



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

REPORT OF THE MEETING



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1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 Welcome Address

1. Dr. Vo Si Tuan, Regional Science Coordinator of the SCS SAP Project, welcomed all the participants to the first virtual meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution (RWG-LBP). He briefly presented the background of the project including the activities undertaken in the last two years of implementation such as the organization of regional committee and working group meetings including the inception phase workshop and development of the Project Cooperation Agreements for the execution of national activities with participating countries. He stressed the importance of the meeting which will discuss, among others, the establishment of the regional working group on land-based pollution, the review of country efforts and achievements in implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the last 12 years, the review and prioritization of land-based pollution activities for implementation in the next two years including developing the workplan and activities and cooperation agreements to implement the land-based pollution activities at national level. The meeting will also present a compilation of best practices on habitats and pollution management within and outside the region. He thanked the participation of nominated national focal points and experts including UNOPS and SEAFDEC in coordinating and organizing the meeting.

1.2 Introduction of Members

2) Mr. Reynaldo Molina of the Project Coordination Unit introduced the members of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution, composed of the nominated National Focal Points from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. There was no representative from Viet Nam. He also introduced the national lead agencies and project teams, national coordinators and experts including representatives from other regional organizations and initiatives such as SEAFDEC, PEMSEA and the Fisheries Refugia Project. The participant list is attached as Annex 1 of this report.

2. Organization of the Meeting

2.1 Designation of Officers

3. Dr. Vo Si Tuan presented the draft rules of procedure for the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution (RWG-LBP) which requires the election of a Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. The membership of the RWG-LBP will be formally established at the first meeting of the working group, which will elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur from among its members. The Chairperson will represent the RWG-LBP on the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and will attend the meetings of that Committee. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

4. The RWG-LBP members were invited to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. There was no Rapporteur elected since the meeting was online and being recorded. There was a suggestion for China as Chairperson and the Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia as Vice-Chairperson of the working group. Following suggestion and deliberation, Mr. Yu Yunjun of China and Mr. Ke Vongwattana of Cambodia were elected as a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively.

2.2 Organization of Work

5. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to brief the participants on the proposed organization of work of the meeting. Dr. Vo Si Tuan presented the organization and conduct of the meeting including the meeting documents and country presentations uploaded on the project website. The report of the meeting will be prepared and circulated to the participants after the meeting. He hoped that the participants have review the meeting documents and encouraged them to give their comments on the organization of the meeting. There was no comment on the organization of the meeting. The list of documents is attached as Annex 2 of this report.

3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

6. The Chairperson invited the members of the working group to review and provide comments on the draft agenda and annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat as documents SCSSAP RWG-LBP.1/1 and SCSSAP RWG-LBP.1/2. He requested the Secretariat to present the document. With no further comments, the RWG-LBP members agreed and adopted the agenda. The agenda and annotated agenda are attached as Annex 3 of this report.

4. Consideration of the Terms of Reference of the Regional Working Group

7. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the document SCSSAP RWG-LBP.1/3: Provisional Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution of the UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project". Mr. Reynaldo Molina presented the document section by section. He informed that the TOR is part of the project document approved by GEF, which is like the terms of reference of the first SCS project working group with some modifications to suit with the current project. He invited the members to consider, amend, and adopt the Terms of Reference as outlined in the document. He informed the members that the TOR was used by other regional working groups, where some suggestions were made, which could be considered by the meeting.

8. Several comments and suggestions were made such as the development of guidelines in Section 5.7, the nutrient carrying capacity model in Section 5.9, the assessment of key contaminants in Section 5.10, the harmonization of standardized methodology in Section 5.11 and additional section on collaboration with regional organizations and initiatives. Other suggestions relate to public water quality monitoring and transboundary water pollution management. Mr. Molina took note of the suggestions as supported by the members and proposed to revise the TOR to include the suggested changes.

9. Following deliberation, the RWG-LBP members agreed to revise the TOR and will be shared with the members after the meeting for review and adoption by silence procedure. The revised term of reference is attached as Annex 3 of this report.

5. Review the SCS Project outputs and SAP targets for land-based pollution

10. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the document SCSSAP RWG-LBP.1/4 SCS Project outputs and SAP targets on land-based pollution and the objectives and outputs of the SCS SAP project. The members were invited to review, amend and adopt the SAP targets on land-based pollution. Dr. Vo Si Tuan briefly presented the project background from the original SCS project to current SAP implementation, the activities and outputs of the first phase on land-based pollution, the status and challenges on land-based pollution and the SAP targets on land-based pollution including the number of monitoring stations and pollution hotspots.

11. Several concerns were raised about the targets and the number of hotspots and monitoring stations presented. Dr. Tuan clarified that the information needs to be updated as it was prepared by participating countries in 2007. He hoped that the country presentations would provide some new baseline information.

