



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

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ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA DURING 2008-2021



Achievements in Implementing the Strategic Action Programme in Cambodia during 2008-2021

INTRODUCTION

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). The up-dated Strategic Action Programme was one of the anticipated outputs from the UNEP/GEF Project entitled “*Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*” (SCS Project), and the document contains the final text as approved by all countries during the 8th meeting of the Project Steering Committee in Hanoi, Viet Nam, August 2008. It was anticipated that the countries would commence implementation of the envisaged actions in 2008/2009 in parallel with the process in seeking further support from GEF for the SAP implementation.

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. In order to implement the SAP at the regional level, on November 03, 2016, the GEF adopted the project entitled “*Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project)*”. It was noted that regional actions would contribute to achieving the target through: capacity building for activities at the national and local levels; provision of opportunities in exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the region; common guidelines and other tools used by countries in management planning and practices; standardisation in regional synthesis and comparison; provision of sound scientific information for management; and encouraging governments at all levels to develop policy related to environment management. It was also emphasised that actions at the national and local levels are critical for success of the SAP targets. National Action Plans (NAPs) were developed in all participating countries and had been, or would be adopted by, governments to meet national priorities and to contribute to regional targets incorporated in the SAP.

As other participating countries, Cambodia developed the NAPs for habitat and land-based pollution management during the course of the SCS Project and have conducted a series of activities in implementing the SAP and NAPs since 2008. This evaluation provides evidence on proactive contribution of Cambodia in implementing the SAP and NAPs on mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and coastal wetlands and supports to estimate country co-finance for environment management in the SCS during the last decade. The reviews of past activities and outputs would be helpful for seeking the gaps which shall be addressed in implementing the SCS-SAP project in 2022-2023.

EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1/ Mangroves

SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

The Strategic Action Programme targets for mangroves in Cambodia focus on improving the management of mangrove areas utilized for the sustainable use of mangrove resources. This would be achieved via the development and implementation of sustainable management plans for 49,900 ha of mangroves, as well as the reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of mangrove areas in Cambodia. The SAP targets also focus on the replanting of 2,500 ha of deforested mangrove land. However, there was no priority site identified in the SAP project document due to lack of data for prioritization. With the efforts from national level and international supports, there existed many activities for implementing the SAP in last years since 2008 with numerous outputs which are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of the SAP targets for mangroves and achievements during 2008-2021 in Cambodia

Regional output	SAP 2008 targets (ha)	Achievements (ha) during 2008-2021		
		Prey Nob District	Butom Sakor National Park	Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary
1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	-	9,351	9,127	15,500
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	-	N/A	9,127	15,500
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	49,900			
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	2,500	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	-	N/A	N/A	15,500
1.1.6 Monitoring of management effectiveness	-	N/A	N/A	N/A

Descriptions

1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas

In 1993 Butom Sakor National Park (BSNP) covering a total area of 171,250 ha, including 9,127 ha of mangrove forest, was established by the Royal Government of Cambodia. In the same year, there was also an establishment of Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (PKWS) with a total area of 25,897 ha, including 15,500 ha of mangrove areas. However, there was no specific zoning systems designated until 2009, when IUCN assisted MoE in the development of a zoning scheme for PKWS. The process involved a lot of consultations and collaboration with different stakeholders including local authorities, academics and experts, and local communities. As a result, in 2011 the Government of Cambodia issued a sub-degree on a complete zoning demarcation for PKWS with four types of zones, core zone, conservation zone, sustainable use zone, and community zone. PKSW has three core zones of 1,588 ha, two conservation zones of 4,873 ha, the sustainable use zone of 15,414 ha, and the community zone of 4,021 ha. In Prey Nob district we have around 9,351 ha of mangrove forest. Details on the declaration and management of Prey Nob protected area will be added later.

The Butom Sakor National Park was managed by the Ministry of Environment under protected area law. The line management from the national-level and sub-national level, they have provincial departments working as the secretarial branch for the ministry to implement policy and strategic plans which have been

adopted by the government in terms of the cooperation within the provincial administration, NGOs (international and local), research institutes, development partners, the private sector and local communities. In the meantime, Peam Krasop WS has been managed by the Provincial Department of Environment of Koh Kong with the supervision by the MoE as technical support and policies implementation on the environment and natural resources protection and conservation. For Prey Nob district, the district governance plays a key in the management in mangrove areas. It is essential to notice that the management of mangrove forest especially those in the protected areas need to involve relevant stakeholders, particularly the local authorities and communities as well as development partners, NGOs and conservationists.

