

*From strategy to action: Charting the course
for enduring impact and a resilient future for the SEAs*



**Third Meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC)
of the SCS SAP Project**

7-8 May 2025, Manila, Philippines

Regional Events

January 2024 – April 2025)

Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

Anders Poulsen, Senior Project Manager



84% of the world's coral reefs hit by worst bleaching event on record

By the Associated Press

UPDATED 5 HR AGO ▾

☰ **CNN Climate** Solutions Weather



Bleached coral is visible at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Galveston, Texas, in the Gulf of Mexico, on September 16, 2023. (LM Otero/AP/File)

HEALTH

Mangroves save \$855 billion in flood protection globally, new study shows

Mangroves have been shown to provide \$855 billion in flood protection services worldwide, according to a new study from the Center for Coastal Climate Resilience at UC Santa Cruz. The research is featured in the World Bank's 2024 edition of The Changing Wealth of Nations.

December 5, 2024 · By [Mike Peña](#)





The Nation Thailand

April 28 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

“Marine conservationists are celebrating after spotting a healthy pod of 23 dugongs gracefully swimming and feeding near the Thai islands of Koh Libong and Koh Muk”

 **THE nation**



**Delightful Dugong
Discovery: Healthy
Herd Thrive Off Thai
Coast**

@thenationthailand

“A herd of dugongs, including six mother-calf pairs, has been sighted in the Gulf of Thailand, near Trat province, alongside a pod of 40 dolphins. This remarkable occurrence, observed between February 24 and 28, marks the first dugong sighting in the area for seven years, suggesting a potential resurgence of marine life”



 THE nation

**Dugong herd returns to
Trat, dolphins spotted in
Gulf of Thailand**

Regional Events since February 2024:

- Special Forum, April 2024, Bangkok
- First Meeting of Regional Task Force for Economic Valuation, June 2024, Online
- Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) Meeting, July 2024, Bangkok
- COBSEA Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM), October 2024 Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Project Retreat, October 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), from October 2024
- East Asian Seas Congress, November 2024, Xiamen, China
- Mid-term Evaluation, February-March 2025
- Regional Dialogue on Seagrass and Dugong Conservation, Bangkok, Thailand, February 2025
- ~~Launch of Small Grants, March 2025~~
- Our Ocean Conference, April 2025, Busan, Korea

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

Target 3 (30-by-30 target):

“by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular **importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services**, are effectively conserved and managed through **ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and **integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean**, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories”

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Stronger together: SCSSAP retreat fosters collaborative action



SCSSAP Project and COBSEA teams strengthen ties

Project Retreat, Cambodia, October 2025

Key Outcomes:

- Knowledge Management Platform – **SEA:LEARN**
- Integrated TDA SAP Process – **SEA:STAR**
- Grants Mechanism – **SEA:PUFFER**
- Regional Cooperation – **SCS SAP** ↔ **COBSEA**



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

Special Meeting of the Regional Working Groups of the SCS-SAP Project

25 March 2025, Virtual Meeting

THANK YOU

Project Coordination Unit, SCS-SAP Project