He suggested that the working group review the feasibility of achieving the targets and propose necessary revisions during project implementation. Following discussions, the RWG-LBP members adopted the SAP targets subject to further review and revision by the working group.

6. Reports on national efforts and achievements in implementing SAP and NAPs for land-based pollution during 2008-2021 and future plans

12. The Chairperson invited the Land-based Pollution National Focal Points from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to present key achievement in SAP implementation between 2008-2021 for land-based pollution including ongoing initiatives and future plans. The Chairperson referred the members to the country presentation document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/5 Efforts and Achievements in SAP and NAP Implementation of the Land-based Pollution Focal Area.

13. Mr. Ke Vongwattana, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment and nominated Land-based Pollution National Focal Point of Cambodia presented the national activities and achievements in implementing the SAP in Cambodia. National policies and laws on the management of land-based sources of pollution and best practices on wastewater management have been established such as working groups on water quality controlling and monitoring, inspection of pollution source of water, inter-ministerial working group on inspection and 29 special economic zones. Legislation and institutional framework were developed or updated such as the sub-decrees on drainage management and sewage treatment system, water pollution control, and plastic waste, and the Prakas on water quality index and technical guideline on equipment installation and wastewater treatment process. On pollution hotspots, a total of five hotspots have been identified, namely: Preak Pov and Preak Thloun in Svay Reag Province; Preak Thnaut in Kampong Speu Province; and O Chrov and Serey Sorphorn in Bateay Meanchey Province, mostly located near special economic zones and urban areas. Around 76-82% of these hotspots comply with the water quality standards. Three monitoring stations have been identified, namely: Koh Pich in Phnom Penh, Kampong Chhnang Province and Kratie Province. The last two stations are not operational. In terms of investment and financial mechanisms, most support comes from the government from its annual budget, and development partners and donors. The challenges encountered during SAP implementation were the inadequate financial sources to support the implementation, the limited capacity of officials to participate in the implementation, and the limited public awareness on wastewater management. The lessons learned identified were the willingness and support of government to SAP implementation, the bottom-up reporting system at provincial department level, and the setting-up of working group on wastewater management.

14. In terms of national coordination of the land-based pollution activities of the SCS SAP Project, the main institution responsible is the Ministry of Environment as the specialized executing agency, supported by its departments in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Work and Transportation, Mekong River Commission, and private sectors. The national working group on land-based pollution will be composed of the Ministry of Environment, General Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Water Quality Management, Provincial Governor, Provincial Department of Environment and Environmental Protection Unit. A national expert will be identified to participate in project activities. Overall, Cambodia is willing to support the SAP implementation and will undertake the national activities to support the regional activities such as coordination, reporting, legal framework, and staff support. To access Cambodia presentation, please click [\[LINK\]](#).

15. Mr. Zhao Xiao, Senior Engineer of the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment and nominated Land-based Pollution National Focal Point of China presented the efforts and achievements in implementing the SAP and NAPs in China. Since 2008, China has developed the national action plans for habitat and land-based pollution management during the first phase of the project and have conducted several activities in implementing the SAP and NAPs. Best practices on

land-based pollution relate to management practices, agriculture management, ecological restoration and industrial pollution control practices where many technical guidance and guidelines were produced. On legislative and institutional framework, several national and provincial legislations including regulations were passed related to environmental protection, water pollution control, marine environment protection, solid waste pollution including wetland protection laws. Several technical and administrative Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed and adopted on seawater quality, offshore environmental monitoring, and water pollution discharge standards. Many national and provincial policy frameworks were developed, enacted and implemented such as national action plans and provincial implementation plans. On pollution hotspots, there were three hotspots, namely: Neilingding of Pearl River estuary, Daya bay and Behai coastal water, with 41 out of 44 monitoring stations reached the water quality objective and water quality criteria, almost reaching 100% of the SAP target. On monitoring stations, 301 out of 377 monitoring stations in the South China Sea met the excellent water quality. The implementation of national marine ecological environment protection policies and measures have improved the seawater quality in the area. In terms of investment and financial mechanism, the central government invested a total of around 5.5 billion yuan (RMB) in the past five years in three provinces. The central government established special funding mechanisms to support marine pollution control and ecological protection. Market-based instrument mechanisms were also established like the China public private partnerships center. The challenges encountered were increased environmental pressure due to rapid development in coastal zone and shortage in environmental infrastructure construction such as sewage network and waste treatment facilities in coastal towns and rural areas, among others. The lessons learned were completed governance reform of the organizational structure of ecological environment and natural resources, improved law and regulation systems and formulated more than 20 pollutant discharge standards related to land-based pollution control and prevention, and established the financing mechanisms to support water pollution control and prevention.