1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas

After the declaration as protected area, a management plan for the areas was developed and implementation enacted. Although the management plan was meant to cover the entire area of the respective mangrove in Prey Nob District (9,351 ha), Butom Sakor National Park (9,127 ha) and Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (15,500 ha), the actual execution of the management plan was limited due to budget and human resource constraints.

The current management plan for PKWS, a five-year Management Plan for Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (2018-2022), was issued by the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2018, for the management of the sanctuary to perform in a sustainable way. PKWS management plan has four long-term objectives, to increase population of key species and maintain the natural resilience of key habitats in the sanctuary, to protect and diversity livelihoods/income sources for local communities, to improve governance mechanism, and to enhance awareness and understanding of the importance and values of PKSW at international, national and local levels. This management plan applies for the entire area of the sanctuary, 25,897 hectares. The implementation of PKWS management plan is currently underway, although there are certain constraints of budget and resources. There is not any progress report or a review on the implementation of this 5-year plan made available to date. The SCS SAP project will provide a perfect opportunity for Cambodia to review and revise this management plan as well as give support to the implementation.

Prey Nob district did not have a management plan that is specific for the purpose of sustainable management of mangrove. For administrative management, the mangrove forest in the Prey Nob district site is managed by three National Organizations. The first is the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in charge of Ream National Park responsible for environmental protection and natural resources management and has the mandate to coordinate coastal environmental management and development activities in the coastal zone according to a decision letter signed by the Prime Minister. The second, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) has the mandate for the management of all activities related to fisheries, including artisanal fisheries, mangroves, seagrass, and industrial fisheries. In practice, the ministry has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of most of the coastal resources, without the general coordinating mandate for overall environmental management. And the last, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) has the responsibility for managing all activities related to water and meteorology development and natural disasters. The MoWRAM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the sharing of responsibility for the Prey Nob polder management with the Sihanouk provincial authority and the farmer water users' community of Prey Nob polders.

1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest

Law on mangrove forest management has not been available to date and no reform of law and regulations at the site level. At the national level, the National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) 2014-2016: Mangrove

for The Future was developed by the Executive Board of Mangroves for the Future Initiative of Cambodia (EB-MFF-CAM) that is composed of line ministries, international and local NGOs and Academia.

1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land

A collective figure on how many hectares of mangrove replanted between 2008 and 2021 is not available. However, through collecting information and news from different sources there were some mangrove planting activities during this period. For example, in 2016 under the Mangrove for the Future program, around 25,000 mangrove seedlings on an area of over 4 ha were planted in Toul Korkei Community Protected Area of the Peam Krasop WS. The area of replanting or restoration would be more, but for this document we do not have the figure in hand. There will be more data gathered during the implementation of the project. At Prey Nob district we have also learnt that community fisheries of the area also focus on mangrove replanting in the identified degraded areas for restoration rather than on new sites where mangrove trees were not previously present. In the SCS SAP project we plan to replant mangrove forest of around 420 ha in the three target sites, Prey Nub district (150 ha), Botum Sakor National Park (120 ha) and KPWS area (150 ha).

1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting

There is no information currently available at the site level on biodiversity increase resulting from mangrove enrichment planting. Data will be gathered during the implementation of the SCS SAP project.

1.1.6 Monitoring of management effectiveness

It was claimed that 22,420 ha of the total 72,400 ha (or 31 percent) of Cambodia's mangroves are under sustainable management. However, little is known – particularly due to a scarcity of recording and assessment reports or in some cases due to an effective monitoring mechanism did not exist – about the monitoring of management effectiveness related to mangrove management at the site level. It is crucial that through the SCS SAP project an effective monitoring scheme in support to the effectiveness of mangrove management to be developed and operated especially at the sites, but not limited to.

2/ Coral reefs

SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

Status in 2008 indicated that only 01 site (Koh Takiev) among 7 priority sites in Cambodia was under management with medium management effectiveness. The targeted coral reef areas added for management through SAP implementation was then 1,965 ha, bringing the total area across the nine sites under management to 2,258 ha. The implementation of the Strategic Action Programme also aims to increase the management effectiveness across all sites from low and/or medium to high. Table 2 below summarizes the SAP targets for coral reefs and achievements during 2008-2021 in Cambodia, with relative figures of the total coral reefs distributions in the seven archipelagos. Although there were no official updated figures on the total coral reef distribution, according to communication with the officials in charge it is more likely that the amount of reef distribution has remained the same due to management improvement. Department of Fisheries Conservation (DFC) of MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)'s Fisheries Administration (FA) under a collaboration with partners have been working on updating the status of the coastal reef distributions, and the official national report is expected to be released at the end of 2022.

