



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

Outcome 2.6 Updated and ministerially adopted Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) And Strategic Action Plan (SAP) For the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

Liana Talaue McManus, 11-12 November 2024, Shenzhen, China



Outline

1. What?

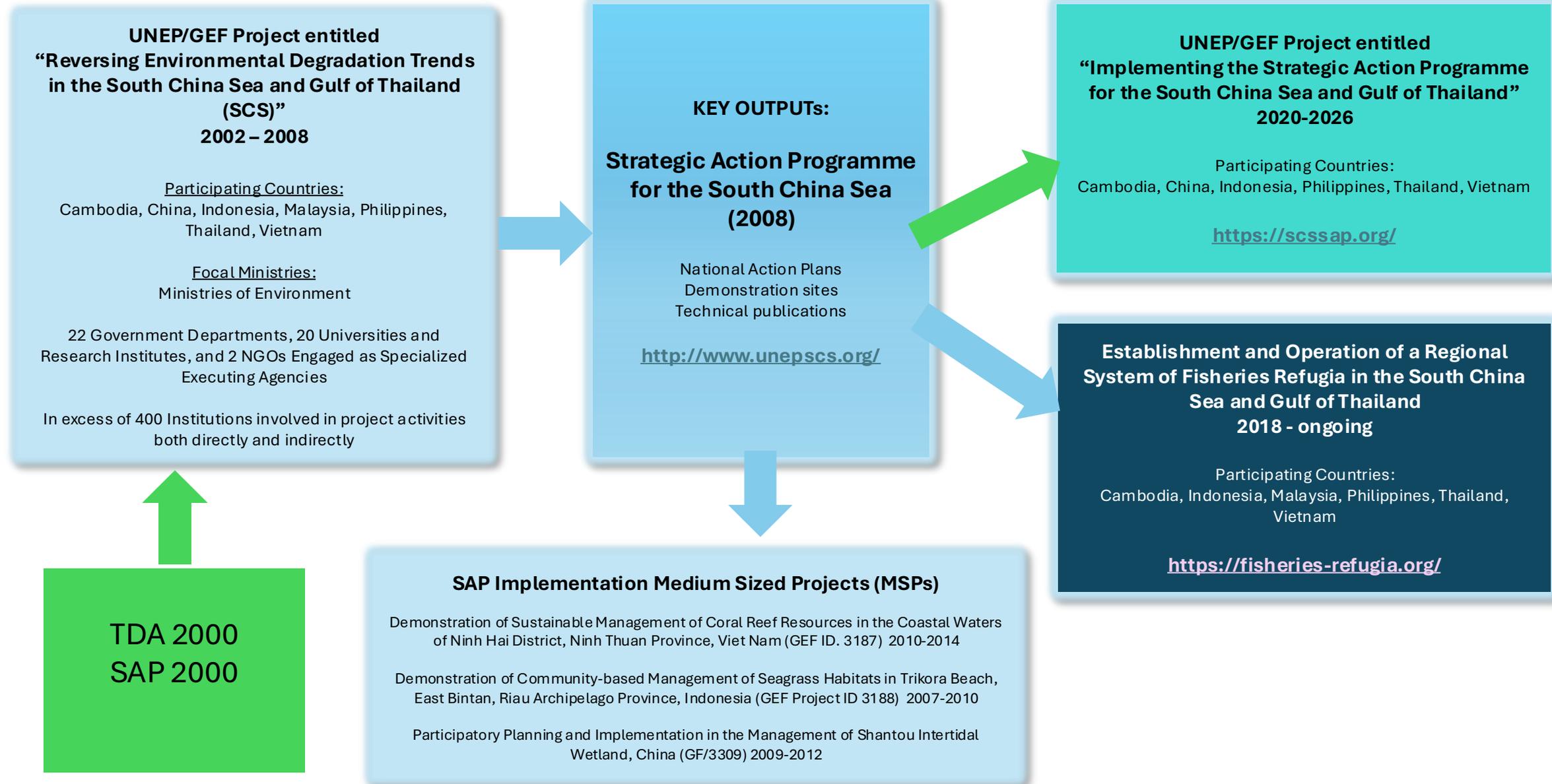
- Project history
- SCS SAP Project Component 2
- What is a TDA-SAP process?

2. Why do we need to update the TDA and SAP now?

3. Who will update the TDA and SAP?

4. How do we update the TDA and SAP?

South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, from original project and SAP, to current implementation



Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea (SCS SAP) - Targets

MANGROVES (National Actions)

- Area to be transferred to National Parks and Protected Area status - 57,361 ha; Non-conversion of mangrove but sustainable use - 166,600 ha; Improved management relating to sustainable use - 602,772; Replanting of deforested mangrove land - 21,000; Enrichment planting to increase mangrove biodiversity - 11,200

CORAL REEFS (National Actions)

- At least 70% of the existing area of coral reefs in the 82 target coral reef sites (153,000 ha) to be put under an appropriate form of sustainable management;
- Reduce the regional decadal rate of degradation in live coral cover from the present rate of 16% to 5%.

SEAGRASS (National Actions)

- Twenty-one managed areas totalling 26,576 hectares (approximately 33% of the 78,332 hectares identified as seagrass sites) in the South China Sea, to be brought under sustainable management; Government recognition of the ecological importance of seagrass through amendment of the management plans for seven existing MPAs with significant areas of seagrass habitat, to include specific seagrass-related management actions; Adoption of 7 new Marine Protected Areas specifically focussing on seagrass habitats identified in the prioritised listings of the SCS Project

WETLANDS (National Actions)

- to set up or update management plans for at least three lagoons, nine estuaries, five tidal flats, one peat swamp and one non-peat swamp in the South China Sea; to increase by at least 7 wetland areas, the number of sites or specified wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites, etc); to have a regional estuary monitoring scheme implemented in the participating countries

LAND BASED POLLUTION (Regional actions)

