



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

FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (RSTC) OF THE SCS SAP PROJECT

17-19 October 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FISHERIES *REFUGIA* PROJECT

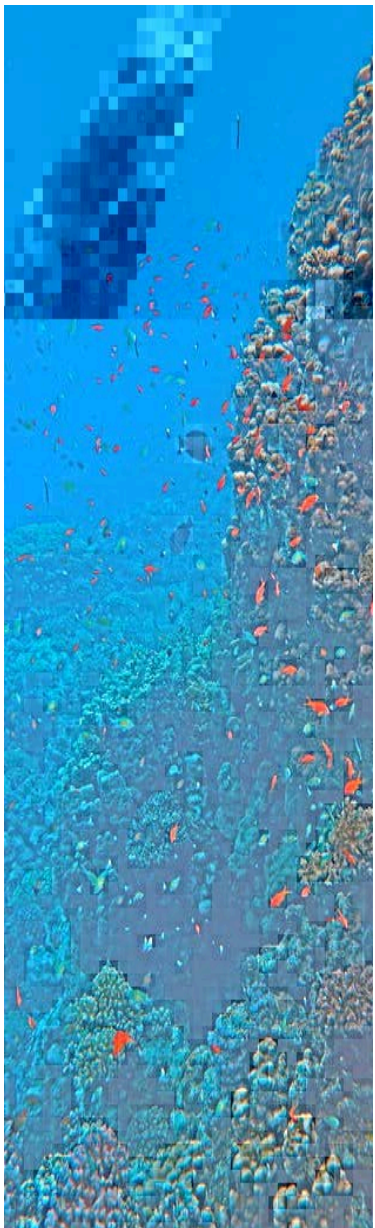
CAMBODIA

Mr. LENG SYVANN

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION



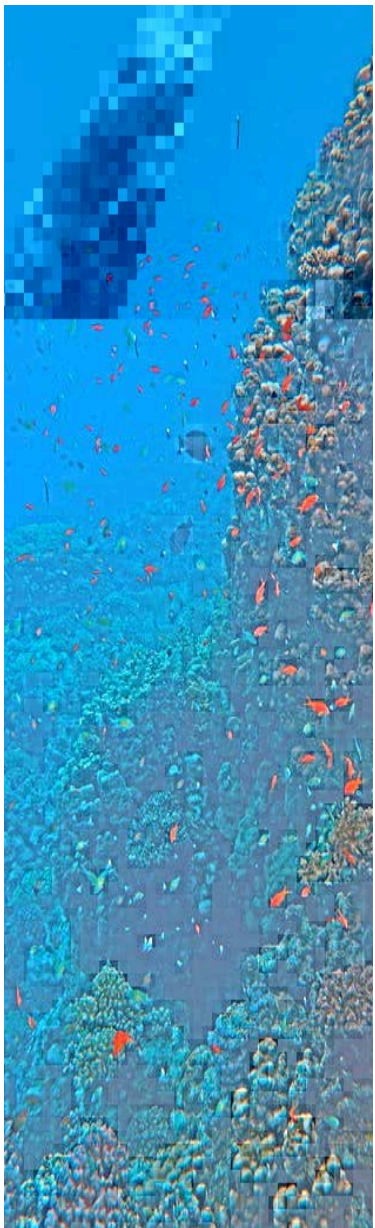
UNOPS



Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
- 2 . Key Achievements
3. Issues and Challenges
4. Recommendations



