



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

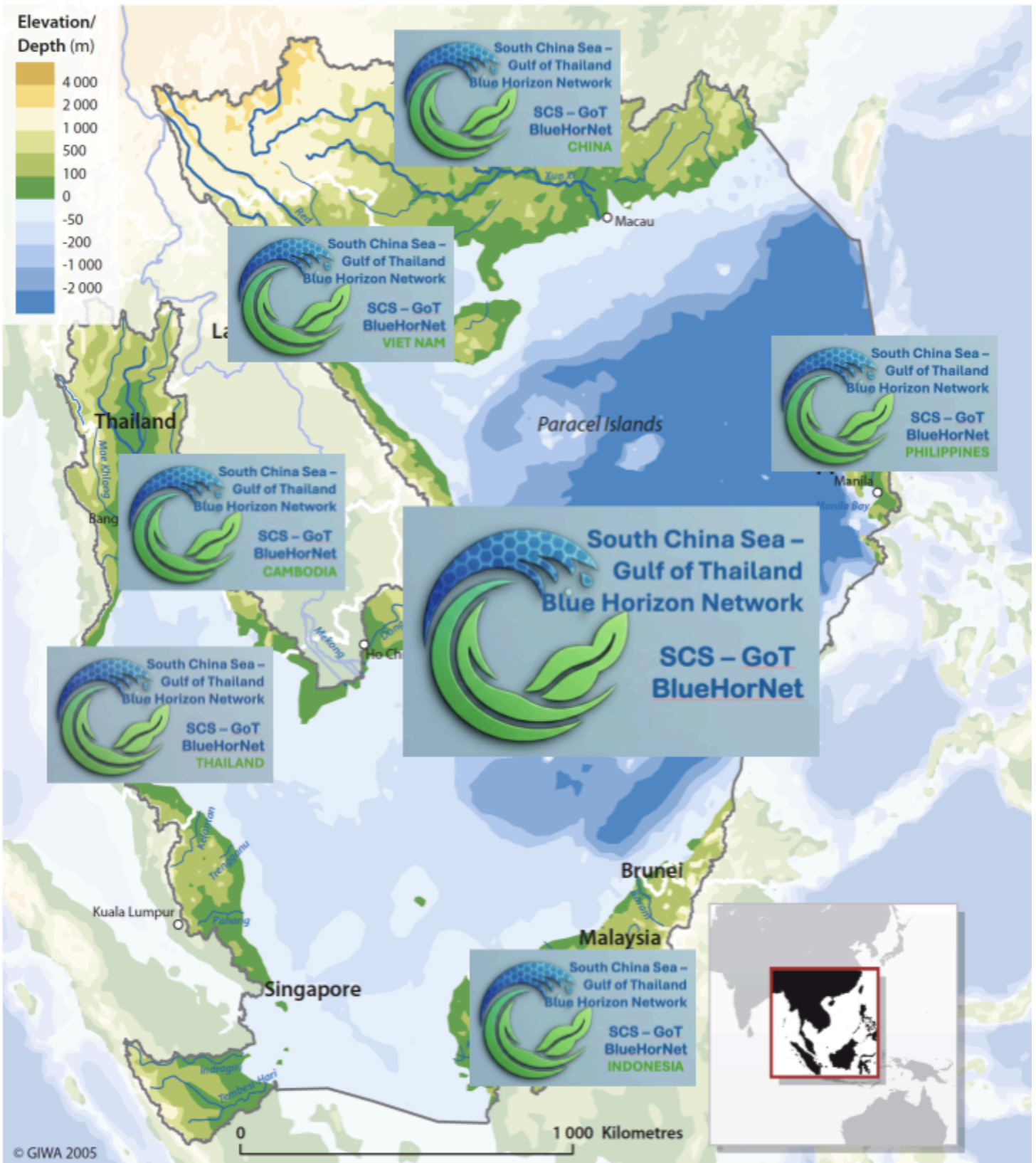
Fourth Meeting of the SCS SAP Steering Committee

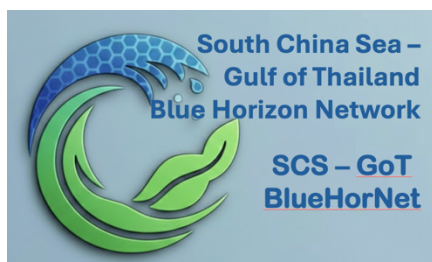
22-24 June 2026, Hainan, China

**REGIONAL SAP FRAMEWORK
South China Sea – Gulf of Thailand Blue Horizon Network
(SCS-GoT BlueHorNet)**



SOUTH CHINA SEA – GULF OF THAILAND BLUE HORIZON NETWORK (SCS-GoT BlueHorNet)





A Framework to Integrate Strategic Regional and National Action Plans for Addressing Transboundary Environmental Priorities in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand LMEs

Table 1. Architecture of the SCS-GoT Integrated Strategic Action Programme Framework.

