



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

*Second Regional Inception Phase Meeting
10.00 – 12.30 Bangkok Time, Friday 4th December 2020*

INCEPTION PHASE GUIDANCE FOR COUNTRIES

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

Inception Phase and National Inputs towards the Inception Phase Meeting

Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

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 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove by Yr
- Outcome 1.2 153,000 ha of coral reef at 82 priority sites managed sustainably by Yr 5, including a reduction in the decadal rate of degradation in live coral cover from 16 to 5%
- Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 25,900 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea by Yr
- Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations
- Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

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

- Outcome 2.1 Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning
- Outcome 2.2 Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution
- Outcome 2.3 Strengthened and harmonized national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of habitats and land-based sources of pollution
- Outcome 2.4 Improved national and regional values for the Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy
- Outcome 2.5 Regionally appropriate tools and mechanisms to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats and land-based pollution
- Outcome 2.6 Updated and Ministerially adopted Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme, including prioritization of national management actions to address climate variability and change

Component 3. Facilitating regional and national level integration and cooperation for implementation of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme

- Outcome 3.1 Regional and sub-regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making
- Outcome 3.2 Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in SAP implementation strengthened via operational partnership with GEF SGP
- Outcome 3.3 Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized
- Outcome 3.4 Revitalization of regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and information and data management and sharing
- Outcome 3.5 Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea

Purpose of the Inception Phase, deliverables and timeline

The purpose of the Inception Phase of a project is to fully elaborate and detail activities, workplan and budget as well as to identify the execution arrangements, partners and stakeholders for each output and/or activity and prepare terms of references (ToRs) for staff, consultants and draft contracts for execution of activities. It is also an opportunity in some cases to adjust project deliverables to be aligned with any new global, regional and national initiatives and create partnerships. In the case of the SCS SAP, this is especially key as the SAP was adopted in 2008, and whilst overall the targets and identified actions are still valid in 2020, some review of the sites and ensuring alignment with new processes is essential to strengthen the project and ensure real sustainable impact of actions to be implemented. In addition to new regional and national processes, at the global level the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development includes a number of SDG targets and indicators are relevant the marine and coastal environment. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement [\[LINK\]](#). Also work is ongoing to develop the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework [\[LINK\]](#) which includes regional and thematic consultations, such as on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (see workshop report held in November 2019 [\[LINK\]](#)).

The Inception Phase deliverables are summarized below and will be presented for final approval at the Inception Meeting/1st Steering Committee Meeting to be held in late 2020 or early 2021.



Participating countries role and contribution

National coordination of the SCS SAP project will be ensured through the following national committees and working groups: Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC), National Technical Working Group (NTWG) and National Committees (NCs). The chairpersons of the IMC and NTWG will take the lead role in the Inception Phase, with the support of NTWG, NC and other experts as appropriate.

The nomination (or re-confirmation) of the chairpersons of the IMC and NTWG is the first step, followed by the remainder of IMC and NTWG members to ensure national consultations engage all key experts, institutions or ministries and stakeholders.

Under the guidance of the IMC and NTWG, the following inputs are expected during the Inception Phase:

- ✓ Initiate first IMC and NTWG meetings and memberships, and agree on work-plan for Inception Phase;
- ✓ Review all relevant national reports from the 1st South China Sea project [\[LINK\]](#)
- ✓ Further develop and finalize the National Implementation Reports (see next section for further details) for the Inception Meeting/1st Steering Committee Meeting;
- ✓ Ensure national consultations and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in development of activities, work-plan and budget. This should also include inter-ministerial coordination, coordination with relevant initiatives and projects, and aligning with national commitments and reporting to global Conventions and processes (i.e. SDGs, CBD etc.);
- ✓ Review the compiled regional-level Inception Phase documents, including project results framework, workplan and budget etc., and provide comments and suggestions as appropriate;
- ✓ Participate in the Inception Meeting/1st Steering Committee Meeting to be held in late 2020 or early 2021
- ✓ This will lead to the establishment of national teams for the execution of national activities, execution of national activities

Guidelines for completion of National Implementation Reports

The National Implementation Reports (NIRs) can be regarded as the national project documents with fully developed workplans and budgets ready for execution. Below is some overall guidance for completion of the NIR and please also note the highlighted yellow guidance text within each NIR.

