

Annex 1: GDP, GDP growth rate, GDP per capita, Inflation rate, Poverty headcount, and employment rate of Thailand (2000-2024)

Year	GDP (current million US\$)	GDP growth (annual %)	Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	GDP per capita (current US\$)	Unemployment rate, total (% of total labor force) (national estimate)	Poverty headcount ratio at \$8.30 a day (2021 PPP) (% of population)
2000	126.4	4.5	1.3	2,006.0	2.4	61.2
2001	120.3	3.4	2.2	1,889.9	2.6	***
2002	134.3	6.1	1.6	2,089.8	***	53.3
2003	152.3	7.2	3.3	2,347.5	1.5	***
2004	172.9	6.3	3.2	2,641.6	1.5	46.7
2005	189.3	4.2	4.5	2,867.7	1.4	***
2006	221.8	5.0	4.6	3,331.3	1.2	39.5
2007	262.9	5.4	2.2	3,918.5	1.2	37.4
2008	291.4	1.7	5.5	4,309.1	1.2	35.2
2009	281.7	-0.7	-0.9	4,135.4	1.5	32.2
2010	341.1	7.5	3.3	4,973.9	0.6	30.0
2011	370.8	0.8	3.8	5,373.6	0.7	25.5
2012	397.6	7.2	3.0	5,725.5	0.6	24.9
2013	420.3	2.7	2.2	6,018.1	0.2	21.8
2014	407.3	1.0	1.9	5,801.2	0.6	20.9
2015	401.3	3.1	-0.9	5,688.9	0.6	16.9
2016	413.4	3.4	0.2	5,833.6	0.7	17.9
2017	456.4	4.2	0.7	6,413.1	0.8	17.2
2018	506.8	4.2	1.1	7,099.8	0.8	17.8
2019	544.0	2.1	0.7	7,605.7	0.7	15.2
2020	500.5	-6.1	-0.8	6,985.6	1.1	15.1
2021	506.2	1.6	1.2	7,057.2	1.2	14.1
2022	495.6	2.6	-1.6	6,909.4	0.9	9.9
2023	515.9	2.0	8.5	7,195.1	0.7	9.9
2024	526.4	2.5	1.4	7,345.1	0.8	***

Source:

The world bank group. Databank: world development indicators. Retrieved November 5, 2025 from

<https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=NY.GDP.PCAP.CD&country=THA#>

*** = No data

The development of Thailand's economy has varied across different periods, as detailed as follows:

- 2000–2006:

During the early 2000s, the Thai economy was in a recovery phase following the Asian financial crisis of 1997–1998, which had severely affected the financial system and productive sectors. However, under expansionary economic policies and strong export performance, the economy began to stabilize and expand. GDP increased from USD 126.4 billion in 2000 to USD 221.8 billion in 2006, representing an average annual growth rate of approximately 5.2%. Notably, growth reached 7.2% in 2003, driven largely by industrial exports. Inflation remained moderate, ranging between 1.3% and 4.6%.

- 2007–2012:

Between 2007 and 2012, the Thai economy continued to grow, with GDP rising from USD 262.9 billion in 2007 to USD 397.6 billion in 2012. The average annual growth rate was around 3.7%, supported by export expansion, investment by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and sustained growth in tourism. The economy was affected by the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, resulting in growth of only 1.7% in 2008 and a contraction of –0.7% in 2009. Nonetheless, Thailand recovered quickly, achieving a strong rebound of 7.5% in 2010 due to government stimulus measures and a resurgence in exports. Inflation during this period fluctuated between –0.9% and 5.5%, influenced mainly by global oil price volatility.

- 2013–2015:

In 2013, Thailand's GDP reached approximately USD 420.3 billion, growing at 2.7% from the previous year, reflecting continued strength in the industrial and service sectors. However, economic momentum slowed thereafter, with GDP dropping to USD 401.3 billion in 2015, despite growth of 3.1%. This slowdown was linked to currency depreciation and heightened political uncertainty. Deflation emerged in 2015, with inflation dropping to –0.9%.

- 2016–2019:

The economy experienced modest but consistent growth, averaging around 3.5% per year. GDP increased from USD 413.4 billion in 2016 to USD 544 billion in 2019, supported by exports, private investment, and continued expansion in tourism. Inflation remained low and stable, ranging from 0.2% to 1.1%.

- 2020:

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a severe economic contraction of –6.1% in 2020, with GDP falling to around USD 500 billion. Economic recovery remained incomplete in the following year, as tourism and service sectors—key drivers of national growth—were heavily affected. Inflation stood at –0.8%.

- 2021–2024:

Although the economy began to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, the rebound was slow, and growth remained below pre-pandemic levels, ranging between 1.6% and 2.6%. Political uncertainty, rising energy prices, and slowing exports contributed to growth below potential. In 2024, GDP reached USD 526.4 billion. Inflation was moderately high at 8.5% in 2023 but declined to 1.4% in 2024.

GDP per capita has shown a generally upward trend, increasing from USD 2,006 in 2000 to USD 7,605 in 2019. However, income per capita declined to around USD 7,000 during 2020–2022 due to pandemic-related impacts before recovering to USD 7,345 in 2024. This reflects a relatively slow recovery in household income associated with reduced employment in tourism, services, and the informal sector.

During 2000–2002, the unemployment rate ranged between 2.4% and 2.6%. After 2004, overall unemployment remained low, between 1–2%, indicating labour market stability, although these figures may not fully capture realities due to the high number of informal workers.

Annex 2: Main economic activities of coastal provinces of the Gulf of Thailand.

Province	Main economic activities
Trat	Marine tourism (Koh Chang, Koh Kood), small-scale fisheries, and border trade
Chantha Buri	Fruit agriculture (durian, mangosteen), food processing, fisheries
Rayong	Petrochemical industry, Map Ta Phut industrial port, energy production
Chon Buri	Laem Chabang seaport, the automotive industry, and tourism (Pattaya)
Chachoengsao	Agro-processing industry, logistics, food factories
Bangkok	Services, finance, trade, transportation, Khlong Toei commercial port
Samut Prakarn	Shipbuilding, electronics manufacturing, logistics, and automotive components
Samut Sakhon	Processed seafood industry, marine fisheries, seafood export
Samut Songkharm	Coastal fisheries, agriculture, and seafood processing
Petchaburi	Coastal tourism (Cha Am), agro-processing, fisheries, and fruit products
Prachuap Khiri Khan	Tourism (Hua Hin), agriculture, and coastal fisheries
Chumpon	Marine fisheries, agriculture (coffee, oil palm), tourism, seafood processing
Surat Thani	Tourism (Koh Samui), passenger marine transport, fisheries, rubber production
Nakhon Si Thammarat	Agriculture (oil palm, fruits), fisheries, and border trade
Songkhla	Deep-sea port, higher education, border trade, food industry
Pattani	Small-scale fisheries, agriculture, and traditional food processing
Narathiwat	Fisheries, agriculture (rice, palm oil), and border commerce