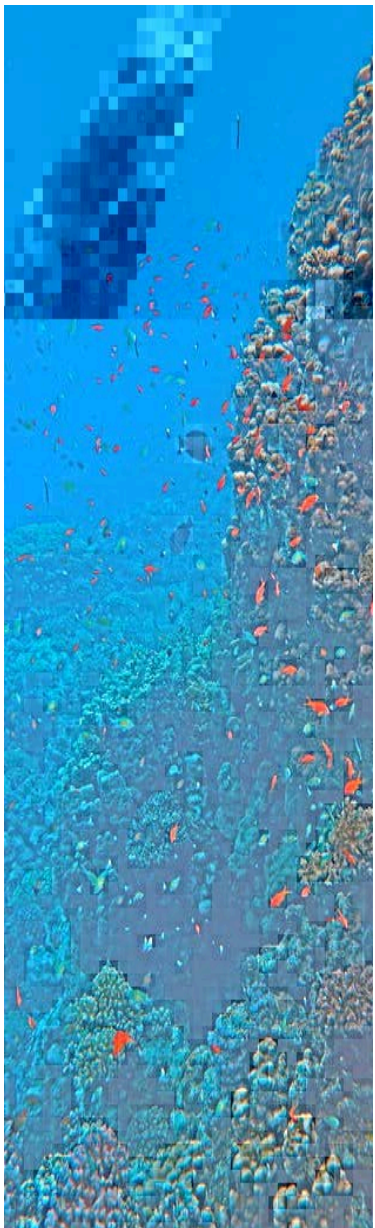


1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Fisheries Refugia Project

- This project entitled “*Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*”
- The project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and executed regionally by SEAFDEC in partnership with the government agencies responsible for fisheries in the 6 participating countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- This project has initially planned for 48 months from January 2017 to December 2020, but the project duration was extended until December 2022 to complete the project implementation due to COVID 19 pandemic situation from January 2020 to March 2022.
- The project is comprised of the following 4 project components.
 1. Identification and management of fisheries and critical habitat linkages at priority fisheries refugia;
 2. Improving the management of critical habitats for fish stocks of transboundary significance via national and regional actions to strengthen the enabling environment and knowledge-based for fisheries refugia management;
 3. Information Management and Dissemination in support of national and regional-level implementation of the fisheries refugia concept; and
 4. National and regional cooperation and coordination for integrated fish stock and critical habitat management in the South China Sea.



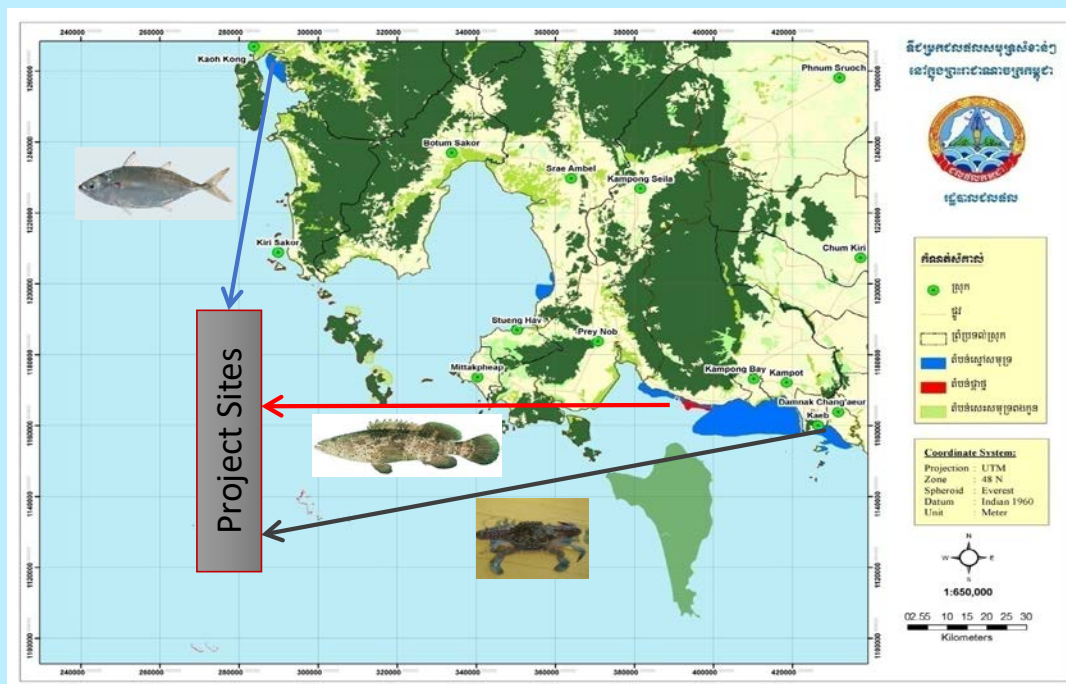


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1.2. Objective of the Fisheries Refugia Project

