



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for
THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND
(SCS SAP) Project

**INCEPTION WORKSHOP
REPORT**

Teleconference, 1 July 2021

09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)



1. Introduction

The UNEP/GEF Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP) Project aims to assist countries in meeting the targets of the coastal and marine environment components of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the South China Sea through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthening the regional co-ordination for the South China Sea SAP implementation. The project, which will be implemented for five years, with a funding support of USD 15 Million from GEF and co-financed by USD 83 Million from participating countries and partners, will be executed with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in partnership with the ministries responsible for environment in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The SCS SAP Project started its Inception Phase in April 2020 with the objective of elaborating the detailed regional and national level activities, workplan and budget of the project including the approaches to be undertaken regarding execution and coordination, stakeholder involvements, partnerships, communication and reporting. The Inception Phase allowed the review of the project outputs, in order to ensure they are fully in line with the current status of the Strategic Action Programme implementation and in line with national and regional strategic priorities and also ensure links to new approaches, tools and best practices within and beyond the region.



The objectives of the Inception Workshop of the SCS SAP Project were to present the SCS SAP Project expected outcomes, outputs and planned activities to all key partners and stakeholders including national and regional activities as well as to discuss partnerships and exchange with stakeholders on additional synergies and opportunities for cooperation. The Inception Workshop also concluded the project's Inception Phase to start the full implementation phase of the project.

The Inception Workshop was held via videoconference (ZOOM) on the 1st July 2021 from 09.00-13.00 Indochina time, with support from the SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit and SEAFDEC. A total of 210 participants registered from the six participating countries (national lead agencies and project teams, other ministries and departments, local government units, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions), UN agencies, international and regional organizations and projects and SEAFDEC fisheries departments attended the workshop. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 1. For the Inception Workshop documents, see [[LINK](#)].

2. Opening and Welcome

The workshop was opened by Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin, Director of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand. He stressed that this project and event is very important for the region to achieve our common goal of reversing the trend of coastal and marine degradation of the South China Sea region and beyond, and wished all to have fruitful discussions.

Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck, UNEP/GEF International Waters Task Manager and representing UNEP thanked all the participants for attending “*this monumental event*” to launch the SCS SAP Project in the six participating countries, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. She introduced the project with its executing agencies SEAFDEC and UNOPS, with UNEP as implementing agency and noted how rewarding it is to see so many participants, not only from the region, including key partners, research agencies and other global and regional organizations, indicating strong commitment to kick start the project. The SAP is a robust and scientifically grounded document and continue to be a key strategic plan for each country and for the region to support coastal habitat restoration, pollution management, regional governance and small-scale fisheries. Since the SAP endorsement, countries have implemented its key targets at the national level, including with support from the GEF medium-sized projects. The GEF Fisheries Refugia Project, the fisheries component of the SAP was launched in 2016 and participating countries signed at the ministerial level a Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming countries commitment to implement the SAP at the national and regional level. The extended project inception phase has resulted to a high level of preparedness and readiness to execute the project smoothly. This builds on efforts made at the national level to implement the SAP over the years that should not be underestimated as these efforts bring transformation, and is critical to continue the SAP implementation journey together with countries and partners.

Mr. Koichi Honda, Deputy Secretary General of SEAFDEC, representing the Secretary General, welcomed with great pleasure the participants to the Inception Workshop. The project is key to assist the participating countries in meeting the targets of the Strategic Action Programme through the provision of technical assistance and strong regional coordination and cooperation. This meeting and the first steering committee meeting

just prior to the workshop together concludes the inception phase of the project. SEAFDEC is hosting the Project Coordination Unit and will be responsible for the execution of regional activities with the support of a newly established project division will ensure its smooth operation and implementation. He encouraged all participating countries to ensure coordination within each country, especially amongst agencies and ministries and to take this opportunity to exchange and explore possible cooperation with various partners.

Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, UNOPS Vienna Representative and Head of Programme, Water and Energy Cluster greeted participants and welcomed the number of participants, a clear testimony of the importance of the SCS SAP Project. Overcoming earlier delays in project execution, progress has recently been made by the project with the engagement of the project team and joint efforts to move forward and bring all the participants together for this important event. UNOPS capacity is to strengthen project management support including stakeholder management, and to integrate these and other relevant expertise in project implementation. UNOPS will work closely with the countries and implementing partners and looks forward to combining its best effort to ensure the success of this project.

3. Project Presentation and Organization

Dr. Virginie Hart, Senior Project Manager presented briefly the project's background, history, structure and organization including the project's future plans. The SCS SAP Project takes a regional approach to the South China Sea Large Marine Ecosystem with a unique set of habitats and ecosystems of global importance. The GEF funded project "*Reversing the Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*" implemented from 2002-2008 with Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam as participating countries, resulted in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and SAP. This process was data driven and summarized in detailed national reports which quantify the trends in mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands habitat degradation, overexploitation of fisheries and pollution from land-based sources. GEF is supporting the SAP implementation through two projects: "Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" endorsed by GEF in 2016 and the "Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand".

The SCS SAP Project is funded by the GEF with UNEP as implementing agency and SEAFDEC and UNOPS as executing agencies, with a total GEF funding of 15 million USD and 83 million USD co-financing from partners and participating countries. The overall objective of the project is "To assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the Strategic Action Programme, and strengthening regional co-ordination for SCS SAP implementation". The three main components of the project, outcomes and outputs were elaborated in details in the project's Regional Implementation Report that was discussed and considered by the First Project Steering Committee meeting (28-29 June 2021). The project's organogram was presented showing the execution arrangements at national and regional levels including the responsibilities of UNOPS and SEAFDEC as executing agencies. UNOPS will take the lead on supporting countries through national contracts as well as supporting project management staff and consultants, while SEAFDEC will lead the coordination of all regional activities and meetings, travels and hosting of the project office. Finally, the Inception Phase period 2020-2021 progress was also briefly presented including establishment of the Project Coordination Unit and project office, organization of three regional meetings with over 30 national meetings, national

coordination mechanisms in the process of development, created and maintained project web-site, a lot of consultation to identify key stakeholders and partnerships, and key inception phased documents finalized. For the project background and arrangement presentation, see Annex 2 and [\[LINK\]](#).

A video presentation about the SCS SAP Project is available on the project web-site <https://scssap.org/> and YouTube [\[LINK\]](#).

4. Country presentations

The Chairpersons and representatives of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) of the SCS SAP project presented the main areas of activities to be executed at the national level.

Mr. Than Monomoyith, Vice Chief of Office, Department of Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation, General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, presented the progress of the project which has just started in Cambodia. National teams, inter-ministerial committees and working group members are under establishment to be chaired by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the Ministry of Environment, the Fishery Administration, the MOE National Council for Sustainable Development and Local Authorities for the execution of activities. Four provinces have been identified for mangrove, coral reef and seagrass sites namely: Kampot, Kep, Sihanouk and Koh Kong. Some of the major challenges and needs to address habitats management in Cambodia include limited knowledge base for coastal resources management and promoting environmentally sustainable livelihoods and lack of sustainable financing mechanisms. Cambodia will focus to strengthen its marine and coastal protected areas management and build capacity of national and local authorities, NGOs and community groups through training and workshops and improve collection of marine habitat data and information. Priority will also be given to support to develop national policies and institutional capacity to promote the management of coastal and marine environment and develop marine spatial planning (MSP) guidelines to establish sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and to strengthen the technical, financial and institutional capacity to address the climate change issues. For the Cambodia presentation, see Annex 3 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Dr. Y Yu, Senior Engineer of the South China Institute of Environment Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China presented the national coordination and oversight structure of the project in China. The Ministry of Ecology and Environment will lead inter-ministerial coordination and the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences (SCIES) the technical coordination of the project, along with experts from other research institutions. Execution of activities will be through the SCIES and the National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center. China has already implemented and achieved many of the SAP targets such as the mangrove targets and actions will be developed to support the mangrove five- year plan (2020-2025) which covers three provinces in the South China Sea area. Regarding seagrasses, the four seagrass meadows targeted have since been included as marine protected areas. This development will have to be considered by China. Regarding wetlands, the six sites identified are now considered natural reserves and marine protected areas. The total area for wetland is currently undergoing review and confirmation. In terms of pollution management, the major challenge identified is diffusion pollution especially from agriculture and cooperation of watershed both downstream and upstream. China has a new system or arrangement known as ecological compensation, a policy to promote cooperation.

Current key sites for interventions include:

- **Mangrove** - Futian, Shankou, Pearl Bay, Dongzhaigang, Qinglangang, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and China;
- **Seagrass** – Hepu, Liusha, Xincun and Lian; and
- **Wetlands** – Pearl river-some part as national natural reserve, Beilun river-national natural reserve, Shantou, Hepu, Danzhou—Danzhou Bay, and Wenchang—Qinglanggang.

China has undertaken a number of significant reforms in the last 12 years in support to the Strategic Action Programme implementation, including “*ecological civilization*” which has been added to the constitution of China since 2018. There were various government reforms and restructuring in 2018 and amendment of some legislations including the system on central inspection on environmental protection. China’s current main initiatives and priorities includes the development of new five-year planning and the financial supporting system called central marine environment restoration grant including action plan for mangroves and action plan for coastal rehabilitation. The priority activities are to tackle diffuse pollution and improve environmental state of rural areas and also to implement some system like integrated coastal and river basin management to improve and promote public participation. There is a need to align the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) targets into the national implementation report including new issues on ocean and climate change. China has a new initiative called Beautiful Coast which aims to protect and rehabilitate coastal areas and has the capacity and strength in remote sensing and good experience in restoration of mangrove forest and marine monitoring and assessment. For the China presentation, see Annex 4 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Mr. Dida Migfar Ridha, Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia presented the national coordination to implement the SCS SAP Project in Indonesia. The national coordination includes the other Large Marine Ecosystems where Indonesia is part of, namely: the South China Sea LME, the Sulu Celebes Sea LME, the Indonesian Seas LME including the Arafura Sea LME. Inter-ministerial coordination is led by the Director General of Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry while the technical coordination is under the leadership of the Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. These project bodies will work together with around thirteen related ministries and agencies including local governments, universities and non-government organizations. Execution of activities will be predominantly through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for mangroves and land-based pollution; and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries for coral reef and seagrass.

Current key sites for interventions include:

- **Mangroves:** the mangrove area distribution was presented located along Sumatra island and Borneo island. The target locations are Belitung, Bengkalis, Batu Ampar, Ngurah Rai and Angke Kapuk. The target per location is still in progress to be harmonized with data from the National Mangrove Information System Map which will be completed in July 2021.
- **Coral reefs:** the distribution of coral cover in Indonesia was presented located in Batam, Bintan, Natuna, Anambas, Belitung and Lingga. For the implementation of the project, the target location are Bangka, Belitung, District-based MPA Lingga, Bareleng dan Bintan, Natuna, Karimata and Anambas. For the target, Indonesia will combine management data with the final zoning area for the Riau islands (Lingga, Bareleng, Bintan, Natuna and Anambas) which is still in progress.
- **Seagrass:** the distribution of seagrass area cover are located in Batam, Bintan, Natuna, Anambas, Belitung and Lingga. For the implementation of the project, the target location are Anambas, District-based MPA Lingga (Medang-Mesanak, Temiang, Senayang), East Bintan, Mapur and Bangka Belitung. Similarly for the target, Indonesia will have to adjust the data with the final zoning area for the Riau islands (Lingga, East Bintan, and Anambas) which is still in progress.
- **Wetlands:** the target area is Sembilang National Park which is an estuarine area with mangroves.

In terms of pollution management, Indonesia has established a new regulation Government Regulation 22 Year 2021, Chapter on “Sea Quality Management and Protection” which include sea water quality and ecosystem quality; and since 2019 established the Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) in Bali, in line with Resolution UNEA-4 on Protection Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which focus on land-based activities such as: (a) increased nutrient; (b) wastewater; (c) marine litter and microplastics; and (d) emerging pollutants. As to the progress of project implementation, Indonesia has conducted several focused group discussions with related ministries and agencies, universities and non-government organizations and has harmonized data and information on mangrove, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands including stocktaking data and information on programmes, regulations and modalities in the each focus area. The major challenges and activities identified were presented. This includes building the mechanism for collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders, improving the accuracy and transparency of data and information, the quality of damaged coastal ecosystems and the management and sustainable use of marine conservation area. Also, the need to fill in data gaps on various types of biota and an inventory and management of marine tourism activities. For the Indonesia presentation, see Annex 5 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Ms. Armida Andres, Division Chief of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines presented the progress of national activities of the SCS SAP Project in the Philippines. Inter-ministerial coordination will be led by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and technical oversight by the Biodiversity Management Bureau including already a team of thirteen members. Execution of activities will be through the Biodiversity Management Bureau for all coastal habitats supported by the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute on the coral reef and seagrass components; the Environmental Management Bureau for land-based pollution and the Philippines Statistics Authority for economic valuation. Numerous consultations, workshops and workshops have been conducted in 2020-2021 to elaborate the project’s national activities and workplan and the 21 proposed sites. Activities and budget for the sites are currently being completed and finalized.

Current key sites for interventions include:

- **Mangroves:** based on the original seven sites, three proposed additional sites were added following selection criteria provided by the project. Based on validation, the original sites is insufficient and requires additional sites to cover the targets. The mangrove sites are: Ulugan Bay, San Vicente, Quezon, Dumarang, Coron, Busuanga and Araceli, all in Palawan Province, and Subic and Masinloc-Oyon Bay in Zambales.
- **Coral reefs:** based on original nine sites, the Philippines conducted validation of the nine original sites in close coordination and consultation with the Marine Science Institute taking into consideration actual information from relevant projects. Based on the validation, six sites can already cover the total target of the project. The selection of sites also considers the interconnectivity of coastal habitats for a more efficient implementation of the management approaches, policies and monitoring management schemes as determined by the project. The coral reef sites are: Masinloc, Zambales, El Nido, Palawan, Balabac, Calamianes Group of Islands, Bolinao / Lingayen Gulf and Batangas Bay, Maricaban Strait.
- **Seagrass:** three original sites were identified. Upon validation, there is a need to increase the number of sites and proposed three more additional sites. The seagrass sites are: Cape Bolinao, Honda Bay, Ulugan, Looc-Lubang, Masinloc and El Nido. For wetland, the Philippines committed to develop and implement an integrated management plan for two estuaries and one tidal flats. Due to continuing volcanic activity in the area, there is need to characterize alternative site for Pansipit River estuary and considered the coastal wetland of Maragondon as alternate site with the Malampaya Sound in Palawan and the Manila Bay tidal flat being retained as target sites.
- **Wetlands:** Maragondon Estuary, Malampaya Sound Estuary, Manila Bay Tidal Flats (Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga).

