



IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS-SAP) PROJECT

**Second Meeting of the
Project Steering Committee
Bangkok, 30-31 January 2024**



SCS-SAP Project objective

“To assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthening regional co-ordination for South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand SAP implementation”

(www.scssap.org)

Project status to date



SAP Completion: 2008



Project Launch: 2018



Inception Phase: 2020-2021



First PSC Meeting: June 2021



Project status to date



PCA agreement with Cambodia, China and Thailand: 2022



Pending: PCA agreement with Indonesia, Viet Nam and Philippines



SEAFDEC withdrawal process: November 2022 - June 2023



Revision of Project Work Plan: May - December 2023



Second Project Steering Committee on Next Steps: Today

Overview implementation per output

more than 70 %
accomplishment

On track

between
33%-69%
accomplishment

Some concerns

less than 33%
accomplishment

Serious concerns

% Implementation progress per output

Outcome 1.1

Sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove

Outcome 1.2

110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably

Outcome 1.3

Conservation, management and sustainable use of 15,848 ha of known seagrass area

Outcome 1.4

Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites

Outcome 1.5

National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

Outcome 2.1

Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning

Outcome 2.2

Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution

Outcome 2.3

Harmonized national policies and laws, financial mechanism, for the management of habitats

% Implementation progress per output

Outcome 2.4

Updated Economic Values of coastal habitats for planning and decision-making and blue economy

Outcome 2.5

Appropriate tools and to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats

Outcome 2.6

Adopted TDA and SAP, national management actions to address climate change

Outcome 3.1

Regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge with management and policy making

Outcome 3.2

Civil society organization participation in SAP implementation

Outcome 3.3

Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized

Outcome 3.4

Regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and data management

Outcome 3.5

Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment

% Implementation progress per output

Outcome 1.1

54%

Sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove

Outcome 1.2

56%

110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably

Outcome 1.3

70%

Conservation, management and sustainable use of 15,848 ha of known seagrass area

Outcome 1.4

34%

Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites

Outcome 1.5

44%

National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

Outcome 2.1

7%

Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning

Outcome 2.2

10%

Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution

Outcome 2.3

24%

Harmonized national policies and laws, financial mechanism, for the management of habitats

% Implementation progress per output

Outcome 2.4

5%

Updated Economic Values of coastal habitats for planning and decision-making and blue economy

Outcome 2.5

28%

Appropriate tools and to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats

Outcome 2.6

8%

Adopted TDA and SAP, national management actions to address climate change

Outcome 3.1

17%

Regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge with management and policy making

Outcome 3.2

10%

Civil society organization participation in SAP implementation

Outcome 3.3

8%

Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized

Outcome 3.4

16%

Regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and data management

Outcome 3.5

4%

Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment

**Delays offer
Opportunities and
needs for actions**

**Recent global developments
has further strengthened the
objectives of the project**



Global events since PSC1

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- 30% of Coastal and Marine Areas Protected by 2030
- Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)

UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP27 and COP28)

