



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*

NIR Development Process and Guidance

National Implementation report (NIR)

NIR Table of Contents
PART 1. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION
1. Introduction
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
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
PART 2. NATIONAL ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED
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 <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
ANNEXES
Annex 1 – Past National Project Stakeholders, Committees and Working Groups and their compositions
Annex 2 – Activities and Workplan (Component 1 only)
Annex 3. Budget Classifications

Equivalent of a National Project document

To be adopted at 1st Steering Committee (May 2021)

Supporting documents:

- SCSSAP IP3.Inf2 Inception Phase Guidance for countries
- SCSSAP IP3.3 Project Site Selection Guide
- SCSSAP IP3.Inf6 TOR for Inception Phase National Project Cooperation Agreement
- SCSSAP IP3.Inf5 Project Sites with Refugia Sites

PART 1. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

2. Overview of key national policies, projects and stakeholders

Overview of key national policies, projects and stakeholders

Why? Need an updated baseline of information since 2008 when the SAP was adopted. So much has changed, from the global to the national agenda.

- Update National strategies, plans and policies – especially with regards to marine and coastal habitats, land-based sources of pollution, implementation of global agenda (CBD, Agenda 2030), new approaches for MPAs, MSP, offshore activities, blue/green economy etc.
- Update Past and current projects and initiatives – in particular ongoing projects that can complement activities. Look at joining teams and resources for greater impact
- Past National Reports and Publications – especially since 2008, key assessments and reports
- Key National Stakeholders – not just within governments, also address NGOs and CBOs, private sector, institutions etc.

Note that: Text and Table in the draft NIRs were the outputs of national consultations in 2016

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.

Table 1. Relevant national strategies, plans and policies

Table 2. Summary of main relevant projects and initiatives

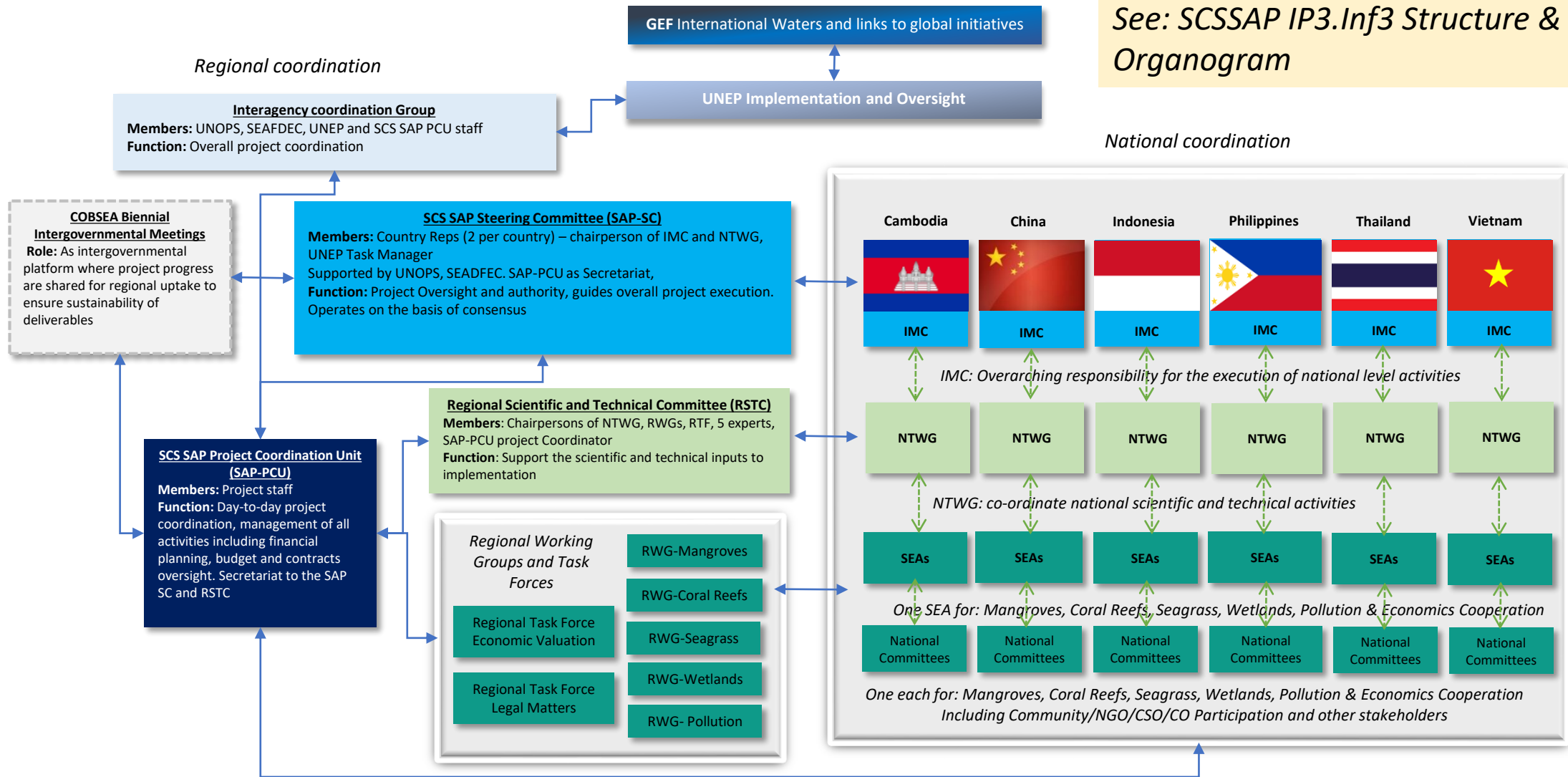
Table 3. Past national reports and publications

