



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

First Meeting of the SCS SAP Steering Committee

Teleconference, 29-30 June 2021

DRAFT WORKPLAN



Outputs	2021				2022				2023				2024		2021 Main deliverables
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 46 sites [based on SAP results framework]															4. Output 1.5.2 to coordinate at regional level. Agreed indicators to report SAP progress in each site 5. Identify data availability and gaps and summary report on status in each coral reef site
Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 15,848 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea															
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totaling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations															1. National Implementation Reports finalized and all national activities fully elaborated, with sites assessed, national teams in place, stakeholders mapped and engaged.
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															2. National SAP Executing Agencies (SEA's) identified and Project Cooperation Agreements signed with each SEA and UNOPS 3. Seagrass Focal Point and National Committees established
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 20 sites [based on SAP results framework]															4. Output 1.5.2 to coordinate at regional level. Agreed indicators to report SAP progress in each site 5. Identify data availability and gaps and summary report on status in each seagrass site
Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations															
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons 9 estuaries, 5 tidal flats, 1 peat swamp and 1 non-peat swamp and associated policy, legal & institutional reforms															1. National Implementation Reports finalized and all national activities fully elaborated, with sites assessed, national teams in place, stakeholders mapped and engaged.
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).															2. National SAP Executing Agencies (SEA's) identified and Project Cooperation Agreements signed with each SEA and UNOPS 3. Wetland Focal Point and National Committees established
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation [based on SAP results framework]															1. Output 1.5.2 to coordinate at regional level. Agreed indicators to report SAP progress in each site 2. Identify data availability and gaps and summary report on status in each wetland site
Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management															

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	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
1.5.1 National committees and regional networks of habitat specialists established under the SCS project revitalized and functioning															Programme for National Committee meetings (every 6 months).
1.5.2 Mechanism to monitor and evaluate the impacts of SAP implementation and achievement of habitat targets operational [including agreement on standardized methods and guidelines for inventory and assessment]															1. Framework of indicators and programme drafted for the evaluation of SAP implementation
1.5.3 Community leaders and local government from priority habitat sites networked via national and regional round-table meetings to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing on achievements and best practices															2. Draft working report on best-practices disseminated and with additional inputs from countries 3. Each country to coordinate meeting on best-practices (back-to back with National Committees and NTWG meetings) 4. Short summary report on national best-practices 5. Schedule of regional roundtables agreed (online and face-to-face)
1.5.4 Progress and status report of regional and national SAP implementation															6. Report on the current progress in SAP implementation based on inputs from each country
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															
2.1.1. Validation of existing or improved algorithms with on-site data															1. Agreement on collection and compilation of GIS data, partnerships, approach, and database linked to global databases on habitats
2.1.2 Mechanism for collection and exchange of regional coastal habitat and pollution information and data established															2. Proposal to establish online database/GIS, for each site, with potential regional and global partnerships (COBSEA, PEMSEA, and others). Linked to update of National Reports (output 2.6.5)
2.1.3 Role of coastal habitats of the South China Sea in climate change adaptation and the sequestration and storage of carbon															3. Brief report on current status of information and data on climate change adaptation and sequestration

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	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
2.1.4 Review of the potential impacts of sea level rise, climate change, ocean acidification and episodic events on coastal habitats of the South China Sea															and storage of carbon (in partnership with other institutions and projects) 4. Draft methodology to include climate change aspects into National Reports, TDA and SAP In partnership with key regional and global organizations, initiatives and projects (i.e. Global Blue Forests project, UNEP Blue Carbon Initiative)
2.1.5. Review of current status of habitat and pollution data available in the SCS, gaps and challenges and innovative technology and approaches to monitoring and assessments that can support SCS monitoring programme															4. Building upon existing work in the region, identify data available and main gaps and capacity needs in monitoring, in line with regional and national commitments, the SDG's and CBD Post 2020 Framework
2.1.6 A regional system for periodic monitoring of the state of coastal habitats of the South China Sea															
Outcome 2.2 Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution															
2.2.1 Updating the nutrient carrying capacity model for the SCS marine basin and integration into SCS GIS															1. Define methodology, based on latest nutrient assessments and models in the region (with COBSEA) and best practices globally (i.e., UNEP GPA) 2. Launch contracts to execute
2.2.2. Regional level assessment of impacts of key contaminants (nutrients, heavy metals, oil, litter) and national or local assessments based on NAP and hotspots															3. Methodology/guidelines developed 4. National reports on LBS (output 2.6.5) to identify data and assessments available, and main gaps 5. Contracts developed to initiate
2.1.3. Quantification of effluent volumes and contaminant loadings from coastal aquaculture to the SCS marine basin															6. Contracts and methodology developed and activity initiated
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															
2.3.1. National best practices in waste water management, law enforcement, and community and industry participation in managing land-based sources of pollution and habitat management documented and shared															In conjunction with output 1.5.3, 2.3.5, and 3.1.6 1. First draft on best-practices for further development from regional and national partners

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	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
2.3.2 Review of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution and habitat management in participating countries															2. National reports (output 2.6.5) to provide initial inputs to review of legislative and institutional frameworks
2.3.3 Harmonized national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management [including agreed sediment, biota, & water quality criteria]															3. Update on gaps and needs for SOPs in line with regional and global agreements
2.3.4. Revised national/provincial policies and supporting regulations for land-based pollution and habitats developed, enacted and implemented															
Outcome 2.4 Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy															
2.4.1 Expanded datasets and estimates of economic valuation information on the goods and services of SCS coastal habitats															1. Review of methodology and best practices by other regional and global economic evaluations (including TEEB and Blue Forests)
2.4.2. Compilation of good examples, and identify recommendations to strengthen a blue economy (and circular economy) approach and innovative financing for pollution and habitat management															2. Initiation and contracts
Outcome 2.5 Regionally appropriate tools and mechanisms to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats and land-based pollution															
2.5.1. Online catalogue of best practice management measures and technologies for sustainable use of SCS coastal habitats and land-based pollution management															Linked to outputs 1.5.3, 2.3.1, and 3.1.6 1. Development of a joint approach on publishing online best-practices with regional and global partners
2.5.2 Government officials, community leaders, and habitat and pollution managers exposed to on-going practices in rehabilitation, management, and pollution control and treatment via programme of training, study tours and exchange															1. Programme of study tours and exchanges developed closely in collaboration with PEMSEA's networks of local governments
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															

