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Facility

***Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends
in the
South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand***

REPORT

Fourth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee

Pattaya, Thailand 15th – 17th February 2004



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Table of Contents

1.	OPENING OF THE MEETING	1
1.1	WELCOME ADDRESS	1
1.2	INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS	1
2.	ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING.....	1
2.1	ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004	1
2.2	DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO THE MEETING	2
2.3	PROGRAMME OF WORK	2
3.	ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA	2
4.	STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND EXTENSION OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs) BETWEEN UNEP AND THE SPECIALISED EXECUTING AGENCIES.....	2
4.1	STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2003.....	2
4.2	EXTENSION OF THE MOUs BETWEEN UNEP AND THE SPECIALISED EXECUTING AGENCIES	4
4.3	CONSIDERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK BUDGET AND UNDER-EXPENDITURES BY COMPONENT FOR 2004-2007	4
5.	STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS FROM THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT	5
6.	REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON PROGRESS TO DATE.....	5
6.1	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON MANGROVES	5
6.2	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON CORAL REEFS	6
6.3	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON SEAGRASS	6
6.4	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS	7
6.5	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES.....	7
6.6	REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION	7
7.	CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON THE HABITAT SUB-COMPONENTS REGARDING THE RANKING OF DEMONSTRATION SITES	8
8.	PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE REGARDING THE RANKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMONSTRATION SITES ..	9
8.1	SITES FOR GEF GRANT SUPPORT	9
8.2	SITES REQUIRING EXTERNAL CO-FINANCING	11
8.3	SITES REQUIRING NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING (GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS)	12
9.	SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING DEMONSTRATION SITE PROPOSALS	12
9.1	PROCEDURE FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE EXECUTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATION SITES.....	12
9.2	PREPARATION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION, DISSEMINATION OF EXPERIENCES AND PERSONNEL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SITES.....	12
10.	WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	13
11.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	13
12.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING	14
13.	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	14

List of Annexes

- ANNEX 1 List of Participants**
- ANNEX 2 List of Documents**
- ANNEX 3 Agenda**
- ANNEX 4 Up-dated Table of Information Regarding Extensions of MoUs between UNEP
and the Specialised Executing Agencies**
- ANNEX 5 Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of Experiences, and
Personnel Exchange between Sites**
- ANNEX 6 Revised Work Plan Timetable and Meeting Schedule for the Years 2004 - 2007**

Report of the Meeting

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome address

1.1.1 Dr. John Pernetta, Project Director, officially opened the meeting at 08:00 hours, 15 February 2004 on behalf of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Executive Director of UNEP and Director, Division of Global Environment Facility Co-ordination (UNEP/DGEF). He welcomed all participants to the meeting.

1.1.2 Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that at the Partnership Workshop immediately after the Regional Scientific Conference, in Bangkok last week, the GEF representative had expressed satisfaction with the project implementation in the first two years. He announced that additional financial resources will be provided by the GEF to support 7 additional demonstration sites of the project as part of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme.

1.1.3 Dr. Pernetta emphasised that this meeting of the RSTC is critically important, as the project is at the end of the preparatory phase, and about to enter the operational phase. The major task for this meeting is to prepare recommendations to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on the prioritisation of the demonstration sites.

1.1.4 He noted that during the Regional Scientific Conference, it was noted that the purpose of the demonstration sites should be clearly identified in the proposals but that the overall focus of the sites should be sustainable use. He invited the members of the RSTC to consider the way in which the existing proposals could be strengthened in this regard.

1.2 Introduction of members

1.2.1 Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that there were 3 new participants to this meeting: Dr. M. Daud Slialahi, Chairperson of Regional Task Force for Legal Matters (RTF-L), Dr. Matus Supamoko, Chairperson of Regional Task Force for Economic Valuation (RTF-E); and Dr. Mike Bowers, one of the two evaluators for the mid term review of the project. He noted that the committee might wish to amend its membership to enable the chairs of the task forces to sit as full members of the committee.

1.2.2 There followed a "tour de table" during which all members introduced themselves. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Election of Officers for 2004

2.1.1 Dr. Pernetta reminded members that the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) state that *"the RSTC shall elect, from amongst the members, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur to serve for one year"*. The rules state further that, officers shall be eligible for re-election no more than once.

2.1.2 He noted that Dr. Vo Si Tuan, Mr. Koch Savath, and Professor Huang Zhengguang, had been elected and had served as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur during 2002, following which they were re-elected in 2003. He noted that they were therefore not eligible for re-election in 2004.

2.1.3 The Project Director reminded the Committee that as this meeting was originally planned to be held in December 2003, and as the committee had decided that the officers should serve for the preparatory phase the committee might wish to ask the officers to continue to serve for this meeting. He suggested that the new officers for 2004 should assume their duties and responsibilities at the closure of this meeting.

2.1.4 This suggestion was supported by Dr. Gil Jacinto, the National Technical Focal Point of Philippines, and Professor Zhengguang Huang, the National Technical Focal Point of China. The committee agreed unanimously with this proposal and further agreed to elect the new officers under agenda item 11.

2.1.5 Following this agreement, Dr. Vo Si Tuan, the current Chairperson of the Committee, assumed the Chair of the meeting together with Mr. Koch Savath, and Professor Zhengguang Huang, as Vice Chairperson and Rapporteur respectively.

2.1.6 Dr. Tuan thanked all members of the RSTC for their trust, and expressed his sincere appreciation to the Project Co-ordinating Unit for its hard work in ensuring the smooth operation of the office and effective implementation of the project activities. He noted that the participants in this project had learnt a great deal over the first two years and expressed his appreciation for the trust that the committee placed in the standing officers.

2.2 Documentation available to the meeting

2.2.1 Dr. Pernetta introduced the documents available to the meeting and apologised that some of the meeting documents had not been duplicated in advance, due to the time constraints in the PCU associated with the preparation of the Regional Scientific Conference. He informed the meeting that the missing documents would be provided during the course of the day.

2.2.2 Dr. Pernetta introduced the documents for the meeting, and the list is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

2.3 Programme of Work

2.3.1 The Project Director briefed participants on the administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting, and the proposed organisation of work (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/Inf.3). He informed the meeting that formal sessions of the meeting would be conducted in English, and in plenary as far as possible. The Committee may establish sessional working groups as deemed necessary.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

3.1 The Chairperson introduced the provisional agenda prepared by the Project Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) as document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/1 and invited members of the RSTC to propose any amendments or additional items for consideration, prior to the adoption of the agenda.

3.2 Mr. Ing Try, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries, expressed the hope that the meeting could complete its agenda on time since he regretted that he had to leave Bangkok on the evening of the 17th February.

3.3 The Chairperson informed the meeting that although he would try to finish the agenda as early as possible, the tasks before the Committee are critical and require careful consideration therefore he felt it unlikely that the meeting could be completed early.

3.4 The agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as Annex 3 to this report.

4. STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND EXTENSION OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs) BETWEEN UNEP AND THE SPECIALISED EXECUTING AGENCIES

4.1 Status of administrative reports for the year 2003

4.1.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce the document, *Current Status of the Administrative Reports from the Inter-ministry Committees and Specialised Executing Agencies of the Participating Countries* (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/4) containing information on the status of the budget allocations, administrative reports and audit reports received from the focal ministries and Specialised Executing Agencies (SEAs) in the participating countries.

4.1.2 Based on the information contained in the six-month progress reports the Project Coordinating Unit had calculated, according to the agreements reached during the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee the co-financing contributions from the participating governments for the preparatory phase of the project. Members were invited to note that due to the absence of some reports some calculations were incomplete and the committee was requested to advise the PCU on how these calculations can be completed in order to finalise a formal revision of the project budget during March 2004.

4.1.3 Based on the information provided, in document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/4, the Committee was invited to consider the overall performance of the individual Specialised Executing Agencies, to note specific issues or problems and agree upon recommendations to the Project Steering Committee regarding the need for remedial actions as deemed appropriate.

4.1.4 Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting of the status of the six monthly progress reports, financial reports and cash advance requests. He informed the meeting that as a Fund Management Officer is now in place, he hoped that the financial management of the project would be improved in the future and that the PCU would be better able to respond promptly to requests for assistance.

4.1.5 He further informed the meeting that there are still 5 audit reports for 2002 that have not been received, which are required prior to the release of further funds. He noted that audit reports for 2003 were due by the 30th March and expressed the hope that these would be delivered more promptly than those for 2002. He noted further the agreement that the Coral Reef SEA from Viet Nam would produce an audit report covering both 2002 and 2003.

4.1.6 The Project Director noted that there were a large amount of funds that had not been disbursed to the SEAs for the 2nd half of 2003 and that much of this had been carried forward to 2004 under the extension of the current MoUs. He briefly reviewed the financial rules of this project for the benefit of new members of the committee, and encouraged the focal points of IMCs and SEAs to complete the outstanding reports as soon as possible.

4.1.7 With regard to the situation in Malaysia he invited the National Technical Focal Point from Malaysia to provide information on the intention of Malaysia with respect to participation in the mangrove sub-component and fishery component. He informed the meeting that the State of Sabah had expressed interest in being involved in the testing of a blast fishing detection device that would benefit from the participation of Malaysia in the fishery component of the project.

4.1.8 Mr. Zainal Abidin, alternate of the National Technical Focal Point from Malaysia informed the meeting that as he had been involved in the project only for one month, it was difficult for him to provide information on this matter. He promised to take the message of the meeting back to Malaysia and discuss this issue with the National Focal Point and National Technical Focal Point and provide necessary information to the Project Steering Committee.

4.1.9 The meeting noted the fact that serious delays are being experienced in some parts of the project, which will have an impact on the timely implementation of the project overall. Mr. Yihang Jiang, Senior Expert reminded the Committee that when a regional working group modified its work plan to extend the time that this has measurable and significant financial consequences.

4.1.10 Dr. Pernetta outlined the financial implications of the delay in project implementation. He informed the meeting that since project activities had been extended to mid 2007, it would be unlikely that all financial reports and audit reports would be received before the end of 2007. The project would then be unable to close the financial records when the project was scheduled to be completed. If that situation happens, there is need to find additional resource to cover the salaries of the staff responsible for project closure.

4.1.11 The meeting requested the National Technical Focal Points from the participating countries to take urgent action at the national level to ensure timely delivery of the requested inputs in order to ensure the implementation of agreed activities at regional level according to schedule.

4.2 Extension of the MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies

4.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce the document, *Status of the Memoranda of Understanding between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies as of January 2004* (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/5). The document provided information on the extension of MoUs between the Specialised Executing Agencies (SEAs) and UNEP from 31st December 2003 to 30th June 2004. The up-dated table of information regarding extensions is attached as Annex 4 to this report.

4.2.2 The purpose of these extensions was to enable the SEAs to complete the outputs planned for the preparatory phase (January 2002 to December 2003) that have been delayed as a consequence of delays in initial fund transfer; subsequent delays in reporting at the national level; and difficulties in convening the third meetings of the Regional Working Groups according to the agreed schedule, consequent upon the SARS outbreak during the first half of 2003.

4.2.3 The Project Director informed the meeting that the extension of the MoUs does not increase the total budgets originally allocated to the SEAs and that the budgets and work plans have been adjusted to accommodate the requirements of preparation of the potential demonstration site proposals; finalisation of the national reports and reviews; and complete the first drafts of the national action plans. He further informed the meeting that most amendments of MoUs and revisions of the associated budgets have been completed, and some are under negotiation with individual SEAs.

4.2.4 Dr. Pernetta noted that in order to prepare the Regional Strategic Action Programme, there is need to complete the draft national action plans during the preparatory phase, i.e. end June 2004.

4.2.5 Mr. Tri Edi, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass, asked whether it was possible to re-allocate the unspent balance of funds from the preparatory phase to help Cambodia build its national capacity and knowledge to manage the coastal and marine environment.

4.2.6 In response the Project Director informed the Committee that it is possible to take the action along this line, if the Project Steering Committee so decided. He confirmed to the meeting that if Cambodia requested assistance in developing knowledge and capacity in the country, then such a request should be made to the PSC meeting and noted in this regard that discussions were in hand regarding the expansion of scope of one Thai mangrove and one Vietnamese coral reef proposal to encompass transboundary activities in co-operation with Cambodian counterparts.

4.2.7 Dr. Tuan asked whether those SEAs that do not get demonstration sites, would have new MoUs for the next phase of project implementation. In response the Project Director clarified that for those SEAs who did not get a demonstration site, new MoUs will be needed for preparation of national action plans as the basic contribution to the regional Strategic Action Programme.

4.2.8 Dr. Suparmoko, Chairperson of RTF-E, noted that the two Regional Task Forces have not received funding to date and that there is a need to provide assistance to the SEAs to implement activities at the national level. Dr. Silalahi, Chairperson of RTF-L, supported this comment. Dr. Pernetta clarified that the two Task Forces were established by the Project Steering Committee, as there was limited expertise in the National Technical Working Groups available to lead activities in the required legal and social economic activities. He noted that some of the tasks assigned to the Task Forces were not covered by the MoUs with the SEAs and that consequently he would be recommending to the Project Steering a modest budget allocation to cover the anticipated costs. The budget would be allocated to the Task Forces to hire experts or engage institutions to carry out the tasks agreed by the Task Forces.

4.2.9 Following some discussion the draft text for the generic components of the new MoUs prepared by the Project Co-ordinating Unit was agreed by the meeting.

4.3 Consideration of the framework budget and Under-Expenditures by component for 2004-2007

4.3.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce the document, *Under-expenditures by the SEAs during the Preparatory Phase of the Project (2002-2003) and recommendations for reallocating un-expended funds within each component* (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.3/6). Dr. Pernetta

informed the meeting that in the light of the outcome of discussions under sub-item 4.1 and 4.2 above, members should consider proposed recommendations to the Project Steering Committee regarding the future allocation within each component, of un-expended funds accrued to date.

4.3.2 The meeting discussed extensively the future use of the unspent balance from the preparatory phase of the project. There were some options proposed during the discussion namely:

- (i) To re-allocate the unspent balance to additional demonstration sites, and/or to those countries that have fewer demonstration sites than others;
- (ii) To support Cambodia in upgrading its capacity in understanding and managing the coastal and marine environment; and
- (iii) To support demonstration activities for joint management areas that involve more than one country.

4.3.3 The meeting agreed to recommend to the PSC that in principle the unspent balance should be re-allocated to demonstration activities with transboundary and trans-national significance, and to assist Cambodia to upgrade the capacity of Cambodia in managing the coastal and marine environment. The PCU would draft the proposed budget for consideration.

4.3.4 The meeting discussed the possibility of Malaysia becoming involved in the mangrove and fishery activities. Bearing in mind the implementation of the project activities so far, the meeting expressed its strong willingness to involve Malaysia in all components of the project, and invited the Project Director to discuss the matters again with Malaysian government and for the Malaysian representative to ascertain the position of the Malaysian Government prior to the PSC meeting.

5. STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS FROM THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT

5.1 In introducing this agenda item, the Project Director referred to the reports of the 4th meetings of the regional working groups, copies of which were provided among the meeting documents. He noted that the agreed work plans and deadlines for finalisation of national reports for each sub-component had been agreed during these meetings and had been incorporated into the amendments to the MoUs. A summary table of these agreements was provided in the work plan and timetable for the RSTC.

5.2 Regarding finalisation of the national reports Dr. Jacinto noted that the sub-contracts covering the legal and economic work of the SEAs were already concluded, and that there might be some difficulty in identifying how the comments received from RTF-L and RTF-E could be considered. The Project Director pointed out that the final payment for a contract should be made only at the end of an activity when the outputs had been received in an acceptable quality. In the event of there being any major problems in this regard the Project Director expressed his willingness to discuss the matter individually with the focal points of the SEAs concerned, in order to identify a solution.

5.3 The meeting agreed to consider the relevant work plans and timetables of the components and sub-component under the next agenda item.

6. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON PROGRESS TO DATE

6.1 Regional Working Group on Mangroves

6.1.1 The Chairpersons of each Regional Working Group then presented reports on behalf of the working groups contained in documents: (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-M; UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-CR; UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-SG; UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-W; UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-F; and UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-LbP).

6.1.2 Dr. Sonjai, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group for Mangroves presented the report to the RSTC on the activities of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves and informed the meeting of the outcome of the major activities carried out by the regional working group and SEAs, including the cluster analysis, ranking of the potential demonstration sites and preparation of demonstration site proposals.

6.1.3 The Regional Working Group on mangroves has completed the relevant work as presented to the Regional Scientific Conference, and Dr. Sonjai noted that particular attention had been given to data quality. He further informed the meeting that the results of the cluster analysis and relevant rankings were presented in the report, a summary of which is attached as Annex 5 to the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves.

6.1.4 As there were no immediate questions to the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves, the meeting agreed to hear all presentations and to then raise any questions during the final discussion.

6.2 Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs

6.2.1 Mr. Abdul Khalil, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs, presented the Chairperson's report (document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-CR) and briefly introduced the procedures used in prioritisation and ranking of potential demonstration sites. He informed the meeting that in accordance with the previous decision of the RSTC the parameter "marine mammals" had been removed from the list of parameters used in clustering and ranking sites.

6.2.2 He introduced the final results of the cluster analysis and ranking undertaken within the coral reef sub-component, including the ranking of environmental indicators, socio-economic indicators, and final ranking. Mr. Khalil reported that the Regional Working Group had also discussed the format of the Regional Review of Coral Reefs in the South China Sea and that the members of the Regional Working Group had prepared the regional review collectively.

6.2.3 He drew the attention of members to the work plan of the Regional Working Group, which was presented as Annex 8 of the fourth meeting report.

6.2.4 Professor Ong raised a question regarding whether the problems of "double accounting" using both hard coral genera and species in the cluster and ranking analysis had been addressed. Mr. Khalil, noted that genera and species were not both included in the cluster analysis, but that they had been used in the ranking of sites. The meeting noted that this was acceptable and that the relevant issues discussed previously by the RSTC, had been addressed by the RWG-CR.

6.3 Regional Working Group on Seagrass

6.3.1 Mr. Kuriandewa provided the report of the work carried out by the Regional Working Group on Seagrass. He noted that as the outcomes of the first and second meetings of the regional working group have been reported to the RSTC in previous meetings his report covered only activities from the second meeting onwards. He reported that one of the most important outcomes of the third meeting had been the discussion and clarification of the guidelines for preparation of the demonstration site proposals.

6.3.2 In introducing the results of the cluster analysis, he informed the meeting there had been serious discussion of the problem of outlying sites. It was realised that part of the reasons for sites outlying the main groups in the cluster analysis had been the lack of necessary data in the case of Cambodia.

6.3.3 He noted the lack of a consideration of the purposes of the demonstration proposals, in the ranking procedure but noted further that whilst regrettable, the process had proceeded so far that reversing this would be difficult. He presented the results of the ranking of environment and socio-economic indicators, and briefed the meeting on the types of demonstration site activities, which included community-based management, restoration of seagrass beds, integrated management of various marine habitats, and cross sectoral management of seagrass beds.

6.3.4 He noted that delays in transferring funds to the SEAs had caused some difficulties in implementation of the agreed activities. Professor Ong Jin-Eong noted that no sensitivity analysis had been conducted regarding the ratios of environmental and socio-economic indicators used in the habitat sub-components. Although the meeting felt that a proposed sensitivity study would help to make the ranking process more objective, it was felt that such a sensitivity study should have been carried out at the level of the regional working groups and that since the decisions regarding the ratio

had already been agreed by the RWGs the RSTC would accept their recommendations noting that these ratios were not the same in each sub-component.

6.4 Regional Working Group on Wetlands

6.4.1 Ms. Marlynn Mendoza reported on progress made by the Regional Working Group on Wetlands including the rapid production of demonstration sites proposals and the booklet on wetland habitats surrounding the South China Sea.

6.4.2 She introduced the status of the various national reports and informed the meeting of the decisions regarding the nature of the final publications at national level of preparatory phase outputs. Ms. Mendoza reported the results of cluster analysis for the wetland sub-component. She informed the meeting that 11 demonstration site proposals had been considered by the 4th meeting of the Regional Working Group, five of which had been amended and presented to the partnership workshop.

6.5 Regional Working Group on Fisheries

6.5.1 Mr. Ing Try presented the report of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries, focusing on the outputs and outcomes. He informed the meeting that

- (i) Most national reports from the participating countries on fisheries had been finished;
- (ii) Some of the planned public awareness materials had been finalised by some countries;
- (iii) There was a proposal to test a blast fishing detection device and it was proposed that this test would be carried out in Sabah, Malaysia.

6.5.2 He noted that future activities of the regional working group will focus on:

- (i) Promoting the Regional Guidelines on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries prepared SEAFDEC on the basis of the global code of conduct of FAO; and
- (ii) Activities at the local and community level in the habitat demonstration sites.

6.5.3 Dr. Tuan requested clarification on the current situation with regard to the proposal to test the blast fishing detection device and the participation of Malaysia. Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that there had been a discussion of this matter during the Regional Scientific Conference, and suggested that the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries provide outlines of the proposal on this issue. Copies of the proposal were provided to participants and Mr. Try noted that it was proposed to execute these activities in Sabah, Malaysia, and that they had strong support of the local authorities. The committee expressed strong support for this proposal and noted that the issue of Malaysia's participation in the fisheries component of the project would need to be discussed during the PSC meeting.

6.6 Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution

6.6.1 Professor Baoxin Han, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution, presented the report of the working group focussing on the outcomes and problems encountered. He informed the meeting that there were several achievements of the regional working group and the SEAs in the participating countries, including:

- The agreements on format for regional data collection and comparison;
- Agreements on use of water quality criteria (ASEAN water quality criteria) and the Chinese standards for biological and sediment samples;
- Agreement on criteria for ranking hot spots in the region within the framework of this project;
- The completion of the national reports by most countries;
- The submission of pilot activity proposals by four countries; and
- Preliminary ranking of the hot spots and associated pollution problems.

6.6.2 Mr. Jiang noted that the fourth meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Land-based Pollution component had been postponed, as a consequence of the delay in preparation of the pilot activity proposals by some focal points of SEAs for the land-based pollution component. As a result the recommendations of the regional working group could not be provided to this meeting of the RSTC

and the RSTC could not make recommendations on the land-based pollution activities to the Project Steering Committee. Given these circumstances, the RSTC would need to consider and agree on a procedure whereby the recommendations of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution could be considered and the activities approved.

6.6.3 Following consultation with relevant members of the RSTC, Prof. Han Baoxin suggested during the second day of the meeting that:

- (i) Focal points for land-based pollution from participating countries have agreed on a final deadline for submitting pilot activity proposals and further agreed that the 4th meeting of Regional Working Group for Land-based pollution will be organised in Guangzhou, China 30 March to 2 April 2004, the dates for the meeting should not be changed;
- (ii) A special meeting of the RSTC should be organised to discuss and approve the recommendations of the RWG-LbP;
- (iii) The results of the special session would be sent to the members of the PSC to approve on a no-objections basis.

6.6.4 Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that it would not be possible to have a special session of the RSTC with all members participating due to cost and time constraints. He proposed that a small executive committee be formed by the RSTC to meet in Bangkok and discuss and approve the recommendations of RWG-LbP.

6.6.5 Following careful consideration, the meeting agreed to form an executive committee to meet in Bangkok after the 4th meeting of RWG-LbP. The executive group should consist of the incoming officers of the RSTC, and two experts from the RSTC. The meeting agreed that amongst its members, Dr. Gil Jacinto, and Mr. Henk Uktolseya should participate in the meeting, based on their expertise and experience in land-based pollution matters.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON THE HABITAT SUB-COMPONENTS REGARDING THE RANKING OF DEMONSTRATION SITES

7.1 Mr. Yihang Jiang introduced the document "*Summary of the procedures and outcome of the ranking of demonstration sites in the habitat sub-components*" (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/9). The attention of members was drawn to the appropriate annexes of the reports of the fourth meetings of the Regional Working Groups for the habitat sub-components, in which the details regarding the finalisation of the ranking of demonstration sites were provided.

7.2 Mr. Jiang noted that the document presented a summary of the outcome of the work of the regional working groups in 5 parts: (i) the data sheet generated from the site characterisations; (ii) results of the cluster analysis; (iii) ranking based on environment indicators; (iv) ranking based on socio-economic indicators; and (v) final ranking results.

7.3 The Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups of the habitat sub-components were invited to make brief presentations of their recommendations regarding the regional prioritisation of potential demonstration sites. Serious consideration was given as to how to evaluate the socio-economic indicators used in the ranking process. Members of the Committee fully recognised the different social economic conditions in different countries, and the fact that the scores assigned to those indicators are less comparable between the participating countries.

7.4 Concerning the purposes of the demonstration sites, it was noted that these were broadly focussed on sustainable use but that the purposes had not been included in the ranking criteria. Following extensive discussion, the meeting confirmed that the agreements reached by the Regional Working Groups regarding the prioritisation and ranking had been carried out in accordance with the procedures agreed by RSTC and PSC in their previous meetings.

7.5 The meeting agreed to examine the results of the habitat sub-component one by one. The discussions on each sub-component were as follows:

- The meeting noted that the RWG-M had applied equal weighting to both the environmental and socio-economic indicators and approved the final ranking result submitted by the Regional Working Group on Mangroves.
- Concerning the coral reef sub-component, the Committee reviewed the results prepared by the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs and noted with regret that the Committee had not received a complete proposal for the Tun Mustafa national park in Malaysia in Sabah. However, in view of the potential transboundary management between Malaysia and Philippines at the proposed site, and the fact that this proposal had been ranked as the first priority within the third cluster, the meeting urged the focal point for coral reefs from Malaysia to finalise this proposal. The meeting approved the results presented by the Regional Working Group.
- The meeting discussed the results of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass and noted that for some sites the proposed demonstration activities encompassed more than one sub-component. The meeting recognised that the management activities planned for demonstration sites would focus on the management of human activities and that therefore, due consideration should be given to combining the plans from different sub-components. It was agreed to discuss this issue under agenda item 8. With regard to the issue of co-financing, Dr. Pernetta reiterated the requirement of GEF on co-financing commitments for the demonstration site proposals, which should be one of the key elements to be considered by this Committee. As National Technical Focal Point, Dr. Tuan informed the meeting that the government of Viet Nam would provide co-financing. However, without approval of the demonstration site proposal, it was difficult to secure firm commitments from his government on the specific co-financing support for demonstration site activities. The meeting approved the results of the Regional Working Group.
- With regard to the wetland sub-component, the meeting realised that there were still some remaining problems of data quality and that therefore less reliance could be placed on the outcome of the cluster and ranking procedures than was the case for the other groups.

7.6 Following review of all the outcomes from the Regional Working Groups, the meeting felt that the results obtained from the cluster analysis and ranking process, were well presented in the regional GIS database. In particular, the meeting recognised that GIS is a very useful tool for the Committee to make decisions regarding the selection of demonstration sites.

8. PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE REGARDING THE RANKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMONSTRATION SITES

8.1 Sites for GEF Grant Support

8.1.1 Members of the Committee were reminded that the project budget contains specific provision (3.5 million US\$) of funds to be allocated under sub-contract, to national level executing agencies for the operation and management of the 3 demonstration sites in each of the mangrove, coral reef and seagrass sub-components. A total of 9 demonstration sites were foreseen as receiving GEF financial support, through the project.

8.1.2 The Chairperson informed the meeting that based on the discussions and agreements reached under Agenda item 7, the meeting should review the ranking and individual site proposals prepared by the Regional Working Groups, and make recommendations to the Project Steering Committee on the priorities among the potential demonstration sites.

8.1.3 Mr. Jiang proposed to the meeting that in order to effectively reach consensus under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to consider the top two sites in each cluster of the habitat sub-components, as the first step. The second step, would be to discuss those sites for which proposals had been prepared under two sub-components and the third step, would be to consider those sites with potential joint management with more than one country involved.

8.1.4 Dr. Jacinto supported the suggestion, and added that the top two sites should be those with proposals received. He further suggested that the Committee should agree to recommend to the PSC that the top site in each cluster be the sites that should be supported by the GEF grant under the project.

8.1.5 The meeting agreed to proceed in line with these suggestions, and examined the demonstration site proposals sub-component by sub-component. The meeting also agreed that due consideration should be given to the geographic distribution of the demonstration sites, to allow for wide distribution of demonstration sites and participation in the activities region-wide.

8.1.6 For the mangrove sub-component, the Committee agreed that the following recommendations be submitted to the Project Steering Committee.

- (i) Trat Province (Thailand), Batu Ampar (Indonesia) and Fangchenggang (China) are the first priority sites in each of the three main clusters. The demonstration activities in these three sites should be supported by the GEF project grant;
- (ii) The following sites are recommended in priority order: Busuanga (Philippines), Xuan Thuy (Viet Nam), Welu River Estuary (Thailand). Can Gio (Viet Nam), Quinglangang (China), Bengkalis (Indonesia) for future development.

8.1.7 A query was raised regarding the proposed budgets of the demonstration sites, and the committee agreed that the budget to be allocated to the demonstration activities from the GEF project grant should not exceed US\$ 400,000.

8.1.8 Mr. Koch Savath, National Technical Focal Point from Cambodia stated that Cambodia's needs under this project were not limited to capacity building and training, but there was also a strong need to provide support to carry out data acquisition and necessary analysis in Cambodia to provide a sound scientific basis for proper management decisions and actions.

8.1.9 For the coral reef sub-component, the following recommendations were agreed.

- (i) Mu Koh Chang (Thailand), Belitung (Indonesia), and Masinloc (Philippines) are the priority sites in each of the three main clusters. These sites should be supported by the GEF project grant;
- (ii) The following sites in priority order: Ninh Hai (Viet Nam), Mu Koh Ang Thong (Thailand), Phu Quoc (Viet Nam), and Batangas (Philippines) were recommended for future development.

8.1.10 In the seagrass sub-component, the Committee agreed that:

- (i) The top sites in each of the three main clusters, namely Hepu (China), Cape Bolinao (Philippines), and Bai Bon, Phu Quoc Island (Viet Nam), should receive support from the GEF project grant;
- (ii) The following sites in priority order: Trikora Beach (Indonesia), Pattani Bay (Thailand), Sarat Thani (Thailand) and Tanjung Adang Laut Shoal (Malaysia) were recommended for future development.

8.1.11 For the wetland sub-component, questions regarding the quality of data in some areas were noted in particular those specific points previously raised by the committee, which had not been altered as requested prior to finalising the data for cluster analysis and ranking. It was further noted that due to these issues the results of the cluster analysis and rankings could not be accorded the same degree of confidence, as for the other groups.

8.1.12 The committee agreed that the data should be checked and verified. Any sites for which data were unsupported should be deleted or the data concerned removed before a final clustering and ranking were undertaken. Only following this should further proposals be developed.

8.1.13 Following careful consideration, the meeting agreed that of the five demonstration site proposals, Koh Kapik (Cambodia), Balat Estuary (Viet Nam), Shantou (China) should be accorded first priority; with Thale Noi Non-hunting Area (Thailand), Malampaya Sound (Philippines) accorded second priority, for possible financial support from co-financing sources.

8.1.14 The meeting discussed the issue of sites having demonstration site proposals in more than one sub-component, and agreed that:

- (i) It would be operationally difficult to combine the mangrove site in Trat, with the coral reef site in Koh Chang as different local administrations were involved and one site was located on the mainland and the other on an island;
- (ii) With regard to the proposed mangrove demonstration site in Xuan Thuy, Viet Nam, and the wetland site in the Balat Estuary it was noted that there was overlap in both the area concerned, the executing agencies and the activities. Therefore, the committee recommended that a single joint proposal be prepared under the mangrove sub-component;
- (iii) The committee noted similar issues in the case of the coral reef demonstration site proposal in Phu Quoc and the seagrass proposal for the same site. The committee recommended that a joint seagrass and coral reef proposal be prepared for funding under the seagrass sub-component;
- (iv) In addition, the committee also noted that potential joint management between Phu Quoc in Viet Nam, and Kampot in Cambodia had already been discussed in a preliminary manner between the National Technical Focal Points. The meeting encouraged the National Technical Focal Points, working in close association with the relevant focal points in the SEAs from both countries to continue discussion on this matter, and prepare a joint proposal.

8.1.15 The committee further agreed that in the case of the two joint proposals and the transboundary management proposals part of the unallocated funds from the preparatory phase be assigned to each proposal in addition to the funds allocated under the existing budget for demonstration sites.

8.1.16 Dr. Somsak emphasised that fisheries issues should be carefully considered at each potential demonstration site and noted that in the case of mangrove activities in Trat, and coral reef activities in Koh Chiang, these should include interventions in the field of fisheries. It would be useful for the proposals to consider necessary actions to cover this important issue.

8.1.17 The meeting agreed to the suggestion made by Project Director that the Regional Working Group on Fisheries should consider the demonstration sites proposals of the habitat sub-components, and come up with suggestions as to how the fishery component could contribute to the demonstration activities.

8.1.18 The committee then discussed the possibility of transboundary co-management of the Trikora Beach, seagrass site in Indonesia and the Tanjung Adang Laut Shoal in Malaysia. Following clarification the committee agreed that as an initial activity each site should include in the budget provisions for exchange of personnel between these two sites.

8.1.19 The meeting noted and agreed with the proposal of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves that Cambodia should participate in the Trat demonstration site and that a plan for linked actions on both sides of the border should be elaborated between the focal points concerned. The members of the Committee from Cambodia and Thailand confirmed their agreement in principle to prepare a joint proposal for joint management activities. The meeting further agreed that the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Mangroves would take the lead role in preparing this proposal. With regard to the management of project activities, it was noted that the funding would be provided to the countries directly for the execution of their individual activities.

8.1.20 The meeting was informed that the new marine park in Sabah, Malaysia has strong potential for co-operation with relevant activities in the Philippines. The meeting urged the Focal Points to finalise and submit the proposal as soon as possible.

8.2 Sites Requiring External Co-financing

8.2.1 The committee noted with appreciation the GEF Secretariat offer to fund additional demonstration activities as part of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme via medium sized project grants. The committee further noted the conditionalities that applied to demonstration sites funded under the project would also apply to these proposals, namely that the grants should not exceed US\$400,000 and that all such proposals should be selected using the same criteria and procedures as for sites supported through the project grant. The meeting then discussed the list of demonstration site proposals that should receive financial support through this mechanism.

8.2.2 The meeting agreed that the following highly ranked sites should be included namely;

Mangroves:	Busuanga (Philippines) Xuan Thuy (Balat Estuary) Viet Nam)
Coral Reefs:	Ninh Hai (Viet Nam)
Seagrasses:	Trikora beach, Indonesia

8.2.3 With regard to the wetland sub-component, the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Thale Noi is the only peat swamp proposal and since this habitat has high global importance it should be considered a high priority for financial support through an MSP;
2. Malampaya Sound was a reasonable proposal with low funding requirements and should also be supported;
3. Shantou has reasonable proposed activities, but the committee can only support the proposal if the budget is reduced to less than US\$400,000;
4. The proposal in Koh Kapik needs to be improved since it lacks a causal chain analysis. The committee would support the proposed activities if the total budget is reduced to a level comparable to that of Malampaya sound.

8.3 Sites Requiring No Additional Funding (Government Proposals)

8.3.1 The committee took note of the fact that at this time no proposals for self-funded demonstration sites had been submitted by the National Technical Focal Points and urged the National Technical Working Groups to give urgent consideration to this matter.

9. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING DEMONSTRATION SITE PROPOSALS

9.1 Procedure for the finalisation of the execution arrangements for individual demonstration sites

9.1.1 The Project Director advised the committee that following consideration and approval of the recommendations of the RSTC by the Project Steering Committee the PCU would be in contact with the proponents of the priority demonstration site proposals regarding the technical and administrative arrangements for finalising the demonstration proposals and drafting the Memoranda of agreement.

9.1.2 In general he noted that the proposals were weak in a number of respects, namely the costings that had been used to develop the budgets and the administrative arrangements for management of the activities. He proposed therefore to convene an *ad hoc* meeting of the involved focal points in Bangkok during which the principles to be used in properly costing the budgets would be outlined and advice and assistance given to the focal points in finalising the proposals.

9.1.3 In the case of joint tranboundary proposals it would be necessary to discuss the implementation arrangements at the local and/or provincial level and hence individual meetings should be convened for this purpose.

9.2 Preparation of a Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of Experiences and Personnel Exchange between Sites

9.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Senior Expert to introduce document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/11 entitled "*Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of Experiences and Personnel Exchange between sites*" that outlined the general principles and manner of proceeding with the arrangements for initiation of the co-ordination activities.

9.2.2 The Committee examined the document in some detail and following discussion approved the content for consideration by the Project Steering Committee. The document is attached as Annex 5 to this report.

10. WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

10.1 The Chairperson invited the Senior Expert to present a revised project work plan and timetable, as contained in document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/13, "*Proposed Work plan and Timetable for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee*". Mr. Yihang Jiang presented the document and informed the committee that the overall work plan was somewhat delayed as the consequences of several factors. He encouraged the National Technical Focal Points from the participating countries, and Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups to communicate with focal points of the SEAs regarding the revised work plan and to urge them to meet the new deadlines as agreed by Regional Working Groups and this Committee.

10.2 Mr. Heru Waluyo, National Technical Focal Point from Indonesia suggested that the dates for the 5th meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution be changed to 24 – 27 November 2004. The meeting agreed to this suggestion, and the meeting schedule was modified accordingly.

10.3 Mr. Han Baoxin, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution, noted that in the overall work plan, there were only a limited number of actions planned for the land-based pollution component. He emphasised that more financial support is needed for the pilot activities on land-based pollution, and hoped that the RSTC, PSC and Project Director could assist in raising more co-finance from external sources.

10.4 Following careful review of the work plan, the Committee approved the draft work plan, and meeting schedule, which is attached to this report as Annex 6.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Members of the Committee were invited to consider and discuss any further items of business under this agenda item.

11.2 Mr. Tri Edi Kuriandewa indicated that delay in transfer funds during the operational phase of the project would cause difficulties with the sub-contracted executing agencies, and expressed the hope that the situation would be improved during the operational phase of the project. The Project Director responded by indicating that delay in transferring funds often resulted from delays in submitting the necessary reports; and difficulties in the PCU when reports were delayed and submitted during the period of regional working group meetings. He drew the attention of the committee to the fact that no meetings were scheduled for July each year, to allow the PCU staff to review the half yearly reports and take necessary action to ensure timely fund transfer. He informed the meeting that following the appointment of a full time fund management officer in September he anticipated that the capacity of the PCU to respond would be better in the future.

11.3 Ms. Marlynn Mendoza, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands, expressed concern about breakdown in communication and the need to improve communication between focal points from the participating countries and the PCU, to ensure smooth implementation of the project activities. The meeting noted that there were some problems in communication, and encouraged the focal points from the participating countries, and the PCU to take all necessary actions to improve communication. It was suggested that important and time-sensitive communications, should be transmitted by both fax and e-mail and that if acknowledgement of receipt was not made within 10 working days the individuals concerned should contact the PCU by phone to check that the documents had indeed been received.

11.4 Mr. Abdul Khalil noted that even though Sabah had not been recommended for inclusion as a GEF supported demonstration site at this point in time he hoped that due consideration would be given to this activity when the site proposal was finalised.

11.5 Dr. Suparmoko raised the issue of whether the Chairs of the Regional Task Forces should be made full members of this committee and following clarification from the Project Director that the RSTC had the authority under its rules of procedure to amend the membership of the committee it was agreed that the Chairpersons of the RTF-E and RTF-L become full members of the committee.

11.6 Following a brief review of the rules of procedure regarding the election of the officers of the Committee, the out-going Chairperson, Dr. Vo Si Tuan, invited nominations of new officers for the Committee.

11.7 Mr. Tri Edi Kuriandewa, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass, nominated Dr. Gil Jacinto, National Technical Focal Point from the Philippines, as Chairperson of the Committee. Professor Zhengguang Huang, National Technical Focal Point from China, seconded the nomination and Dr. Jacinto was duly elected by acclamation.

11.8 Mr. Abdul Khalil bin Abdul Karim, Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs, nominated Mr. Heru Waluyo, National Technical Focal Point from Indonesia, as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Expert Member of the Committee, seconded the nomination and Mr. Waluyo was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee by acclamation.

11.9 Dr. Gil Jacinto, National Technical Focal Point from the Philippines, nominated Dr. Vo Si Tuan, National Technical Focal Point from Viet Nam, as Rapporteur of the Committee. The nomination was accepted unanimously by all members of the Committee and Dr. Tuan was duly elected as Rapporteur, by acclamation.

11.10 It was noted that since Dr. Gil Jacinto had been elected as Chairperson of the Committee, the meeting would need to re-consider the membership of the Executive Committee established to consider the proposed Land-based Pollution activities. The meeting agreed to include Dr. Anond Snidvongs as the second expert member of this Executive Committee.

12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

12.1 The outgoing rapporteur, Professor Zhengguang Huang, presented the draft report prepared by the secretariat, which was considered, amended, and adopted as it appears in this document.

12.2 During the adoption of the report it was noted that the committee had failed to agree on the location of its next meeting. There followed a brief discussion of the location and it was agreed that since the previous meeting could not be convened in China due to the SARS outbreak the next one should be convened in China. It was agreed that the Project Director would discuss this matter with the National Focal Point for China during the up-coming PSC meeting.

12.3 It was noted further that the mechanisms for management of transboundary and multiple habitat sites were not clearly spelled out in the document on regional co-ordination of the demonstration site activities. The committee noted that such mechanisms needed to be elaborated by the Project Director in consultation with members and included in the document prior to its consideration by the Project Steering Committee.

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

13.1 The Chairperson thanked the PCU for their careful preparation of the meeting and thanked all members for their strong participation and hard work in concluding the business of the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to assume responsibility for the work of the committee and for the confidence members had displayed in electing him for a second term.

13.2 The Project Director expressed his gratitude to the members of the committee for their contributions and efforts despite the difficulties of working in a multi-lingual context, he expressed on behalf of UNEP and personally his pleasure in being a part of the committee and expressed the belief that the members could be justly proud of what had been achieved during the preparatory phase of the project. He noted that the PCU would not be able to support the work of the committees without the capable and tireless efforts of the support staff and expressed his personal thanks to them.

13.3 There being no further business the outgoing Chairperson closed the meeting at 16:00 on Tuesday 17th February 2004.

ANNEX 1

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ANNEX 2

List of Documents

Discussion documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/3	Report of the Meeting
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/4	Current Status of the Administrative Reports from the Inter-ministry Committees and Specialised Executing Agencies of the Participating Countries
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/5	Status of the Memoranda of Understanding between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies as of January 2004
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/6	Elements of the framework budget for 2004-2007
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/7	Current Status of Substantive Reports and Major Outcomes of the Preparatory Phase of the Project
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-M	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Mangroves
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-CR	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-SG	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Seagrass
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-W	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Wetlands
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-F	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Fisheries
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/8-LbP	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/9	Summary of the procedures and outcome of the ranking of demonstration sites in the habitat sub-components
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/10	Procedures for the finalisation of the Execution Arrangements for Individual Demonstration Sites
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/11	Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of experiences, and Personnel Exchange between Sites
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/12	Proposed Work Plan and Timetable for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee

Information documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/Inf.1	Provisional List of Participants.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/Inf.2	Provisional List of Documents.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/Inf.3	Draft Programme.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/Inf.4	Proposal for Testing of a Prototype Blast Detection System.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Mangroves Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project " <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ". Report of the meeting. Beihai, China, 14 th – 17 th October 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Coral Reefs Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project " <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ". Report of the meeting. Guangzhou, China, 27 th – 30 th November 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.4/3.

- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.4/3 Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Seagrass Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Kota Guangzhou, China, 29th November – 2nd December 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.4/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.4/3 Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Wetlands Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15th – 18th December 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.4/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Phuket, Thailand, 16th - 18th June 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.3/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.2/3 Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 11th – 13th December 2002 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.2/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.2/10 Guidance to the PSC on the nature and types of potential demonstration sites to be established within the Framework of the UNEP/GEF Project.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.2/3 Second Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Hanoi, Viet Nam, 16th – 18th December 2002 UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.2/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Mangroves Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Bali, Indonesia, 3rd – 6th March 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.3/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Wetlands Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting, Bali, Indonesia, 4th – 7th March 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.3/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Coral Reefs Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 24th – 27th March 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.3/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Seagrass Sub-component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 25th – 28th March 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.3/3.
- UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.3/3 Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF Project *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. Report of the meeting. Siem Reap, Cambodia, 29th April – 2nd May 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.3/3.