In terms of land-based pollution, the priority activities include:

- ✓ the preparation of national action plan on land-based pollution with assessment;
- ✓ the update of the Philippine water quality guidelines and strengthening the water quality monitoring and assessment capability of DENR-EMB, including improvement of water quality data management and reporting system;
- ✓ the formulation of framework for the development of Philippine sediment quality guidelines and recommendation of interim sediment quality guidelines for metals in freshwater sediment, with beta-testing of sediment collection manual;
- ✓ the development of national research framework and program for the monitoring and assessment of marine litter; and
- ✓ inventory and monitoring of water bodies draining into Batangas Bay and Lingayen Gulf regions (hotspots).

The Special Presidential Authority was signed by the President (27 April 2021) and the Project Document has been signed by the Secretary of the DENR paving the way for the full implementation of the project in the Philippines. Work is underway and some of the challenges noted include funding limitations combined with the large number of sites may need careful consideration. Also, there are an increasing number of projects underway which warrant the creation of a Project Management Office to support and coordinate. The current pandemic is a huge challenge with continuing restrictions on movements and travel of personnel and staff, expected to cause delays in the delivery of targets and outputs. The SCS SAP Project is very much aligned with the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) which aims to achieve the effective management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems to increase their ability to provide ecological goods and services for human wellbeing. The project and CMEMP contributes to the achievement of the Philippine Development Plan and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan targets including international commitments such as the Aichi Targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly Goal 14 – Life below Water. For the Philippines presentation, see Annex 6 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin, Director of Coastal Resources Conservation Division, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand

provided the update on national activities to implement the SCS SAP Project in Thailand. The Inter-ministerial Committee has already been established with the Deputy Director General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources as chairperson with around 20 representatives from seven ministries and other organizations. The Director of the Marine Resources Conservation Division will be the chairperson to lead technical oversight of the project with representatives from central and local governments, communities and academia as members. Execution of the activities will be supported through the Mangroves Conservation Division for mangrove; the Marine Resources Conservation Division for coral reef and the Water Quality Management Bureau of the Pollution Control Department for land-based pollution.

Current key sites for interventions include:

- **Mangroves:** there were five original sites identified and proposed to reduce it to three sites where two of the original sites remained and proposed the Bandon Bay as new site. Bandon Bay was selected to complement the Fisheries Refugia project. Other reasons for changing the sites are the size of Trad Province which is too large, some site are not in the current management plan and priority like Tung Kha-Savi Bay while some site has sufficient management in placed like Kung Kraben Bay. The proposed mangrove sites are: Pak Phanang Bay, Welu River Estuary and Bandon Bay.
- **Coral reef:** there were fourteen original sites identified which were too many and proposed to reduce the sites into six sites which are under management priority of the department. The Prachuab and Songkhla are too large and not site specific. The Chang and Samui are large and the issues are complex. The Aung Thong, Samet, Sattaheep and Chao Lao are not considered priority areas. The proposed coral reef sites are: Sichang Island Group, Lan and Phai Islands Group, Koh Tao Island Group, Koh Kra Archipelago, Losin Island and Mak Island.
- **Seagrass:** there was no site proposed in the SAP and proposed to include Chaiya-Phunphin Districts to complement with the Fisheries Refugia Project.
- **Wetlands:** the two original sites were changed since the sites, Thale Noi Wildlife non-hunting area and Khao Sam Roi Yot national park, are freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem and not under the agency mandate. The Don Hoi Lot Mudflat was proposed as new wetland site due to the excessive population of Razor clam, which is a good example to look into in terms of the sustainable management of this particular population.

Proposed activities for project execution covering all habitats were summarized including support to law and policy enforcement, such as for the proclamation of mangrove conservation areas and, marine protected areas - regulations and measures to minimize impact from marine tourism industry and coastal development - and measures to control activities that cause impact on seagrass including the utilization of marine and coastal resources. Also key are actions for the reforestation and restoration of marine life such as for coral reefs (using both active and passive restorations); conservation and usage zones such as marine spatial planning, coastal use plan and zoning schemes as well as actions related to monitoring, education and awareness raising, networking and collaboration, i.e. promotion of ecotourism sustainable livelihoods. Regarding challenges, the COVID-19 affected the development of the workplan and a number of activities such as consultations with the local communities, where online meetings are not always suitable. Another is the sustainability of institution and governance structures particularly in the establishment of local structure to include the local communities in the structure and consultation process to ensure that activities are implemented accordingly. Through the project, Thailand will contribute to the global and regional development agenda such as the SDG's, as well as giving priority to blue economy in line with the BCG

(Bioeconomy, Circular economy and Green economy) model announced by the government. Thailand would like to promote ecotourism in the areas instead of the excessive use of resources to support tourism business as well as to enhance local economy through activities that promote sustainable livelihood. For the Thailand presentation, see Annex 7 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Mr. Nguyen Cong Minh, Expert of the Agency of Seas and Islands Use and Management, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, presented the status in Viet Nam to implement the SCS SAP Project. Currently,

Viet Nam is in the process of updating the national activities and workplan including the members of project national bodies. Inter-ministerial coordination will be led by the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and will have as members the representatives of relevant ministries and research institutions. Technical oversight will be led by the Director of the Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation of the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands with members coming from relevant agencies and research institutions. Activities will be executed through: Mangrove Ecosystem Research Centre for mangrove; the Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang for coral reef; the Institute of Marine Environment and Resources, Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, Haiphong for seagrass; the Viet Nam Institute of Seas and Islands for wetlands; the Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Northern Area, VASI / Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Southern Area, VASI for land-based pollution; and the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment for economic valuation.

Current key sites for interventions include:

- **Mangrove:** the identified sites are Tien Yen, Xuan Thuy, Can Gio, Ca Mau, which are rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services. All sites are under conservation status either as national park, nature reserve or wetland conservation area. These sites however are under pressure from exploitation for local livelihood.
- **Coral reef:** the sites identified are: Cu Lao Cham Nha Trang bay Con Dao Phu Quoc Ninh Hai Ca Na bay Ha Long - Cat Ba Hai Van - Son Tra Bach Long Vi. The sites are the major distribution areas of coral reef in Viet Nam. The sites are under conservation status such as protected area but the coral reef areas are declining.
- **Seagrass:** the sites identified are: Phu Quoc archipelago Con Dao Islands Thuy Trieu Tam Giang, which are under conservation status such as protected area but all are under pressure from exploitation for local livelihood.
- **Wetland:** the sites identified are: Tamgiang-Cauhai Lagoon, Thi Nai Lagoon, Balat Estuary, Tien River Estuary, Dong Nai River Estuary and Ca Mau Southwest Tidal Flat which are important wetlands for biodiversity and livelihoods. All sites are under conservation status either as national park, nature reserve or wetland conservation area but are under high pressure from degradation and pollution.

Regarding pollution management, Viet Nam is facing a number of challenges and needs in terms of legislation, enforcement, finance, awareness and capacity. So far Viet Nam has manage to complete the legal framework on marine management, apply a number of approach to manage coastal and marine like ecosystem-based management, initiate activities to control pollution due to plastic waste including activities for education, awareness raising and capacity building. In terms of the overall status and challenges in Viet Nam, the national implementation report is being updated which will consolidate the activities and implementation organization structure. The challenges identified are legislation limitation and inconsistency, insufficient awareness and capacity at all level, insufficient investment for implementation, weak monitoring, and insufficient punishment mechanism. The current main initiatives and priorities are related to marine spatial planning, marine resources use strategy, and establishment and enhancement of MPA and protected areas. The management and sustainable use of the marine and

coastal environment in Viet Nam is guided by Resolution 36-NQ/TW on marine sustainable development strategy which take into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity targets, blue and circular economy, and climate change issues. Along this line, Viet Nam needs training and exchange of lessons learned and experiences from other countries in the region. For the Viet Nam presentation, see Annex 8 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Question and Answers from participants:

- ✓ Ms. Stefanie Rog (stefanie.rog@fauna-flora.org) of the Flora and Fauna International (FFI) informed the participants that FFI has data on coral, seagrass and marine spatial planning in Cambodia and expressed interest to be engaged in the project particularly in filling the data gaps and discussing information needs on the marine environment in Cambodia. Ms. Rog also shared some information on recent mangrove data through Global Mangrove Watch web-site [\[LINK\]](#) - Mr. Srey Sunleang of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia welcomed the interest of the FFI to be engaged in the project activities in Cambodia. FFI and the Ministry of Environment have worked on many activities and welcomed FFI and other interested partners inputs and expertise.
- ✓ Mr. John Pontillas of the Philippines inquired on Indonesia presentation. He observed one focus area located along the Singapore-Malacca Strait which is a busy shipping route where most ships passed. He inquired how Indonesia will address and manage the pollution generated from the shipping lines. Mr. Dida of Indonesia clarified that the SCS SAP Project focusses on land-based pollution and not on sea-based pollution. This is a challenge for the project to consider also sea-based pollution especially oil spills. All countries work together in the region under the ASEAN mechanism like the handling of illegal desludge and tank cleaning which could be used for oil spill pollution in the area.
- ✓ Dr. Mike Fortes of the Philippines inquired on China presentation particularly on the meaning of managing pollution by diffusion of the pollution. He inquired why there is no prevention of pollution at source. Mr. Yu of China clarified that there are two sources of pollution – point sources and non-point sources or diffusion sources. The point sources in China are all under control using some kind of discharge permission system for diffuse pollution particularly from agriculture. Diffuse pollution is a big challenge and a priority in China for pollution control.
- ✓ Ms. Yi Liu of GEF SGP China inquired on the organization of country meeting in China and expressed interest to help organize Chinese NGOs to join the meeting. Mr. Yu will contact Ms. Liu for the schedule and arrangement.

5. Regional Activities

Dr. Virginie Hart presented briefly the rationale and background of the inception phase regional report to implement the Strategic Action Programme at the regional level including the linkages between outcomes and outputs of the project to be executed at local (site), national and regional levels. She informed the participants that the Steering Committee has considered the draft Inception Phase Regional Report subject to some adjustments. For the inception phase regional report presentation, see Annex 9 and [\[LINK\]](#). For the full regional report, see [\[LINK\]](#).

6. Key partnerships and synergies

Key to the success of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme is the partnerships to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources, build upon existing efforts and initiatives, establish joint and common

objectives and targets for the longer term, and design a plan for the sustainability of all actions, from monitoring, scientific studies, policy reforms and capacity building. Below are some of the key partners who presented.

Dr. Sulan Chen, Programme Advisor of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

congratulated the governments of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, GEF, UNEP, UNOPS, SEAFDEC and partner organizations on the launching of the SCS SAP Project. She expressed great honor and pleasure to witness and be part of this monumental event, which is deeply gratifying having worked for four years with the first phase of the project. She thanked Ms. Vanderbeck of UNEP for the leadership and perseverance to make this project a reality, the project management team and experts for the impressive work and the governments of participating countries for the commitment to implement the Strategic Action Programme.

The Small Grants Programme is the corporate programme of the GEF which promotes the community-based innovation, capacity development and empowerment thru sustainable development projects of local communities and civil society organizations. The SGP promotes an integrated development approach that deliver global environment benefits while adjusting local livelihood and empower the local communities through financial and technical support to communities and the civil society organizations which ultimately promotes the inclusive and constructive government-civil society-private sector relationship. In terms of funding and coverage, SGP provides support of up to 50,000 USD per project to communities, and currently covering around 127 countries supporting 25,000 projects with funding of more than 600 Million USD.

The cooperation between the SGP and the previous SCS project was presented with a view to explore collaboration for the Strategic Action Programme implementation. The collaboration between the SGP and the previous phase of the project was briefly presented wherein the project was executed through a joint collaboration agreement signed in November 2007 by the SCS Project Director and the SGP Global Manager to initiate the collaboration. A fund transfer agreement was also signed in September 2008 between UNDP and UNEP to support the implementation of projects from 2008 to 2012. The objective of the partnership is to support at least 12 community-based demonstration sites, provide trainings to national coordinators, national steering committee members, NGOs and communities on regional priorities, and build capacity at local level to support Strategic Action Programme implementation. Two NGO forums were organized to connect the civil society organizations at the regional level. A total of 667,000 USD was offered by the project for the partnership where SGP matched the funding to support the activities on the ground. The partnership exceeded the original number of 12 community sites as 31 sites at community level were funded.

To provide country specific information, three SGP Country Coordinators from Cambodia, China and Viet Nam presented their experiences with regard to the results of previous phase collaboration. Ms. Ngin Navirak of Cambodia presented the seven projects funded under SCS/SGP partnership focusing on sea grass conservation, conservation of existing mangrove areas and reforestation, crab bank and community capacity development. Ms. Yi Liu of China stated that no funds were provided under the partnership but through SGP China, 8 projects were supported during the previous phase. In 2015 China has identified the SCS-SAP as one of their priorities for landscape and seascape projects. Ms. Huyen Nguyen Thi Thu of Viet Nam presented the six projects supported under the collaboration focusing on co-management in fisheries, coral reef conservation, tourism and land crab, MSMEs empowerment, and establishment of community learning hub network. All country coordinators expressed interest and support to continue the collaboration between the SGP and the SCS SAP Project.

The summary of key experiences and lessons learned from the collaboration was presented. This includes: Integrated approach of incorporating local action into regional framework is more effective than stand-alone

projects. The SGP benefited from the knowledge and expertise from the SCS project while the SCS utilized SGP as a mechanism to deliver and reach out to local people and communities; 2) Initial trainings and capacity building are critical to translate the Strategic Action Programme into local actions. It is recommended that NGO forums and CSO network or forums be organized at regional level.; 3) Networking and connection in relation to NGO forum at regional level be organized also at national level; 4) Experiences and lessons learned can shape central and local government policies and regulations as we can work together through the SGP activities; and 5) Maintain regional information sharing and exchange. It is important that project partners and stakeholders are connected at local and regional level. The SGP recommitted and reinstated commitment to support the SAP implementation to ensure its successful implementation on the ground. For the GEF SGP presentation, see Annex 10 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) thanked the project team for ensuring PEMSEA participation in the meeting. There is significant overlap between PEMSEA and SCS SAP focal points and experts as well as concrete opportunities for synergies and complementation, ensuring the cost-effective management of resources. PEMSEA is a regional cooperation mechanism that aims to foster and sustain healthy and resilient coasts and oceans, communities and economies across the Seas of East Asia through Integrated management solutions and partnerships, with funding support from the GEF, UNDP and other development agencies. Five country partners of PEMSEA are participating countries of the project. PEMSEA operates at regional, national and local levels where they assist governments at national and local levels in developing plans and policies that addresses the threats and impacts on the coast and shared oceans. The network of local governments and learning centers are working closely with national and local governments to help build capacity to adapt to solutions that are appropriate to local circumstances. At the regional level, PEMSEA executes a shared strategy for the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia which has six priority programs, namely: biodiversity conservation, climate change and disaster risk reduction, pollution reduction and waste management, ocean governance and strategic partnerships, knowledge management and capacity building, blue economy investment and sustainable financing. The strategy is currently being reviewed to take into account the realities and emerging trends such as the global pandemic, the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, the Paris agreement and the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime transport. In terms of future plans and priority programs, PEMSEA is working on the East Asian Seas Roadmap 2030 that is anchored on the blue development agenda and in response to the call for the blue green recovery post pandemic plans. This will also be articulated in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027. Currently underway is the organization of EAS Congress 2021 which would have the 7th Ministerial Declaration that would lay down the policy framework of PEMSEA, and the development of blue economy pathway.