- estimate total contaminant loading to the South China Sea; agree and adopt regional criteria for contaminants in sediment and biota; characterise and prioritise all hot spots surrounding the South China Sea; review and prepare recommendations for application in amending national/provincial, legislation/regulations in support of all Land-based Pollution targets of the SAP.
- to meet ASEAN seawater quality (14 parameters) criteria (except pollutants from scientifically identified natural sources, if any) for: - 90% of monitoring stations in the 17 hot spots characterised by the RWG-LBP between 2002 – 2004; - 80% of other monitoring stations (more than 400 at present) in coastal waters of the South China Sea.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC VALUES AND COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF SAP ACTIONS

Regional actions, science, tools, guidelines and capacity building for habitats

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Objective to create an environment at the regional level, in which collaboration and partnership in addressing environmental problems of the South China Sea, between all stakeholders, and at all levels is fostered and encouraged; and to enhance the capacity of the participating governments to integrate environmental considerations into national development planning

FISH HABITAT AND FISH STOCKS

- to have established a regional system of a minimum of twenty refugia for the management of priority, transboundary, fish stocks and endangered species;
- to have prepared and implemented fisheries management systems in the identified refugia based on, and consistent with, the ASEAN SEAFDEC Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia.

Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

Component 1. Reducing habitat degradation and loss via national and local reforms to achieve Strategic Action Programme targets for coastal habitat management in the South China Sea

- Outcome 1.1 Appropriate forms of sustainable management established for 860,000 ha of mangrove by Yr 5
- Outcome 1.2 153,000 ha of coral reef at 82 priority sites managed sustainably by Yr 5, including a reduction in the decadal rate of degradation in live coral cover from 16 to 5%
- Outcome 1.3 Conservation, management and sustainable use of 25,900 ha of known seagrass area in the South China Sea by Yr 5
- Outcome 1.4 Integrated management of 783,900 ha of coastal wetland at 19 sites, including habitat restoration and protection strengthened at priority locations

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

- 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 Improved national and regional values for the 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

Component 3. Facilitating regional and national level integration and cooperation for implementation of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme

- 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

Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

This specific project objective is 'to operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea

1. What is a **transboundary** environmental problem? Spatial scale = **2 or more countries; global**

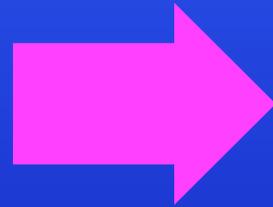
- A. **Migratory species** (e.g. turtles, marine mammals, fish stocks)
- B. **Areas where important species or resources** are found, i.e. straddles 2 or more countries (including aquifers, lakes & rivers)
- C. **Areas whose environmental status** will have transboundary consequences, even if found wholly in a single country's jurisdiction
- D. **Risks or threats** that may cross national boundaries
- E. **Global significance** – planetary boundaries for species, ecosystems and **nutrients** that need to be maintained for the provisioning of regional or global ecological goods and services
- F. **Aggregated common national concerns that are of a magnitude that would take regional or global significance**

1a. What is a TDA-SAP process?

TDA

*Transboundary
=spatial scale
Science-based*

- Identify & prioritise transboundary environmental problems (2 or more countries)
- Examine environmental impacts & socioeconomic consequences
- Analyse immediate, underlying and root causes of each TB problem



SAP

*Negotiated policy
document*

**ENDORSED BY
MINISTERS**

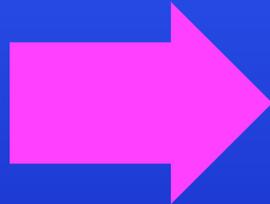
- Distinguishes actions addressing transboundary problems and which can potentially yield global benefits; from actions with purely national benefits
- Establishes clear priority for actions, especially those that can address root causes

1b. Science-based Strategic Planning

TDA

*Transboundary
=spatial scale
Objective
Inclusive*

- 1997-1999
- Country Reports by 7 National Committees of
- National Coordinators weighted environmental issues
- Major Issues: (1)Habitat loss & degradation; (2) Fisheries overexploitation in GOT; (3) Land-based pollution



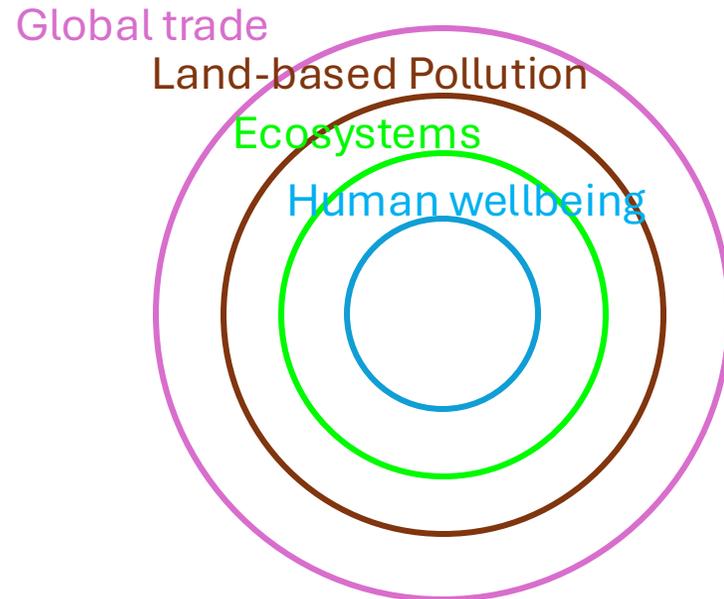
SAP

*Negotiated policy
document
Endorsed by
governments*

- 1998-2000 for SAP formulation
- Basis for GEF South China Project “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand”
- Implemented 2002-2009, addressed 3 major issues identified by the TDA
- SAP Projects 2013/2020, 2016

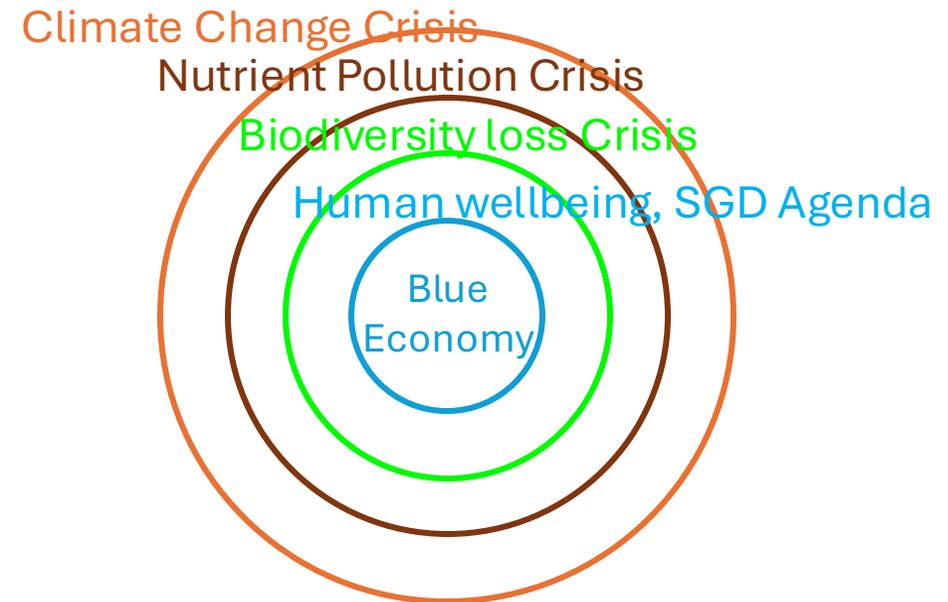
2. Why update the TDA-SAP?

TDA-SAP, 2000



Status assessments  Priority Actions

TDA-SAP, 2024-2026



Risk scenario assessments

Priority Actions

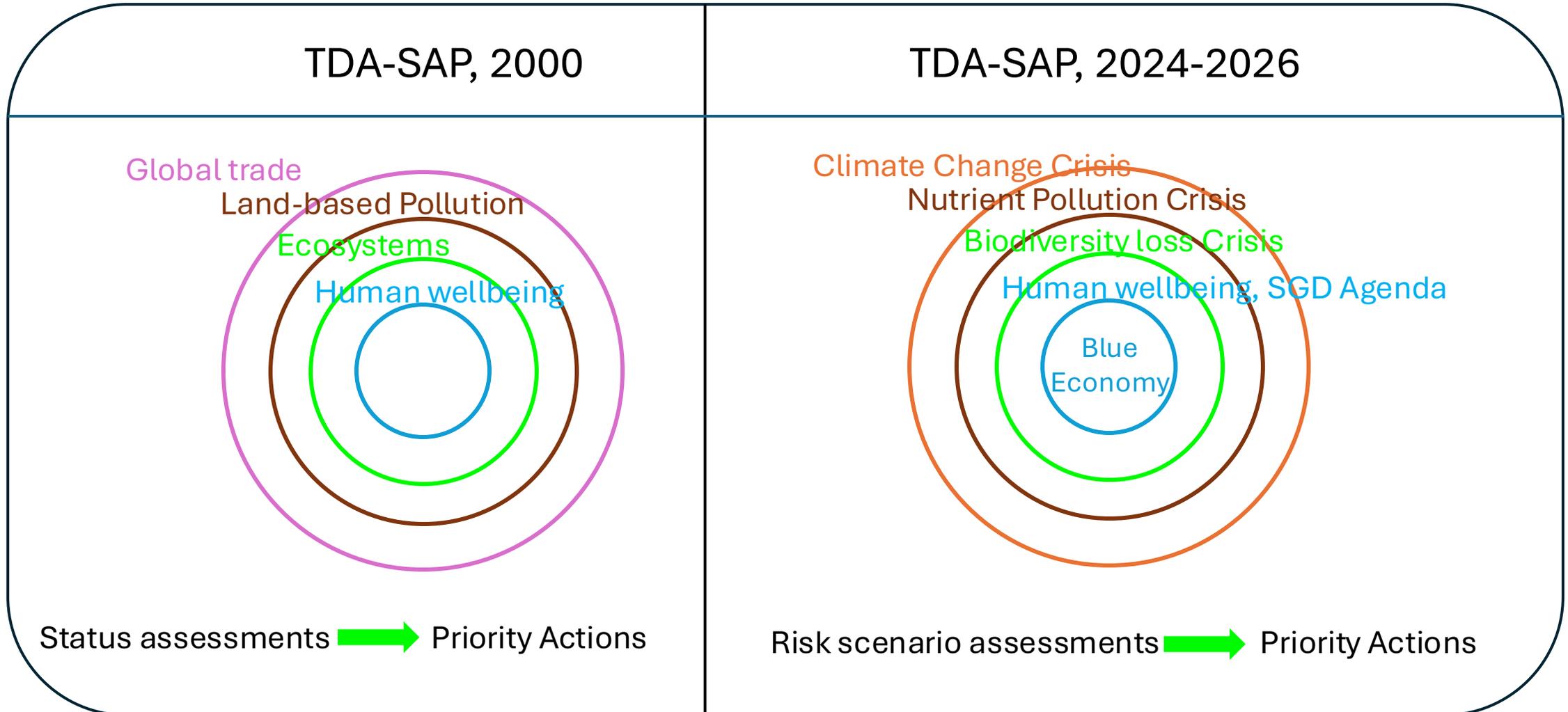
2a. Need to update the TDA and SAP now

TDA	Regional/ Global Commitments	Organizing Concepts	Quality of data; spatial information
1997 - 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMSAR Convention, 1971 • MARPOL 73/78 Convention • Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992 • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992 • UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1994 • Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), 1995 • UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed scale (subnational); ridge to reef • Participatory approach of engagement at national and regional scales • Transboundary Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat modification & degradation ▪ Overexploitation of fishery resources ▪ Pollution 	<p>Generally FAIR</p>

2b. Concepts for updated TDA-SAP (con't)

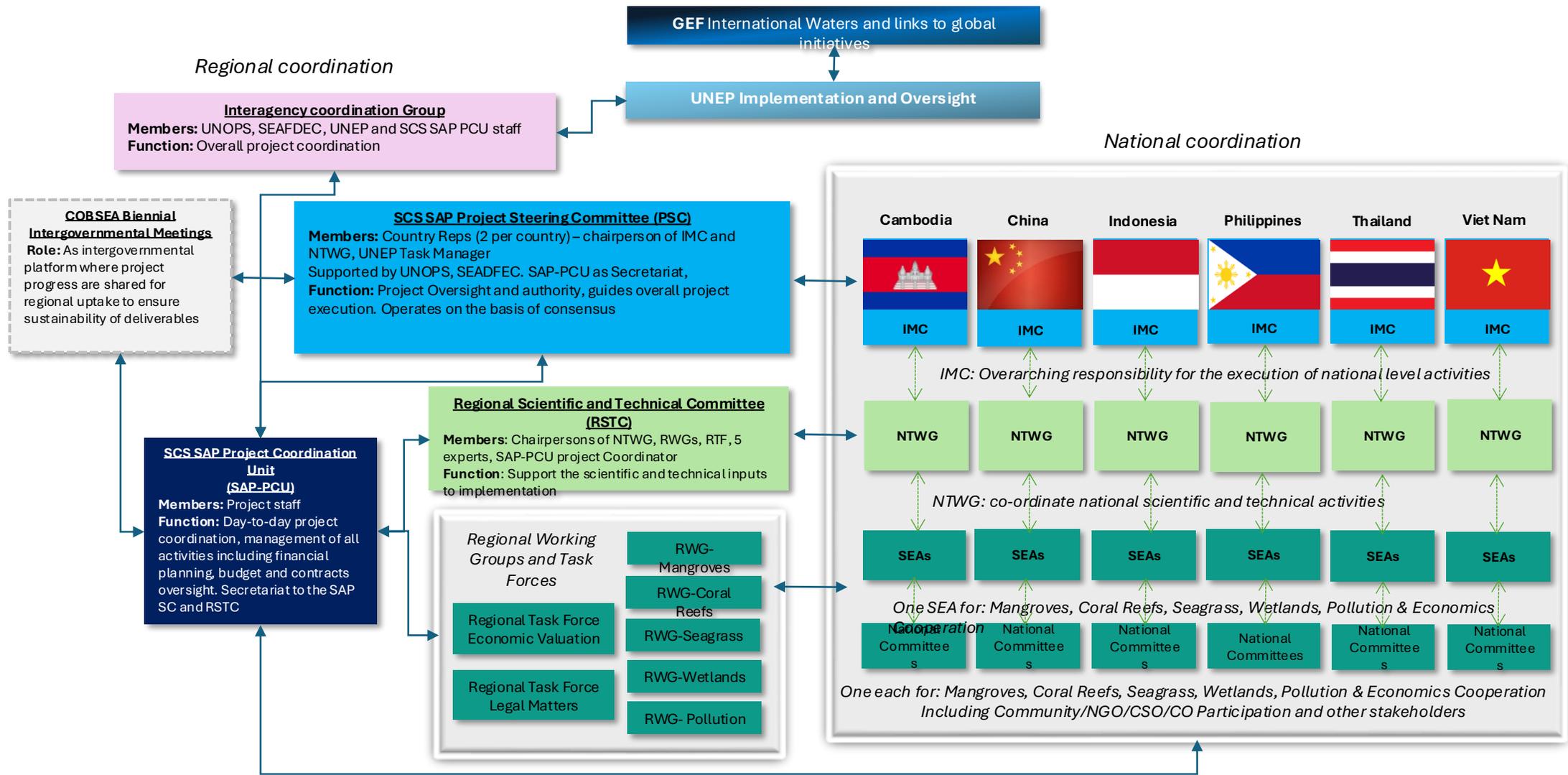
TDA	Regional/ Global Commitments	Organizing Concepts	Quality/ Public access for determination
2024 –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goals Development Agenda, 2015 to 2030 • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1994; Paris Agreement, 2016; Global Stocktake, 2023 • Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022 • Global Plastics Treaty, exp Nov. 2024 • Nutrient Agreements: Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, 2019 • UNEA 4.14/ 5 Resolutions on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, 2019, 2022 • Treaty of the High Seas (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction = BBNJ), 2024 • COBSEA Strategic Action Programme Directions, 2023-2027 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed scale (subnational); ridge to reef • Knowledge Co-Production approach • Planetary boundaries • Indicator-based assessments of RISKS to ecosystems, people and blue economy-based livelihoods • Development-based Scenarios of Risk Mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical case studies – site scale • Development plans – subnational, national • National commitments to Regional/ Global commitments • National statistical databases • Regional databases • Global databases • Global modeled data
2000-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drivers of environmental change have been modified over 25-year period; ranking changes? 		

2c. Shifting from Status to Risk Scenario Assessments



3. Who will do the TDA-SAP?

[Component 2 of the SCS SAP Project]



IMC = Inter-Ministry Committee; NTWG = National Technical Working Group; National Committee = Specialized Executing Agency; RWG= Regional Working Group

SCS-SAP Organogram

National Technical Working Groups (NTWG)

One National NTWG per country including all SEA National Focal Point

1. Review and co-ordinate national scientific and technical activities of the UNEP/GEF project entitled "Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea" in [country name];
2. Review and evaluate, from a scientific and technical perspective, progress in the achievement of Strategic Action Programme targets, and provide guidance for improvement when necessary;
3. Provide the National Inter-Ministry Committees with recommendations on proposed national and site-based activities, work plans, and budgets;
4. Provide the National Inter-Ministry Committees with technical guidance and suggestions to improve project activities where necessary, including the reform of policy, legislation and institutional arrangements;
5. Facilitate co-operation with relevant national and provincial organisations and projects to enhance the information and science base for use in achieving Strategic Action Programme targets and in preparing updated National Action Plans and a revised Strategic Action Programme in [country name];
6. Compile and evaluate national level sources of information and data for sharing at the regional level;
7. Receive, and review reports, data and information from site-based activities of the project and oversee the national synthesis of this information to identify overall needs and priorities for individual sites and future targets for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, wetlands, and land-based pollution management in [country name];
8. Ensure that planned national level project activities are consistent with the national results framework for the project, and that the subsequent monitoring and reporting of project results is undertaken in a standardized and consistent manner;
9. Agree at their first meeting:
10. a) the membership, meeting arrangements, and terms of reference of the committee; and
11. b) such standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee.