Annex 3: GPP, GPP per capita and Poverty headcount of the 16 coastal provinces of the Gulf of Thailand in 2023 (Office of the National Economic Social and Development Council, 2025)

	GPP (Billion USD)	GPP per capita (USD)	Poverty headcount (% of population)
Whole Kingdom	515.94	7,366.25	3.41
Rayong	30.2	27,074.86	0.00%
Chon Buri	34.14	17,021.13	0.34%
Chachoengsao	12.95	14,080.60	0.44%
Samut Sakhon	11.8	10,748.73	2.16%
Samut Prakarn	21.77	9,203.85	0.42%
Chantha Buri	4.18	7,285.11	2.39%
Chumpon	3.32	6,618.37	1.30%
Surat Thani	6.33	5,407.49	3.67%
Samut Songkharm	0.84	4,803.57	3.67%
Trat	1.33	4,736.65	4.91
Petchburi	2.27	4,503.42	4.76%
Songkhla	7.23	4,246.82	1.94%
Nakhon Si Thammarat	5.59	3,661.05	8.18%
Prachuap Khiri Khan	3.09	3,090.84	9.49%
Pattani	1.56	2,395.66	23.36%
Narathiwat	1.36	1,839.23	19.12%

Annex 4: Approved Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Values by the Board of Investment (BOI), 2015–2024

Year	Domestic Direct Investment (DDI)		Other Investment (Not specified)		Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)		Total Investment
	Million USD	%	Million USD	%	Million USD	%	Million USD
2015	7,965.68	33.75	1,240.91	5.26	14,397.49	61.00	23,604.08
2016	9,427.02	37.49	5,265.86	20.94	10,455.74	41.58	25,148.63
2017	7,492.47	42.30	3,786.19	21.38	6,433.92	36.32	17,712.58
2018	3,593.57	21.12	5,504.76	32.36	7,913.47	46.52	17,011.79
2019	3,763.75	26.11	1,567.58	10.88	9,080.95	63.01	14,412.28
2020	2,910.34	25.20	578.01	5.01	8,058.37	69.79	11,546.72
2021	5,676.86	35.49	1,549.11	9.68	8,770.92	54.83	15,996.89
2022	2,960.63	16.80	5,534.25	31.40	9,129.49	51.80	17,624.36
2023	4,382.10	20.33	1,109.89	5.15	16,063.48	74.52	21,555.46
2024	6,124.70	21.84	965.88	3.44	20,954.03	74.72	28,044.61

Sources: Thailand Board of investment (BOI). (2025). BOI Data: Investment Promotion Statistical Reports (from 2015 onwards). Retrieved September 3, 2025 from <https://ipstat.boi.go.th/pubrpt/index.php>

Annex 5: Provincial investment of the Gulf of Thailand in 2024 (1 USD = 35 Baht)

Province	BOI (Board of Investment)									DBD (Department of Business Development)			
	No. of Project	Total Investment		Total DDI and FDI registered capital		DDI registered capital		FDI registered capital		New registered companies		Registered capital	
		USD mil.	%	USD mil.	%	USD mil.	%	USD mil.	%	Companies	%	USD mil.	%
Rayong	364	5,340.25	35.90	704.46	25.30	28.14	3.99	676.31	96.01	1,736	10.35	227.60	9.58
Chonburi	565	4,321.09	29.05	1247.37	44.80	129.80	10.41	1,117.57	89.59	842	5.02	997.66	42.01
Samut Prakan	227	3,380.86	22.73	292.97	10.52	58.60	20.00	234.37	80.00	4,595	27.40	448.60	18.89
Chachoengsao	109	1,035.27	6.96	349.06	12.54	22.51	6.45	326.54	93.55	711	4.24	61.43	2.59
Samut Sakhon	125	393.48	2.65	71.06	2.55	41.34	58.18	29.71	41.82	1,652	9.85	192.06	8.09
Phetchaburi	21	107.10	0.72	33.40	1.20	8.31	24.89	25.09	75.11	324	1.93	16.46	0.69
Songkhla	35	107.07	0.72	56.29	2.02	39.49	70.15	16.80	29.85	1,150	6.86	63.31	2.67
Nakhon Si Thammarat	9	59.28	0.40	0.17	0.01	0.17	100.00	-	-	580	3.46	23.83	1.00
Chumphon	7	46.48	0.31	13.46	0.48	13.46	100.00	-	-	237	1.41	16.94	0.71
Surat Thani	24	36.27	0.24	4.09	0.15	4.03	98.60	0.06	1.40	3,468	20.68	244.83	10.31
Prachuap Khiri Khan	7	23.91	0.16	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	626	3.73	33.43	1.41
Trat	1	10.64	0.07	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	117	0.70	5.40	0.23
Samut Songkhram	2	6.40	0.04	0.11	0.00	0.11	100.00	-	-	123	0.73	4.71	0.20
Chanthaburi	5	5.55	0.04	3.77	0.14	2.89	76.52	0.89	23.48	330	1.97	13.26	0.56
Narathiwat	2	1.93	0.01	8.03	0.29	8.03	100.00	-	-	135	0.81	15.60	0.66
Pattani	1	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	142	0.85	9.86	0.42
Total	1504	14,876.17	100.00	2784.23	100.00	356.89	12.82	2,427.34	87.18	16,768	100	2,374.97	100.00

Sources:

1. Thailand Board of investment (BOI). (2025). BOI Data: Investment Promotion Statistical Reports (from 2015 onwards). Retrieved September 3, 2025 from <https://ipstat.boi.go.th/pubrpt/index.php>
2. Department of Business Development (DBD). (2025). Statistics data 2024. Retrieved September 3, 2025 from <https://www.dbd.go.th/common-article/24>

Annex 6: Government agencies with roles in the marine space

Ministry	Agency	Activities
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR)	Conserving, rehabilitating, and managing Thailand's marine and coastal resources. Its responsibilities include establishing marine and coastal protected areas, restoring ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs, promoting sustainable use of resources, and coordinating Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
	Department of Pollution Control (PCD)	Preventing, controlling, and mitigating marine and coastal pollution in Thailand. Its mandate covers monitoring water quality, regulating land-based pollution sources, managing waste and hazardous materials, and coordinating oil spill responses.
	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)	Establishing and managing marine national parks in Thailand, protecting endangered marine species and coastal ecosystems. Its mandate covers law enforcement, ecological restoration, and the promotion of sustainable eco-tourism, ensuring that marine resources are conserved while supporting local livelihoods.
	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	Proposes policies and plans for the conservation and management of natural resources and the environment, and oversees environmental impact assessments and environmental consents.
	Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE)	Recently created (announced in the Royal Gazette, Effective from 18 August 2023). central coordination agency of the country under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and drive Thailand's climate change operations, including greenhouse gas reduction (Mitigation), adaptation (Adaptation), and enhancing management capabilities
	Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)	The DMR is responsible for the conservation, restoration, and management of geological resources, fossils, environmental geology, and geological hazards. In relation to marine management, DMR contributes through coastal geology

