



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

*Third Regional Inception Phase Meeting – NIR Development and Completion
14.00 – 16.30 Bangkok Time, Monday 15th March 2021*

PROJECT SITE SELECTION GUIDE

Guidance to review recent status and planning of project sites proposed in the Strategic Action Programme of the South China Sea adopted in 2008

Summary of process and criteria in selecting demonstration sites

Recognizing the challenges on limited funding and differences on regional and national priorities, it was decided to attempt to construct a more “objective” approach to selecting demonstration sites in the framework of the South China Sea Project (2002-2008). The process to meet this approach were conducted by RWGs, including:

- Defining the data and information needs
- Defining process
- Evaluating the data
- Cluster analysis
- Determining national and regional priorities
- Defining and weighting environment and socio-economic indicators

The outcomes in selecting demonstration sites were discussed by RSTC and accepted by PSC for actions in the SCS SAP Project with number of sites indicated in the table below.

| Country | Mangroves | Coral Reefs | Seagrass beds | Wetlands |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cambodia | | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| China | 5 | | 4 | 6 |
| Indonesia | 5 | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Malaysia | | 36 | 1 | |
| Philippines | 7 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| Thailand | 5 | 14 | | 2 |
| Viet Nam | 4 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| Total | 26 sites | 82 sites | 21 sites | 19 sites |

Given the fact that the SAP was adopted in 2008, 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, some interventions were conducted at the national level and changes of activities or even sites were requested by a number of participating countries. The guidance is, therefore, compiled to support counterparts at the national level to review recent status and develop further actions appropriately. Our colleagues in participating countries are invited to consider and provide inputs for the following items for each site.

Practices conducted for improvement of habitat management at the national level

Name of demonstration sites:

Sub-component:

| Activities | Description | Guidance comments' |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Establishment of management body | | Time & type of body |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Development and approval of management plan | | Title of plan, year & authority of approval |
| Management approach | | Eg. MPA, community based or others |
| Capacity building | | Human and facility for management |
| Enforcement mechanism | | What is tool to do enforcement |
| Monitoring of habitat and environment indicators | | Indicators, no. of stations, frequency |
| Participation of local stakeholders | | Involvement of communities, private sector, ... |
| Linkages between fisheries and habitat management | | Any activity for integrated management |
| Fund raising and sustained financial mechanism | | Ways to mobilize and amount |
| Enhancement of public awareness | | Activities done for public awareness |
| Reducing habitat degradation and loss | | Area (ha) of target habitats under sustained management |
| Rehabilitation | | Activities done and area (ha) rehabilitated |
| Reducing degradation rate | | Changes of cover of corals or seagrass, mangrove density... |

Lessons learnt (successes and failures)

Proposed actions in the framework of SCS SAP project (2021-2023)

Profile of alternative site (if any)

Please refer to the knowledge document on selection demonstration sites for preparation of profile of alternative site (see: UNEP, 2007. Procedure for Selection of Demonstration Sites in the context of the UNEP/GEF Project Entitled: *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. South China Sea Knowledge Document No. 2. UNEP/GEF/SCS/Inf.2)