16. In terms of national coordination of the land-based pollution activities of the SCS SAP Project, the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences (SCIENS) is the executing agency for the land-based pollution component of the project. The national working group will be composed of experts and professional technicians from SCIENS and other relevant domestic stakeholders from local environmental protection bureaus, among others. The national expert nominated to participate in project activities is Mr. Zhao Xiao, the national focal point. The recommendations to coordinating national activities and contributing to regional activities are: Under regional activities, 1) Establish a regional mechanism for periodic monitoring and assessment of the state of regional sea environment; and 2) Develop mechanism for sharing best practices to enhance the capacity building of member states. Under national activities, 1) Considering the national needs, management of water quality to meet objectives in an estuary area with multi-information and technology integration; and 2) Combined with existing relevant action plans and policies, update country reports and national action plans on land-based pollution. To access China presentation, please click [\[LINK\]](#).

17. Ms. Rotua Lelawati Simamora, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and nominated Land-based Pollution National Focal Point of Indonesia presented the achievements in implementing the SAP. Since 2008-2021, Indonesia has carried out various activities related to land-based pollution in order to be able to improve the function of coastal and marine areas as habitat for marine biota. Various efforts related to land-based pollution have been taken such as government policies, permits, investment of facilities, action programs and law enforcement to meet seawater quality standards. On national policies and laws, the government of Indonesia developed programs that direct and indirectly reduce pollution from land-based sources such as the PROPER program which gives color-coded ratings and awards to industries based on their environmental performance. Another is the “Waste Bank” Program which encourages people to recycle household waste into useful products and allows people to exchange collected waste with monetary rewards that goes into their accounts. The program on innovative solutions to combat marine litter encourages the private sector to work with the

community to combat marine litter from land-based sources. Several legislative and institutional frameworks for land-based pollution management were developed or updated concerning waste management, environmental and seawater quality monitoring, including several Standard Operating Procedures for land-based pollution control and management were adopted. The distribution of seawater quality monitoring stations was presented, where two of three hotspots were identified, namely: Pontianak and Tanjung Pinang. The waste baseline research study was presented including the actions taken to prevent marine litter such installation of river trash boom. In terms of investment and financial mechanism, the central government invested on the development of communal domestic waste treatment facilities and wastewater treatment plants including construction of disposal facilities and new settlements. Most support comes from the national and local government budget, foreign aid funds and private sector through community social responsibility. The challenges encountered were low public awareness, limited public access to sanitation, limited government capacity in providing public facilities, systematic monitoring program for both sea water quality and marine litter including riverine inputs as Indonesia has a large ocean area and thousands of watersheds. The lessons learned in the implementation is that the programs implemented by the government like PROPER and waste/trash bank are effective ways to control pollution from land-based sources. To control pollution from land-based sources requires a relatively large investment and the role of the central government is very important in assisting the lack of capacity of local government. To change people's behavior to care about the environment, it is necessary to ensure that their activities provide economic benefits.

18. In terms of national coordination of the land-based pollution activities of the SCS SAP Project, the specialized executing agency is the Directorate for Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The national working group will be composed of members from related ministries and directorates, universities and research institutions, non-government organizations and individual experts. The proposed experts are Dr. Sigit Hariyadi, Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB), Prof. Zaenal Arifin, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Dr. Ayi Tarya, Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). The proposed national activities that can contribute to regional activities are: workshops on 1) transboundary of marine plastic litter, 2 land-based pollution best practices, and 3) marine red tide methodology and assessment; and training on building capacity on wastewater management. To access Indonesia presentation, please click [LINK].

19. Mr. Fatima Molina, Chief of the Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division, Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on behalf of the nominated Land-based Pollution National Focal Point of the Philippines, briefly presented the Philippines involvement in the first phase of the project where a National Report on land-based pollution was prepared in 2008. Three hotspots were identified – Batangas Bay, Lingayen Gulf and Manila Bay. The development of the National Action Plan on Land-Based Pollution was planned in 2019. However, the project document and activities on land-based pollution have not yet been discussed and elaborated. Instead, the National Implementation Report on Land-Based Pollution was prepared in 2021 which includes the proposed national activities. The national activities and status of implementation were presented. Several national initiatives and projects related to managing land-based sources of pollution were implemented such as the capacity development on improving solid waste management, clean water program, the Philippine Minamata initial assessment, and strengthening the national research and development program for the prevention and control of water pollution, among others. For the legislative and institutional framework, three major laws related to land-based pollution management were developed and continuously updated such as the Clean Water Act, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Management Act. Several Standard Operating Procedures were developed and adopted related to water quality management, and solid waste management. These include the procedural and operational manuals for water quality monitoring, designation of water quality management areas including funding mechanisms, solid waste analysis and characterization guidelines, and the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter. Several policy issuances

and regulations were developed and adopted related to clean water act, solid waste management act, toxic substances and hazardous and nuclear waste management act and environmental impact assessment. As to the status of water quality in identified hotspots and monitoring stations, no information was provided as it is still being updated. In terms of challenges, the capacity of DENR-EMB in handling the various laws has been continuously upgraded. There are still gaps and necessities that are needed such as the development of national action plan, updating policies, rules and regulations, manpower training and continuing education, upgrading of equipment and instruments and systems and facilities, development of database and public awareness on the management of land-based pollution. The lessons learned includes maximizing communication and networking with local government units, academe and other government agencies on monitoring activities of identified hotspots, importance of budget allocation and building capacity of personnel and information dissemination to all stakeholders like national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations and youth.