Ministry	Agency	Activities
		studies, monitoring shoreline changes, managing marine mineral resources, and assessing risks such as coastal erosion, tsunamis, and other geohazards. These functions support sustainable coastal development and disaster risk reduction in Thailand.
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Department of Fisheries	Carries out research and studies in all areas of fisheries. It also helps support and develop fisheries-related jobs to make sure the sector continues to grow in the future.
Ministry of Transportation	Marine Department	Oversees and develops water transport and shipping in Thailand, making sure it connects well with other forms of transport. Its work includes ship registration, safety checks, enforcing maritime laws, and preparing navigation maps to keep water transport safe and efficient
Royal Thai Navy	Royal Thai Navy	Maintaining maritime security and interests (in coordination with ONSC)
Ministry of Energy	Department of Mineral Fuels (DMF)	Offshore oil and gas
Ministry of Tourism and Sports	Department of Tourism (DOT)	Oversees marine and coastal sustainable tourism activities
Ministry of Interior	Department of Public Works and Town Planning (DPT)	Oversees town and country planning, public works, and building control. It supports local authorities in land use, rural development, and infrastructure, while ensuring policies align with sustainable growth. DPT also sets standards in architecture, engineering, and planning to promote safety, orderliness, and a healthy environment.
	Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA)	Plays a central role in coastal governance by defining provincial sea boundaries, which provide the legal basis for coastal and marine management. It coordinates with agencies such as the Marine Department, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources to align policies on resource use and conservation. DOPA also supports local administrative bodies in coastal

Ministry	Agency	Activities
		development while ensuring law enforcement and public order.
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security	Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW),	Protect and enhance the way of life for ethnic communities residing along the shore
Office of the Prime Minister	Office of the National Security Council (ONSC)	Maintaining maritime security and interests
	Thai-MECC	Carry out surveillance and investigation into any matter deemed a threat to Thailand's maritime interests and exercise tactical control over the Royal Thai Navy. As per the Maritime National Interests Protection Act (2019), Thai-MECC has the duty to plan, administer, coordinate, order, and support the operation of the state agencies involved in the maritime national interests.
	National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)	Oversees the implementation of the thirteenth national economic and social development plan (2023-2027), including the Natural Resources and Environmental Dimension of the National Development Context, which includes marine and coastal resources. It is also responsible for setting up the coordination mechanism between the NESDB, concerned agencies, and state enterprises regarding the planning and implementation of development programs and projects.

Annex 7: Institutions' roles (Policy committees) and relevance to the marine and coastal resources management

Institution	Relevance to marine and coastal resources management
National Policy and Plan Committee on Marine and Coastal Resource Management (NMCRC)	Oversees marine and coastal resource management policies. Supported by DMCR, it formulates policies, plans, and guidelines for sustainable use and conservation, including the designation of marine and coastal protected areas.
National Maritime Interests Protection Policy Committee (MIP)	Focuses on protecting Thailand's maritime interests. Supported by the Office of NSC, it develops policies and strategies for maritime security and sustainable use. Six Sub-committees are established to support its tasks. These include: 1) Sub-committee on Advice & Knowledge management for the national maritime interest (SAKM), which contain 6 working groups (Stable aspects, Prosperity and Sustainable aspects, Legal aspects, Public relation aspect, Advocacy of the Thai Ocean Health Index Evaluation, and establishing a Thai Marine Think Tank); 2) Sub-committee on evaluating the national maritime security plan; 3) Sub-committee on coordination & monitoring of national maritime security plan; 4) Sub- committee on marine interests and security situation assessment; 5) Sub-committee on drafting maritime security index for the national maritime security plan; and 6) Sub- committee on Marine Use Zoning for MSP Thailand (Sub-com MSP).
National Environment Board (NEB)	Provides policy direction on environmental management. Supported by ONEP, it integrates MSP into broader environmental conservation policies and frameworks.
National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC)	Coordinates Thailand's economic and social development planning. Supports marine and coastal resources conservation by aligning it with national development plans such as the Thirteenth NESDP.
National Committee on Conservation and Utilization of Biodiversity (NCB)	Oversees biodiversity conservation policies. Ensures integration of MSP with goals for protecting marine and coastal biodiversity.
National Committee on Climate Change Policy (NCCC)	Develops climate change policies and strategies. Ensures MSP incorporates climate resilience and adaptation measures for marine and coastal areas.

Institution	Relevance to marine and coastal resources management
National Fishery Policy Committee (NFPC)	Governs fisheries policy and management. Aligns fisheries management with the objectives to ensure sustainable use of marine resources.
National Park Committee (NPC)	Manages national parks and protected areas. Facilitates the inclusion of marine protected areas in the marine and coastal resources.
Subcommittee on Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (under NMCRC)	Focuses on approving policy and management plans for marine and coastal resources, and the designation and management of marine and coastal protected areas. Eight subcommittees are created to support the NMCRC dealing with specific issues include: 1) mangrove and beach forest, 2) coastal erosion, 3) marine environment protection, 4) annual performance report, 5) stakeholders' participation in marine and coastal resources management, 6) managing marine and coastal resources (through designation of marine and coastal protected areas); 7) conservation of Dugong; 8) resolving coastal erosion problems around the areas of Mrigadayawan Palace.
Subcommittee on Marine Use Zoning in Thailand (under MIP)	Directly responsible for MSP implementation, including zoning and maritime boundary delineation to standardize marine management zones and ensure effective spatial planning.

Annex 8: Thailand's engagement with key global, regional, and bilateral partners

A. Global and Multilateral Engagement

1) DMCR–UNESCO Collaboration

DMCR collaborates with UNESCO to promote the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems through science, education, and culture-based initiatives.

Thailand serves as a national focal point under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), IOC/WESTPAC, and Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program. Joint activities include management of the Ranong Biosphere Reserve, the Thailand Mangrove Alliance, and ocean literacy initiatives that support global frameworks such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

2) DMCR-IOC Collaboration

DMCR acts as Thailand's national focal point for the IOC of UNESCO, which promotes international cooperation in ocean science, observation, and capacity development. Thailand has been an active IOC member since 1960 and currently contributes to global initiatives such as the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and tsunami early warning systems, enhancing regional preparedness and ocean data sharing.