Some of the tools that will be helpful for the SCS SAP Project are the State of Ocean and Coasts Reports in EAS Region, the State of River Basin Reports in ASEAN Countries, the Baseline Reports on GHG Emissions in EAS Region for the maritime transport sector, the Management of LME Transboundary Marine Protected Areas, the blue economy measures in country blue/green development plans, the Integrated Coastal Management certification and training manuals and the SeaKnowledgeBank, a repository of data and tools. The possible complementation between PEMSEA and the SCS SAP Project was presented below.

SCS SAP Project	PEMSEA
SCS SAP development	ATSEA 2 Regional SAP and Indonesia NSAP
Monitoring Biennial state of coastal habitats	Regional/national/local State of Ocean and Coasts Reports
Developing Information database	SeaKnowledge Bank
Fostering Blue Economy	State of River Basin Reports for 5 countries
Implementing Circular Economy	Circular Economy work in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam
Updating Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis	SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027
Enabling partnerships/technical assistance	PEMSEA Network of Local Government, PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers, Private sector engagement

Ms. Gonzales noted there are important problems to tackle and address in the region and encouraged everyone to ensure project complementation, open communications and sharing of experiences and resources to build a stronger collaborative, complementary partnership. For the PEMSEA presentation, see Annex 11 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Ms. Katrin Eitrem Holmgren, Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) thanked the SCS SAP Project for the invitation and opportunity to present COBSEA, one of 18 Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP. COBSEA is an intergovernmental body covering nine countries in the East Asian Seas region which include all the 6 countries participating in SCS SAP Project. COBSEA is one of seven regional seas programme administered by UNEP and the Secretariat is hosted by Thailand. COBSEA works according to the East Asian Seas Action Plan which aims to protect the marine and coastal environment in the region; the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 focusing on addressing land based marine pollution, enhancing marine and coastal planning and management and strengthening regional governance; and the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, which aims to prevent and reduce marine litter from both land and sea-based sources, strengthen monitoring and create enabling conditions for action. The specific activities currently undertaken by COBSEA in the East Asian Seas region were presented. In terms of land-based sources of marine pollution, the activities include the harmonization and strengthening of national marine litter monitoring programs and policies in COBSEA member countries, conduct hotspots assessment of waste leakage and establishing monitoring baselines together with UN Habitat, promote inclusive market-based solutions looking at entire plastic value chain through the SEA Circular Project, and conduct study on the sources, policies, impacts, monitoring schemes and measures on nutrient pollution in COBSEA countries. In terms of marine and coastal planning and management, the activities include the conduct of policy review and study on the regional and national framework related to marine and coastal spatial planning, conduct trainings on different elements on marine and coastal spatial planning, stakeholder engagement and Sustainable Ocean Economy (scheduled in September 2021) together with the Blue Solutions Initiative, engagement on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework discussion including launching of webinar series, and work on establishing a COBSEA network of marine protected areas focusing on critical habitats; In terms of regional governance, COBSEA is continuously collaborating with relevant partners to leverage synergy and minimize duplication. A main component of COBSEA work is assessments, capacity building and regional knowledge management and networking.

The future plans and priorities of COBSEA were presented which include the establishment of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, development of regional guidance on harmonizing monitoring including regional guidelines to identify and address different sources of nutrient, establishment of a

community of practice on marine and coastal spatial planning as a regional platform for exchange, development of regional guidelines for ecosystem-based approach for regional and national levels, implementation of the outcomes of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework including tracking indicators for regional seas programmes, review and evaluation of the management effectiveness of marine protected areas, integration of sustainable blue economy elements in COBSEA works, development of COBSEA Strategic Directions post-2022 and review on ocean-related SDG implementation and follow-up. The possible cooperation areas between COBSEA and SCS SAP Project were identified and presented. The cooperation areas are support to monitoring, assessment and implementation of land-based sources of pollution, developing cooperation activities on marine protected areas, marine and coastal spatial planning and marine litter (through the regional working group), support to the implementation of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, support in delivering actions on SDG Outlook in line with COBSEA strategic documents, and participation in COBSEA and SCS SAP Project meetings and events such as the upcoming COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting in September 2021. For the COBSEA presentation, see Annex 12 and [\[LINK\]](#).

Ms. Makiko Yashiro, Regional Coordinator for Ecosystems Management Programme of UNEP Asia and Pacific Office

thanked the project for the opportunity to participate in the inception workshop and noted the areas of work covered by the SCS SAP Project are very much related to the initiatives currently implemented by UNEP in the region and provides opportunity to ensure synergies and complementarities among projects and initiatives in the region. UNEP current initiatives on marine litter were presented starting with the SEA Circular Project funded by Sweden in collaboration with COBSEA, which is implemented in six South East Asian countries with the purpose of reducing land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment by ensuring that plastic is wasted at source and plastic value change is managed sustainably. The SEA Circular Project focuses on strengthening the scientific basis for decision making to address plastic litter including creating awareness and regional networking through the COBSEA Regional Working Group on Marine Litter and the annual Sea of Solutions partnership week. Another similar project is the Counter Measure II Project funded by Japan which provides collaboration for sharing knowledge and information and good practices for monitoring and addressing river-based plastic pollution in the region.

Aside from the marine litter initiatives, the sustainable blue economy efforts in the region supported by UNEP were presented such as the ASEAN meeting on sustainable blue economy to have a common understanding on the concept of blue economy where the outcome of the meeting will be used in developing the ASEAN leaders declaration on blue economy. A number of GEF projects currently being developed were also presented focusing on the application of sustainable blue economy approach at national and sub-national level development planning processes such as the development and application of provincial natural capital accounts in tourism and water resources sectors in Krabi Province, Thailand; the implementation of blue economy approach through natural capital accounting, green investment with the incorporation of ecosystems valuation in government operation in Palawan Province, Philippines; and the development of project concept on blue economy focusing on the development on natural capital accounting and its application in promoting sustainable blue economy in Viet Nam. Ms. Yashiro stressed the importance of engaging the ministries, departments and stakeholders at national and local levels including the need for the project partners to closely interact and collaborate fully and looked forward to further engagement and collaboration with the project.

Mr. Mish Hamid, Project Manager of the IWLEARN Project thanked the project for the opportunity to participate and present the IWLEARN and noted the long history of collaboration between the IWLEARN and the previous phase of the project and looked forward to continuing the beneficial relationship with the second phase of the project. The IWLEARN is the lead knowledge management mechanism of the GEF International Waters Focal

Area servicing all International Waters projects including multifocal area projects with International Waters component and the partners involved in these projects. The IWLEARN is a project jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP providing not only knowledge management but also provides coordination and partnership building functions. The IWLEARN exists to build management capacity and strengthen the overall capacity of GEF projects to better improve the shared ecosystems that all projects are supporting, promote scaled-up learning of experiences, tools and methodologies and help increase the effectiveness of projects, provide the coordination functions linking the freshwater and marine projects along the source to sea continuum, and provide coordination functions to the many GEF funded projects that are implemented by different GEF implementing agencies. The GEF International Waters portfolio has funded investments in over 23 large marine ecosystems (LME) including a larger number of lakes, aquifers and rivers where the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand are part of the larger LME around the world.

The IWLEARN provides services and support to all International Waters projects, linking all projects to share experiences and results including technical innovations and science. The main functions of IWLEARN is to provide Knowledge Sharing and Partnership Building; 2) Information management; and 3) Programmatic support. The specific services/activities that IWLEARN provides are participation in the International Water Conference and global training and online courses, project twinning, data/visualization platform to share data and information, sharing and use of manuals and methodologies and toolkits, and sharing of policy briefs and experience notes including newsletters. The possible cooperation areas with SCS SAP Project was presented such as the Regional Ocean Coordination, support to Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultations, LME Data and Information Management, Private Sector Partnerships and Project Communications. The previous SCS Project has contributed a lot of work in these areas and would like to continue this cooperation with the SCS SAP Project. Mr. Hamid encouraged the project and partners to share their works with IWLEARN for the information of other projects and hoped the project will be a strong learning node for the GEF IW portfolio in the region as well as a benefactor of IWLEARN, and looked forward to collaborating and working closely with the project. For the IWLEARN presentation, see Annex 13 and [\[LINK\]](#).

IWLEARN information links:

- ✓ <https://iwlearn.net/>; <https://iwlearn.net/manuals/dim>; <https://iwlearn.net/events/conferences>; <https://iwlearn.net/learning/courses>; <https://iwlearn.net/valuation>; <https://iwlearn.net/learning/courses/large-marine-ecosystem-mooc>; <https://iwlearn.net/learning/twinning>; <https://iwlearn.net/learning/toolkits/geonode>;
- ✓ <https://lmehub.net/>;
- ✓ Experience notes include- Rehabilitation of Habitats and Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Con Chim Area, Thi Nai Lagoon (<https://iwlearn.net/documents/26555>); Connecting GEF Projects with a Global Audience: Outreach Initiatives of the South China Sea Project (<https://iwlearn.net/documents/3847>); Integrating Fisheries and Habitat Management: Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea (<https://iwlearn.net/documents/3859>); Definitive LME Volume: <https://iwlearn.net/events/large-marine-ecosystem-results-supporting-ocean-sustainability>

Ms. Purificacio Canals, Coordinator of EU Ocean Governance Project expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present the Ocean Governance Project, which is funded by the European Union focusing on the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and transboundary cooperation for marine protection (<https://oceangovernance4mpas.eu>). The geographical focus areas of the project are South East Asia and the Atlantic Basin. In the region, the project will focus on marine and coastal ecosystems restoration in three countries

and sites namely: Tun Mustapha Park in Malaysia and Derawan Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Indonesia on coral reef restoration, and the Balabac Strait in the Philippines on mangrove restoration. The Ocean Governance project will be working closely with the MPA managers. In terms of transboundary cooperation for marine protection, the project is revisiting and aligning the proposal with current situation including considering the activities being developed by other regional institutions and initiatives in the area. This would mean collaboration with other activities and projects like the SCS SAP Project in terms of data and information exchange, which is a key element of the Ocean Governance Project. The EU Transatlantic MPA Project has established the basis for exchanges between the MPA managers and networks in South East Asia and the Atlantic Basin. Ms. Canals hoped and looked forward to collaborating further with the SCS SAP Project on marine conservation to target more MPA in the region including organization of events.

Ms. Chanikan Vibulsok, Technical Officer of the UNEP/GEF Fisheries Refugia Project

presenting on behalf of the Project Director thanked the SCS SAP Project for the opportunity to present and share the Fisheries Refugia Project (<https://fisheries-refugia.org>), which is the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme. The goals and the progress made by the Fisheries Refugia Project including the ongoing activities and future priorities and proposed cooperation with the SCS SAP Project were presented. The Fisheries Refugia Project aims to: improve integration of habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations in the management of fisheries in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, improve national management of the threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages within fisheries refugia and enhance the uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the design and implementation of regional and national fisheries management systems.

The project achievements that may support and contribute to the SAP implementation were presented such as improved understanding among stakeholders on Fisheries Refugia concept and the habitat and fishery linkages as basis for integrated fisheries and habitat management and the strong supports and engagement of stakeholders with over 100 multi-stakeholders and partners engaged in the project implementation. So far, three fisheries refugia sites have been adopted in Cambodia and seven sites in Malaysia Philippines and Thailand are in the final decision. Indonesia and Viet Nam are in the process of identifying their refugia areas. The project has established five learning centers to promote the fisheries refugia concept and conservation of fisheries habitat linkages in Malaysia Philippines and Thailand. A regional cooperation is underway under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanism to develop a Regional Action Plan for management of Transboundary Species such as Short Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region, which could be applied to the South China Sea and other seas in the Southeast Asia.

In terms of ongoing activities and priorities, the Fisheries Refugia project is currently improving national fisheries legislation, law, policy and management plan to support, create and manage more fisheries refugia for economically important species within the exclusive economic zone including maintaining and scaling up the socioeconomic level of fishing communities by promoting innovative best practice tools and technologies such as responsible fishing technologies, traceability system and updating indicators and monitoring systems. Political and private sector support will be explored and created for the maintenance of natural refugia including promoting fisheries refugia through social networking and strengthening regional cooperation for the management of other transboundary fish stock. The proposed cooperation and collaboration with the SCS SAP includes the joint activities on policy and legal review and management plans, the sharing of the datasets and information on socio-economic valuation of goods and services of coastal habitats and root causes of the problems and priorities for intervention including national management actions to address climate variability and change, and collaboration in linking and updating web portals and associated regional online databases and communication matters. For the Fisheries Refugia presentation, see Annex 14 and [\[LINK\]](#).

7. Closing Remarks

Dr. Virginie Hart, SCS SAP Senior Project Manager expressed her deep gratitude to all the regional partners for their very useful and valuable presentations. This dialogue should continue on a regular basis. All agreed that coordination is key especially at the national level, and therefore national committee and working groups should engage GEF SGP, COBSEA, PEMSEA and Fisheries Refugia focal points or experts in their national committees. The SCS SAP project does not address marine litter, but given the importance of marine litter and the number of initiatives underway it is recommended that through especially COBSEA and UNEP, that marine litter is included in the revision of the Strategic Action Programme, especially in relation to the impacts to habitat degradation in the region. Also, of great interest is work ongoing on blue economy, economic valuation and natural capital accounting and assessment in the region where possible collaboration could be explored through regional organizations like UNEP, COBSEA, PEMSEA etc. to ensure that best practices and innovative approaches are integrated into the projects aim to update the economic evaluations.

Special thanks were expressed to Mr. Reynaldo Molina for facilitating the meeting, along with the dedicated work in support to the meeting by the project consultants, Mr. Romeo Trono from the Philippines and Dr. Vo Si Tuan for regional scientific support. A final note of thanks was expressed to Mike Baumann for his work to maintain the original SCS web-site (<http://www.unepscs.org/>) where all past reports and wealth of information is available as well as the development of the new web-site (<https://scssap.org/>).

Mr. Srey Sunleang, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia thanked all the distinguished delegates and participants and noted the participation of over 180 participants which reflects the commitment and interest to cooperate in tackling the challenges in marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea. He expressed appreciation to all the national teams and experts for their presentations, work and commitment to this project including SEAFDEC, UNOPS and UNEP and the Project Coordination Unit for bringing the inception phase to completion with this important meeting. He noted the significant challenge brought by the pandemic and encouraged all partners and stakeholders to maintain the momentum and cooperate to implement and achieve the SAP targets for a healthy marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea.

