Director of the Marine Resources Conservation Division, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, and National Technical Focal Point of the project, expressed his sincere appreciation to UNEP, UNOPS and PCU for the joint effort in organizing the Steering Committee meeting and for the ongoing support to the SCS SAP Project. He noted that the first Steering Committee meeting in June 2021 discussed a lot on how to move the project as well as completed the inception phase of the project. The second Steering Committee will review and discuss the significant progress the project has made so far, as well as be able to endorse the updated work plan and the budget, which is important as it provides a clear and well-defined roadmap for the future. The first Steering Committee recognized and proposed to extend the project period for one year without an additional burden on the budget. The purpose of the extension is not only to facilitate the achievement of the project objective but also to allow some flexibility to handle unforeseen challenges that may arise. For the meeting, Mr. Satapoomin stressed the need to reflect on what has been done so far as there may be a need to adjust according to the project timeline, including to make an effort to strengthen project implementation.

12. Dr. Nguyen Le Tuan, Director of Vietnam Environment and Marine Science Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, thanked the SCS SAP Project for the invitation to participate in the meeting. He stated that the Vietnam component of the project has not yet started due to various reasons. The Ministry has just assigned VEMSI to prepare and coordinate the project, which is now in the process of being considered for approval according to the regulations of the Vietnam Government. Coordination with national experts to complete the draft project documents has been done and now submitted for comments to the relevant agencies and organizations within the Ministry. The

Ministry will continue to consult with relevant ministries and provinces in Vietnam to report to the Prime Minister for approval of the policy to participate in the project. Mr. Nguyen stated that they are participating in the meeting as an observer and will report back to the Ministry, and that VEMSI will try to speed up the project approval.

13. Mr. Poulsen informed the Steering Committee that the Philippines was not able to send a representative to the meeting. He stated that the SCS SAP Project is currently working on the execution modalities in the Philippines and hoped that the Philippines will be able to attend the next steering committee.

## **2. Organisation of the Meeting**

### **2.1. Designation of officers**

14. In accordance with the draft rules of procedure for the Project Steering Committee Meeting, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the meeting was proposed for election. Mr. Anders Poulsen, Senior Project Manager and secretary of the meeting, proposed that the officers designated at the first PSC meeting be designated as officers of the meeting considering the long gap between the first and second meeting of the Committee. The officers of the first meeting were: Thailand as Chairperson, Cambodia as Vice-Chairperson, and Philippines as Rapporteur.

15. As there was no representative from the Philippines, China was designated as Rapporteur. The Steering Committee members designated the following:

- Chairperson: Thailand represented by Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin
- Vice-Chairperson: Cambodia represented by Mr. Srey Sunleang
- Rapporteur: China represented by Mr. Yu Yunjun

16. The Secretariat informed the Steering Committee that the three countries designated have existing Project Cooperation Agreements with UNOPS.

### **2.2. Organisation of work**

17. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to brief the Committee on the proposed organisation of work, the list of documents available to the meeting and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting. Mr. Poulsen presented and described the documents available to the meeting including the administrative arrangements of the meeting. The list of documents is attached as Annex 3 to this report.

18. An inquiry was made on the rules of the meeting if the National Coordinators are allowed to ask questions or give comments or offer suggestions, as they are not part of the Steering Committee. It was clarified that only the Steering Committee members can take part in the decision making, but all participants are encouraged to contribute and provide comments and suggestions.

## **3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda**

19. The Chairperson invited the Committee to review and consider the draft agenda and annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat as documents SCSSAP PSC.2/1 and SCSSAP PSC.2/2, and to propose any amendments or additional items for consideration.

20. Mr. Poulsen informed the Steering Committee that the agenda has been slightly modified and suggested putting the agenda on the screen. The Chairperson walked through each of the agenda. The

Steering Committee has no comments and adopted the agenda and annotated agenda attached as Annex 1 to this report.

#### **4. Report on Status of Implementation of the SCS SAP Project**

21. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP PSC.2/3: Report on Status of Implementation of the SCS SAP Project, consisting of the Status and Progress from Inception to 2023, the Plans for 2024 and Onwards. The Committee was invited to review, provide comments and suggestions on the report and progress of the project.

22. Mr. Anders Poulsen, Senior Project Manager, briefly presented the history of the project including the status and plans for future. The Strategic Action Programme was approved and adopted in 2008. The SCS SAP Project was approved by GEF in 2016 and launched in 2018. From 2020 to 2021, the project had the inception phase until the first Steering Committee in June 2021, where a decision was made to extend the project for one year from 2023 to 2024. He stressed that the current completion date is June 2024, and hoped that the next and final completion date of the project is 2026. Since the first Steering Committee meeting, there were three Project Cooperation Agreements signed with Cambodia, China, and Thailand, which are ongoing and doing well, while three agreements are still pending with Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. He hoped that with the extension, all agreements would be completed and signed. In December 2022, SEAFDEC withdrew from the project causing further delays. The project has worked on the revision and adjustment of the workplan and budget, to include the planned second and final extension until 2026, which the meeting will discuss and approved.

23. Mr. Poulsen showed the progress in the implementation of the project components using the traffic light assessment with green showing more than 70% accomplishment, between 33%-69% accomplishment in yellow and less than 33% accomplishment in red indicating serious concerns. He stressed that progress has been made for Component 1 due to the signed agreements, while Components 2 and 3 require a lot of work to be implemented. He noted that the delays offered some opportunities and needs for action as a lot of global developments happened that support the objectives of our project. He cited the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, where 30% of coastal marine areas will be protected by 2030, which the project can contribute into the process. A Global Biodiversity Framework Fund is available to support the framework, which the countries and the project can tap in the future. Another is the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 27 and COP 28) which launched the Mangrove Breakthrough and Coral Reef Breakthrough, respectively, which is a global program on conserving and rehabilitating mangroves and coral reefs. A financial roadmap is being suggested to implement the programs. There is an increasing attention to blue economy and blue carbon. There is no sustainable blue economy without healthy oceans and healthy ecosystems around oceans. Other global events include the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, which became operational recently; the urgency to deliver the SDG targets by 2030, where many of the targets are supported by the project; and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, an agreement recently adopted. He stated that a lot of potential for work related to the project focusing on coastal and marine ecosystems and healthy oceans. He suggested that the project be used as a facilitator to utilize future funding from these developments.

24. In terms of sustainability of project outcomes, the project recognized the need to partner with longer term entities such as the countries and regional organizations, with emphasis on 1) Ecological / Environmental Sustainability (through site specific implementation linked to long-term plans); 2) Socio-Economic Sustainability (through engagement of local governments and communities, and the Small Grants Programme); and 3) Financial Sustainability (where future funding needs should be identified and pursued, and local, national, regional and global funding mechanisms explored). In terms of partnerships, the regional organizations identified are: COBSEA on long-term sustainability of activities; ASEAN particularly with ASEAN Center for Biodiversity on execution of project activities; IOC/UNESCO/WESTPAC on the Special Forum on South China Sea; PEMSEA; GEF Small Grants Programme and Universities. The project will ensure that whatever the project is doing and supporting will be embedded in, and aligned with, regional and national plans and priorities.

25. Mr. Poulsen presented the consultancy requirements particularly under Components 2 and 3, stressing that the consultancies are not standalone but are linked to each other. The key consultancy is the updating of the TDA and SAP which is the key milestone of the project, where many of the other consultancies will feed into the process. He presented further in detail the TDA and SAP process.

26. The revisions made on the workplan per component and outcomes were presented. The workplan is basically the same as the one approved in 2021 except on some adjustments that takes into consideration the withdrawal of SEAFDEC, the need for extension to implement the remaining activities, the need to incorporate the new developments at the global level and financial sustainability into the work plan. Under Component 1, the main adjustment is on Outcome 1.5 Coordinate and integrate the SCS SAP Project regional working groups on habitats with the recently established COBSEA regional working group on marine and coastal ecosystems as both regional working groups cover the same thing. Under Component 2, the main adjustment is Outcomes 2.1 and 2.5 Facilitate regional knowledge management systems. There is a need to have a system for regional cooperation that supports both the national level and at the same time can provide a regional facility for regional cooperation. The intention is not to replace but support existing knowledge management systems. Another adjustment is Outcome 2.2 on land-based pollution where the project will focus on the watershed assessment approach to complement the work done at the larger scale of the South China Sea level. Under Component 3, the main adjustments are Outcome 3.3 Sustainable blue economy as a framework for private sector engagement, and Outcome 3.5 Drafting of options paper for regional cooperation.

27. Mr. Poulsen briefly presented the project budget, expenditures and forecast until 2026. Currently the project has a budget of around USD 9.29 Million, where around USD 3.24 Million or 35% of the budget has been utilized to date. The low utilization is mainly due to project delays. With the withdrawal of SEAFDEC, the remaining USD 5 Million managed by SEAFDEC will be integrated into UNOPS budget, leaving a total budget of USD 10.9 Million available for implementation for 2024 to 2026. Based on the forecast until 2026, the project needs to spend all the budget in the next three years. This would require working together to implement and deliver all the activities and outputs of the project.

28. The key expected milestones and timelines for the next three years were presented particularly the finalization and implementation of PCAs, the updating of TDA and SAP and the drafting of the options paper for regional cooperation. The last two milestones coincide with the schedule of the COBSEA Inter-Governmental Meetings, where the draft and final versions will be presented and handed over to COBSEA for consideration. The integration of the regional working groups with COBSEA working group on coastal and marine ecosystems will be a continuous process until the end of the project. As part of GEF management approach, the project intends to conduct a mid-term evaluation in the second quarter of 2024. The mid-term evaluation gives the project opportunities to assess and recommend actions to improve the project and the likelihood of achieving its objectives.

29. In conclusion, Mr. Poulsen reminded the Steering Committee of the need to discuss and approve the revised workplan and budget, the no cost project extension until December 2026, and the revised implementation structure with UNOPS as executing agency. He stressed that the three issues mentioned needs endorsement from the Steering Committee.

30. Mr. Meas of Cambodia suggested some idea on sustainability. He stated that there are many stakeholders from the government and private sector that can support and sustain the conservation and rehabilitation activities. Another is building capacity of local communities and stakeholders on financing mechanism to sustain the activities once the project ended. He raised the issue of climate change and sea-level rise which affects the natural resources and livelihoods of coastal communities. Mr. Poulsen stated that the project can provide support and be used as a vehicle to identify sustainable ways for local conservation finance in the region and around the world and develop those that work at the local level. The project will share good practices on financing local conservation such as the case in

the Philippines that will be presented in the meeting, and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund where they have a similar issue. In terms of sea-level rise, the project can help promote ecosystem conservation, particularly mangroves that protect coastal areas. This is where the nature agenda and climate agenda come together.

31. On consultancies, Mr. Ukkrit noticed the consultancies in the presentation, and asked if there are several set of consultants and if they have already been engaged. Mr. Poulsen clarified that there is only one set of consultants, and that they have not yet been recruited as the project needs to have the workplan approved first. Some of the consultants have already been identified and approached by the project. A key consultant who will play a key role is Dr. Liana Mcmanus, who facilitated the formulation of the first TDA and has been involved in global projects with GEF. Mr. Romeo Trono, National Coordinator of the Philippines inquired on the process that will be used in the updating of TDA and SAP as the methodology used before is very tedious and lengthy. Ms. Vanderbeck clarified that the TDA methodology is continuously evolving and in the process of revamping the methodology to ensure the shift from an ecosystem type of management approach to an intersectoral management approach.