20. In terms of national coordination of the land-based pollution activities of the SCS SAP Project, the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR is the specialized executing agency with Assistant Director Vizminda Osorio as the national focal point. The national working group will be composed of the Environmental Management Bureau as chair with members from the concerned EMB regional offices, other government agencies, business/industry organizations, professional organizations, academe and research organizations, non-government and civil society organizations. The national expert to participate in project activities and the recommendations to coordinating national activities and contributing to regional activities have not yet been identified. To access the Philippines presentation, please click [\[LINK\]](#).

21. Ms. Wilawan Thanatameerat, Environmentalist, Professional Level of the Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and nominated Land-based Pollution National Focal Point of Thailand presented the Strategic Action Plan implementation achievements from 2008 to 2021. For national policies and laws, best practices include the development of several manuals and regulations on wastewater management and wastewater effluent standards for various pollution sources including establishment of working groups to develop the manuals and modeling for estimating pollution carrying capacity. As to legislative and institutional framework, two Acts were passed such as the Water Resource Act and the Marine and Coastal Resources Management Promotion Act. A master plan on water resource management and roadmap and action plans on plastic waste management were developed including the Environmental Quality Management Plan. Several Standard Operating Procedures were adopted relating to surface water quality standards, seawater quality standards, coastal sediment quality standards, water sampling from pollution generated sources, seawater quality monitoring and controlling discharge from sources. A 20-year Pollution Management Strategy and Pollution Management Plan 2017-2021 and a 3-year Action Plan of the Pollution Control Department (2000 2022) which includes the Water Quality Management Action Plan was developed and implemented. An Emergency Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Marine Pollution was also developed. Two hotspots were identified in 2008, namely Chonburi and Songkhla where 75% and 100% respectively, meet the water quality criteria based on 2021 data. There were 136 water monitoring stations, now expanded to 148 stations where 84% of these stations meet water quality criteria. In terms of financial mechanism, support comes from the annual environmental budget allocation which includes the pollution and environmental management of which 55% goes to water quality and wastewater management. The challenges and lesson learned include: COVID-19 situation generated infectious wastes leaking to coastal areas; Private and public involvement is very important for land-based pollution, not only the government sector; Raising awareness on entrepreneurs to reduce their wastewater is still needed; Permit system for wastewater should be implemented in Thailand, in order to reduce amount of pollution into water; Strong punishment should be applied; Admire and reward for the good practice of manufacturers or communities are essential; and Promote more on using less chemical on agriculture and aquaculture.

22. In terms of national coordination, the specialized executing agency is the Water Quality Management Bureau of the Pollution Control Department. The National Working Group outline consists of representatives from the Water Quality Management Bureau of the Pollution Control Department, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Industrial Sector and Office of the National Water Resources. The proposed expert is Dr. Wilawan Thanatemanerat and other experts to be identified. As to recommendations to coordinating national activities and contributing regional activities, there are some gaps from the past and current project, where related documents in the past project could be provided as guide for current project implementation. To access Thailand presentation, please click [LINK].

23. Dr. Nguyen The Chinh, SCS-SAP Project National Coordinator, presented Vietnam's involvement on land-based pollution activities where a national action plan on land-based pollution was developed and identified the following pollution sources such as solid waste; effluent from intensive coastal aquaculture; domestic waste; agricultural/rural waste; oil pollution industrial waste; sedimentation and erosion; and ship-based pollution. There were 3 pollution hotspots identified in 2008, namely: Quang Ninh, Da Nang and Vung Tau. The programs and initiatives on land-based pollution includes the World Oceans Day and World Environment Day which Vietnam considered important days as it promotes environmental awareness and action worldwide. Several projects implemented such as the: 1) Controlling marine environmental pollution due to socio-economic activities in the sea areas of Quang Ninh - Hai Phong, Da Nang - Quang Nam, and Ba Ria Vung Tau - Ho Chi Minh City; 2) Reducing Ocean Plastic Waste in Vietnam; and 3) Strengthening propaganda on management, protection and sustainable development of Vietnam's seas and islands. In terms of legislative and institutional framework for land-based pollution management, several resolutions were developed on maritime strategy, strategy for sustainable development of sea-based economy, and national energy development. A national action plan on ocean plastic management and a national strategy on solid waste management was approved by the Prime Minister. Several laws were developed, enacted, amended, and implemented such as the: Law on Natural Resources and Environment of Sea and Islands, Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Petroleum, Law on Tourism, Law on Fisheries and Law on Environmental Protection. For the identified hotspots, the quality of the seawater environment of Quang Ninh was good and within the allowable limits. Da Nang estuary areas and aquaculture areas were lightly polluted and have reached the permissible threshold. The coastal seawater quality has exceeded the high threshold at Au Thuyen - Tho Quang seaport. The quality of the beach area is of good quality. For Vung Tau, the aquaculture area (Ganh Rai) has a high concentration of pollutants, exceeding the allowable limit. The beach area was within the threshold.

