



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)

VIETNAM

Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands





National Coordination and Oversight

- Inter Ministry Committee (IMC):
 - Chaired by a Vice Minister of MONRE; Focal point is an official of VASI, Members are representatives of relevant ministries and research institutions;
 - Review and approve reports from the National Technical Working Group and the Specialized Executing Agencies for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, land-based pollution, and economic valuation regarding the outputs and outcomes of efforts to achieve SAP targets;
 - **IMC being consolidated when updating NIR.**
- National Technical Working Group (NTWG):
 - Chaired by a Director of DSTIC of VASI; Members are representatives of relevant agencies and research institutions;
 - Overall national-level coordination and oversight of scientific and technical matters in relation to SAP implementation, as well as supporting regional scientific and technical bodies;
 - **NTWG being consolidated when updating NIR.**
- Specialized Executing Agency (SEA) **being consolidated when updating NIR:**

Mangroves	Mangrove Ecosystem Research Centre (MERC)
Coral Reefs	Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang
Seagrass	Institute of Marine Environment and Resources (IMER), Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, Haiphong
Wetlands	Viet Nam Institute of Seas and Islands
Land-Based Pollution	Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Northern Area, VASI / Center for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management for Southern Area, VASI
Economic Valuation	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment

Mangroves targets and sites

	Vietnam
Output 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	30,000
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	N/A
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	50,000
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	8,000
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	2,000
1.1.6 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 26 sites [based on SAP results framework]	N/A

- Tien Yen, Xuan Thuy, Can Gio, Ca Mau;
- Have high biodiversity value as well as ecosystem services; high local dependence for livelihood; under pressure at different levels; various conservation initiatives implemented;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 4





Coral Reef targets and sites

Outputs	Vietnam
1.2.1 Management capacity built for 82 coral reef sites	Cu Lao Cham Nha Trang bay Con Dao Phu Quoc Ninh Hai Ca Na bay Ha Long - Cat Ba Hai Van - Son Tra Bach Long Vi
1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 82 coral reef sites	
1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites	
1.2.4 Established mechanism for the monitoring of management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 82 sites	
Total coral reef area in the South China Sea (ha)	
Total coral reef area of the 82 target sites	
Coral reef area to be supported in SCS SAP project	

- Major distribution areas of coral reef in Vietnam; coral coverage has been declining; general trend is towards wide scale coral reef degradation;
- Various conservation initiative implemented including establishment of protected area;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 6

Seagrass targets and sites



Outputs	Vietnam
1.3.1 Twenty-one seagrass areas totalling 15,848 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	Phu Quoc archipelago Con Dao Islands Thuy Trieu Tam Giang
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal & institutional reforms	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas	
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring management, ecological and socio-economic indicators at 21 sites	
Total seagrass area in the 20 target sites (ha)	
Target for management through the SCS SAP project	

- Providing use and non-use values to local dependents; under pressure and degradation;
- Under conservation status as protected area at different protection levels;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 8

Wetlands targets and sites



Outputs	Vietnam
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 3 lagoons (26,818 ha), 9 estuaries (614,680 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	Tamgiang-Cauhai Lagoon Thi Nai Lagoon Balat Estuary
1.4.2 Declaration of at least 7 wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites).	Tien River Estuary Dong Nai River Estuary Ca Mau Southwest Tidal Flat
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme and its national implementation	
Total wetland target (ha)	0

- Very important wetlands for biodiversity as well as local livelihoods;
- Biodiversity and resources under high pressure for degradation and pollution;
- Under conservation status at different levels of protection;
- **Activities being consolidated when updating NIR.**

See Regional Implementation Report, Table 10

Pollution Management

- **Challenges and needs:** System of legal documents is still incomplete, inconsistency, lack of details, stability is not high; legal powers of environmental protection organizations, especially the environmental police force, are not strong enough; the legal and sanctioning grounds for the types of acts of causing environmental pollution for crimes are still limited; authorities at all levels are not fully aware and concerned about environmental protection; weak awareness of people.
- **Activities undertaken:** Completing the legal framework and marine management regime; Ecosystem-based management; Building models to forecast and identify the spread of oil pollution on the sea; Controlling marine environmental pollution due to plastic waste; Strengthening propaganda and education to protect the marine environment.
- **Current main initiatives and priorities:** marine plastic action plan; pollution control strategy; etc.
- **Priority activities for the SCS SAP:** Being consolidated when updating NIR.



Overall Status and challenges

- NIR being updated which will consolidate activities as well as implementation organization structure;
- Challenges include legislation limitation and inconsistency; insufficient awareness and capacity at all level; insufficient investment for implementation; weak monitoring; insufficient punishment mechanism;
- Current main initiatives and priorities including MSP, marine resources use strategy; establishment and enhancement of MPA and protected areas; etc;
- Priority activities for the SCS SAP is being consolidated with the NIR



Conclusion

- Vision for the management of the marine and coastal environment guided by the Resolution 36-NQ/TW on marine sustainable development strategy for Vietnam which take into consideration of SDG's and CBD targets; blue and circular economy; and climate change issues;
- Vietnam need trainings and exchange of lessons learnt and experiences from other countries in the region.

