

Third Meeting of the SCS SAP Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC-3)



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26-28 Jan 2026
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Marine Pollution: Trends & Transitions

Regional TDA 2.0 Assessment: South China Sea & Gulf of Thailand

Gil S. Jacinto

CAMBODIA • CHINA • INDONESIA • PHILIPPINES • THAILAND • VIET NAM



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NUTRIENT EUTROPHICATION

Drivers include synthetic fertilizers, intensive agriculture, and aquaculture.

12M

Tons Nitrogen / Year



River-borne loads have doubled since 1985.
Agriculture drives 52% of N exports.

1M

Tons Phosphorus / Year



Domestic waste contributes **23% of Nitrogen** and **34% of Phosphorus.**

Data Source: L.T. McManus





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GLOBAL PLASTIC HOTSPOTS

Top Regional Emitters



China
2.68M
Mt/Year leakage



Philippines
1.70M
Mt/Year leakage



Hotspot Zone: SCS-GoT region forms a critical global point for plastic leakage into the ocean.



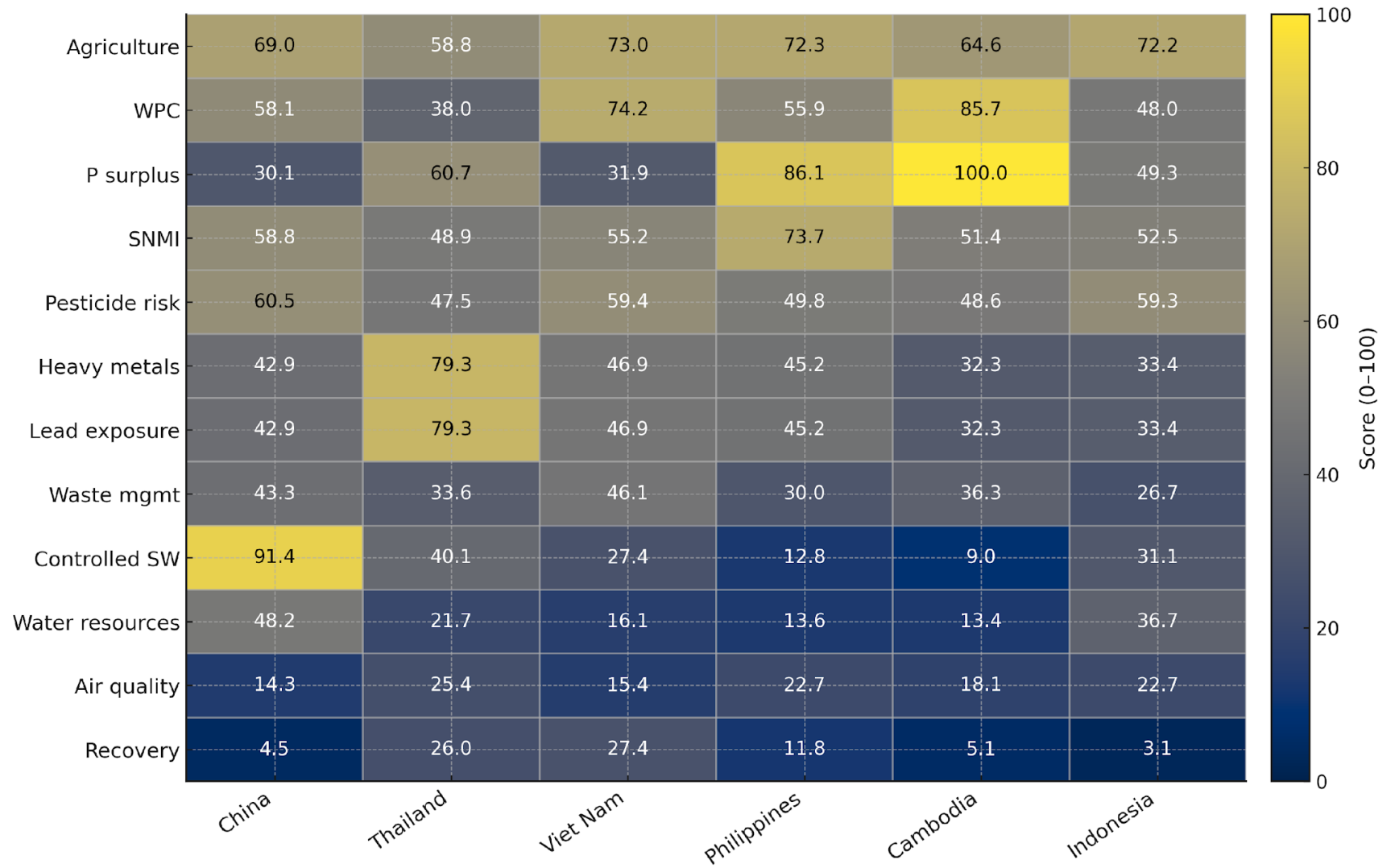
Action Plan

Focus on strengthening solid waste management in fast-growing coastal cities and river basins.

Sept 2025; <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/where-the-worlds-ocean-plastic-waste-comes-from/>



Heat Map of 2024 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scores for Pollution-related Parameters





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EPI 2024: REGIONAL PERFORMANCE



Industrial Controls

China and Thailand lead in heavy metal and controlled solid waste management through fuel standards.



Structural Gaps

Widespread low scores (<40) in Water Resources and Air Quality across all participating countries.



Policy Signal

Concrete regional models exist, but coordinated investment is required to bridge the gap with global best practices.



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CLIMATE PRESSURE: TYPHOON FALLOUT

Total Economic Losses in \$Billions. Typhoons trigger episodic “toxic pulses” by mobilizing sewage and industrial effluents.



<https://www.voroniapp.com/other/The-Economic-Fallout-of-Typhoons-2379>





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2030 ROADMAP

Coordinated investment in land-based controls and solid waste infrastructure to safeguard marine biodiversity



Strengthen solid waste systems

Industrial design for resilience

Regional plastic governance



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Thank you