24. The challenges encountered were the lack and weak infrastructure for environmental protection, the volume of generated solid waste and hazardous waste is still increasing. The river discharged million tons of silt into the sea bringing many substances that can pollute the sea. The separation of domestic solid waste at source has not been carried out. The lessons learned identified were: Economic development must be in harmony with nature, respect the laws of nature, do not trade the environment for economic growth; Environmental protection is the responsibility of the whole political system and the whole society; Land-based pollution control must be based on institutional quality improvement and effective law enforcement; Need awareness raising campaigns for costal residents including perfecting the Law on Natural Resources and Environment of Sea and Islands. The national coordination arrangements such as the specialized executing agency, the composition of national working group including nomination of experts have not yet been identified. To access Vietnam presentation, please click [LINK].

25. Following the presentations, Dr. Tuan suggested including the private sectors, non-government organizations and local governments as members of the national working group given their involvement in SAP implementation. The efforts and achievements will be documented and published as discussed in the RSTC meeting in October 2022 where it was agreed that an editorial group will be established to review and finalize the achievement report. As to the past and current project documents, the project websites are available to download the documents. Given the many achievements and good practices in developing and

implementing guidelines, manuals and SOPs including modeling activities, Dr. Tuan suggested that the Philippines and Thailand to take the lead role for land-based pollution activities of the project. Mr. Molina reminded the members of the working group to update the document on SAP implementation achievement on land-based pollution considering the many achievements presented.

26. Mr. Yu recalled that there was an ASEAN water quality standard developed and inquired if the project will be using the ASEAN or country standards. He noted that some countries have developed and issued wastewater effluent standards, which could be considered for future discussion. Dr. Tuan clarified that the project used the ASEAN water quality standards as agreed during the first phase. He suggested the need for the working group to review and possibly harmonize the different standards used by the participating countries. Dr Jacinto explained that countries have water quality guidelines and criteria which are not necessarily consistent with the ASEAN water quality guidelines. The project could review and check where the countries are with respect to their water quality guidelines and criteria and compare them with the ASEAN guidelines and if there is a need, harmonize the guidelines.

7. Good Practices on Habitat and Land-Based Pollution Management

27. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/6 Good Practices on Habitat and Land-Based Pollution Management. Dr. Vo Si Tuan explained that the document includes good practices on reducing habitat degradation and loss, habitat management and integrated management of habitat and land-based pollution. He noted that many of the good practices came from different sources and only two good practices on land-based pollution were documented. In the first RSTC meeting, it was agreed that all countries and experts will update and share more practices on habitat and land-based pollution management. It was also agreed that an editorial group will be established who will be responsible for the review, editing and finalization of the document for publication. In the country presentations, there were a lot of good practices in the region that can be documented and included in updating the document. Dr. Tuan suggested discussing the details of the documentation and publication on good practices under agenda item 9.

8. Review and prioritization of land-based pollution activities for project implementation

28. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/7 Prioritization of Land-Based Pollution Activities for Project Implementation. Dr. Vo Si Tuan presented the summary of the document explaining that most of the land-based pollution activities fall under 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, covering three outcomes, namely: 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; and 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. He further presented and explained in detail under each outcome the regional and national activities for each output including the execution arrangements. Other related outcomes and outputs involving both habitats and land-based pollution management were also presented. Following presentation, Dr. Tuan requested the working group to discuss the prioritization of activities at regional and national levels, the nomination of consultants/experts to join regional activities, and the preparation of PCA with specialized executing agency for implementing activities at national level.

29. The working group members stressed the importance of prioritizing the activities as it provides the activities on land-based pollution for the next two years. However, this would depend on the country's concerns and priorities. Given the limited time, it was suggested that the focus should be on activities with high priority ratings, and from these, develop a detailed workplan and activities with timeframe. Dr. Tuan

supported the comments and suggestions and clarified that the prioritization of activities will have to be approved first by the Project Steering Committee, and after approval, will develop the detailed workplan, which would serve as baseline for further activity at regional and national level. He encouraged the working group to share their views and suggestions on what activity to prioritize including the arrangements as these are important inputs in developing the workplan and PCA activities. He reminded countries to nominate their national consultants or experts that would participate in project activities.