As host of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC) Secretariat since 2005, DMCR leads regional efforts in marine scientific research, ocean observation, and capacity building among 22 member states. The collaboration also supports the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for the UN Ocean Decade, promoting marine biodiversity research, blue carbon, MSP, and marine debris monitoring across the Western Pacific.

3) DMCR–UNEP Collaboration

DMCR works closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to strengthen marine and coastal resource management in line with international frameworks.

As host of the UNEP Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand, actively engages in regional initiatives such as COBSEA and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Cooperation focuses on marine litter reduction, ecosystem-based management, coral and mangrove protection, and progress toward SDG 14 and the 30x30 global marine target.

4) DMCR–BBNJ Collaboration

DMCR supports Thailand's commitments under the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), adopted under UNCLOS. Thailand signed the Agreement on 17 April 2025 as the 113th signatory. DMCR's involvement includes coordination on Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs), Area-Based Management Tools

(ABMTs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and capacity building, enhancing Thailand's role in global ocean governance.

5) DMCR–IOI Collaboration

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (2022–2027), DMCR established the IOI Thailand Training Centre under the International Ocean Institute (IOI).

The centre provides regional training on UNCLOS implementation, marine biodiversity conservation, and fisheries governance, building professional capacity and strengthening Thailand's position in regional ocean education and policy leadership.

6) DMCR–IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU Collaboration

DMCR represents Thailand under the IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to conserve marine turtles and their habitats across the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. Through the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), Thailand undertakes actions on nesting site protection, bycatch reduction, and community awareness, contributing to the long-term survival of endangered turtle species.

7) DMCR–Dugong MOU and Habitat Conservation Collaboration

Thailand is a signatory to the CMS Dugong MOU (2011) on the conservation of Dugong dugon and their seagrass habitats. DMCR coordinates national and regional actions to reduce dugong mortality, protect seagrass ecosystems, and build conservation capacity. As the National Focal Point, DMCR also participates in Meetings of Signatories (MOS) to enhance international collaboration on dugong protection and habitat restoration.

B. Regional Engagement

1) DMCR–COBSEA Collaboration

DMCR serves as Thailand's national focal point for the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) under UNEP. Thailand, host of the COBSEA Secretariat since 2015, contributes to the East Asian Seas Action Plan, the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), and the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS SAP). Cooperation focuses on marine pollution control, ecosystem management, and blue economy development.

2) DMCR–ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) Collaboration

As Chair (2019–2025) and National Focal Point, DMCR leads ASEAN efforts under the AWGCME to promote regional coordination on marine debris reduction, habitat conservation, and climate change adaptation. Key achievements include the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris (2019) and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris (2021–2025).

3) DMCR–ASEAN Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT) Collaboration

DMCR represents Thailand in SCMSAT under the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI). The collaboration enhances regional research, innovation, and capacity building on marine biodiversity, ocean observation, and the ASEAN Blue Economy Roadmap.

4) DMCR–Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Collaboration

Under the APEC framework, DMCR supports the OFWG to promote sustainable ocean and fisheries management. Thailand contributes to regional initiatives on marine debris, IUU fishing prevention, and aquaculture sustainability, including the APEC Roadmaps on Marine Debris and IUU Fishing (2019).

5) DMCR–Blue Economy Working Group (WGBE) Collaboration

Within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), DMCR serves as Thailand’s lead focal point for the WGBE, focusing on blue carbon, marine pollution, and ocean governance.

Collaboration includes training programs, ministerial dialogues, and research on renewable energy, marine biotechnology, and coastal tourism to strengthen sustainable blue economy development.

C. Bilateral and Innovation Partnerships

1) DMCR–The Ocean Cleanup B.V. Collaboration

DMCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (2022) with The Ocean Cleanup B.V. (Netherlands) to enhance marine debris management and plastic pollution reduction in Thailand’s rivers and coastal zones. The Interceptor Project, deployed in the Chao Phraya River, captures floating waste before it reaches the sea. This public–private partnership supports Thailand’s National Marine Debris Management Plan and advances SDG 14 (Life Below Water) through innovation and technology-based solutions.

Annex 9: International Conventions and Global Policy Framework

Biodiversity-related Instruments

a) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD promotes the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It provides a global framework for ecosystem and species protection. Thailand, as a Party to the CBD, integrates its principles into national biodiversity strategies, action plans, and coastal ecosystem management frameworks.

b) The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Adopted in 2022 under the CBD, the GBF sets global biodiversity targets to 2030, aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. It introduces key goals such as protecting at least 30% of land and sea areas (“30x30 target”), restoring degraded ecosystems, and reducing harmful subsidies. Thailand aligns its biodiversity strategies and marine conservation plans with the GBF to strengthen marine protection and sustainable resource management.

c) The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention provides an international framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Eleven coastal and marine wetlands in Thailand have been designated as **Wetlands of International Importance**, highlighting the country’s commitment to wetland and coastal ecosystem protection (Appendix xx)

d) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES regulates international trade in wild animals and plants to prevent threats to species survival. Thailand implements its provisions through national legislation and enforcement to combat illegal wildlife trafficking and protect endangered marine species such as corals, seahorses, and marine turtles.

e) The World Heritage Convention (1972)

Administered by UNESCO in 1972, the Convention seeks to identify and preserve cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding universal value. Thailand collaborates with UNESCO to protect and manage marine and coastal sites that represent biodiversity and cultural significance, such as mangrove and coral reef ecosystems.

f) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, 1979)

The CMS, or Bonn Convention, promotes international cooperation for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. Thailand, as a Party to CMS, contributes to protecting dugongs, marine turtles, dolphins, and seabirds, and participates in regional initiatives under the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and Dugong MOU.

Pollution-related Instruments

a) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982)

UNCLOS establishes the comprehensive legal framework governing all ocean activities. It defines maritime zones (such as territorial sea, EEZ, and continental shelf), regulates navigation and resource use, and promotes marine environmental protection. Thailand implements its provisions through national legislation on fisheries, marine resource management, and maritime jurisdiction.

b) Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention, 1972)

This Convention aims to prevent marine pollution caused by waste dumping and establishes a global regulatory framework for controlling harmful discharges. Thailand enforces its principles through national laws governing waste management and pollution prevention.

c) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

MARPOL serves as the main international treaty addressing ship-based pollution, including oil, chemicals, sewage, garbage, and air emissions. Thailand enforces MARPOL's six technical annexes to ensure safe shipping, protect coastal and marine environments, and support sustainable maritime transport.

d) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)

The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes to prevent illegal dumping and ensure environmentally sound management. Thailand implements strict controls on hazardous waste import, export, and disposal in line with sustainable development objectives.

e) Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC, 1990)

The OPRC establishes a global framework for preparedness and response to oil spills. Thailand maintains national and regional oil spill contingency plans, trained response units, and cooperative mechanisms to address pollution incidents.

f) Rotterdam Convention (1998)

This Convention promotes shared responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Thailand implements the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure to ensure transparency and safe management of chemical substances.

g) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)

The Stockholm Convention aims to eliminate or restrict persistent organic pollutants (POPs— toxic chemicals that remain in the environment, accumulate in living organisms, and pose serious risks to humans and wildlife), harmful to human health and ecosystems. Thailand enforces regulations to phase out POPs (DDT, PCBs, and dioxins), manage contaminated sites, and promote safe waste disposal.