The meeting was closed at 13.20 Indochina time (ICT) on the 1st July 2021.

ANNEXES

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- Annex 2. Project background and arrangement
- Annex 3. Cambodia presentation
- Annex 4. China presentation
- Annex 5. Indonesia presentation
- Annex 6. Philippine's presentation
- Annex 7. Thailand presentation
- Annex 8. Viet Nam presentation
- Annex 9. SCS SAP Inception Phase Regional Report
- Annex 10. GEF SGP Presentation
- Annex 11. PEMSEA Presentation
- Annex 12. COBSEA Presentation
- Annex 13. IWLEARN Project Presentation
- Annex 14. Fisheries Refugia Project Presentation

Annex 1. List of participants

No.	Title	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Job Title	Country/ Region	Gender
CAMBODIA								
1	Mr.	Monomoyith	Than	monomoyith84@gmail.com	Ministry of Environment	Vice chief office	Cambodia	Male
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Annex 2. Project background and arrangement



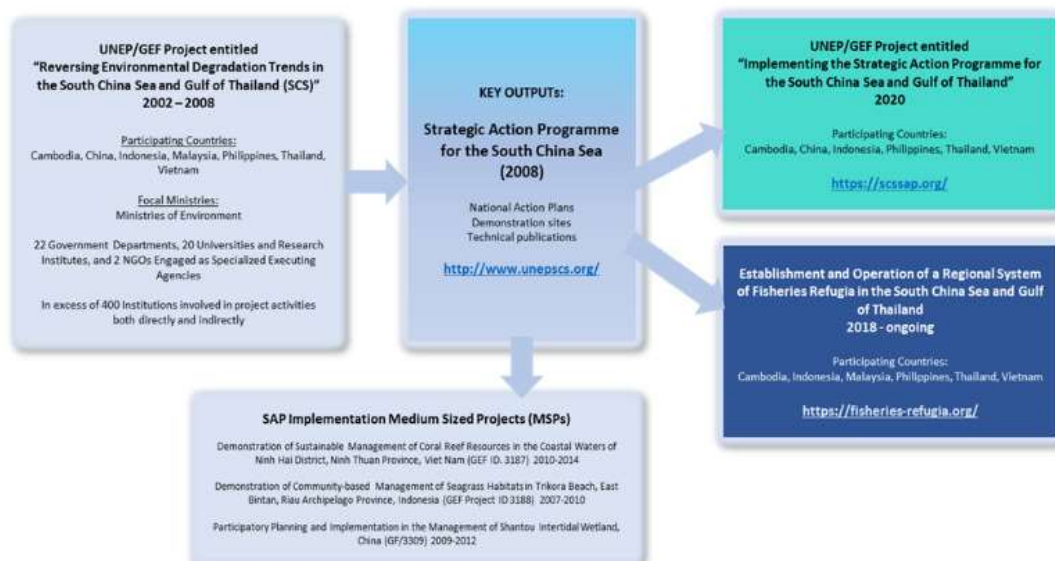
The Challenge

The South China Sea is a semi-enclosed sea, which supports a number of unique habitats and ecosystems that are amongst the most biologically diverse shallow water marine ecosystems globally. The richness and productivity of the South China Sea and associated environments are, however, seriously threatened by high population growth, pollution, overharvest and habitat modification, resulting in high rates of habitat loss and impairment of the regenerative capacities of living resources. The socio-economic impacts of environmental deterioration are significant for the economies of this region.

Recognizing that actions were urgently needed to halt degradation of the environment of this marine basin, the countries of the region sought the assistance of UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in preparing a **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis** of the issues and problems and their societal root causes as the basis for development of a **Strategic Action Programme (SAP)** which was inter-governmentally adopted in 2008. The SAP established a series of objectives and priority costed actions for coastal habitats, land-based pollution management, and the over-exploitation of fish stocks in the South China Sea.

- ✓ Continuing trends in mangrove, coral reef, seagrass and wetland habitat degradation and loss
- ✓ Over-exploitation of living aquatic resources
- ✓ Increasing pollution from land based sources
- ✓ Need for continued regional coordination to address transboundary issues
- ✓ Increasing stress on the marine and coast from Climate change, sea-level rise and acidification

Working together with the GEF since 2002



Summary facts

Participating Countries:	Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
Implementation Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Executing Agencies:	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
GEF Funding:	15 million USD (with approximately 83 million USD in co-financing)
Timeline:	2018-2024
Web-links:	https://scssap.org

The objective of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project) is: ***"To assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea (SCS) through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthening regional co-ordination for SCS SAP implementation."***

This will be achieved through the cooperation of participating countries, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, public-private sectors partnerships, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), leading scientists from the region. The project will also contribute to global targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.

SCSSAP Component 1 Outcomes

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

- Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove
- Outcome 1.2 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably
- Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 15,848 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand
- Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations
- Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

- ✓ Supporting SAP implementation at the priority sites identified in the sites
- ✓ Led by National Lead Agencies
- ✓ Resulting in improved habitat management and restoration, increased capacity, knowledge exchange, monitoring and reporting status
- ✓ Integrating best-practices from within and beyond the region to achieve long-term impact and sustainability
- ✓ Contributing to key SDG targets and Convention on Biological Diversity Post 2020 targets

SCSSAP Component 2 Outcomes

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

- Outcome 2.1 Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning
- Outcome 2.2 Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution
- 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
- Outcome 2.4 Improved national and regional values for the Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy
- Outcome 2.5 Regionally appropriate tools and mechanisms to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats and land-based pollution
- 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

- ✓ Update of National Reports and National Action Plans
- ✓ Update to the TDA and SAP
- ✓ Number of key assessments on pollution
- ✓ State of Coastal Habitats
- ✓ Economic evaluation of coastal habitats and
- ✓ Support to policy and legislation reforms
- ✓ Publications on best-practices

SCSSAP Components and targets

Component 3. Facilitating regional and national level integration and cooperation for implementation of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme

- Outcome 3.1 Regional and sub-regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making
- Outcome 3.2 Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in SAP implementation strengthened via operational partnership with GEF SGP
- Outcome 3.3 Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized
- Outcome 3.4 Revitalization of regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and information and data management and sharing
- Outcome 3.5 Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea

- ✓ Regional Scientific & Technical Committee meetings, scientific conferences, mayors round tables
- ✓ Small Grants Program
- ✓ Private Sector Partnerships, National Investment Plans and SAP financing mechanism
- ✓ Communication and Knowledge Management
- ✓ Regional coordination

From Local to Regional

Site specific

- 1.1. Mangroves
- 1.2. Coral Reefs
- 1.3. Seagrass
- 1.4. Wetlands
- ✓ On site management/restoration
- ✓ Reporting, monitoring and site data (1.1.6, 1.2.4, 1.3.4, 2.1.2) and remote sensing data analysis (2.1.1)
- ✓ Identify gaps, capacity building and future needs
- ✓ Local teams and stakeholders
- ✓ GEF Small Grants (3.2)

National level

- ✓ Review on SAP implementation (1.5.4)
- ✓ Review and outline elements for regional monitoring (1.4.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.3.3)
- ✓ Updated national reports and NAPs (2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.4, 2.6.5)
- ✓ Policy and legislation reforms (2.3.2, 2.3.4)
- ✓ National Coordination (IMC, NTWG and Committees)

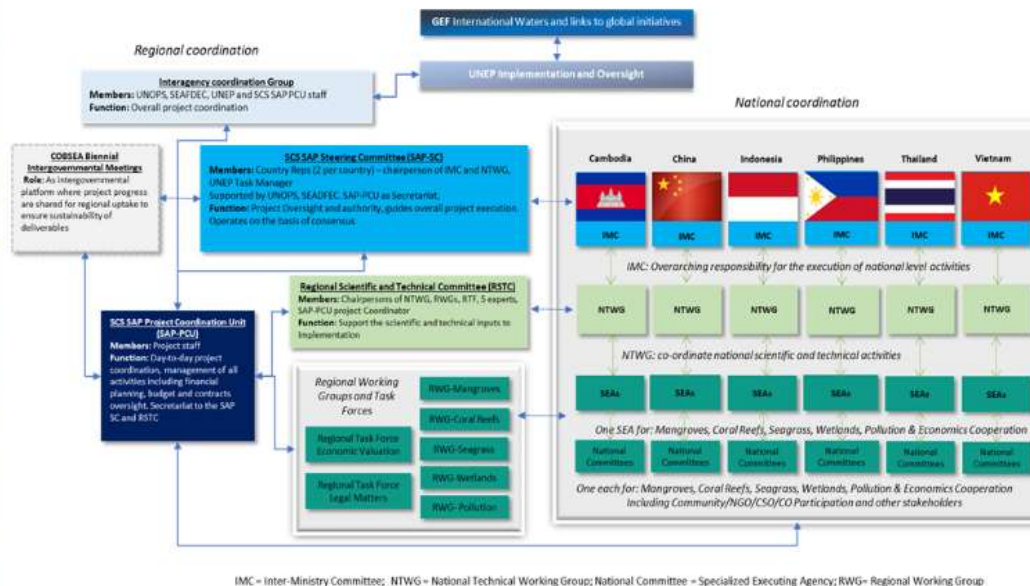
Regional Level

- ✓ Updated TDA and SAP (2.6.1, 2.6.3)
- ✓ State of Coastal Habitats (2.6.2)
- ✓ Regional Committees and working groups (PSC, RSTC, habitat working groups) (3.1.1)
- ✓ Regional Scientific Conferences (3.1.1)
- ✓ Annual Mayors roundtable (3.1.3)
- ✓ Private sector engagement and opportunities (3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4) and financing (3.3.5)
- ✓ Strengthened regional cooperation (3.5)

- ✓ Assessments: (2.1.4, 2.1.4, 2.1.3); Model/effluent volumes (2.2.1, 2.2.3); Economic evaluation (2.4)
- ✓ Best-practices (2.3.1, 2.5.1); Best practices award program (3.1.6); Capacity building/training (2.5.2)

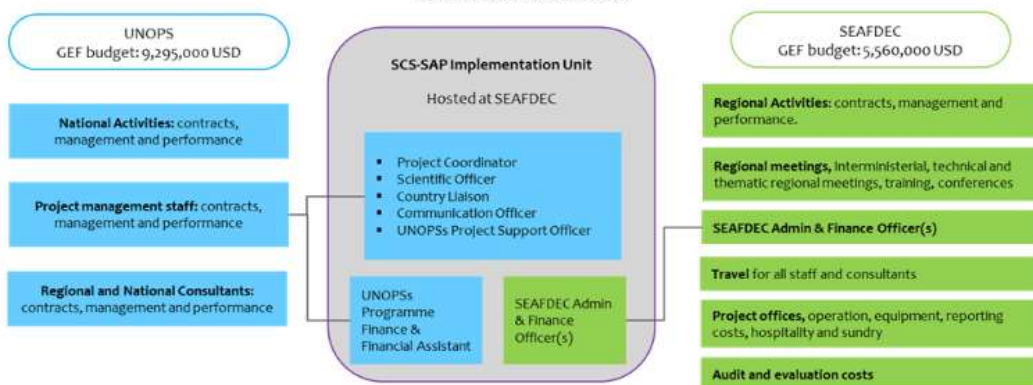
Project Coordination, Monitoring and reporting, Web-site and database management; Support to publishing of reports, communication strategy

Coordination structure



Role of UNOPS and SEAFDEC

Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand
SEAFDEC and UNOPS execution

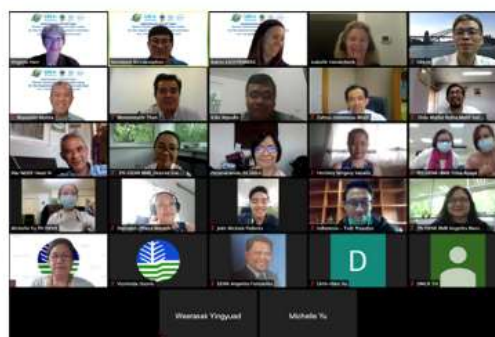


2020-2021 Inception Phase

- ❑ Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and project office hosted by SEAFDEC
- ❑ Three regional meetings: (30 July, 4 December, 2020 and 15 March 2021)
- ❑ Over 30 national meetings and bilaterals
- ❑ National coordination mechanisms in process and development of national activities.
- ❑ Project web-site updated: <https://www.scssap.org/>
- ❑ Identification of stakeholders and key partnerships
- ❑ Key Inception documents finalized: Regional Implementation Report, workplan, budget, TORs and Rules of Procedure, National Profiles

The team so far: Virginie Hart, Senior Project Manager (virginieh@unops.org) and Reynaldo Molina, Program Support & Country Liaison (reynaldo.molina@scssap.org, reynaldom@unops.org).

SCS SAP Project Office: The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Training Department, Samut Prakan, Thailand



LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Meeting documents

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) members are required to review these documents with the aim to adopt during the 1st Steering Committee meeting

SCSSAP PSC.1/1	Provisional Agenda
SCSSAP PSC.1/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
SCSSAP PSC.1/3	Draft Inception Phase Regional Report
SCSSAP PSC.1/4	Draft Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee
SCSSAP PSC.1/5	Draft Rules of Procedure for the Project Steering Committee
SCSSAP PSC.1/6	Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional and National Committees and Working Groups
SCSSAP PSC.1/7	Draft Proposed Workplan for 2021
SCSSAP PSC.1/8	Draft Budget
SCSSAP PSC.1/9	Report of the Meeting (to be prepared following the meeting)

Information documents

SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents (this document)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.2	Draft List of Participants
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.3	Cambodia Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.4	China Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.5	Indonesia Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.6	Philippines Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.7	Thailand Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.8	Vietnam Summary Profile (draft)
SCSSAP PSC.1/Inf.9	UNEP GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) Fiscal Year 2020





THANK YOU!



