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Project



Global Environment  
Facility

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

**REPORT**

**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee**

***Fangchenggang, China, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2004***



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Cover Illustration: Mixing diagram for Cadmium in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Thailand – courtesy by Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Director, SEA START RC.

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## **Report of the Meeting**

### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

#### **1.1 Welcome on behalf of UNEP**

1.1.1 The Project Director, Dr. John Pernetta, welcomed participants and officially opened the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee on behalf of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Dr. Ahmed Djoghla, Assistant Deputy Executive Director of UNEP and Director, Division of Global Environment Facility Co-ordination (UNEP/DGEF).

1.1.2 Dr. Pernetta noted that the Chairperson of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters, Dr. Bie Tao, was investigating a critical environmental infringement case, and would attend the meeting from the second day onwards. Dr. Pernetta further noted, with regret, that the PCU had received an email from the Malaysian representative, Mr. Lee Heng Keng only two days before the commencement of the meeting, informing the PCU that he was unable to attend either this meeting or the Project Steering Committee meeting. Consequently, no Malaysian representative would be present which was unfortunate given the issues before the two meetings that required consideration and decision.

1.1.3 Dr. Pernetta noted that the meeting had a very full agenda in front of it that included matters such as consideration of the past and future in-kind co-financing, the analysis of the national action plans and targets for the regional Strategic Action Programme. He expressed the hope that the meeting would be both successful and enjoyable and that it would be possible to complete all items without the need for night sessions.

#### **1.2 Welcome address from a representative of the local Government**

1.2.1 Dr. Pernetta welcomed Mr. Liu Jingfa, Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration and Administrator of Land Administration of Fangchenggang, and invited him to make a welcome address to the meeting on behalf of the municipal government of the City.

1.2.2 Mr. Liu Jingfa warmly welcomed the participants to Fangchenggang on behalf of the Fangchenggang Municipal Government. He noted that Fangchenggang has a long coastline, and is characterised by high marine biological diversity with a variety of different habitats including mangroves. He hoped that the expertise of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee and the development of the mangrove demonstration site in Fangchenggang would support the work of the local government in environmental protection, and wished the participants a pleasant stay in Fangchenggang City.

#### **1.3 Introduction of members**

1.3.1 Noting the presence of a number of new members following the election of Chairs of the regional working groups Dr. Pernetta invited participants to introduce themselves to the meeting. There followed a *tour de table* during which participants introduced themselves and provided a brief statement on their position within the project. A list of participants is contained in Annex 1 of this report.

### **2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

#### **2.1 Documentation available to the meeting**

2.1.1 The Chairperson, Dr. Gil Jacinto, invited the Secretary to introduce the documentation available to the meeting. Ms. Sulan Chen briefly introduced the discussion and information documents available to the meeting, and listed as Annex 2 of this report.

## **2.2 Programme of Work**

2.2.1 Ms. Chen briefed participants on the administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting, and the proposed organisation of work (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.3). She noted that the meeting would be conducted in English, and in plenary as far as possible, although sessional working groups could be formed as needed and at the discretion of the committee.

## **3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

3.1 Dr. Gil Jacinto, the Chairperson, introduced the provisional agenda prepared by the Project Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) as document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.1/1 and the annotated provisional agenda document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.1/2 and invited members of the RSTC to propose any amendments or additional items for consideration, prior to the adoption of the agenda.

3.2 Dr. Ong Jin-Eong inquired about the possibility of organising a visit to the Fangchenggang mangrove demonstration site on the morning of the third day of the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would revisit this proposal after the completion of the second day of the meeting once it became apparent whether or not the agenda could be completed in time to allow such a visit.

3.3 There being no other proposals or amendments, the meeting proceeded to adopt the agenda, as contained in Annex 3 of this report.

## **4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Status of administrative reports for the year 2003 and first half of 2004**

4.1.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce the document, *Current Status of the Administrative Reports from the Focal Points of the Participating Countries* (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/4), that presented information regarding 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 Dr. Pernetta noted the continuing delay of the SEAs in submitting routine financial and administrative reports, and the fact that consequently there are outstanding and unaccounted sums of money held by the SEAs. At the time of the fifth meeting of the RSTC, there were still eight SEAs or focal ministries that had not submitted the required routine financial and administrative reports for the period of January to June 2004. Dr. Pernetta further pointed out that a few audit reports for 2003 remained outstanding and in such cases no further funds can be remitted to the agency concerned.

4.1.3 Dr. Pernetta noted the numbers of reports outstanding from Malaysia and the fact that a substantial amount of cash (approximately 127,000 US dollars) transferred to the SEAs in Malaysia in 2002 remained unaccounted for. He noted that recent restructuring of the ministries in Malaysia, might result in improved participation on the part of Malaysia since the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was now separated from the Ministry of Science and Technology although the PCU had received no notification regarding who the new focal point for the project was to be.

4.1.4 Dr. Pernetta further pointed out that delays in submitting the routine financial and administrative reports had created serious consequences for the overall implementation of the project. Unless expenditure reports were received by the PCU, no budget planning could be made for the period of July 2004 to June 2007, which was required for the signing of the second amendment to the Memoranda of Understanding to cover the period to June 2007. Without such an amendment extending the term the SEAs could not expend funds and the budget revision could not be undertaken.

4.1.5 Ms. Marlynn Mendoza and Mr. Noel Barut both indicated that some funds from the preparatory phase had been re-phased to cover costs of the publication and printing of national reports and could account for some of the cash held by the SEAs.

4.1.6 The Chairperson noted the serious consequences resulting from delays in submitting financial and administrative reports. He noted that no funding could be used unless the second

amendments to the Memoranda were signed and that in legal terms, once the contracts between UNEP and the SEAs/focal ministries expired, any amount not spent should be transferred back to UNEP. Noting the seriousness of the problems, the National Technical Focal Points (NTFPs) were invited to brief the meeting about the efforts they had made to ensure the timely submission of national routine reports. There followed a summary from each NTFP regarding their efforts to encourage and stimulate the SEAs to submit the financial and administrative reports to the PCU in a timely manner.

4.1.7 Professor Huang Zhengguang confirmed that he had contacted the focal points from time to time to encourage them to submit the routine reports to the PCU. With regard to China's Inter-ministerial Committee (IMC), he noted that the IMC had convened eight formal and informal meetings of two days duration, and that the NTWG had convened several meetings each lasting three days, all of which had been funded by Chinese government co-financing. The problem lay in the drafting of the reports, and Professor Huang indicated his willingness to draft the administrative reports, summarising activities in the past two and half years by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2005. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Committee.

4.1.8 Dr. Jacinto indicated that he had been regularly reminding the focal points for the components/sub-components of the need for timely submission of the reports during the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) meetings, and noted that some of the delays might have been caused by internal institutional problems and restructuring.

4.1.9 Mr. Heru Waluyo stated that since he became the NTFP a year ago, he had been requesting the SEAs to submit the financial and administrative reports to the PCU in a timely manner. He indicated that he would raise the issue again during the next meeting of the NTWG upon his return to Indonesia. He further indicated the difficulties experienced in convening the IMC in Indonesia, as some members of the IMC did not attend the meetings, and sent representatives who could not make decisions on substantive issues.

4.1.10 Dr. Tuan explained, that due to the delay of some national activities, such as the publication of national reports, and the development/integration of national action plans, the Viet Nam components and sub-components had revised their budgets to reflect the delays and changes. This had caused certain delays in submitting the required reports. He further stated that all the budget revisions had been recently completed, and all the expenditure reports would be submitted to the PCU by the end of this year.

4.1.11 Mr. Koch Savath pointed out that the coral reef/seagrass focal point had submitted the required reports, together with a cash advance request. Cambodia fisheries component had submitted all required reports. As for other outstanding reports, he would continue encouraging the SEAs to submit the reports in the NTWG meetings.

4.1.12 Dr. Nawarat Krairapanond stated that he had encouraged the SEAs to submit the required reports and request the funds as promptly as possible. Four meetings of the NTWG had been organised, during which members discussed the submission of financial and administrative reports. He noted further that to a certain extent the NTFP had limited control since he could not intervene in internal matters of the SEAs.

4.1.13 Dr. Pernetta recognised that the National Technical Focal Points were in a similar position to the PCU in that they had to encourage and stimulate the timely submission of routine reports, without infringing upon internal management of the SEAs and focal ministries. He expressed his appreciation to the NTFPs for their co-ordination work at the national level.

## **4.2 Calculation of actual co-financing January 2002 to June 2004 and estimates for July 2004 to June 2007**

4.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce this agenda item and document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/5 to the meeting. Based on the information contained in the six-month progress reports the Project Co-ordinating Unit had calculated, according to the agreements reached during the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee the in-kind co-financing contributions from the participating governments for the period January 2002 to June 2004. He noted that the original

estimates represented some elements that were verifiable and some that were not. The easily verifiable amount represents some 30% of the total estimate and it is not possible to verify the balance without excessive additional work at both the national and regional levels.

4.2.2 Dr. Pernetta noted that the actual verifiable co-financing had exceeded the estimated co-financing by some 17%. The verifiable portion of the in-kind co-financing, was calculated based on the number of national meetings convened and participants attending the meetings using the co-efficient of US\$ 70 per person per day, agreed by the first Project Steering Committee meeting. He pointed out that the final total actual co-financing would be higher than that reported, as many six-monthly reports for the first half of 2004 had not been received by the PCU to date.

4.2.3 Dr. Pernetta drew the attention of committee to the low level of co-financing realised in the national co-ordination component which had reached only 47% of the estimate due to non-reporting by three of the seven focal ministries. In contrast he noted that, the in-kind co-financing for the substantive components and sub-components of the project had exceeded the estimates by some 29% such that overall actual in-kind co-financing had exceeded the estimates by 17%.

4.2.4 Members' attention was drawn to the information document on co-financing, a GEF Council Document which represents the basic policy statement of the GEF Council regarding the definitions of different kinds of co-financing and the need for more stringent tracking of project co-financing.

4.2.5 Members were then invited to consider whether the estimates for the second phase of the project, contained in Table 5, were a realistic reflection of the amounts of time required to complete the activities agreed in the work plans of the regional working groups. The group proceeded to review the estimates in detail and agreed that two rather than four meetings, of the IMCs would be convened each year during the second phase of the project. The Committee took note of the fact that China's IMC meetings would last two days but that in the other countries they would last for one day. With regard to the meetings of the NTWG, the Committee considered the estimates appropriate, taking note that China's NTWG meetings' duration would be three days.

4.2.6 The Committee considered the co-financing estimates for components and sub-components were appropriate, taking note that the activities were generic, and that activities in individual countries might vary according to national needs and circumstances. The Committee agreed to recommend the estimates to the Project Steering Committee for approval as included in Annex 4 to this meeting report.

4.2.7 There followed a discussion regarding possible mechanisms for future tracking and reporting of in-kind and cash co-financing. Dr. Anond Snidvongs proposed, and the Committee agreed, to add an additional item in the template of the six-monthly reports in which focal points could record co-financing.

4.2.8 The RSTC members were invited to consider a cutoff date for the PCU to finalise the report on co-financing during the first phase of the project, for submission to UNEP and the GEF Secretariat. It was agreed that 31 January 2005 would be the final date for inclusion of any additional missing information.

### **4.3 Extension of the MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies**

4.3.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/6, summarising the status of the Memoranda of Understanding and highlight areas of difficulty requiring discussion and recommendations for action to the Project Steering Committee.

4.3.2 The Project Director noted, that only eleven signed MoU amendments had been received from countries to date, partly due to the delay in receiving the expenditure reports. Some other MoU amendments had been finalised, and were awaiting signature of one or other of the two parties. Noting that eight SEAs or focal ministries had not submitted the expenditure reports, Dr. Pernetta stated that no MoU amendments could be signed for these eight SEAs or focal ministries.

4.3.3 NTFPs were encouraged to make every effort to stimulate the SEAs or the focal ministries to finalise and sign the amendments to the MoU, which should be treated as a priority since the project activities at the national level depended on the extension of the MoUs.

4.3.4 In light of the numerous tasks assigned to the National Technical Focal Points, it was suggested by the Chair that an action sheet be produced as an *aide memoire* for the National Technical Focal Points on their return home. The Project Director agreed that such a sheet would be produced by the closure of the meeting.

## **5. NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES**

5.1 The Chairperson invited the NTFPs to provide a brief overview of the processes of, and experiences with, co-ordination of project activities in each country, including the establishment of national databases and the co-ordination of inputs to the regional GIS and Meta-databases, and co-ordination of the content and development of the sectorial National Action Plans.

5.2 Dr. Tuan informed the meeting that the National Focal Point in Viet Nam had been changed due to the retirement of the former Director of the National Environment Protection Agency. As a result, some activities of the project had been delayed. Viet Nam had recognised the importance of the IMC, as different agencies or institutions had been involved in different components and sub-components. Viet Nam had recently finished the joint project proposal with Cambodia, which also involved integration of activities at the local level, via a management board led by provincial leaders.

5.3 Dr. Tuan noted the databases of all components and sub-components had been developed at the national level and discussions were undertaken regarding access to, integration and maintenance of, the databases, and facilitation of the exchange of information between components and sub-components.

5.4 Concerning the development of the National Action Plans, Dr. Tuan noted that all components and sub-components had drafted national action plans, and Viet Nam had completed the integration of the sectorial national action plans into one national action plan for the coastal environment.

5.5 Dr. Nawarat informed the meeting that regular consultations had been conducted at the national level on the co-ordination of activities. Thailand had developed a project website under the website of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, and linked all the databases developed under the framework of the project to the website.

5.6 Dr. Nawarat informed the meeting that all the SEAs had developed NAPs on specific components and sub-components, and organised workshops for the development of those NAPs. The last NTWG meeting had considered organising workshops to finalise the sectorial NAPs, and integrating them into one national action plan to avoid duplication. It was envisaged the finalised NAPs should be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

5.7 Dr. Jacinto noted the change of the national focal point of this project due to the change of the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, in September 2004, which had prevented the convening of an originally envisaged IMC meeting. All components and sub-components had made progress in developing national databases, among which the coral reefs, seagrass, and fisheries components had made the databases web-accessed.

5.8 Dr. Jacinto further informed the meeting that the development of national action plans varied among components and sub-components, with some in a more advanced stage than others. Discussions had been undertaken to integrate the NAPs into one national action plan or framework action plan for the coastal and marine environment. He took note of the difficulties of the process, as various ministries and agencies are involved. He further informed the meeting that endeavours had been made to establish a legislative mechanism, either an executive order or a presidential order to provide the legal framework for actions included in the NAPs for different components and sub-components.

5.9 Professor Huang informed the meeting that a three-day meeting of the IMC was convened in April 2004, with the participation of eight ministries of the Central government and representatives from three provincial governments. The meeting had discussed and approved the development and implementation of the demonstration sites. During the meeting, it was decided that all NAPs should be submitted for consideration by the IMC and approval and signature by SEPA, and co-signature by other concerned ministries.

5.10 Professor Huang informed the meeting that three NTWG meetings had been convened in 2004 that had discussed the revision of the demonstration site proposals, and encouraged focal points of components/sub-components to exchange information regarding the progress of the demonstration site proposals. He noted the activities of the mangrove component were in a more advanced stage than those of other components and sub-components in China.

5.11 Mr. Heru noted the difficulties of national co-ordination of the project, due to the government restructuring in Indonesia, and assured the committee that future coordination of the project would be strengthened. In the past there was intensive coordination between the components, with meetings convened on a bi-monthly basis, providing good opportunities to exchange information and experience.

5.12 Mr. Heru pointed out that a problem had occurred in the seagrass component of Indonesia in developing East Bintan seagrass demonstration site. Due to the delay in implementing the project, the co-financing from the local district level had been reallocated and used for other activities.

5.13 Mr. Koch Savath noted that Cambodia had convened six IMC meetings, and 16 NTWG meetings since the commencement of the project. The main focus of these meetings had been to explore how to promote co-operation at national and regional levels. He noted that all the SEAs had produced the expected outputs for the first phase of the project, and all national reports were in the process of being translated into the national language. National databases and national action plans had also been developed by various components.

5.14 Concerning the demonstration sites with Thailand on mangroves and wetlands, and with Viet Nam on coral reefs and seagrass, Mr. Koch Savath informed the meeting that a national management board had been established for the overall supervision and co-ordination of the demonstration sites.

## **6. STATUS OF DEMONSTRATION SITE AND PILOT ACTIVITY PROPOSALS**

### **6.1 Report of the outcome of the *ad hoc* meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee and development of Land-based Pollution pilot activities**

6.1.1 The Chairperson invited Dr. Tuan to brief the committee on the deliberations of the Executive Committee of the RSTC regarding the selection of pilot activities addressing land-based pollution. Dr. Tuan informed the meeting that three proposals had been considered by the Executive Committee: (i) Lingdingyang catchment in the Pearl River, China; (ii) Tha Chin River mouth, in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand; and (iii) Batam, Indonesia.

6.1.2 The Executive Committee reviewed the criteria for the selection of pilot activities in the land-based pollution component, and noted some weak points in the ranking procedures. The Executive Committee instructed the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution (RWG-LbP) to improve the ranking criteria. Taking into account the weaknesses, the Executive Committee reviewed proposals for pilot activities and accepted the recommendations on the three pilot activities, under the condition that the proposals should be revised to set a budget ceiling of US\$ 100,000.

6.1.3 Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that the Thailand pilot activity proposal had been withdrawn during the Fifth Meeting of the RWG-LbP, Shenzhen, China on 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and that there was a discussion on the reallocation of funds to other activities, which should be further discussed under agenda item 7.6.

## **6.2 Status of the demonstration site proposals for the habitat sub-components funded through the GEF project grant**

6.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/7, summarising the status of demonstration site proposals funded through the GEF project grant, those projects funded via the Medium sized project mechanism and sites requiring no additional funding. This document also provided an update on the status of pilot activities for land-based pollution component and the proposal for the trial of a blast fishing detection device under the fisheries component.

6.2.2 Dr. Pernetta noted that all the demonstration sites were envisaged to have become operational in July 2004, however none were yet operational. He noted some problems at both national and regional level in preparing and finalising the proposals, and that inexperience in using a cost accounting approach to budget preparation had proved to be a problem for many focal points. There was also a lack of clear relationship between defined activities, goals, targets and the budget.

6.2.3 In response to the queries made by Dr. Suparmoko regarding the economic valuation aspects of the demonstration sites, and the framework for monitoring and evaluation in the proposals, Dr. Pernetta noted an important aspect of a successful demonstration site was the sustainability of the benefits of the project, which required the development of a business plan, including elements to support generation of revenue streams, values of the resources, present incomes and potentials from the demonstration etc. These elements would be included in the demonstration site proposals.

6.2.4 With regard to the monitoring and evaluation aspects, the PCU would devote time to follow up the activities in demonstration sites with the same due diligence applied to the national activities. He foresaw an important role for the Regional Working Groups in maintaining oversight of the overall progress of the demonstration sites. The Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation should provide oversight on the aspects of economic valuation and business plans.

6.2.5 In view of the fact that no demonstration site activities had yet become operational, the Committee collectively reviewed the problems and causes of delays, and considered various solutions to the problems.

6.2.6 It was proposed by Dr. Anond to hire consultants to assist the SEAs in finalising the demonstration site proposals. It was then noted by the Committee that most of the proposals funded through the project grant are already nearly completed, and that hiring consultants would reduce the opportunity for focal points to build their capacity in developing proposals. Recognising that at least one proposal from each country was near final, the Committee proposed that those focal points, with a need to further revise and develop their proposals, should seek advice and assistance from the experienced focal points with near final proposals in their home countries. The Committee took note of the importance of facilitating inter-component learning at the country level.

6.2.7 Considering the delay of some countries in revising the proposals according to the agreed requirements, Mr. Nyoto Santoso requested the PCU to provide a monthly status report of demonstration sites to remind the SEAs to catch up with their activities. Dr. Pernetta agreed that the PCU would produce and circulate such a monthly report starting from January 2005.

6.2.8 Noting that some proposals had been substantially revised with increased or decreased budgets since their consideration by the fourth RSTC meeting, and approval by the third PSC meeting, the Committee agreed on the need to adopt a mechanism to review and approve the revised proposals. Considering the urgency to launch the demonstration sites as promptly as possible, the Committee decided that the final project proposals or operational project documents would be uploaded to the project website, for consideration by the committee within two weeks, and approval on a no-objections basis.

6.2.9 It was suggested that during the review period the Committee members should provide responses to the PCU and that at the very least the concerned National Technical Focal Point must respond indicating that they had no objections to the proposal before it could become operational.

### **6.3 Status of the demonstration site proposals for the habitat sub-components funded via the Medium Sized Project mechanism**

6.3.1 The committee noted that all seven chosen proposals were originally developed following the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project format, which is different from the MSP format required by the GEF Secretariat (GEFSec) and UNEP/DGEF. Finalising these proposals requires extra efforts in comparison with those funded through the project grant. Procedures for the development of these MSPs were clarified by an email sent by the Associate Expert, dated on 4 August 2004, with the attachment of the GEF *“Operational Guidance for Preparation and Approval of the Medium sized Projects”*.

6.3.2 It was noted that two of these proposals were in near final form (Trikora beach seagrass, and Thale Noi peatswamp) and that the intention was to finalise the remainder for submission early in 2005.

### **6.4 Sites Requiring No Additional Funding (Government Proposals)**

6.4.1 With respect to sites requiring no additional funding, no proposals for self-funded demonstration sites had been submitted by, the National Technical Focal Points. The Committee considered the purpose of adding additional demonstration sites requiring no additional funding, and noted these sites could provide good experiences for other countries, and provide a platform for training.

6.4.2 The meeting considered and discussed possible mechanisms of producing a preliminary list of demonstration sites requiring no additional funding, which are complementary to activities of the project. It was noted by Dr. Tuan and Dr. Anond that the process of selecting and nominating demonstration site proposals could take a long time, as this might involve the ownership and intellectual property rights of the nominated projects.

6.4.3 It was agreed that by the end of January 2005, each country should nominate at least one site requiring no additional funding to be included in the network of demonstration sites under the framework of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea project. The nomination, should include a brief description and indication of what the proposed projects could do and what the benefits would be from including them in the network.

6.4.4 Dr. Anond volunteered, and the Committee gratefully accepted, to develop overnight an outline of the qualifications and information required for sites, to be nominated for consideration of the committee.

6.4.5 The draft qualifications for suitable sites and information needed were presented to the meeting, and following their consideration and review were approved as they appear in Annex 5.

## **7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND REGIONAL TASK FORCES ON PROGRESS TO DATE**

### **7.1 Regional Working Group on Mangroves**

7.1.1 The Chairperson of the RSTC invited the Chairs of the Regional Working Groups and Regional Task Forces to present their summary reports of activities and progress to date. Reports received in advance of the meeting were included in the meeting documents as UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8 RWG-M etc. The meeting reports for the Fifth round of Meetings for the Regional Working Group were included as information documents for the meeting.

7.1.2 Mr. Nyoto Santoso informed the RSTC that the Fifth Meeting for the Regional Working Group on Mangroves was held in Trat Province, Thailand on 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004, with participation during the first two days, of members of the Specially Managed Project Review evaluation team. The important issues raised and discussed during that meeting included:

- The status of the preparatory phase outputs which were largely complete;
- Status of the MoUs with the SEAs, a number of which were amended during the meeting;
- Project evaluations;

- Review of the contents of the draft national action plans and comparative analysis of their content;
- Review of the targets and goals contained in the SAP with a redefinition of the targets;
- Review of regional actions in the framework of the demonstration sites;
- Work plan for the RWG-M for the period 2004-2007.

7.1.3 There followed a discussion of the different categories of mangrove forests in different countries with clarification being sought regarding the difference between production and protection forest. In providing clarification Mr. Nyoto noted that in Indonesia some mangrove forests were designated as timber production forest and some as protection forest where timber extraction did not occur but other forms of resource use were permitted.

## 7.2 Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs

7.2.1 Dr. Thamasak reported that the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on coral reefs was convened in Koh Chang, Thailand, on 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Dr. Thamasak summarised the main issues discussed and considered during the meeting. He noted that the working group in its fifth meeting had reviewed:

- The status of the preparatory phase outputs. All the countries except Malaysia had completed the expected outputs, including the required national reports, GIS data and meta-data;
- The extension of the MoU between the SEAs and the UNEP. The meeting reviewed the draft MoU amendment;
- The comparative analysis of the National Action Plans. The main categories of actions identified in the coral reefs National Action Plans were (i) research and monitoring, (2) national policy, legal and institutional arrangement and co-ordination, (3) public awareness, communication and education;
- The targets and goal of the regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and the process of integrating National Action Plans with the SAP. The meeting had reviewed and revised the targets and goals originally proposed in the SAP;
- Work Plan of RWG-CR to June 2007;
- Demonstration site proposals of coral reef components. During the meeting, the PCU had worked closely with the focal points of Indonesia and Philippines to revise their operational budgets for the demonstration sites.

7.2.2 It was pointed out by, Dr. Anond that no inputs on coral reef meta-data had been received from focal points, except Cambodia and Thailand.

## 7.3 Regional Working Group on Seagrass

7.3.1 Mr. Kim Sour drew members' attention to the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Seagrass. He summarised the main issues raised and considered in the Fifth Meeting of the RWG-SG, as follows:

- Status of the preparatory phase outputs due June 2004;
- Status of MoUs with each SEA and the second amendment to the MoU;
- Discussion and review of national action plans and inputs to the seagrass component of the SAP;
- Review of the targets and goals contained in the framework SAP;
- Framework to promote exchange of information and experience in demonstration sites;
- Work plan for the RWG-SG for the period 2004-2007.

7.3.2 Mr. Kim noted that the RWG-SG had proposed an additional criterion for the selection of exchange personnel, which was *"in the case of exchange for increasing capacity in community based management, consideration should be given to selecting people from the community or stakeholders who would benefit, where possible."* He noted that this also raised the question of language and that in some instances it might be necessary to engage the services of an interpreter since most community level people would not be fluent in English.

#### **7.4 Regional Working Group on Wetlands**

7.4.1 Ms. Marlynn Mendoza presented the report of the Wetlands working group and the status of wetlands activities undertaken during the inter-sessional period. She noted that all countries except Indonesia had submitted their finalised national reports to the PCU, and that five national reports are currently being edited by, an English editor. She reported to the meeting that China and Thailand had signed the second amendment to the MoU, and that Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam are ready for the signature of focal points and UNEP.

7.4.2 Three wetlands sites and one wetland/mangrove site had been selected as demonstration sites to be funded under the GEF medium sized project mechanism. The revised Thailand Thale Noi wetland site proposal and Viet Nam Xuan Thuy/Balat site had been circulated electronically for the consideration of the Working Group. She noted that the Thale Noi proposal is nearly completed, while all other proposals need further revision.

7.4.3 Ms. Mendoza noted that draft national action plans had been submitted to the PCU, and were considered during the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands, which had completed a comparative analysis of the plans. In addition the meeting had considered and revised the targets of the wetlands component in the SAP.

#### **7.5 Regional Working Group on Fisheries**

7.5.1 Mr. Noel Barut noted that two meetings of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries (RWG-F) had been convened in year 2004 since the fourth RSTC meeting. The meetings had reviewed the status of national activities in the fisheries component, including the preparation and finalisation of national reports, meta database, GIS data, and public awareness materials. He noted all participating countries had submitted the required outputs to the PCU.

7.5.2 The Regional Working Group on Fisheries had considered procedures to establish a system of *refugia* for fisheries management but noted that most of the focal points lacked data on the areas of spawning, feeding and nursery grounds that were needed in order to determine the sites for *refugia* in each country.

7.5.3 Mr. Barut noted that the fisheries component had been active in promoting collaboration with other regional organisations and entities, and that representatives from the FAO, SEAFDEC, World Fish Center, and the World Conservation Union had attended either one or both of the RWG-F meetings.

#### **7.6 Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution**

7.6.1 Professor Han Baoxin reported the outcomes and decisions of the fourth and fifth meetings of the RWG-LbP, convened in the year 2004. Substantive reports had been produced by, all participating countries, and draft national action plans had been developed by, all countries except, Malaysia and the Philippines.

7.6.2 Professor Han highlighted three important tasks undertaken by the RWG-LbP. Firstly, the RWG-LbP had reviewed the national action plans, and conducted a comparative analysis of the contents. Second, the goal and targets of the SAP were revised during the fifth meeting, and thirdly, the RWG-LbP had discussed and agreed on the procedures to be used in estimating the carrying capacity of the South China Sea.

7.6.3 Professor Han noted that the Thailand focal point had officially withdrawn the pilot activity proposal, and the group proposed that the US\$100,000 originally allocated to this activity be re-allocated to fund national activities on estimating carrying capacity and each country had submitted a budget for the proposed activities.

7.6.4 Dr. Pernetta noted that there were two somewhat different approaches proposed during the RWG-LbP meeting, i.e., to evaluate the carrying capacity at the national level or at a basin-wide scale. The RWG-LbP had decided to conduct the activities at the national level, and the focal points proposed budgets represented a simple equal division of the funds to each country. He drew the

members' attention to Annex 10 of the meeting report of the RWG-LbP, and further noted that the bulk of these funds were to be spent on personnel costs.

7.6.5 Dr. Pernetta further noted that since the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project is a regional project with a vision to formulate regional perspectives and promote regional cooperation, a regional approach would be more appropriate. He then suggested, and the meeting agreed, to invite Dr. Anond to present a proposal for a regional approach to evaluating the carrying capacity of the entire South China Sea basin.

7.6.6 Dr. Anond presented a concept paper (Annex 6) regarding the process of estimating the carrying capacity for the South China Sea. He recommended that a relatively easy and cheap approach to determine whether a coastal system is a net sink, or a net source of pollutant is to develop mixing diagrams. The outcomes of which would provide some guidance regarding whether or not there was a need for more complex modelling of the fate of contaminants in the basin. He outlined the steps required to undertake such a regional study, and the proposed budget.

7.6.7 The Committee noted the weaknesses of the approach of using mixing diagrams. Dr. Ong pointed out that the mixing diagram has an assumption that the system is not stratified, and this was not the case in many coastal systems. Dr. Jacinto also noted that the assumption was that the contaminant concerned was conservative, which was certainly not the case with nutrients. Despite these weaknesses there was general agreement that such an approach was a useful first step in addressing the issue of the carrying capacity of the South China Sea marine basin.

7.6.8 Considering the importance of promoting regional cooperation rather than division of funds to execute independent national activities, that would not provide a complete picture for the entire basin, nor provide adequate information on transboundary movements, the meeting decided by consensus to support the regional study proposed by Dr. Anond, with the condition that the regional study should promote capacity building for the participating countries in estimating carrying capacity, and that data and information should be shared between countries.

7.6.9 The committee noted that modelling would require the participation of oceanographers and specialist modellers and in this connection the Project Director informed the committee that each focal point for land-based pollution had already agreed to provide the PCU, by the end of December, with details regarding the Institutions and individuals currently engaged in coastal shelf modelling in their countries. The workshops to be convened under Dr. Anond's proposal would therefore involve both the modelling community as well as the focal points for land-based pollution.

7.6.10 The meeting urged Dr. Anond to prepare a detailed proposal, and circulate it electronically to the members of the RSTC by the end of January 2005. Dr. Nawarat offered to take responsibility for acting as the focal point for this activity and his offer was gratefully accepted by the meeting. The meeting further agreed that comments of the RSTC members should be provided no later than 15<sup>th</sup> February 2005. The Executive Committee of the RSTC should convene a meeting to review and consider the proposal on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005. Memberships of the Executive Committee would remain the same as the previous Executive Committee of the RSTC.

7.6.11 Dr. Pernetta noted that the sixth meeting of the RWG-LbP would be convened on 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2005, and that preliminary outputs produced by Dr. Anond prior to the meeting dates could be sent to the RWG-LbP for their consideration of the next steps to be taken. Dr. Anond agreed to produce the results before the sixth meeting of the RWG-LbP.

## **7.7 Regional Task Force on Legal Matters**

7.7.1 Dr. Jacinto noted that the Chairperson of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters (RTF-L) was unable to attend the meeting, and invited Ms. Chen, member of the RTF-L, to outline and summarise the activities of the Task Force.

7.7.2 Ms. Chen noted that the RTF-L was formed during the second meeting of the Project Steering Committee, in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Two meetings had been convened for the RTF in September 2003 and May 2004. The Task Force had undertaken tasks on legal matters at three levels:

- Global level. The Task Force reviewed about 15 international environmental conventions, especially on the obligations for regional cooperation under these conventions. The review provided a legal basis or justification for regional cooperation on environmental problems in the region.
- Regional level. The Task Force had decided to review the current status of regional cooperation in the region and had proceeded to review 16 regional and sub-regional agreements, with a view to identifying important mechanisms for regional cooperation.
- National level. In the first meeting, the Task Force had reviewed all the national reports on legislation, but the meeting considered it a useful exercise to compare legislation to identify "good practices" and make the legislation widely available so that countries with less well-developed legislation could learn from countries with well-developed legislation.

7.7.3 Ms. Chen further noted that the Task Force had been very active in communication amongst the members, and that much substantive work had been undertaken through electronic communications by the Task Force.

7.7.4 In response to a query from by Dr. Anond regarding the role of the Task Force in the development of a regional environmental agreement for the South China Sea, Ms. Chen noted that the Task Force was established as an advisory group providing legal expertise and consultation to the project, that the development of a regional legal agreement would be beyond the mandate of the Task Force. The Task Force aimed to explore and recommend appropriate mechanisms through which regional cooperation could be promoted, and it would be up to the consideration of the RSTC and decision of the PSC regarding future developments.

## **7.8 Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation**

7.8.1 Dr. Suparmoko reported to the RSTC that two meetings of the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation (RTF-E) had been convened since the creation of the Task Force by the second meeting of the PSC, Hanoi, Viet Nam, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2002. The RTF-E has been assigned to serve as a source of expertise on economic valuation.

7.8.2 Dr. Suparmoko informed the meeting that the Task Force had developed economic valuation frameworks for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands, and procedures to undertake economic valuations for these four habitat types. The Task Force also decided to commission a review of existing data and information regarding the economic valuation of the impacts of land-based pollution. The draft report had been produced, and would be considered during the next meeting of the RTF-E.

7.8.3 Dr. Suparmoko noted a financial problem encountered by the RTF-E members, as the work and contribution of the RTF-E members to the project at both national and regional levels are not compensated, which discouraged members' further contribution to the project. It was recommended by Dr. Suparmoko that a separate component on economic valuation should be established with a separate budget.

7.8.4 Dr. Pernetta noted that the two Task Forces had been created by, the Project Steering Committee as service functions with no intention to provide separate budgets for the Task Forces, except for the convening of regional meetings. He also noted that none of the Focal Points in the SEA's were recompensed for their time in this project. The Task Forces would provide advice to the project through regional meetings, and at a national level, services should be recompensed through the budgets of the Specialised Executing Agencies. He noted that there was a small budget available for use by the Regional Task Forces and this had been utilised on the advice of the RTF-E to hire the consultant who had undertaken the review of economic valuation of Land-based Pollution impacts.

7.8.5 Dr. Nawarat informed the meeting that in the Thailand mangrove demonstration site activities, the Thai member of the RTF-E would be employed to conduct the economic valuation of mangroves at the demonstration site. The meeting took note of the difficulties encountered by the Task Forces, and encouraged the SEAs to better utilise the expertise of the members of the Task Forces through contractual employment by the SEAs.

## **8. STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS FROM THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT**

### **8.1 Editing and publication of outputs from the preparatory phase**

8.1.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/9, and brief the Committee on the present situation with regard to the English editing and publication of the national reports and other outputs from the preparatory phase. Dr. Pernetta pointed out the problems of not receiving some revised national reports from the SEAs, which held up the bulk editing and final publication. The NTFPs were requested to draw to the attention of the Focal Points at NTWG meetings the delays in submitting the reports, and urge the SEAs to submit the reports.

8.1.2 Dr. Pernetta noted that four regional overviews on the four habitat sub-components had been published for the Regional Scientific Conference in February 2004. No such overview had been produced for land-based pollution, although the deadline for finalisation of the text was set by the RWG-LbP at June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004, and the fisheries component had not initiated the process of preparing such a review, due in part to the non-participation of two countries in the fisheries component.

8.1.3 Dr. Pernetta noted that some outputs produced under the framework of the project were innovative and deserved wider distribution, including for example the digital mapping of the distribution of seagrass in the South China Sea coastline. Noting the substantive outputs produced by countries in the first phase of the project, the Project Director invited members to consider ways to integrate the outputs at the regional level for wider distribution.

8.1.4 The Committee discussed a variety of alternatives for publishing a regional synthesis of data and information. Members considered the possibilities to publish a book, or arrange for a special issue of a mainstream journal. In discussing the publication of a book, the Committee considered the possible audiences for such a volume. Alternatives included a "coffee table type atlas" or a more serious text targeted towards college students.

8.1.5 The Committee requested the PCU to prepare a concept note regarding alternative forms of publication of a regional synthesis either as a book, a journal or a series of volumes, or as CD-ROMs and identify target audiences. The meeting took note of the fact that the Project website and electronic outputs were currently stored on the server of the SEA START RC, and thought should be given to future alternative mechanisms or entities for the storage and distribution of electronic outputs.

### **8.2 Status of the regional GIS database and meta-database**

8.2.1 The Chairperson invited Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Director, SEA START RC<sup>1</sup> to brief the meeting on developments in the regional GIS database and meta-database and outline plans to bring these on-line via the project website in an interactive form.

8.2.2 Dr. Anond provided an overview of the status of the regional GIS database and meta-database, and noted that the SEA START RC had not received the GIS data and meta-data from many SEAs. It was recommended that all future submission of data and information should be sent to the SEA START RC, with a copy to the PCU. Dr. Anond informed the meeting that the SEA START RC had undertaken to develop an interactive online GIS, which would grant authorisation to the SEAs to check and update data conveniently. This interactive online system should be operational by the end of December 2004.

8.2.3 Dr. Anond presented the concept of a decentralised GIS database and recommended that responsible national GIS centres should be identified and linked with the regional centre. To establish such a regional distributed GIS, a technical workshop should be organised to consider and implement the concept.

8.2.4 In response to the issue of difficulties with on-line access Dr. Anond agreed to distribute to all SEAs and National Technical Focal Points, CD-ROMs containing the GIS and meta-databases.

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<sup>1</sup> SEA START RC = Southeast Asian START (SysTem for Analysis Research and Training) Regional Center.

## **9. CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF PROJECT EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED IN 2004**

### **9.1 Mid-term evaluation**

9.1.1 In introducing this agenda item Dr. Pernetta pointed out that the project had been subject to three evaluations in 2004, among which the mid-term evaluation was originally programmed by UNEP, since all projects of three or more years were subject to such evaluations. The Project Director briefly summarised the process of the mid-term evaluation, which was conducted from February to July 2004 by two independent evaluators Dr. Mike Bowers and Professor Su Jilan.