The seven archipelagos of coral reef habitats were formerly proposed as the priority sites for the SAP implementation in 2008. However, under the current National Implementation Report (NIR) during the inception phase of the SCS SAP project, the implementation will focus mainly on merely three selected sites namely (1) Koh Kong archipelago (including Koh Sdach archipelago), (2) Koh Rong archipelago, and

(3) Kap Beach and Koh Pouh and Koh Tonsay archipelagos (Table 2). In this report, although we try to elaborate the 2008-2021 achievements for all the sites where available, particular focus is put on the three selected sites. The description relates to the main project outcomes for coral reef habitat, including management approach, management tools, and monitoring on management effectiveness as well as related research achievements at the sites.

Table 2. Summary of the SAP targets for coral reefs and achievements during 2008-2021 in Cambodia

Site Names	Reef area (ha) managed in 2008	SAP target area (ha)*	Total area (ha) ** managed until 2021	Capacity (high, medium, low)	Management approach (ha)	Management tools (ha)	Monitoring (ha)
Koh Kong archipelago				Low	73	N/A	N/A
Koh Sdach archipelago			423	Medium	423	423	260
Koh Rong archipelago			426	High	426	426	255
Koh Takiev archipelago	293			Low	293	N/A	N/A
Koh Tang archipelago				Medium	439	N/A	N/A
Prek Ampil			953	Low	953	953	467
Koh Pouh archipelago			52	High	52	52	52
Total	293	2,258	1,854		2,659	-	1,034

* No target in ha indicated for each site, total targets = managed in 2008 (293) + added for management (1,965 ha)

** Area (ha) under sustainable management with sufficient capacity, approach reformed, tools applied and stress reduced

Descriptions

1.2. 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably

Based on data available until now and descriptions in the items below, it is assumed that 4 reef areas have been under sustainable management with the total of 1,854 ha, including: Koh Sadach (423 ha), Koh Rong (426 ha), Prek Ampil (953 ha) and Koh Pouh (52 ha). However, capacity for management of Prek Ampil site has been quite low to meet the requirement.

1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites

Coastal coral reef management in Cambodia is mostly under a jurisdiction of Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), thereafter under the main coordination of the Department of Fisheries Conservation. At sub-national level we have the provincial fisheries Cantonment, part of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in each of the four coastal provinces.

There were some capacity building activities carried for the officials under the coordination of DFC/FiA collaborating with NGOs and other partners through some projects. Two trainings were conducted, one in 2012 and another in 2021 for 25 FiA officials from the four coastal provinces. The trainings were delivered by NGOs working on marine conservation focusing on the topics related to research and monitoring of both coral reefs and seagrass, and private companies contributed to providing the trainings particularly focusing on diving technique topics. At communities there were also certain capacity building and awareness raising through community fisheries (CFi) on the performance of the communities and activities related to conservation mostly supported by local NGOs.

The CFi officials have received some practical knowledge and exercise through the participation and facilitation of several search activities such as coral reef and seagrass study conducted by NGOs and research institutes/universities. However, there is a significant gap in knowledge related to management effectiveness and research for coral reef conservation and monitoring. This also includes a limitation of available equipment and facilities for effective coral reef management and monitoring as well as the capacity of using it. At the local level there is a need for further awareness raising amongst the local communities especially pertaining to fishing sustainability as well as topics that would help prepare them for adapting to the risks of future climate change.

1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, co-management improved at 46 coral reef sites

The official management of coral reefs as well as other marine habitats has taken different forms including through Marine National Park (MNP), Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA), Community Fisheries (CFi) and through sub-national management committees and working groups.

