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

First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution

Teleconference, 13 December 2022

REPORTS ON NATIONAL EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING SAP AND NAPs FOR LAND-BASED POLLUTION DURING 2008-2021 AND FUTURE PLANS

Country report on efforts and achievements of [Name of country] in implementing the National Action Plan and Strategic Action Programme on Land-based Pollution during 2008-2021

INTRODUCTION

Recognizing that actions were urgently needed to halt degradation of the environment of this marine basin, the countries of the region sought the assistance of UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in preparing a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the issues and problems and their societal root causes as the basis for development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The up-dated Strategic Action Programme was one of the anticipated outputs from the UNEP/GEF Project entitled "*Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*" (SCS Project), and the document contains the final text as approved by all countries during the 8th meeting of the Project Steering Committee in Hanoi, Viet Nam, August 2008. It was anticipated that the countries would commence implementation of the envisaged actions in 2008/2009 in parallel with the process in seeking further support from GEF for the SAP implementation.

The SAP established a series of objectives and priority costed actions for coastal habitats, land-based pollution management, and the over-exploitation of fish stocks in the South China Sea. In order to implement the SAP, at the regional level, the GEF adopted on November 03, 2016, the project entitled "*Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project)*". It was noted that regional actions would contribute to achieving the target through: capacity building for activities at the national and local levels; provision of opportunities in exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the region; common guidelines and other tools used by countries in management planning and practices; standardisation in regional synthesis and comparison; provision of sound scientific information for management; and encouraging governments at all levels to develop policy related to environment management. It was also emphasised that actions at the national and local levels are critical for success of the SAP targets. National Action Plans (NAPs) were developed in all participating countries and had been, or would be adopted by, governments to meet national priorities and to contribute to regional targets incorporated in the SAP.

As other participating countries, [Name of country] developed the NAPs for habitat and land-based pollution management during the course of the SCS Project and have conducted a series of activities in implementing the SAP and NAPs since 2008. This report provides evidence on proactive contribution of [Name of country] in implementing the SAP and NAPs on land-based pollution and supports to estimate country co-finance for environment management in the SCS during last decade. The reviews of past activities and outputs would be helpful for seeking the gaps which shall be addressed in implementing the SCS-SAP project in 2022-2024.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2008-2021 OF [Name of country]

1/ National policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land- based sources of pollution

As indicated in the SCS SAP Project document, the purpose of the land-based pollution component of the Strategic Action Programme is not to finance interventions that directly reduce the load of contaminants reaching the marine environment from land-based sources but rather the implementation of activities to support the integration of regional science with national-level policy making and planning for the management of land-based pollution. In this connection, key outcomes of component 2 include: effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution; and strengthened and harmonized national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of land-based sources of pollution.

At the national level, activities will support: reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management in participating countries; harmonization of national Standard Operating Procedures for land-

based pollution control and management, including agreed sediment, biota, and water quality criteria; revision of national/provincial policies; development, enactment and implementation of supporting regulations for land-based pollution; and the updating and adoption of National Investment Plans for land-based pollution management in the SCS.

Although regional activities had not been conducted due to the delay in implementing the SAP with GEF support, the participating countries implemented their NAPs during 2008-2021. Table 1 below presents national efforts in improving national policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land-based sources of pollution in [Name of country]

Table 1. National efforts in improving national policies and laws, and financial mechanism for the management of land-based sources of pollution in [Name of country]

Baselines in 2008	Regional Outputs	Achievements during 2008-2021
Lesson learned in community-based wastewater mgmt. in Batam, Indonesia documented and shared regionally although other examples from East Asian seas region largely focus on broad scale ICM planning	2.3.1 National best practices in waste water management, law enforcement, and community and industry participation in managing land-based sources of pollution documented and shared	List of best practices documented
Effectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks limited by predominantly single sector approaches	2.3.2 Review of legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management in participating countries	List and time of legislative and institutional framework developed or updated
Lack of Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution management	2.3.3 Harmonized national Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management [including agreed sediment, biota, & water quality criteria]	List and time of SOPs adopted
Absence of clear and effective policies, laws, and regulations relating to control of land-based pollution	2.3.4 Revised national/provincial policies and supporting regulations for land-based pollution developed, enacted and implemented by Yr 5	List and time of policy and regulations developed, enacted and implemented
Guidelines for assessing the economic impacts of land-based pollution developed but not yet applied as part of benefit-cost analysis of pollution mgmt. in the SCS	2.3.5 Updated and adopted National Investment Plans for land-based pollution management in the SCS [Yr 5]	Status in updatingg and adopting National Investment plans
Lack of sustainable mechanism to finance regional support actions including M&E	2.3.6 Regional financial mechanism for land-based pollution management [Yr 5]	Description of any national financial mechanism developed, if any

2/ Status in improving water quality in identified hot spots and monitoring stations

The RWG-LbP characterized 17 hot spots and listed 400 monitoring stations in the coastal waters of countries bordering the SCS for the period of 2002 – 2004. The targets for the land-based pollution component are to set and maintain region-wide water quality standards and water quality objectives which will assist in maintaining health of the coastal ecosystems. The specific targets for improving water quality are to meet ASEAN seawater quality (14 parameters) criteria (except pollutants from scientifically identified natural sources, if any) for:

- 90% of monitoring stations in the 17 hot spots characterized by the RWG-LbP between 2002 – 2004;

- 80% of other monitoring stations (more than 400 at that time) in coastal waters of the South China Sea.

The concrete numbers of hot spots and monitoring stations as targeted for implementing the SAP in participating countries are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Targets for improvement of water quality in hot spots and monitoring station of each country

Targets & achievement	Cam	China	Ind	Phi	Thai	Vie
90% of hot spots meet water quality criteria	3	3	3	3	2	3
80% of water monitoring stns meet water quality criteria	6	80	80	7	136	17

Preliminary statistics allow to describe the achievement of [Name of country] in improving water quality as follows:

- Number of hot spots meet water quality criteria and % compared with the target: [number & %]

List these hot spots and additional comments, if any:

- Number of monitoring stations meet water quality criteria and % compared with the target: [number & %]

List these monitoring stations and additional comments, if any:

3/ Challemges and lessons learnt in implementing the NAP in [Nam of country] during 2008-2021

[Please describe challenges and lessons learnt in implementing the NAP in last 12 years]

4/ Brief on coordinating national activities and contributing regional activities in next 2 years, 2023-2024

- Introduction of Specialised Executing Agency on Land-based Pollution in [Name of country]
- Outline on National Working Group on Land-based Pollution
- Nomination of experts for database and modelling for participation in regional activities
- Recommendations