9.1.2 The mid-term evaluation report had been finalised and accepted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Office of the Executive Director of UNEP and had been formally published. The comments and recommendations relating to each Regional Working Group had been circulated and discussed by the Regional Working Groups during their fifth meetings, which had reviewed and accepted the comments and recommendations.

9.1.3 Dr. Pernetta noted the single recommendation of the evaluation that the present staff levels of the PCU be augmented by a minimum of one additional professional. In this context, he informed the Committee of the decision taken by the Assistant Executive Director of UNEP to fund half of the costs of the Senior Expert position from DGEF funds, thus increasing the staff compliment by half a position at no cost to the project budget.

9.1.4 The Chairperson invited members of the Committee to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the report. The overall finding of the evaluation was that the project might be considered as being highly satisfactory in terms of its execution and achievements to date. The attention of members was drawn to the table of project success ratings presented on page 36 of the report.

9.1.5 The Committee reviewed and accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation report, and took note of the high rating of the project, which was seen as a reflection of the hard work of the PCU at the regional level, and the SEAs and focal ministries at the national level.

9.1.6 Dr. Ong congratulated the project participants on the achievements in the first phase of the project, but expressed his concern regarding the sustainability of these achievements in the longer term. He noted that much of the success to date stemmed from the leadership and "push" of the PCU in stimulating work at the national level. If the project continued to rely on the PCU, it would be problematic after the completion of the project. He expressed the desire to see more and stronger commitment and passion from the people who ran the project at the ground level, rather than focusing on money. He encouraged members of the Committee to explore more effective mechanisms to secure greater commitments from countries and individuals.

9.1.7 Dr. Anond pointed out that regional cooperation and collaboration should be based on common regional interests and benefits such that countries would be more interested in regional cooperation. The project should focus on demonstrating and publicising the benefits of cooperation to participating countries in order to secure stronger participation of countries in project activities.

9.1.8 Dr. Jacinto concurred with Dr. Anond's suggestion. He noted that unlike some other issues or problems that governments faced such as the financial crisis of 1997-1998, marine environmental degradation was not considered an urgent problem in many countries. Therefore, the project should in the future identify and highlight the concrete benefits the project brought to the country and the region. He further encouraged the NTFPs to be more proactive in promoting and highlighting the benefits of the project to the governments.

## **9.2 Specially Managed Project Review**

9.2.1 The Project Director briefed the meeting on the process of the Specially Managed Project Review (SMPR), outlined in document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.4 entitled "Specially Managed Project Reviews (SMPR) 2004", and introduced document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.5, which summarises the evaluation of the project by the SMPR team.

9.2.2 The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in consultation with the GEF Secretariat selected the UNEP/GEF South China Sea project as one of two International Waters projects from the GEF portfolio, to be included in the Specially Managed Project Review for 2004. The outputs from this process are reported directly to the GEF Council, hence this process is of significance from the perspective of the profile of the South China Sea project within the GEF.

9.2.3 The SMPR evaluation team for the South China Sea Project consisted of the former Chief of the GEF M&E Unit; an International Waters Program Manager from the GEF Secretariat; and a Senior Evaluator from the UNDP/GEF, M & E Unit; together with an observer from UNEP/DGEF, Nairobi. The team visited Thailand, China and Indonesia, and the three countries organised NTWGs meetings to coincide with the visits of the team. The evaluation team also conducted telephone interviews with some focal points residing in the countries, which they did not visit. Hence the report should be considered as a fair reflection of the views of many people and individuals.

9.2.4 The Committee reviewed the evaluation report of the SMPR and accepted the report taking note of the fact that on the basis of the review, the SMPR team had rated the project highly satisfactory, and had highlighted some good experiences that could be replicated by other projects, including the management framework and the process for selecting demonstration sites.

## **9.3 International Waters Programme Review 2004**

9.3.1 Dr. Pernetta provided a brief summary of the International Waters Programme Review, which is a requirement for the replenishment of the GEF every four years. The International Waters Programme Review is a study of the entire GEF International Waters portfolio, and a copy was provided in the information documents to the meeting.

9.3.2 The programme review had highlighted three elements of the South China Sea project as good practice that could be applied to other similar projects, including the management framework, the process of demonstration site selection, and benefits accrued which were not anticipated at project outset. An example of the latter was the compilation of data and information related to seagrass distribution and diversity in China, which had resulted from the additional co-financing provided by the government of the People's Republic of China to the responsible SEA. Part of this co-financing had been used for satellite image analysis providing a GIS database of the distribution of seagrass beds along the Chinese coast of the South China Sea, an output which had not been originally anticipated by the Project Document. These data represent the first internationally available dataset on seagrass in China.

9.3.3 The review also noted the financial arrangements in the project whereby funds were directly transmitted from UNEP to 43 Institutions or government departments in the region and highlighted that this placed a heavy administrative burden on the PCU. The Project Director pointed out however that engaging a third party as an intermediary between UNEP and the national agencies would have resulted in reduction in the project grant available at national level due to the additional administrative costs.

9.3.4 Dr. Pernetta noted that three evaluations with different purposes conducted by independent entities had all given high ratings to the project, and highlighted some good experiences and practices in the project, which reflected the success of the project. Dr. Pernetta pointed out that the management framework was considered by the International Waters Programme Review, the SMPR and the mid-term evaluation as an outstanding example of arrangements for regional cooperation and the GEF M & E Unit was considering publishing it as a "best practice" guide.

9.3.5 In view of these successes, the Project Director noted that the committee had before it the materials to initially publicise the project, and raise the interest of governments in sustaining the

benefits gained from the project. The meeting took note of the importance of public relations in promoting the project at national and regional levels.

## **10. FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME**

### **10.1 National Action Plans**

10.1.1 The Chairperson invited the Secretary to present document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/10, summarising an overview of the status of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for each component and an analysis of their content.

10.1.2 Ms. Chen noted, that under the original Memoranda of Understanding, each focal point should have developed a draft national action plan during the first phase to address issues and problems identified, based on the information and data collected. Most SEAs had prepared draft NAPs, although they were in different stages of development. These draft NAPs had been considered and reviewed during the 5<sup>th</sup> round of regional working group meetings conducted in 2004. Each meeting reviewed the draft NAPs, and undertook a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences between the drafts, with a view to providing inputs to the updating of the Strategic Action Programmes.

10.1.3 During the fifth round of the Regional Working Group meetings, it was also noted that most of the draft NAPs submitted were generic, lacking specific actions in specific sites, and had been prepared independently, without consultation with the other habitat sub-components in each country. To assist the further development of an operational NAP, the PCU prepared and presented to the Working Groups a guidance note regarding what were seen as the required elements for inclusion in an effective operational action plan.

10.1.4 Members were invited to consider the comparative analysis of the NAPs conducted by the Regional Working Groups, and the guidance on the further development and revision of NAPs in the second phase of the project.

10.1.5 Mr. Heru pointed out that in conducting the comparative analysis the Regional Working Groups had adopted slightly different priority rating systems. For example, in the case of mangroves and wetlands sub-component, the priorities of actions ranged from Low to Very High with four priority ratings (Low, Medium, High and Very High), while in the land-based pollution component the priority ratings varied from Low to High (Low, Medium, and High).

10.1.6 The meeting further noted that Regional Working Group meetings convened in a later stage had produced more detailed comparative analyses, and the RSTC encouraged the Regional Working Group Chairs to review their individual analyses and up-date these through electronic communications.

10.1.7 The Committee reviewed the guidance on the development of NAPs, and considered the guidance (included as Annex 7 to this report) appropriate for the focal points to further develop or revise their NAPs. The meeting took note of the fact that the guidance was not intended to provide a format for the NAPs, but suggested some basic elements that should be included in the next draft of the action plan.

### **10.2 Consideration of the Framework Strategic Action Programme and discussion of the process for its further elaboration and revision**

10.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Project Director to introduce the Strategic Action Programme (1999) and discussion document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/11, which contained an overview of the outcome of discussions during the recent regional working group meetings.

10.2.2 The Project Director provided background information regarding the development of the SAP, based on the preliminary findings of the regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis. It was however prepared over the period 1997-1998 and is therefore somewhat out of date. He further noted that some of the original targets and objectives had been incorporated into the project, and some activities contained in the SAP had already been implemented by the project. Hence the SAP could be

considered as out-dated. During the preparatory phase of this project the focal points for each component in each country had undertaken reviews of national data and information, current activities, and the state of the environment. These would provide the basic inputs to up-dating the SAP.

10.2.3 The Project Director noted that an innovative approach in this SAP was the application of a cost-benefit approach to justify actions, based on the economic valuation of environmental goods and services. However, he noted the weaknesses of the cost-benefit analysis of the SAP, as the value for coastal habitats used in the economic valuation was global. An important task for the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation was to identify or develop regional values for coastal habitats, so that the cost benefit analysis could be revised to reflect more appropriate values.

10.2.4 The Project Director informed the meeting that the fifth round of regional working group meetings had reviewed the SAP targets and goals for each component, and up-dated and revised the goals and targets. He further pointed out that different components and sub-components have set different target years for the goals and targets. Members were invited to consider an appropriate timeline for the revised SAP, and to review the revised goals and targets proposed by each Working Group, and decide whether these goals and targets were appropriate.

10.2.5 The Committee considered the possible target year(s) for the revised SAP. It was agreed that, assuming the SAP would be adopted and implemented by 2007, then five and ten-year milestones would be 2012 and 2017, and these should be used by the Regional Working Groups.

10.2.6 The meeting proceeded to review each goal and target proposed by the Regional Working Groups, and provided comments for the Regional Working Groups to consider during the next meeting. The revised goals and targets for each component and sub-component, along with RSTC comments, are presented as Annex 8 to this report.

10.2.7 Members were invited to consider the process for revision and adoption of the SAP during the second phase of the project. Dr. Pernetta noted that the SAP should be adopted by an inter-governmental meeting, which could be either the Project Steering Committee or the COBSEA. However, the latter possibility might be inappropriate given that the PSC is the sole intergovernmental decision-making body for the project. Dr. Pernetta requested members to consider the national procedures that would be used to approve and implement this regional programme, and advise the PCU on the process to adopt the revised SAP.

10.2.8 Dr. Anond suggested the writing and compilation of the revised SAP would be the responsibility of the PCU, in conjunction with the Regional Working Groups, and that the relationship between the development of the NAPs and SAP should be clearly identified to ensure delivery of national level inputs to the SAP in a timely manner. He proposed a small group could be formed to assist in the development of the SAP with the participation from representatives of the Regional Working Groups and the RSTC. Dr. Pernetta noted the next meetings of the Regional Working Groups would have to consider revision to the relevant portions of the SAP, and inputs would be reviewed at least once again by the RSTC.

10.2.9 Dr. Jacinto noted the considerable amount of work required for the revision, which would be completed by the PCU in collaboration with various Working Groups. Noting that all the Working Groups meetings will be concluded at the end of September, it was envisaged that inputs from these meetings could be consolidated as an initial draft update of the SAP for consideration by the RSTC in its next meeting. By the end of 2006, a final version of the SAP should be completed.

10.2.10 Dr. Pernetta noted the various Regional Working Groups would be responsible for the revision of sections related to the specific components and sub-components, and that the RSTC was in a better position to identify regional actions and activities, coordination and mechanisms. It was suggested that the regional experts, provide some assistance to the PCU in identifying and formulating regional activities or actions to be included in the SAP. Drs Anond and Ong agreed to assist the PCU in this regard.

10.2.11 Dr. Jacinto noted that the group might wish to incorporate some other countries which are not participating in the project, for the implementation of the SAP after 2007. Dr. Pernetta noted only two

countries bordering the South China Sea are not participating in the project, namely Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, and he further noted that Singapore could be approached and consulted through the COBSEA focal point, whilst the Committee might wish to consider ways to involve Brunei Darussalam.

10.2.12 Dr. Tuan noted some cooperative activities between ASEAN and China to use resources in the South China Sea, and certain agreements had been reached between the countries on the common use of natural resources. Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that the RTF-L had been conducting a review of various mechanisms for regional cooperation, which might provide some references and advice for the consideration of the Committee.

## **11. WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

11.1 The Chairperson invited the Secretary to present a revised project work plan and timetable, as contained in document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/12, *"Proposed Workplan and Timetable for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee"*.

11.2 The meeting reviewed, amended and adopted the Work Plan and Time Table to June 2007, contained as Annex 9 of this report.

11.3 The meeting considered appropriate dates for the next meeting of the Committee and agreed that the sixth meeting should be convened 7-9 December 2005.

11.4 Mr. Heru offered to host the meeting in Indonesia at a location to be decided later, and this offer, was accepted, with thanks by, the committee.

11.5 There followed a discussion regarding the necessity to organise the RSTC and PSC meetings back to back. Some members preferred this arrangement but it was noted that there was no obligation to convene the meetings in this way, but doing so saved travel costs.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 Members were invited to consider and discuss any further items of business under this agenda item. Dr. Pernetta noted that the cost of the first Regional Scientific Conference, in February 2004, was less than half of the cost originally planned, due to the economical organisation of the Conference. The remaining funds were therefore more than adequate to convene another Regional Scientific Conference in 2005. Members were invited to consider whether the second Regional Science Conference should be convened in 2005.

12.2 Dr. Ong inquired about the themes for the Conference and it was suggested that information exchange between the countries, especially through sharing initial experiences with the implementation of the demonstration sites, and possible exchange programmes. A second focus could be on science for management.

12.3 Dr. Tuan noted that the Regional Scientific Conference can be a good forum for raising additional funding for additional demonstration sites. The proposed dates were November after the end of Ramadan and prior to the convening of the next RSTC meeting.

12.4 It was agreed that it was a good idea to organise a second Regional Scientific Conference and the RSTC recommended that the PSC approve the reallocation of unspent funds for such a purpose.

## **13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

13.1 The Rapporteur presented the draft report of the meeting for consideration and adoption by the members. The report was considered, amended and adopted as it appears in this document.

#### **14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

14.1 The Chairperson expressed his thanks for the hard work and constructive inputs from all members of the Committee which had made his job as Chairperson very easy. He noted that this was one of the easiest meetings he had chaired and that this reflected in his view the growing confidence and ease of working together.

14.2 He expressed thanks to the PCU on behalf of all members not only for their support to this meeting but also for their hard work which had contributed substantially to the evaluation outcomes. Finally he thanked the hosts in particular Professor Huang and the Fangchenggang City authorities for their generous support, assistance and arrangements for the meeting and Dr. Fan for organising the field visit to the demonstration site.

14.3 There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 1640 on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2004.

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## ANNEX 2

### List of Documents

#### Discussion documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/1	Agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/2	Annotated Agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/3	Report of the Meeting
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/4	Current Status of the Administrative Reports from the Focal Points of the Participating Countries.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/5	Calculation of actual co-financing, January 2002 to June 2004 and estimates for July 2004 to June 2007.
UNEP/GER/SCS/RSTC.5/6	Status of the Memoranda of Understanding between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies as of December 2004.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/7	Status of the demonstration site proposals and consideration of the work plan for their finalisation.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-M	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Mangroves.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-CR	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-SG	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Seagrass.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-W	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Wetlands.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-F	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Fisheries.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-LbP	Report of the Chairperson for the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-RTF-E	Report of the Chairperson of the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/8-RTF-L	Report of the Chairperson of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/9	Status of the National Reports and preparatory phase outputs in terms of English editing and publication.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/10	Overview of the status and contents of the National Action Plans prepared under the various project components.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/11	Review of the development, status and future directions for the Strategic Action programme for the South China Sea.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/12	Proposed Work plan and Timetable for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee.

#### Information documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.1	List of Participants
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.2	List of Documents
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.5/Inf.3	Draft Programme
UNEP EAS/RCU	<i>Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea</i> (Draft Version 3, 24 February 1999) East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit. 69pp.
J. Michael Bowers and Su Jilan	Mid-Term Evaluation Of GEF Project No. GF/2730-02-4340 Entitled " <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends In The South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> " July 2004.

GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Office	Specialy Managed Project Review of the project: Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand.
GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Office Global Environment Facility	International Waters Programme Review 2004 Cofinancing. GEF Council document GEF/20/6. September 16 <sup>th</sup> 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC/ExComm.1/3	First meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee. Report of the Meeting. Bangkok, Thailand 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC/ExComm.1/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Seagrass Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Bintan, Indonesia, 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.5/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Coral Reefs Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Koh Chang, Thailand, 13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.5/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Mangroves Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Trat Province, Thailand, 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.5/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Wetlands Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Ha Long City, Viet Nam, 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.5/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Fisheries Component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Phu Quoc Island, Viet Nam, 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.5/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.5/3	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Land-based Pollution Component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Shenzhen, China, 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.5/3.

**The following documents are supplied in published form.**

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RTF-E.2/3	Second Meeting of the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Siem Reap, Cambodia, 31 <sup>st</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RTF-E.2/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RTF-L.2/3	Second Meeting of the Regional Task Force on Legal Matters for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Phu Quoc Island, Viet Nam, 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RTF-L.2/3.

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Fisheries Component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Manila, Philippines, 26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Land-based Pollution Component for 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, 30 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.3/3	Third Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Manila, Philippines, 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.3/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Pattaya, Thailand, 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Wetlands Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project “ <i>Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</i> ”. Report of the Meeting. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Seagrass Sub-component for 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, 29 <sup>th</sup> November – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Coral Reefs Sub-component for 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 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.4/3.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.4/3	Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Mangroves Sub-component for 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 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2003 UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.4/3.

#### List of documents received during the Fifth RSTC meeting in Fangchenggang

- Cambodia:** **Cambodia’s National Coordinating Activities 2002 – 2004**, Phnom Penh, 2004, 4pp. hard copy and electronic file by *Kim Sour*
- Philippines:** **Philippine Wetlands Sub-component National Report, 2004**, 111pp. in hard copy and CD by *Marlynn Mendoza*
- Dr. Anond:** **Qualifications for Sites or Projects and Activities to be nominated**, 1pp.
- Concept Paper: Pollutant “Assimilation” Capacity of Open Shelf System**, 4pp.
- Regional GIS (location)**, 11pp.

## **ANNEX 3**

### **Agenda**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
  - 1.1 Welcome on behalf of UNEP
  - 1.2 Welcome address from a representative of the local Government
  - 1.3 Introduction of members
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
  - 2.1 Documentation available to the meeting
  - 2.2 Programme of Work
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
- 4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**
  - 4.1 Status of administrative reports for the year 2003 and first half of 2004
  - 4.2 Calculation of actual co-financing January 2002 to June 2004 and estimates for July 2004 to June 2007
  - 4.3 Extension of the MoUs between UNEP and the Specialised Executing Agencies
- 5. NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES**
- 6. STATUS OF DEMONSTRATION SITE AND PILOT ACTIVITY PROPOSALS**
  - 6.1 Report of the outcome of the *ad hoc* meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee and development of Land-based Pollution pilot activities
  - 6.2 Status of the demonstration site proposals for the habitat sub-components funded through the GEF project grant
  - 6.3 Status of the demonstration site proposals for the habitat sub-components funded via the Medium Sized Project mechanism
  - 6.4 Sites Requiring No Additional Funding (Government Proposals)
- 7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND REGIONAL TASK FORCES ON PROGRESS TO DATE**
  - 7.1 Regional Working Group on Mangroves
  - 7.2 Regional Working Group on Coral Reefs
  - 7.3 Regional Working Group on Seagrass
  - 7.4 Regional Working Group on Wetlands
  - 7.5 Regional Working Group on Fisheries
  - 7.6 Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution
  - 7.7 Regional Task Force on Legal Matters
  - 7.8 Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation
- 8. STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS FROM THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT**
  - 8.1 Editing and publication of outputs from the preparatory phase
  - 8.2 Status of the regional GIS database and meta-database
- 9. CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF PROJECT EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED IN 2004**
  - 9.1 Mid-term evaluation
  - 9.2 Specially Managed Project Review
  - 9.3 International Waters Programme Review 2004
- 10. FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME**
  - 10.1 National Action Plans
  - 10.2 Consideration of the Framework Strategic Action Programme and discussion of the process for its further elaboration and revision

- 11. WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
- 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**
- 14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

## ANNEX 4

### Estimation of Government In-Kind Financing of National Level Actions for the Period July 2004 to June 2007

#### Derivation of the estimates

Table 1 provides an estimate of the annual in-kind co-financing of project activities for a country participating in all components of the project for the period July 2004 to June 2007. This is based on the work-plans agreed by each regional working group and attached to the second amendments to the Memoranda of Understanding.

*In making this calculation the following points should be noted:*

- Time estimates are a best possible estimate for completion of the specified tasks, having been reviewed and approved by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee during its fifth meeting in Fangchenggang, China, December 9 – 11, 2005;
- The cost coefficient (US\$ 70 per person per day) used during the preparatory phase of the project has been used to convert estimated time into a US dollar value;
- The costs of regional experts' time in participating in regional level meetings has not been assigned to individual countries but is summarised on an annual basis as part of the contributions to regional co-ordination;
- This estimate does not include the costs of government in-kind co-financing of regional co-ordination meetings during the period July 2005 to June 2007; and,
- Does not include the additional cash co-financing of national level co-ordination meetings approved by the third meeting of the Project Steering Committee.

The total in-kind co-financing by each country is US\$457,170 of which 37% is verifiable via the 6 month progress reports. The total for all countries (Table 2) combined for one year is just over one million dollars and the grand total for the entire period is US\$ 3,217,200.

#### Conclusions regarding future government in-kind co-financing

If the actual co-financing realised for the operational phase reaches these estimates then the verifiable total of in-kind co-financing over the period January 2002 to June 2007 will reach US\$2,441,460 (39%) of the total in kind-co-financing of US\$6,218,030. This total figure represents 83% of the original estimated government in-kind co-financing of US\$7.5 million. It should be recognised however that, the in-kind co-financing to the demonstration sites is not included in this total and this will significantly increase the total.

**Table 1 Estimated annual in-kind contribution of experts' and officials' time for the period July 2004 to June 2007.**

	Time (days)				Value in US\$					Comments regarding basis of calculation
	2004 half yr.	2005	2006	2007 half yr.	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total	
<b>National Co-ordination Component</b>										
IMC meetings (12 members)	12	24	24	12	840	1,680	1,680	840	5,040	2 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
National Focal Point time	4	8	8	4	280	560	560	280	1,680	Preparation & follow-up to IMC mtgs.
NTWG Meetings (15 members)	30	60	60	30	2,100	4,200	4,200	2,100	12,600	4 x 1 day mtg. /yr, 15 members
National Technical Focal Point time	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Preparation & follow-up to NTWG mtgs. Liaison with component focal points. National Co-ordination. Contracted via the MoU
<b>National Co-ordination Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>31,500</b>	
<b>Mangrove Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Update regional GIS data	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Develop National Action Plan	30	90	30	0	2,100	6,300	2,100	0	10,500	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	0	8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
Editorial supervision of reports	5	5	5	0	350	350	350	0	1,050	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11,620</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>20,790</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>62,090</b>	
<b>Coral Reef Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Up-date national meta-database on coral reefs	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Update regional GIS data	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Develop National Action Plan	30	90	30	0	2,100	6,300	2,100	0	10,500	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	0	8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
Editorial supervision of reports	5	5	5	0	350	350	350	0	1,050	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11,620</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>20,790</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>62,090</b>	
<b>Seagrass Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Up-date national meta-database on seagrass	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Update regional GIS data	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Develop National Action Plan	30	90	30	0	2,100	6,300	2,100	0	10,500	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	0	8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
Editorial supervision of reports	5	5	5	0	350	350	350	0	1,050	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11,620</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>20,790</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>62,090</b>	

**Table 1 continued Estimated annual in-kind contribution of experts' and officials' time for the period July 2004 to June 2007.**

	Time (days)				Value in US\$					Comments regarding basis of calculation
	2004 half yr.	2005	2006	2007 half yr.	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total	
<b>Wetlands Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Update regional GIS data	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Develop National Action Plan	30	90	30	0	2,100	6,300	2,100	0	10,500	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan		8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
Editorial supervision of reports	5	5	5	0	350	350	350	0	1,050	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11,620</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>20,790</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>62,090</b>	
<b>Fisheries Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Oversight of blast fishing trials	0	5	5	0	0	350	350	0	700	
Promote the code of conduct	5	20	20	10	350	1,400	1,400	700	3,850	
Develop National Action Plan	5	40	10	0	350	2,800	700	0	3,850	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	0	8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
Oversight of development and dissemination of awareness materials amongst artisanal fishing communities	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Translation of educational and public awareness materials for regional exchange	0	10	0	0	0	700	0	0	700	
Editorial supervision of reports	5	5	5	0	350	350	350	0	1,050	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9,870</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>20,440</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>58,590</b>	
<b>Pollution Component</b>										
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	29	58	58	29	2,030	4,060	4,060	2,030	12,180	Contracted via the MoU
Working Group Meetings	24	48	48	24	1,680	3,360	3,360	1,680	10,080	4 x 1 day mtgs. /yr, 12 members
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	5	10	10	5	350	700	700	350	2,100	
Finalise SAP targets	10	20	20	0	700	1,400	1,400	0	3,500	
Develop National Action Plan	30	90	30	0	2,100	6,300	2,100	0	10,500	
Public meetings organisation	4	8	8	0	560	280	560	560	1,960	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	0	8	8	0	0	560	560	0	1,120	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	50	100	100	0	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	17,500	2 meetings per year participation 50 people
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>10,920</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>19,740</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>58,940</b>	
<b>Regional Co-ordination</b>										
Project Steering Committee	19	19	19	19	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330	5,320	1 x 3 day mtg. per year; 2 days/mtg travel time; 2 members/country; 9 days preparation and follow-up time.
Regional Scientific and Technical Committee	5	5	5	5	350	350	350	350	1,400	1 x 3 day mtg. per year; 2 days/mtg travel time; 1 members/country;
RSTC combined expert participation	90	90	90	90	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	25,200	4 experts, 6 chairs x 3 day meeting; 2 days travel/mtg.; 4 days preparation & follow-up
Expert participation in RWG mtgs	99	99	99	99	6,930	6,930	6,930	6,930	27,720	6 RWGs 11 experts 3 day mtgs, 2 days travel/year 4 days preparation & follow-up
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>59,640</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>87,430</b>	<b>170,870</b>	<b>148,750</b>	<b>49,980</b>	<b>457,030</b>	

