



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)*

**National Presentations on SAP implementation
Thailand**



UNOPS

SAP Evaluation (2008-2021)

The status of the progress in achieving the SAP targets at the national level are as follows:

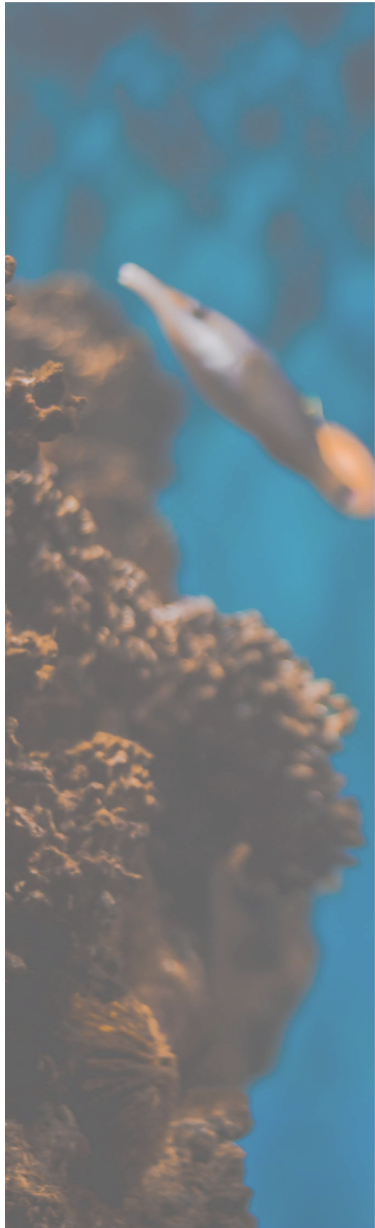
- Management capacity built for priority coral reef sites: Coral taxonomy training/coral reef monitoring training/ coral reef resilient assessment workshop*
- Rehabilitation for Coral Reefs Ecosystem in coastal and marine priority areas: Coral reef rehabilitation projects, including coral transplantation (at 10 sites), Installation of hard substrate for natural coral settlement, Installation of artificial reefs to protect against trawling near coral reefs, Installation of non-used ships as new diving sites to decrease using natural reefs (nearby Koh Chang and Koh Phai)*
- Development of improved management approaches at priority coral reef sites by: Establishment of regulation for diving tourism, Using Green Fins Approach/Reef Guardian to decrease the impact of diving tourism, Installation of mooring buoys*
- Development and utilization of management tools to address threats to priority sites: seasonal closure of most national parks (during monsoon season) and Temporary closure of diving sites impacted by bleaching (under bleaching response/management plan)*



SAP Evaluation (2008-2021)

SAP Output/Target	Implication at the national level	Details at sites
Outcome 1.2. 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably	27,490 hectares of coral reefs at 4 sites proclaimed as National Park have sustainably managed through governance structure of the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.	Mu Koh Chumporn (7,360 hectares) Mu Koh Chang (11,780 ha) Mu Koh Ang Thong (5,110 ha) Mu Koh Samet (3,240 ha)
1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites	4 sites With proper management capacity built in terms of human resources, facilities and equipment, sustainable financing mechanisms (fiscal budget, service fees/remuneration), and Protected Area Committee(PAC)	Mu Koh Chumporn (66 officers) Mu Koh Chang (95) Mu Koh Ang Thong (90) Mu Koh Samet (100)
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community- based, multiple use) improved at 46 coral reef sites	10 sites There are significant establishment of policies and legal reform; 1. Act on the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management A.D. 2015 2. National Parks Act A.D. 2019 3. Promotion of stakeholder engagement in sustainable use and conservation practices/activities 4. Application of management approach to address threat and users conflict e.g. Marine Spatial Planning	Mu Koh Chumporn Mu Koh Chang Mu Koh Ang Thong Mu Koh Samet Lan and Phai Group Si Chang Group Koh Kra Koh Losin Koh Tao Group Koh Samui
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	4 sites Establishment of key management tools such as Licensing and Entry permits, Seasonal closures, Zoning scheme, and Surveillance and law enforcement	Mu Koh Chumporn Mu Koh Chang Mu Koh Ang Thong Mu Koh Samet
1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 46 sites [based on SAP results framework]	All 14 target sites were included in quadrennial status assessment and monitoring program. The National Policy and Plan Committee on Marine and Coastal Resources Management has recently approved an annual status assessment and monitoring from 2021 onward	<i>Coral bleaching in 2010 caused more than 70% of coral deaths. As a result, coral reefs are greatly degraded. But later, coral reefs are likely to recover. Today's threats to coral reefs come from human activities.</i>