30. Dr. Won Tae Shin of the Partnerships on Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) informed the working group that they are committed to supporting countries in implementing the project plans and activities. Currently, PEMSEA is implementing a five-year SDS-SEA plan where land-based pollution is one of the key agenda including implementing several land-based pollution related projects on marine plastic pollution and prevention. He stated that PEMSEA would like to collaborate in the implementation of project activities including sharing information on their projects and plans. Dr. Tuan expressed appreciation for PEMSEA's interest in collaborating and stated that the project will discuss further cooperation with PEMSEA once the new Project Manager is onboard.

9. Execution Arrangement and National Work Plans

31. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the next steps of the Regional Working Group towards execution of activities under the SCS SAP. Mr. Reynaldo Molina presented the follow-up actions and next steps as discussed and agreed in the meeting.

32. The Project Coordination Unit will:

- Revise RWG-LBP TOR and share to members for adoption via silent procedure
- Review and finalization of LBP SAP implementation achievement report from February-March and publication by end of March 2023.
- Share with members the LBP past documents and reports from the first phase of the project
- Review and finalization of best practices document (with additional inputs on LBP) from February-March and publication by end of March 2023.
- Develop TOR and engage/hire consultant(s) to assist in the updating of TDA and SAP, modelling and remote sensing
- Develop/Amend Project Cooperation Agreements for LBP activities
- Prepare detailed workplan (overall and annual) for next two years
- Follow-up possible joint activities and collaboration with COBSEA, PEMSEA, and ASEAN
- Draft report of the meeting by 22 December 2022 for circulation. PCU to receive final comments by 10 January 2023. Final report for circulation and adoption by RWG members via silent procedure.

33. At national level, the RWG-LBP members are requested to:

- Confirm SEA and national focal points for Land-based Pollution by 23 December 2022
- Further review and completion of LBP SAP implementation achievement report by January 2023. Review and finalization of report from February-March with the final draft by end of March 2023 for publication.
- Updating and submission of additional inputs from countries for the good practices document by January 2023. Review and finalization of document from February-March with the final draft by end of March 2023 for publication.
- Provide name of LBP focal point for the editorial group and publication asap
- Finalize LBP activities for implementation, based on priorities
- Develop and finalize national activities for inclusion in Project Cooperation Agreements
- Nominate consultants/experts to join regional activities including regional/national organizations for collaboration

- Establish and convene National LBP Committee/Working Group to share RWG-LBP discussions, recommendations and workplan

34. The next steps and meetings for 2022 are as follows:

- End of December 2022 – Submission of national focal points and SEAs for the Land-based Pollution
- November/December 2022 – Develop TOR and initiate recruitment process of consultant/s
- 10 January 2023 – Submission of: 1) draft updated good practices document; and 2) draft updated LBP SAP implementation achievement report
- January 16-18, 2023 – 2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting back-to-back with the Final Fisheries Refugia Project Closing Meeting, Manila, Philippines
- February/March 2023 – 2nd Regional Working Group (RWG) and 1st Regional Task Force (RTF) Meetings
- March 2023 – Publication of good practices document and SAP achievement report
- April 2023 – 2nd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) Meeting
- September/October 2023 – 3rd Regional Working Group (RWG) and 2nd Regional Task Force (RTF) Meetings
- November 2023 – 3rd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) Meeting
- December 2023 – 3rd Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

35. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to share the agreed follow-up actions and next steps with the working group members for future reference and guidance. To access the presentation on follow up actions and next steps, please click [LINK].

10. Any Other Business

36. The Chairperson invited members to consider and discuss any items of business introduced under agenda item 3. There were no other issues or items raised.

11. Closure of the Meeting

37. The Chairperson thanked all the members and experts of the regional working group for their active participation in the meeting and expressed appreciation on the country presentations and documentations on land-based pollution achievements and best practices which contributes to achieving the SAP targets at national and regional level. He thanked the Secretariat for the organization and conduct of the meeting including the preparation of meeting documents. He invited members of the working group for some closing statements. The members expressed appreciation for the organization of the meeting and the representatives from participating countries for attending the meeting which provided good results and hoped to work closely together to address the challenges in implementing the project. The Chairperson formally closed the meeting.