**Table 2 Annual Government in-kind contribution from July 2004 and totals to June 2007.**

	One Year In-kind contribution for each country							Total 1 year	Total 3 years
	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Viet Nam		
<b>National Co-ordination Component</b>									
IMC Meetings (12 members)	1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680	11,760	35,280
National Focal Point time	560	560	560	560	560	560	560	3,920	11,760
NTWG Meetings (15 members)	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	29,400	88,200
National Technical Focal Pt time	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	28,420	85,260
<b>National Co-ordination Total</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>220,500</b>
<b>Mangrove Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,025	4,025	4,025	MoU not signed	4,025	4,025	4,025	24,150	72,450
Working Group Meetings	3,360	3,360	3,360		3,360	3,360	3,360	20,160	60,480
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	700	700	700		700	700	700	4,200	12,600
Update regional GIS data	700	700	700		700	700	700	4,200	12,600
Finalise SAP targets	1,400	1,400	1,400		1,400	1,400	1,400	8,400	25,200
Develop National Action Plan	6,300	6,300	6,300		6,300	6,300	6,300	37,800	113,400
Public meetings organisation	280	280	280		280	280	280	1,680	5,040
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560	560	560		560	560	560	3,360	10,080
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000	7,000	7,000		7,000	7,000	7,000	42,000	126,000
Editorial supervision of reports	350	350	350		350	350	350	2,100	6,300
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>148,050</b>	<b>444,150</b>
<b>Coral Reef Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,025	Not Participating	4,025	4,025	4,025	4,025	4,025	24,150	72,450
Working Group Meetings	3,360		3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	20,160	60,480
Up-date national meta-database on coral reefs	700		700	700	700	700	700	4,200	12,600
Update regional GIS data	700		700	700	700	700	700	4,200	12,600
Finalise SAP targets	1,400		1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	8,400	25,200
Develop National Action Plan	6,300		6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	37,800	113,400
Public meetings organisation	280		280	280	280	280	280	1,680	5,040
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560		560	560	560	560	560	3,360	10,080
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000		7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	42,000	126,000
Editorial supervision of reports	350		350	350	350	350	350	2,100	6,300
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>24,675</b>	<b>148,050</b>	<b>444,150</b>
<b>Seagrass Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	28,420	85,260
Working Group Meetings	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	23,520	70,560
Up-date national meta-database on seagrass	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	4,900	14,700
Update regional GIS data	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	4,900	14,700
Finalise SAP targets	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	9,800	29,400
Develop National Action Plan	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	44,100	132,300
Public meetings organisation	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	1,960	5,880
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560	560	560	560	560	560	560	3,920	11,760
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	49,000	147,000
Editorial supervision of reports	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	2,450	7,350
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>172,970</b>	<b>518,910</b>

**Table 2 continued Annual Government in-kind contribution from July 2004 and totals to June 2007.**

	One Year In-kind contribution for each country							Total 1 year	Total 3 years
	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Viet Nam		
<b>Wetlands Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	28,420	85,260
Working Group Meetings	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	23,520	70,560
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	4,900	14,700
Update regional GIS data	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	4,900	14,700
Finalise SAP targets	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	9,800	29,400
Develop National Action Plan	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	44,100	132,300
Public meetings organisation	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	1,960	5,880
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560	560	560	560	560	560	560	3,920	11,760
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	49,000	147,000
Editorial supervision of reports	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	2,450	7,350
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>172,970</b>	<b>518,910</b>
<b>Fisheries Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,060	Not Participating	4,060	MoU Not signed	4,060	4,060	4,060	20,300	60,900
Working Group Meetings	3,360		3,360		3,360	3,360	3,360	16,800	50,400
Finalise SAP targets	1,400		1,400		1,400	1,400	7,000	21,000	
Oversight of blast fishing trials	350		350		350	350	1,750	5,250	
Promote the code of conduct	1,400		1,400		1,400	1,400	7,000	21,000	
Develop National Action Plan	2,800		2,800		2,800	2,800	14,000	42,000	
Public meetings organisation	280		280		280	280	1,400	4,200	
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560		560		560	560	2,800	8,400	
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000		7,000		7,000	7,000	35,000	105,000	
Oversight of development and dissemination of awareness materials amongst artisanal fishing communities	700		700		700	700	3,500	10,500	
Translation of educational and public awareness materials for regional exchange	700		700		700	700	3,500	10,500	
Editorial supervision of reports	350		350		350	350	1,750	5,250	
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>114,800</b>	<b>344,400</b>
<b>Pollution Component</b>									
Co-ordinator 3 m/m per year	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	4,060	28,420	85,260
Working Group Meetings	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	3,360	23,520	70,560
Up-date national meta-database on mangroves	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	4,900	14,700
Finalise SAP targets	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	9,800	29,400
Develop National Action Plan	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	44,100	132,300
Public meetings organisation	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	1,960	5,880
Organise formal meetings for adoption of plan	560	560	560	560	560	560	560	3,920	11,760
Participation in stakeholder/public meetings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	49,000	147,000
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>165,620</b>	<b>496,860</b>
<b>Regional Co-ordination</b>									
Project Steering Committee	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330	9,310	27,930
Regional Scientific and Technical Committee	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	2,450	7,350
RSTC combined expert participation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,200	75,600
Expert participation in RWG mtgs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,720	83,160
<b>Component Total</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>64,680</b>	<b>194,040</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>157,570</b>	<b>109,935</b>	<b>157,570</b>	<b>109,935</b>	<b>157,570</b>	<b>157,570</b>	<b>157,570</b>	<b>1,060,640</b>	<b>3,181,920</b>

## **ANNEX 5**

### **Qualifications and Information Needed for Sites to be Nominated as Demosites Requiring No Additional Funding**

#### **Qualifications for Sites (or Projects and Activities) to be Nominated**

1. If it is a site, it must be located in the participating countries of the project.
2. Must address at least one component or issue related to the UNEP/GEF SCS Project.
3. Does not require any additional funding from the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project for the operation of the nominated site, project or activity.
4. Must have a clear management/operational body and a contact point can be identified.
5. Must be willing to share at least some of its information, data or experiences/lesson learned with other SCS countries.

#### **Information Needed from each Nominated Site**

1. Name of the site or project or activity.
2. Geographic location of the site or the area that project/activity addresses.
3. Contact point.
4. Which components of the SCS Project that the site/project addresses.
5. Overall objective of the site/project (briefly).
6. Site or project management/operational framework. (briefly)
7. Estimated operational budget (annually) and where are the main sources of income.
8. What can the site/project offers to others. (briefly)

## ANNEX 6

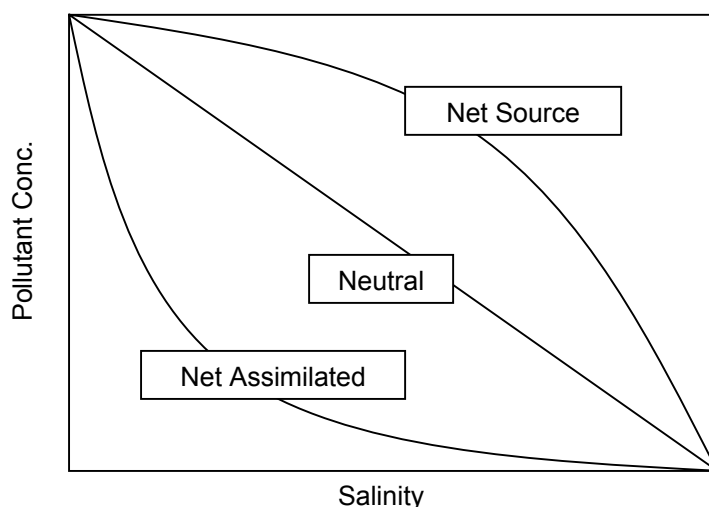
### Concept Paper: Pollutant 'Assimilation' Capacity of Open Shelf Systems

The UNEP/GEF SCS Project Document in its Paragraph 27 clearly indicates that Land-based Pollution Component should evaluate carrying/assimilation capacity of sub-regions and sensitive ecosystems and transboundary movements of contaminants within the South China Sea. According to the recent reviews of the Project, this activity has not been sufficiently addressed by the RWG on LbP.

Evaluation of the carrying capacity of an open ecosystem can be done in many ways, ranging from a very simple to a very sophisticated approach. On the simplest side, carrying capacity in the pollution sense may be estimated from the 'assimilating' capacity, i.e., the capacity of an ecosystem to internally absorb or convert some or all of the pollutant through some processes, natural or manmade, into forms that are not exported into the neighbouring ecosystems. The ecosystem is said to have a high 'assimilating' capacity if all or large fraction of pollutant input is removed and the net export to the neighbouring ecosystems is zero or only a small fraction of what is coming in. The ecosystem is said to have a low or no 'assimilating' capacity if only a small fraction or none of the pollutant input is removed and the net export of such pollutant to the neighbouring ecosystems is almost equal or equal to what is coming in. Some ecosystems may even have a negative 'assimilating' capacity if the net export of pollutant to the neighbouring ecosystems is greater than what is coming in and this indicates that there are some internal 'sources' of such pollutant within the system.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RWG on LbP generally agreed to use ambient concentration of pollutants in water as indicators for 'capacity' of the coastal system to remove pollutant loads from rivers.

The easiest way to determine qualitatively whether a coastal system is influenced by river input, no matter how physically open it may be, is a net assimilative, neutral, or a net source of pollutant is to



plot a simple mixing diagram, i.e. concentration of pollutant is plotted against salinity measured for the same sample. (see appendix for examples for cadmium in Thailand and Malaysia). If the plot shows a downward concave shape then such a system is a net assimilative system and *vice versa* for the upward convex shape. A neutral system will show a straight line connecting the 2 end members, river and offshore waters.

Such an exercise will cost the SCS project a very minimal amount if a country has substantial amounts of data of pollutant concentration and

salinity of each individual sample. Preferably data should be evenly distributed over the water body under consideration and more preferably data should cover several years and seasonal regimes. It can be done by anyone without any special training at all. Yet the outcome will be very useful. If a water body, e.g., EEZ of a country, is found to be a neutral or even be a net source of a pollutant, it is not worth the bother of conducting a more sophisticated quantitative assessment of the 'assimilating' capacity of such a water body.

Quantitative assessment of 'assimilating' capacity is more complicated and needs higher modelling skills. Yet there are also some simple ways to estimate such capacity. River input of a pollutant into a coastal water body by each river may be estimated from water discharge and pollutant concentration at or near the mouth of each river. This may be obtained from direct measurement or from indirect modelling approaches. Summing inputs from all individual rivers will give an estimate of the total river input of pollutant into the coastal water body. The advective transport of such pollutant

from that coastal body into neighbouring water bodies laterally and transversally can also be estimated, e.g., using a numerical circulation model and pollutant concentration contour. In a sufficiently large open shelf system, horizontal gradients of pollutant concentration in the offshore part are usually very small and thus net transport by non-linear mixing processes may be ignored.

The net budget of a pollutant within each coastal water body can be estimated from such a simple geochemical mass balance model. Furthermore, a rate transfer coefficient for the net removal of pollutant as a function of its concentration can be estimated. A linear model can be established from equations describing physical and non-conservative processes involving the pollutant in the water body under concerned. This system of linear equations can be used to simulate the concentration of pollutant under any different loads from land-based sources simulated. Criteria, such as the water quality standard may be used as the threshold to calculate the maximum load of pollutant into such a water body.