Table 4. Summary of Stakeholders

PART 1. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

3. National Coordination and Oversight for the “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

SCS SAP Organogram



IMC = Inter-Ministry Committee; NTWG = National Technical Working Group; National Committee = Specialized Executing Agency; RWG= Regional Working Group

NOMINATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF NATIONAL COORDINATION

IMC (Inter-Ministry Committee)

Leading agency – Government Entity appointed by the environment related ministry which provided the endorsement letter to GEF

Chairperson of IMC (National Political Focal Point) – a high ranking official appointed by the ministry

Members of IMC:

- ✓ Officials appointed by related ministries
- ✓ Chairperson of National Technical Working Group
- ✓ Relevant ministries (Fisheries, Agricultures, tourism, industry etc.)
- ✓ Include Fisheries Refugia, SEAFDEC NC and other relevant key persons

Functions:

- ✓ -See in the ToR, example:
- ✓ Planning and oversight of all project activities in the participating country
- ✓ National policy development
- ✓ Participation in the Project Steering Committee (Chairpersons of IMC and NTWG)

National Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)

1. Assume overarching responsibility for the execution of national level activities
2. Receive, review, and approve reports from the National Technical Working Groups and National Committees for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, land-based pollution, and economic valuation regarding the outputs and outcomes of efforts to achieve Strategic Action Programme targets;
3. Meet on a **biannual basis** during the operational phase of the project to guide the timely execution of project activities, particularly activities at the site level, and to consider, amend and endorse quarterly work-plans, narrative progress and financial reports for submission to the regional SCS-SAP Implementation Unit;
4. Provide direction and strategic guidance to the National Technical Working Group and National Committees for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, land-based pollution, and economic on the national and local reforms to achieve SAP targets and mainstream best practices in to natural resource and environmental management of the South China National Committee and Gulf of Thailand marine basin;
5. Review planned and ongoing coastal and marine environment projects being operated along the South China National Committee and Gulf of Thailand coast with the aim of minimising duplication of efforts, and to identify opportunities for cooperation and the sharing of examples of best practices in reversing environmental degradation trends;
6. Assess stakeholder involvement in national level execution of the SCS SAP Implementation project and take action where necessary to ensure appropriate levels of government, civil society and community organisation, environmental NGOs, Women's groups, and private sector engagement in project activities.
7. Ensure compatibility between site-based activities of the SCS SAP Implementation project and other National, provincial and municipal activities in coastal and marine environmental management;
8. Approve annual progress reports for transmission to the COB National Committee Intergovernmental Meetings, UNEP and the GEF Secretariat;
9. Assist the National Committees for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, land-based pollution, and economic valuation in securing co-financing committed to the project and in leveraging additional funding that may be required from time to time.
10. Agree at their first meeting:
 - a) the membership, meeting arrangements, and terms of reference of the committee; and
 - b) such standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee.

