



# **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

## **CAMBODIA REPORT ON NATIONAL EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING SAP AND NAPs FOR LAND-BASED POLLUTION DURING 2008- 2021 AND FUTURE PLANS**



**UNOPS**

# Country report on efforts and achievements of Cambodia in implementing the National Action Plan and Strategic Action Programme on Land-based Pollution 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, the GEF adopted on November 03, 2016, 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 report provides evidence on proactive contribution of Cambodia in implementing the SAP and NAPs on land-based pollution and supports to estimate country co-finance for environment management in the SCS during 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 2022-2024.

## NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2008-2021 OF CAMBODIA

### 1/ National policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land- based sources of pollution

As indicated in the SCS SAP Project document, the purpose of the land-based pollution component of the Strategic Action Programme is not to finance interventions that directly reduce the load of contaminants reaching the marine environment from land-based sources but rather the implementation of activities to support the integration of regional science with national-level policy making and planning for the management of land-based pollution. In this connection, key outcomes of component 2 include: effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution; and strengthened and harmonized national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of land-based sources of pollution.

At the national level, activities will support: reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management in participating countries; harmonization of national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management, including agreed sediment, biota, and water quality criteria; revision of national/provincial policies; development, enactment and implementation of supporting regulations for land-based pollution; and the updating and adoption of National Investment Plans for land-based pollution management in the SCS.

Although regional activities had not been conducted due to the delay in implementing the SAP with GEF support, the participating countries implemented their NAPs during 2008-2021. Table 1 below presents national efforts in improving national policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land-based sources of pollution in Cambodia.

**Table 1. National efforts in improving national policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land-based sources of pollution in [Cambodia]**

<b>Baselines in 2008</b>	<b>Regional Outputs</b>	<b>Achievements during 2008-2021</b>
Lesson learned in community-based wastewater mgmt. in Cambodia documented and shared regionally although other examples from East Asian seas region largely focus on broad scale ICM planning	2.3.1 National best practices in waste water management, law enforcement, and community and industry participation in managing land-based sources of pollution documented and shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoE have set up working group on water quality controlling and monitoring.</li> <li>- MoE have sent the group member to take water sample from the public water for detecting the pollution substances from urban areas. As result, the water quality is under standard.</li> <li>- Installed and operated small treatment plant for wastewater in Preah Sihanouk Ville</li> <li>- Conducted the research study to define the pollution factors surrounding Mekong River by cooperation among Ministry of Environment, WEPA, Royal University of Phnom Penh and Cambodia Technology Institute</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks limited by predominantly single sector approaches	2.3.2 Review of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management in participating countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sub-decree on wastewater management and treatment system dated on 25 December 2017</li> <li>- Sub-decree on plastic waste dated on 10 October 2017</li> <li>- Sub-decree on product and plastic waste management (On-going)</li> <li>- Sub-decree on water pollution control dated on 06 April 1999</li> </ul>
Lack of Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution management	2.3.3 Harmonized national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management [including agreed sediment, biota, & water quality criteria]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prakas on water quality indicators dated on 02 August 2021</li> <li>- Prakas on persistent organic pollutants promulgation from outbreak dated on 20 April 2020</li> <li>- Prakas on technical guideline on equipment installation and waste water treatment process dated on 31 May 2022</li> </ul>
Absence of clear and effective policies, laws, and regulations relating to control of land-based pollution	2.3.4 Revised national/provincial policies and supporting regulations for land-based pollution developed, enacted and implemented by Yr 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed policy on urban waste management 2020-2030,</li> <li>- Sub-decree on establishment of urban waste management dated on 16 February 2021</li> <li>- Conducted public awareness on plastic waste at schools and urban areas</li> <li>- Plastic action plan and roadmap for Cambodia (on-going process)</li> <li>- Developed environmental code (will be finalized, soon)</li> </ul>

		- Circular economy strategy and action plan, 2021 - Enacted the policy on reduce of using plastic products and strengthen the management of plastic waste in short period, 2022
Guidelines for assessing the economic impacts of land-based pollution developed but not yet applied as part of benefit-cost analysis of pollution mgmt. in the SCS	2.3.5 Updated and adopted National Investment Plans for land-based pollution management in the SCS [Yr 5]	N/A
Lack of sustainable mechanism to finance regional support actions including M&E	2.3.6 Regional financial mechanism for land-based pollution management [Yr 5]	N/A

## 2/ Status in improving water quality in identified hot spots and monitoring stations

The RWG-LbP characterized 17 hot spots and listed 400 monitoring stations in the coastal waters of countries bordering the SCS for the period of 2002 – 2004. The targets for the land-based pollution component are to set and maintain region-wide water quality standards and water quality objectives which will assist in maintaining health of the coastal ecosystems. The specific targets for improving water quality are to meet ASEAN seawater quality (14 parameters) criteria (except pollutants from scientifically identified natural sources, if any) for:

- 90% of monitoring stations in the 17 hot spots characterized by the RWG-LbP between 2002 – 2004;
- 80% of other monitoring stations (more than 400 at that time) in coastal waters of the South China Sea.

The concrete numbers of hot spots and monitoring stations as targeted for implementing the SAP in participating countries are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Targets for improvement of water quality in hot spots and monitoring station of each country

Targets & achievement	Cam	China	Ind	Phi	Thai	Vie
90% of hot spots meet water quality criteria	3	3	3	3	2	3
80% of water monitoring stns meet water quality criteria	6	80	80	7	136	17

Preliminary statistics allow to describe the achievement of Cambodia in improving water quality as follows:

- Number of hot spots meet water quality criteria and 60%-70% compared with the target: [3 hot spots & 60%-70%]
- Number of monitoring stations meet water quality criteria and % compared with the target: [3 stations & 80%-90%]

### **3/ Challenges and lessons learnt in implementing the NAP in Cambodia during 2008-2021**

#### Challenges:

- Inadequate of financial source to support for NAP implementation, workshops, and other activities
- Capacity of officials is limited
- Inadequate infrastructure and equipment to deal with plastic waste
- Public awareness of people to participate in LBP management is limited

#### Lessons learnt:

- Technical steps for developing NAP and implementation
- Report system by online
- Set up working group on water quality controlling and monitoring

### **4/ Brief on coordinating national activities and contributing regional activities in next 2 years, 2023-2024**

- Introduction of Specialised Executing Agency on Land-based Pollution in Cambodia: To be updated.
- Outline on National Working Group on Land-based Pollution: To be updated:
- Nomination of experts for database and modelling for participation in regional activities: To be updated.
- Recommendations: To be updated.