



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 Seagrass

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PLAN FOR SAP IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SCS SAP PROJECT, SEAGRASS FOCAL AREA, 2021-2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

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.”

This will be achieved through the cooperation of participating countries, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, public-private sectors partnerships, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), leading scientists from the region. The project will also contribute to global targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.

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

Related to seagrass management under the component 1, the Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 26,036 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea was identified. Activities in support of achieving Outcome 1.3 are aimed at assisting countries in effectively managing their seagrass resources and ecosystems in a sustainable manner including supporting countries in engaging in the relevant national reforms. This will be done through: regional co-ordination of national actions in SAP implementation; the regional sharing of experiences and practices; and the exchange of views and knowledge among the scientific and local communities with local government.

Specific national activities will include putting under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations twenty seagrass areas, amending national management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions, designating 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project and establishing mechanisms for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 20 sites.

This document summarizes the plans for implementing the SAP for seagrass focal area at the national level during 2021 – 2023. This will be used for follow-up activities and their outputs in next 2 years and wrap up the implementation of the SAP at the regional level.

2. PLANNED SAP IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (2021-2023)

2.1. CAMBODIA

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 1. Cambodia summary of original and revised seagrass targets and sites

Regional Output	SAP Proposed Sites and Targets (ha)	SCS SAP Project			
		Site 1 – Kep beach and Koh Tongsay Archipelago	Site 2 - Kampot Beach	Site 3 - Chroy Bros	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Kep Beach & Koh Tonsay (1,350) Kampot (10,096)	-	1,500	1,000	2,500
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		-	-	-	-
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas		731	-	-	731
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites		-	-	-	-
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	11,446	731	1,500	1,000	3,231

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 2. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
Site 3 - Chroy Bros	<i>Only elaborate if not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site

Table 3. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1 – Kep beach and Koh Tongsay Archipelago	Site 2 - Kampot Beach	Site 3 - Chroy Bros	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Review policy and legal aspects of seagrass management including recommendations, drafting and approval of policy and legal reforms; Mapping seagrass area distribution; Review and development of management plans	Review policy and legal aspects of seagrass management including recommendations, drafting and approval of policy and legal reforms; Mapping seagrass area distribution; Review and development of management plans	Review policy and legal aspects of seagrass management including recommendations, drafting and approval of policy and legal reforms; Mapping seagrass area distribution; Review and development of management plans	Development and formulation of policy and legal reforms to support sustainable use management of priority seagrass areas in Cambodia	Management plans will be developed for sites 2 and 3 but no proposed activities for management
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	N/A	N/A	N/A		It is clear if there existed MPA or not yet? Support will be for amended management plan or development of new MPA/
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	Identifying key threats to seagrass and identify MPA category; Development, approval and implementation of management plan	N/A	N/A		
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	Develop seagrass management results framework and associated indicator sets including guidelines and conduct of training; Establish network of seagrass scientists for collation of regionally comparable data; Reporting on management effectiveness of seagrass areas	Develop seagrass management results framework and associated indicator sets including guidelines and conduct of training; Establish network of seagrass scientists for collation of regionally comparable data; Reporting on management effectiveness of seagrass areas	Develop seagrass management results framework and associated indicator sets including guidelines and conduct of training; Establish network of seagrass scientists for collation of regionally comparable data; Reporting on management effectiveness of seagrass areas	Development of guidelines and annual training on seagrass monitoring	It is appropriate if developing the only guideline for using at all sites

2.1. CHINA

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 4. China summary of original and revised seagrass targets and sites

Output	SAP proposed sites & target area (ha)	SCS SAP Project			
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Hepu (540) Liussha (900) LiAn (320) Xincun (200)	XX	XX	XX	XX
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		XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas		XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites		XX	XX	XX	XX
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	1,960	XX	XX	XX	XX

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 5. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
<i>Site 1 – Name</i>	<i>Only elaborate if not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>
<i>Site 2 – Name</i>	<i>As above</i>
<i>Site 3 - Name</i>	<i>As above</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site.

Table 6. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
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	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	

2.3. INDONESIA

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 7. Indonesia summary of original and revised seagrass targets and sites

Output	SAP Proposed Sites and Targets (ha)	SCS SAP Project			
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	East Bintan (1,500)	XX	XX	XX	XX
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	Temiang (5) Medang-Mesanak (5) Mapor (275) Anambas (35)	XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	Bangka-Belitung (350)	XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	Senayang (250)	XX	XX	XX	XX
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	2,420	XX	XX	XX	XX

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 8. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
<i>Site 1 – Name</i>	<i>Only elaborate if not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>
<i>Site 2 – Name</i>	<i>As above</i>
<i>Site 3 - Name</i>	<i>As above</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site.