AN INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK OF STRATEGIC TRANSBOUNDARY ACTION PLANS FOR THE SOUTH CHINA SEA & GULF OF THAILAND LMEs [PROGRAMME CONCEPT NOTE]				
TRANSBOUNDARY THEMES	REGIONAL ELEMENTS		NATIONAL ELEMENTS	
	REGIONAL PROJECT CONCEPT	REGIONAL GOVERNANCE	NATIONAL GOVERNANCE	NATIONAL PROJECT CONCEPT
1. Pollution				
1.1. Plastics	Draft Regional Project Concept Note 1: Pollution		Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country A	
1.2. Nutrients – Fertilizer N			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country B	
1.3. Nutrients – Sewage			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country C	
1.4. Nutrients – Aquaculture			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country D...X	
2. Ecosystems				
2.1. Transboundary MPA & OECM Networks	Draft Regional Project Concept Note 2: Ecosystems		Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country A	
2.2. Restoration & Management of Biodiversity Hot Spots			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country B	
2.3. Tradable Carbon Credits for Conservation and Blue Economy Community Livelihoods			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country C...X	
3. Marine Living Resources				
3.1. Sustainable Marine Living Resources and Ecosystem-Based Management	Draft Regional Project Concept Note 3: Marine Living Resources		Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country A	
3.2. Sustainable Aquaculture as Blue Economy Livelihood Base			Draft National Project Concept Notes: Participating Country B...X	

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Key Points in the design of SCS-GoT BlueHorNet, an Integrated SAP Framework:

1. **The transboundary environmental priority actions were based on recommended actions indicated in the Regional and National TDA Reports, and those identified during the Third Meeting of the SCS SAP RSTC in January 2026. ([See File 01_TB+NationalActions](#))**
2. **The Tabulated Framework above (Table 1), and the elaborated excel table ([File02_SAP Framework](#)) show the THEMATIC framework architecture and detailed thematic components respectively.**
 - 2.1. The transboundary environmental priority actions fall under three ecosystem connectivity themes – (a) pollution; (b) ecosystems; and (c) marine living resources.; and under three cross-cutting themes - (d) governance; (e) socioeconomics and (f) climate change.
 - 2.2. Actions targeting pollution, ecosystems, marine living resources, and governance actions are directly proposed. Those for socioeconomics are addressed via livelihood opportunities for local communities. In the case of climate change, these are directly addressed by climate-relevant thematic actions, and proposed livelihoods that generate carbon credits via conservation, restoration and biomass production; as well as by climate-informed ecosystem management.
3. **The Framework integrates both Regional and National Elements (Table 1).**
 - 3.1. For Governance, the regional and national elements are highlighted where these need to be mutually reinforcing in design and intent. The lack of a Regional Seas Convention for the South China Sea – Gulf of Thailand underscores the need to develop regional action frameworks for each of the transboundary connectivity themes.
 - 3.2. In addition to governance, establishing regional mechanisms for managing tradable carbon credits for ecosystem and livelihood management through a regional financial mechanism is a critical element of the Integrated SAP (i.e. links with Molly Dean's work).
 - 3.3. The establishment of a regional network of transboundary MPAs and OECMs and the sound management of transboundary marine living resources are two fundamental environmental action targets of the Integrated SAP.
 - 3.4. The National Elements by ecosystem connectivity theme and by cross-cutting theme especially governance, are foundational to the success of an Integrated SAP in addressing transboundary environmental priorities.
 - 3.5. As such, the Regional SAP for the SCS and GoT LMEs integrates both regional and national elements. The National Elements should reflect national aspirational goals and priorities. Furthermore, national contributions need not be symmetrical across participating countries, although the optimal strength of the Regional SAP may be achieved only when all participating countries each contribute effectively to achieving shared transboundary environmental priorities.