### **What to Do Next**

1. Set-up an advisory group comprised of experts on circulation, biogeochemical modelling, and large scale water quality modelling (suggested names: Eng-Soon Chan, and others)
2. Allocate budget
  - a. Countries discharge and pollutant concentration for all major rivers (cost: US\$1,000 for each country)
  - b. Countries compile pollutant concentration and salinity data for their EEZ/continental shelf waters for mixing diagram plot (cost: US\$2,000 for each country)
  - c. Setting up a centralized circulation model for all continental shelf in the SCS, e.g., using POM or SMS (cost: US\$10,000)
  - d. Two technical workshops (cost: US\$20,000)
  - e. Regional activity coordination (cost: US\$5,000)

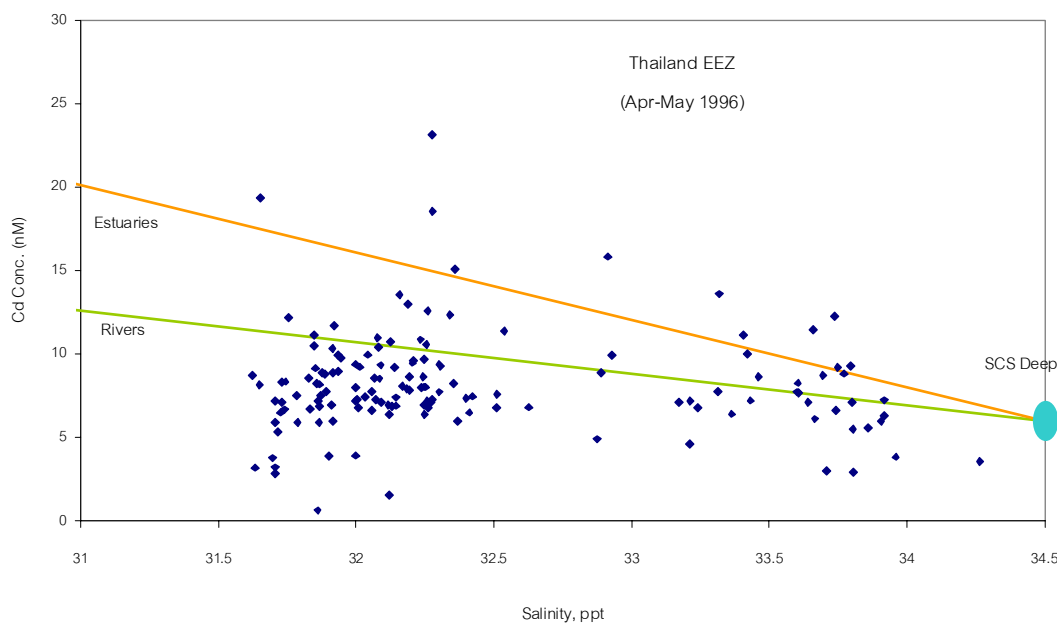
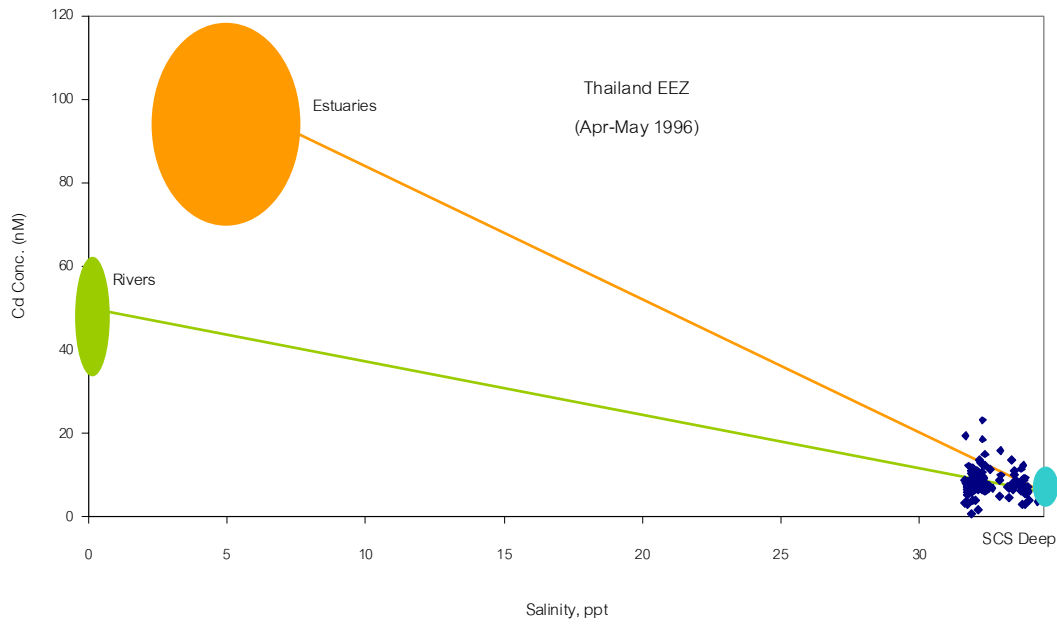
Total US\$56,000

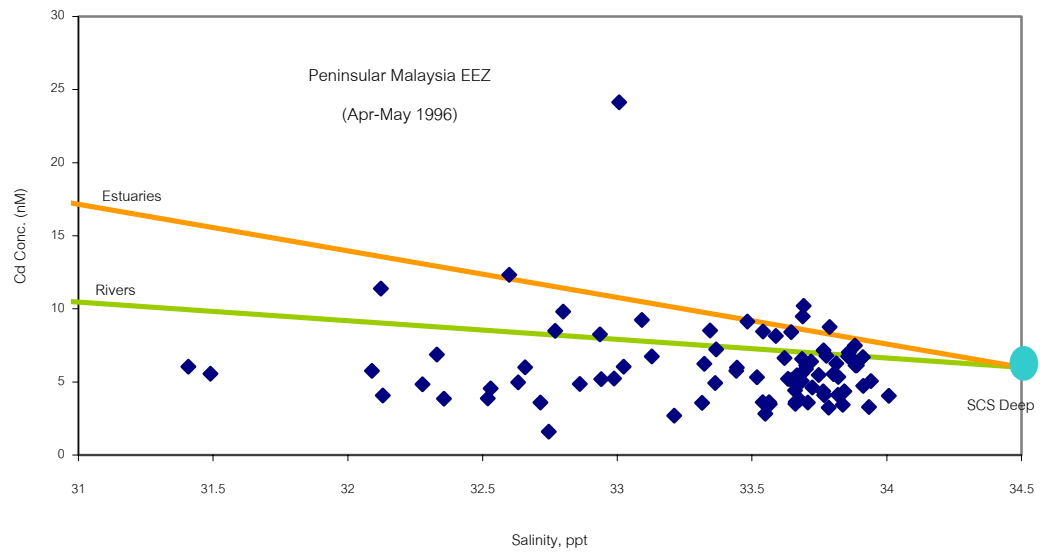
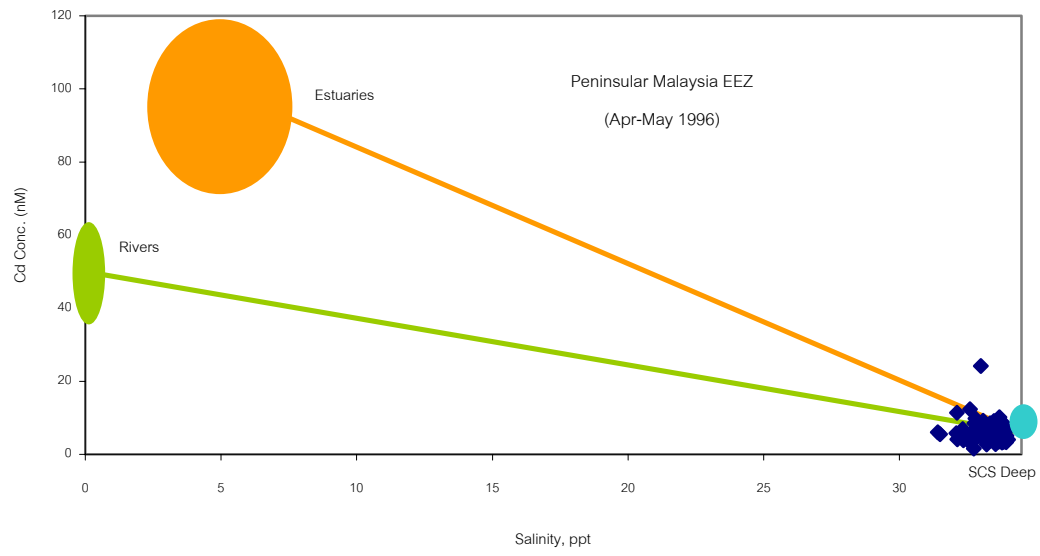
3. Timeframe: 12 months

Appendix

**A Sample Case Study of Cadmium Removal in Thailand and Malaysia EEZ Waters**

Cadmium concentration in April-May 1996 collected during SEAFDEC cruise in the Gulf of Thailand and east coast of Peninsular Malaysia was taken from Utoompurkorn *et al.* (1999). Salinity of the sample samples was taken from Snidvongs *et al.* (1995). The range of cadmium concentrations in Thai rivers and estuaries were given by Wilaiwan Utoompurkorn (personal communication).





## ANNEX 7

### General Guidance Provided to All Regional Working Groups Regarding the National Action Plans

#### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the national action plans is to provide a concrete, operational plan for execution at the national level, it must therefore contain clear statements regarding what is to be done, where it will be done, why it is to be done, when it is to be done, who will do it and how much the costs will be. A major failing of many action plans is that they lack specificity regarding the areas where interventions will be undertaken, they fail to identify the specific actions, the costs and often fail to set realistic or achievable management goals. To state for example that all coral reefs beds will be protected by a specific year (2010 for example) is both unrealistic and unachievable.

**Where.** A well-formulated plan will be based on a concise statement regarding the present distribution of the habitat in the country concerned and the comparative importance of specific sites or locations, from the national and regional perspectives. The basis for determining priority between sites should be clearly stated and hence the basis for a timeline of interventions will automatically flow from such prioritisation.

**Why.** Without a justification for taking action political decision makers and managers will be unlikely to invest scarce human and financial resources in an action plan, therefore each action plan should provide a clear statement regarding what are the benefits of taking action as opposed to the adverse consequences of not acting. Such a justification can be based on economic values of habitats at specific sites, their current use and significance to the local community etc. The broader justification of meeting obligations under the biological diversity convention is unlikely to carry much weight at the national level but does provide justification for third party support to planned actions.

**What.** What needs to be done will again be site specific since the nature of management actions should reflect the threats, both present and future, to the long-term sustainability of the habitat and ecosystem at the specific site. A clear analysis of the extent of threats at each site is therefore also required since this provides an indication of the likelihood of successful intervention. For example, if a mine is planned or currently operating and discharging large quantities of sediment to the coastal zone then it is unlikely that intervention would result in improved condition of either coral reefs or seagrass in the coastal area being impacted by the sediment discharge. Such a site would therefore be of lower priority for management intervention than one where the threats such as over-fishing for example are manageable.

**When.** From an initial prioritisation and analysis of costs it is possible to construct a logical programme of actions that will be initiated sequentially in different locations leading to an ultimate goal or target. Such a programme should have built into it milestones that can be used to determine progress towards achieving the ultimate goal of the action plan. Milestones might be in terms of process indicators of quasi-environmental state indicators such as statements of area no longer fished destructively.

**Who.** An action plan that lacks a clear statement regarding institutional responsibilities with regard to the execution of the plan is doomed to fail before it starts. Some form of institutional and legal analysis that identifies the responsibilities of governmental and non-governmental bodies with respect to the management and use of specific locations is therefore a necessary element for inclusion in the action plan. Ideally the agencies or organisations having current responsibility will have been actively involved in the development of the plan such that their involvement in its execution is clear right from the start.

**Financing.** A key element in any successful action plan is a clear statement regarding the costs in human and financial resource terms of implementing the action plan. It is important to remember that an action plan, which exceeds available resources will not be implementable, hence in developing the plan careful consideration should be given to the present capacity of responsible organisations and the potential for enhancing that capacity. A small-scale simple set of actions at minimal cost may achieve far more than an elaborate and costly plan, which cannot be implemented in total.

Focal points should note that many of the elements required for inclusion in the national action plans can be drawn from the reports and other outputs from the preparatory phase of the project.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of this document is to review the content of the existing draft national action plans and thus provide the basis for deciding on what is the optimum content for such an action plan in order to achieve the regional targets and goals contained in a Strategic Action Programme. For the sake of consistency and comparability it is proposed that the Regional Working Group agree both on the nature of the elements to be included in the action plans and the definitions of the terms to be used. Basic elements that should be included in any national action plan would include:

- goals,
- objectives,
- justification for the objectives,
- targets and necessary actions to meet the targets,
- timeframes for the actions to be taken,
- prioritisation of the actions
- milestones to measure the success or otherwise of the action plan,
- costs of the actions,
- institutional and other responsibilities for the actions.

**The goals** provide an overall statement regarding what is the long-term expected outcome from the implementation of the action plan. In general goals are not “operational” in the sense that they do not refer to specific actions, in specific locations, rather they refer to the general “state” of the environment and expectations of the situation following implementation of the plan.

**The objectives** of the national action plan should be more specific than the goals and should focus on a single element of the overall goal, hence if the goal is stated as “sustainable use” a specific objective might be: to conduct research and development on alternative uses of coral reef species; or, building business capacity at the community level; or reducing destructive fishing practices and so on.

**The justification**, which as noted above, must provide concrete measurable benefits from taking action if decision makers are to invest in the execution of the plan.

**The targets and actions** to address the specific objectives should be site specific, addressing specific identified threats or environmental problems having a clear indication of the time by which changes in state will be achieved.

**The timeframe of the actions** will provide appropriate information on the timing of the proposed actions and activities, which thus forms the basis for developing the work plan for implementation.

**Prioritisation of the actions** should be a clear set of statements regarding where actions will be undertaken first, second, third etc. Together with the individual timeframes for the actions at each site this provides the overall work plan. The Regional Working Group needs to decide the overall timeframe for the Action Plan, 10 years, or 20 years for example, this will generally reflect the length of the overall government planning cycle. Once the overall timeframe for the plan has been set and the scale of available resources both human and financial has been determined these factors are combined with the prioritisation to determine the specific sequence of actions.