Table 9. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
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	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	

2.4. PHILIPPINES

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 10. Philippines summary of original and revised searass targets and sites

Output	SAP Proposed Sites and Targets (ha)	SCS SAP Project				
		Site 1 – Cape Bolinao	Site 2 – Looc-Lubang	Site 3 - Masinloc	Site 4 – El Nido	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Cape Bolinao (6,720) Puerto Galera (50) Honda Bay (150)	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
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		XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas		XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites		XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	6,920	1,290	1,492	162.11	412.85	3,356.85

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 11. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
<i>Site 1 –</i>	<i>Only elaborate of not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site.

Table 12. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1 – Cape Bolinao	Site 2 – Looc-Lubang	Site 3 – Masinloc	Site 4 – El Nido	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Updating of Municipal Ordinance 2008-02	Seagrass assessment and mapping including updating; Information and education campaign and materials; institutional strengthening	Information and education campaign and materials; Installation of monitoring blocks within seagrass habitat and monitoring sites	Information and education campaign and materials; Installation of marker buoys on marine SPZ with critical seagrass beds	<i>To be completed</i>	No inputs from NIR on Seagrass in the Philippines
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	Preparation of Seagrass Reserve Strategic Management Plan; Integration of management of Seagrass Reserve and other seagrass areas in the municipality's CLUP; Strengthening and updating Seagrass Reserve Ordinance; Implementation of enforcement activities, continuous CEPA and providing regular funding support	Review and update management plan, duly approved by management board; Institutional strengthening	Update PAMP-MOBPLS with BAMS of seagrass monitoring system through resolution; Strengthen the Quick Response Composite Team within MOBPLS	Review existing marine management zones vis-à-vis results of the seagrass monitoring and propose policy through resolution	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	N/A	N/A		N/A	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	Capacity building on seagrass assessment and monitoring including procurement of seagrass assessment tools and equipment; Conduct of regular seagrass monitoring	Establishment of monitoring sites; Conduct monitoring, assessment and reporting of seagrass sites; Support for technical staff	Monitoring of seagrass sites and water quality within MOBPLS	Monitoring of seagrass sites and water quality within ENTMRPA	<i>To be completed</i>	

2.5. THAILAND

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 13. Thailand summary of original and revised seagrass targets and sites

Output	SAP Proposed Sites and Targets (ha)	SCS SAP Project	
		Site 1 – Chaiya - Phunphin district (Bandon Bay)	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	N/A	XX	XX
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		XX	XX
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas		XX	XX
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites		XX	XX
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	N/A	XX	XX

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 14. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
Chaiya -Phunphin district (Bandon Bay)	<i>Only elaborate if not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site.

Table 15. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1 - Chaiya -Phunphin district (Bandon Bay)	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Develop the Dugong conservation plan; Establish networking for the conservation of rare sea creatures	<i>To be completed</i>	
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	Develop and prepare the recommendation to amend the relevant fishery law concerning the measurement to control the cockle farm activities including processing of appropriate zoning area; Establish zones through the development of specific law under DMCR particularly Article 22; Publish and promote zoning schemes including installation of signs boundary markers; Organized and conduct forum and awareness raising activity for all stakeholders including information and education campaign; Support the management of Crab Bank in 6 communities	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	Develop conservation plan for the protection of rare sea creatures; Provide training for the community on the rescue and life saving for Dugong	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	Conduct survey and research with the use of new technology (e.g. drone) on seagrass bed including status, type and area of seagrass; Conduct demonstration activity for the restoring seagrass beds by promoting and supporting conservation and protection, such as seagrass plantation and transplantation; Conduct survey of the Dugong population in the site; Establish management mechanism (including M&E) and strengthening on-site management, coordination and communication	<i>To be completed</i>	

2.6. VIETNAM

Updated Sites and Targets

The table below summarizes the original and revised sites and targets as included in the NIR

Table 14. Vietnam summary of original and revised seagrass targets and sites

Output	SAP Proposed Sites and Targets (ha)	SCS SAP Project			
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Total (ha)
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Phu Quoc archipelago (3,000) Con Dao Islands (200) Thuy Trieu lagoon (350) Tam Giang – Cau Hai lagoon (1,000)	XX	XX	XX	XX
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		XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas		XX	XX	XX	XX
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites		XX	XX	XX	XX
Target for management through the SCS SAP project		4,550	XX	XX	XX

Below is a summary of justification for any revision in the sites and targets

Table 17. Brief justification on any revision of sites

Site	Brief justification on selection
<i>Site 1 – Name</i>	<i>Only elaborate if not an original SAP selected site. Justification may include 1) that the site requires urgent support due to unsustainable land-use 2) There has been significant habitat degradation over the last 10 years 3) National plans and/or projects will prioritize this site and will complement the SCS SAP funding to ensure sustainability 4) any other reasons as appropriate</i>
<i>Site 2 – Name</i>	<i>As above</i>
<i>Site 3 - Name</i>	<i>As above</i>

Description of proposed activities per site

The full description of activities per site are included in the NIR. The subsequent table is a summary of main activities per site.

Table 18. Summary of planned per site and cross cutting activities

Output	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Cross cutting activities (national level)	PCU Comments
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totalling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
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	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be completed</i>	