4. **Regional Project Concept Notes:** Draft concept notes for the Regional SAP and Thematic Regional Projects on Pollution, Ecosystems and Marine Living Resources have been prepared by the TDA-SAP Team to seed the Regional Valuation Exercise. Those for Regional Governance and Funding Mechanisms are in progress.
 - 4.1. Regional Programme Concept Note for SCS-GoT BlueHorNet ([File03 BlueHorNet](#))
 - 4.2. Regional Project Concept Note for Pollution ([File04 Regional SAP on Pollution](#))
 - 4.3. Regional Project Concept Note for Ecosystems ([File05 Regional SAP on Ecosystems](#))
 - 4.4. Regional Project Concept Note for Marine Living Resources ([File06 Regional SAP on Marine Living Resources](#))
 - 4.5. Regional Project Concept Note for Governance (in progress)
 - 4.6. Regional Project Concept Note for Funding Mechanisms including Tradable Carbon Credits (In progress)
5. National Project Concept Notes for transboundary and non-transboundary actions are designed and assessed using total economic valuation by the National SAP and Valuation Teams.
6. A generic outline for thematic/sub-thematic preparation of the SAP Reports are provided in Table 2. Please note that the National SAP and Valuation Teams contribute to the Regional SAP, and prepare National SAP Reports to address non-transboundary environmental issues which are of national priorities of each participating country. Preparation of the non-TB national SAP Reports follow the same outline as those for transboundary priority actions.
 - 6.1. The Regional SAP Report will contain all regional and national project concept notes pertinent to the Regional SAP Framework.
 - 6.2. The National SAP Report will contain all the National Project Concept Notes that address transboundary environmental priorities.
 - 6.3. In addition, the National SAP Report may contain National Project Concept Notes that address non-transboundary national environmental priorities. The potential funding mechanism for these non-TB national actions should also be identified in the National SAP Reports.
7. Overall Timeline for SAP Preparation
 - 7.1. March 23 – MAY 23, 2026: Preparation of Draft Regional and National SAP Reports
 - 7.2. June 2026: Presentation of the Draft SAP Reports to and Endorsement Solicitation from the PSC Meeting
 - 7.3. July- September, 2026: Finalize SAP Reports for IGM Endorsement in November 2026

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Table 2. Thematic Outline for Transboundary (Regional and National) and Non-Transboundary (National) Strategic Action Programmes.

Theme	SAP To Address Transboundary (TB) Environmental Priorities		SAP To Address Non-TB National Environmental Priorities
	Regional TB Component	National TB Component	
Authorship	Regional SAP & Valuation Teams	National SAP & Valuation Teams	National SAP & Valuation Teams
1. Pollution			
1.1 Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issues/ Status/Context from TDA Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Achievements of Prior SAP Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Goal and Targets <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Actions and Total Valuation (Costs and Benefits of Actions) <input type="checkbox"/> Total Valuation (CBA) of Inaction <input type="checkbox"/> Governance and success indicators <input type="checkbox"/> Funding mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issues/ Status/Context from TDA Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Achievements of Prior SAP Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Goal and Targets <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Actions and Total Valuation (Costs and Benefits of Actions) <input type="checkbox"/> Total Valuation (CBA) of Inaction <input type="checkbox"/> Governance and success indicators <input type="checkbox"/> Funding mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issues/ Status/Context from TDA Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Achievements of Prior SAP Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Goal and Targets <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Actions and Total Valuation (Costs and Benefits of Actions) <input type="checkbox"/> Total Valuation (CBA) of Inaction <input type="checkbox"/> Governance and success indicators <input type="checkbox"/> Funding mechanisms
1.2 Fertilizer	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
1.3 Sewage	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
1.4 Aquaculture	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
2. Ecosystems			
2.1 MPA and OECM Networks	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
2.2 Restoration and Management of Biodiversity Hotspots	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
2.3 Tradeable Carbon Credits for Conservation and Community Livelihoods	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
3. Marine Living Resources			
3.1. Sustainable Marine Living Resources and Ecosystem-Based Management	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
3.2. Sustainable Aquaculture as Blue Economy Livelihood Base	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
4. Governance Architecture and Collaborative Mechanisms	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY
5. Finance Architecture and Collaborative Mechanisms	DITTO	DITTO	THEME CHOICE IF NATIONAL PRIORITY