Annex 3. Cambodia presentation



National Coordination and Oversight

❑ Inter_Ministry Committee (IMC)

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
- Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction
- Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- National Committee for the Management and Development of the Coastal Zone (NCMD)
- General Secretariat of National Committee for Maritime Security
- Provincial Administration under manage by Ministry of Interior
- Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Academic Institution (University)

❑ National Technical Working Group (IMC)

- General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Environment
- Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation Department, Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.
- Department of Wetlands and Coastal Zones, Ministry of Environment
- Department of Fishery Conservation, Fishery Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
- Department of Land Management, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction

❑ Specialized Executing Agency (SEA)

- Ministry of Environment, Fishery Administration
- Ministry of Environment (National Council for Sustainable Development)
- Local Authorities



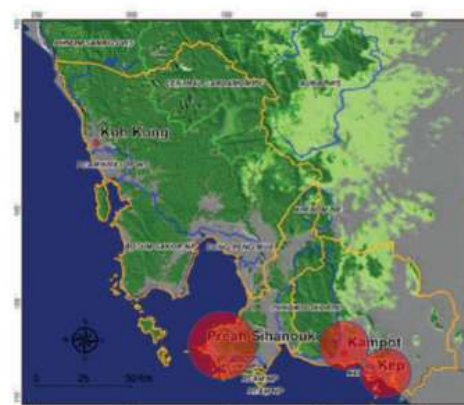
Mangroves targets and sites

	Country X targets (ha)
Output 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	
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]	

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 4

No	Provinces	Mangrove (ha)
1	Kampot	1,900
2	Kep	1005
3	Sihanouk Ville	13,500
4	Koh Kong	62,000
	Total	78,405

Source: FIA 2010



Coral Reef targets and sites

Outputs	Insert Country
1.2.1 Management capacity built for 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preah Sihanouk province - Kampot province - Kep province
1.2.4 Established mechanism for the monitoring of management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites	
Total coral reef area in the South China Sea (ha)	
Total coral reef area of the 82 target sites	
Coral reef area to be supported in SCS SAP project	

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 6

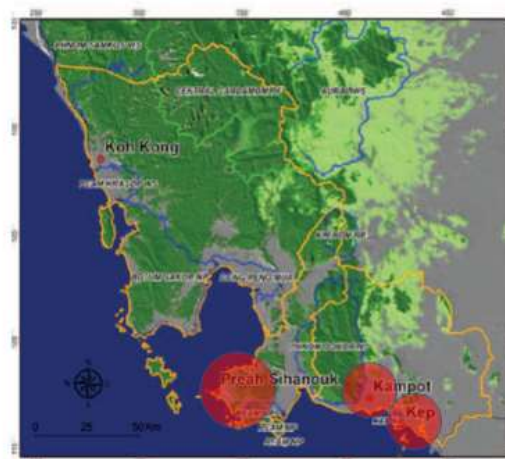
Table 2.6 Distribution and management status of coral reefs of four coastal provinces

No	Province	Coral reefs (ha)	Area under management (ha)	Location of area under management	Type of Management
1	Kampot	950	-	-	-
2	Kep	52.5	-	-	-
3	Sihanouk Ville	1,198	468*	Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samleum	MFMA
4	Koh Kong	602	529**	-	MFMA
Total		2,805.5			

* National Report on Fisheries, 2012

** Location being studied and proposed as MFMA at Koh Sdach archipelago

Source: DFC, 2013



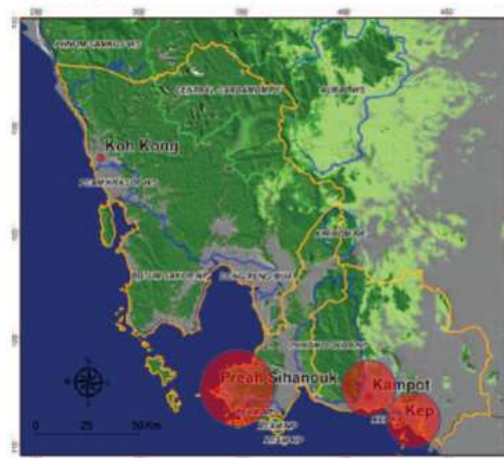
Seagrass targets and sites

Outputs	Insert country
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preah Sihanouk province - Kampot province - Kep province
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	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	
Total seagrass area in the 20 target sites (ha)	
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	

Table 2.3 Distribution and management status of seagrass beds of four coastal provinces

No	Province	Seagrass area (ha)	Area under management (ha)	Location of area under management
1	Kampot	25,240	1,500	Chang Houn-Trapeang Ropov
2	Kep	3,095	731	Kep
3	Sihanouk Ville	1,486*	600	Keo Phos
4	Koh Kong	3,993	1,000	Chroy Bros
Total		33,814	3,831	

Source: DFC, 2013

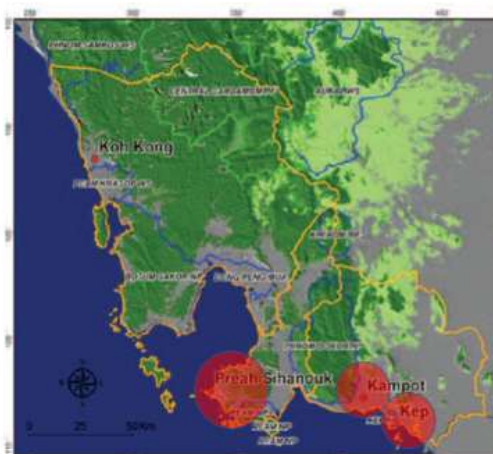


See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8

Wetlands targets and sites

Outputs	Insert Country
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preah Sihanouk province - Kampot province - Kep province
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	
Total wetland target (ha)	

0



See Regional Implementation Report, Table 10



Pollution Management

- Major challenges and needs to address pollution management
 - Site management between Ministry of Environment and Fishery Administration
- What has been done to implement the SAP since 2008?
 - Have been signed Project Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations Office For Project Services and Ministry of Environment on the Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project
- Current main initiatives and priorities
 - Working closely with consultant on the National Implementation Report



Overall Status and challenges

- Status of national activities (coordination and consultations, NIR preparation, etc) including SAP implementation since 2008
 - IMC and NTWG is under consideration
 - NIR is under organizing
 - Some of data and information on marine habitat are out of date and need to be reviewed in order to achieve of SAP target.
- Major challenges and needs to address habitats management including execution of project and activities
 - Building knowledge base for coastal resources management
 - Promoting environmentally sustainable livelihoods
 - Sustainable financing mechanisms
 - Marine and coastal protected areas
- Priority activities for the SCS SAP
 - Building capacity by providing training workshop to government officer, local NGO and Community groups
 - Data collection marine habitat



Conclusion

To address the problem on management of marine and coastal environment in Cambodia through SAP. Cambodia needs namely:

- Develop national policies and institutional capacity to promote the management of coastal and marine environment
- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and guideline has to establish for sustainable management of marine and coastal resources
- Strengthen the technical, and financial and institutional capacity to address the climate change issues
- Technical assistant to support and capacity building with all partnership and stakeholders of the SCS SAP
- IMC and NTWG need to be formed
- Continuous to work with consultant to finalize NIR
- Review the data and information of Mangrove, Coral reef, Sea grass, and Wetland
- Replanting the mangrove forest where it have been distracted

Annex 4. China presentation



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

First Meeting of the SCS SAP Project Steering Committee
Teleconference, 29-30 June 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

China




UN environment programme gef SEAPDC UNOPS



National Coordination and Oversight

- Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)
Ministry of Ecology and Environment, lead agency
Ministry of Natural Resources,
National Forestry and Grassland Administration
Ministry of Finance
- National Technical Working Group (IMC)
South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE
Experts from other relevant research institutions.
- Specialized Executing Agency (SEA)
South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE
National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center



Mangroves targets and sites

	Country X targets (ha)
Output 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	5330
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	0
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	0
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	500
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	5000???
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]	5011

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 4

Reserves	Area
Futian	82
Shankou	812
Pearl Bay	1415
Dongzhaigang	1513
Qinglangang	1189

1980	1990	2000	2002	2019
65900	44800	23700	23400	28900

Action plan of mangroves, 2020-2025

	To replant	To restore
Guangdong	5500	2500
Guangxi	1000	3500
Hainan	2000	3200
China	9050	9750

Why is the total area of mangroves 10830?



Seagrass targets and sites


Outputs	Insert country
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	
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	Hepu Liusha
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	Li'an Xincun
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	
Total seagrass area in the 20 target sites (ha)	1960
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	700

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8

- Say a few words about these sites, what is still needed and main activities


Seagrass Meadows	Area
Hepu	150
Liusha	200
Xincun	150
Lian	200
	700

Why is the total area of seagrass meadows 1960?

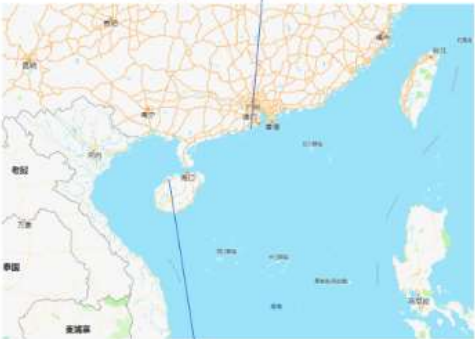



Wetlands targets and sites

Outputs	Insert Country
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	Pearl river-some part as NNR Beilun river-national natural reserve
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	Shantou Hepu Danzhou—Danzhou Bay Wenchang—Qinglanggang
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	
Total wetland target (ha)	14084




250M RMB from central government

100M RMB from central government

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 10

Why is the total area of coastal wetland 14084?



Pollution Management

- Major challenges and needs to address pollution management
 - 1 Diffuse pollution,
 - 2 cooperation of the watershed (ecological compensation)
- What has been done to implement the SAP since 2008?
 - 1 Ecological civilization
 - 2 Governmental reform and restructure in 2018
 - 3 law of environmental protection was amended in 2014
 - 4 Action plan to tackle water pollution (Water10) in 2013
 - 5 Five-year planning (two cycles)
 - 6 Central inspection on environmental protection

- Current main initiatives and priorities
 - 1 New five-year planning
 - 2 Central marine environmental restoration grant
 - 3 Action plan for mangroves
 - 4 Action plan for coastal rehabilitation
- Priority activities for the SCS SAP (note that the project does not fund investments)
 - to tackle diffuse pollution and improve environmental state of rural areas
 - ICARM (Integrated coastal and river basin management)
 - public participation (NGOs)
 -



Overall Status and challenges

- Status of national activities (coordination and consultations, NIR preparation, etc) including SAP implementation since 2008
 - IMC and NTWG is under review, NIR being prepared
 - habitat targets achieved
- Major challenges and needs to address habitats management including execution of project and activities
 - to renew the habitat targets
 - coordinating different ministries
- Current main initiatives and priorities
 - aligning the mangrove action plan (2020-2025) with the SCS SAP
 - aligning the five-year plan for marine environmental protection with the SCS SAP
- Priority activities for the SCS SAP



Conclusion

- Beautiful Coast: protection and rehabilitation
 - the SDG's and CBD new targets
 - Ocean and climate change, blue carbon
- TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF LIMITED RESOURCES.**
- remote sensing, GIS
 - restoration of mangrove forests
 - marine environmental monitoring & assessment

Annex 5. Indonesia presentation



National Coordination

- **Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)**

Focal Point : Director General of Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

- **National Technical Working Group (NTWG)**

Focal Point : Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

- **Specialized Executing Agency (SEA)**

Mangroves : Ministry of Environment and Forestry
 Coral Reefs : Indonesian Institute of Sciences, and Seagrass : Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
 Land-Based Pollution : Ministry of Environment and Forestry

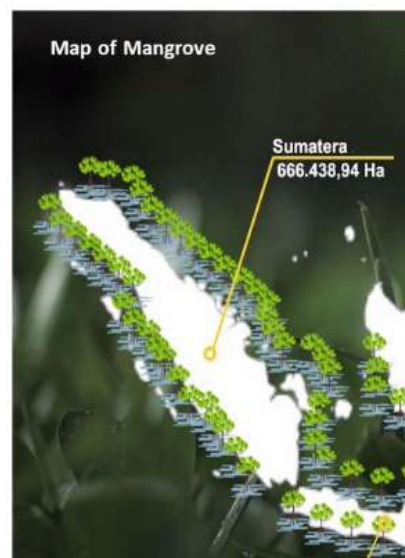
- **Related Ministries/Agencies (Short List):**

- Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investments Affairs
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Planning/BAPPENAS
- Ministry of Finance
- Indonesian Institute of Sciences.
- Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency
- Related Local Government
- Representative from Universities
- Representative from NGO's.



Mangroves targets and sites

SCS-SAP Outputs		Locus of Indonesia*)
1.1.1	Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	Belitung, Bengkalis, Batu Ampar, Ngurah Rai, Angke Kapuk
1.1.2	Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	
1.1.3	Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	
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]	



*) Target by location still in progress to be harmonized with data from the National Mangrove Information System Map which will be completed in July 2021

Coral Reef targets and sites

SCS-SAP Outputs		Locus of Indonesia*)
1.2.1	Management capacity built for 82 coral reef sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bangka - Belitung - District-based MPA - Lingga - Barelang dan Bintan - Natuna - Karimata - Anambas
1.2.2	Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.3	Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	
1.2.4	Established mechanism for the monitoring of management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites	



Source: <http://indocoasting.id/pages/output-report;pusdata.oceanografi.lipi.go.id>

*) still progressing to adjust to the finalization of the zoning area (RZWP3K) for the Riau Islands (Lingga, Barelang, Bintan, Natuna and Anambas)

Seagrass targets and sites

SCS-SAP Outputs		Locus of Indonesia*)
1.3.1	Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anambas - District-based MPA Lingga (Medang-Mesanak, Temiang, Senayang) - East Bintan - Mapur - Bangka Belitung
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	
1.3.3	Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	
1.3.4	Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	

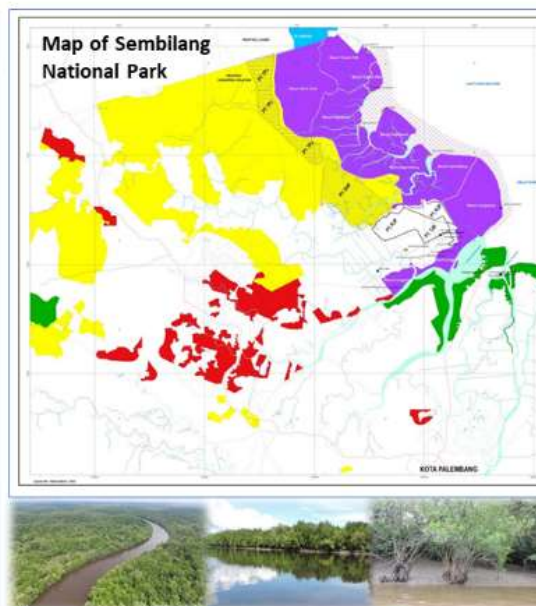
* still progressing to adjust to the finalization of the zoning area (RZWP3K) for the Riau Islands (Lingga, East Bintan, and Anambas)



Source: <http://indocoasting.id/pages/output-report-pusdata oseanografi.lipi.go.id>

Wetlands targets and sites

SCS-SAP Outputs		Locus of Indonesia
1.4.1	Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	Sembilang National Park
1.4.2	Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	
1.4.3	Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	





Pollution Management

- National level activities will support the reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management, harmonization of national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management
- Indonesia established new regulation Government Regulation 22 Year 2021, Chapter on “Sea Quality Management and Protection”
- Specific for land-based pollution, since 2019 Indonesia established Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) in Bali.
- Inline with Resolution UNEA-4 on Protection Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the main focus for landbased activities are: (a) increased nutrient; (b) wastewater; (c) marine litter and microplastics; and (d) emerging pollutant.