ANNEXES

Annex 1	List of Participants
Annex 2	List of Documents
Annex 3	Agenda and Annotated Agenda
Annex 4	Revised Terms of Reference

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. List of Documents

Meeting documents

The Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution members are required to review these documents

SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/1	Provisional Agenda
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/3	Provisional Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution of the UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/4	SCS Project Outputs and SAP Targets on Land-based Pollution Focal Area
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/5	Efforts and Achievements in SAP and NAP Implementation of the Land-based Pollution Focal Area
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/6	Good Practices on Habitat and Land - Based Pollution Management
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/7	Prioritization of Land - Based Pollution Activities for Project Implementation
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/8	Report of the Meeting (to be prepared following the meeting)

Information documents

SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.1	Provisional List of Document (this document)
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.3	PSC.1/3 Inception Phase Regional Implementation Report
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.4	PSC.1/Inf.3 Cambodia Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.5	PSC.1/Inf.4 China Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.6	PSC.1/Inf.5 Indonesia Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.7	PSC.1/Inf.6 Philippines Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.8	PSC.1/Inf.7 Thailand Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.9	PSC.1/Inf.8 Vietnam Summary Profile
SCSSAP RWG-LbP 1/Inf.10	EAS/RCU TRS No. 14 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the South China Sea [LINK]

Reference documents

	SCS SAP Full Project Document [LINK]
	SCS Strategic Action Programme [LINK]
SCSSAP IP.1/4	1 st Regional Inception Phase Meeting Report [LINK]
SCSSAP IP.2/5	2 nd Regional Inception Phase Meeting Report [LINK]
SCSSAP IP.3/5	3 rd Regional Inception Phase Meeting – NIR Development and Completion [LINK]
SCSSAP PSC.1/9	Project Steering Committee Meeting Report [LINK]
SCSSAP IW/3	SCS SAP Inception Meeting Report [LINK]
SCSSAP RWG-M.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves Report [LINK]
SCSSAP RWG-CR.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs Report [LINK]
SCSSAP RWG-SG.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass Report [LINK]
SCSSAP RWG-W.1/6	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands Report [LINK]
SCSSAP RWG-RSTC.1/11	First Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Report [LINK]

Annex 3. Agenda and Annotated Agenda

Tuesday, 13 December 2022, 09.00 – 16.00 Indochina Time (ICT)

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
 - 1.1 Welcome address by Project Senior Manager
 - 1.2 Introduction of members
- 2. Organization of the meeting**
 - 2.1 Designation of officers
 - 2.2 Organization of work
- 3. Adoption of the meeting agenda**
- 4. Consideration of the Terms of reference of the Regional Working Group**
- 5. Review the SCS Project outputs and SAP targets for land-based pollution**
- 6. Reports on national efforts and achievements in implementing SAP and NAPs for land-based pollution during 2008-2021 and future plans**
 - 6.1 Cambodia
 - 6.2 China
 - 6.3 Indonesia
 - 6.4 Philippines
 - 6.5 Thailand
 - 6.6 Viet Nam
- 7. Good Practices on Habitat and Land-Based Pollution Management**
- 8. Review and prioritization of land-based pollution activities for project implementation**
- 9. Execution arrangement and national work plans**
- 10. Any other business**
- 11. Closure of the Meeting**

Tuesday, 13 December 2022, 09.00 – 16.00 Indochina Time (ICT)

08.45-09.00 Participants are requested to login to the zoom meeting at least 15 minutes before the meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting	
09.00-09.10 10 min	1.1 Welcome address The SCS SAP Project Senior Manager will open the meeting and deliver the welcome address.
09.10-09.20 10 min	1.2 Introduction of members The Secretariat will be invited to introduce the members of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution and other participants.
2. Organization of the meeting	
09.20-09.35 15 min	2.1 Designation of officers In accordance with the draft rules of procedure for the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution, participants will be invited by the Secretariat to elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur.
09.35-09.45 10 min	2.2 Organization of work The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to brief participants on the proposed organization of work, the list of documents available to the meeting and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting. The meeting will be conducted online in plenary. The meeting will be conducted in English.
3. Adoption of the meeting agenda	
09.45-10.00 15 min	The Chairperson will invite participants to consider the draft agenda and annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat as documents SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/1 and SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/2, propose any amendments or additional items for consideration, and adopt the agenda.
4. Consideration of the Terms of reference of the Regional Working Group	
10.00-10.15 15 min	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/3: Provisional Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution of the UNEP/GEF SCS SAP Project, previously circulated. The RWG-LbP is invited to consider, amend and adopt the Terms of Reference as outlined in this document.
5. Review the SCS Project outputs and SAP targets for land-based pollution	
10.15-10.45 30 min	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce and present document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/4 SCS Project outputs and SAP targets on land-based pollution and the objectives and outputs of the SCS SAP project. The RWG-LbP is invited to review, amend and adopt the SAP targets on land-based pollution.

