



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

FIRST MEETING OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON CORAL REEFS

*Teleconference, 2 December 2021
13.00 – 17.00 Indochina time (ICT)*

2.2. Organization of Work

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UNOPS

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.”***

The three components of the project correspond each to three main objectives:

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





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

- 1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites
- 1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 46 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 monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 46 sites [based on SAP results framework]

Other related activities

- 2.1.1. Validation of existing or improved algorithms with on-site data
- 2.1.2 Mechanism for collection and exchange of regional coastal habitat and pollution information and data established
- 2.1.3 Role of coastal habitats of the South China Sea in climate change adaptation and the sequestration and storage of carbon
- 2.1.4 Review of the potential impacts of sea level rise, climate change, ocean acidification and episodic events on coastal habitats
- 2.1.6 A regional system for periodic monitoring of the state of coastal habitats of the South China Sea
- Outcome 2.4 Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy
- Outcome 2.4 Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats
- 2.5.1. Online catalogue of best practice management measures and technologies
- 2.5.2 Government officials, community leaders, and habitat and pollution managers exposed to on-going practices in rehabilitation, management, and pollution control and treatment via programme of training, study tours and exchange
- 2.6.5 Updated and adopted National Action Plans for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands
- 3.2. Small Grants Program

For past reports: http://www.unepscs.org/Regional_Working_Group_-_Coral_Reefs.html



Regional Working Group on Mangroves (RWG-M)

According to the Terms of Reference of the Regional Working Group on Coral reefs (RWG-CR), adopted at the 1st Project Steering Committee (29-30 June 2021), the purpose of RWG-CR has the responsibility ***“for coordinating the work of the National Coral Reefs Committees established in each of the participating countries; for ensuring effective implementation of project activities undertaken in the context of the achievement of the coral reef management targets of the project; and to provide a mechanism for exchange of information and experience of coral reef management activities in each country.”***

The RWG-CR of the SCS SAP Project shall consist of the Chairpersons of the National Coral Reef Committees together with one member of the SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit and selected regional experts. The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit in consultation with the National Technical Focal Points for the project shall nominate no more than four such experts to ensure a balance of expertise and specialization consistent with the mandate of the working group. The membership of the RWG-CR shall be formally established at the first meeting of the Working Group, which shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the RWG-CR will represent the RWG-CR on the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and will attend the meetings of that Committee.





Objectives

The objectives of this First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs include:

1. Present and discuss the SAP targets for coral reefs, and selected sites
2. Present the compiled information provided on the status of SAP implementation between 2008- 2020, which will be further developed into a publication in 2022
3. Present the compiled information on the national revisions to targets and sites, building upon recent and ongoing projects, initiatives and best practices;
4. Discuss executing arrangement and workplans for 2021-2022

- ✓ As well as agreeing on the RWG-M TORs and membership
- ✓ Next steps
- ✓ Recommendations from members
- ✓ Next meeting