Overall Status and challenges

- Status of national activities for preparation the SAP implementation:
 - ❖ Conduct serial Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with related Ministries, Agencies, University and NGO's for preparation “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS-SAP), since September 2020 until now
 - ❖ Harmonization data and information on mangrove, coral-reef, sea grass and wetland
 - ❖ Stocktaking data and information on programme, regulation and modalities in the each locus area.
- Major challenges and needs to address for implementation the project:
 - ❖ Building mechanism, collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders in the South China Seas Area
 - ❖ Improving the accuracy and transparency of data and information
 - To be harmonized with data from the National Mangrove Information System Map which will be completed in July 2021
 - To adjust to the finalization of the zoning area (RZWP3K) for the Riau Islands



Identification of Required Activities

- Improving the quality of damaged coastal ecosystems through ecosystem rehabilitation activities.
- Improvement of management and sustainable use of marine conservation areas, rehabilitation of mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass.
- Improved management of aquatic biodiversity that is protected, conserved, and/or utilized.
- Strengthening networks, partnerships/cooperation, and roles in marine biodiversity conservation conventions.
- Handling marine pollution and plastic waste.
- The completion of marine spatial planning includes marine area zoning plans, coastal zone zoning plans and small islands, action plans and reconsideration, as well as alignment with spatial plans.
- Carry out research and development studies on coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.
- Develop guidelines for mapping the area and making thematic maps in order to improve management.
- Collecting data on various types of biota that exist.
- Carry out an inventory and management of marine tourism activities carried out in the area.



Conclusion

- The South China Seas region is unique in terms of its ecology, geography, and socio-economical structure.
- In order to the implementation of Strategic Action Plan for South China Seas, follow-up steps needed in areas:
 - ❖ Aligning the regional objectives/goals/targets with accelerating the implementation of strategic documents through national and regional action;
 - ❖ Setting up a nationally coordinated mechanism in a coordinated manner, targeting the shared regional seas; and
 - ❖ National and regional partnerships

Annex 6. Philippine's presentation



National Coordination and Oversight

Responsible Agencies, Chairs, Co-Chairs have been identified and members have been provisionally agreed

❖ Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

❖ National Technical Working Group (NTWG)

- Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR

❖ Specialized Executing Agencies (SEA)


- Mangroves: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Coral Reefs: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Seagrass: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Wetlands: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Land Based Pollution: EMB-DENR
- Economic Valuation: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)



Mangroves : National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippine Targets (has)
Busuanga	Ulugan Bay, Palawan	700
Coron	San Vicente, Palawan	547
San Vicente	Quezon, Palawan	160
Ulugan	Dumaran, Palawan	100
San Jose	Coron, Palawan	200
Subic	Busuanga, Palawan	200
Quezon	Araceli, Palawan	100
	Subic, Zambales	100
	Masinloc-Oyon Bay, Zambales	10
	Province of Palawan	3654
Total Target		5,631

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 4



Coral Reefs : National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Target (Ha)
Batanes	Masinloc, Zambales	747.68
Masinloc, Zambales	El Nido, Palawan	1920.28
El Nido, Palawan	Balabac	11,856.66
Port Barton	Calamianes Group of Islands	2,441
Balabac	Bolinao / Lingayen Gulf	1,384
Calamianes Group of Islands	Batangas Bay, Maricaban Strait	354.27
Puerto Galera, Mindoro		
Bolinao / Lingayen Gulf	Total Hectares: 18, 669.8	Total Hectares:18, 669.8
Batangas Bay, Maricaban Strait		
Total Hectares: 12,500		

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 6



Seagrass: National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Target (Ha)
Cape Bolinao	Cape Bolinao	1,290
Puerto Galera	Honda Bay	2,400
Honda Bay	Ulugan	541
	Looc-Lubang	1494
	Masinloc	162.11
	El Nido	412.85
Original Total Ha: 6,920 ha	Proposed Total Ha: 6,299.96 ha	Proposed Total Ha: 6,299.96 ha

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8



Wetlands: National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Targets (ha)
Pansipit Estuary	Maragondon Estuary	Estuaries 24,515 ha
Malampaya Sound	Malampaya Sound Estuary	
Manila Bay Tidal Flats	Manila Bay Tidal Flats (Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga)	Tidal Flats 30,000 ha
		54,515 ha



Pollution Management (Priority activities for the SCS SAP)

1. Preparation of National Action Plan on Land-Based Pollution with Assessment of Philippine capability to meet the Project requirements;
2. Update of the Philippine Water Quality Guidelines (DENR Administrative Order 2016-08) and Strengthening the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Capability of DENR-EMB, including improvement of water quality data management and reporting system;
3. Formulation of Framework for the Development of Philippine Sediment Quality Guidelines and Recommendation of Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines for Metals in freshwater sediment, with Beta-testing of Sediment Collection Manual;
4. Development of National Research Framework and Program for the Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Litter;
5. Inventory and monitoring of water bodies draining into Batangas Bay and Lingayen Gulf Regions (hotspots)



Overall Status and Challenges

- SPA signed by Pres. R. Duterte
- ProDoc signed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu
- SO for memberships of the various working groups and committees for signature by DENR Secretary
- SEAs reviewed status of originally proposed sites. Most sites were retained, some were dropped, and several new sites were proposed
- SEAs are completing the identification of activities and budgets for the final list of sites
- 3 proposed sites (i.e., Bolinao, Masinloc, and Coron) have interconnected habitats (coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves) and are also demonstration sites of the Fish Refugia Project. The project will identify potential synergies and complementation of planned interventions on these sites
- Land Based Pollution component of the NIR has been completed and awaiting final approval by EMB Director



Overall Status and Challenges

- **Major challenges and needs to address habitats management including execution of project and activities**
 - Funding limitations may necessitate scaling down of planned activities and possible reduction in the number of sites
 - The increasing number of projects and commitments of BMB may necessitate the creation and operationalization of a PMO which will be tasked to oversee day to day implementation of project activities including coordination with project partners
 - The pandemic will continue to pose implementation challenges with continuing restrictions on movements and travel of personnel and staff and expected to cause delays in the delivery of targets and outputs



Conclusion

The SCS SAP Project is well aligned with the DENR-BMB's Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) which aims to achieve the effective management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems to increase their ability to provide ecological goods and services for human wellbeing. The project and CMEMP contributes to the achievement of the PDP and PBSAP targets including international commitments such as the Aichi Targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 14 – Life below Water).

Annex 7. Thailand presentation



National Coordination and Oversight

Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)

- Deputy Director General, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (Chairperson)
- 20 representatives from 7 ministries and SEAFDEC

National Technical Working Group (NTWG)

- Director, Marine Resources Conservation Division (Chairperson)
- representatives from central and local governments; communities; academia

Specialized Executing Agency (SEA)

- Mangroves – *Mangroves Conservation Division, DMCR*
- Coral Reefs – *Marine Resources Conservation Division, DMCR*
- Wetlands – *Marine and Coastal Resource Research and Development Institute, DMCR*
- Land-Based Pollution – *Water Quality Management Bureau, Pollution Control Department (PCD)*
- Economic Valuation – *Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute*



Original vs Proposed Implementation Sites

21 Original Sites in SAP

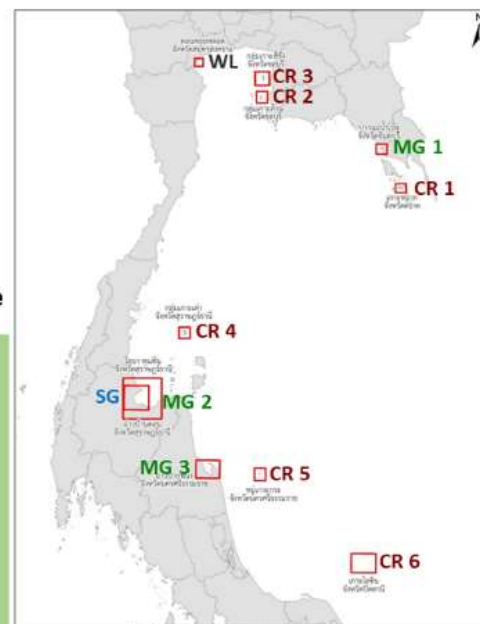
- 5 sites for Mangroves
- 14 sites for Coral Reefs
- 0 site for Seagrass
- 2 sites for Wetland

11 Proposed Sites for the Implementation Phase

- 3 sites for Mangroves
- 6 sites for Coral Reefs
- 1 site for Seagrass
- 1 site for Wetland

Rational

- Mandatory/responsibility
- Priority
- Feasibility (resources available/ site & issues specific/ engagement and collaboration)



Mangroves targets and sites

	Thailand targets (ha)
Output 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	1,400
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	1,600
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	10,000
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	8,000
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	3,200
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]	N/A

Original Sites (5 sites)

- Trad Province
- Thung Kha-Bay –Savi Bay
- Kung Kraben Bay
- Pak Phanang Bay
- Welu River Estuary

Proposed (3 sites)

- Pak Phanang Bay
- Welu River Estuary
- Bandon Bay (N)

Rational

- Too large the area (Trad Province)
- Not in current management plan and priority (Tung Kha-Savi Bay)
- Sufficient management being put in place (Kung Kraben Bay)

Coral Reef targets and sites

Outputs	Thailand targets (ha)
1.2.1 Management capacity built for 82 coral reef sites	72,000
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	
1.2.4 Established mechanism for the monitoring of management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites	

Original Sites (14 sites)

- Mu Koh Chumporn
- Mu Koh Chang
- Mu Koh Ang Thong
- Mu Koh Samui
- Mu Koh Samet
- Sattaheep Group
- Chao Lao
- Prachuab
- Songkhla
- Sichang Island Group
- Lan and Phai Islands Group
- Koh Tao Island Group
- Koh Kra Archipelago
- Losin Island

Proposed (6 sites)

- Sichang Island Group
- Lan and Phai Islands Group
- Koh Tao Island Group
- Koh Kra Archipelago
- Losin Island
- Mak Island (N)

Rational

- Too large the area or not site specific (Prachuab; Songkhla)
- Issues complexity/ not relevant (Chang, Samui)
- No mandatory/ priority (Aung Thong; Samet; Sattaheep; Chao Lao)

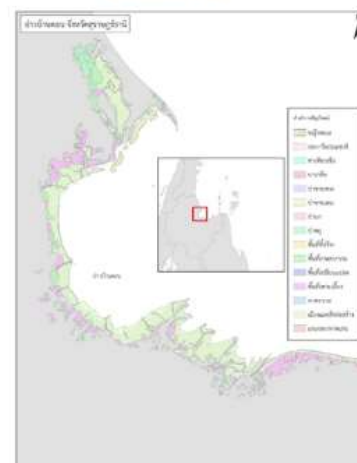
Seagrass targets and sites

Outputs	Thailand targets (ha)
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	0
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	

Original Sites (0 sites) Proposed (1 site)

- None

- Chaiya-Phunphin Districts (N)



Wetlands targets and sites

Outputs	Thailand targets (ha)
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	55,508
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	

Original Sites (2 sites) Proposed (1 sites)

- Thale Noi Wildlife Non-hunting Area
- Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park

- Don Hoi Lot Mudflat (N)

Rational

- No mandatory/priority – freshwater and/or terrestrial ecosystems



Proposed Activity (Mangroves)

Law Enforcement and Legislation

- Strict law enforcement (i.e. reclamation of encroached areas, evacuation of illegal encroached forests)
- Proclamation of Mangrove Conservation Areas

Conservation and Rehabilitation

- Reforestation and restoration of marine life

Education and Awareness Raising

- Education and awareness raising activities for communities conservation and sustainable use of mangroves

Networking and Collaboration

- Setting up networks of marine and coastal resources management groups at provincial levels
- Promotion of ecotourism sustainable livelihoods

Research and M&E

- Conducting research and set up Monitoring and (M&E) system



Proposed Activity (Coral Reefs)

Law Enforcement and Legislation

- Establish regulations and measures to minimize impact from marine tourism industry and coastal development
- Proclamation of Marine Protected Areas

Conservation and Rehabilitation

- Restoring coral reefs using both active and passive restorations
- Establishing conservation and usage zones (i.e. marine spatial planning, coastal use plan, zoning scheme)

Education and Awareness Raising

- Educating and raising awareness for local people and other resource users on importance of coral reef conservation

Networking and Collaboration

- Building collaboration among all stakeholders and public participation (i.e. setting up networks of local communities, private sectors, and NGOs to promote coral reef conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of coral reefs)



Proposed Activity (Seagrass)

Law Enforcement and Legislation

- Establish measures to control activities that cause impact on seagrass

Conservation and Rehabilitation

- Conserving and storing seagrass (by promoting and supporting conservation and protection such as seagrass plantation and transplantation)
- Establishing zones for different utilization (e.g. conservation zones and fishery zones)

Education and Awareness Raising

- Education and awareness raising among local people and other resources users about the impact and sustainable use of seagrass beds (e.g. Dugong conservation plan)

Networking and Collaboration

- Building collaboration among stakeholders and public participation (by setting up networks of local communities, private sectors, and NGOs to promote, conserve and monitor seagrass beds)

Research and M&E

- Conducting research in various aspects on seagrass conservation and restoration including Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)



Proposed Activity (Wetland)

Law Enforcement and Legislation

- Establish regulations and measures to minimize impact from the utilization of marine and coastal resources (i.e. sustainable harvest of razor clam)

Conservation and Rehabilitation

- Establishing conservation zone and set up monitoring programme (i.e. coastal use plan, zoning scheme)

Education and Awareness Raising

- Educating and raising awareness for local people and other resource users on importance of marine and coastal conservation (particularly the razor clam)

Networking and Collaboration

- Building collaboration among all stakeholders and public participation (i.e. setting up networks of local communities, private sectors, and NGOs to promote sustainable use of razor clam and promote alternative income generation for local fishery)



Challenges

- Covid-19 pandemic situation
- Sustainability of institution and governance structures
- Complementary with global and regional development agenda (SDG; Blue Economy)
- National agenda:

BCG model (Bioeconomy, Circular Economy, Green economy)

Annex 8. Viet Nam presentation



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

First Meeting of the SCS SAP Project Steering Committee
Teleconference, 29-30 June 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

VIETNAM
Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands

UN environment programme gef SCSAP UNOPS

National Coordination and Oversight

- Inter Ministry Committee (IMC):
 - Chaired by a Vice Minister of MONRE; Focal point is an official of VASI, Members are representatives of relevant ministries and research institutions;
 - Review and approve reports from the National Technical Working Group and the Specialized Executing Agencies for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, land-based pollution, and economic valuation regarding the outputs and outcomes of efforts to achieve SAP targets;
 - IMC being consolidated when updating NIR.
- National Technical Working Group (NTWG):
 - Chaired by a Director of DSTIC of VASI; Members are representatives of relevant agencies and research institutions;
 - Overall national-level coordination and oversight of scientific and technical matters in relation to SAP implementation, as well as supporting regional scientific and technical bodies;
 - NTWG being consolidated when updating NIR.
- Specialized Executing Agency (SEA) being consolidated when updating NIR:

Mangroves	Mangrove Ecosystem Research Centre (MERC)
Coral Reefs	Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang
Seagrass	Institute of Marine Environment and Resources (IMER), Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, Haiphong
Wetlands	Viet Nam Institute of Seas and Islands
Land-Based Pollution	Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Northern Area, VASI / Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Southern Area, VASI
Economic Valuation	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment

Mangroves targets and sites

	Vietnam
Output 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	30,000
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	N/A
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	50,000
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	8,000
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	2,000
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]	N/A

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 4

- Tien Yen, Xuan Thuy, Can Gio, Ca Mau;
- Have high biodiversity value as well as ecosystem services; high local dependence for livelihood; under pressure at different levels; various conservation initiatives implemented;
- Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.

