



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

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

Phu Quoc, Vietnam, 26-28 January 2026

## **PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**



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*Monday, 26 January 2025, 09.00 – 17.00*

08.30-08.55	Registration of participants
08:55-9:00	Security and Safety Briefing
<b>1. Opening of the meeting</b>	
09.00-09.05 5 min	1.1 Welcome remark by the Representative of the Vietnam Government The Secretariat will invite the Representative of the Vietnam Government to deliver the welcome remark as the host country of the meeting.
09.05-09.10 5 min	1.2 Welcome remark by the Senior Project Manager of the SCS SAP Project The Secretariat will invite the Senior Manager to deliver the welcome remark and open the meeting on behalf of the project, UNEP and UNOPS as the implementing and executing agency.
09.10-09.20 10 min	1.3 Introduction of members The Secretariat will be invited to introduce the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee members and other participants and guests.
<b>2. Organization of the meeting</b>	
09.20-09.25 5 min	2.1 Designation of officers In accordance with the draft rules of procedure for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee, participants will be invited by the Secretariat to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Secretariat will inform and request the Committee to designate the PCU as Chairperson of the Committee meeting to facilitate the discussions on the main topic of the meeting.
09.25-09.30 5 min	2.2 Organisation of work The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to brief participants on the proposed organization of work, the list of documents available to the meeting and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting. The meeting will be conducted face to face and online in plenary. The meeting will be conducted in English.
<b>3. Adoption of the meeting agenda</b>	
09.30-09.40 10 min	The Chairperson will invite Committee to consider the provisional agenda and annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat as Meeting Documents: SCSSAP RSTC 3/1 and SCSSAP RSTC 3/2 (this document), propose any amendments or additional items for consideration, and adopt the agenda.
<b>4. Report of overall status and progress of the SCS SAP Project implementation including summary of SAP achievements, including convergence with COBSEA</b>	
09.40-10.00 20 min	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to present the overall status and progress of the SCS SAP Project implementation (Meeting Document: SCSSAP RSTC 3/3) since the last RSTC meeting. This includes the summary of SAP achievements from 2008-2021 and 2022 onwards to link and set the scene for the next agenda and main topic of the meeting – presentation of draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) reports. The Chairperson will invite Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA Coordinator, to present relevant initiatives to promote closer convergence between SCS SAP and COBSEA.  The working group will be invited to review and provide comments and suggestions on the regional and national implementation of the project and other initiatives.
10.00-10.15	MORNING BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO
<b>5. Presentation of the Draft National and Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) Reports</b>	
10.15-12.30 30 min presentation	The Chairperson will invite the TDA Team Leads and Consultants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and Regional teams to present their draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) reports (Meeting Document: SCSSAP RSTC 3/4), following the template and outline prepared and shared by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

	<p>The presentation will follow the order below, which will be followed by Q&amp;A:  Group 1 Cambodia, China and Indonesia  Group 2 Philippines, Thailand Vietnam  Group 3 Regional TDA Reporting</p> <p>The Chairperson will request the members of the RSTC and Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation (RTF-EV) to take notes and provide their comments and inputs on the draft TDA reports particularly on the recommended national priorities and actions and inactions for cost-benefit analysis, which will be covered in the next agenda. The draft TDA reports will be circulated well in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairperson will remind the members of the RSTC and RTF-EV to be mindful of the recommended priority actions which will make up the core of the updated SAP based on the TDA analysis. The recommended priority actions will be summarized and shared to the RTF-EV team in advance of the meeting.</p>
12.30-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
	<b>Continuation of Agenda 5</b>
14.00-16.00 30 min presentation	The Chairperson will invite the remaining TDA Team Leads and Consultants to present their draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) reports (Meeting Document: SCSSAP RSTC 3/4).
16.00-16.15	AFTERNOON BREAK
16.15-17.00	Open Forum/Discussion on the TDA reports and recommended actions to address transboundary and national environmental problems and concerns.

***Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 09.00 – 17.30***

	<p><b>6. Discussions on the TDA identified transboundary problems and rankings for cost-benefit analysis, including the recommended national priorities and actions to inform the development and updating of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) priorities at national and regional levels</b></p>
09.00-11.00 2 hours	<p>The Chairperson will invite the Regional TDA/SAP Lead Consultant, Dr. Liana Talaue-McManus to introduce and lead the discussion on the transboundary problems and rankings for cost-benefit analysis to inform the development of the national and regional SAP and priorities. Using a Delphi exercise, identified transboundary environmental problems will be ranked by participants based on their TDA analyses. Participants will also share the ranks of these identified problems based on their national priorities.</p> <p>Following the Delphi exercise, Dr. McManus will invite the Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation (RTF-EV) to present guidelines and methods to assess CBA for the action priorities including those identified in the national and TDA reports. From February to April 2026, the National and Regional TDA-SAP Teams will undertake the cost-benefit evaluation of actions, as well as inactions. The Strategic Action Plans at regional and national levels, will consist of those that have been prioritized and assessed to potentially result in maximum benefits for people and ecosystems.</p> <p>The Chairperson will request the members of the RSTC and RTF-EV to provide their comments and inputs on the recommended national priorities and actions for cost-benefit analysis to inform the development and updating of the SAP.</p>
11.00-11.15	MORNING BREAK
	<b>Continuation of Agenda 6</b>
11.15-12.30 1.15 hour	The Chairperson will invite the Regional TDA/SAP Consultants, RTF-EV Members and RSTC Members to continue the discussions on the transboundary problems and rankings for cost-benefit analysis to inform the development of the national and regional SAP and priorities.

12.30-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00-15.00 1 hour	<b>7. Documentation of achievements in implementing the SAP at the national level during 2008 – 2021 and good practices on habitats, fisheries and land-based pollution management including plan for publication</b>
	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce and present the status and finalization for publication the documentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAP Implementation Achievements at National Level 2008 – 2021 (Meeting Document: SCSSAP RSTC 3/6)</li> <li>• Good Practices on Habitats, Fisheries and Land - Based Pollution Management (Meeting Document: SCSSAP RSTC 3/7)</li> </ul> <p>The Chairperson will invite the Committee to review and provide comments and suggestions for the finalization and publication of the documents.</p>
	<b>8. Meeting Recommendations and Execution Arrangements</b>
15.00-16.00 1 hour	The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to present the meeting recommendations and agreements including next steps towards execution of activities, and next meeting of the Committee.
	<b>9. Any Other Business</b>
16.00-16.30 30 min	The Chairperson will invite members to consider and discuss any items of business introduced under agenda item 3.
16.30-16.45	AFTERNOON BREAK
	<b>10. Closure of the Meeting</b>
16.45-17.15 30 min	The Chairperson will call for a formal motion to close the meeting. The Chairperson will invite a representative member of the Committee to deliver the closing remark.
17.15-17.30	Field Trip Announcement and Arrangements
	END OF MEETING

### ***Wednesday, 28 January 2026, 08.00 – 16.00***

Proposed Field/Site Visit – Phu Quoc, Vietnam

Phú Quốc, Vietnam, is a rapidly developing island balancing marine conservation with blue economy ambitions. Phú Quốc Island, located off the coast of Kiên Giang Province in southern Vietnam, is renowned for its rich coastal and marine ecosystems. The island is home to the Phú Quốc Marine Protected Area (MPA), which spans over 40,900 hectares and includes vibrant coral reefs, extensive seagrass beds, and habitats for rare marine species. To safeguard these ecosystems, local authorities have intensified conservation efforts, including stricter fishing regulations and ecosystem monitoring. On the economic front, Phú Quốc is positioning itself as a global eco-tourism hub, leveraging its natural beauty and biodiversity. In 2024, the island welcomed nearly six million visitors, generating over VND 21 trillion (approximately USD 840 million) in tourism revenue. However, challenges such as infrastructure gaps and environmental pressures remain hurdles to sustainable growth.

Phú Quốc's development aligns with Vietnam's broader blue economy strategy, which emphasizes sustainable use of marine resources across sectors like fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, and marine transport. Nationally, blue economy scenarios are projected to boost GDP by 34% and significantly raise income levels by 2030, provided that integrated marine spatial planning and environmental safeguards are effectively implemented. Together, these efforts reflect a dynamic interplay between environmental stewardship and economic ambition, with Phú Quốc serving as a microcosm of Vietnam's coastal development trajectory.

Description and site visits and activities will be prepared and shared separately. A dinner reception will be provided and hosted by the SCS SAP Project after the field trip.