



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

First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution

Teleconference, 13 December 2022

PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION UNEP/GEF SCS SAP PROJECT



Provisional Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution

1. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF A REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION

1.1 To facilitate the achievement of the Strategic Action Programme targets for land-based pollution management, a Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution (RWG-LbP) shall be established with overall responsibility for: co-ordinating the work of the National Land-Based Pollution Committees established in each of the participating countries; for ensuring effective implementation of project activities undertaken in the context of the achievement of the land-based pollution management targets of the project; and to provide a mechanism for exchange of information and experience of land-based pollution management activities in each country.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The RWG-LbP of the SCS SAP Project shall consist of the Chairpersons of the National Land-based Pollution 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 specialisation consistent with the mandate of the working group.

2.2 The membership of the RWG-LbP 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-LbP will represent the RWG-LbP on the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and will attend the meetings of that Committee.

3. SECRETARIAT

3.1 The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit shall act as Secretariat to the RWG-LbP, and shall ensure that reports of the meetings are circulated to all members of the working group, and are copied to the members of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee. The National Land-based Pollution Committees shall serve as the principal source of national scientific and technical data and information to the RWG-LbP.

4. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit in consultation with the Chairperson shall convene meetings of the RWG-LbP according to an agreed schedule, which will form part of the agreed work plan and timetable for the work of the Committee. The first meeting of the RWG-LbP will be convened within three months of signature of the operational project document to agree on the detailed activities, workplan and timetable for the first twenty-four months of project execution leading to the project's mid-term review.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The RWG-LbP shall:

- 5.1 Provide direction, and strategic guidance to the National Land-based Pollution Committees regarding the achievement of the land-based pollution targets of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea;
- 5.2 Assume overall responsibility for the timely execution of project activities in support of the achievement of the abovementioned targets;
- 5.3 Update, in close collaboration with the National Land-based Pollution Committees, the regional land-based pollution meta-database and GIS, including meta-data on pollution hotspots and the results of pollution hotspot research pertaining to this project;
- 5.4 Develop, in close collaboration with the National Land-Based Pollution Committees, public awareness and information materials concerning the national and regional importance of effective pollution control;
- 5.5 Update in close collaboration with the National Land-based Pollution Committees, regional data sets relating to the economic impacts of land-based pollution with a view to incorporation of such valuations in national economic and development planning;
- 5.6 Receive, and review reports, data and information from the National Land-based Pollution Committees and compile the regional syntheses regarding wetland management needs and priorities;
- 5.7 Develop guidelines regarding best in land-based pollution management for adoption and application at national level in participating countries;
- 5.8 Develop, review and recommend for adoption by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee the proposed targets and timelines that may be included in a revised Strategic Action programme in order to achieve, sustainable management of land-based pollution in the longer-term;
- 5.9 Work to ensure that the nutrient carrying capacity model developed for the South China Sea marine basin is used to communicate with decision-makers about the localized versus transboundary impacts of land-based pollution in the SCS;
- 5.10 Work to ensure that the regional level assessment of impacts of key contaminants (nutrients, heavy metals, oil, litter) and national or local assessments based on NAP and hotspots;
- 5.11 Provide regional guidance on options for strengthening and harmonizing national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of land-based sources of pollution;
- 5.12 Review and evaluate, at the regional level, progress in implementation of the land-based pollution activities of the project, and provide guidance for improvement when necessary; and
- 5.13 Develop annual workplans and provide periodic progress reports to the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee.