



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

FIRST MEETING OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON SEAGRASS

*Teleconference, 3 December 2021
13.00 – 17.00 Indochina time (ICT)*

National Presentations on SAP implementation Of Cambodia



UNOPS



SAP Evaluation (2008-2021)

- Has regulation (Brakas) to create Marine Fisheries Management Area of Archipelagoes of Po and Tonsay islands in Kep Province.
- Established Koh Rong Marine Park in Pres Sihanouk Province
- Established the National Committee for coastal areas development and management
- All the coastal provinces have their own 5 year development planing
- Two sites of seagrass areas namely Kampot and Kep Beach (11,446 ha) have been selected for implementing SAP in Cambodia
- Has made boundary demarcation and put some concrete poles and boxes to protect seagrass areas against illegal fishing activities
- All these two sites of seagrass are well management and protection from illegal fishing activities.





SAP Evaluation (2008-2021)

SAP Output/Target	Implication at the national level	Details at sites
Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 15,848 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	There totally 11,446 ha of seagrass under sustainable use and management	Kampot Province and Kep Beach & Koh Tonsay
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Total area 11,446 ha of seagrass beds were under sustainable management	Kampot Province and Kep Beach & Koh Tonsay
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal & institutional reforms	There are two sites of the management plan of MPAs	-Archipelagoes of Po and Tonsay islands in Kep Province - Koh Rong Marine Park in Pres Sihanouk Province
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project	There is one new MPA is under initiation of establishment by Ministry of Environment	Koh Kong island marine park, in Koh Kong Province
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 20 sites [based on SAP results framework]	There are two sites (1 in Kep and 1 in Pres Sihanouk province)	The seagrasses of the two sites is in good condition of protection and management