Cambodia NTWG	China NTWG	Indonesia NTWG	Philippines NTWG	Thailand NTWG	Vietnam NTWG
Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson
SEA National Focal Point - Mangroves					
SEA National Focal Point - Coral Reefs					
SEA National Focal Point - Seagrass					
SEA National Focal Point - Wetlands					
SEA National Focal Point - Land-based pollution					
SEA National Focal Point - Economic valuation					
Other experts as required					

National TDA Risk Scenario Assessments → National SAP Action Plans

National Technical Working Groups (NTWG)

Nationally and Regionally Endorsed Strategic Action Plans



	<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Thailand</i>	<i>Viet Nam</i>	
	IMC	IMC	IMC	IMC	IMC	IMC	Regional PSC
	NTWG	NTWG	NTWG	NTWG	NTWG	NTWG	RSTC
National Mangrove Committee	SEA for Mangroves	RWG-Mangroves					
National Coral Reefs Committee	SEA for Coral Reefs	RWG-Coral Reefs					
National Seagrass Committee	SEA for Seagrass	RWG-Seagrass					
National Wetlands Committee	SEA for Wetlands	Chair RWG-Wetlands					
National LBS Pollution Committee	SEA for Land-based pollution	Chair RWG- Pollution					
National Economic Evaluation Committee	SEA for Economic valuation	Regional Task Force Economic Valuation					

4. How do we update the TDA-SAP?

National Technical Working Groups (NTWG)

One National NTWG per country including all SEA National Focal Point

1. Review and co-ordinate national scientific and technical activities of the UNEP/GEF project entitled "Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea" in [country name];
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Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson
SEA National Focal Point - Mangroves					
SEA National Focal Point - Coral Reefs					
SEA National Focal Point - Seagrass					
SEA National Focal Point - Wetlands					
SEA National Focal Point - Land-based pollution					
SEA National Focal Point - Economic valuation					
Other experts as required					

National **TDA** Risk Scenario Assessments → National **SAP** Action Plans

National Technical Working Groups (NTWG)

Regional Working Group - Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Seagrass, Wetlands Land based pollution

The RWGs were charged with co-ordinating the work of National Committees in order to ensure the effective execution of activities in the various project components. Specific RWG activities included inter alia: development of criteria for determining the global, regional and transboundary significance of habitats and fish stocks; coordination of efforts to develop national meta-databases; compilation and review of information relating to economic valuation; and the stepwise review of information and data compiled by national committees. The RSTC was mandated to coordinate and review the work of the RWGs and provide sound scientific and technical advice to the inter-governmental Project Steering Committee (PSC) regarding SAP formulation.

The RWG of the SCS-SAP Implementation Project shall consist of the **Chairpersons of the National Mangrove Coral Reefs, Seagrass, Wetlands, Land based pollution Committees together with one member of the SCS-SAP Implementation Unit and selected regional experts.** The SCS-SAP Implementation Unit in consultation with the National Technical Focal Points for the project shall nominate no more than four such experts to ensure a balance of expertise and specialisation consistent with the mandate of the working group.

The membership of the RWG-M shall be formally established at the first meeting of the Working Group, which shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the RWG-M will represent the RWG-M on the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) and will attend the meetings of that Committee.

RWG-Mangroves	RWG-Coral Reefs	RWG-Seagrass	RWG-Wetlands	RWG-Landbased pollution
Cambodia Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	Cambodia Chairperson of the National Coral Reef Committee	Cambodia Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	Cambodia Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	Cambodia Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
China Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	China Chairperson of the National Coral Reef Committee	China Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	China Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	China Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
Indonesia Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	Indonesia Chairperson of the National Coral Reefs Committee	Indonesia Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	Indonesia Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	Indonesia Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
Philippines Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	Philippines Chairperson of the National Coral Reefs Committee	Philippines Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	Philippines Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	Philippines Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
Thailand Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	Thailand Chairperson of the National Coral Reefs Committee	Thailand Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	Thailand Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	Thailand Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
Vietnam Chairperson of the National Mangrove Committee	Vietnam Chairperson of the National Coral Reefs Committee	Vietnam Chairperson of the National Seagrass Committee	Vietnam Chairperson of the National Wetland Committee	Vietnam Chairperson of the National land based pollution Committee
SCS-SAP Implementation Unit	SCS-SAP Implementation Unit	SCS-SAP Implementation Unit	SCS-SAP Implementation Unit	SCS-SAP Implementation Unit
Selected Regional Experts	Selected Regional Experts	Selected Regional Experts	Selected Regional Experts	Selected Regional Experts

Regional Working Groups – Technical advice for SAP

Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation

The Regional Task Force on Economic Valuation (RTF-E) is re-established with the primary objective of advising and supporting the national committees and regional working groups by providing the appropriate expertise and assistance in completing the envisaged economic valuations and cost-benefit analyses. It is anticipated that the operation of the RTF-E will contribute significantly to the achievement of the following targets:

- Expanded datasets of economic valuation information on the goods and services of SCS coastal habitats;
- Estimates of the value for the service provided by coastal habitats as nursery areas for coastal fish and crustaceans;
- Estimates of economic losses of coastal ecosystem goods and services consequent upon coastal shipping accidents and pollution damage; and
- Updated estimates of Total Economic Values for coastal habitats of the SCS and converted to 2017 value by means of the consumer price index

Membership - The Task Force will be comprised of: one environmental or resource economist, nominated by each of the participating countries; and two regional, environmental economic experts; all of whom will serve as members in their personal capacity. Each participating country will nominate these members, in accordance with procedures agreed by the SCS-SAP Implementation Committee. The membership of the committee will be established at its first meeting, at which a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will be elected from the members. The Vice-Chairperson will act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Regional Task Force on Legal Matters/ Governance