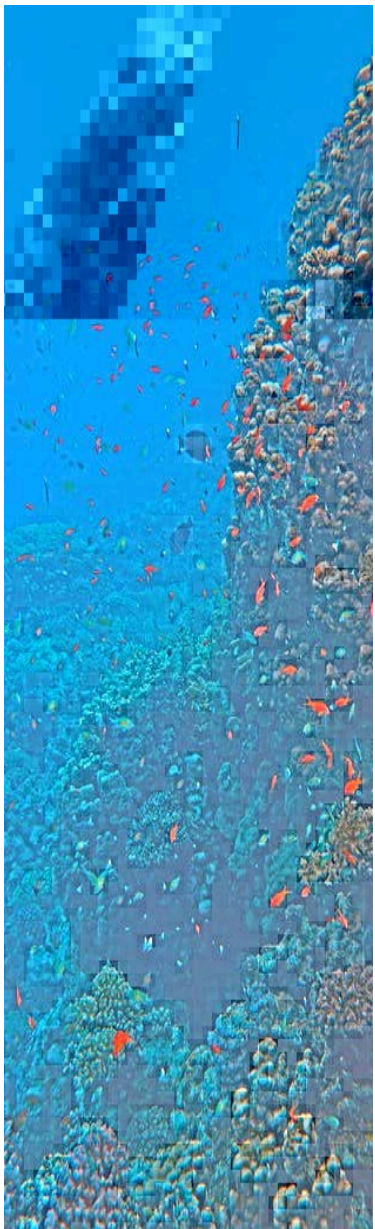
The fisheries refugia project set specific objective of “operating and expanding the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea.”

1.3. SAP Targets and Project Sites



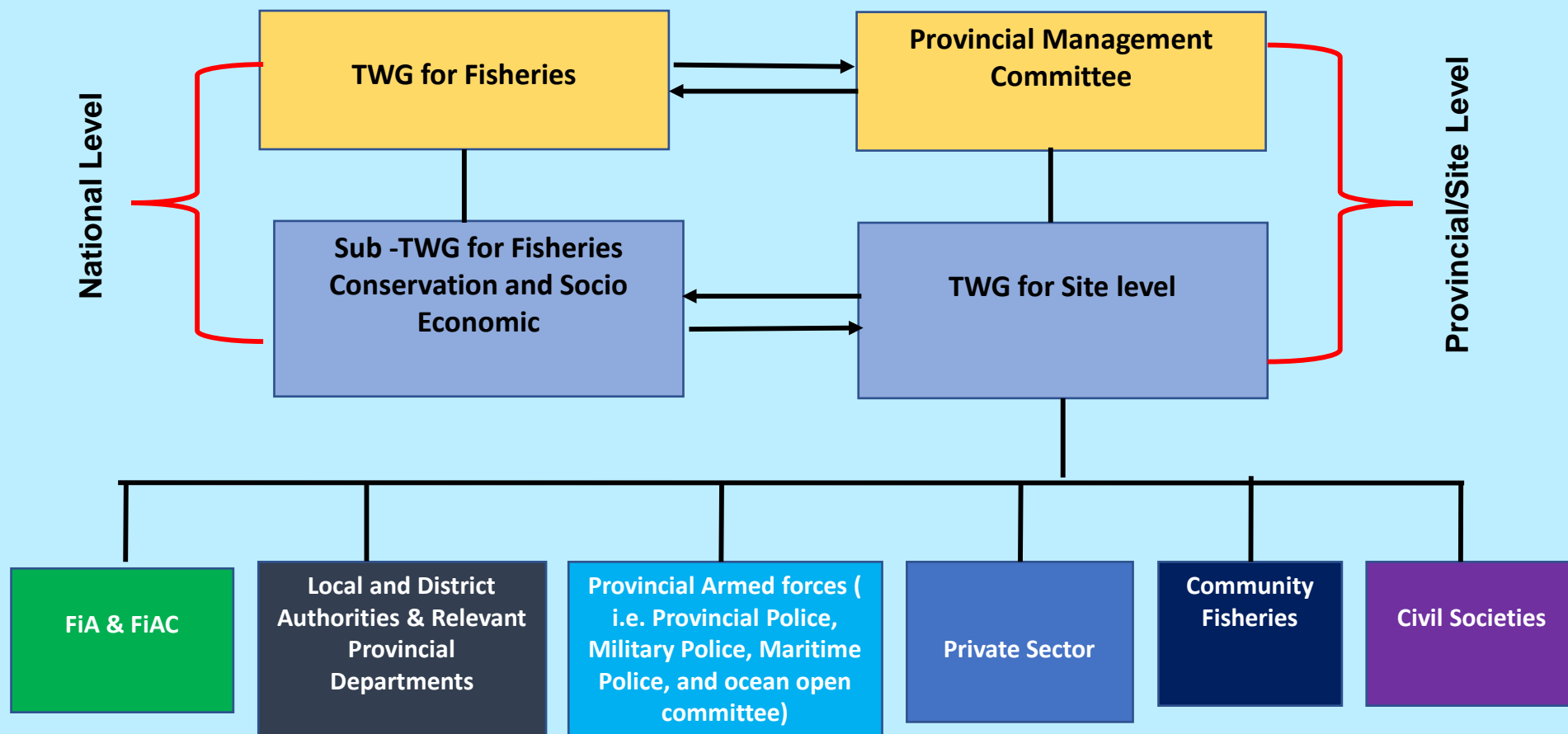
- SAP set 14 priority fisheries refugia sites for the region, including Cambodia has selected 3 fisheries refugia sites (Kampot, Kep, and Koh Kong provinces.
- FR in Kampot for Juvenile grouper, Kep for BSC, and Koh Kong for Indo-Pacific Mackerel