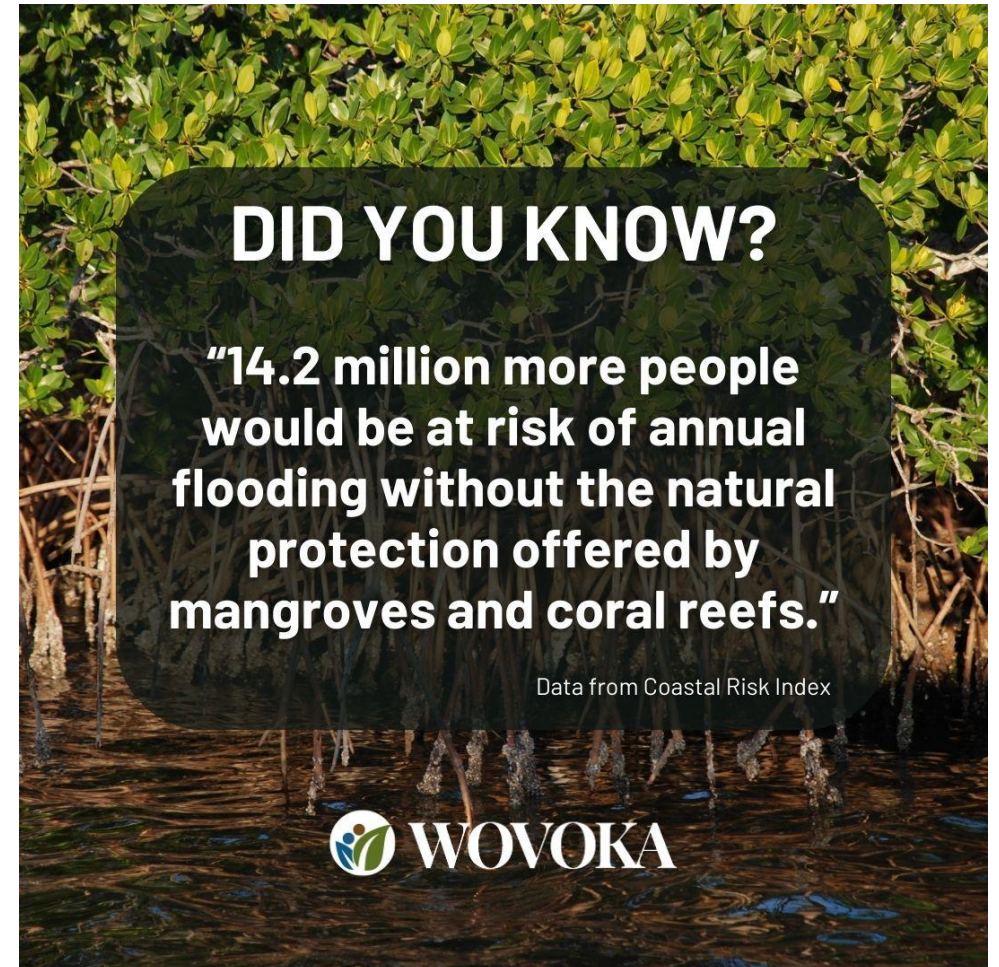
- Launch of Mangrove Breakthrough
- Launch of Coral Reef Breakthrough

Concept of Sustainable Blue Economy, Blue Carbon

Global Fund for Coral Reefs

Urgency to Deliver on SDGs

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)



Overall Sustainability of Project Outcomes: Partnerships with Countries and Regional Organisations

Ecological / Environmental Sustainability:

- Site specific implementation linked to long-term plans

Socio-economic Sustainability:

- Engagement of local governments and Communities
- Small Grants Programme

Financial Sustainability:

- Future funding needs identified and pursued
- Local, national, regional and global funding mechanisms explored

Partnerships

SCS Countries

COBSEA

ASEAN (e.g. ACB, others)

UNESCO IOC/WESTPAC

PEMSEA

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Universities



Consultancies

Consultant 1: **Data Assessment and Knowledge Management**

Consultant 2: **Blue economy, Integrated Coastal Management & Private Sector Engagement**

