



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

Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reef and Seagrass Beds

Iloilo City, Philippines 11-12 August 2025

Summary on achievements at SCS SAP Project sites in implementing the PCA/GSA, including reviews on status of monitoring, and data and information available on coral reef and seagrass



Achievements, monitoring status and data/information available at the SCS SAP coral reef and seagrass bed sites in [country name]

Prepared by: [name of focal points on coral reefs and seagrass]

Introduction

As described in the Inception Phase Regional Implementation Report reviewed in the First Steering Committee of the SCS SAP Project held in June 2021, Bangkok, Thailand, the outcomes and outputs for coral reefs and seagrass bed focal areas include:

Outcome 1.2. 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably (the sites which are considered as under sustainable management with sufficient capacity, approach reformed and/or tools applied, and stress reduced)	Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 26,036 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea
Output 1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites	Output 1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totaling 25,900 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations
Output 1.2.2 Management approaches (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 46 coral reef sites	Output 1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms
Output 1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	Output 1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project
Output 1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 6 sites [based on SAP results framework]	Output 1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring seagrass habitat management

Recently, all participating countries signed PCA/GSAs for implementing national activities, focusing on the site level under Component 1. The 2nd meetings of the RWGs on habitats will review achievements in implementing the PCA/GSAs at SCS SAP sites (as seen in table 1 for coral reefs and seagrass beds) and others funded by co-finance. Summaries of these achievement of [name of country] are described in table 2 and 3 below.

Related to knowledge management system, the Second Meeting of the SCS SAP Steering Committee held on 30-31 January 2024, Bangkok, Thailand adopted the revised workplan of the SCS SAP Project with three outcomes. Among them, outcome 2.1 is Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning. Under this outcome, a specific regional output for habitat focal areas is 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. The extensive compilation, review and analysis of information and data relating to specific habitat sites involve the development of comparable national data and information sets relating to, *inter alia*, the distribution and diversity of coastal habitats, the species richness and hotspots of biodiversity, present threats and the status of management. These enhancements to the information-base for coastal habitat management and action planning will be used to guide the preparation of updated National Reports, the National Action Plans, as well as the revised TDA and SAP.

The Second Meetings of the Regional Working on Habitats will review status of national monitoring, and data and information available at the sites of SCS SAP Project and others, if any, supported by co-finance. The country report of [name of country] presents below monitoring status and availability of data and information (table 4).

Table 1. The SCS SAP sites on coral reefs and seagrass beds in participating countries

Country	Coral reef sites	Seagrass bed sites
Cambodia	Koh Kong archipelago, Koh Rong archipelago; Kep Beach and Koh Tonsay and Koh Pou archipelago	Chroy Bros, Kampot Beach, Kep Beach & Koh Tongsay - Koh Pou Archipelagos
China		Hepu, Liusha, Li'an and Xincun, Yifengxi
Indonesia	Bangka, Belitung, Bintan	Bintan, Mapur
Philippines	Bolinao/Lingayen Gulf, Batangas, Busuanga & Coron	Cape Bolinao, Masinloc, Busuanga & Coron
Thailand	Sichang Group, Lan and Phai Group, Koh Tao Group, Koh Kra, Mak Island	Bandon Bay
Vietnam	Phu Quoc islands, Nui Chua NP, Bach Long Vi island	Phu Quoc islands, Thuy Trieu lagoon
Total	17 sites, 12,467.6 ha	13 sites, 16,581 ha

Summary of achievements in implementing the PCA/GSA [fill appropriate verification means under each site; additional table if more than 3 sites designed in the PCA/GSA & funded by co-finance]

Table 2. For coral reefs

Regional Output & Verification Means	<i>Site 1 - Name</i>	<i>Site 2 - Name</i>	<i>Site 3 - Name</i>
1.1.1. Capacity assessment, development of modules & conducting training, capacity improvement, report on management capacity			
1.2.2. Reviews of management approach, consultation; awareness raising, new/upgraded management approach drafted/submitted/adopted for total ?? ha, coral reef, seagrass ??ha			
1.2.3. Reviews/assessment of data & information, consultation; zoning; new/upgraded management tools drafted, submitted or adopted on [date] for management of ?? ha of coral reefs/seagrass; activities & outputs in addressing key threats			
1.2.4. Methodology training; Indicators, frequency and number of stations; number of replicates, trend of change?			

Table 3. For seagrass beds

Regional Output & Verification Means	<i>Site 1 - Name</i>	<i>Site 2 - Name</i>	<i>Site 3 - Name</i>
1.3.1. Reviews of law/regulations, consultations, awareness raising, capacity building; livelihood alternatives; new/upgraded law/regulations developed for total & seagrass area??ha & approved on [date?]. Key activities to improve management.			
1.3.2. Data & information reviews, consultation; Name & Date of PA amendment; management plan developed for total ?? ha, coral reefs, seagrass ??ha			
1.3.2. Data & information reviews, consultation; Name & Date of PA establishment; management plan developed for total ?? ha, coral reefs, seagrass ??ha			
1.2.4. Methodology training; Indicators, frequency and number of stations; number of replicates, trend of change?			

Summary on status of monitoring related to coral reefs and seagrass beds in [name of country]

1/ Name of the monitoring program:

Number of stations and map indicating locations:

Indicators and frequency:

2/...

Table 4. Availability of data and information at the sites on coral reefs and seagrass beds [additional table if needed, only information set of the site targeted for both coral reefs & seagrass]

[Note: Recently Available (RA), Will be available (WA), Not available (NA), Remark: Reason for not available]

Type of data/information	Site 1 - Name	Site 2 - Name	Site 3 - Name	Remarks
<i>Geographic information</i>				
Co-ordinate				
Habitat mapping				
Reef type (fringing, platform...)				
Coral reef area (ha)				
Seagrass area (ha)				
Changes of habitat area since 2010				
<i>Biological information</i>				
Live coral cover, dead coral cover, algae, abiotic				
Trend of changes of coral and algae cover				
Hard coral species/genera				
Soft coral species/genera				
Coverage of hard corals				
Coverage of soft corals				
Molluscs – species and density				
Crustacean- species and density				
Fish – coral reef fish, species abundance				
Fish – Transient for breeding, species abundance				
Changes of fisheries resources				
Reptiles				
Mammals				
SCS Endemic species				
Endangered or threatened species (IUCN criteria)				

Type of data/information	Site 1 - Name	Site 2 - Name	Site 3 - Name	Remarks
Source & sink of larvae				
<i>Social – use information</i>				
Ownership				
Management regime				
Current use (fishing, tourism)				
Traditional use				
Environment services				
Potential use				
Significance/national importance/priority				
Protection category (MPA, NP...), total area, coral reef area, seagrass area in hectare				
Efforts in coral reef restoration				
<i>Stress-pressure information</i>				
Sedimentation				
Landfills				
Overfishing				
Destructive fishing				
Eutrophication				
Crown of Thorns (COT) infestation				
Bleaching (year occurred, % bleaching of live coral, mortality)				
Others				
<i>Economic valuation</i>				
Values of direct use				
Values of indirect use				
Values from environmental services				
Value of investment				
Values of potential (commercial) sustainable use				
Total Economic Value				
Economic losses caused by impacts or habitat loss/degradation				