In 2016 the first marine for Koh Rong archipelago was established by MAFF, with 40,535 ha. Later in 2018 the government declared the establishment of Koh Rong Marine National Park (MNP), the first MNP in Cambodia, with 52,000 ha along the coast of Preah Sihanouk to Koh Rong and Koh Rong Sanloem archipelago. This protected area has a total 468 ha of coral reef distributions mostly under the management of MFMA zone inside the MNP. The main objective of the MNP is to reduce the influence of anthropogenic stressors including overexploitation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and unsustainable development while promoting the recovery of marine ecosystems, in turn attracting increasing numbers of tourists to this island. Since then, a community-led approach to compliance and enforcement has driven the management strategy, led by community patrols operating under the Community Fisheries (CFi) framework. Although significant positive influence on the coral reef ecosystem health is yet remarkable, it is reported that further degradation to this crucial habit has been prevented by these current management strategies. In 2018 another new MFMA was established in Kep province covering an area of 11,307 ha with a total 52 ha of coral reef distributions covering Koh Tonsay archipelago and Koh Pouh archipelago.

Koh Sdach archipelago, being proposed as MFMA, and Prek Ampil are currently under the management of Community Fisheries, covering the entire coral reef distribution areas of 529 ha and 953 ha respectively. There is no available information for the sites of Koh Takiev and Koh Tang archipelagos, but we know that these two sites are under a watch by the navy force. It is likely that the status of the coral reef distribution is in good condition at both sites. Koh Kong archipelago (Koh Kong Krao) has been proposed as a new MNP, covering the entire coral reef distribution of around 73 ha.

At the provincial level there are Provincial Management Committee for MFMA (PMC-MFMA) chaired by the respective provincial governor. To date we have established two PMC-MFMA in two provinces, Preah Sihanoukville and Kep, both established in 2018. PMC-MFMA involves all the key stakeholders as members, including FiA (national and the provincial Cantonment), provincial departments of relevant authorities (e.g. environment, tourism, etc.), community fisheries, private sectors, and NGOs. Under each PMC-MFMA there are different technical working groups to support the performance of the PMC-MFMA.

1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites

The common management tools used are mapping, zoning, and ecological approach to fisheries management (EAFM). EAFM is an integrated management approach across coastal and marine areas and their natural resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of the whole ecosystem.

Koh Rong MFMA and Kep MFMA have been managed through zoning, covering almost the entire areas of the sites with 426 ha, and 52 ha respectively. The MFMA has four different zoning sections, including (1) fisheries conservation area; (2) fisheries protection area; (3) Fisheries refugia and (4) scuba diving ecotourism area. These sections have key roles and functions to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources and raise the living standards of local coastal fishers. In addition, for Kep MFMA cement blocks (so far about 160 blocks) have been dropped into the key marine areas within MFMA in order to protect coral reefs, seagrass and spawning ground from illegal trawling and to serve as the artificial habitats for some key fish species.

EAFM is used at the Koh Sdach archipelago site, covering around 80% of the total area (around 423 ha) and in the established MFMA sites of Koh Rong and Koh Pouh archipelagos, covering the whole area, 426 ha and 52 ha respectively. At Prek Ampil it is also informed that EAFM has been applied and it covers the entire area under the Cfi. However, there is no data available on what management tool being used at the other three sites, Koh Kong, Koh Takiev and Koh Tang archipelagos.

1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring coral reef management

At all sites of the established MFMA there has been monitoring underway carried out by officials and the communities. The monitoring at the Koh Pouh archipelago has covered the whole area of the MFMA which is 72 ha, while only around 60% (255 ha) of the total area of coral reefs at Koh Rong archipelago has been under a regular monitoring due to the limitation of available tools and equipment as well as budget. Around 50% (260 ha) of Koh Sdach archipelago were under a regular monitoring, and this is the same for Prek Ampil (467 ha). This situation will be improved during the implementation of the SCS SAP project. However, monitoring information for the other sites is yet made available.

In addition, a research expedition led by FFI was conducted in April 2019 aiming to assess coral reef habitat in the Koh Rong MPA by setting up 20 permanent monitoring sites to survey. The collected data include fish abundance and biomass, benthic stratum composition, invertebrate abundance and structural complexity of the habitat. The monitoring program collected data on two main families of reef fish specifically *Serranidae spp.* (grouper), which are the top predators in Cambodian reef ecosystems, and *Scaridae spp.* (parrotfish), the key trophic level herbivores in a functional coral reef ecosystem. This study shows that sites situated on the western side of Koh Rong frequently showed the highest abundance of all reef fish combined with a mean abundance at 180.81 individuals per m³ and the abundance of reef fish is significantly higher at the outer islands compared to the Koh Rong (with 267.15 individuals per 500 m³). The report also shows that the amount of biomass revealed lower at the outer islands than the sites within the Koh Rong MNP, implying that the protection to fish populations may be improved by the local-led management strategies.