Consultant 3: **Land-based Pollution**

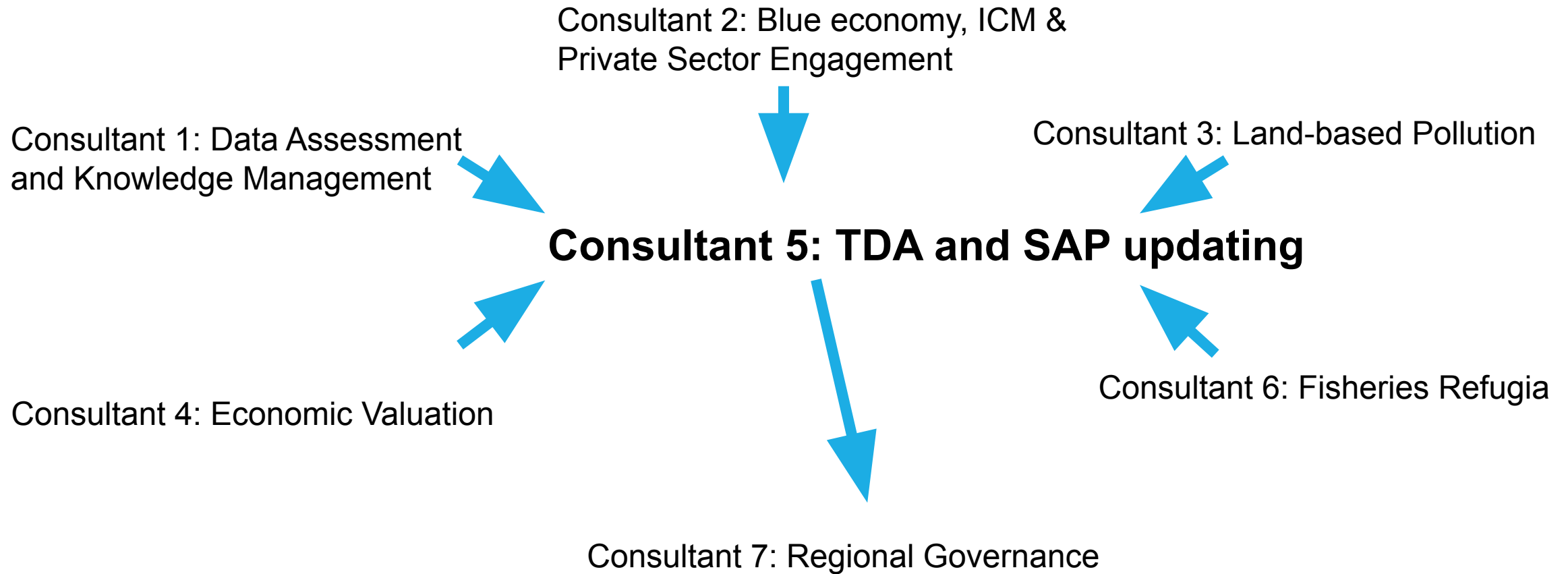
Consultant 4: **Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services**

Consultant 5: **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SAP updating**

Consultant 6: **Fisheries Refugia**

Consultant 7: **Regional Governance**

Consultancies



Component 1 : Reducing habitat degradation and loss via national and local reforms for coastal habitat management

Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove

Outcome 1.2 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably

Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 26,036 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea

Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 813,647 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations

Outcome 1.5 National and regional level cooperation in tracking results of SAP actions for coastal habitat management

Main adjustment:

Outcome 1.5 - Coordinate and integrate RWGs with COBSEA Regional Working Group (RWG) on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Component 2: Strengthening knowledge-based action planning for the management of coastal habitats and land-based pollution to reduce environmental degradation

Outcome 2.1 Enhanced information-base for coastal habitat management, monitoring and action planning

Outcome 2.2 Effective integration of regional science in the management of land-based pollution

Outcome 2.3 Strengthened and harmonized national policies and laws, and supporting financial mechanism, for the management of habitats and land-based sources of pollution

Outcome 2.4 Updated Total Economic Values of coastal habitats for use in development planning and decision-making and blue economy

Outcome 2.5 Regionally appropriate tools and mechanisms to guide the development of sustainable management systems for coastal habitats and land-based pollution

Outcome 2.6 Updated and Ministerially adopted Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme, including prioritization of national management actions to address climate variability and change

Main adjustments

Outcome 2.1 and 2.5: Facilitate Regional Knowledge Management System

Outcome 2.2: Source to Sea approach through Watershed Assessments

Component 3: Facilitating regional and national level integration and cooperation for implementation of the South China Sea SAP

Outcome 3.1 Regional and sub-regional co-operation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making

Outcome 3.2 Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in SAP implementation strengthened via operational partnership with GEF SGP

Outcome 3.3 Relationships between central and local governments and the private sector strengthened and formalized

Outcome 3.4 Revitalization of regional mechanisms for communications, knowledge exchange, and information and data management and sharing

Outcome 3.5 Agreed arrangements for strengthened regional cooperation in the management of the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea

Main adjustment:

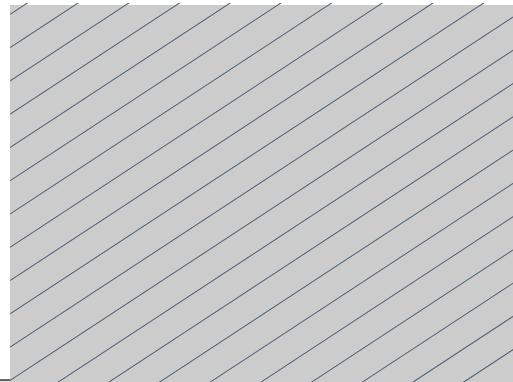
Outcome 3.3: Sustainable Blue Economy as a framework for Private Sector Engagement