32. Ms. Vanderbeck noted the need to revamp the SAP moving towards a sustainable blue economy approach, focusing on ocean economy, and the need for financial sustainability by establishing the right type of partnerships, including with the private sector. The high seas treaty and the biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction mechanism, through GEF provides resources to support the ratification process. On the engagement of the local communities, it is critical that we nurture mechanisms to support the communities. During the first phase of the project, one good practice the project wants to continue was the partnership agreement with the GEF Small Grants Program managed by UNDP, which allows the project to disburse small grants to local communities to implement some of the SAP targets. The project has allocated some of its resources to get some matching funds from the GEF Small Grant Program. In terms of sustainability, the project plans to create a mechanism at the regional level, having a Small Grants Facility established under COBSEA to continue disbursing grants once the project is completed.

33. Ms. Natalie Harms of COBSEA inquired if there will be a scoping of possible funding opportunities and mechanism for sustainability at regional (using COBSEA or other mechanisms) and national level to provide some options and ideas to pursue once the project is over. Mr. Poulsen clarified that this is part of the work included in the updated workplan, where a consultant on blue economy and private sector engagement will be engaged. The activity could also be included as part of the project and COBSEA collaboration. Mr. Ukkrit suggested that the project should consider more options not only on the financial but also on the governance structure.

34. Mr. Yu inquired on the future of the updated TDA and SAP in terms of its use and function. Ms. Vanderbeck clarified that the TDA and SAP documents as part of the GEF process and requirements are endorsed at the ministerial level. It represents a commitment from the country, both national commitment and regional commitment. If the country chooses to commit to it, and agree on the content, then the country will move on with its implementation.

35. Dr. Xiangbin Pei, National Coordinator of China suggested that the project should keep pace with the global events and may need to adjust some activity to keep up with events like the biodiversity convention. The regional issues like the updating of TDA and SAP should consider two elements. One element is to help member states in their commitment to the implementation of the international convention, which are the priorities of member countries. Another element is regional issues should consider national circumstances. All countries have their national action plans to address environmental issues. In China, we have mangrove replanting action plan, land-based action plan, and the action plan for biodiversity. The regional issues should be harmonized with the national circumstances and international convention.

36. Mr. Trono inquired as to what are the prospects for GEF to fund the updated SAP which is a key output of the project. He cited PEMSEA which went through several funding from GEF. Ms.



Vanderbeck explained that the countries expected to endorse the TDA and SAP at the highest ministerial level. In the first SAP, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by countries committing to implement the SAP. For the updated SAP, it will be up to the Steering Committee to decide how to endorse the updated SAP whether to sign an agreement or go through an adoption in a meeting. As to the implementation of updated SAP, the project can initiate the implementation of small-scale activities through the GEF Medium Size Project. She encouraged the project to think of other unique approaches such as sustainable blue economy project to advance the implementation of SAP, including exploring the notion of conservation finance and other financing mechanisms that could generate projects.

37. Ms. Vanderbeck further explained that PEMSEA scope is more into coastal zone management with local communities while the project is broader focusing on source to sea. She recognized the potential overlap and synergies which the project will work on with PEMSEA through collaboration. She stressed the need to ensure consistency and coherence of national plans at national and regional level as we cannot afford to have a series of plans that has no interaction across them.

38. Ms. Natalie Harms of COBSEA clarified and added a bit of context on the COBSEA workshop in Bali that discussed and adopted its new strategic directions, and where countries deemed it premature to mention the move from an action plan to convention. Through the project, there is an opportunity to develop an options paper of the different combinations of things which could be a convention or protocols on specific issues that countries agree on. This would help countries to better understand and decide where COBSEA goes in the future.

39. Following discussions, the Steering Committee acknowledged the status of the implementation of the SCS SAP Project and requested the Secretariat to take note of the comments and suggestions made. The Steering Committee expressed no objection to the proposed project extension until 2026 and the new implementation arrangements.

## **5. Report on National Activities to Implement the SCS SAP Project**

40. The Chairperson invited the National Technical Focal Points and National Technical Working Group Chairpersons or representatives of participating countries to present their national activities to implement the SCS SAP Project (SCSSAP PSC.2/4), following a template prepared and circulated previously by the Secretariat. The Steering Committee was invited to review, provide comments and suggestions, and consider the national activities reported.

41. Representing Cambodia, Mr. Than Monomoyith, Vice Chief of Office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation, Ministry of Environment, presented on behalf of NTWG Chairperson. He informed the meeting that the SCS SAP Project in Cambodia started with the signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement in 2022. The project is under the overall coordination of the General Director of Natural Protected Areas in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries Conservation of the Fisheries Administration who work on the project activities on coral reef and seagrass management. The project has established national working groups like the intergovernmental committee which focus on the national and subnational level with NGOs, private sector, universities and communities as members. He presented the targets and sites of the habitat components and activities undertaken. For mangrove, around 33,000 hectares targeted covering three sites namely: Preh Nub District, Botum Sakor National Park and Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary. Activities implemented include: Reforms of laws and regulations for the sites; Replanting of mangroves; and Established monitoring mechanisms. For coral reefs, around 1,080 hectares targeted covering three sites namely: Koh Kong Archipelago, Koh Rong Archipelago and Kep Beach and Koh Tonsay and Koh Pous Archipelagos. Activities implemented include: Building capacity of national and local officials, stakeholders, and communities; Consultative and evidence-based management approach and measure adopted and operational; Appropriate management tools developed and utilized; and Established monitoring mechanisms. For seagrass, around 8,095 hectares targeted covering three sites namely: Kep Beach and Koh Tonsay and Koh Pous Archipelagos, Kampot Beach and Chroy Bros. Activities include:

Sustainable seagrass management by supporting laws and regulations and operationalizing site-based management plans; Established new seagrass marine fisheries management area; and Established monitoring mechanisms. For wetlands, around 14,122 hectares targeted covering three sites namely: Koh Kapic Ramsar Site, Chumpo Khmao and Kampong Trach. Activities implemented include: Integrated management plan developed and under implementation; Declaration of two new wetlands as protected areas like Ramsar site; Adaptation of regional estuary monitoring scheme as part of Ramsar site management. In terms of pollution management, Cambodia activities include: Participation in the consultation meeting organized by the project; Assigned the national focal point for the land-based pollution component; and Prepared the land-based pollution achievement report from 2008 to 2021. He noted that the activity under land-based pollution has not yet started and inquired as to when it will start.

42. In terms of overall status, Cambodia project has completed the: Policy reviews for mangrove and seagrass including developed guideline and site-based plans for mangrove restoration; Updated coral reefs and seagrass distribution map including stakeholder capacity building on the reef biology and survey; and Submitted regularly quarterly reports. Overall, Cambodia has achieved 35% of the workplan and 21% of budget implementation as per PCA. The overall challenges and needs identified are: Develop baseline and guideline for habitat management; Improving building knowledge base for coastal resources management; Sustainable financing mechanisms; Marine park management; Land-based pollution management; Improving the accuracy and transparency of data and information; and Harmonize data with the national habitat focal points and stakeholders for sustainable habitat management. Priority activities identified for the project are: Build capacity of government officers, NGOs and local communities on marine habitat conservation and management; and Data management on marine habitats. In conclusion, implementation of the PCA is progressing well and the Ministry of Environment is committed to implementing the project and has no objection extending the duration of the project until 2026. To access Cambodia presentation, please click [LINK].

43. Mr. Yu Yunjun, Senior Engineer of the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and NTWG Chairperson for China, presented that China has established the IMC and other related arrangements which includes several related ministries like the Ministry of Ecology and Environment as lead agency, and the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences as lead agency for the national technical working group. He presented the targets and sites of the habitat components per outputs including the progress. For mangroves, five sites were targeted under four outputs, namely: Dongzhaigang in Hainan, Shankou in Guangxi, Zhanjiang, Yangjiang and Huidong in Guangdong. Progress includes: National action plan for mangrove protection and restoration released in 2020, which basically covers the South China Sea provinces or coastal waters; Revised the law of marine environment protection in 2023 which came into effect in January 2024; Three provinces have activities related to local regulations and legislation; and around 400 hectares of mangroves have been replanted. For seagrass, five sites targeted under three outputs, namely: Lian and Xincun in Hainan, Hepu in Guangxi, Liusha and Yifengxi in Guangdong. Progress includes: Listing of seagrass beds as significantly protected marine ecosystems in the revised marine environment protection law; Promulgated some policies and regulations related to seagrass protection; Cooperation with different local stakeholders and conducted field surveys and investigations; and Restoration activities related to seagrass have been conducted. For wetland, four sites targeted under two outputs, namely: Danzhou in Hainan, Maowehai in Guangxi, Pearl River Estuary and Dahu in Guangdong. Progress includes: Released of the wetlands protection law in 2021; Conducted site planning; and Developed action plan for invasive alien species. For pollution management, China is implementing different action plans locally for the South China Sea area including developing some kind of discharge standard for coastal agriculture. Mr. Yu pointed out that one outcome under Component 2 is to develop regional standards, which may be difficult to achieve as there are different types of agriculture and species. The land-based pollution point source is one of the priorities in China for the marine environment conservation. At the local level, different action plans and management practices in different provinces were developed.

44. In terms of PCA implementation, 40% of activities have been implemented which is a bit delayed from the original workplan. Mr. Yu hoped for the extension of the project and PCA for the habitat

component to recover the delays. Several challenges were identified affecting the different habitats, most notably the removal of invasive species including the development of national action plan on invasive species. In conclusion, marine environmental protection and other related legislations have been revised including new legislations related to marine environmental protection such as the policy document on beautiful China program. Coastal conservation is one of the priorities in China. A scientific conference and campaign about the beautiful coastal bay will be organized. The mangroves and seagrass activities of the PCA will be continued. Mr. Yu reiterated for the approval of project extension. To access China presentation, please click [\[LINK\]](#).

45. Representing Indonesia, Mr. Dasrul Chaniago, NTWG Chairperson presented the national coordination and oversight structure and progress. At national level, MOEF carried out several coordination activities such as: Internal meeting within MOEF have been held for preparation and finalization of MOU between MOEF and UNOPS; Coordination meeting between MOEF and other ministries such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been connected to get input and views on the implementation of the project; Coordination meeting between national technical focal points, national focal points and the specialized executing agency; and Meeting within the Secretariat of the Directorate General of Pollution and Degradation Control, Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control and the Bureau of International Cooperation of MOEF. He presented the targets and sites of the habitat components per outputs. For mangroves, around 65,235 hectares targeted covering one site under three regional outputs, namely Batu Ampar, Kubu Raya Regency in West Kalimantan. For coral reefs, around 1,932 has targeted covering three sites under four regional outputs, namely: Belitung, Banka and Bintan Island. For seagrass, around 1,775 hectares targeted covering two sites under three regional outputs, namely: Bintan Island and Mapur Island. For wetlands, around 320 hectares covering one site under two regional outputs, namely Sembilang Sector of the Berbak Sembilang National Park. On pollution management, Mr. Chaniago shared the experiences of Indonesia on land-based pollution in large cities which originates from community and industrial activities. Efforts were taken to improve seawater quality through policies, permits and provision of facilities including seawater quality monitoring, action programs and law enforcement to meet seawater quality standards. Initiatives from the public and private sectors to prevent the release of waste into the environment such as utilizing waste that has economic value for recycling or circular economic. our economic schooler. The proposed project sites are Batam Island as most populous city, Bintan Island and Belitung Island.

46. Overall status and challenge, Indonesia is still waiting with the implementation of the project. The MOU between Indonesia Government and UNOPS is now on its final stage for signing. The MOU already got approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Grant Support Agreement between UNOPS and Bogor University is final and ready for signing. In conclusion, Indonesia is waiting for the finalization of the MOU between UNOPS and MOEF. To implement the project, MOEF will coordinate and collaborate with related local government, experts, private sectors, and non-government organizations. To access Indonesia presentation, please click [\[LINK\]](#).

47. Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin, NTWG Chairperson for Thailand, presented the national report for Thailand starting with the national coordination and oversight. Thailand's Inter-Ministry was officially adopted in 2021 by the Director General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources covering key division of department and relevant organization on marine resources and fisheries. The appointment of the national technical working group is ongoing, and once completed, will organize the review of outputs from the implemented activities. The project has completed the mid-term review and site visits for five out of eleven sites and will continue the review of remaining sites in 2024. The targets and sites of the habitat components per outputs including the progress were presented. For mangroves, three sites were targeted under 6 outputs, namely: Welu River, Bandon Bay and Pak Panang. Activities implemented include: Announcement of some areas as mangrove conservation area, a kind of protected area for mangrove in Thailand, where measures to proclaim the area have been drafted including consultation with relevant committee; Baseline survey conducted including patrolling and workshop; Completed the reform of laws and regulations for mangroves in Bandon Bay; and Establishment of monitoring mechanisms is ongoing. For coral reefs, six sites were targeted under four outputs, namely:

Si Chang, Koh Lan, Koh Tao, Koh Mak, Koh Kra and Losin. Activities implemented include: Establishment of a working group to drive MSP and develop management plan; Conducted capacity building and training including baseline surveys and data collection; SMART patrolling and waste collection. For seagrass, one site was targeted under three outputs, namely Bandon Bay. Activities implemented include: Completion of the baseline survey; Development of Dugong conservation plan and seagrass management measures is ongoing; Consultation with the community and working group on the designation of new MPA is ongoing; Conducted waste collection with local community and training on monitoring framework and indicators. For wetland, one site was targeted under three outputs, namely Don Hoi Lot, a huge mudflat with high population of razor clam. Activities implemented include: Baseline data collection and assessment of effectiveness of law enforcement; Registered the community conservation group and supported marine conservation activities like the fish aggregating device proposed by the community; Drafted measures and agreement on the sustainable use and harvesting of razor clam including training on value-added razor clam products in March 2024; Drafted the marine and coastal resources management plan which is being reviewed by the legal authority of Thailand, and if considered will be submitted to the cabinet for approval; Conducted waste collection with local community and training on monitoring framework and indicators. On pollution management, the Pollution Management Plan 2023 to 2,027 has three strategies: 1) Prevention and reduction of pollution at source; 2) Increased efficiency of treatment, waste disposal and pollution control; and 3) Development of pollution management system. The Pollution Control Department has the mandate to monitor state of pollution such as state of water quality, the state of municipal solid waste, and industrial waste. Thailand has a standard for water quality monitoring and has recently received GEF8 funding on seeding a nutrient pollution reduction strategy for the coastal water of Thailand with the aim of reducing land-based nutrients entering the Gulf of Thailand.

48. Overall status, the project completed 38% of the workplan and 33% of the total budget spent. It has completed the mid-term review and site visits. Main challenges identified are: Internal process and personnel changes at national and local offices; Delay in fund transfer between offices due to DMCR regulation; Some sites are engaged heavily on their routine work and less time to implement activities; and other factors like monsoon and flooding. In conclusion, Thailand has been implementing the activities identified in the PCA. The national technical working groups are in the process of official appointment from DMCR Director General. Though moderately delay, Thailand will continue the implementation and will aim to complete the activity including the mid-term review and site visits within 2024. To access Thailand, please click [LINK].

49. Dr. Nguyen Le Tuan provided update on project progress and activities proposed for implementation. He informed that VEMSI has already drafted the project document and submitted it to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for consideration and endorsement. The political partner is MONRE with VEMSI as the project owner. The expected duration of implementation is two years from January 2024 to January 2026 in 28 provinces and coastal cities in Vietnam. He presented the proposed activities for implementation by the different habitats in target sites. For mangroves, the project will implement activities in four sites, namely: 1) Dong Rui, 2) Xuan Thuy, 3) Can Gio and 4) Ca Mau. Activities proposed include: Assess the current administration status, policies and activities related to mangrove management and restoration; Assess the level of biodiversity in coastal estuarine mangrove ecosystem; Use of valuable mangrove species as nurseries in the coastal zone; and Create mechanism for collaboration across sectors, among others. Expected outputs include: Reports on current administration status, the level biodiversity of coastal estuarine mangrove ecosystem, and the governance, ecology and social economy; Interdisciplinary management regulation and guideline for management of mangrove ecosystem; and Nursery of 5,000 seedlings of three species of mangrove. For coral reefs, the project will implement activities in three selected sites, namely: 1) Nui Chua National and Park, Ninh Thuan Province, 2) Hon Cau MPA, Ca Na Bay, Binh Thuan Province, and 3) Phu Quoc MPA, Kien Giang Province. Activities proposed include: Develop community-based management model for sustainable use of seaweed resources combined with coral reefs conservation; Assess the effectiveness and provide sustainable management solutions on coral reef resource restoration at demonstration models; and assess the status of implementation of current sub-zone planning regulation and propose solution. Expected outputs include: Implementation report of the current sub-zone planning

regulations; Report on regional coral reef management; and Instruction material on coral reefs ecosystem community-based management model. For seagrass, the project will implement activities in two selected sites, namely: 1) Thuy Trieu Lagoon, Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa Province and 2) Phu Quoc, Kien Giang Province. Activities proposed include: Assess the actual status of the management and use of marine resources related to seagrass; Identify the functional subdivision and propose integrated management solutions; Pilot sustainable aquaculture designs in seagrass with participation of private sector and local farmers; and pilot seagrass management model combined with eco-tourism. Expected outputs include: Reports on the actual status of management and use of marine resources related to seagrass, and functional subdivision, integrated management and sustainable development. For wetlands, the project will implement activities in three selected sites, namely: 1) Wetlands Protected Area in Thai Thuy Province, 2) Thi Nai Lagoon, Quy Nhon, Binh Dinh Province and 3) Tien River Wetland, Tien Giang Province. Activities proposed include: Rapid assessment on current wetland protected area including developing integrated management plan; Strengthen ability on legal implementation related to environmental protection, biodiversity and sustainable finance; and Pilot community by eco-tourism model using the value of wetland. Expected outputs include: Reports on the actual status of natural and socio-economic condition, environment and biodiversity, management and policies; and monitoring and wetland management report.

50. On pollution management, the activities proposed include: Improve coastal ecosystem governance information systems, monitoring and developing action plan; Effectively integrate science into land-based pollution management; and Improve national level policies and regulations including financial mechanism, among others. Expected outputs include: Assessment and analysis report on monitoring systems and waste sources management including current regulations on management and control of land pollution; Report on impacts of aquaculture operations; and Synthesis report and lessons learned from other countries and regions on marine pollution control. Mr. Nguyen explained the regional and sub-regional cooperation objectives and expected activities to be conducted including the expected products. He also explained the process and flow of government and project document approval in Vietnam and committed to speed up the approval process. In conclusion, Vietnam will implement the three main components of the project, summarized as follows: 1) Set up the sustainability management forms for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands habitats; 2) Minimize the land pollution activity to reduce the environmental degradation process; and 3) Facilitate national and regional cooperation to implement the SAP.

51. Ms. Vanderbeck expressed appreciation for the works done by the countries, especially on the reforms and improvement and update of legislation and laws. She stressed that these accomplishments and success stories should be codified in stories and shared. The Regional Science Conference at the margin of the IOC/UNESCO WESTPAC conference in April 2024 is one way to do this. She encouraged the project and the countries to write stories and have them published at IWLEARN, as the project is part of the larger community of practice among GEF International Waters projects. On the difficulty of establishing pollution standards nationally and regionally, Ms. Vanderbeck stated that the project should initiate to have this community of practice and should be part of the governance mechanism at the regional level. The project can agree on simple key basic principles that can be adopted regionally with respect to pollution management, habitat conservation, among others. There are experiences around the world with strong framework directives that can be used as reference.

52. Ms. Vanderbeck inquired on Thailand's declaration of mangrove area as protected area, if already approved, and the establishment of environmental monitoring systems and indicators where the swimming blue crab was used. She suggested connecting the project sites with the Fisheries Refugia Project sites. Mr. Satapoomin explained that the proclamation of the area as mangrove conservation area is an ongoing process. Consultations at community and provincial level have already been made on the scope and kind of measures and activities that will be allowed in the area. The proposal and maps have been drafted and already passed the provincial and national committees and will have to go to the legal administration and cabinet for approval. He further explained that the swimming blue crab is used as indicator for healthy seagrass based on consultation with the community. He confirmed that the site in Bandon Bay is a Fisheries Refugia site and has been working closely with the community. Dr. Tuan

noted the linkages between the habitats and fishery refugia activities. He suggested that the PCU and national technical focal points need to discuss and work together on how to link fishery refugia and habitat management. The signed PCA has no budget and activity for the linkage between fishery refugia and habitat management and should be considered in the new and amended PCA.

53. Ms. Harms inquired as to the fish aggregating devices proposed by the communities. Mr. Ukkrit explained that under Section 16 of the marine management promotion act, DMCR will support the local community on any activity they want to propose. Most of the communities who registered with DMCR are fishery communities who want to increase their livelihood by installing the fish aggregating device. The communities indicated that the device also serves as refuge area for juvenile fish, and in the long term will increase the fishery production in the area. The concept has not yet been proven in terms of scientific findings and could be an aspect for research.

54. Mr. Trono inquired about the indicators that will be used in conducting annual monitoring of habitats. Dr. Tuan clarified that the countries need to follow the SAP indicator framework, stressing that the framework was developed by the members and experts of the different regional working groups during the first phase. For purposes of project evaluation and database development, the project needs to have some agreed indicators to follow. The countries may add and use other indicators, if necessary, like the swimming crab used by Thailand.

55. Dr. Tuan noted the implementation delays in all country presentations, especially on monitoring where countries have not done even the first monitoring for project sites. He suggested that in doing the workplan revision and extension of existing and new PCAs, there is a need to allocate some budget for monitoring and evaluation activity. The data will not only be used to evaluate the management effectiveness of sites but also for database activities under Component 2. He noted the reported activities under the land-based pollution component, even though it is not yet included in the signed PCAs. He suggested that in developing new and amending the PCA, countries should consider the existing activities and the execution arrangements, if the activities will be executed by the same agency or another.

56. Mr. Trono inquired if the project has a standard or prescribed format for maps including the standard information that can be included in the maps as they are a good way to communicate and present visually the project sites. He suggested sharing the format to the countries to use. Ms. Vanderbeck informed the meeting that UNEP, following the UN protocol, has established a methodology for maps, and will share with the project. Mr. Trono further inquired about the mooring system used. In the Philippines' Mabini coral reef site, the biggest source of damage to coral reefs are anchors dropped by diving boats. The local government has tried several systems but did not work in the long term.

57. Mr. Poulsen inquired on the time needed to process and approve the project in Vietnam. Mr. Nguyen explained that the whole process may be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2024. He noted the many accomplishments achieved in implementing the SAP, and encouraged all countries, with the help of the national coordinators, to come up and write stories for sharing, particularly related to the engagement of local communities. He supported the suggestion to have a unified standard mapping system of project sites for greater clarity, visibility, and connectivity, and expressed that the project can recruit a GIS specialist to help and work on the maps. The project was designed to have separate outcomes for each habitat, Mr. Poulsen inquired if there are examples of connectivity between and among the different habitats. He explained that nature and ecosystems are not separate but connected with each other. He encouraged the countries to share examples as there may be some benefits looking from a larger perspective than individual habitats.

58. Following discussions, the Steering Committee acknowledged the progress of national activities to implement the SAP including ways forward and expressed commitment to implement the project as planned to include the finalization and signing of project agreements with Indonesia, Philippines and

Vietnam. The Steering Committee recognized the absence of representative from the Philippines and requested the PCU to do further engagement with the national lead agency.

## **6. Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021 including Plans for Publication**

59. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP PSC.2/5: Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021, previously circulated including the planned publication and dissemination of good practices on habitats, fisheries and land-based pollution management. The Steering Committee was invited to review, provide comments, and consider the draft report.