SAP Implementation: Best Practices

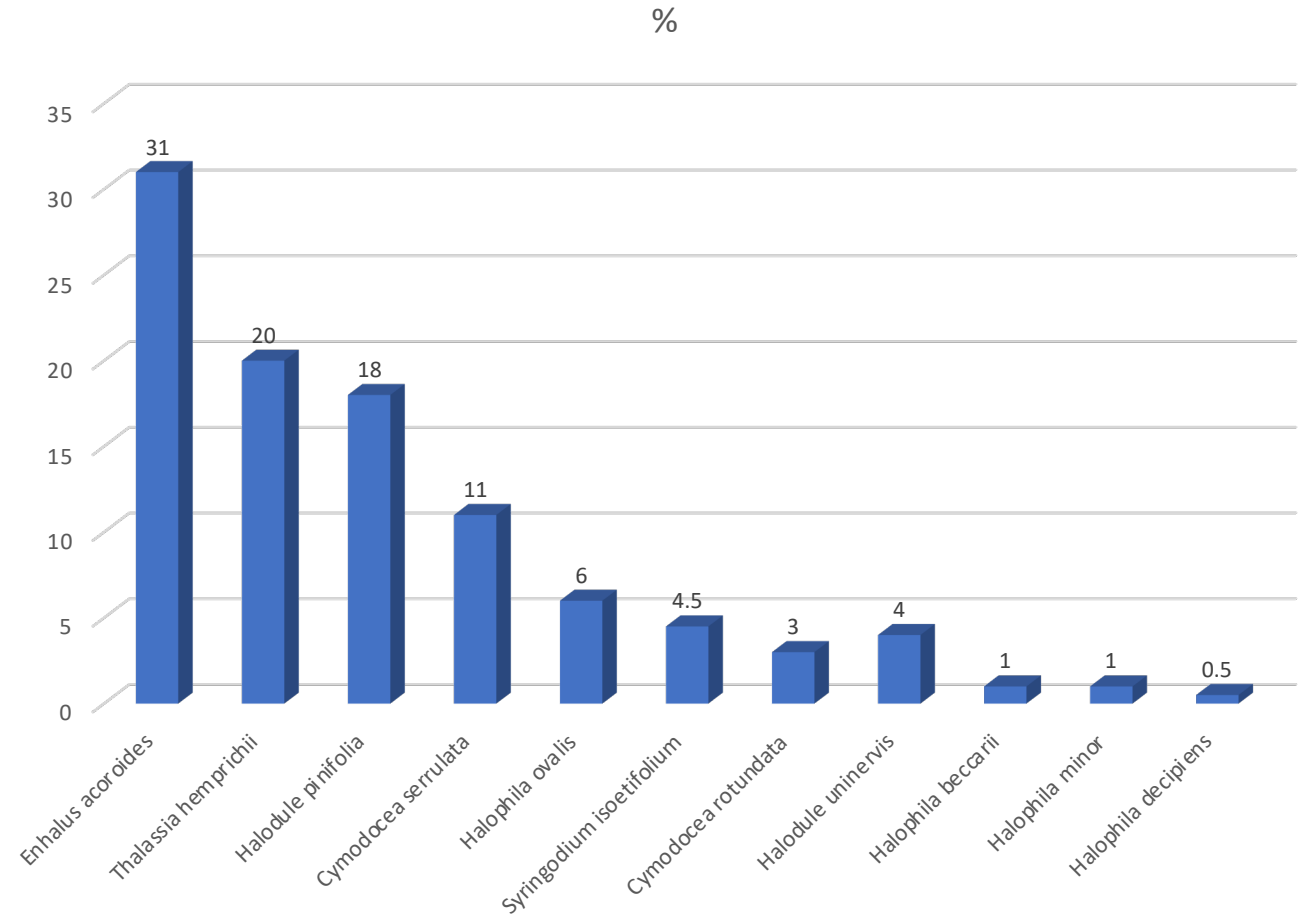
- *For good practices and lessons learned that should be replicated in the project execution*
- It has laws and regulations support for the protection and management of seagrass areas
- The participation support from all concerned stakeholders (National level, Provincial levels, and local authorities) and especial from coastal communities.
- The communities of fisheries and the communities of protected areas have been established and recognized officially to participation management of coastal resources (e.g. seagrasses resource)
- Have widely disseminated to all the stakeholders and coastal communities aware about the establishment of the Koh Rong Marine Park and Marine Fisheries Management Area of Archipelagoes of Po and Tonsay islands
- The clear boundary demarcation and putting such concrete boxes and poles in seagrass areas can be a good process for seagrass areas management
- *Some gaps or challenges to achieve long-term sustainability of actions*
- Limited budget and equipment for supporting the seagrass implementation activities
- All the stakeholders are still limited knowledge and experiences on seagrass
- lack of clear policies and regulations for seagrass management





SAP Implementation: Consultations

- The site data collected had been conducted in Kampot province and found that there are 11 species of seagrass were identified in Kampot Province