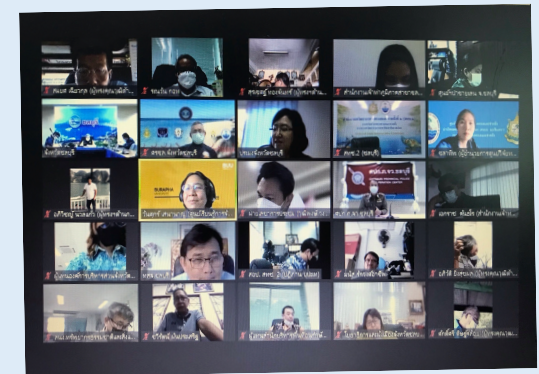
SAP Implementation: Best Practices

- *Establishment of concrete management program with effective surveillance and enforcement (National Park sites)*
- *Multi-level stakeholder engagement in: management planning and zoning scheme; involvement in coral reef rehabilitation; establishing community commitment on relevant management measures (case study in Koh Tao)*
- *Applying proper management tools/approach e.g. Marine Spatial Planning and Community-based management (Lan and Phai Group, Si Chang Group, Koh Tao, Chao Lao)*
- **Gaps and challenges** that should be prioritized may include lack of robust governance structure and sustainable financial mechanism



SAP Implementation: Consultations

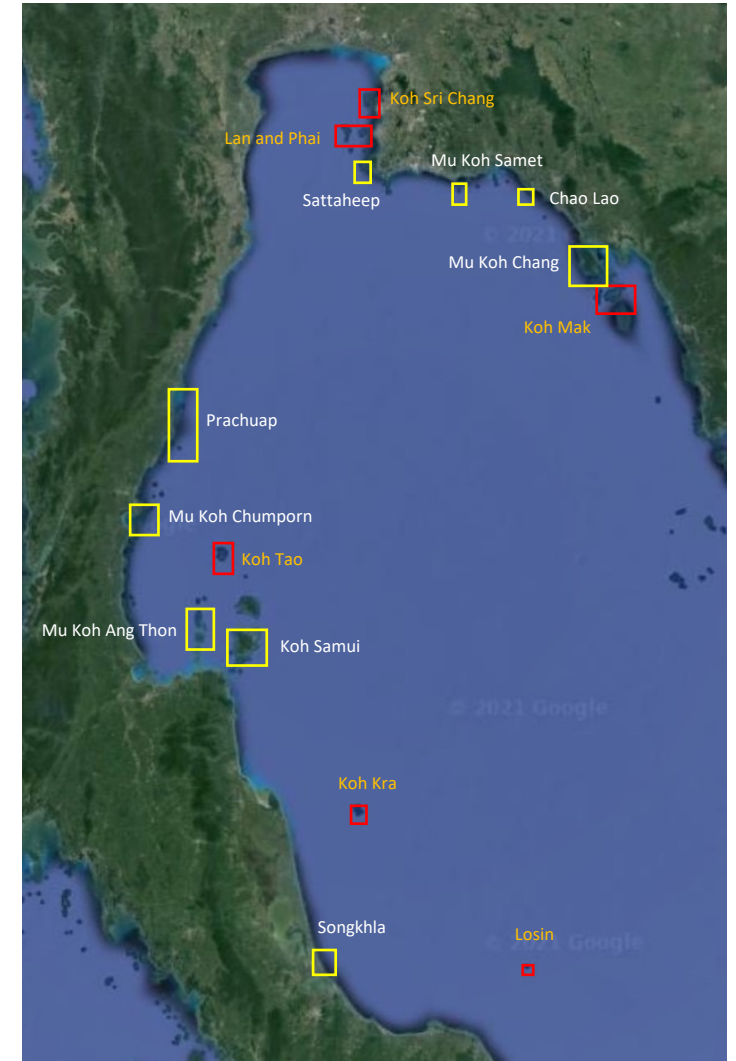
- *DMCR conducted national consultations in formulating program scope and activities for 6 target sites*
- *Site visits and focus group discussions were conducted at specific target sites (Si Chang Group , Lan Phai Group, Koh Tao)*
 - *Si Chang Group - Conflict of interest between fisheries and marine transport sectors*
 - *Lan Phai Group - Zoning scheme for recreation activities: Sea-walker, Diving, Jet Ski, and Floating restaurant etc.*
 - *Koh Tao – Conflicts resolution between fishers and diving operators; Environmentally-friendly Diving Standards*