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1.4. FR Management and Coordination Structure in Cambodia



FR management and coordination structure in Cambodia at national and provincial level. At national level, TWG for Fisheries is chaired by DG of FiA and Sub - TWG is chaired by DDG of FiA. At provincial level, PMC is chaired by Provincial Governor and TWG for Site level is chaired by Provincial Deputy Governor





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1.5 Executive Agencies Role and Function

The Fisheries Administration of Cambodia, through the National Focal Point, shall:

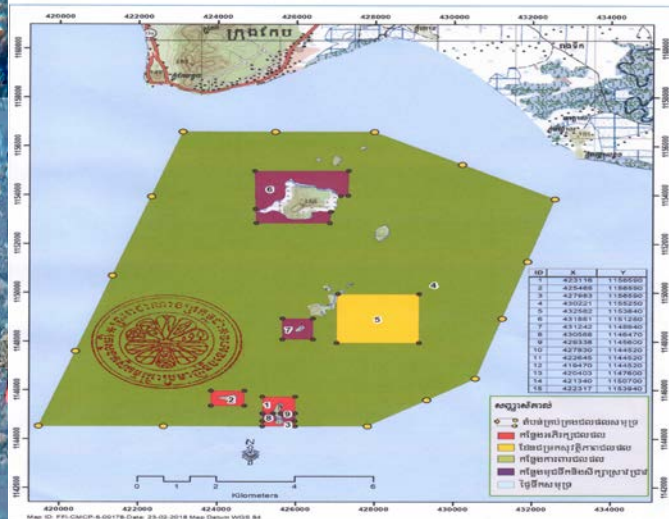
- Nominate a National Focal Point to act as the main point of contact with SEAFDEC, and a Chair of the NFRC, and participate in annual regional Project Steering Committee meetings;
- Nominate a National Scientific and Technical Focal Point to act as the main point of contact with Project Coordinating Unit, Chair the National Scientific and Technical Committee and participate in the biannual regional meetings of the Regional Scientific and Technical Meeting;
- Authorize the Department of Fisheries Conservation(DFC)/FiA to lead and implement SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project in Cambodia to achieve the national-level goals and objectives;
- Prepare progress reports, technical field reports, workplan, financial report, cash advance request, and other relevant documents based on the results framework, work plan and timetable contained in the National Project Document;
- Implement activities based on the results framework, work plan and timetable to achieve the national-level goals and objectives for the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project in Cambodia;
- Provide SEAFDEC/PCU with certified periodic financial statements, reports on co-financing received and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF project funds as at 31 December each year; and
- Submit endorsed quarterly national costed work plans, progress report, financial reports, technical reports together with a cash advance request as well as other relevant documents to SEAFDEC/PCU.