3/ Seagrass

SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

The Strategic Action Programme identifies four known seagrass sites with a total area of 33,814 ha, of which 2,000 ha at one site (Chroy Pros) was under some form of management at medium effectiveness. The Strategic Action Programme targets two seagrass sites and would result in an increase in seagrass area under management by 11,446 ha. These two sites are located at: Kampot and Kep Beach and Koh Tonsay. Specific national activities would include putting under sustainable management with supporting laws and

regulations two seagrass areas totaling 2,808 ha, amending national management plans for existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions, designating new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project and establishing mechanisms for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 4 sites. Table 3 below summarizes achievements during 2008-2021 under every regional outputs of the SAP for seagrass in Cambodia. Currently the Department of Fisheries Conservation (DFC) of MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)'s Fisheries Administration (FA) under a collaboration with partners have been working on updating the status of the seagrass distributions, and the official national report is expected to be released at the end of 2022.

Table 3. Regional SAP target for seagrass and achievements (ha) during 2008-2021 in Cambodia

Regional Output	Kep Beach & Koh Tonsay archipelago	Kampot Beach	Chroy Pros	Koh Rong	Total
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totaling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	3,095	1,500	2198		6,793
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms	N/A	N/A	N/A		
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project	3,095			92	3,187
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring seagrass habitat management	3,095	1,500		N/A	3,595

* Insert column if more site required

Descriptions

1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totaling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations

The National Action Plan for Seagrass Management in Cambodia (2006-2015) focused on the protection and management of seagrasses to ensure sustainable fisheries resource utilization and development for the reduction of poverty and improve quality of life for all Cambodians. The NAP consists of six main objective include: (1) implement national policy, legal and administrative framework to reduce the degradation of coral reefs and seagrass and maintain their multiple benefits and uses; (2) establish management models to ensure sustainable use of coral reefs and seagrass; (3) establish research and monitoring facilities to monitor

coral reef and seagrass status to support conservation and management; (4) build cross-sectorial capacity for sustainable coral reef and seagrass management at national and local levels; (5) increase awareness of managers and communities on the ecological roles and economic values of seagrass and coral reefs to realize the balance between utilization and conservation of these resources, and (6) create financial sustainability and improve economic status of coastal local communities.

For site level management plan for seagrass conservation was also developed and implemented. For Kep province, the five-year (2020-2024) Action Plan for Marine Fisheries Management Area in Koh Pouh archipelago and Koh Tonsay archipelago is under implementation. Approved by the governor of the province, this marine fisheries management plan aims to enhance fisheries and ecosystem through effective management to ensure sustainable use, promote ecotourism and climate change adaptation for the community contributing to improving the standard of living of the people. This action plan covers the whole area of 3,095 ha of seagrass beds.

According to Fisheries Administration, in Kep province that includes Kep beach, Koh Tonsay archipelago and Koh Pouh archipelago (KKTP), there are 3,095 ha of seagrass area. Kampot Beach has around 1,500 ha of seagrass beds and Chroy Pros of Koh Kong province has around 2,198 ha. The management of these seagrass beds is under different forms. For the 3,095 ha of seagrass area in KKTP, it is managed under the MFMA since 2018 and this is reported as in a sustainable management pathway. The seagrass site of Kampot Beach has been proposed as a new MFMA and more efforts are needed toward a sustainable management. The seagrass site in Chroy Pros is under the management of Community Fisheries with a good management condition. However, significant support to this community fisheries is needed for an improved management of this seagrass site.

Two seagrass sites are Fisheries Refugia project sites – Kep province for anchovy and blue swimming crab, and Kampot province for juvenile groupers. Based on the progress reports of Refugia project, Cambodia FiA has worked closely with the local government at the provincial level in establishing the Refugia, and they committed to continue these activities even after project completion. The Fisheries Administration (FiA) includes the Fisheries Refugia concept in the 10-year Strategic Plan for Fishery Conservation and Management, which is one of the approaches in combating IUU fishing. After adoption of the fisheries refugia, stakeholder consultations for policy and legal reforms are in progress.

