



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Teleconference, 1 July 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC Project on Establishment and Operation of A Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

Executing Agency : Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center





Mandate of SEAFDEC

- *To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the **sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia***

PROJECT GOAL

- *improved integration of habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations in the management of fisheries in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand;*
- *improved national management of the threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages within fisheries refugia; and,*
- *enhanced uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the design and implementation of regional and national fisheries management systems.*

Successfully supporting the South China Sea

- Improved understanding among stakeholders, including fisherfolk, scientists, policy-makers, and fisheries managers, of ecosystem and fishery linkages as a basis for integrated fisheries and ecosystem/habitat management; and
- Adopted 3 refugia site in Cambodia, final decision by Stakeholders for 7 refugia sites in MY(2), TH(2), and PH(3). All areas coverages more than 281,723 ha in 4 countries (higher than target objective).
- Established Learning Center to promote FR concept and conserve linked habitats: MY (2), PH(2), and TH(1)
- More than 100 multi-stakeholders engage into the project implementation such as inter-agency concerns from not only fisheries and environment agency, tourism department, public organization, navy, coastguards, but also involved by NGOs, CSOs, academy, research institutes, local government at a provincial and state level, fishing community, private sectors, etc.
- Adopted by ASEAN/SEAFDEC a Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Short Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand which is applied to other sea areas such as SCS, etc.





Ongoing Activities and Future Priorities

- Improve national fisheries legislation, law, policy and management plan to support, create and manage more fisheries refugia for economically important species within the EEZ.
- Maintaining and scaling up the socioeconomic level of fishing communities promoting of innovative best practice tools and technologies such as responsible fishing technologies, traceability system etc. and updating indicators and monitoring systems
- Create political and private sector support for the maintenance of natural refugia or creation of fisheries refugia via social networking
- Boosting regional cooperation for the management of other transboundary fish stock



Cooperation with the SCS SAP

- Coastal habitat and fisheries management integration: joint activities on policy & legal aspects review and management plans;
- Sharing the datasets on socio-economic valuation of goods and services of coastal habitats;
- Sharing information on identified root causes of the problems and priorities for intervention, and national management actions to address climate variability and change;
- Collaborate in linking and updating web portals and associated regional online databases and on communication matters.