60. Dr. Tuan presented the summary of the meeting document Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021. The report is based on the different outputs presented at the First Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee and the First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Habitats and Land-Based Pollution, and the revisions and adjustments made by the national partners working on the habitats and land-based pollution achievements. The progress in percentages is compared with the targets of the outcomes and outputs of the SAP, which the countries should follow in developing their PCA activities as this process will be used in project reporting and evaluation. The percentage accomplishment of outputs per outcome was presented.

61. For mangroves, the progress of all outputs ranges from 16.3% to 46.1%. The low achievement rate is mainly due to some countries who have not yet confirmed the information in the draft report. Some countries have no information or data, and some targets are not applicable to countries. Data for monitoring is poor. Many achievements were made before the project. Dr. Tuan stressed that the draft achievement report has been shared with the countries through the National Technical Focal Points and encouraged the countries to review and confirm or adjust the information in the report. For coral reef, the overall progress of all outputs is good at 78.5%, ranging from 50% to 73.9% indicating more than half was achieved. This is mainly due to the availability of data from all countries who are members of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Program, and the substantial contribution from China, which has not been involved in coral reef activity of the project. Data for monitoring is good. Dr. Tuan stressed the need to still check some national data like in Thailand and Indonesia and adjust the data to improve the figures. For seagrass, Dr. Tuan noted the significant progress made of all outputs ranging from 70% to 114.3%, nearly achieving the SAP targets. This is mainly due to the availability of data from all countries, and the contribution from Thailand, which has no target in the SAP. Data for monitoring is good. For wetland, the progress of all outputs ranges from 36.8% to 171.4%. The target on declaration of wetland areas with protection status is very good, achieving more than the target. The figure on monitoring is quite poor, the same as mangroves. For land-based pollution, the achievements mainly focused on the improvement of national policies and laws for land-based management, and harmonization of national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management.

62. Dr. Tuan briefly presented the draft good practices on habitats, fisheries, and land-based pollution management, consisting of good practices in the region and other regions. He explained that the draft report was shared to countries for updating. He noticed that a lot of good practices and lessons learned from the abstracts submitted for the SCS SAP Special Forum of the IOC WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference could be added to the report.

63. Following the presentation, the Steering Committee acknowledged the draft report on the SAP achievement and good practices shared with the countries. The Steering Committee requested the countries to further update the reports for final review and publication in the second quarter of 2024,

and the PCU to include the practices submitted in the SCS SAP Special Forum including additional inputs from countries.

## 7. Conservation Finance Mechanism

64. The Chairperson invited speakers to introduce the project to good practices in local environment management and conservation finance approaches and opportunities for scaling up in the South China Project. The Committee was invited to comment and consider in the context of the South China Project.

65. Mr. Trono presented the local Philippines' experience in achieving progress towards coral reefs targets in Mabini municipality. The opportunities started with the election of the new Municipal Mayor who requested the assistance of the National Coordinator to chair the coastal resource management technical group which the mayor created to stop and reverse the decline of coral reef cover in Mabini. Three committees were also created to review and revise the existing code, plan and create the coastal resource management office, and build capacity on law enforcement. These were all operationalized through an executive order from the mayor. The draft PCA and activities for the Mabini coral reef site has been completed. The National Coordinator proposed to the mayor to align the municipal plan with the activity plan of the PCA, which the mayor agreed. This resulted in a decision to broaden the scope of intervention from coastal resource management to integrated coastal management approach using the ridge to reef framework, and the formulation of the integrated coastal management code. On January 18, 2024, a Municipal Ordinance was passed enacting the Mabini integrated coastal management code into law. The code is now the local policy framework of the municipality and the SCS SAP Project in Mabini. One notable and important feature of the code is the legal basis to collect user's fees such as the municipal environment protection fee and the marine conservation fee or dive pass for the free diving communities, and other fees. The funds collected from conservation fees and charges goes to the ICM trust fund which will be used solely for the protection, rehabilitation, preservation and management of marine resources and tourism promotion. The conservative estimate of generated income to the ICM Trust Fund is about 33 million pesos. This is a good example for the region in the mobilization of conservation finance at local level and offers opportunities for creating linkages with regional/global conservation finance mechanisms. A local NGO committed another additional 1.5 million pesos to support capacity building for local community-based law enforcers. The workplan to implement the ICM code is connected and aligned with the project workplan. There are a lot of opportunities for scaling up. A new bill is now pending in congress adopting the ICM as a national strategy for the holistic and sustainable management of coastal resources, which is expected to be signed soon and provide a broader and stronger basis for scaling up.

66. Ms. Vanderbeck presented some practices and approaches on conservation finance mechanisms including blue carbon that were piloted in other GEF projects which could be considered in the sustainability of project activities and by other regional organizations like COBSEA. The blue carbon or blue forest project aims to develop and standardize a methodology in assessing carbon in the coastal ecosystems and then selling it to carbon markets. This eventually leads to policy reforms. The process is the same as terrestrial forest carbon where the community assess and measure the carbon that is stock in the sediments of coastal ecosystems like mangroves. The process also assesses the benefits on the community and biodiversity. The community will submit a project idea and if cleared will submit a detailed technical proposal to an organization that will certify and register the community in the system for accreditation. After which, the community can sell the carbon and other coastal benefits to companies who want to offset their carbon footprint. Reporting is done on a yearly basis to get the carbon credits, subject to verification.

67. In Kenya, a community-based project has worked with two communities on two mangrove sites. Based on the assessment, the mangrove areas could provide a total of 2,500 tons per year of carbon benefits which in turn provided other benefits to the communities such as coastal protection, fresh waterwells, materials for schools and hospitals, and ecotourism opportunities. The good thing is that



60% of the carbon benefits goes to the community while the rest goes to the organization who do the certification and verification at the start, and the broker. In Indonesia, the government decided to imbed the blue carbon mechanism into national policies, and with support of NORAD, Indonesia is now in the process of adjusting all of their policies to make blue carbon a national practice. In Cambodia, a small related GEF project has expressed interest about the process and want to use one of their sites to test a blue carbon project, in possible collaboration with the SCS SAP Project. Another related project is the Caribbean blue carbon facility which builds on existing infrastructure such as the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund as a regional trust fund supporting national trust funds has been established.

68. The project intends to explore similar mechanisms and structures in the region, perhaps through COBSEA following the SGP mechanism, to continue providing grants to the local communities. Dr. Tuan mentioned that some project sites have potential to develop this blue carbon approach like East Bintan in Indonesia with a large seagrass area, and Phu Quoc in Vietnam for seagrass and mangrove areas. He suggested that each country select one site and develop pilot blue carbon projects, using the project funds. It was observed that most of the countries have existing blue carbon projects. Ms. Lichtenberg suggested considering other services that can be provided by coastal ecosystems and using the project's small grants program fund for this purpose, subject to some modification. Ms. Harms expressed interest in using COBSEA as a possible facility for conservation finance, stating that COBSEA is an existing mechanism in the region with blue carbon and climate action as part of its strategic direction. The countries need to identify and develop project ideas to start the process, which could be supported by the project.

69. Mr. Poulsen noted the experiences and practices on sustainable conservation finance, including the comments and suggestions made, which is a good starting point for discussion on conservation finance and blue carbon. He suggested the idea of developing a mechanism that captures all the ecosystem services and builds them into a system or mechanism for sustainable conservation finance. The project will engage consultants on blue economy and economic valuation that could help develop and facilitate the discussions, and hopefully create some kind of mechanism.

70. Following discussions, the Steering Committee acknowledged the good practices and financing mechanism presented, and requested the the PCU and countries the following:

- Develop pilot project on blue carbon approach in selected project sites. Countries to identify and propose.
- Explore whether blue carbon can be integrated into the SCS SAP SGP funds.
- Identify and explore other sustainable financing mechanisms and experiences from other regions and countries on conservation finance, carbon credit, etc.
- Identify opportunities for scaling up of ICM initiatives and local sustainable financing mechanisms.

## **8. Discussion and Adoption of the Revised Overall Workplan and Budget**

71. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the proposed revised overall workplan and budget. The Chairperson invited the Steering Committee to review and approve the revised overall workplan and budget.

72. Mr. Anders Poulsen informed the meeting that the main changes in the work plan are the extension until 2026 and the execution modality. The whole work-plan is now under one executing agency with UNOPS. The extension covers the period June 2024 to December 2026. The wordings of some outputs have been adjusted based on new developments and global agenda. The components, outcomes and other outputs remain the same. He explained the major and minor changes on the outputs per component as follows:

73. Component 1 includes the coordination and integration of the working groups into COBSEA regional working group on marine and coastal ecosystems to ensure sustainability of project activities

after completion. Component 2 changes include the existing data and information related to land-based pollution and promotion of a knowledge management system with organizations such as COBSEA or any other interested organizations. The main milestone outcome is the TDA and SAP update where most of the changes were made such as inclusion of socio-economic issues and blue economy. He stressed that most outcomes and outputs feed into the TDA and SAP process. Component 3 changes is the development of an option paper to outline the options for regional cooperation for consideration of the COBSEA IGM. The main milestone outcome is regional cooperation.

74. Ms. Vanderbeck inquired on the coordination and integration of working groups with COBSEA particularly the mechanism including the activities on the quantification of contaminant loading from coastal aquaculture where COBSEA has similar work looking at plastic pollution in aquaculture as there may be some potential synergies to explore. She further inquired about the round table meeting activity and details of the WESTPAC conference. She also suggested the use of the Project Manager software to see and show how the activities link or connect with each other. Mr. Yu also expressed concern on the feasibility of quantifying effluent volumes and contaminant loadings from coastal aquaculture given the various types and sources of effluents.

75. Mr. Poulsen clarified that the project and COBSEA will organize their separate regional working group meetings, in close collaboration with each other. The first joint meeting will start the coordination and integration process which will discuss and elaborate the mechanism, until the final meeting in 2026 where the work will be handed over to the COBSEA working group. The project will look broader into the issue of plastic from coastal agriculture and will coordinate with COBSEA and make sure that this is reflected in the workplan. The first project roundtable meeting will be organized under the framework of the IOC WESTPAC conference as part of the SCS SAP Forum. The project will look into the possibility of using the project manager software to show the connections and linkages of the activities. Dr. Tuan briefly presented the status of the organization of the SCS SAP Project roundtable meeting. Around 20 local officials and managers including the national technical focal points will participate in the meeting where the main purpose is to link local management and science. He reminded the Philippines and Cambodia to confirm and register their participants for the meeting.

76. Mr. Trono inquired about the regional transboundary mechanism and the progress of the initial discussion with ACB on the proposed transboundary initiative on marine turtles, particularly in establishing its first transboundary ASEAN heritage protected area in the Turtle Island. The ACB is interested in creating a network of ASEAN heritage protected areas anchored on the migratory and life history of sea turtles around the region. Mr. Poulsen confirmed that the transboundary activity is a priority and included in the workplan. Implementing the initiative with ACB is beneficial as it is also a way to kick start the project implementation in the Philippines.

77. Mr. Satapoomin inquired if the revised workplan activity and budget will not violate the existing PCA activities and budget with countries which only focused on Component 1. Mr. Poulsen clarified that it will not violate the existing PCA with countries.

78. On the revised budget, Mr. Poulsen presented and walked through the breakdown of the revised budget indicating that the main revision is mainly on the extension and allocation of budget for the next three years from 2023 to 2026 and the additional funds transferred from SEAFDEC. There were suggestions to change the descriptions of some budget lines and make sure that the budget reflects and supports the activities of the workplan. The allocation of the budget from 2024 to 2026 needs to be adjusted as the allocation for 2024 is less than the budget agreed in the existing signed PCA for Component 1 and does not yet consider Components 2 and 3 activities.

