



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

First Meeting of the SCS SAP Project Steering Committee

Teleconference, 29-30 June 2021, 09.00 – 13.00 Indochina time (ICT)

PHILIPPINES





National Coordination and Oversight

Responsible Agencies, Chairs, Co-Chairs have been identified and members have been provisionally agreed

❖ **Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC)**

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

❖ **National Technical Working Group (NTWG)**

- Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR

❖ **Specialized Executing Agencies (SEA)**

- Mangroves: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Coral Reefs: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Seagrass: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Wetlands: Biodiversity Management Bureau-DENR
- Land Based Pollution: EMB-DENR
- Economic Valuation: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Mangroves : National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippine Targets (has)
Busuanga Coron San Vicente Ulugan San Jose Subic Quezon	Ulugan Bay, Palawan	700
	San Vicente, Palawan	547
	Quezon, Palawan	160
	Dumaran, Palawan	100
	Coron, Palawan	200
	Busuanga, Palawan	200
	Araceli, Palawan	100
	Subic, Zambales	100
	Masinloc-Oyon Bay, Zambales	10
	Province of Palawan	3654
Total Target		5,631

see regional implementation report, table 4

Coral Reefs : National Outputs, Targets and Sites



Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Target (Ha)
Batanes	Masinloc, Zambales	747.68
Masinloc, Zambales	El Nido, Palawan	1920.28
El Nido, Palawan	Balabac	11,856.66
Port Barton	Calamianes Group of Islands	2,441
Balabac	Bolinao / Lingayen Gulf	1,384
Calamianes Group of Islands	Batangas Bay, Maricaban Strait	354.27
Puerto Galera, Mindoro		
Bolinao / Lingayen Gulf	Total Hectares: 18, 669.8	Total Hectares:18, 669.8
Batangas Bay, Maricaban Strait		
Total Hectares: 12,500		

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 6

Seagrass: National Outputs, Targets and Sites

Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Target (Ha)
Cape Bolinao	Cape Bolinao	1,290
Puerto Galera	Honda Bay	2,400
Honda Bay	Ulugan	541
	Looc-Lubang	1494
	Masinloc	162.11
	El Nido	412.85
Original Total Ha: 6,920 ha	Proposed Total Ha: 6,299.96 ha	Proposed Total Ha: 6,299.96 ha

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8

Wetlands: National Outputs, Targets and Sites



Original Sites	Proposed Sites	Philippines Targets (ha)
Pansipit Estuary Malampaya Sound Manila Bay Tidal Flats	Maragondon Estuary Malampaya Sound Estuary Manila Bay Tidal Flats (Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga)	Estuaries 24,515 ha Tidal Flats 30,000 ha
		54,515 ha



Pollution Management (Priority activities for the SCS SAP)

1. Preparation of National Action Plan on Land-Based Pollution with Assessment of Philippine capability to meet the Project requirements;
2. Update of the Philippine Water Quality Guidelines (DENR Administrative Order 2016-08) and Strengthening the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Capability of DENR-EMB, including improvement of water quality data management and reporting system;
3. Formulation of Framework for the Development of Philippine Sediment Quality Guidelines and Recommendation of Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines for Metals in freshwater sediment, with Beta-testing of Sediment Collection Manual;
4. Development of National Research Framework and Program for the Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Litter;
5. Inventory and monitoring of water bodies draining into Batangas Bay and Lingayen Gulf Regions (hotspots)



Overall Status and Challenges

- SPA signed by Pres. R. Duterte
- ProDoc signed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu
- SO for memberships of the various working groups and committees for signature by DENR Secretary
- SEAs reviewed status of originally proposed sites. Most sites were retained, some were dropped, and several new sites were proposed
- SEAs are completing the identification of activities and budgets for the final list of sites
- 3 proposed sites (i.e., Bolinao, Masinloc, and Coron) have interconnected habitats (coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves) and are also demonstration sites of the Fish Refugia Project. The project will identify potential synergies and complementation of planned interventions on these sites
- Land Based Pollution component of the NIR has been completed and awaiting final approval by EMB Director

Overall Status and Challenges

- **Major challenges and needs to address habitats management including execution of project and activities**
 - Funding limitations may necessitate scaling down of planned activities and possible reduction in the number of sites
 - The increasing number of projects and commitments of BMB may necessitate the creation and operationalization of a PMO which will be tasked to oversee day to day implementation of project activities including coordination with project partners
 - The pandemic will continue to pose implementation challenges with continuing restrictions on movements and travel of personnel and staff and expected to cause delays in the delivery of targets and outputs





Conclusion

The SCS SAP Project is well aligned with the DENR-BMB's Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) which aims to achieve the effective management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems to increase their ability to provide ecological goods and services for human wellbeing. The project and CMEMP contributes to the achievement of the PDP and PBSAP targets including international commitments such as the Aichi Targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 14 – Life below Water).



THANK YOU