NTWG (National Technical Working Group)

Chairperson of NTWG (National Technical Focal Point)– a professional expert/official appointed by IMC

Members of NTWG

- ✓ National Focal Points on 4 sub-components (coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves, wetland), Land-based pollution), and task force on economic valuation
- ✓ Invited experts from government entities, academic institutions, NGOs, Foundations

Functions:

- ✓ See in the ToR, example:
- ✓ Participation in the Regional Scientific and Technical Group (National Technical Focal Point)
- ✓ Guidance on methodologies, procedures ... on assessment and monitoring
- ✓ Reviews of outputs from sub-components and task forces

National Technical Working Groups (NTWG)

One National NTWG per country including all SEA National Focal Point

1. Review and co-ordinate national scientific and technical activities of the UNEP/GEF project entitled “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea” in [country name];
2. Review and evaluate, from a scientific and technical perspective, progress in the achievement of Strategic Action Programme targets, and provide guidance for improvement when necessary;
3. Provide the National Inter-Ministry Committees with recommendations on proposed national and site-based activities, work plans, and budgets;
4. Provide the National Inter-Ministry Committees with technical guidance and suggestions to improve project activities where necessary, including the reform of policy, legislation and institutional arrangements;
5. Facilitate co-operation with relevant national and provincial organisations and projects to enhance the information and science base for use in achieving Strategic Action Programme targets and in preparing updated National Action Plans and a revised Strategic Action Programme in [country name];
6. Compile and evaluate national level sources of information and data for sharing at the regional level;
7. Receive, and review reports, data and information from site-based activities of the project and oversee the national synthesis of this information to identify overall needs and priorities for individual sites and future targets for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, and land-based pollution management in [country name];
8. Ensure that planned national level project activities are consistent with the national results framework for the project, and that the subsequent monitoring and reporting of project results is undertaken in a standardized and consistent manner;
9. Agree at their first meeting:
10. a) the membership, meeting arrangements, and terms of reference of the committee; and
11. b) such standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee.

SEAs (Specialized Executing Agencies) and NCs (National Committees)

- ❑ Six SEAs and relevant 6 NCs for different thematic areas in each participating country
- ❑ Four SEAs & NCs on habitats focus on actions at the site level in the project component 1
- ❑ SEAs and NCs on LbP & Economic Valuation focus on actions at national & regional levels (component 2 & 3)

Functions of 4 SEAs on habitats (See in the ToR, example):

- Working with local stakeholders to develop and operate project management boards for each site
- Organization of project activities at the site level
- Development of National Plan/strategies, methodology, standard procedures...related to sub-component
- Participation (Focal Points) in the Regional Working Groups (Coral Reefs, Seagrass, Mangroves, Wetland)

Structure of NCs (National Committees)

Specialized Executive Agencies (SEAs) – professional institutions/entities authorized by IMC to coordinate activities of each sub-component based on their capacity on thematic sub-components

Chairpersons of NCs (National Focal Points) – experts nominated by SEAs and appointed by IMC

Members of NCs:

- Experts from related government entities, academic institutions/universities
- Representatives from NGOs, local governments, MPAs, ..