2. Key Achievements

2.1 Fisheries Refugia in Kep province

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2.1.1 BACKGROUND OF FISHERIES REFUGIA IN KEP PROVINCE

- Site Name: Marine Fisheries Management Area including Blue Swimming Crab Refugia at Koh Po and Koh Tonsay Archipelago, Kep province
- Target Species: Blue Swimming Crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) and Anchovy (*Stolephorus indicus*)
- Total size: 11307ha including 417ha for BSC FR
- Endorsed Date: 12 April 2018
- Target Habitat: 52ha of Coral Reef and 755ha of Seagrass are under managed by MFMA in Kep province

2.1.2 KEY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA

- They are from: Provincial Hall Administration, Fisheries Administration, Involved Provincial Departments, Provincial Police, Provincial Military Police, Maritime Police No. 430, Involved District and Commune Authorities, Development Partners (MCC, IUCN, and FFI), Private Sector, and Community Fisheries

2.1.3 KEY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN SITE BASE MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Provincial Management committee is chaired by provincial governor and with various government agencies participations as membership
- Provincial Technical Working Group is chaired by provincial deputy governor and with various government agencies, NGOs, private sectors, and communities participation as membership



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2.1.4 MANAGEMENT MECHANISM FOR MFMA INCLUDING FISHERIES REFUGIA IN KEP PROVINCE

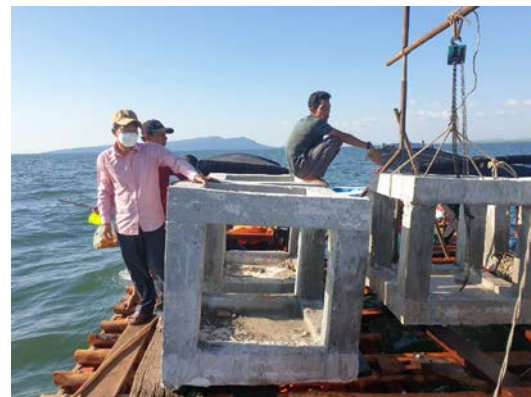
- Closing season of BSC starting from May to July, all kinds of fishing gears targeted catching crabs and negatively impact are prohibited;
- No closing season for Anchovy , but small scale fishing gears only are allowed;
- Install mooring buoys around the boundary of BSC FR to demonstrate refugia site to fishers during closing season of BSC;
- Patrol, crack down illegal fishing, and stand by at the refugia site during closing season of BSC,
- Deploy 345 concrete blocks into MFMA and refugia site in order to protect marine habitat, improve marine habitat, and prevent illegal fishing activities; and
- Disseminate a noticed letter during closing season of BSC starting from May to July through local media, facebook of provincial hall administration, and meeting with fishermen



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2.2.4 MANAGEMENT MECHANISM OF FISHERIES REFUGIA IN KOH KONG PROVINCE

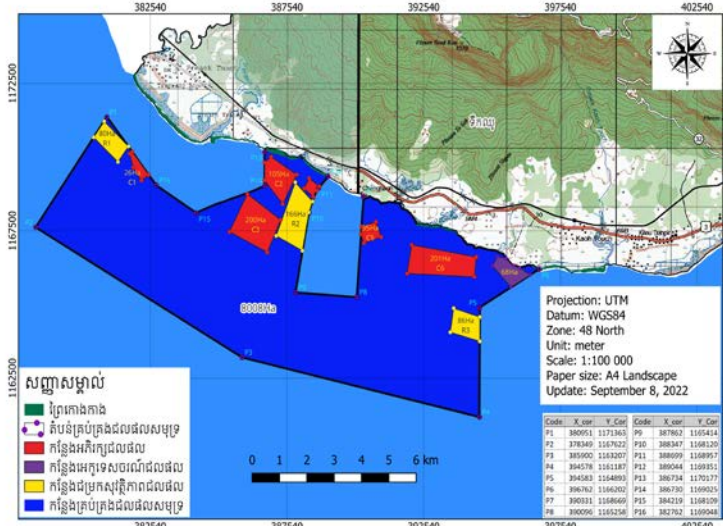
- Closing season of short mackerel starting from December to March and during that time, all kinds of fishing gears targeted short mackerel and negatively impact to short mackerel are prohibited
- Install mooring buoys around the boundary of short mackerel refugia to demonstrate refugia site to fishers during closing season of short mackerel
- Patrol, crack down illegal fishing, and stand by at the refugia site during closing season of short mackerel
- Deploy 50 concrete blocks into the refugia site in order to prevent illegal fishing activities at the refugia site and to improve artificial habitats
- Disseminate a noticed letter during closing season of short mackerel starting from December to March through local media, facebook of provincial hall administration, and meeting with fisherfolks.