SAP Implementation: Consultations

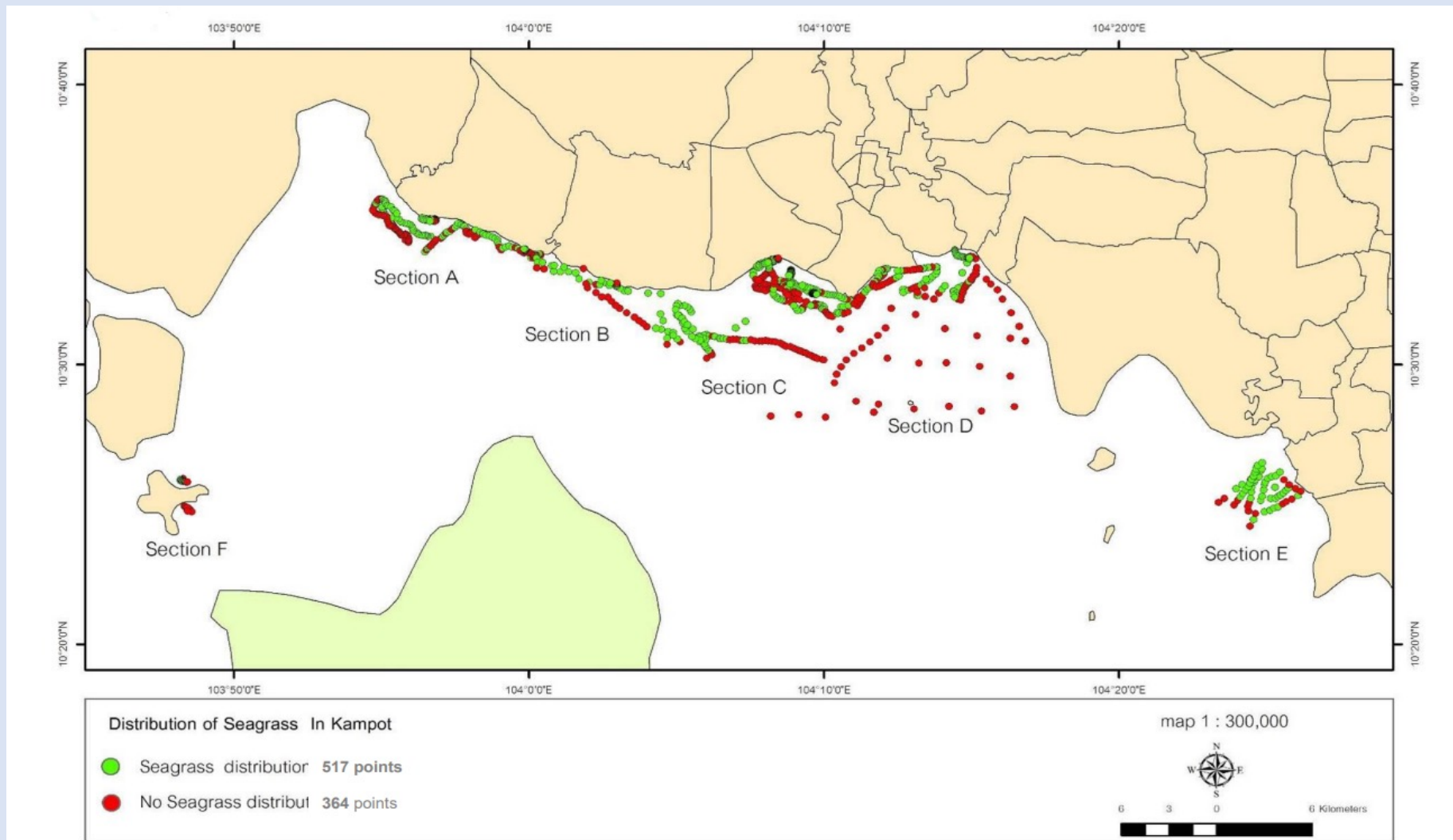


Percentage cover of seagrass	Seagrass status	Description
More than 75%	Very good	Over 75% cover of all seagrass species
51-74.99%	Good	51 - 74.99% cover of all seagrass species
25-50.99%	Moderate	25 - 50.99% cover of all seagrass species
1-24.99%	Natural cover & degraded	Less than 25% cover of all seagrass species
0%	No seagrass	No seagrass in this point





Seagrass areas in Kampot Province





SAP Implementation: Activities

- Need capacity building to concern stakeholders (National, Province, District, Commune levels) and as well as coastal communities on the concern of seagrass protection and management.
- Need to support coastal communities along the coastal provinces to prepare the seagrass management plans and to mainstream into their own communities management plans.
- The National team need to create a clear workplan for seagrass management.
- Need to stop the illegal fishing activities that operate in seagrass areas
- Need to make a clearly boundary demarcation for seagrass areas
- Need to put some more concrete poles to protect seagrass areas



Final considerations

- To further sustain the project achievement is possible to mainstream the seagrass protection and management plan into all levels of planning (such as national level, Provincial level, District level, commune level and coast communities level) with a clear strategic for implementation
- To establish research and monitoring facilities to monitor seagrass status to support conservation and management
- Increase awareness of managers and communities on the ecological roles and economic values of seagrass to realize the balance between utilization and conservation of this resources
- Build cross-sectorial capacity for sustainable seagrass management at national, provincial, and local levels





Thank you for your attention



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