79. Following the discussions, the Steering Committee adopted the revised overall workplan and budget, and requested the PCU to coordinate closely with COBSEA on project activities like the integration of regional working groups (SCSSAP RWG and COBSEA WGMCE) meetings and land-based pollution (coastal nutrients), refine and align the work plan with budget, and provide annotation

to some activities to explain/clarify the activities like ‘subject to national circumstances’. The revised overall workplan and budget are attached as Annex 4 and Annex 5 to this report.

## 9. Meeting Recommendations and Next Steps

80. The Chairperson invited the Rapporteur supported by the Secretariat to present the draft meeting recommendations and next steps.

81. Mr. Yu presented the draft meeting recommendations and next steps prepared by the Secretariat. The Secretariat informed that the meeting recommendations will be added and form part of the recommendations for each agenda item, following the discussions.

82. As to the plans for 2024 and onwards, the Steering Committee agreed on the following:

- The PSC approves the revised work plan and budget including the no cost extension until December 2026.
- The PSC recommends expediting the project execution following the approved revised work plan for 2024 and beyond.
- Initiate the amendment process of the Project Cooperation Agreement with Cambodia, China, and Thailand to extend the agreement duration according to the PCA amended timelines and include activities under Component 2 and 3.
- Facilitate the review and approval process of the project including finalization and signing of related agreements with Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.
- Initiate the amendment and signing process of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNEP and UNOPS on the new workplan and budget and execution arrangements during the first quarter of 2024.
- Finalize the Terms of Reference for project staff and consultants in preparation for the recruitment process in early 2024. Initiate contract amendment of National Coordinators.
- Organize the Second Regional Working Groups (RWG), Second Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) Meeting, First Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation and Legal Matters Meetings, in collaboration with COBSEA
- Finalize and seek to publish the report on habitats and land-based pollution achievements in implementing the SAP at the national level during 2008 – 2021, and the report on good practices on habitats, fisheries, and land-based pollution management.
- Prepare for the project participation (special forum) in the UNESCO/IOC WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in April 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- PCU to identify suitable locations and hosting of project office and staff. Draft Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP has been prepared and shared with Kasetsart University for review. UNOPS BSSC provided temporary office to project staff.
- Initiate the project mid-term review.
- Enhance the visibility of the project through project stories, blog, social media and update of the project website.

## 10. Any Other Business

83. The Chairperson invited the Steering Committee members to consider and discuss any items of business introduced under agenda item 3 including the selection of the next meeting host. There was no other agenda introduced and discussed under agenda item 3.

84. For the next host of the meeting, Cambodia volunteered to host the Second PSC Meeting subject to their internal consultation and administrative approval of the ministry. If approved, Cambodia needs an official letter from UNOPS as host for the next meeting.

## 11. Closure of the Meeting

85. The Chairperson called for a formal motion to close the meeting. Ms. Vanderbeck suggested that in future meetings or events, the project needs to invite similar related GEF projects where the meetings or events will be held to connect and ensure synergies among GEF projects. In Cambodia who will host the next PSC meeting, the GEF has three related projects on land-based pollution and coastal zone management.

86. The Chairperson expressed his thanks to UNEP, UNOPS and the members of the Steering Committee for gathering to present and hear the good results of the project at regional and national level. He thanked the Steering Committee for the fruitful discussions and solutions including the roadmap for the next direction of the project. The PSC has approved the workplan and budget until 2026 without requesting more budget. It is hoped that the PCAs with Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam will be signed soon so all countries can proceed together from 2024 to 2026. He thanked Thailand for the hosting and warm hospitality. He thanked the PCU for the support to the meeting and project implementation.

87. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1300 hours Indochina time.

## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1. Annotated Agenda

Annex 2. List of Participants

Annex 3. List of Documents

Annex 4. Overall Workplan

Annex 5. Budget

## Annex 1. Annotated Agenda

**Tuesday, 30 January 2024, 09.00 – 16.30**

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

09.00 – 09.20 **1.1. Welcome address**

- Welcome remark by the Representative of the Thailand Government
- Opening and welcome address by the Task Manager of the United Nations Environment Programme
- Welcome remark by the Head of Portfolio of Water Environment and Climate of the United Nations Office for Project Services

The Secretariat will invite: the representative of the Thailand government to deliver the welcome remarks as host country, and Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck, UNEP Task Manager as implementing agency to open the meeting and deliver the welcome address on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP; and Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, Head of Portfolio of UNOPS to deliver the welcome remarks as executing agency.

09.20 – 09.30 **1.2. Introduction of members**

The Secretariat will be invited to introduce the members of the Project Steering Committee and other participants.

09.30 – 10.00 **1.3 Opening statements by Interministerial Committee Chairs (IMC)**

The Secretariat will invite the National Focal Points and Inter-Ministry Chairpersons of participating countries to make opening statements on behalf of their governments.

- Cambodia National Focal Point
- China National Focal Point
- Indonesia National Focal Point
- Thailand National Focal Point
- Viet Nam National Focal Point

### 2. Organisation of the Meeting

10.00 – 10.15 **2.1. Designation of officers**

In accordance with the draft rules of procedure for the Project Steering Committee Meeting, participants will be invited by the Secretariat to elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur. The Secretariat will remind the members that the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur shall hold office until the subsequent meeting of the Project Steering Committee and shall be eligible for re-election no more than once.

In the first PSC meeting in June 2021, the following members were elected:

- Chairperson: Thailand represented by Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin, DMCR/MONRE
- Vice-Chairperson: Cambodia represented by Mr. Srey Sunleang, MOE
- Rapporteur: Philippine represented by Ms. Armida Andres, BMB/DENR

The Secretariat will invite members for nominations.

10.15 – 10.30 **2.2. Organisation of work**

The Secretariat will brief participants on the proposed organisation of work, the list of documents available to the meeting and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting. The meeting will be conducted in plenary. The meeting will be conducted in English.

10.30 – 10.45 **3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda**

The Chairperson will invite participants to consider the draft agenda and annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat as documents SCSSAP PSC.2/1 and SCSSAP PSC.2/2, propose any amendments or additional items for consideration, and adopt the agenda.

10.45 – 11.00 ***Break and Group Photo***

11.00 – 12:00 **4. Report on Status of Implementation of the SCS SAP Project**

The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP PSC.2/3: Report on Status of Implementation of the SCS SAP Project, consisting of the Status and Progress from Inception to 2023, the Plans for 2024 and Onwards.

The Steering Committee is invited to review, provide comments and suggestions.

12.00 – 12.30 **5. Report on National Activities to Implement the SCS SAP Project**

The Chairperson will invite the National Technical Focal Points and National Technical Working Group Chairpersons of participating countries to present their national activities to implement the SCS SAP Project (SCSSAP PSC.2/4), following a template prepared and circulated previously by the Secretariat.

5.1 Cambodia National Technical Focal Point (15 mins)

5.2 China National Technical Focal Point (15 mins)

The Committee is invited to review, provide comments and suggestions and consider the national activities reported.

12.30 – 13.30 ***Lunch Break***

13.30 – 14.30 **5. Report on National Activities to Implement the SCS SAP Project**

The Chairperson will invite the National Technical Focal Points and National Technical Working Group Chairpersons of participating countries to present their national activities to implement the SCS SAP Project (SCSSAP PSC.2/4), following a template prepared and circulated previously by the Secretariat.

5.3 Indonesia National Technical Focal Point (15 mins)

5.4 Thailand National Technical Focal Point (15 mins)

5.5 Viet Nam National Technical Focal Point (15 mins)

The Committee is invited to review, provide comments and suggestions and consider the national activities reported.

14.30 – 15.30 **6. Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021 including Plans for Publication**

The Chairperson will invite the Chair of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) to introduce document SCSSAP PSC.2/5: Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021, previously circulated including the planned publication and dissemination of good practices on habitats, fisheries and land-based pollution management.

The Committee is invited to review, provide comments and consider the proposed national activities.

15.30 – 15.45 **Break**

15:45 - 16:30 **7. Conservation Finance Mechanism**

The Chairperson will invite speakers to introduce the project to good practices in local environment management and conservation finance approaches and opportunities for scaling up in the South China Project.

7.1 Mr. Romeo Trono will present local Philippines' experience from Mabini municipality in integrated coastal zone management and local conservation financial mechanisms. (15 mins)

7.2 Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck will present conservation finance mechanisms including blue carbon approaches. (15 mins)

The Committee is invited to comment and consider in the context of the South China Project.

18:00 - 20:00 **Reception Dinner**

**Wednesday, 31 January 2024, 09.00 – 14.00**

09.00 – 10.45 **8. Discussion and Adoption of the Revised Overall Workplan and Budget**

The Chairperson will invite members to discuss, amend and approve the revised overall workplan and budget and proposed workplan for 2024.

10.45 – 11.00 **Break**

11.00 – 12.00 **9. Meeting Recommendations and Next Steps**

The Chairperson will invite the Rapporteur supported by the Secretariat to present the agreements and next steps.

12.00 – 12.30 **10. Any Other Business**



The Chairperson will invite members to consider and discuss any items of business introduced under agenda item 3 including the selection of the next meeting host.

12.30 – 12.45 **11. Closure of the Meeting**

The Chairperson will call for a formal motion to close the meeting

12.45 – 14.00 ***Lunch Break***

## Annex 2. List of Participants

### CAMBODIA

#### Steering Committee Member(s)

Mr. Meas Rithy  
 IMC Representative and Deputy Director  
 Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation  
 Department, General Directorate for Natural  
 Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment  
 Cambodia  
 Email: [meas.rithymoe@yahoo.com](mailto:meas.rithymoe@yahoo.com)

Mr. Than Monomoyith  
 NTWG Representative and Vice Chief of  
 Office, Department of Marine and Coastal  
 Zone Conservation, General Directorate for  
 Natural Protected Areas, Ministry of  
 Environment, Cambodia  
 Email: [monomoyith84@gmail.com](mailto:monomoyith84@gmail.com)

### CHINA

#### Steering Committee Member(s)

Ms. Wang Hongyan  
 IMC Representative and Program Officer  
 Ministry of Ecology and Environment  
 China  
 Email: [hysstzlc@mee.gov.cn](mailto:hysstzlc@mee.gov.cn)

Dr. Yu Yunjun  
 NTWG Chairperson and Senior Engineer  
 South China Institute of Environmental  
 Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and  
 Environment, China  
 Email: [yuyunjun@scies.org](mailto:yuyunjun@scies.org)

### INDONESIA

#### Steering Committee Member(s)

Mr. Dasrul Chaniago  
 Director  
 Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution  
 and Degradation Control  
 Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
 Indonesia  
 Email: [dmigfar@gmail.com](mailto:dmigfar@gmail.com)

### THAILAND

#### Steering Committee Member(s)

Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin  
 NTWG Chairperson and Director  
 Coastal Resources Conservation Division  
 Department of Marine and Coastal Resources  
 Ministry of Natural Resources and  
 Environment, Thailand  
 Email: [ukkrit@yahoo.com](mailto:ukkrit@yahoo.com)

### VIETNAM

#### Steering Committee Member(s)

Dr. Nguyen Le Tuan  
 Representative and Director  
 Vietnam Environment and Marine Science  
 Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and  
 Environment, Vietnam  
 Email: [ngletuan1618@gmail.com](mailto:ngletuan1618@gmail.com)

Ms. Nguyen Thi Cam Uyen  
 Representative and Principal Official  
 International Cooperation Department,  
 Ministry of Natural Resources and  
 Environment, Vietnam  
 Email: [ncuyen@monre.gov.vn](mailto:ncuyen@monre.gov.vn)

**NATIONAL COORDINATORS****China**

Dr. Pei Xiangbin  
 Programme Management Specialist-National  
 Coordinator, SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [xiangbinp@unops.org](mailto:xiangbinp@unops.org)