The Regional Task Force on Legal Matters (RTF-L) is re-established with the primary objective of advising and supporting the national committees and regional working groups by providing the appropriate expertise and assistance in legal aspects of the project

Membership - The Task Force will be comprised of: one policy expert, nominated by each of the participating countries; and two legal experts; all of whom will serve as members in their personal capacity. Each participating country will nominate these members, in accordance with procedures agreed by the SCS-SAP Implementation Committee. The membership of the committee will be established at its first meeting, at which a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will be elected from the members. The Vice-Chairperson will act as Chairperson of meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

RTF-Economic Valuation

Cambodia
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

China
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

Indonesia
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

Philippines
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

Thailand
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

Vietnam
Chairperson of the
National Economic
Valuation Committee

Two Selected Regional
Experts

RTF-Legal Matters

Cambodia
Policy Expert

China
Policy Expert

Indonesia
Policy Expert

Philippines
Policy Expert

Thailand
Policy Expert

Vietnam
Policy Expert

Two Selected Regional
Experts

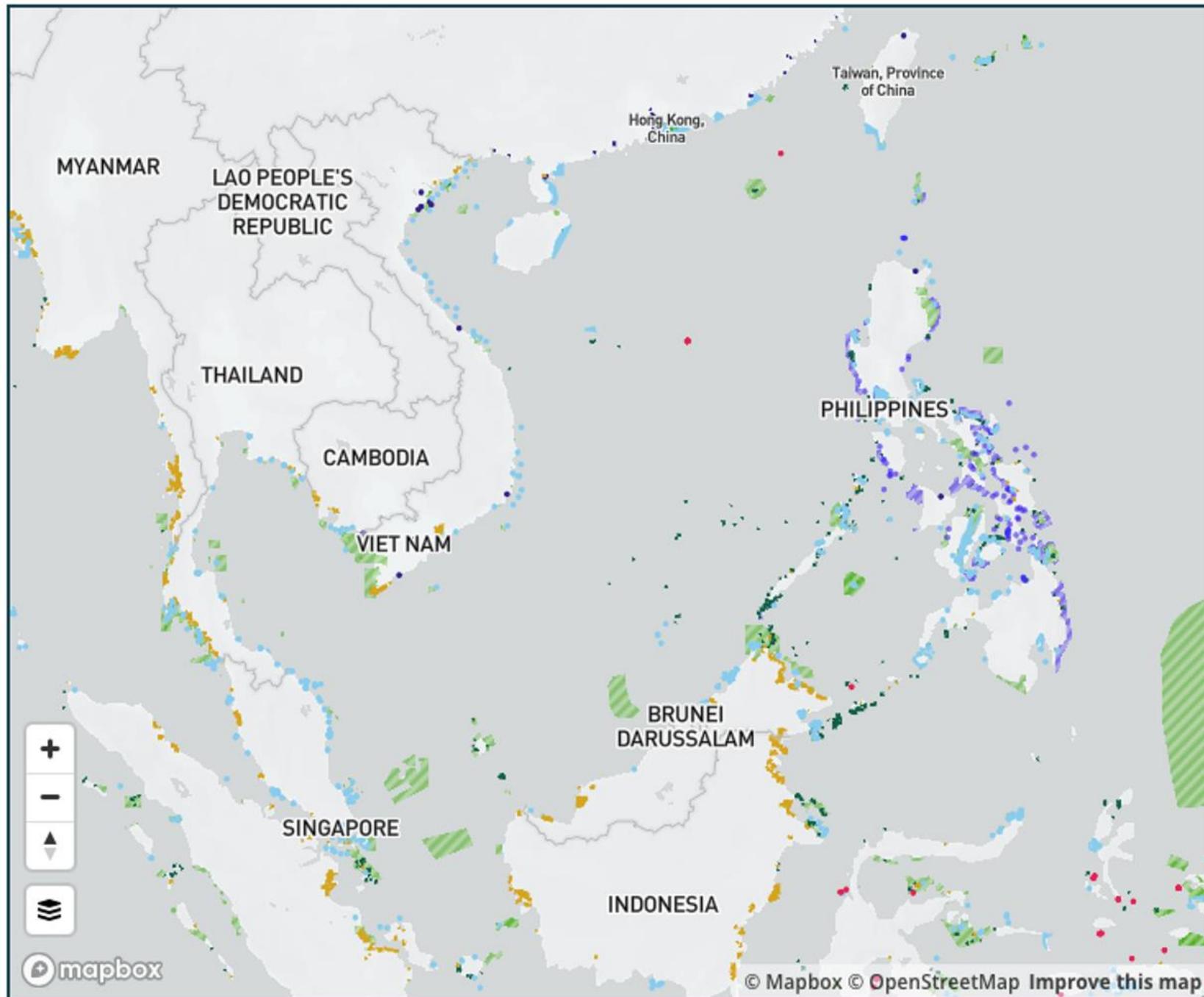
Seas of East Asia Strategic Actions for Resilient Sustainability (SEA STARS)

Regional TDA – SAP Team (Formation in Progress)

- Regional TDA – SAP Consultant
- Regional Thematic TDA – SAP Consultants
 - Data and information management
 - Land-based pollution
 - Fisheries
 - Blue economy / Circular economy
 - Economic Valuation
 - Regional Governance

Coastal Habitat **Risk** Assessments & **SAP** Recommendations

- Mapping of seagrass, corals, mangroves, wetlands
- Area/ extent, changes over time
- Species diversity, changes over time
- Functional group diversity, changes over time
- Median sizes of harvestable food fish species over time
- Flowering events for seagrasses
- Spawning events for corals
- Presence/Absence of associated macrofauna
- Above ground biomass for mangroves, changes over time
- Productivity in kg C/unit area/yr
- Area with marine protected status
- Climate impacts
 - ✓ Sea level rise
 - ✓ Species distribution because of thermal tolerance



Where in the world are marine and coastal habitats?