ANNEX 3

Agenda

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
 - 1.1 Welcome address**
 - 1.2 Introduction of members**
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
 - 2.1 Election of Officers for 2004**
 - 2.2 Documentation available to the meeting**
 - 2.3 Programme of Work**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
- 4. STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND EXTENSION OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs) BETWEEN UNEP AND THE SPECIALISED EXECUTING AGENCIES**
 - 4.1 Status of administrative reports for the year 2003**
 - 4.2 Extension of the MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies**
 - 4.3 Consideration of the framework budget and Under-Expenditures by component for 2004-2007**
- 5. STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS FROM THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT**
- 6. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON PROGRESS TO DATE**
 - 6.1 Regional Working Group on Mangroves**
 - 6.2 Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs**
 - 6.3 Regional Working Group on Seagrass**
 - 6.4 Regional Working Group on Wetlands**
 - 6.5 Regional Working Group on Fisheries**
 - 6.6 Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution**
- 7. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ON THE HABITAT SUB-COMPONENTS REGARDING THE RANKING OF DEMONSTRATION SITES**
- 8. PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE REGARDING THE RANKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMONSTRATION SITES**
 - 8.1 Sites for GEF Grant Support**
 - 8.2 Sites Requiring External Co-financing**
 - 8.3 Sites Requiring No Additional Funding (Government Proposals)**
- 9. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING DEMONSTRATION SITE PROPOSALS**
 - 9.1 Procedure for the finalisation of the Execution Arrangements for Individual Demonstration Sites**
 - 9.2 Preparation of a Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of experiences and Personnel Exchange between Sites**
- 10. WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**
- 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

ANNEX 4

Up-dated Table of Information Regarding Extensions of MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies

Table 1 Dates of finalisation of Extensions to the Memoranda of Understanding between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies.

Institution	MoU Code	Date of Signature of the Extension
Cambodia		
Department of Nature Conservation & Protection	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Cam/MOU 2a	22/12/2003
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Cam/MOU 2b	30/11/2003
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Cam/MOU 2e	awaiting signature
Department of Pollution Control	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Cam/MOU 2f	awaiting signature
People's Republic of China		
Guangxi Mangrove research centre	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Chi/MOU 2a	15/12/2003
South China Sea Institute of Oceanology	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Chi/MOU 2c	2/12/2003
Institute of Environmental Sciences, Zhongshan University	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Chi/MOU 2d	18/12/2003
South China Institute of Environmental Sciences	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Chi/MOU 2f	budget not finalised
Indonesia		
Institute of mangrove Research & Development	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2a	1/12/2003
Puslitbang Oseanologi Lipi	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2b	30/11/2003
Puslitbang Oseanologi Lipi	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2c	2/12/2003
Wetland International Asia Pacific - Indonesia Programme	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2d	18/12/2003
Secretariat of Directorate general of Capture Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2e	No work plan/budget rcvd
Ministry of Environment	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Ind/MOU 2f	No work plan/budget rcvd
Malaysia		
<i>No focal Point designated</i>	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2a	<i>original not signed</i>
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2b	11/12/2003
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2c	17/12/2003
Conservation & Environment Management Division, MOSTE	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2d	finalised signature pending
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2e	<i>original not signed</i>
Department of Environment	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Mal/MOU 2f	No work plan/budget rcvd
Philippines		
Coastal Environment Programme, DENR	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2a	25/2/2004
Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2b	1/12/2003
Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2c	5/12/2003
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, DENR	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2d	25/2/2004
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2e	25/2/2004
Environmental Management Bureau DENR	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Phi/MOU 2f	Awaiting final signature
Thailand		
Coastal and Marine Department, DNRE	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2a	12/12/2003
Faculty of Science of Ramkhamhaeng University	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2b	30/11/2003
Faculty of Environment & Resource Studies, Mahidol Univ.	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2c	9/12/2003
Kasetsart University	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2d	18/12/2003
Department of Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2e	awaiting signature
Pollution Control Department	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Tha/MOU 2f	25/12/2003
Viet Nam		
Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2a	Awaiting final signature
Institute of Oceanography	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2b	30/11/2003
Hai Phong Institute of Oceanology	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2c	2/12/2003
Vietnam National University	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2d	18/12/2003
Research Institute of marine Fisheries	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2e	budget not finalised
Centre for Marine Environment Research, Survey & Consultation	UNEP/GEF/SCS/Viet/MOU 2f	under final review

ANNEX 5

Framework for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of Experiences, and Personnel Exchange between Sites

1. BACKGROUND

The overall goals of the project are:

- To create an environment at the regional level, in which collaboration and partnership in addressing environmental problems of the South China Sea, between all stakeholders, and at all levels is fostered and encouraged; and
- To enhance the capacity of the participating governments to integrate environmental considerations into national development planning.

During the preparation and approval of the original project budget, funds were allocated from the GEF grant to pay for the costs associated with exchanging knowledge and experience between personnel in each country engaged in the various activities of the project. A total of just in excess of one million US \$ is currently allocated to training and exchange of personnel on a regional basis (Table 1).

Following the approval of the Project Steering Committee during its second meeting in Hanoi, Viet Nam, December 2001 an intern programme was initiated to provide junior personnel from the focal Ministries with hands on experience of project design and management and experience of the United Nations System, through secondment to the Project Co-ordinating Unit.

The proposed system for regional co-ordination, dissemination of experiences and exchange of personnel, aims to contribute to the strengthening of the regional and national infrastructure, and to upgrade the regional and national capacity in protecting marine and coastal environment and rational use of marine resources.

It is proposed that the existing elements, of the management framework for the overall project, both regional and national, be utilised in co-ordinating and managing regional exchange and dissemination of experiences amongst the wider South China Sea network of institutions and individuals.

2. FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF DEMONSTRATION SITE ACTIVITIES

Under the general management framework for the UNEP/GEF project entitled "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand", national activities are co-ordinated within components by national committees or sub-committees and between components by the National Technical Working Group. The Inter-Ministry Committee, the highest level of national co-ordination is responsible for co-ordination between government ministries and departments of the overall activities conducted under the project.

It is proposed that the Specialised Executing Agencies with responsibility for individual demonstration site activities continue to co-ordinate with other related activities at the national level through the appropriate national committee or sub-committee. It is further proposed that the National Technical Working Group retain oversight of all demonstration site activities conducted in each country, both those funded through the GEF grant and those funded by other means.

At the regional level it is proposed that the concerned Regional Working Group be given responsibility for co-ordination of activities at all demonstration sites within each component and that the RWG continue to report to, and be advised by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee regarding overlap, potential collaboration and/or synergy that might be foreseen between the demonstration sites in each component.

It is further proposed that each demonstration site have a clearly identified, Demonstration Site Manager whose responsibility will be to report to the SEA and the national committee on activities being conducted at the site, and through the SEA to the NTWG. The Focal Ministries and Chairpersons of the NTWG may wish to give consideration to including the demonstration site managers in each country as full members of the NTWG.

The Demonstration Site Manager should have overall responsibility for managing the activities at the demonstration site, in particular:

- Executing the implementation plan based on the demonstration site proposal prepared by the respective Specialised Executing Agency (SEA);
- Planning, and managing on a day to day basis the demonstration activities identified in the implementation plan, including annual work plan and timetables;
- Financial responsibility for the approved budget;
- Responsibility for execution of the activities in accordance with the work plan and timetable and expenditures;
- Reporting to the focal point of the SEA, and National Technical Focal Point according to an agreed schedule;
- Preparing six-monthly expenditure reports, six monthly progress reports and cash advance requests to be submitted to the Project Co-ordinating Unit (PCU), through the focal point of the responsible SEA;
- Preparing and submitting to the PCU, through the focal point of the SEA, technical reports in accordance with the defined outputs of the demonstration site; and
- Attending the meetings of the Regional Working Group, as an observer, and reporting as required on the progress of execution, and difficulties encountered.

In addition to the tasks and responsibilities listed in the MoUs between UNEP and the SEA, the focal point of the Specialised Executing Agency in consultation with the national committee and/or sub-committee, should provide guidance to the Demonstration Site Manager on the implementation of the demonstration activities.

The Focal Point should also be responsible for liaison:

- Between the Demonstration Site Manager and the PCU regarding dissemination of experiences, and personnel exchange between sites;
- Between the Demonstration Site Manager and the National Technical Working Group, and Regional Working Group for the sub-component concerned.

3. FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL DISSEMINATION OF EXPERIENCES DERIVED FROM THE DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES

The project document suggests that three possible modes of dissemination of information and experiences will be employed:

1. Exchange of personnel between sites;
2. Training courses and/or workshops based on the demonstration sites;
3. Publication and dissemination of technical reports and or public awareness materials as appropriate.