6. Reports on national efforts and achievements in implementing SAP and NAPs for land-based pollution during 2008-2021 and future plans	
10.45-12.00 15 min per presentation	The Chairperson will invite National Land-based Pollution Focal Points from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to present key achievement in SAP implementation between 2008-2021 for land-based pollution including ongoing initiatives and future plans. Please refer to country presentation document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/5 Efforts and Achievements in SAP and NAP Implementation of the Land-based Pollution Focal Area
12.00-13.30	LUNCH BREAK
7. Good Practices on Habitat and Land-Based Pollution Management	
13.30-14.00 30 min	7.1 Good Practices on Habitat and Land - Based Pollution Management The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/6 Good Practices on Habitat and Land - Based Pollution Management.
	7.2 Best practices on land-based pollution management Presentations from invited experts on best practices on land-based pollution management in the region.
8. Review and prioritization of land-based pollution activities for project implementation	
14.00-15.00 1 hour	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce document SCSSAP RWG-LbP.1/7 Prioritization of Land - Based Pollution Activities for Project Implementation. The RWG-LbP is invited to review, identify and prioritize activities on land-based pollution for implementation.
9. Execution arrangement and national work plans	
15.00-15.30 30 min	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to present the next steps in the RWG towards execution of activities under the SCS SAP, including next meeting of the RWG-LbP.
10. Any other business	
15.30-15.45 15 min	The Chairperson will invite members to consider and discuss any items of business introduced under agenda item 3.
11. Closure of the Meeting	
15.45-16.00 15 min	The Chairperson will call for a formal motion to close the meeting.

Annex 4. Revised Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution

1. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF A REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION

1.1 To facilitate the achievement of the Strategic Action Programme targets for land-based pollution management, a Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution (RWG-LbP) shall be established with overall responsibility for: co-ordinating the work of the National Land-Based Pollution Committees established in each of the participating countries; for ensuring effective implementation of project activities undertaken in the context of the achievement of the land-based pollution management targets of the project; and to provide a mechanism for exchange of information and experience of land-based pollution management activities in each country.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The RWG-LbP of the SCS SAP Project shall consist of the Chairpersons of the National Land-based Pollution Committees together with one member of the SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit and selected regional experts. The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit in consultation with the National Technical Focal Points for the project shall nominate no more than four such experts to ensure a balance of expertise and specialisation consistent with the mandate of the working group.

2.2 The membership of the RWG-LbP shall be formally established at the first meeting of the Working Group, which shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the RWG-LbP will represent the RWG-LbP on the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and will attend the meetings of that Committee.

3. SECRETARIAT

3.1 The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit shall act as Secretariat to the RWG-LbP, and shall ensure that reports of the meetings are circulated to all members of the working group, and are copied to the members of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee. The National Land-based Pollution Committees shall serve as the principal source of national scientific and technical data and information to the RWG-LbP.

4. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 The SCS SAP Project Coordination Unit in consultation with the Chairperson shall convene meetings of the RWG-LbP according to an agreed schedule, which will form part of the agreed work plan and timetable for the work of the Committee. The first meeting of the RWG-LbP will be convened within three months of signature of the operational project document to agree on the detailed activities, workplan and timetable for the first twenty-four months of project execution leading to the project's mid-term review.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The RWG-LbP shall:

- 5.1 Provide direction, and strategic guidance to the National Land-based Pollution Committees regarding the achievement of the land-based pollution targets of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea;
- 5.2 Assume overall responsibility for the timely execution of project activities in support of the achievement of the abovementioned targets;
- 5.3 Update, in close collaboration with the National Land-based Pollution Committees, the regional land-based pollution meta-database and GIS, including meta-data on pollution hotspots and the results of pollution hotspot research pertaining to this project;
- 5.4 Develop, in close collaboration with the National Land-Based Pollution Committees, public awareness and information materials concerning the national and regional importance of effective pollution control;
- 5.5 Update in close collaboration with the National Land-based Pollution Committees, regional data sets relating to the economic impacts of land-based pollution with a view to incorporation of such valuations in national economic and development planning;
- 5.6 Receive, and review reports, data and information from the National Land-based Pollution Committees and compile the regional syntheses regarding land-based pollution management needs and priorities;
- 5.7 Review and develop guidelines regarding best practices in land-based pollution management, including review and harmonization of existing water quality guidelines and criteria for adoption and application at national level in participating countries;
- 5.8 Develop, review and recommend for adoption by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee the proposed targets and timelines that may be included in a revised Strategic Action programme in order to achieve, sustainable management of land-based pollution in the longer-term;
- 5.9 Work to ensure that nutrient-carrying capacity models developed for the South China Sea marine basin are used to communicate with decision-makers about the localized versus transboundary impacts of land-based pollution in the SCS;
- 5.10 Work to ensure that the regional level assessment of impacts of key contaminants (e.g. nutrients, heavy metals, oil, marine litter including plastics) and national or local assessments based on NAP and hotspots;
- 5.11 Provide regional guidance for the harmonization of standardized methodology for the development of country's national action plans focusing on strengthening and harmonizing national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of land-based sources of pollution;

5.12 Work to collaborate with other international and regional programs and initiatives involved in land-based pollution activities such as COBSEA, PEMSEA and ASEAN, among others.

5.13 Review and evaluate, at the regional level, progress in implementation of the land-based pollution activities of the project, and provide guidance for improvement when necessary; and

5.14 Develop annual workplans and provide periodic progress reports to the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee.