



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

## FIRST MEETING OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS

*Teleconference, 7 December 2021  
13.00 – 17.00 Indochina time (ICT)*

## 2.2. Organization of Work

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# Summary facts

<b>Participating Countries:</b>	Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
<b>Implementation Agency:</b>	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<b>Executing Agencies:</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
<b>GEF Funding:</b>	15 million USD (with approximately 83 million USD in co-financing)
<b>Timeline:</b>	2018-2024
<b>Web-links:</b>	<a href="https://scssap.org">https://scssap.org</a>

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 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations**

- 1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons 9 estuaries, 5 tidal flats, 1 peat swamp and 1 non-peat swamp and associated policy, legal & institutional reforms
- 1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e., non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).
- 1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation [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\\_on\\_Wetlands.html](http://www.unepscs.org/Regional_Working_Group_on_Wetlands.html)

# Regional Working Group on Seagrass (RWG-SG)

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

The RWG-W of the SCS SAP Project shall consist of the Chairpersons of the National Wetland 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-W 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-W will represent the RWG-W 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 Wetlands include:

1. Present and discuss the SAP targets for wetlands, 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-SG TORs and membership
- ✓ Next steps
- ✓ Recommendations from members
- ✓ Next meeting

*And above all to revitalize the network of experts*