Functions of SEAs on LbP and Economic Valuation (See in the ToR)

Under components 2 & 3 – Regional level but also some at the national level, example:

- Development of policies, procedures, ...
- Participation in the RWs & RTF on EV
- Noted that no NC & SEA for Legal Matters at the national level

SEAs responsible for execution of all national and local actions

Information and Budgeting Flow

- ✓ MoUs signature between UNOPS with the leading agency and SEAs separately
- ✓ GEF Budget transferred directly to the leading agency for activities of IMC and NTWG
- ✓ GEF Budget transferred directly to SEAs for activities of NCs and at the site level
- ✓ Co-finance as budgets and in-kind covering the activities at the national and local levels to achieve project outcomes and reported annually to UNOPS,
- ✓ Linkage between regional and national frameworks will be established through members from participating countries in PSC, RSTC, RWGs; Names and contacting information of IMC & NTWG Chairpersons, and Thematic Focal Points required for establishment of PSC, RSTC, RWGs in the beginning of project implementation.

Summary

- ✓ Note that Table 5 (NIR-Draft) 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.



PART 2. NATIONAL ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

SCS SAP Components

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

Activities at three levels, from local to regional

LOCAL/SITE LEVEL

Comp. 1 only, outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4

- ☐ Establishment and operation of site management board
- ☐ Development/revision of management plan
- ☐ Implication of ecological and socio-economic monitoring
- ☐ Rehabilitation of mangroves, coral reefs
- ☐ Building capacity for enforcement
- ☐ Others

NATIONAL LEVEL

Comp. 1, 2 and 3

- ☐ Meetings of IMC, NTWG periodically
- ☐ Travel and accommodation of members of IMC & NTWG for meetings and site visits
- ☐ Development of policy, protocols, regulations
- ☐ Meetings of NCs periodically
- ☐ Development of actions plans for thematic areas
- ☐ National Assessments and Monitoring
- ☐ Others

REGIONAL LEVEL

Comp. 2 and 3

- ☐ Project management and reporting
- ☐ Revised Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SAP
- ☐ Meetings and work of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and Regional Working groups
- ☐ Meetings and work of the Steering Committee meeting
- ☐ Knowledge Management and Communication

DESIGNING ACTIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Designing activities at the national level (**developed later**)
- Designing activities at the site level (**need for this stage**)
- Development of workplan and milestone for designed activities the site level
- Allocation of budgets for designated activities from GEF funding & co-finance at site level

REVIEW OF CURRENT SITES AND UPDATED LIST OF SITES

See: SCSSAP IP3.Inf5 Project Sites with Refugia Sites

Sites in the Table adopted in the SAP, 2008, through:

- ☐ 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

Country	Mangroves	Coral Reefs	Seagrass beds	Wetlands	Fisheries Refugia
Cambodia		7	2	1	3
China	5		4	6	
Indonesia	5	7	7	1	2
Malaysia		36	1		2
Philippines	7	9	3	3	3
Thailand	5	14		2	2
Viet Nam	4	9	4	6	3
Total	26 sites	82 sites	21 sites	19 sites	15 sites

Reviews needed in order to design appropriate activities at the sites, even to recommend changes of sites with reasonable baselines

Need to update the final list of sites for further development of activities in the SAP SCS

Consideration of the linkage with sites of the Fisheries Refugia network

See: SCSSAP IP3.3 Project Site Selection Guide

Based on reviews, indicating:

- ✓ Lessons learnt for upscaling in other sites
- ✓ Challenges which should be addressed in the SAP SCS Project
- ✓ Or, proposal of alternate site, considering reasonable baselines
- ✓ Reporting what outputs of SAP were achieved during 2008-2020

Categories	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 & effectiveness
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...

DESIGNING ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE LEVEL

In the SAP SCS Project, activities at the site level support directly and critically if the regional outcomes of Component 1 can be achieved

- Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove by Yr 5
- 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 and Gulf of Thailand 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
- Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

Therefore, designing activities at the site level are required to consider outputs identified by the SAP to achieve each outcome.

Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove by Yr 5

*Activities **at each site** should be developed for **each of the outputs** as presented in the Tables below (example for Vietnam), unless it is an output with no target agreed in the SAP and in which you do not wish to participate in)*

Regional Outputs for mangroves	National outputs	Target (has)
1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	Designing outputs for each site as contribution to achieve regional outputs	30,000
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas*		0*
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest		50,000
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land		8,000
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting		2,000
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]		N/A
	TOTAL	90,000 for 4 sites in Vietnam

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%

Regionals Outputs for coral reefs
1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 82 coral reef sites
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites
1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites [based on SAP results framework]

Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 25,900 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand by Yr 5

Regional Output for seagrass
1.3.1 Twenty one seagrass areas totaling 25,900 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites [based on SAP results framework]

Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations

Regional Outputs for Wetlands
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha) and associated policy, legal and institutional reforms
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation [based on SAP results framework]

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUTS

Declaration of MPAs

- Assessment of conservation potential
- Local consultation
- Zoning and regulation development
- Establishment and building capacity for management board

Improvement of capacity

- conducting training courses,
- facilitating diving equipment...

Development/revision of management plan

- review and assessment on biodiversity, resource use and impacts;
- conducting consultation workshops; meeting of local management board for adoption...

Development and operation of monitoring framework

- conducting technical training, practicing periodical monitoring activities...



Allocation of budgets for designated activities from GEF funding & co-finance

GEF Budget

The original budget currently available for national activities is approximately 5.5 million USD in total, with the majority allocated to activities under Component 1 (see SCSSAP IP2/5). Countries should develop activities initially assuming an equal allocation of funding between the six participating countries (**i.e. 669,104, 187,574 and 53,267 USD respectively for Components 1, 2 and 3**). However, it should be stressed that final allocation of resources will depend on proposed targets, activities and budgets, with some flexibility if needed between Component 1 and 2. This process will be done transparently and in close consultation with all countries.

Co-finance

In-kind: No payment from any source for certain activities, e.g., working time spent for participating in project meetings (calculated using a regional standard co-efficient, approved by the PSC); provision of office and facilities, local transport and communications in support of project implementation; and ongoing and planned national initiatives in project sites

In-cash: Payment for certain activities by other sources besides GEF fund to achieve outputs/outcomes mentioned above, e.g., rehabilitation of 15ha of mangroves funded by a provincial project at the selected site

Estimation of budget for each activity following categories below, if appropriate

Budget Category	Explanation
Staff & Personnel (Including Consultants)	Includes all staff and consultants' costs, but excluding related e.g. travel)
Travel	Includes Staff, Consultants and Meeting Participants
Contract Services	e.g. covers contracts for translation, engineering data processing, printing, public information.
Operating & Other Costs	Communications, IT, maintenance, rental of premises and equipment, vehicle expenses, utilities etc.
Grants to Implementing Partners	Small grants to sub-partners expensed on disbursement
Non-expendable equipment, Vehicles & Furniture	Non-Expendable Equipment (i.e. of a capital nature)
Operating and other costs	Operational equipment supplies, stationery & office supplies etc
Evaluation	Covering cost for monitoring and evaluation of project activities

Synthesize budgets for all activities relevant to each output of thematic areas in the table below.

	Outputs		
Budget Category	Output 1/site 1	Output 2/site 2	Output 3 – 4 - 5
Staff & Other personnel			
Travel			
Contractual Services			
Grants to implementing partners			
Supplies, Commodities and materials			
Non-expendable equipment (furniture, equipment)			
Operating and other costs			
Evaluation			
Total			

- ☐ National actions per output
- ☐ Local actions: Each site to have its own budget

See: SCSSAP IP3.4 UMOJA Budget template and Guidance

SUMMARY

- ❑ Updating of national coordinating framework with appropriate officials and experts are required, so that these persons will support the further development of project activities & establishment of regional PSC, RSTC and RWGs
- ❑ Updating strategies, projects, initiatives, reports indicate gaps and needs of further action not only at national but also local levels
- ❑ Designing activities at sites requires huge efforts and sufficient data/information at the local level
- ❑ Co-finance is required from all GEF projects and can be allocated based on integrated actions from central/local government, NGOs, private sector
- ❑ Workplan developed for 3 years' period, until June 2024 (possible extension)

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
Activity Description	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4