 Warm-water corals 

 Saltmarshes 

 Mangroves 

 Seagrasses 

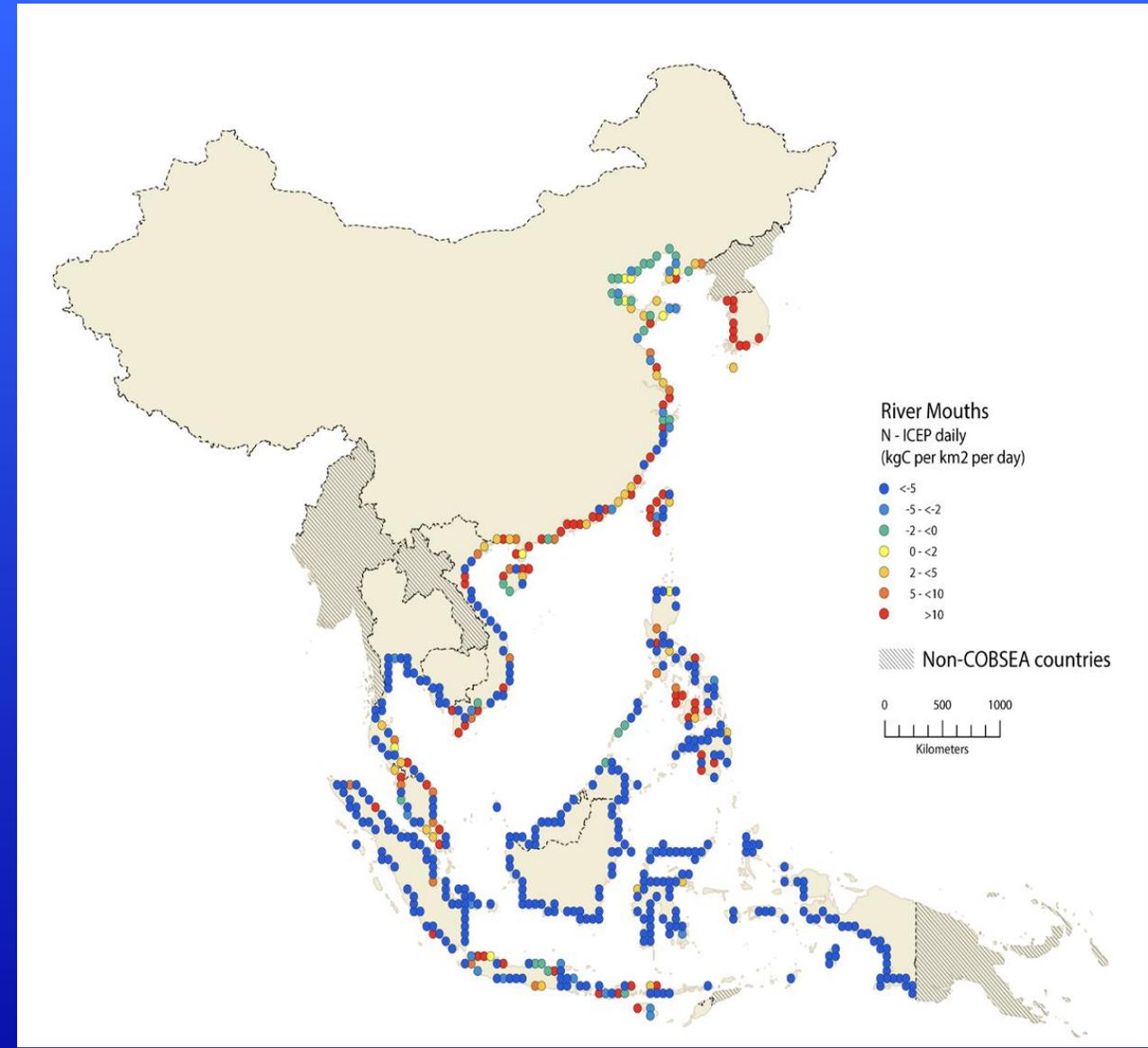
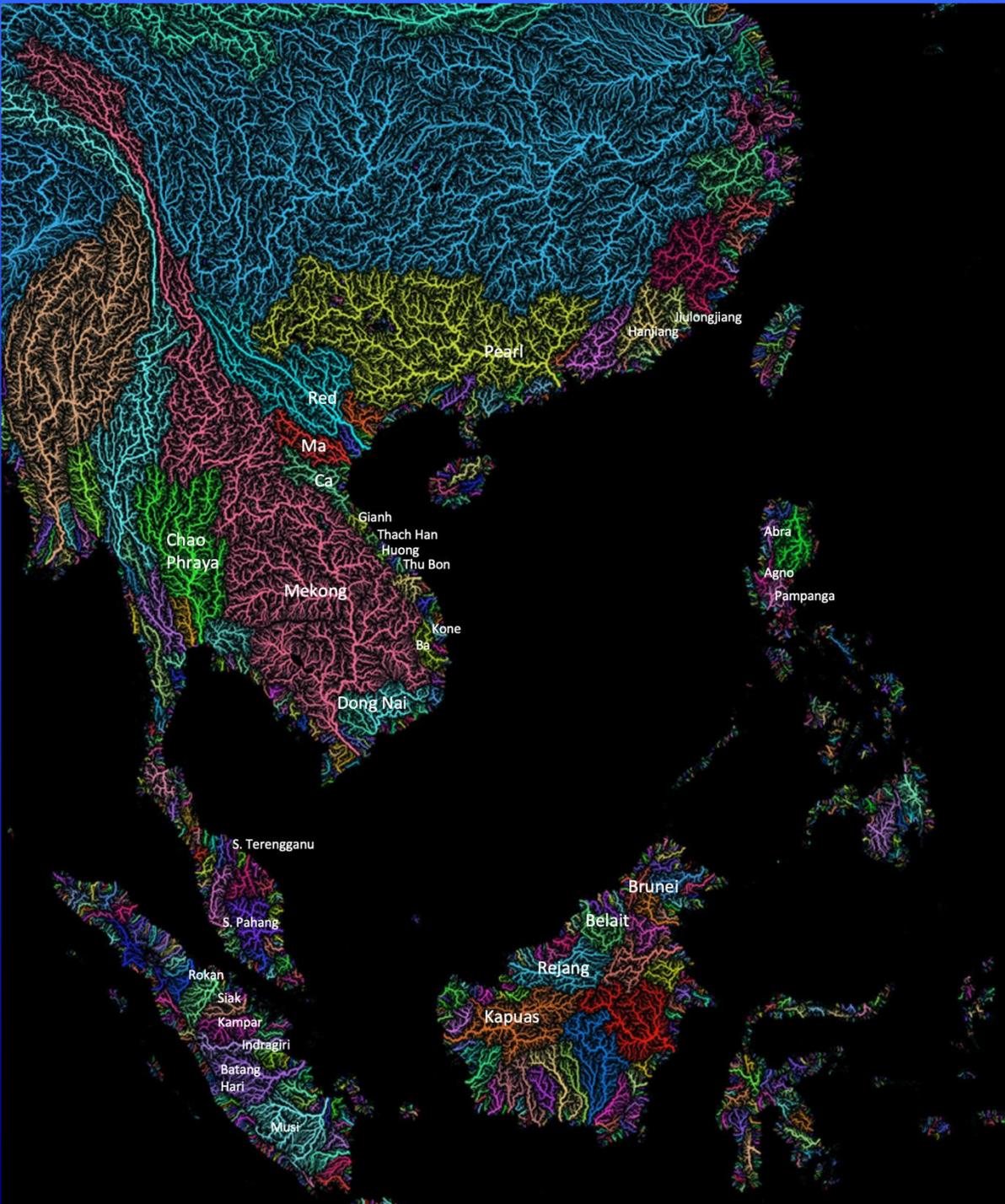
 Cold-water corals 