Climate Change-related Instruments

a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992)

The UNFCCC establishes a global framework for addressing climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance. Thailand integrates its commitments into national policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and protect vulnerable coastal ecosystems from climate-related impacts.

b) Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)

The Kyoto Protocol strengthens the UNFCCC by setting emission reduction targets for developed countries and introducing mechanisms such as the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**. Thailand participates in CDM projects supporting renewable energy and low-carbon development.

c) Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C and requires Parties to submit **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. Thailand has pledged to reduce emissions, build climate resilience, and promote sustainable, low-carbon coastal development.

d) Montreal Protocol (1987)

Adopted under the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol seeks to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Thailand implements ODS elimination measures and promotes alternatives that support both ozone and climate protection.

e) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1994)

The UNCCD focuses on combating land degradation and promoting sustainable land and water management. Thailand's national action plans address soil erosion, land rehabilitation, and drought mitigation, supporting broader climate resilience and sustainable development goals.

Annex 10: Regional Legal and Policy Frameworks and Forums

a) Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a regional partnership that promotes sustainable development and management of coastal and marine areas through the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). It serves as a platform for governments and stakeholders to enhance marine governance, pollution control, and climate resilience. Thailand, as a participating country, collaborates with PEMSEA in advancing ICM initiatives, supporting marine spatial planning (MSP), and strengthening capacity building and policy harmonization in line with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

b) Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI–CFF)

The CTI–CFF is a multilateral partnership among six countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste—aimed at conserving the world’s most biodiverse marine region, the Coral Triangle. Although Thailand is not a member country, it cooperates regionally through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and marine biodiversity research with CTI–CFF partners. These engagements strengthen Thailand’s contribution to ecosystem-based management, coral reef conservation, and sustainable fisheries in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

c) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), established under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), manages and conserves tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Its objectives are to ensure the sustainable use of tuna resources, facilitate scientific data sharing, and coordinate fisheries management measures among member countries. Thailand, as a member of the IOTC, plays an influential role as one of the world’s leading tuna processing and exporting nations. The government actively participates in scientific research, data reporting, and policy development to promote sustainable tuna harvesting, combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and strengthen regional food security.

d) ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1985)

The ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1985) is a pioneering regional legal instrument that promotes cooperation among ASEAN member states for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It encompasses ecosystem and species protection, sustainable land and water management, and environmental pollution control. Although not all ASEAN member states have ratified the Agreement, Thailand upholds its principles through national policies on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and transboundary environmental cooperation, supporting ASEAN’s broader framework for environmental governance and sustainability.

e) Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices, including Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA–IUU)

The RPOA–IUU is a voluntary regional initiative established in 2007 by 11 countries in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region to promote responsible fishing practices and strengthen the fight against IUU fishing. Participating countries include Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, among others.

The plan's objectives are to:

- Enhance monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of fishing activities;
- Improve information exchange and coordination among countries;
- Develop national and regional action plans to eliminate IUU fishing; and
- Promote sustainable fisheries management aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Thailand actively implements RPOA–IUU measures through improved vessel registration and tracking, legal reforms, and enhanced fisheries enforcement, contributing to the long-term sustainability of marine living resources.

Annex 11: Existing legal instruments and relevance to marine and coastal resources management

Legal Documents	Relevance to Marine Conservation
Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act B.E. 2558 (2015)	Empowers the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) to enforce the sustainable management of marine resources, coastal erosion prevention, and public participation. Establishes committees for policy coordination and the demarcation of marine protected areas, essential for the integrated and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources, thereby supporting marine and coastal resources conservation.
National Maritime Interests Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019)	Defines Thailand's maritime interests and zones, empowering the Prime Minister to execute laws. Establishes the National Maritime Interests Protection Policy Committee (MIP) and Thai-MECC to coordinate maritime security and protect national maritime interests. Supports the alignment of biodiversity and ecosystem services with national maritime strategies and security.
Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015), amended 2560 (2017)	Provides amendments for modernized fisheries management, aligning with sustainable development principles to promote long-term sustainability and support marine conservation
Navigation in Thai Waters Act B.E. 2456 (1913)	Governs navigation in Thai waters, ensuring coordination of maritime transport and space use in ways that support marine conservation.
Thai Vessels Act B.E. 2481 (1938), amended B.E. 2561 (2018)	Regulates vessel registration and operations, ensuring the management of vessel activities within designated marine zones to support marine conservation.
Petroleum Act B.E. 2514 (1971)	Regulates petroleum exploration and extraction, ensuring a balance between economic use and environmental sustainability to protect biodiversity in marine areas.
Minerals Act B.E. 2560 (2017)	Governs mineral resource extraction, ensuring zoning and environmental protection measures that support marine conservation.
National Security Council Act B.E. 2559 (2016)	Provides a framework for addressing national security threats, including maritime security, while ensuring the integration of marine conservation with security measures.
Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act B.E. 2535 (1992), amended 2561 (2018)	Prescribes measures for environmental conservation and pollution control, supporting biodiversity by promoting the sustainable use of marine and coastal environments.
National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019)	Governs protected areas and biodiversity conservation, facilitating the integration of marine protected areas into