Outcome 3.5: Options Paper for Regional Cooperation

Project budget implementation

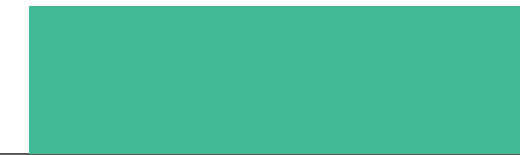
10.9 MM USD to be implemented in 3 years

USD 9,29 MM



Expected Budget to be executed by June 2024

USD 3,24 MM
(35%)



Real Expenditure to date

new funds transferred from SEAFDEC

USD 5 MM

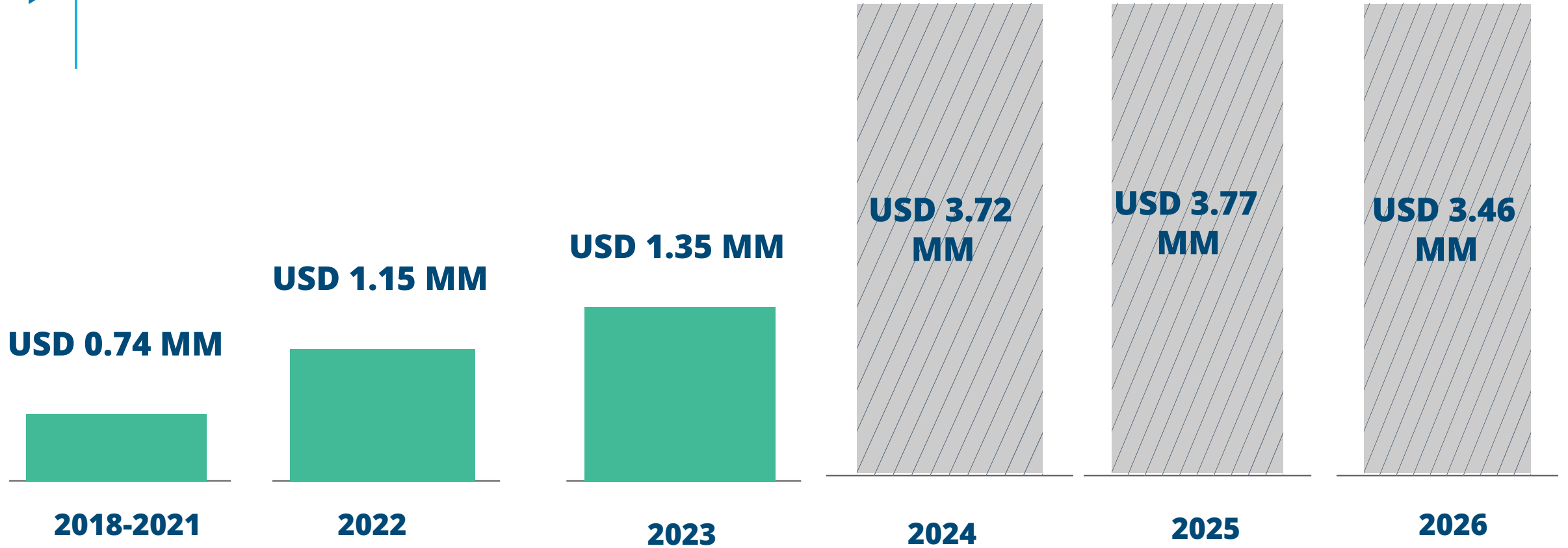


USD 5.95 MM

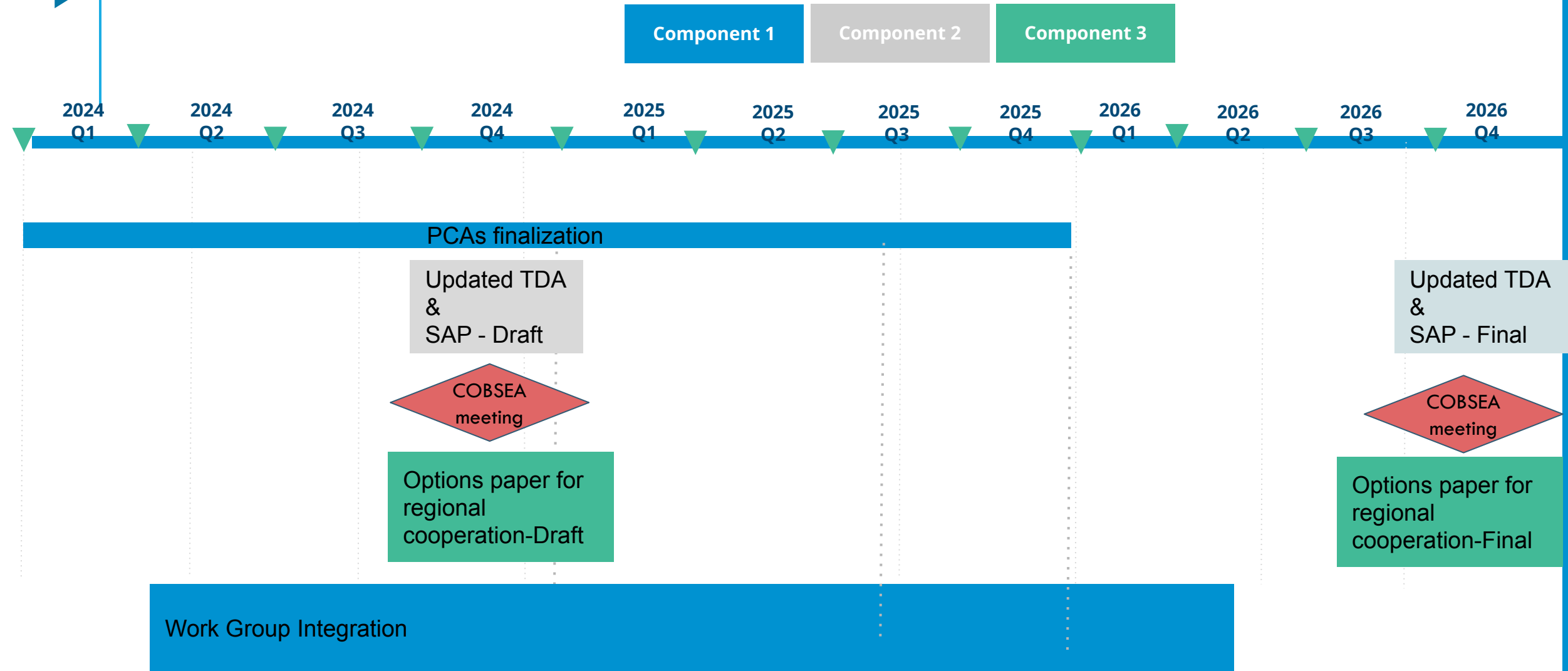


Pending budget to be implemented for 2024-2026

Project forecast until 2026



Timeline of key expected milestones



Mid-term Evaluation

As part of the GEF management approach

Gives opportunities to assess and recommend actions

Expected for Q2 - 2024

Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Planning (SAP)



Figure 1: Schematic outline of the TDA/SAP process

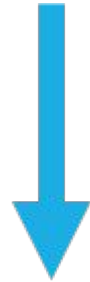
Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Planning (SAP)

National Focal Points/ Teams – Synthetic at national scale	Thematic Consultants – Comparative approach	TDA-SAP Consultant – Synthetic at LME scale
National Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats and Ecosystem Health • Productivity, Fish and Fisheries (Trade) • Pollution • Socioeconomics • Governance [Existing national targets and priorities] 	Global/ Regional databases/ assessments (comparable data collection across countries) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transboundary Waters Assessment of the SCS, updated where data is available 2. Nutrient pollution by watershed (using modeled data from Beusen et al 2021) 3. Fisheries data (FAO, SeaAroundUs) 4. Tourism data (World Tourism and Travel Council)
Stakeholders identifying and prioritizing transboundary problems at watershed, national, and LME scale		
Watershed focal groups <-> National teams		National focal points <-> SCS Regional Team
National priorities	Regional support	Regional Targets

Regional Governance

COBSEA as Entity for Regional Governance

- *COBSEA Strategic Directions Workshop, Bali, September 2023:
No Appetite among COBSEA Countries for a Convention*



“Options Paper” on Regional Governance

Conclusions

Seeking Project Steering Committee Approval for:

1. Approval of Revised Project Work Plan and Budget
2. Approval of Revised Project Implementation Structure with UNOPS as Executing Agency
3. Approval of No Cost Project Extension to December 2026