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2.3 Fisheries Refugia in Kampot province

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2.3.1 BACKGROUND OF FISHERIES REFUGIA IN KAMPOT PROVINCE

- Site Name: Marine Fisheries Management Area including Juvenile Grouper Refugia at Prek Thnaot, Kampot province
- Target Species: Juvenile Grouper
- Total size: 8008ha including 332ha for juvenile grouper refugia
- Endorsed Date: Not approved yet, on final discussion at provincial level especially outer boundary and zoning
- Target Habitat: 347ha of Coral Reef and 269ha of Seagrass are under managed by MFMA in Kampot province

2.3.2 KEY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA

- They are from: Provincial Hall Administration, Fisheries Administration, Involved Provincial Departments, Provincial Police, Provincial Military Police, Maritime Police No. 430, Involved District and Commune Authorities, Development Partners (MCC, IUCN, and FFI), Private Sector, and Community Fisheries

2.3.3 KEY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN SITE BASE MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Not approved yet



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2.3.4 MANAGEMENT MECHANISM FOR FISHERIES REFUGIA IN KAMPOT PROVINCE

- Deployed 50 concrete blocks into fisheries refugia site in order to prevent trawler from fishing at refugia site and to serve as the artificial habitats for some key fish and endangered species as well,
- Prohibited trawlers and gear with small mesh size within MFMA and refugia site,
- Even though the refugia site has not been endorsed but some activities have been carried out including patrolling and dissemination.

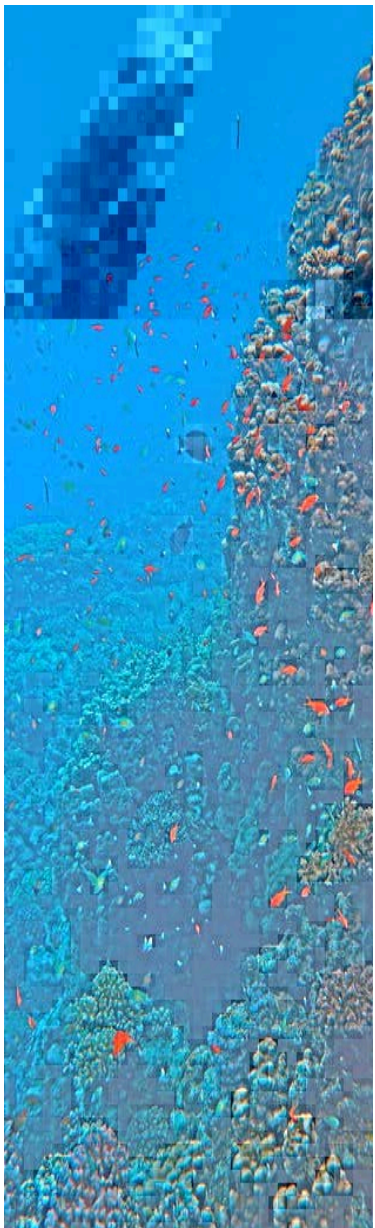


3. Issues and Challenges

Some issues and challenges have met during the implementation of the Fisheries *Refugia* Project as follow:

- Hard to prepare a meeting with provincial administration leaders such as provincial governor or deputy governor and always postpone the meeting for many times ;
- Postpone the approval of FR in Kampot province until now due to changing new provincial governor and impact with the development project of companies, however it is expected to be endorsed at the end of this year; and
- COVID 19 pandemic outbreaks in the project target provinces.
- There are still a few number of illegal fishing activities at the refugia site during closing season; and
- Community fisheries and Fisheries Administration Cantonment still lack budget, materials, and equipment for patrolling and cracking down illegal fishing activities.





4. Recommendations

Some recommendations are provided to integrate and collaborate SCS SAP Project as follow:

- SCS SAP Project should not establish site base management boards in Kep and Koh Kong province and can use the existing site base management boards in Kep and Koh Kong provinces to coordinate or solve problems happening during project implementation;
- SCS SAP Project should consider to formulate site base management boards in Kampot and Preah Sihanouk provinces;
- SCS SAP Project should consider to prepare the proclamation on the Establishment of Management Area of Seagrass and Coral Reef in Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, and Kampot provinces; and
- SCS SAP Project should consider to monitor and assess current seagrass and coral reef status under managed by Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) in Kep province.