Legal Documents	Relevance to Marine Conservation
	broader conservation efforts and ecosystem sustainability, thereby supporting marine conservation.
Local Government Organization Act B.E. 2542 (1999)	Defines the roles of local governments in resource management, ensuring participatory and decentralized implementation that supports marine conservation.
National Tourism Policy Act B.E. 2546 (2003)	Regulates tourism development, ensuring a balance between tourism growth and marine conservation through environmental and spatial considerations.
National Economic and Social Development Board Act B.E. 2521 (1978)	Establishes strategic development frameworks that include both economic and environmental goals, supporting the integration of marine biodiversity into national development strategies
Regulation of the Prime Minister's Office on Conservation and Utilization of Biodiversity (2020)	Establishes the National Biodiversity Conservation Committee (NBC) to oversee national biodiversity policy, including approving management plans, regulatory measures, and frameworks on access to biological resources, benefit-sharing, biosafety, and technology transfer. Four subcommittees support its work: biodiversity law, integrated biodiversity management, academic and technical affairs, and international cooperation. These governance structures provide a critical foundation for advancing marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.
Draft National Biodiversity Act	Establishes the National Biodiversity Conservation Committee (NBCC) and defines biodiversity management across Thailand's territory, EEZ, high seas, and continental shelf in line with international law. It introduces a national biodiversity plan and allows for biodiversity protection zones, providing a strong legal framework to support marine and coastal conservation.
Draft Climate Change Act	Establishes the National Climate Change Policy Committee (NCCP) to lead climate policy and strategy. It mandates a National Climate Change Master Plan, updated every five years, along with action plans for greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation. These frameworks are essential for addressing climate risks to marine and coastal biodiversity, ensuring resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation
Protection and Promotion of Ethnic Groups' Way of Life Act B.E. 2568 (2025)	Supports the designation of areas to preserve ethnic cultures, promote sustainable natural resource use, and strengthen communities through traditional knowledge and customs. This approach is highly relevant to marine conservation, especially in coastal areas where ethnic communities rely on and steward marine ecosystems through customary practices.

Annex 12: Policy and plan relevant to marine and coastal resources in Thailand.

a) Thailand's 2030 Agenda and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)

Thailand's 2030 Agenda and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) are foundational to the country's sustainable development efforts. Every government agency is required to integrate SEP into its missions, plans, and policies, thereby promoting a sustainable development approach. The Agenda includes 5 goals and 18 targets directly related to biodiversity management, ranking them among the top 30 national priorities.

b) The 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036)

The 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036) is Thailand's first long-term national strategy, aimed at securing the country's sustainability, prosperity, and security in line with SEP. Strategy 5: Eco-Friendly Development and Growth focuses on the conservation and preservation of natural resources and the environment, while promoting balanced utilization and sustainable economic growth.

c) The 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP: 2023-2027)

Aligned with the 20-Year National Strategy, the NESDP (2023-2027) is a medium-term development framework for Thailand. It incorporates the SDGs, resilience, and SEP, focusing on structural reforms, policy adjustments, and mechanisms to create a society that nurtures human potential while keeping pace with global dynamics. The NESDP comprises thirteen benchmarks, categorized into four areas:

1. Production and service sectors.
2. Economic and social opportunity and equality.
3. Environmental sustainability and natural resource management.
4. National transformation, supported by capable human resources and effective governance.

Milestones related to biodiversity and sustainability include:

1. Establishing Thailand as a sustainable tourism destination.
2. Transitioning to a low-carbon society with a circular economy.
3. Reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

d) The National Environmental Quality Management Plan (2023-2027)

Similar to the NESDP, Thailand's Environmental Quality Management Plan (2023-2027) aims to establish an environmentally friendly society by conserving, restoring, and utilizing natural resources equitably. The Royal Gazette (2021) published this five-year plan, which outlines twelve guiding principles for environmental and resource regulation, including:

1. Sustainable development.
2. Ecosystem approach.
3. Precautionary principle.

4. Extended producer responsibility.
5. Polluters pay principle.
6. Beneficiaries pay principle.
7. Public-private partnerships.
8. Resource efficiency.
9. Good governance.
10. Human rights.
11. Integration.
12. Environmental justice.

The plan also promotes five strategic goals to optimize sustainable marine resource use, including:

1. Managing biodiversity and terrestrial resources to maintain balance.
2. Restoring and conserving marine ecosystems.
3. Establishing a climate-friendly society.
4. Controlling urban pollution.
5. Modernizing natural resource management practices.

e) The Climate Change Master Plan (2015-2050)

The Climate Change Master Plan (2015-2050) addresses critical climate change issues, focusing on adaptation, reducing emissions, and promoting low-emission growth. It includes three main areas of action:

1. Adapting to the impacts of climate change.
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting low-carbon growth.
3. Building institutional capacity.

The plan proposes measures to mitigate coastal erosion, including changes to coastal land use patterns and expanding biodiversity conservation areas as part of short- and medium-term goals.

f) Thailand's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Thailand's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides a framework for climate change adaptation, aiming to build resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and increase adaptive capacity. The NAP aligns with Thailand's broader national frameworks, including the National Strategy (2018-2037), the Master Plan under the National Strategy, the National Economic and Social Development Plans, and the Climate Change Master Plan (2015-2050). It addresses six key sectors: 1) Water resource management; 2) Agriculture and food security; 3) Tourism; 4) Public health; 5) Natural resource management; and 6) Human settlements and security.

The NAP employs strategies to enhance resilience across these sectors, ensuring alignment with sustainable development principles.

Thailand's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) presents several different areas of focus that interact with coastal communities and sustain the health of these communities in the face of climate change (Department of Climate Change and Environment, 2023). Thailand states that it seeks to achieve the following goals, through the NAP, by 2037

- 2023-2027: Build a basis and instruments for policymaking and mainstreaming.
- 2028-2032: Strengthen policy instruments and mainstreaming across the priority sectors
- 2033-2037: Ensure climate resilience in the country's development actions

Table 1 presents the strategic directions, priority actions, and anticipated outcomes related to the management of marine and coastal ecosystems as outlined in Thailand's **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023**. The focus is on building ecosystem resilience, reducing vulnerability to climate change, and integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into national development.

Table 1 Strategic Guidelines and Expected Outcomes for Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Management under Thailand's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), 2023

Guideline/ Measures	Output
1) Conserve and protect marine and coastal resources, including increasing and rehabilitating mangrove areas for an ecological balance through a participatory approach.	Specific measures for the conservation and rehabilitation of marine and coastal resources in each marine and coastal community are developed with public participation, and integrated into the strategic plan of the area with effective implementation.
2) Support the conservation of endemic and endangered species in marine and coastal ecosystems affected by climate change, as well as prevent invasive alien species, which could become widespread due to the changing climatic conditions.	Research on breeding rare or endangered species are available, and regulations and measures for conserving and protecting biodiversity resources in marine and coastal ecosystems, especially threatened species, are in place.
(3) Expedite the designation of the EPAs in marine and coastal areas with fragile ecosystems and threats to biodiversity resources, which are outside the PAs.	Marine and coastal areas with fragile ecosystems and threats to biodiversity resources are designated as EPAs.
4) Assessment of Thailand's Ocean Health Index and development of surveillance and monitoring systems for changes to seawater as a result of climate change factors.	Surveillance and monitoring systems for changes to seawater as a result of climate change factors are developed.