**Milestones to measure the success or otherwise of the action plan**, milestones will become apparent once the overall timeframe has been set and the priorities determined, but they should be explicitly stated since they form the basis for monitoring success or otherwise of the overall plan.

**The costs of the actions and activities** is a key element in the national action plan, which indicates the requirements in terms of both financial and human resources that is needed in order to execute the action plan. Costs can be used in two ways:

- to determine which are the most cost effective actions from a set of alternatives;
- to justify the implementation of the plan. If costs of action are X but the costs of not taking action are 10X then clearly the justification for action is strong, if the costs of not taking action are 0.5X then there is no justification for action.

**The responsibilities** to taken the actions and activities as identified in the action plan should maximise the involvement of all potential stakeholders in the implementation. Clearer indication of the responsibilities in the action plan will certainly make implementation of the plan more effective.

## ANNEX 8

### Summary of Proposed Revised SAP Targets with Annotations by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee

#### Fisheries

- By 2012 to have established a regional system of *refugia* for the management of commercial fisheries stocks and conservation of endangered species.
- By 2012 to have prepared and implemented appropriate sustainable management systems at chosen areas.

RSTC requested the RWG-F to define: the relationships between *refugia* and MPAs, and to consider how the latter could be used as *refugia*: to define "chosen areas", and "appropriate sustainable management systems". In revising the targets, the RWG-F could give some specific examples of "appropriate sustainable management systems."

#### Seagrass

- Thirty sites to be under management (i.e. with management plans) in the SCS, with a minimum of 2 managed sites in each of the 7 participating countries, by 2012. The total area to be set based on data for the 29 sites to be listed in NAPs.
- Recognition of the significance of seagrass by National Governments through national policy and planning or legislation in each country by 2012.

RSTC requested the RWG-SG to consider setting target of "managed areas" rather than "management plans." It was also felt to be important to define the areas quantitatively since without defining the area it could result in two one hectare areas being managed in one country which would have no impact of seagrass degradation overall

It was noted that the second target is probably too easy since it has already been met in several countries and the national action plans would constitute meeting this target if adopted.

#### Coral Reefs

- By 2015, at least 50% of the existing area of coral reefs would be put under an appropriate form of sustainable management.
- By 2015, reduce the regional rate of degradation in live coral cover from the present rate of 16% to 5%.

***The RWG- Coral reef also suggested that the goal of the SAP be amended as follows:***

- The goal of the Strategic Action Programme is to foster regional cooperation and collaboration in order to halt or slow the current rate of environmental degradation and assist participating states in taking actions within their respective policies, priorities and resources, thereby contributing to human well-being; promotion of the sustainable use of marine living resources; and contributing to the maintenance of globally significant biological diversity, for the benefit of present and future generations.

RSTC took note of the specific target date's relationship to the periodic assessments of reef health undertaken by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and requested the RWG to define what was meant by "sustainable management".

#### Mangroves

- 66% of the present area of mangroves should be brought under protection by the year 2012.

#### RSTC Comment

The RWG-M should consider the definition of "protection" and ensure common understanding of "protection" in the region. It was pointed out in Indonesia and Philippines "protection" means "non-use" of timber and other forest products.

### **Wetlands**

- By year 2012, to set up or update management plans for at least four lagoons, nine estuaries, eight tidal flats, and three peat swamps bordering the South China Sea.
- By year 2012, to increase the number of sites (?) or specified areas of wetlands (?) having protection status (non-hunting areas, nature reserves, marine protected areas, RAMSAR sites etc.). It was agreed the number of sites and total areas of the five wetlands types with varying forms of protection at the present time would be submitted by the focal points to the PCU prior to the convening of the next RWG-W meeting.
- By year 2012, to have a regional wetlands monitoring scheme implemented in the seven participating countries of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project. The meeting agreed to further discuss the type of the monitoring scheme to be implemented through electronic discussions among the members.

The RSTC requested the RWGs to review and revise Table 1 of the meeting report. It was pointed out that a Thailand lagoon site could be included. It was then suggested that the Thailand NTFP should liaise with the wetlands focal point to nominate the site for the development of updating of management plans.

RSTC requested the RWG-W to consider setting a target of “managed areas” rather than “management plans.”

### **Land-based Pollution**

- By 2006, review recommended national water quality criteria in the light of regionally agreed criteria;
- By 2007, develop regional guidelines for mitigation measures for non-point sources of pollution and for specific activities such as aquaculture and intensive animal husbandry;
- By 2007, estimate the carrying/assimilative capacity of coastal waters with respect to nutrients and heavy metals;
- By 2007, develop land-based pollution activities in the Strategic Action Programme to meet regional water quality objectives;
- By 2007, develop and/or implement plans for appropriate mitigation activities at the identified hotspots;
- By 2007, develop a sustainable financing mechanism for regional cooperation and collaboration for land-based pollution;
- By 2008, develop criteria for sediment and biological samples at the regional level.

RSTC suggested that these were not targets or goals for the regional SAP since they would be achieved by, the end of the project when the SAP would only become operational. In fact these represent the tasks of the preparatory phase of the project and hence should have been substantially met already.

RWG-LbP should consider the formulation of more action oriented targets.

## ANNEX 9

### Proposed Work Plan and Time Table for the Period 2004 to June 2007

#### BACKGROUND

According to the work plan agreed by the Project Steering Committee at its first (Bangkok, Thailand, 22-23 October 2001) and second (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 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 and fourth meetings of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC), some delays had been encountered that required adjustment of the schedule of meetings, and extension of the preparatory phase for six months. The causes of the delays were also reported to the RSTC in the document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.3/10.

During the fourth meeting of the RSTC, Pattaya, Thailand 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2004, it was envisaged that all preparatory activities would be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and demonstration site activities for habitat components and pilot activities for land-based pollution component should be launched in July 2004. However, to date, no demonstration site activities or pilot project activities have been commenced, and many SEAs have not signed the second amendment of the original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cover the operational phase of the project.

#### REVISED WORK PLAN FOR COMPONENTS AND SUB-COMPONENTS

The fifth round of Regional Working Group meetings concluded activities in the preparatory phase, and agreed on work plans to execute activities in the operational phase of the project. It was agreed that all components and sub-components should continue activities at the national level, which include:

- *National committee meetings;*
- *National Technical Working Group meetings;*
- *Maintain and update national meta database;*
- *Act as information source regarding specific components and sub-components to the Inter-ministerial Committees (IMCs), the Regional Working Group (RWGs) and the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC).*

In addition to continuing some activities from the first phase of the project, the fifth round of meetings of the Regional Working Groups also agreed on work plans to execute activities newly initiated for the operational phase of the project. Figures 1 to 6 are specific work plans and timetables for habitat sub-components (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands), fisheries and land-based pollution components. Table 1 is the schedule of meetings for the year 2005.

#### Habitat Component

A review of the Project Document and the second MoU amendment indicates additional activities to be undertaken in the operational phase of the project that include:

- *Development and adoption of national action plans habitat sub-components;*
- *Elaboration of Regional Strategic Action Programme;*
- *Development of demonstration site proposals, and Implementation of demonstration site activities;*
- *Regional synthesis of data and information;*
- *Promotion of regional coordination, dissemination of experiences and personnel exchange.*

#### Fisheries Component

In accordance with the Project Document and the second MoU amendment, the fifth meeting of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries finalised the work plan to carry out main activities to be undertaken under the fisheries component during the operational phase of the project. Figure 5 illustrate the work plan and timetable to execute the activities. These main activities include:

- *Develop national & regional action plans for a regional system of refugia;*
- *Prepare and submit proposal(s) to the competent national authorities for the establishment of these refugia for fish stocks of transboundary and regional significance, to be adopted by the governments;*
- *Participate, through the Regional Working Group in oversight of the blast fishing trials and where appropriate advise national and local authorities on the practicality of its wider adoption in the participating countries;*
- *Assist, through the Regional Working Group on Fisheries in the preparation of a comprehensive regional synthesis of data and information regarding fisheries in the South China Sea.*

The PCU is currently finalising a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) among the Teng Hoi Conservation Organisation, a non-profit company registered in Hong Kong, the Department of Fisheries, Sabah, and the UNEP represented by the SCS Project. Activities are expected to be undertaken, in 2005.

### **Land-based Pollution Component**

A review of the Project Document and the second MoU amendment indicates that the main activities to be undertaken under the Land-based Pollution component during the operational phase of the project include:

- *Develop national & regional action plans for addressing the impacts of land-based pollution;*
- *Prepare and submit to the competent national authorities a National Action Plan to be adopted by the governments;*
- *Participate, through the Regional Working Group in revision and finalisation of the regional Strategic Action Programme and where appropriate advise national and local authorities on the costs and benefits of action in the participating countries;*
- *Assist, through the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution in the preparation of a comprehensive regional synthesis of data and information regarding pollution in the South China Sea;*

In addition, the fifth meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-based Pollution, Shenzhen, China, 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004, reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation, and took note that the Working Group did not pay much attention to estimate the carrying capacity of the South China Sea. To address this problem, the Working Group also agreed on a series of sub-activities to complete the task: 1) review of SEAs' capacity to conduct modelling of carrying capacity; 2) collect information on nutrient budgeting in North Sea and Baltic Sea; 3) estimate the carrying capacity of coastal waters in each country.

### **WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE AMENDMENT AND FINALISATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME**

During the discussion of agenda item 11, the RSTC considered and agreed on the timelines to complete the main tasks of the RSTC during the second phase of the project. The main tasks in the second phase of the project are:

- Convening of Inter-ministerial meetings at least twice a year;
- National Technical Working Group meetings at least four times a year;
- Convening of the Regional Scientific Conferences;
- Reviewing and approving revised demonstration site proposals;
- Updating the Strategic Action Programme.

Figure 7 provides the preliminary work plan and time table for completion of these tasks during the period to June 2007.





**Figure 3 Work Plan and Time Table for Seagrass Component till 30 June 2007.**

Quarter	2004				2005				2006				2007											
	3		4		1		2		3		4		1	2										
	Month	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
<b>NATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>																								
National Committee meetings																								
National Technical Working Group																								
RWG-SG meetings																								
Provide information to RWG-SG and RSTC																								
Maintain national metadata base																								
<b>Publication of National Reports in local language</b>																								
Cambodia																								
China																								
Indonesia																								
Malaysia (1st draft, Oct 30)																								
Philippines																								
Thailand																								
Viet Nam																								
<b>Complete second draft of NAP</b>																								
Cambodia																								
China																								
Indonesia																								
Malaysia (1st draft, Oct 30)																								
Philippines																								
Thailand																								
Viet Nam																								
Adoption of NAP (contributing to SAP targets)																								
<b>Update data to regional GIS Database</b>																								
Cambodia																								
China																								
Indonesia																								
Malaysia																								
Philippines																								
Thailand																								
Viet Nam																								
Provide guidance to IMC on the Seagrass component input to SAP																								







Figure 6 Preliminary Work plan for the Land-based Pollution Component to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Quarter	2004								2005				2006				2007			
	1			2			3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
<b>NATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>																				
National Committee meetings																				
National Technical Working Group																				
RWG-LbP meetings								X			X				X					
Provide data to RWG-LbP and RSTC																				
<b>Preparation of National Reports</b>	Revise	Revise	Review	Translate	Translate	Print														
<b>Create and maintain of National metadata base</b>						X														
<b>Provide data in GIS format to regional Database</b>						X														
<b>Further Elaboration of SAP</b>																				
Provide guidance to IMC on the pollution component input to SAP																				
With stakeholders, review/revise plan to implement the Strategic Action Plan	Dependent on SAP development																			
<b>Development of NAPs</b>																				
Malaysia											1 <sup>st</sup> X									
Philippines										1 <sup>st</sup> X										
Other countries										2 <sup>nd</sup> X										
<b>Initial activities to Estimate carrying capacity and transboundary effects</b>																				
Review of national capacity to conduct carrying capacity studies and modelling									X											
Collect information on nutrient budgeting in North Sea and Baltic Sea									X											
Transboundary pollution consideration (circulation)																				
Initial actions to estimate carrying capacity of the South China Sea marine basin.															X					

**Figure 7 Work Plan and Time Table for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee till June 2007.**

	2004				2005				2006				2007			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>National level activities</b>																
Inter-ministerial Committee meetings (2 times per year)																
National Technical Working Group meetings (4 times per year)																
Nominate at least one demonstration site requiring no additional funding					X											
<b>Regional activities</b>																
Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meetings								X				X				
Regional Scientific Conferences								X						X		
Reviewing and approving revised demonstration site proposals (ongoing)																
<b>Updating the Strategic Action Programme</b>												X				
Review the SAP and prepare initial inputs regarding regional activities and actions																
First draft of revised SAP, prepared by the PCU, RWGs, RTFs, review by the RSTC								X								
Final draft of the revised SAP												X				
National Approval of the SAP																
Intergovernmental approval of the SAP														X		