Coral Reef targets and sites

Outputs	Vietnam
1.2.1 Management capacity built for 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites	Cu Lao Cham Nha Trang bay Con Dao
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	Phu Quoc Ninh Hai Ca Na bay Ha Long - Cat Ba Hai Van - Son Tra Bach Long Vi
1.2.4 Established mechanism for the monitoring of management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites	
Total coral reef area in the South China Sea (ha)	
Total coral reef area of the 82 target sites	
Coral reef area to be supported in SCS SAP project	

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 6

- Major distribution areas of coral reef in Vietnam; coral coverage has been declining; general trend is towards wide scale coral reef degradation;
- Various conservation initiative implemented including establishment of protected area;
- Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.

Seagrass targets and sites

Outputs	Vietnam
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Phu Quoc archipelago Con Dao Islands Thuy Trieu Tam Giang
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	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	
Total seagrass area in the 20 target sites (ha)	
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	

- Providing use and non-use values to local dependents; under pressure and degradation;
- Under conservation status as protected area at different protection levels;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8

Wetlands targets and sites

Outputs	Vietnam
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	Tamgiang-Cauhai Lagoon Thi Nai Lagoon Balat Estuary Tien River Estuary Dong Nai River Estuary Ca Mau Southwest Tidal Flat
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	
Total wetland target (ha)	
	0

- Very important wetlands for biodiversity as well as local livelihoods;
- Biodiversity and resources under high pressure for degradation and pollution;
- Under conservation status at different levels of protection;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 10



Pollution Management

- **Challenges and needs:** System of legal documents is still incomplete, inconsistency, lack of details, stability is not high; legal powers of environmental protection organizations, especially the environmental police force, are not strong enough; the legal and sanctioning grounds for the types of acts of causing environmental pollution for crimes are still limited; authorities at all levels are not fully aware of and concerned about environmental protection; weak awareness of people.
- **Activities undertaken:** Completing the legal framework and marine management regime; Ecosystem-based management; Building models to forecast and identify the spread of oil pollution on the sea; Controlling marine environmental pollution due to plastic waste; Strengthening propaganda and education to protect the marine environment.
- **Current main initiatives and priorities:** marine plastic action plan; pollution control strategy; etc.
- **Priority activities for the SCS SAP:** Being consolidated when updating NIR.



Overall Status and challenges

- NIR being updated which will consolidate activities as well as implementation organization structure;
- Challenges include legislation limitation and inconsistency; insufficient awareness and capacity at all level; insufficient investment for implementation; weak monitoring; insufficient punishment mechanism;
- Current main initiatives and priorities including MSP, marine resources use strategy; establishment and enhancement of MPA and protected areas; etc;
- Priority activities for the SCS SAP is being consolidated with the NIR



Conclusion

- Vision for the management of the marine and coastal environment guided by the Resolution 36-NQ/TW on marine sustainable development strategy for Vietnam which take into consideration of SDG's and CBD targets; blue and circular economy; and climate change issues;
- Vietnam need trainings and exchange of lessons learnt and experiences from other countries in the region.

Annex 9. SCS SAP Inception Phase Regional Report



Rationale

- Project document endorsed by the GEF in 2018
- Inception Phase opportunity to adjust the project to current situation. To consider changes in terms of policy, institutional context and what has been implemented since the SAP adoption. To consider also the SDGs and Convention on Biological Diversity (Post 2020 Framework), climate change along with current work on MPA's, Climate Change and adaptation in the coast, blue economy initiatives etc.
- PSC1 to discuss the draft document and provide their comments and suggestions.
- Further revisions may be proposed to the PSC as needed, and may need first to be discussed at regional scientific committee and working groups. Elements that may need further consideration include:
 - Component 1. Targets may be adjusted once National Implementation Reports (NIRs) are ready
 - Component 2. Assessments need to be further elaborated, to be realistic and build on what has been done in the region.
 - Component 3. Communication strategy to be further elaborated



From Local to Regional

Site specific

- 1.1. Mangroves
- 1.2. Coral Reefs
- 1.3. Seagrass
- 1.4. Wetlands
- ✓ On site management/restoration
- ✓ Reporting, monitoring and site data (1.1.6, 1.2.4, 1.3.4, 2.1.2) and remote sensing data analysis (2.1.1)
- ✓ Identify gaps, capacity building and future needs
- ✓ Local teams and stakeholders
- ✓ GEF Small Grants (3.2)

National level

- ✓ Review on SAP implementation (1.5.4)
- ✓ Review and outline elements for regional monitoring (1.4.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.3.3)
- ✓ Updated national reports and NAPs (2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.4, 2.6.5)
- ✓ Policy and legislation reforms (2.3.2, 2.3.4)
- ✓ National Coordination (IMC, NTWG and Committees)

Regional Level

- ✓ Updated TDA and SAP (2.6.1, 2.6.3)
- ✓ State of Coastal Habitats (2.6.2)
- ✓ Regional Committees and working groups (PSC, RSTC, habitat working groups) (3.1.1)
- ✓ Regional Scientific Conferences (3.1.1)
- ✓ Annual Mayors roundtable (3.1.3)
- ✓ Private sector engagement and opportunities (3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4) and financing (3.3.5)
- ✓ Strengthened regional cooperation (3.5)

- ✓ Assessments: (2.1.4, 2.1.4, 2.1.3); Model/effluent volumes (2.2.1, 2.2.3); Economic evaluation (2.4)
- ✓ Best-practices (2.3.1, 2.5.1); Best practices award program (3.1.6); Capacity building/training (2.5.2)

Project Coordination, Monitoring and reporting, Web-site and database management; Support to publishing of reports, communication strategy

Annex 10. GEF SGP Presentation



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



gef



UNDP



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



UNDP

COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT





SCS-SGP PARTNERSHIP TO SCALE UP COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIONS

Sulan Chen, Program Advisor
GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP

What is SGP ?

- Small Grants Programme (SGP), a corporate Programme of the **GEF**
- Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of GEF partnerships since **1992**
- Promotes community-based **innovation, capacity development, and empowerment** through sustainable development projects of **local civil society organizations**



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme




SGP: Integrated Development Approach

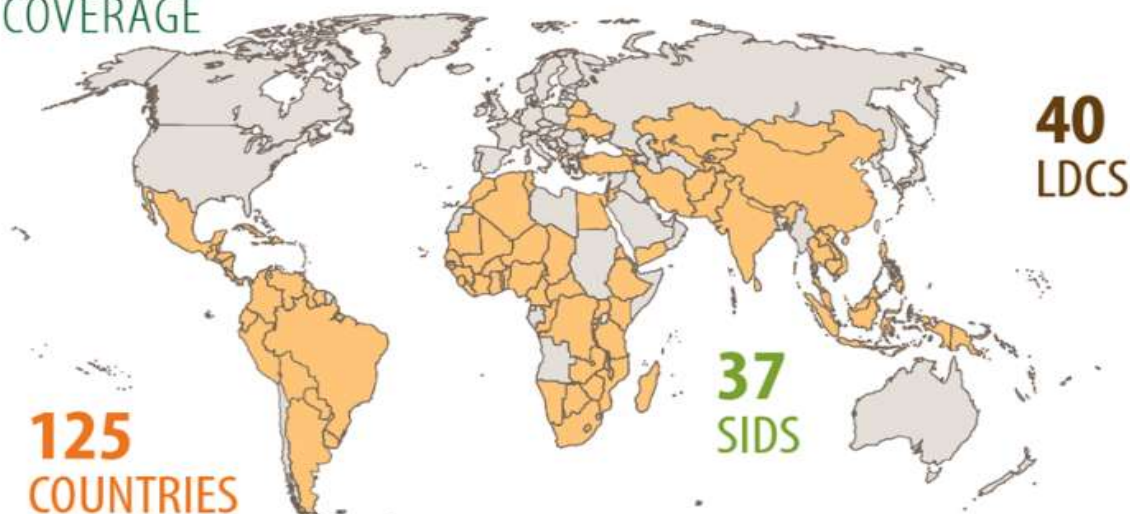
- Provide financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations
- Bottom-up approach
- Inclusive and constructive civil society-government-private sector relationships



3

Where is SGP working?

COVERAGE



Background

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

First NGO Forum, Bangkok,
November 2007 (in connection with
3rd Mayors' Roundtable)

Joint Communiqué signed between
SGP and SCS, November 2007

Second NGO Forum, Nha Trang,
November 2008 (in connection with
4th Mayors' Roundtable)

UNDP-UNEP Agreement signed,
September 2008

Implementation and closure: 2008-
2012



SCS-SGP cooperation (2007-2012)

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



- At least twelve community-based demonstration sites
- National coordinators, National Steering Committee, NGOs and communities are trained and informed about regional priorities
- Capacity enhanced to support SAP implementation at the community level

SGP supporting implementation of SCS-SAP

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

	Grants	Co-financing		Projects		Mean Project Size	
		In Cash	In Kind	Total	No.	Grant	Co-finance
SCS Funded	\$554,702	\$353,247	\$76,476	\$1,006,425	15	\$36,890	\$28,648
SGP	\$541,574	\$246,638	\$105,850	\$894,062	16	\$33,848	\$22,030
Grand Totals	\$1,096,276	\$621,169	\$187,326	\$1,904,771	31	\$35,364	\$26,080

China

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



No fund from UNEP-SCS programme, but the CPS of SGP China has identified SCS as one of priority landscape/seascapes.

- ✓ 5 on-going projects focusing on Beibu Gulf conservation under the CPS
- ✓ 6000 mangrove seedlings were planted to restore estuarine wetland
- ✓ 10 key coastal wetlands' conservation is under improvement, covering 11000ha. area including over 300 benthos species along Beibu Gulf
- ✓ Eco-aquaculture approaches were demonstrated in three project sites, which reduce the aquaculture pollution to the sea
- ✓ Demonstrated waste and sewage reduction at typical small island that depends on tourism, which reduced 30% of land-based pollution to the sea
- ✓ 'Beibu Gulf Biodiversity Monitoring Report and Conservation Suggestions' was developed and shared with stakeholders including local government

Cambodia

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

We have 7 projects funded under SCS UNEP partnership. The key activities are sea grass conservation, conservation of existing mangrove areas and reforestation, crab bank and community capacity development.



- ✓ 16 Community Fisheries received official recognition from Ministry Of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries to manage over 18,617 ha of fisheries domain
- ✓ More than 1,000 ha of sea grass and more than 2,000ha of mangrove forest inside the demonstration site of SCS Strategic Action Plan have been conserved which led to increase numbers of different sea animals such as Common Bottlenose Dolphin, Giant Mud Crab, Green Tiger Prawn, Green Turtle, Western King Prawn, Leatherback Turtle, Pan tropical Spotted Dolphin, Poker-chip Venus, and much more.
- ✓ Biodiversity degradation areas were rehabilitated and became green areas, ensuring greater food security for communities and the country; this is consistent with a nation-wide policy to reduce poverty rate.
- ✓ Conflict reduced as a result of key project interventions and community regulations: Coastal resource use and management.
- ✓ Empowerment of women and community members in co-management of coastal resources in protected areas with government institutions and development partners.
- ✓ Building strong partnership with NGOs network and among SGP grantees to share information, good practices and lesson learns to influence policy.
- ✓ SGP is view by UNDP and other donors as fast delivery mechanism.

VIETNAM

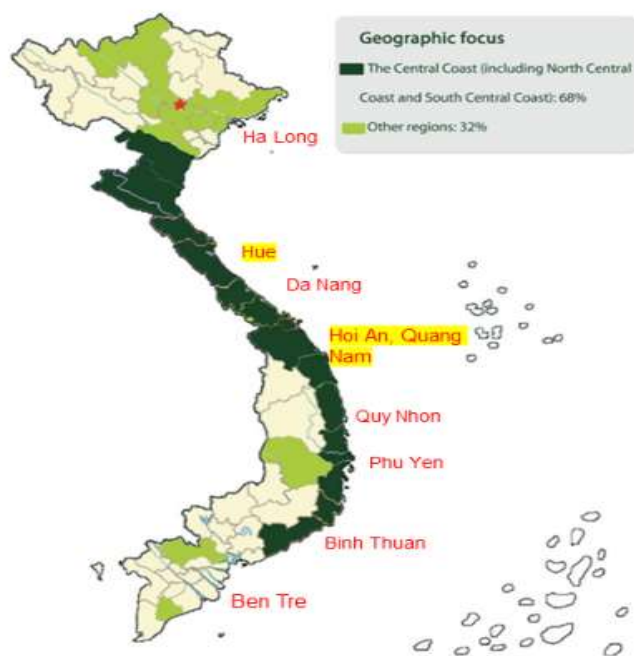
SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

6 projects focused on co-management in fisheries, coral reef conservation, tourism and land crab, MSMEs empowerment, and establishment of community Learning Hub Network:

- ❑ 1600ha forest protected (landcrab habitat)
- ❑ 6 community protected areas of 200ha core zone conserved under community based-initiative
- ❑ Significant areas of mangrove, seagrass, coral reef well conserved under community management
- ❑ Plastic waste disposal prevention
- ❑ Livelihood improvement from community-based tourism (3000 visitors/month)
- ❑ Community learning hub network

Sustainability and Replication in the other program:

- ❑ Blue economy programme (Ben Tre, Phu Yen prov)
- ❑ Community conserved areas (Binh thuan, Binh Dinh)
- ❑ Marine plastic (8 sites) & learning hub (Dnang, Bentre)



Experiences & Lessons Learnt



- Integrated local to regional actions are more effective than stand-alone activities
- Initial trainings and capacity building are critical to translate SAP into local actions
- Networking and connection of people and local champions
- Influence central/local government policies through piloting and demonstration
- Maintain regional information sharing and exchange

Annex 11. PEMSEA Presentation



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Teleconference, 1 July 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

PARTNERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA)

AIMEE T. GONZALES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UN environment programme gef UNOPS



PEMSEA

MISSION

To foster and sustain healthy and resilient coasts and oceans, communities and economies across the Seas of East Asia through integrated management solutions and partnerships

COUNTRY PARTNERS

Cambodia, PR China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor Leste, Viet Nam

NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Coastal Management Center (CMC), Conservation International (CI) Philippines, International Center for the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (IEMEC), IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific (IOCWESTPAC), International Ocean Institute (IOI), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature – Asia Regional Office, Korea Environment Institute, Korea Institute of Ocean, Science and Technology, Korea Maritime Institute, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation, Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea, NIVA, NOWPAP, OPRI, Oil Spill Response, PML, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development, UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme, YSLME, UNEP GPA, UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (UNEP/GPA)

Maritime Collaborators

PEMSEA, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, gef, UNDP

www.pemsea.org

PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers & Local Governments



- Regular Members**
- CHINA**
1. Kamet
 2. Ray
 3. Kich Kang
 4. Shihouville
- HONG KONG**
5. Beijing
 6. Changji
 7. Dongying
 8. Fanglehenggang
 9. Hailu
 10. Hailu
 11. Jialing
 12. Lixing
 13. Liangyong
 14. Pingtan
 15. Qianzhou
 16. Qianzhou
 17. Sanya
 18. Xiamen
 19. Wenzhou
- INDONESIA**
20. Bandung
 21. Bali
 22. Semarang
 23. Surabaya
 24. Denpasar
 25. Gempur
 26. Jakarta
 27. Jember
 28. Karangasem
 29. Klaten
 30. South Bangka Regency
 31. Sukabumi
 32. Tegal
 33. Tangerang
 34. Shale
 35. Klaten
 36. Northern Semarang
 37. Semarang
 38. Sragen
 39. Sukoharjo
 40. Cile
 41. Gempur
 42. Gempur
 43. Gempur
 44. Gempur
 45. Gempur
 46. Gempur
 47. Gempur
 48. Gempur
 49. Gempur
 50. Gempur
 51. Gempur

Associate Members

1. Coastal and Ocean Management Institute, Xiamen University, China
2. First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
3. Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO), China



www.pemsea.org

Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS		
Biodiversity Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA/MPA networking • Migratory marine species • Blue carbon/green infrastructure 	Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability/hazard risks in coastal communities and economies • Sustainable cities • Green ports/green shipping 	Pollution Reduction and Waste Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution/nutrient management • Integrated waste management/ plastics/ circular economy • Integrated river basin management/ S2S • Renewable energy
GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS		
Ocean Governance and Strategic Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ocean policy, institutional arrangements and legislation • SOC reporting system • Enhanced access to financing for SDS-SEA IP (e.g., Green Climate Fund accreditation) • Enabling partnerships and networks 	Knowledge Management and Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional knowledge hub for oceans and coasts • Regional training and technical support/services • Targeted research projects 	Blue Economy Investments and Sustainable Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean Investment Facility and Fund • Pipeline of investable blue economy projects • PPP/business sector working examples/ templates



Future priorities



1. PLANS

- EAS ROADMAP 2030
- SDS –SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2027
- EAS CONGRESS 2021 – 7th MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
- BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

2. TOOLS:

- STATE OF OCEAN AND COASTS REPORTS IN EAS REGION
- STATE OF RIVER BASIN REPORTS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES
- BASELINE REPORTS ON GHG EMISSIONS IN EAS REGION
- MANAGEMENT OF LME MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
- Blue economy measures in country blue/green development plans
- ICM certification & training manuals
- SeaKnowledgeBank

Cooperation with the SCS SAP

SCS SAP	PEMSEA SDS-SEA
SCS SAP development (1-3)	ATSEA 2 regional SAP and Indonesia NSAP
Monitoring Biennial state of coastal habitats (1)	Regl/ natl/local state of ocean and coasts report
Developing Information database (q)	SeaKnowledge Bank
Fostering Blue Economy (2)	State of River Basin reports for 5 countries
Implementing Circular Economy (2)	Circular Economy work in Ind, Phil, VN
Updating TDA (2)	SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027
Enabling partnerships/ technical assistance (#)	PNLG, PNLC. Private sector engagement

Annex 12. COBSEA Presentation



Mandate

- COBSEA one of 18 Regional Seas programmes
 - Intergovernmental body, nine countries in East Asian Seas region
 - Secretariat is administered by UNEP
- Sole decision-making body of the East Asian Seas Action Plan
 - Protecting the marine and coastal environment in the region
- COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022
 - Addressing marine pollution
 - Enhancing marine and coastal planning and management
 - Strengthening regional governance
- COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (2019)
 - Prevent/reduce marine litter from land and sea-based sources
 - Strengthen monitoring, create enabling conditions for action



Relevant COBSEA activities

- **Marine pollution**
 - Harmonize/strengthen national marine litter monitoring programmes, policies
 - Assess waste leakage hotspots and establish monitoring baselines
 - Promote inclusive market-based solutions
 - Integrated solid waste management pilots
 - Regional knowledge management and networking
 - Nutrient assessment
- **Marine and coastal planning and management**
 - Marine and coastal spatial planning (MCSP) policy review
 - Trainings: MCSP and Sustainable Ocean Economy
 - Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework input and discussion
 - COBSEA network of marine protected areas including focus on critical habitats
- **Regional governance**
 - Leverage synergies
 - Minimize duplication

Capacity building, assessments, providing recommendations



Future priorities

- **Marine Pollution**
 - East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter
 - Harmonized monitoring – regional guidance, status and trends
 - Nutrient pollution activities
- **Marine and coastal planning and management**
 - Community of Practice
 - Regional guidelines for ecosystem-based approach
 - Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implementation
 - Evaluate effectiveness of management of marine protected areas
 - Sustainable blue economy elements
- **Regional governance**
 - New Strategic Directions post-2022
 - Ocean-related SDG implementation and follow-up
 - Strengthened coordination with partners



Cooperation with the SCS SAP

- Marine Pollution
 - Support robust monitoring, assessment and implementation of land-based sources of pollution
- Marine and coastal planning and management
 - Marine protected areas and MCSP activities
 - Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework-implementation
- Regional governance
 - Delivery of actions in SDG Outlook
 - Alignment of strategic documents (SD, RAP MALI etc)
- Meetings, events
 - COBSEA IGM 25 part one September 2021, part two Q1 2022
 - COBSEA Meetings of the Working Group on Marine Litter

Annex 13. IWLEARN Project Presentation



 Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Teleconference, 1 July 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

GEF-UNDP/UNEP-IOC/UNESCO

IW:LEARN Project



Mandate



- Strengthen knowledge (management) capacity
- Promote scaled-up learning of disseminated experiences, tools and methodologies
- Improve the effectiveness of GEF IW projects and partners to deliver on the ground
- Source to sea and ecosystem-based coordination

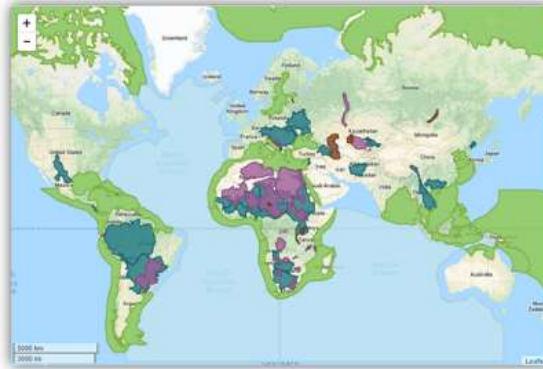
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EXECUTED BY 

Mandate: GEF IW Portfolio



- 47 Rivers
- 13 Aquifers
- 15 Lakes
- 23 Large Marine Ecosystems

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Cooperation with the SCS-SAP



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Knowledge Sharing and Partnership Building

Information Management

Programmatic Support



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Cooperation with the SCS-SAP



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EXECUTED BY



- Pending CEO Endorsement, 2021-2025
- Activities of Interest in the Next Phase
 - Regional Ocean Coordination
 - Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultations
 - LME Data and Information Management
 - Private Sector Partnerships
 - Project Communications



Priorities Int. Water Conf.



FUNDED BY



IMPLEMENTED BY



EXECUTED BY



Conference	Date	Location	Description
	9 - 13 May 2016	Sri Lanka	Eight GEF Biennial International Water Conference
	26 - 21 October 2012	Barbados	7th GEF Biennial International Water Conference
	24 - 26 September 2012	Bangkok	Setting the International Waters Science Agenda for the next Decade
	17 - 20 October 2011	Croatia	6th Biennial International Waters Conference
	25-29 October	Calms, Australia	The 5th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference
	31 July - 3 August 2007	Cape Town, SA	GEF's 4th Biennial International Waters Conference




www.iwlearn.net/events/conferences

Priorities: Global Training

FUNDED BY  **gef**

IMPLEMENTED BY  **UN DP**

EXECUTED BY  **unesco**
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

GEF IWLEARN Transboundary Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Sustainable Blue Economy Online Course

GEF IWLEARN Planification Spatial Maritime

GEF IWLEARN Curso de Planificación Espacial Marina Transfronteriza y Economía Azul Sostenible

GEF IWLEARN International Waters Project Management Course

GEF IWLEARN Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis-Strategic Action Programme Course

GEF IWLEARN Ocean Governance Course

Large Marine Ecosystems: Assessment and Management

IMAGINE YOUR ONLINE COURSE: GEF IWLEARN GOVERNANCE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY FRESHWATER SECURITY SIGN UP!

www.iwlearn.net/marine//learning/courses

Priorities: Twinning

FUNDED BY  **gef**

IMPLEMENTED BY  **UN DP**

EXECUTED BY  **unesco**
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

About News & Events Projects Documents Learning Manuals Media

CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS TWINNING WEBSITE TOOLKIT GEDWODE TOOLKIT

Welcome to Twinning

No two GEF International Waters projects are alike, but many face similar challenges or are tasked with addressing similar transboundary issues. A successful way for projects to learn from each other is to match them up with more mature projects or a partner institution through twinning exchanges.

Twinning have successfully built the capacity of project and government staff to achieve improved project implementation, results, and a higher success of sustainability.

A 2013 survey of GEF IWLEARN found that 75% of project managers identified twinning as a key tool in helping them overcome project management barriers.

We invite you to use our twinning portal to search for a knowledge donor to twin with or to submit a twinning request to let our community know that you are looking for help.

[See previous project twinning exchanges](#)

www.iwlearn.net/marine//learning/twinning

es: Platforms – Data/Visualization

FUNDED BY  **gef**

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EXECUTED BY  **unesco**
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INTERNATIONAL WATERS LEARNING EXCHANGE & RESOURCE NETWORK

Know your ecosystem's worth
Find out how from this GEF guidance document to economic valuation of ecosystem services

Search for documents...

Welcome to the home of GEF International Waters projects

For LMEs in the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network. The IW LMEs project was established to strengthen transboundary water management around the globe by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio. It promotes learning among project managers, industry officials, implementing agencies, and other partners.

GEF LME-LEARN online courses
on ocean governance, MPA and Sustainable Blue Economy

A hub dedicated to Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts

Website Toolkit

The Website Toolkit provides support for developing a content management system, that is robust and secure through the LMEs' International Waters Management System. The resulting report will also serve as a high quality data and information and ensure accessibility to a wider community of stakeholders.

To request assistance in developing a project web site please fill out the form.

With the Website Toolkit, the LMEs are able to provide GEF with the support they need for developing a secure content management system. Website development using the Toolkit (involving content, accessibility, and security).

Large Marine Ecosystems Hub
Regional Resource for the World Coast

What are LMEs?

Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are the world's largest and most diverse ecosystems. They are found in the world's oceans and are home to a wide variety of marine life. LMEs are also important for the world's economy, providing a source of food and other resources. The LME Hub is a central place for information about LMEs and the resources available to manage them. It provides a platform for sharing information and best practices, and for coordinating efforts to protect and manage LMEs. The LME Hub is a valuable resource for anyone interested in LMEs and the world's oceans.

www.iwlearn.net ; www.iwlearn.net/marine, www.lmehub.net and <http://www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit>

Priorities: Manuals & Methodologies

FUNDED BY  **gef**

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Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Methodologies

Marine Toolkits

Data and information Management

www.iwlearn.net/manuals

GEF IW:LEARN Policy Briefs, Experience Notes, Newsletters, Social Media, Publications, LME Volume

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INTERNATIONAL WATERS LEARNING COORDINATOR & RESOURCE NETWORK

Transboundary LME Governance

Marine Spatial Planning

Science to Management

The Humboldt Project

Taking Stock of Pacific Sharks

Taking Project Proposals to the Bank

From Community to Cabinet

SCOPE 73

OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY
Assessing and Managing the World's Large Marine Ecosystems

INTERNATIONAL WATERS EXPERIENCE NOTES

Building Successful Technological and Financial Partnerships with the Private Sector to Reduce Pollutant Loading

www.iwlearn.net/marine/documents/policybriefs
<http://www.iwlearn.net/news>
<http://www.iwlearn.net/experience>

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www.iwlearn.net/marine

Annex 14. Fisheries Refugia Project Presentation



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Teleconference, 1 July 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC Project on Establishment and Operation of A Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

Executing Agency : Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center



Mandate of SEAFDEC

- *To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the **sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia***

PROJECT GOAL

- *improved integration of habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations in the management of fisheries in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand;*
- *improved national management of the threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages within fisheries refugia; and,*
- *enhanced uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the design and implementation of regional and national fisheries management systems.*



Successfully supporting the South China Sea

- Improved understanding among stakeholders, including fisherfolk, scientists, policy-makers, and fisheries managers, of ecosystem and fishery linkages as a basis for integrated fisheries and ecosystem/habitat management; and
- Adopted 3 refugia site in Cambodia, final decision by Stakeholders for 7 refugia sites in MY(2), TH(2), and PH(3). All areas coverages more than 281,723 ha in 4 countries (higher than target objective).
- Established Learning Center to promote FR concept and conserve linked habitats: MY (2), PH(2), and TH(1)
- More than 100 multi-stakeholders engage into the project implementation such as inter-agency concerns from not only fisheries and environment agency, tourism department, public organization, navy, coastguards, but also involved by NGOs, CSOs, academy, research institutes, local government at a provincial and state level, fishing community, private sectors, etc.
- Adopted by ASEAN/SEAFDEC a Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Short Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand which is applied to other sea areas such as SCS, etc.



Ongoing Activities and Future Priorities

- Improve national fisheries legislation, law, policy and management plan to support, create and manage more fisheries refugia for economically important species within the EEZ.
- Maintaining and scaling up the socioeconomic level of fishing communities promoting of innovative best practice tools and technologies such as responsible fishing technologies, traceability system etc. and updating indicators and monitoring systems
- Create political and private sector support for the maintenance of natural refugia or creation of fisheries refugia via social networking
- Boosting regional cooperation for the management of other transboundary fish stock



Cooperation with the SCS SAP

- Coastal habitat and fisheries management integration: joint activities on policy & legal aspects review and management plans;
- Sharing the datasets on socio-economic valuation of goods and services of coastal habitats;
- Sharing information on identified root causes of the problems and priorities for intervention, and national management actions to address climate variability and change;
- Collaborate in linking and updating web portals and associated regional online databases and on communication matters.