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	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
2.6.1 National and regional level consensus on contemporary issues and problems and updated TDA															1. Detailed guidelines for the update of the TDA, SAP, National Reports and NAPs, based on new TDA/SAP methodology from IWLEARN, and will close links to other SAP implementation LME projects
2.6.2. SCS State of Coastal Habitats report in line with global commitments (SDGs, CBD)															Joint publication based on the revised National Reports, TDA and monitoring results 2. Initiation and planning of contracts
2.6.3 National and regional consultative process to develop updated Strategic Action Programme SAP for adoption at the Ministerial level including agreed monitoring and reporting mechanisms															See 2.6.1 above
2.6.4 Prioritization of national management actions for incorporation into national policies and plans, in particular for climate variability and change and blue economy															
2.6.5 Updated and adopted National Action Plans for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands, and land-based pollution including enactment of supporting legislation where required															See 2.6.1 above
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															
3.1.1 Regional Scientific and Technical Committee of the SCS project functioning as a bridge between the scientific community and decision-makers [annual meetings]															1. First RSTC to be held by 3 rd quarter, and more regular meetings planned online
3.1.2 Knowledge exchanges between government and scientific community through Regional Scientific Conferences															
3.1.3 Best practice exchanges between local government officials and coastal managers on science-based management via annual Mayor's Round-Table meetings															2. Annual Mayer's round tables planned in cooperation with regional organizations

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	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	
3.1.4 Memoranda of Agreement for joint management of 2 priority transboundary water areas agreed & implemented															3. Initiate drafting of two transboundary water areas MOA's, detailed information on sites and activities
3.1.5 Cooperation with the GEF fisheries refugia project and other relevant regional initiatives established															4. Ongoing cooperation with FR and SEAFDEC focal points and national coordinators
3.1.6 Operational award program on best practices in coastal habitat and land-based pollution management for communities, local governments and industry [annual]															5. Awards program designed and initiated
Outcome 3.2 Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in SAP implementation strengthened via operational partnership with GEF SGP															
3.2.1 Cooperation with GEF SGP in the commissioning and implementation of an additional [#] of community-based projects for SAP implementation															1. SGP initiated and contract developed 2. SGP launched and number of community-based projects identified
3.2.2 CSO & CO inputs elicited for planning and M&E of the SCS-SGP partnership via annual NGO forums															
3.2.3 Training program on science and management of SCS coastal habitats and resources for SGP proponents															
3.2.4 SGP project concept notes developed and financial arrangements agreed for 20 community-based projects in support of implementing a revised SAP															
Outcome 3.3 Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized															
3.3.1 Review of past and ongoing public-private partnerships for coastal management in SCS region and case studies for effective private sector engagement															1. In partnership with other regional organizations, initiate compilation of of past and ongoing public-private partnerships for coastal management in SCS region In parallel to output 2.4.2 on blue/green economy
3.3.2 Identification of opportunities for private sector investment (e.g. oil and gas, fisheries, tourism) in implementation of the updated SAP															

	2021				2022				2023				2024		
Outputs	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	2021 Main deliverables
3.3.3 Public-private partnerships and investment plan for the implementation of the updated SAP solidified through two partnership forums to facilitate															To be initiated once revised SAP is advanced
3.3.4. Updated and adopted National Investment Plans for land-based pollution and habitat management in the SCS [Yr 5]															To support financing implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs)
3.3.5. Regional financial mechanism for land-based pollution and habitat management															To support financing implementation of the Strategic Action Plans (NAPs)
Outcome 3.4 Revitalization of regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and information and data management and sharing															
3.4.1 A variety of multi-media information and knowledge products based on SCS SAP implementation communications strategy															1. Recruit Communication lead, finalize Communication strategy and initiate activities
3.4.2 Regionally appropriate knowledge tools developed to support decision-making and planning.															2. Online repository of knowledge tools established 3. Identify key knowledge tools based on national needs and identify key partnerships to support development 4. Initiate contracts and activities
3.4.3 The SCS project web portal and clearing house mechanism and associated regional databases online, updated and linked to IW-Learn and other GEF Knowledge management systems															5. Web-site https://scssap.org/ further updated and linked to IWLEARN. 6. Initiate other cooperation actions with IWLEARN such as towards the Data and Information Management (DIM) follow up, partnerships with other GEF LME projects related to monitoring, online assessments, updating the LME hub (https://www.lmehub.net/)
3.4.4 Active engagement with GEF IW:LEARN [1% of project resources] including participation in IW conferences and 3 experience notes															
Outcome 3.5 Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea															
3.5.1 Biannual meetings of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters.															1. Regional Task Force established and first meeting conducted
3.5.2 National Working Groups established and functional.															2. National working groups on legal matters established
3.5.3 Process for development of a proposed arrangement for regional cooperation defined and planned															

	2021				2022				2023				2024		
Outputs	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	2021 Main deliverables
3.5.4 National stakeholder inputs to drafting of instrument for strengthened regional cooperation facilitated via national consultations															
3.5.5 Adopted instrument for strengthened regional cooperation															