It is suggested that these three modalities should be employed sequentially rather than concurrently and that the exchange programme should be initiated within six months of the first demonstration sites coming into operation.

It is further suggested that training courses be developed and implemented in conjunction with the proposed International Waters Regional Learning Centre from mid 2005 onwards and that a draft programme of such courses and publications be prepared for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Project Steering Committee.

3.1 Exchange of Personnel between demonstration sites

In order to strengthen the effective operation of the existing national and regional infrastructure, and to effectively upgrade the national and regional capacity in protecting the marine and coastal environment, it is proposed to “exchange” personnel between the demonstration sites, and between the participating countries.

Objectives of the exchange programme

The objectives of the programme of personnel exchange are to:

- Contribute to upgrading national and regional capacity in the protection of the marine and coastal environment and rational use of marine and coastal resources;
- Maximise the possibility of experiences at one demonstration site being successfully transferred to other sites and/or other countries.

Procedures for exchange of personnel

(a) Number of exchange personnel at any one site

The maximum number of exchange personnel that can be accommodated at any one site, at any one time should be defined in the demonstration site proposal and should reflect the conditions at the site, and the financial allocations.

It is proposed that the Demonstration Site Manager in consultation with the country focal point define the proposed programme of activities that will be provided at the site for exchange personnel over a defined time frame of between two and six months. These programmes will be reviewed by the national committee and the Regional Working Group concerned at which time other focal points may indicate potential interest in sending personnel, either from another existing demonstration site, or from a potential site to participate in this programme.

(b) Qualifications of exchange Personnel

The exchange personnel should have:

- Appropriate qualifications and experience such that they can benefit from the experiences provided;
- An adequate command of written and spoken English and or the local language used at the demonstration site;
- The support of their superior officers in applying the experience and knowledge gained upon their return to his or her own country;

(c) Selection of exchange personnel

The following procedures are proposed for selecting individuals into the programme:

1. The Demonstration Site Manager in consultation with the country focal point defines the proposed programme of activities that will be provided at the site for exchange personnel over a defined time frame of between two and six months;
2. The proposed programme is reviewed by the national committee and forwarded to the Regional Working Group concerned for their clearance and consideration of possible nominees;
3. Nominations are called for from the National Technical Focal Points and Chairs of the National Committees for the habitat sub-components;
4. The National Technical Working Group approves the nominations and indicates their priority and the National Technical Focal Point forwards the nominations to the PCU;
5. Nominations are compiled by the PCU and circulated together with recommendations to the members of the appropriate RWG and the National Technical Focal Points who shall approve within a specified time frame on a no objections basis the proposals;
6. The Project Director will circulate the final list of approved names and sites to the National Technical Focal Points.

(d) Duration of Exchange

The duration of exchange personnel will be 3 – 6 months.

(e) Financial arrangements

In order to maximise the numbers of the personnel participating in the programme, and to ensure that there are minimal financial incentives to participating in the programme it is proposed that:

1. Individuals will continue to receive their salary from their local employer and will not be paid a “salary” whilst on exchange rather some or all of the following allowances may be paid from the GEF grant;
2. Where accommodation is not provided on-site by the host organisation, an accommodation allowance will be paid from the GEF grant at a rate reflecting local costs and conditions of service of those employed at the demonstration site;
3. Where the individual’s salary at the time of the exchange is lower than the salary of an equivalent officer employed at the demonstration site, an allowance for food will be paid in accordance with a scale agreed between the Demonstration Site Manager and the PCU at the time that the site is selected for inclusion in the programme;
4. Costs of travel to and from the demonstration site will be met from the GEF grant;
5. Costs of medical and other insurance will be met by the employer of the individual participating in the exchange programme and will neither be the responsibility of the United Nations Environment Programme nor of the Institution/organisation running the demonstration site.

Recommendations

The Committee is invited to consider, these proposed arrangements, and to amplify and amend as appropriate the proposals concerning the regional co-ordination of the demonstration activities, dissemination of the experiences, and exchange of personnel between the demonstration sites.

Table 1 Original Budget Allocation for Regional Co-ordination, Dissemination of Experiences and Exchange of Personnel between Sites.

		2002 Expenditure			2003 Expenditure			2004 Commitments			2005 Commitments			2006 Commitments			2007	Total
		1st	2nd	Total	1st	2nd	Total	1st	2nd	Total	1st	2nd	Total	1st	2nd	Total		
3100	Fellowships (total stipend/fees, travel, costs, etc)																	
3101	Support for young scientists working in demonstration site (mangrove)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	22,000.00	34,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	44,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	88,000.00
3102	Support for young scientists working in demonstration site (coral)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	22,000.00	34,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	44,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	88,000.00
3103	Support for young scientists working in demonstration site (seagrass)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	22,000.00	34,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	44,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	88,000.00
3104	Support for young professionals in project management and implementation	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,379.61	44,000.00	55,379.61	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77,379.61
3199	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,379.61	44,000.00	55,379.61	58,000.00	66,000.00	124,000.00	66,000.00	66,000.00	132,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	341,379.61
3200	Group training (study tours, field trips, workshops, seminars, etc)																	
3201	Study tours to demonstration sites (mangrove)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	30,000.00	24,000.00	54,000.00	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.00	126,000.00
3202	Study tours to demonstration sites (coral)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	30,000.00	24,000.00	54,000.00	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.00	126,000.00
3203	Study tours to demonstration sites (seagrass)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	30,000.00	24,000.00	54,000.00	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.00	126,000.00
3204	Study tours to pilot sites (pollution)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	30,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	120,000.00
3205	Training courses workshops mangroves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
3206	Training courses workshops on coral reefs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
3207	Training courses workshops on seagrass	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
3208	Training workshop on wetland management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
3210	Training workshop on blast fishing detection system (fishery)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
3211	Regional workshops to promote the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
3212	Training courses, workshops on water quality management and pollution control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	90,000.00
3213	Training courses, workshops on resource evaluation and environmental economics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
3214	Group training unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	80,000.00
3299	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00	240,000.00	460,000.00	210,000.00	172,000.00	382,000.00	196,000.00	0.00	196,000.00	0.00	1,038,000.00

ANNEX 6

Revised Work Plan Timetable and Meeting Schedule for the Years 2004 - 2007

1. BACKGROUND

According to the work plan agreed by the Project Steering Committee at its first (Bangkok, Thailand, 22-23 October 2001) and second (Hanoi, Vietnam, 16-18 December 2002) meetings, final selection of demonstration sites for the habitat component and pilot activities for the land-based pollution component should have been completed by the end of 2003. As reported to the third meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) (Phuket, Thailand, 16-18 June 2003, some delays had been encountered that required adjustment of the schedule of meetings such that the Fourth RSTC meeting and the third PSC meeting were deferred to February 2004 from December 2003. The causes of the delays were also reported to the RSTC in the document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.3/10.

2. CHANGES AND CAUSES OF THE CHANGES OF PROGRAMME

The major causes of the changes in the implementation of the project activities during 2002-2003 included:

- Late start of the project: The project commenced on 28th January 2002;
- Late conclusion of MoUs with some Specialised Executing Agencies (SEAs); For instance, in the case of Malaysia, MoUs were signed for the coral reef, seagrass, wetland and land-based pollution components only in September 2002. Although these represent delays in individual cases, they resulted in some delay to regional activities in the components and sub-components concerned;
- Negative impacts of the SARS outbreak, which severely restricted travel in the region and necessitated the re-scheduling of some meetings including the third meeting of the RSTC. Some national activities in the countries concerned were also delayed;
- Late receipt of national inputs contributed also to the delay in national and regional actions. Not all national review reports on past and on-going activities for example were received as planned in advance of the third round of regional working group meetings.

As a consequence of these delays, the RSTC discussed the problems and made a decision during its third meeting that the Regional Scientific Conference, the meetings of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee and the Project Steering Committee be deferred to February 2004.

In order to finalise the outstanding activities at national level, and following discussion with national focal points and national technical focal points of the participating countries, it was further decided to extend the MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies to 30 June 2004, without additional financial implication.

3. REVISED WORK PLAN

Table 1 presents a proposed work plan for the RSTC, which is prepared based on the work plans (Table 2) of the habitats sub-components agreed during their fourth meetings. As the fourth meetings of the fisheries and land-based pollution components have been deferred, the relevant activities and plans need to be added after the meetings.



- Based on the agreements reached by the regional working groups, the deadlines for finalising the national review reports are slightly different from one country to another (Table 3), and from different sub-component. In the table, the latest dates were taken as the one for completion of national reviews reports;
- The detailed work plan for implementing demonstration activities will be prepared after the final selection be made by the Project Steering Committee at its third meeting (Manila, Philippines, 25-27 February 2004);
- Negotiation and finalisation of new MoUs with the SEAs commencing July 2004 will entirely depend on the decisions of the PSC, regarding the nature of activities to be included in the MoUs and their financial implications.

Table 4 presents the schedule of regional meetings proposed for 2004.