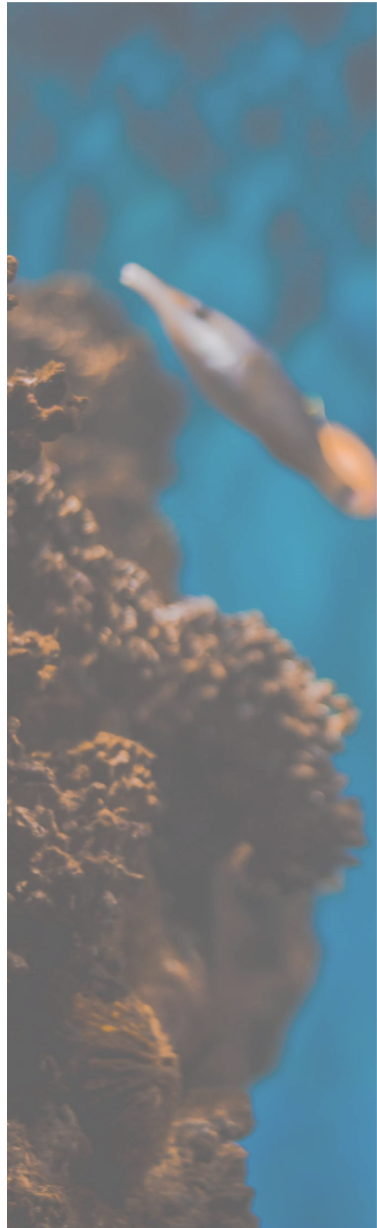




SAP Implementation: Site selection

- *Present the sites and rationale for any change. Use a map if available*
- 9 Sites removal: Mu Koh Chumporn, Mu Koh Chang, Mu Koh Ang Thong, Mu Koh Samet, Koh Samui, Chao Lao, Prachuap, Songkhla, Sattaheep
 - Rationale: Effective management and enforcement (4 National Parks), Restricted access under Royal Thai Navy jurisdiction (Sattaheep), Already included in the following 3-4 years management roadmap
- 5 Sites retained + 1 new sites: Koh Mak
 - Rationale: Priority sites with on-going development for Marine and Coastal Resources Protected Area





SAP Implementation: Activities

- *Establish law enforcement measures to minimize the impact from marine tourism industry and coastal development*
- *Establishing conservation zones, etc. (marine spatial planning, coastal use plan, zoning scheme)*
- *Educating and raising awareness for local people and other resource users on importance of coral reef conservation*
- *Establishing conservation zones, etc. (marine spatial plan, coastal use plan, zoning scheme)*
- *Building collaboration among all stakeholders and public participation by setting up networks of local communities, private sectors, and NGOs to promote coral reef conservation, monitoring, and sustainable uses of coral reefs.*



Final considerations

How to ensure long-terms achievement for sustainable management

- *National Action Plan for Coral Reef Management (2022-2026)*
- *Act on the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management A.D. 2015*
- *The Office of Marine and Coastal Resources Administration as day-today management authority*
- *Regular Governmental Financial support*
- *Ensured participation and support of local communities and local governmental administration*