NIR Table of Contents	Guidance comments
PART 1. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION	This information was compiled based on the project document and national consultations in 2016, and therefore needs review and updating
1. Introduction	No editing is required as this is general information on the SCS SAP project
2. Overview of key national policies, projects and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National strategies, plans and policies • Past and current projects and initiatives • Past National Reports and Publications • Key National Stakeholders 	Text and table to be reviewed and updated with recent information. The summary text should stress which are the key strategies, projects, initiatives, reports that need to be considered in the further development of activities.
3. National Coordination and Oversight for the “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Inter-Ministry Committee • National Technical Working Group • Specialized Executing Agencies and National Focal Points • National Committees 	Updating of national working group and committees are required, so that these persons will support the further develop of project activities. Note that Table 5 for the IMC – all members will be agreed at the first IMC meeting so initially confirmation is needed for the Chair/Lead Agency, and other members can be provisional until official agreed. Table 6 NTWG members include the SEA thematic focal points (Table 7) Once nominated IMC and NTWG Chairs will lead coordination with the support of all other NTWG, SEA focal points and other experts and stakeholders as appropriate. Nominations can be revised on a yearly basis if required. Please refer also to Annex 1 which include the previous project members.
PART 2. NATIONAL ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED	

NIR Table of Contents	Guidance comments
<p>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 and Gulf of Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove by Yr 5 • Outcome 1.2 153,800 ha of coral reef at 82 priority sites managed sustainably by Yr 5, including a reduction in the decadal rate of degradation in live coral cover from 16 to 5% • Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 25,900 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea by Yr 5 • Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations 	<p>The SAP and project document identify key sites for action. However detailed activities and budget per site still need to be developed.</p> <p>All sites should be reviewed to assess if the actions identified are still required. Where possible synergies with other projects, partners or initiatives are encouraged so as to increase impact and achievements and be more cost-effective.</p> <p>The updated list of sites should each then be fully developed in terms of activities, budget and workplan for each site.</p> <p>Refer to Annex 3 for guidance on budget classification.</p> <p>Note that Component/Outcome targets are for the entire region. Targets for each country are included in the NIR.</p>
<p>ANNEXES</p> <p>Annex 1 – Past National Project Stakeholders, Committees and Working Groups and their compositions</p> <p>Annex 2 – Activities and Workplan (Component 1 only)</p> <p>Annex 3. Budget Classifications</p>	<p>Annex 1 is for reference only.</p> <p>Annex 2 is also reference. It is the workplan as presented in the project document, and will revised for adoption at the end of the Inception Phase</p> <p>Annex 3 for reference only</p>

It should be noted that Component 1 of the SCS SAP project is fully executed at the national level. Components 2 and 3 include a mixture of activities executed at the regional and the national level. Therefore, the NIRs will also be further developed to include national actions under Component 2 and 3 in the following months.

Supporting documents

Project document and 2008 Strategic Action Program (SAP) are available on the project web-site (<https://scssap.org/>)

For previous reports see <http://www.unepscs.org/remository.html> including:

- Technical Publications and Guideline - [http://www.unepscs.org/remository/Download/19 - Technical Publications and Guidelines.html](http://www.unepscs.org/remository/Download/19_-_Technical_Publications_and_Guidelines.html) (particularly Technical Publication 1-4)
- For more details on the site selection, see the 3rd Regional Working Group reports which includes a summary ranking as presented in Annex 7, Tables 1 and 2
 - Mangrove - <http://www.unepscs.org/remository/startdown/1200.html>
 - Coral reef sites - <http://www.unepscs.org/remository/startdown/616.html>
 - Seagrass - <http://www.unepscs.org/remository/startdown/1588.html>
 - Wetlands - <http://www.unepscs.org/remository/startdown/370.html>
- For Reports of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee see [http://www.unepscs.org/remository/Download/03 -](http://www.unepscs.org/remository/Download/03_-_)

[Regional Scientific and Technical Committee/Reports of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee/orderby,4.html](#).