1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms

Not applicable

1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project

Between 2008 and 2021 a few protected areas in which seagrass conservation is of particular attention have been designated. In 2016 the first marine for Koh Rong archipelago was established by MAFF, with 40,535 ha contained the area of seagrass beds accounting for 92 ha. In 2018 another new MFMA was established in Kep province covering an area of 11,307 ha with a total 3,095 ha of seagrass distributions covering Koh Tonsay archipelago and Koh Pouh archipelago. Many other efforts made by the government of Cambodia with the contributions of development partners have been also proposing some new marine protected areas that include a vast area of seagrass.

1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring seagrass habitat management

Monitoring activities at the seagrass sites have been done regularly by FiA officials, patrollers and respective communities. In Kep province where there is a functional MFMA, status of the monitoring and patrolling of seagrass has been performing well, thereby stress on seagrass were significantly reduced.

Apart from such regular monitoring research was also conducted to monitor the status of seagrass. In 2013 two survey, spot check survey and line transect survey, were conducted in Kampot by IUCN to collect, map and update detailed baseline data on the seagrass bed of Kampot Province and record its current status. The result of the survey finds that the mapped seagrass bed covers an area of 8,435.80 hectares in Kampot and is relatively healthy with a ‘moderate’ to ‘good’ status. The survey also identified the most significant threat which includes the construction of a seaport directly on the seagrass bed, which could cause severe sedimentation throughout the whole seagrass bed destroying large habitat areas. They suggested that without immediate long-term monitoring and conservation efforts to mitigate the threats, the seagrass bed may be under too poor conditions to adapt to the future impacts of climate change or largely wiped out before climate change impacts become noticed; coastal livelihoods will be at risk if action is not taken soon.

4/ Wetlands

SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

The Strategic Action Programme implementation in Cambodia would result in the adoption and implementation of management plan for Koh Krapik Ramsar estuary (12,000 ha) in Koh Kong Province. This includes the declaration of wetland areas with protection status and needed management reforms, and adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme for national implementation. Under the current National Implementation Report (NIR) during the inception phase of the SCS SAP project, two more sites have been included, Chumpu Khmao and Kampong Trach. Table 4 shows the summary of status in implementing SAP during 2008-2021 at Koh Kapik site.

Table 4. Summary of the SAP targets for coastal wetlands and achievements (ha) during 2008-2021 in Cambodia

Regional outputs	Koh Kapik Ramsar Site	Total
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 2 lagoons (21,818 ha), 10 estuaries (639,418 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	12,000	12,000
1.4.2 Declaration of wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites)	12,000	12,000
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional monitoring scheme and its national implementation	12,000	N/A

Descriptions

1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 2 lagoons (21,818 ha), 10 estuaries (639,418 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)

Koh Kapik Ramsar Site (KKRS) covers a total area of 12,000 ha, 60% of which overlaps with the area of Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (PKWS), and other 40% overlaps in Butom Sakor National Park. The Cambodia Coastal Zone Committee, which is an inter-ministerial body, acts as the decision-making body for coastal zone management in the country including making recommendations on policy and the development strategy. Local people are encouraged by the central government to establish their own communities that support wise/sustainable use and the protection/conservation of natural resources and

environment. Provincial authorities are the government entities that backstop all operations and interventions to protect and conserve the site and wetland benefits. Local people are encouraged by the central government to establish their own communities that support wise/sustainable use and the protection/conservation of natural resources and environment.

There is no specific management plan of KKRS made available. However, the current management plan for PKWS, a five-year Management Plan for Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (2018-2022), also applies for KKRS as 60% of its total area overlaps under PKWS.

Chumpu Khmao wetlands, covering an area of 1,522 ha, is under a management of Community Fisheries of 285 members located in Tuol Torteung Commune, Prey Nub district, Preah Sihanouk province. Kampong Trach wetland site that covers an area of around 600 ha is currently under local community management. However, no management plans were developed for these 2 sites.

1.4.2 Declaration of wetland areas with protection status (i.e., non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites)

Koh Kapik Ramsar Site (KKRS) has been declared since 1999. For other two wetland sites of Chumpu Khmao and Kampong Trach have not been officially declared as protected areas. Specific zoning of KKRS was done in 2009 even after the established PKSW with the support of IUCN. The SCS SAP project aims to propose these two sites as Ramsar sites or the like.

1.4.3 Monitoring scheme for wetland management

Koh Kapik Ramsar Site has been in good monitoring performance by both the management authority and the community. There have been several research carried out in this Ramsar site by researchers from universities and NGOs.

REFERENCE

[Please list documents from which the information and data were used for this evaluation]