Table 1¹ Work Plan & Timetable - Overall duration of the project operational phases 66 months.

Component ³	Appr. Phase	GEF Project Implementation ²																									
		Phase 1												Phase 2													
		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007													
1. Habitat Degradation & Loss																											
1.1 Mangroves																											
1.1.1 National Mangrove Committees; data reviews (N)																											
1.1.2 Development & adoption of national management plans (including legislation) (N)																											
1.1.3 Regional expert meetings; criteria; priority areas & actions; (R) ⁴				1	2	3	4	5	6	7																	
1.1.4 Implementation of 3 demonstration projects ⁵ (N & R)																											
1.2 Non-oceanic Coral Reefs																											
1.2.1 National non oceanic coral reef working groups; data reviews (N)																											
1.2.2 Prepare & adopt national legislation and management plans (N)																											
1.2.3 Regional expert meetings; regional data man.; criteria; priority areas and actions (R)				1	2	3	4	5	6	7																	
1.2.4 Implementation of 3 demonstration projects (N & R)																											
1.3 Seagrass																											
1.3.1 National seagrass working groups; data reviews (N)																											
1.3.2 Prepare & adopt national management plans (N)																											
1.3.3 Regional task team; criteria; priority areas and actions (R)				1	2	3	4	5	6	7																	
1.3.4 Implementation of 3 demonstration projects (N & R)																											
1.4 Wetlands																											
1.4.1 National wetlands working groups (N)																											
1.4.2 Review, & implement management regimes & legislation (N)																											
1.4.3 Regional expert task team (R); regional review; criteria, guidelines; priority areas and actions, portfolio (R)				1	2	3	4	5	6	7																	
1.4.4 Raise Co-finance & implement demonstration activities																											
1.5 Elaboration of habitat component of SAP																											

1 The dates in this revised work plan are based on the actual dates planned and/or approved by the Project Steering Committee and Regional Scientific & Technical Committee for the period 2002 to 2004 inclusive. Subsequent dates are to be confirmed during the third meeting of the Project Steering Committee in February 2004.

2  inception phase (periods of intense project related activities);  preparatory and/or operational phase (periods of reduced intensity of activities relating to project execution).

3 N = National level activity; R = Regional level activity.

4 Numbers refer to the sequential meetings of the Regional Working Groups on Mangroves (RWG-M); on coral reefs (RWG-C); on seagrass (RWG-S); on Wetlands (RWG-W).

5 Three demonstration sites funded through GEF grants plus up to 4 additional sites for each habitat supported through co-financing.

Table 1 *continued* Work Plan & Timetable - Overall duration of the project operational phases 66 months.

Component ⁷	Appr. Phase	GEF Project Implementation ⁶													
		Phase 1							Phase 2						
		2001	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		
2. Over Exploitation of fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand															
2.1 Regional determination of priorities for action⁸			1	2	3		4	5		6		7			
2.1.1 Regional Task Force; regional fisheries overview (R)															
2.1.2 Criteria for stocks and areas & priority actions (R)															
2.2 Develop regional and national management plans															
2.3 Evaluation of a prototype blast fishing detection system															
2.4 Information and public awareness															
2.4.1 Provide information to artisanal fishers in the priority areas;															
2.4.2 Workshops on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries								1	2	3					
3. Land-Based Pollution															
3.1 Regional Water Quality standards			1	2	3	4	5		6		7				
3.1.1 Working groups; review data (N & R)															
3.1.2 Prepare, adopt region water quality objectives & standards															
3.1.3 National and Regional management plans (N & R)															
3.1.4 Capacity building & pilot activities (N & R)															
3.2 Determination of Regional Priority Hot Spots															
3.2.1 Criteria; priority actions and areas															
3.2.2 Evaluation of costs & benefits & pre-feasibility studies															
3.2.3 Adopt a strategic approach to priority transboundary hot spots for inclusion in the SAP for the SCS															

6  inception phase (periods of intense project related activities);  preparatory and/or operational phase (periods of reduced intensity of activities relating to project execution).

7 N = National level activity; R = Regional level activity.

9 Numbers refer to the sequential meetings of the Regional Working Groups on Fisheries (RWG-F); on Land-based Pollution (RWG-LBP).

Table 1 continued Work Plan & Timetable - Overall duration of the project operational phases 66 months.

Component ¹⁰	Appr. Phase	GEF Project Implementation ⁹																									
		Phase 1												Phase 2													
		2001			2002			2003			2004			2005			2006			2007							
4. Project Co-ordination and Management																											
4.1 Establishment of co-operative framework																											
4.1.1 Signature of MoUs	X																										
4.1.2 Meetings of the Project Steering Committee	1				2							3															
4.2 Convening of regional expert meetings for elaboration of the SAP¹¹																											
4.2.1 Regional Scientific & Technical Committee.			1		2		3		1		4		2		5		1		4		7		8				
4.2.2 Regional Task Force on Legal Matters								1		2									3		3		4				
4.2.3 Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation								1		2									3		3		4				

⁹  inception phase (periods of intense project related activities);  preparatory and/or operational phase (periods of reduced intensity of activities relating to project execution).

¹⁰ N = National level activity; R = Regional level activity.

¹² Numbers refer to the sequential meetings of the Regional Scientific & Technical Committee (RSTC); the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters (RTF-L) and Regional task Force on Economic Valuation (RTF-E).

Table 2 Detailed Work plan for the UNEP GEF Project entitled: “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”. (Green indicates regional level activities, blue national level activities)

	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007				
	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Project Steering Committee Meetings		■				■					■				■				■				■				
Establish Inter-Ministry Committee and organise meetings			■																								
Establish National Technical Working Group & organise meetings			■																								
Regional Scientific and Technical Committee			■			■			■			■			■			■				■			■		
Regional Working Group mangroves (RWG-M)				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Working Group Corals (RWG-C)				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Working Group Seagrass (RWG-S).				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Working Group Wetlands (RWG-W)				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Working Group Fisheries (RWG-F)				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Working Group Pollution (RWG-LbP)				■		■			■			■					■					■			■		
Regional Task Force on Legal Matters									■			■			■			■				■			■		
Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation									■			■			■			■				■			■		
Develop regional management plans for a regional system of <i>refugia</i> for transboundary fish stocks												■															
Agree on priority regional hot spots for inclusion in the SAP for the SCS												■															
Consideration of regional priority actions, targets and approaches for inclusion in the SAP												■															

Table 2 continued Detailed Work plan for the UNEP GEF Project entitled: *“Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”*. (Green indicates regional level activities, blue national level activities)

	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007			
	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Working Group Meetings (6 members 12 per year) (pollution)			[Blue bar spanning from Q1 2002 to Q4 2006]																							
Preparation of Review on water quality data (pollution)			[Blue bar spanning from Q1 2002 to Q2 2003]																							
Evaluation of fate of transboundary pollutants (pollution)															[Blue bar spanning from Q3 2002 to Q4 2003]											
Evaluation of Costs & Benefits of alternatives (pollution)															[Blue bar spanning from Q3 2003 to Q2 2004]											
Pre-feasibility studies for priority sites (pollution)															[Blue bar spanning from Q4 2003 to Q3 2004]											
Review and Editorial supervision of reports (pollution)			[Blue bar spanning from Q3 2002 to Q4 2006]																							
Working Group Meetings (6 members 12 per year) (fishery)			[Blue bar spanning from Q1 2002 to Q4 2006]																							
Preparation of National Overview of Fisheries data (fishery)			[Blue bar spanning from Q1 2002 to Q3 2003]																							
Development of criteria for evaluation of transboundary significance of fish stocks (fishery)															[Blue bar spanning from Q3 2003 to Q2 2004]											
Evaluation of blast fishing detection (fisheries)															[Blue bar spanning from Q4 2003 to Q3 2004]											
Development of awareness programmes among artisanal fishing communities (fishery)															[Blue bar spanning from Q3 2003 to Q2 2004]											
Development of educational and public awareness materials (fishery)															[Blue bar spanning from Q4 2003 to Q3 2004]											
Review and Editorial supervision of reports (fishery)			[Blue bar spanning from Q1 2002 to Q4 2006]																							

Table 4 Schedule of meetings for 2004 (RWG = Regional Working Group; -M = Mangroves; -C = Coral reefs; -S = Seagrass; -W = Wetlands; -F= Fisheries; LbP = Land-based Pollution; RTF-E = Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation; RTF-L = Regional Task Force on Legal Matters.)

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M								
January					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
					H																					Chinese NY												
February							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
								H									Regional Science Conference			RSTC-4									PSC-3									
March		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
						H										Ad hoc													RWG-LbP-4									
April					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
					LbP-4					H						Thai NY													RWG-F-4									
May					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
							RTF-L-2																	ExComm														
June		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
		RTF-E-2																																				
July					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
											H												RWG-S-5															
September					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
																RWG-C-5												RWG-M-5										
October					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
								RWG-W-5						RWG-F-5							Ramadan																	
November		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
								Ramadan							H									RWG-LbP-5														
December					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
								H			RSTC-5				PSC-4															Xmas	H							