**Indonesia**

Mr. Heru Koesworo  
 Programme Management Specialist-National  
 Coordinator, SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [heruk@unops.org](mailto:heruk@unops.org)

**Philippines**

Mr. Romeo Trono  
 Programme Management Specialist-National  
 Coordinator, SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [romeot@unops.org](mailto:romeot@unops.org)

**Thailand**

Ms. Pakawan Talawat  
 Programme Management Specialist-National  
 Coordinator, SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [pakawant@unops.org](mailto:pakawant@unops.org)

**Vietnam**

Dr. Nguyen The Chinh  
 Programme Management Specialist-National  
 Coordinator, SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [chinhthen@unops.org](mailto:chinhthen@unops.org)

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY****United Nations Environment Programme**

Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck  
 GEF International Waters Task Manager  
 Ecosystems Division, Marine and Fresh Water  
 Branch/GEF IW Unit, United Nations  
 Environment Programme  
 Email: [isabelle.vanderbeck@un.org](mailto:isabelle.vanderbeck@un.org)

**EXECUTING AGENCIES****United Nations Office for Project Services**

Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg  
 Vienna Representative and Head of  
 Programme, Water, Environment & Climate,  
 Water and Energy Cluster, United Nations  
 Office for Project Services  
 Email: [katrinl@unops.org](mailto:katrinl@unops.org)

Mr. Ivan Pavletich  
 Portfolio Management Officer  
 Water, Environment & Climate  
 Water and Energy Cluster, United Nations  
 Office for Project Services  
 Email: [ivanp@unops.org](mailto:ivanp@unops.org)

Ms. Simonetta Siligato  
 Senior Advisor, Asia Region, Office of the  
 Regional Director, United Nations Office for  
 Project Services  
 Email: [simonettas@unops.org](mailto:simonettas@unops.org)

**PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT**

Mr. Anders Poulsen  
 Senior Project Manager  
 UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [virginieh@unops.org](mailto:virginieh@unops.org)

Mr. Reynaldo F. Molina  
 Project Management Support Specialist  
 UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [reynaldo.molina@scssap.org](mailto:reynaldo.molina@scssap.org) ,  
[reynaldom@unops.org](mailto:reynaldom@unops.org)

Dr. Vo Si Tuan  
 Regional Science Coordinator  
 UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [vosituan@gmail.com](mailto:vosituan@gmail.com)

Ms. Ob-orm Utthasit  
 Project Management Support - Senior  
 Assistant, UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project  
 Email: [obormu@unops.org](mailto:obormu@unops.org)

## **OBSERVERS**

### **Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**

Ms. Natalie Harms  
Program Officer  
Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia,  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Email: [natalie.harms@un.org](mailto:natalie.harms@un.org)

### **Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR)**

Ms. Orapa Suwattano  
Fishery Biologist, Professional Level  
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources  
Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environment  
Email: [ning\\_puri@hotmail.com](mailto:ning_puri@hotmail.com)

Ms. Paweena Srisawetichot  
Foreign Relations Officer  
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources  
Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environment  
Email: [icsd.dmcrgmail.com](mailto:icsd.dmcrgmail.com)

Ms. Siasunee Chasuin  
Project Coordinator  
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources  
Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environment  
Email: [saisunee@yahoo.com](mailto:saisunee@yahoo.com)

## Annex 3. List of Documents

### Meeting documents

SCSSAP PSC.2/1	Provisional Agenda
SCSSAP PSC.2/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
SCSSAP PSC.2/3	Report on Status of Implementation of the SCS SAP Project
SCSSAP PSC.2/4	Country Report on National Activities to implement the SCS SAP Project
SCSSAP PSC.2/5	Report on Habitats and Land-based Pollution Achievements in Implementing the SAP at the National Level During 2008 – 2021
SCSSAP PSC.2/6	Implementation of Regional and National Activities under the Components 2 and 3
SCSSAP PSC.2/7	Draft Overall Workplan and Budget and Proposed Workplan for 2024
SCSSAP PSC.2/8	Report of the Meeting (to be prepared following the meeting)

### Information documents

SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents (this document)
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.3	PSC.1/3 Inception Phase Regional Implementation Report
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.4	PSC.1/Inf.3 Cambodia Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.5	PSC.1/Inf.4 China Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.6	PSC.1/Inf.5 Indonesia Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.7	PSC.1/Inf.6 Philippines Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.8	PSC.1/Inf.7 Thailand Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.9	PSC.1/Inf.8 Vietnam Summary Profile
SCSSAP PSC.2/Inf.10	EAS/RCU TRS No. 14 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the South China Sea

### Reference documents

	SCS SAP Full Project Document
	SCS Strategic Action Programme
SCSSAP IP.1/4	1 <sup>st</sup> Regional Inception Phase Meeting Report
SCSSAP IP.2/5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Regional Inception Phase Meeting Report
SCSSAP IP.3/5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Regional Inception Phase Meeting – NIR Development and Completion
SCSSAP PSC.1/9	Project Steering Committee Meeting Report
SCSSAP IW/3	SCS SAP Inception Meeting Report
SCSSAP RWG-M.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves Report
SCSSAP RWG-CR.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs Report
SCSSAP RWG-SG.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass Report
SCSSAP RWG-W.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands Report
SCSSAP RWG-RSTC.1/11	First Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Report
SCSSAP RWG-LBP.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution Report

**Annex 4 Overall Workplan**

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Component 1. Reducing habitat degradation and loss via national and local reforms to achieve Strategic Action Programme targets for coastal habitat management in the South China Sea</b>																	
<b>Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove</b>																	
1.1.1 Support the Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	Implement the mangrove workplan and activities as per signed PCA with Cambodia, China and Thailand																
1.1.2 Support the designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	Finalize and sign the PCA/GSA (Grant Support Agreement) mangrove workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.1.3 Support reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	Implement the mangrove workplan and activities as per signed PCA with Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land																	
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting																	
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]	Reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each mangrove site.																
	Finalize the mechanism framework (agreed indicators, data availability and gaps, etc) for monitoring at site level.																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Outcome 1.2 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably</b>																	
1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites	Implement the coral reef workplan and activities as per signed PCA with Cambodia and Thailand																
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 46 coral reef sites	Finalize and sign the PCA/GSA coral reef workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	Implement the PCA/GSA coral reef workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 46 sites [based on SAP results framework]	Reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each coral reef site.																
	Finalize the mechanism framework (agreed indicators, data availability and gaps, etc) for monitoring and reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each coral reef site.																
<b>Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 26,036 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea</b>																	
	Implement the seagrass workplan and activities as per signed PCA with Cambodia, China and Thailand																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totaling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Finalize and sign the PCA/GSA seagrass workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal & institutional reforms	Implement the PCA/GSA seagrass workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project																	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 20 sites [based on SAP results framework]	Reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each seagrass site.																
	Finalize the mechanism framework (agreed indicators, data availability and gaps, etc) for monitoring and reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each seagrass site.																
<b>Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 813,647 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations</b>																	
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons 9 estuaries, 5 tidal flats, 1 peat swamp and 1 non-peat swamp and associated policy, legal & institutional reforms	Implement the wetland workplan and activities as per signed PCA with Cambodia, China and Thailand																
	Finalize and sign the PCA/GSA wetland workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																



Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	Implement the PCA/GSA wetland workplan and activities for Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam																
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation [based on SAP results framework]	Reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each wetland site.																
	Finalize the mechanism framework (agreed indicators, data availability and gaps, etc) for monitoring and reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress in each wetland site.																
<b>Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management</b>																	
1.5.1 National committees and regional networks of habitat specialists established under the SCS project revitalized and functioning	Establish and convene the National Committees/Working Groups (on mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands and landbased pollution).																
	Organize the Regional Working Groups on Mangroves (RWG-M) Meeting, with focus on monitoring (linked to 2.1.1)																
	Organize the Regional Working Groups on Coral Reefs (RWG-CR) Meeting, with focus on monitoring (linked to 2.1.1)																
	Organize the Regional Working Groups on Seagrass (RWG-SG) Meeting, with focus on monitoring (linked to 2.1.1)																
	Organize the Regional Working Groups on Wetlands (RWG-W) Meeting, with focus on monitoring (linked to 2.1.1)																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	Coordinate and integrate RWGs with COBSEA Regional Working Group (RWG) on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems																
1.5.2 Mechanism to monitor and evaluate the impacts of SAP implementation and achievement of habitat targets operational [including agreement on standardized methods and guidelines for inventory and assessment]	Finalize and implement the mechanism framework (agreement on standardized methods and guidelines for inventory and assessment) for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SAP implementation achievement and progress of habitat targets.																
1.5.3 Community leaders and local government from priority habitat sites networked via national and regional round-table meetings to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing on achievements and best practices	Prepare report on best-practices and disseminate to countries for additional inputs. Finalize and publish the report on best practices on habitat and landbased pollution management and fishery refugia.																
	Organize national and regional round-table meetings on best practices (back-to back with NTWG or National Committees/Working Groups meetings)																
1.5.4 Progress and status report of regional and national SAP implementation	Prepare report on SAP implementation progress at regional and national levels, based on inputs from each country.																
	Finalize and publish the national reports on SAP implementation achievements of targets and outputs from 2008-2021																
	Finalize and publish the updated National Implementation Reports																
<b>Component 2. Strengthening knowledge-based action planning for the management of coastal habitats and land-based pollution to reduce environmental degradation of the South China Sea</b>																	
<b>Outcome 2.1 Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning</b>																	

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.1.1. Assessment of existing data and information on coastal habitat in the South China Sea, and review of monitoring and assessment approaches that can support SCS monitoring program, from national, regional and global sources, combined with project-generated data from Component 1	Engage consultant 1: Data Assessment & Knowledge Management																
	Draft TOR of Consultant 1																
	Recruitment of Consultant 1																
	Consultant to compile and assess existing databases including GIS data on coastal ecosystems, at national, regional and global level																
	Consultant to facilitate RWG meetings on monitoring of coastal ecosystems (RWG meetings on coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and coastal wetlands to be held back-to-back with opportunities for exchange)																
	Develop and establish mechanism for collection and compilation of GIS data, partnerships, approach, and database linked to global databases on habitats.																
	Building upon existing work in the region, prepare report on data available and main gaps and capacity needs in monitoring, in line with regional and national commitments, the SDG's and CBD Post 2020 Framework .																
	Support site activities and ensure latest remote sensing algorithms and tools to provide data on coastal site; Create partnerships with initiatives and projects leading innovation on remote sensing (i.e. with GRID, WCMC, latest research); Training and support to national teams																
2.1.2 Mechanism for collection and exchange of regional coastal habitat and pollution information and data established	Develop and establish mechanism for online database/GIS, for each site, with potential regional and global partnerships (COBSEA, PEMSEA, and others). Linked to update of National Reports (output 2.6.5)																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.1.3 Roles of coastal habitats for blue economy development in the South China Sea, and assessment of data/information needs for the blue economy	Engage consultant 2: Blue economy, Integrated Coastal Management & Private sector engagement																
	Write ToR for Consultant 2																
	Recruitment of Consultant 2																
	Consultant 2 to organise national consultations on status and key principles for the development of the blue economy in the region																
2.1.4 Review of status and potential of blue economy in the region and linkages to coastal ecosystems	Consultant 2 to prepare report on current status of Blue Economy in the region and linkages to coastal ecosystems. Report to be used as input to the TDA/SAP updating																
<b>Outcome 2.2 Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution</b>																	
2.2.1 Updating the current scientific data and information on marine land based pollution for SCS marine basin	Engage consultant 3: Land-based Pollution - support all activities under Outcome 2.2																
	Draft TOR of Consultant 3																
	Recruitment of Consultant 3																
	Review of existing scientific data and information on marine land based pollution in the region																
	Organize the Regional Working Groups on Landbased Pollution (RWG-LBP) Meeting, with focus on monitoring (linked to 2.1.1)																
2.2.2. Regional level assessment of sources, flows, and impacts of marine pollution (incl. from coastal aquaculture): Support national surveys using recommended approaches and applying training to establish baselines and inform a regional assessment	Complementing the work of the National Report and NAP update (see output 2.6.5) on land-based pollution, Overview of existing data and models on key contaminants, building on existing initiatives. Fully integrate all new national and regional research; Review commitments to Global and regional obligations with regards to pollution and provide																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	recommendations; Regional Report as contribution to TDA and SAP revision]																
2.2.3. Quantification of effluent volumes and contaminant loadings from coastal aquaculture to the SCS marine basin	Effluent from aquaculture and mariculture operations identified as key threat to dominant coastal biomes; Quantification of effluent volumes and contaminant loadings from coastal aquaculture]																
<b>Outcome 2.3 Strengthened and harmonized national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of habitats and land-based sources of pollution</b>																	
2.3.1. National best practices in waste water management, law enforcement, and community and industry participation in managing land-based sources of pollution and habitat management documented and shared	In conjunction with output 1.5.3, 2.3.5, and 3.1.6																
	Engage all NFPs to support all activities under Outcome 2.3																
	Prepare first draft on best-practices in waste water management, law enforcement, etc for further development from regional and national partners.																
2.3.2 Review of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution and habitat management in participating countries	National reports (output 2.6.5) to provide initial inputs on the review of legislative and institutional frameworks.																
2.3.3 Key principles agreed for harmonized national procedures for land-based pollution management	National consultations to agree on key principles for increased harmonisation of national processes for land-based pollution management																
2.3.4.Support to countries in revising national/provincial policies and supporting regulations for land-based pollution and habitats	National reports (output 2.6.5) to provide initial inputs on the policies and regulations proposed for revision.																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Outcome 2.4 Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy</b>																	
2.4.1 Expanded datasets and estimates of economic valuation information on the goods and services of SCS coastal ecosystems	Engage consultant 4: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services - to support all activities under Outcome 2.4 and Outcome 3.3																
	Draft consultant TOR for Consultant 4																
	Recruitment of Consultant 4																
	Updating the Economic Valuation carried out under Phase 1 (2002-2008) to include new data from the region, considering TEEB methodologies, blue economies, and blue carbon.																
	Establish the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation and organize meetings																
2.4.2. Compilation of good examples, and identify recommendations to strengthen a blue economy (and circular economy) approach and innovative financing for pollution and habitat management	Review and compile good examples and recommendations on blue economy (and circular economy) approach and innovative financing																
<b>Outcome 2.5 Regionally appropriate tools and mechanisms to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats and land-based pollution</b>																	
2.5.1. Online catalogue of best practice management measures and technologies for sustainable use of SCS coastal habitats and land-based pollution management	Linked to outputs 1.5.3, 2.3.1, and 3.1.6																
	Online catalogue of best practice management measures and technologies																
2.5.2 Government officials, community leaders, and habitat and pollution managers exposed to on-going practices in rehabilitation, management, and pollution control and treatment via programme of training, study tours and exchange	Develop and implement program for training and study tour and exchange in collaboration with existing networks, i.e. PEMSEA’s networks of local governments.																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Outcome 2.6 Updated and Ministerially adopted Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme, including prioritization of national management actions to address climate variability and change</b>																	
2.6.1 National and regional level consensus on contemporary issues and problems-and updated TDA	Engage consultant 5: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and SAP updating - all activities under Outcome 2.6 and Outcome 3.5																
	Draft consultant TOR for Consultant 5																
	Recruitment of Consultant 5																
	Develop detailed guidelines for the update of the TDA, SAP, National Reports and NAPs, based on new TDA/SAP methodology from IWLEARN, and will close links to other SAP implementation LME projects.																
2.6.2. SCS State of Coastal Habitats report in line with global commitments (SDGs, CBD)	Joint publication based on the revised National Reports, TDA and monitoring results, in partnerships with key regional institutions and projects, such as PEMSEA reporting on "State of Coasts and Oceans"																
2.6.3 National and regional consultative process to develop updated Strategic Action Programme SAP for adoption at the Ministerial level including agreed monitoring and reporting mechanisms	Revise and update SAP based on the guidelines developed, incorporating other elements and emerging issues																
2.6.4 Prioritization of national management actions for incorporation into national policies and plans, in particular for climate variability and change and blue economy	Review and recommend national management actions and priorities for SAP implementation and incorporation in national plans																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.6.5 Updated and adopted National Action Plans for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands, and land-based pollution including enactment of supporting legislation where required	Update National Action Plans for habitats, landbased pollution, economic valuation, climate change etc																
<b>Component 3. Facilitating regional and national level integration and cooperation for implementation of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme</b>																	
<b>Outcome 3.1 Regional and sub-regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making</b>																	
3.1.1 Regional Scientific and Technical Committee of the SCS project functioning as a bridge between the scientific community and decision-makers [annual meetings]	Organize the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) meetings																
	Organize the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings																
3.1.2 Knowledge exchanges between government and scientific community through Regional Scientific Conferences	Organize the Regional Scientific Conference (RSC) in coordination with IOC/WESTPAC																
3.1.3 Best practice exchanges between local government officials and coastal managers on science-based management via annual Mayor’s Round-Table meetings	Organize the Mayor’s Round Table Meeting in cooperation with regional organizations. Note: Back to back with RSTC meeting																
3.1.4 Memoranda of Agreement for joint management of at least two (2) priority transboundary water areas agreed & implemented	Review and consultation with current stakeholders on the status of past MOU including further support for cooperation																
	Initiate drafting of two transboundary water areas MOA’s, detailed information on sites and activities.																



Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.1.5 Integration of the GEF/UNEP fisheries refugia project results in TDA and SAP updating [3.1.5 Cooperation with the GEF fisheries refugia project and other relevant regional initiatives]	Recruitment of Consultant 6: Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea - to integrate the results in the updating of TDA and SAP, in collaboration with Consultant 5																
3.1.6 Operational award program on best practices in coastal habitat and land-based pollution management for communities, local governments and industry [annual]	Design and implement Operational award program on best practices in coastal habitat and land-based pollution management for communities, local governments and industry; Ensure best-practices published, and opportunities for key responsible persons to travel to regional and/global forum's and meetings to present their best-practices																
<b>Outcome 3.2 Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in SAP implementation strengthened via operational partnership with GEF SGP</b>																	
3.2.1 Cooperation with GEF SGP in the commissioning and implementation of an additional 12 community-based projects for SAP implementation	Consultation with GEF SGP to identify and design overall partnership mechanism																
	Consultations with GEF SGP national coordinators in the 6 SCS countries to identify process for country level partnerships between SCS-SAP and GEF SGP																
	Launch the SCS / SGP co-financing initiative for the South China Sea																
	Identification, approval of SCS/SGP projects																
	Implementation of SGP projects																
3.2.2 CSO & CO inputs elicited for planning and M&E of the SCS-SGP partnership via annual NGO forums	Organize the NGO Forum for CSO and CO in coordination and consultation with SGP																
3.2.3 Training program on science and management of SCS coastal habitats and resources for SGP proponents	Organize training programs for SCS-SGP proponents in coordination and consultation with SGP																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Outcome 3.3 Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized</b>																	
3.3.1 Review of current Blue Economy examples from the SCS region with private sector engagement as part of blue economy strategies	In partnership with other regional organizations, initiate compilation of ongoing private sector partnerships in blue economy, in parallel to output 2.4.2																
3.3.2 Identification of blue economy and blue finance opportunities for private sector investment (e.g. fisheries, tourism, others) in implementation of the updated SAP	Explore opportunities for long term financing mechanism for the blue economy (e.g. ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, Blue Finance, others)																
3.3.3 Public-private partnerships and investment plan for the implementation of the updated SAP solidified through two blue economy partnership forums	Organize Blue Economy Partnership Forums. To be initiated once revised SAP is advanced.																
3.3.4. Updated and adopted National Investment Plans for land-based pollution and habitat management in the SCS [Yr 5]	To support financing implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs).																
3.3.5. Identification of options for regional financial mechanism for land-based pollution and habitat management	Identify options for financing future implementation of the updated Strategic Action Plan.																
<b>Outcome 3.4 Revitalization of regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and information and data management and sharing</b>																	
3.4.1 A variety of multi-media information and knowledge products based on SCS SAP implementation communications strategy	Engage Communication officer/specialist to support all activities under Outcome 3.4																
	Draft TOR																
	Recruitment of consultant																
	Communication officer/specialist to lead and finalize the communication strategy and initiate activities.																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.4.2 Regionally appropriate knowledge tools developed to support decision-making and planning.	Establish online repository of knowledge tools.																
	Identify key knowledge tools based on national needs.																
	Identify key partnerships to support the development and initiate contracts and activities.																
3.4.3 The SCS project web portal and clearing house mechanism and associated regional databases online, updated and linked to IW-Learn and other GEF Knowledge management systems	Maintain and update the project web-site <a href="https://scssap.org/">https://scssap.org/</a> and linked to IWLEARN.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3.4.4 Active engagement with GEF IW:LEARN [1% of project resources] including participation in IW conferences and 3 experience notes	Initiate other cooperation actions with IWLEARN such as towards the Data and Information Management (DIM) follow up, partnerships with other GEF LME projects related to monitoring, online assessments, updating the LME hub ( <a href="https://www.lmehub.net/">https://www.lmehub.net/</a> )																
<b>Outcome 3.5 Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea</b>																	
3.5.1 Biannual meetings of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters.	Engage consultant 7: Regional governance in the SCS for sustainable coastal management - to support all activities under Outcome 3.5																
	Draft consultant TOR for Consultant 7																
	Recruitment of Consultant																
	Establish the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters and organize meetings																
3.5.2 National Working Groups established and functional.	Establish the national working groups on legal matters and organize regular meetings.																
3.5.3 Options for future regional cooperation and governance identified	Develop draft Options Paper in collaboration with COBSEA																

Outputs	Activities and Deliverables	Delivery Date and Timeframe															
		2023				2024				2025				2026			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.5.4 National stakeholder consultations on draft options paper for regional cooperation and governance	Finalize Options paper, including timelines for proposed options																
3.5.5 Options paper on future regional cooperation and governance endorsed by countries	Status of adoption of the instrument																

## Annex 5. Budget

### SCSSAP Budget Revision: breakdown by Component

UNEP Budget Line		I	II	III	PMC	M&E	TOTAL
<b>010</b>	<b>Staff &amp; Personnel (Including Consultants)</b>						
1101	Senior Project Manager	114,258	114,258	152,345	304,689	76,172	<b>761,723</b>
1102	Project Management Support Specialist (Country Coordinator)	335,976	122,173	91,630		61,087	<b>610,866</b>
1103	Scientific Coordinator	196,519	159,129	140,949			<b>496,597</b>
1104	Communication/web-site management	25,000	25,000	130,000	20,000		<b>200,000</b>
1105	Project Support Officer			85,083	181,030	25,861	<b>291,974</b>
	Project Support Associate			19,629	93,240	13,320	<b>126,189</b>
	Administrative Assistant			13,560	73,710	10,530	<b>97,800</b>
	<b>Sub-total UNOPS staff</b>	<b>671,754</b>	<b>420,561</b>	<b>633,195</b>	<b>672,669</b>	<b>186,970</b>	<b>2,585,149</b>
1201	Inception Phase Consultants (R.Molina & V.Hart)	83,687	41,843	41,843			<b>167,373</b>
1202	NIR Consultants (Vietnam, Philippines and Regional)	79,339	9,917	9,917			<b>99,174</b>
1203	GIS/online platform development/database expert(s)						-
1204	TDA and SAP						<b>0</b>
1205	Regional coordination on monitoring, data management and indicators						-
1206	Thematic regional and national consultants	380,346	302,802	267,716			<b>950,864</b>
1207	Consultants (climate adaptation and mitigation, pollution assessment and modeling, economic valuation and partnerships, knowledge and data management, TDA and SAP, etc)	60,000	75,000	215,000			<b>350,000</b>
1220	Evaluator (Mid-term)					30,000	<b>30,000</b>
1221	Evaluator (Terminal)					40,000	<b>40,000</b>
1301	Finance, admin and support staff			26,797			<b>26,797</b>

UNEP Budget Line		I	II	III	PMC	M&E	TOTAL
	<i>Sub-total UNOPS consultancies</i>	<b>603,371</b>	<b>429,563</b>	<b>561,274</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>1,664,208</b>
<b>120</b>	<b>Contract Services</b>						
2301	Inception Phase Regional contracts	151,669	151,669	151,669			<b>455,006</b>
2302	Meeting venues	36,666	36,667	36,667			<b>110,000</b>
2303	Translation services	24,000	8,000	8,000			<b>40,000</b>
2304	Printing, design and communication product services - SEAFDEC	628	628	628			<b>1,885</b>
2304	Printing, design and communication product services	47,705	47,705	47,705			<b>143,115</b>
2305	Audits SEAFDEC				10,114		<b>10,114</b>
2305	Audits				12,000		<b>12,000</b>
2306	Website, database, online reporting and GIS services - SEAFDEC	213	213	213			<b>639</b>
2306	Website, database, online reporting and GIS services	53,120	53,120	53,120			<b>159,361</b>
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>314,001</b>	<b>298,002</b>	<b>298,002</b>	<b>22,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>932,120</b>
<b>125</b>	<b>Operating and Other Costs</b>						
4301	Premise Rent	12,500	17,500	20,000			<b>50,000</b>
5301	Sundry (communications, postage, copies, freight, clearance charges, etc)	1,727	1,727	1,727			<b>5,182</b>
5302	SEAFDEC Operating costs	19,400	22,600	105,200			<b>147,200</b>
5101	UNOPS Operating costs (ex 1204 & 2204 BL)	681,578	596,381	425,986			<b>1,703,945</b>
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>715,205</b>	<b>638,208</b>	<b>552,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,906,327</b>
<b>130</b>	<b>Supplies, Commodities and Materials</b>						
4101	Office Supplies	9,614	9,614	9,614			<b>28,841</b>
4101	Office Supplies - SEAFDEC	479	479	479	0	0	<b>1,436</b>
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,277</b>
<b>135</b>	<b>Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture</b>						
4201	Office equipment, furniture, computers and licences	5,955	5,955	5,955			<b>17,864</b>

UNEP Budget Line		I	II	III	PMC	M&E	TOTAL
4201	SEAFDEC office equipment, furniture, computers and licences	28,032	28,032	28,032			84,097
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>33,987</b>	<b>33,987</b>	<b>33,987</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101,961</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>Transfers &amp; Grants to Implementing Partners</b>						
2210	Cambodia national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2211	China national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2212	Indonesia national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2213	Philippines national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2214	Thailand national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2215	Viet Nam national activities	641,662	156,302	24,679			822,644
2101	GEF Small Grants Project			520,000			520,000
2102	Regional contracts to support Component 1	80,000					80,000
2103	Regional Contracts to support Component 2		325,674				325,674
2104	Regional contracts to support Component 3			320,000			320,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>3,929,974</b>	<b>1,263,488</b>	<b>988,076</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,181,538</b>
<b>160</b>	<b>Travels</b>						
1601	Inception Phase Travel of Staff and consultants			25,522			25,522
1603	Travel UNOPS National Coordinators and PCU	100,000	100,000	100,000			300,000
1602	Travel of Staff			14,165			14,165
3202	Travel of Consultants	62,333	62,333	65,334			190,000
3203	Travel of Mid-Term Evaluator	4,950	4,950	5,100			15,000
3204	Travel of Final Evaluator	6,600	6,600	6,800			20,000
3205	Study Tours	49,500	49,500	51,000			150,000
3207	Group Training	52,800	52,800	54,400			160,000
3301	Steering Committee and Regional Scientific Technical Committee meetings - SEAFDEC			24,303			24,303

<b>UNEP Budget Line</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>PMC</b>	<b>M&amp;E</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
3301	Steering Committee and Regional Scientific Technical Committee meetings			255,697			<b>255,697</b>
3302	Regional Working Group Meetings			343,733			<b>343,733</b>
3303	Other Travel (TDA/SAP, Legislation, GIS and monitoring, economic valuation and ad-hoc meetings)			100,000			<b>100,000</b>
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>276,183</b>	<b>276,183</b>	<b>1,046,054</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,598,420</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6,554,568</b>	<b>3,370,085</b>	<b>4,123,594</b>	<b>694,783</b>	<b>256,970</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>



## SCSSAP Budget Revision: breakdown by Year

UNEP Budget Line		Expenditure until 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
<b>010</b>	<b>Staff &amp; Personnel (Including Consultants)</b>						
1101	Senior Project Manager	210,843	100,160	150,240	150,240	150,240	<b>761,723</b>
1102	Project Management Support Specialist (Country Coordinator)	193,266	104,400	104,400	104,400	104,400	<b>610,866</b>
1103	Scientific Coordinator	102,997	98,400	98,400	98,400	98,400	<b>496,597</b>
1104	Communication/web-site management			75,000	75,000	50,000	<b>200,000</b>
1105	Project Support Officer	52,214	59,940	59,940	59,940	59,940	<b>291,974</b>
	Project Support Associate			42,063	42,063	42,063	<b>126,189</b>
	Administrative Assistant		4,042	31,253	31,253	31,253	<b>97,800</b>
	<b>Sub-total UNOPS staff</b>	<b>559,320</b>	<b>366,942</b>	<b>561,296</b>	<b>561,296</b>	<b>536,296</b>	<b>2,585,149</b>
1201	Inception Phase Consultants (R.Molina & V.Hart)	167,373					<b>167,373</b>
1202	NIR Consultants (Vietnam, Philippines and Regional)	99,174					<b>99,174</b>
1203	GIS/online platform development/database expert(s)						
1204	TDA and SAP						-
1205	Regional coordination on monitoring, data management and indicators						
1206	Thematic regional and national consultants	230,864	260,000	180,000	180,000	100,000	<b>950,864</b>
1207	Consultants (climate adaptation and mitigation, pollution assessment and modeling, economic valuation and partnerships, knowledge and data management, TDA and SAP, etc)			100,000	100,000	150,000	<b>350,000</b>
1220	Evaluator (Mid-term)			30,000			<b>30,000</b>
1221	Evaluator (Terminal)					40,000	<b>40,000</b>
1301	Finance, admin and support staff	26,797					<b>26,797</b>
	<b>Sub-total UNOPS consultancies</b>	<b>524,208</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>1,664,208</b>
<b>120</b>	<b>Contract Services</b>						

UNEP Budget Line		Expenditure until 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
2301	Inception Phase Regional contracts	455,006					<b>455,006</b>
2302	Meeting venues	4,109		26,472	26,473	52,946	<b>110,000</b>
2303	Translation services			14,000	13,000	13,000	<b>40,000</b>
2304	Printing, design and communication product services - SEAFDEC	1,885					<b>1,885</b>
2304	Printing, design and communication product services			55,000	50,000	38,115	<b>143,115</b>
2305	Audits SEAFDEC	10,114					<b>10,114</b>
2305	Audits				12,000		<b>12,000</b>
2306	Website, database, online reporting and GIS services - SEAFDEC	639					<b>639</b>
2306	Website, database, online reporting and GIS services			79,500	39,750	40,111	<b>159,361</b>
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>471,753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>174,972</b>	<b>141,223</b>	<b>144,172</b>	<b>932,120</b>
<b>125</b>	<b>Operating and Other Costs</b>						
4301	Premise Rent			17,000	16,500	16,500	<b>50,000</b>
5301	Sundry (communications, postage, copies, freight, clearance charges, etc)	5,182					<b>5,182</b>
5302	SEAFDEC Operating costs	147,200					<b>147,200</b>
5101	UNOPS Operating costs (ex 1204 & 2204 BL)	418,011	207,453	401,054	355,300	322,127	<b>1,703,945</b>
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>570,393</b>	<b>207,453</b>	<b>418,054</b>	<b>371,800</b>	<b>338,627</b>	<b>1,906,327</b>
<b>130</b>	<b>Supplies, Commodities and Materials</b>						
4101	Office Supplies		641	9,400	9,400	9,400	<b>28,841</b>
4101	Office Supplies - SEAFDEC	1,436					<b>1,436</b>
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>30,277</b>
<b>135</b>	<b>Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture</b>						
4201	Office equipment, furniture, computers and licences		4,597	4,423	4,423	4,423	<b>17,864</b>
4201	SEAFDEC office equipment, furniture, computers and licences	84,097					<b>84,097</b>
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>84,097</b>	<b>4,597</b>	<b>4,423</b>	<b>4,423</b>	<b>4,423</b>	<b>101,961</b>

UNEP Budget Line		Expenditure until 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
<b>140</b>	<b>Transfers &amp; Grants to Implementing Partners</b>						
2210	Cambodia national activities	161,427	127,199	178,006	178,006	178,006	<b>822,644</b>
2211	China national activities	128,382	192,449	167,271	167,271	167,271	<b>822,644</b>
2212	Indonesia national activities			274,215	274,215	274,215	<b>822,644</b>
2213	Philippines national activities			274,215	274,215	274,215	<b>822,644</b>
2214	Thailand national activities	128,332	192,449	167,288	167,288	167,288	<b>822,644</b>
2215	Viet Nam national activities			274,215	274,215	274,215	<b>822,644</b>
2101	GEF Small Grants Project			173,333	173,333	173,333	<b>520,000</b>
2102	Regional contracts to support Component 1			20,000	40,000	20,000	<b>80,000</b>
2103	Regional Contracts to support Component 2			81,419	162,837	81,418	<b>325,674</b>
2104	Regional contracts to support Component 3			160,000	80,000	80,000	<b>320,000</b>
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>418,141</b>	<b>512,097</b>	<b>1,769,961</b>	<b>1,791,379</b>	<b>1,689,960</b>	<b>6,181,538</b>
<b>160</b>	<b>Travels</b>						
1601	Inception Phase Travel of Staff and consultants	25,522					<b>25,522</b>
1603	Travel UNOPS National Coordinators and PCU		5,000	75,000	145,000	75,000	<b>300,000</b>
1602	Travel of Staff	14,165					<b>14,165</b>
3202	Travel of Consultants			95,000	47,500	47,500	<b>190,000</b>
3203	Travel of Mid-Term Evaluator			7,500	3,750	3,750	<b>15,000</b>
3204	Travel of Final Evaluator			10,000	5,000	5,000	<b>20,000</b>
3205	Study Tours			37,500	75,000	37,500	<b>150,000</b>
3207	Group Training			60,000	60,000	40,000	<b>160,000</b>
3301	Steering Committee and Regional Scientific Technical Committee meetings - SEAFDEC	24,303					<b>24,303</b>
3301	Steering Committee and Regional Scientific Technical Committee meetings			78,054	99,589	78,054	<b>255,697</b>
3302	Regional Working Group Meetings			85,931	128,901	128,901	<b>343,733</b>

UNEP Budget Line		Expenditure until 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
3303	Other Travel (TDA/SAP, Legislation, GIS and monitoring, economic valuation and ad-hoc meetings)			25,000	45,000	30,000	100,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	63,990	5,000	473,985	609,740	445,705	1,598,420
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	2,693,338	1,356,730	3,722,090	3,769,260	3,458,582	15,000,000