Guideline/ Measures	Output
(5) Prepare an integrated plan for coastal zone management across the country to reduce the impact of coastal erosion through a participatory approach.	Integrated plans for coastal zone management are developed comprising protection, restoration, or rehabilitation measures of coastal areas across the country, and mainstreamed into the area-based strategic plan in each locality with effective implementation.
(6) Strengthen the capacity of coastal areas to respond to and prevent the impact of storm surges.	Plans to mitigate the impact, establish evacuation routes in the event of storm surges in coastal areas are developed, and response manuals and drills are produced and conducted.
(7) Enable networks of people organizations, community-based organizations, and LAOs along the coastal zones to conserve and rehabilitate marine and coastal resources.	Networks of people organizations, community-based organizations, and LAOs collaborate to develop measures on nature-based coastal restoration and participate in regulating the utilization of mangrove areas.

EPAs: Environmental Protected Areas; LAO: Local Administrative Organizations; PA: Protected Areas

To achieve the goals outlined in Thailand’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the implementation of both sector-specific and cross-cutting measures is essential to ensure a synergistic and integrated approach to climate adaptation. These cross-cutting measures include the development of comprehensive databases, research, and technological innovations related to climate change adaptation. Additionally, the establishment of enabling mechanisms—such as regulatory frameworks, financial instruments, capacity-building programs, and incentives—is crucial. Strengthening the capacity, knowledge, and awareness of government officials and relevant stakeholders, including youth and the business sector, is also vital to foster a deeper understanding of climate risks and to empower all sectors to take effective adaptation actions.

g) The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Building on previous biodiversity plans (ONEP 2015: ONEP 2017) such as the Master Plan for Integrated Biodiversity Management (2015-2021) and the Biodiversity Management Action Plan (2017-2021), Thailand is currently finalizing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for 2023-2027, alongside a Long-term Biodiversity Strategy (2024-2050). The NBSAP framework follows three primary principles: the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, urgency and challenge, and transformational change. It introduces new approaches and modifications to earlier plans, offering eight key guidelines:

1. A collaborative approach across all sectors of society.
2. Guidelines for achieving national biodiversity goals suited to the local context.
3. Balancing conservation with sustainable use.

4. Integrated ecosystem management and spatial planning.
5. Protecting the rights of stakeholders, with a focus on gender, youth, and vulnerable groups.
6. Cooperation in implementing relevant international conventions.
7. Raising awareness and promoting education on biodiversity.
8. Establishing financial mechanisms and securing additional funding sources.

The NBSAPs focus on three core strategies, each with specific goals, detailed in Table 2.

Moreover, ONEP (2024a) emphasizes that the success of the NBSAPs (2023-2027) relies on a robust implementation framework that integrates national biodiversity targets across all sectors. The four key mechanisms for success include:

1. Integrating sectoral plans.
2. Increasing stakeholder participation and awareness.
3. Leveraging financial and capital mechanisms to support implementation.
4. Monitoring and assessing plan execution.

Table 2: Three strategies and its targets under the NBSAPs

Strategy	Targets
<p>Strategy 1: Strengthen conservation efforts by increasing the protection of important habitats and species through improving management practices, expanding protected areas and developing measures to protect threatened species. The strategy aims to increase protected areas by at least 30 percent of the country's total area by 2030 and to enhance conservation of important habitats and species at risk of extinction.</p>	<p>Four targets under strategy 1 include the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Goal 1</u>: To reduce the loss of important biodiversity areas through effective spatial planning; 2) <u>Goal 2</u>: To increase the protection of important biodiversity areas and restore degraded ecosystems to ensure that natural areas remain healthy and can support species conservation, by increasing the area of conservation for biodiversity outside protected areas (OECMs) and establishing appropriate rehabilitation and management measures; 3) <u>Goal 3</u>: To enhance the conservation status of threatened species, by establishing appropriate protection and management measures; and 4) <u>Goal 4</u>: To enhance the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and pollution, by developing appropriate adaptation and management measures

Strategy	Targets
<p>Strategy 2: Promote sustainable use of biodiversity resources in a way that is fair and beneficial to local communities, including the sustainable management of agricultural, forestry, tourism, and fisheries areas to ensure balanced and non-destructive use. The strategy aims to increase the value and income of local communities from goods and services from biological resources, enforce regulations on access and benefit-sharing, and promote sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management so that natural resources are used in a balanced and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>Three targets under strategy 2 include the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Goal 5</u>: To increase the value and income of local communities from the bioresource base, by promoting a bio-economy; 2) <u>Goal 6</u>: To improve the sustainable management of production and service sectors, including tourism, by establishing appropriate management measures, promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry, resource management, fisheries and tourism; and 3) <u>Goal 7</u>: To establish mechanisms for access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources, by promoting the implementation of mechanisms and regulations for access and benefit-sharing.
<p>Strategy 3: Integrate the importance of biodiversity into national and sectoral policies, planning processes, and development projects, by incorporating biodiversity into policies and plans in all development. Strategy 3 aims to focus on integrating biodiversity into policies and plans of all sectors by promoting the establishment of at least five local biodiversity management plans and the disclosure of information on biodiversity of not less than 20 percent, which will enable national development and planning to coordinate and promote biodiversity conservation effectively.</p>	<p>Four targets under strategy 3 include the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Goal 8</u>: To integrate biodiversity into the operations of all sectors, by developing guidelines for integrating biodiversity management into the operations of various sectors and developing local biodiversity management plans; 2) <u>Goal 9</u>: To mobilize financial resources for biodiversity conservation, by mobilizing financial resources from domestic and international sources; 3) <u>Goal 10</u>: Develop information and knowledge systems on biodiversity, including promoting awareness by developing information systems to support decision-making and raising awareness in various sectors; 4) <u>Goal 11</u>: Develop capacity and cooperation in technology transfer, including research, by exchanging knowledge and creating academic

Strategy	Targets
	cooperation both domestically and internationally; and 5) <u>Goal 12</u> : Strengthen policy and legal frameworks for biodiversity by developing appropriate policy and legal frameworks.

h) The National Marine and Coastal Resources Management Policy (NMCRC) and Plan B.E. 2566-2570 (2023–2027)

The National Marine and Coastal Resources Management Policy and Plan B.E. 2566-2570 (2023–2027) emphasizes the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable utilization of marine and coastal resources (DMCR 2024a). It aligns with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Thailand’s 20-Year National Strategy, ensuring that resource use is both efficient and equitable.

The plan's vision is:

"Marine and coastal resources are abundant, creating a balance between conservation and sustainable, fair utilization."

The plan sets out four main objectives:

1. To maintain the abundance of marine and coastal resources and achieve a balance between conservation and sustainable use.
2. To promote the sustainable and appropriate utilization of marine and coastal resources through inclusive participation from all sectors.
3. To enhance the efficiency of management mechanisms and tools at national, regional, and international levels.
4. To sustainably and systematically prevent and address coastal erosion problems.

The plan identifies four key goals:

- Coastal and marine areas are effectively and systematically managed to conserve biodiversity.
- Mangrove forest areas are increasing.
- Damage, risk, and impacts from natural disasters and climate change are reduced.
- The quality of Thailand’s marine environment improves sustainably.

To achieve these goals, the plan outlines five sub-plans and guidelines, as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Sub-plans and guidelines pertaining to the National Marine and Coastal Resources Management Policy and Plan (2023-2027)

Sub-plan	Guidelines
Sub-plan one: Conserve, protect, restore, and prevent marine and coastal resources with 5 guidelines	<p>Guideline 1.1 Conserve and maintain marine and coastal resources as a basis for balanced and sustainable national development;</p> <p>Guideline 1.2 Restore and rebuild marine and coastal resource bases to reduce negative impacts from the country's social and economic development;</p> <p>Guideline 1.3 Drive action to achieve the goal of protecting and conserving biodiversity by 30% by 2030 ¹</p> <p>Guideline 1.4 Restoration of aquatic animal resources and maintenance of their abundance at a level that provides maximum sustainable productivity; and</p> <p>Guideline 1.5 Promote and support the intelligent and sustainable management of marine mineral and energy resources.</p>
Sub-plan two: Promote and support the development of the blue economy based on the balanced and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources with 5 guidelines	<p>Guideline 2.1: Increase efficiency in marine litter management and proactive control of marine and coastal pollution;</p> <p>Guideline 2.2 Support the development of marine and coastal industries to be environmentally friendly and sustainable;</p> <p>Guideline 2.3 Support and promote spatial management of marine and coastal resources ²;</p>

¹ DMCR has suggested significant projects to support this guideline include: 1) Project to drive the increase in protected areas and the use of other effective area-based conservation measures (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures or OECM); 2) Project to develop certification of protected areas of type LMMA (Locally Managed Marine Areas); 3) Monitoring and evaluation project for existing designated marine and coastal protected areas under the 2015 Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act.

² DMCR have focused on supporting and promoting the spatial management of marine and coastal resources as a guideline for driving forward from the national reform plan on natural resources and the environment to manage marine environmental resources, conserve, protect, and restore in a balanced and sustainable manner to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems with all sectors' participation. This plan

Sub-plan	Guidelines
	<p>Guideline 2.4 Effectively control fishing operations and promote sustainable fisheries development; and Guideline 2.5 Promote sustainable marine and coastal tourism development and control tourism that creates negative impacts.</p>
<p>Sub-plan three: Strengthen the efficiency of tools and mechanisms to support integrated marine and coastal resource management with 7 guidelines</p>	<p>Guideline 3.1 Strengthen the role and capacity of the Provincial Marine and Coastal Resources Committee; Guideline 3.2 Integrate modern marine and coastal resources information management systems that cover all dimensions and serve as standards for use in management of all sectors; Guideline 3.3: Create economic tools and promote the integration of cooperation from various sectors in the management of marine and coastal resources; Guideline 3.4 Promote participation and support for coastal communities and local administrative organizations in terms of organization, networks, knowledge, roles, tools, and budget for management; Guideline 3.5: Continuously strengthen human resource potential, academic knowledge in research, and management of marine and coastal resources; Guideline 3.6 Develop and promote knowledge and understanding of sustainable use of marine and coastal resources to all sectors; and Guideline 3.7 Research and develop innovations in marine and coastal resources for sustainable resource management</p>
<p>Sub-plan four: Develop effective coastal erosion prevention management and</p>	<p>Guideline 4.1 Promote and support integration between agencies and develop innovations to prevent and</p>

focuses on a project to drive the determination of marine and coastal resources areas in 23 coastal provinces to support and promote the spatial management of marine and coastal resources.

Sub-plan	Guidelines
<p>reduce the impacts of climate change with 4 guidelines</p>	<p>reduce coastal erosion in critical areas and important tourism areas of the country; Guideline 4.2 Develop legal tools and mechanisms for coastal erosion prevention and resolution that are comprehensive and complete in all dimensions.; Guideline 4.3 Conserve and restore marine and coastal resources to become effective carbon sinks; and Guideline 4.4 Prepare a risk management plan for marine and coastal resources from various threats.</p>
<p>Sub-plan five: Strengthen international cooperation in the sustainable use of the oceans and marine and coastal resources with 3 guidelines</p>	<p>Guideline 5.1 Strengthen and support international cooperation in exploration, study, research, technology development and innovation related to sustainable management of the oceans and marine and coastal resources.; Guideline 5.2 Support international and regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing; and Guideline 5.3: Continuously strengthen the capacity of personnel and agencies responsible for international cooperation on oceans and marine and coastal resources</p>

Annex 13: Key Sectoral Policies and Plans

• Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework (2023)

Developed under the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) in coordination with the Maritime Interests Protection Policy Committee (MIP), this framework provides a strategic basis for spatially managing marine and coastal zones. It promotes cross-sectoral coordination among agencies responsible for fisheries, energy, tourism, and transport, supporting the principles of ecosystem-based management and blue economy development. The MSP Framework serves as a foundation for forthcoming legislation and pilot MSP initiatives across the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

• National Master Plan on Waste Management (2016–2021) and Marine Debris Management Plan (2017–2021; updated 2023)

Led by the Pollution Control Department (PCD) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), in close cooperation with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), these plans address marine pollution originating from both land- and sea-based sources. They promote integrated waste management, circular economy approaches, and the reduction of single-use plastics, in alignment with the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI). The updated 2023 plan introduces national monitoring indicators and strengthens multi-stakeholder collaboration among government agencies, local communities, and the private sector to achieve measurable reductions in marine debris.

• Thailand’s Biodiversity Master Plan (2023–2027)

Implemented by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) under MONRE, this plan aligns with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and builds upon the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). It focuses on restoring degraded habitats, expanding marine protected areas (MPAs), enhancing ecological connectivity, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into national and local planning. The plan also supports education, research, and awareness-raising to strengthen biodiversity knowledge and stakeholder engagement.

• Coastal Erosion Prevention and Management Master Plan (2023–2037)

Coordinated by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) under MONRE and the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning (DPT) under the Ministry of Interior (MOI), this long-term plan provides a comprehensive approach to managing coastal erosion. It emphasizes integrated engineering solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, including mangrove restoration, shoreline stabilization, and community participation in coastal adaptation. The plan integrates scientific data, climate modeling, and local knowledge to inform decision-making and strengthen coastal resilience.