 Protected Areas (marine and coastal) 

 Other effective area-based conservation measures (marine and coastal) 

Pollution Risk Assessment and SAP Recommendations

- Empirical data: Occurrence of harmful algal blooms, hypoxic events
- Computing the Nitrogen or Phosphorus Index of Eutrophication Potential (Garnier et al. 2010)/ other Eutrophication Indices
- Coastal water quality standards
 - ✓ National
 - ✓ Regional
- Climate impacts on inland and coastal water quality
 - ✓ Sea level rise
 - ✓ Natural disaster related-coastal inundation



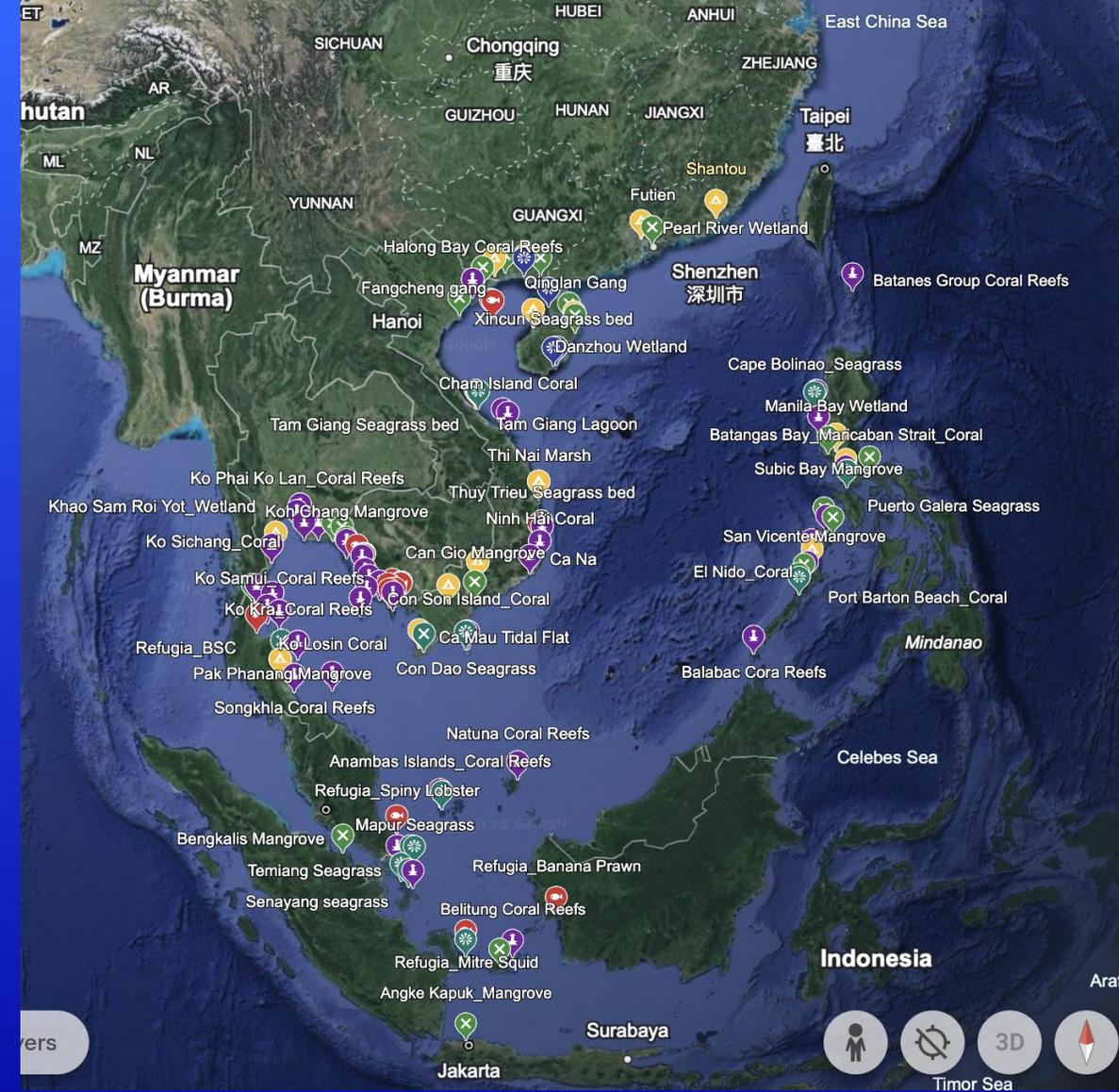
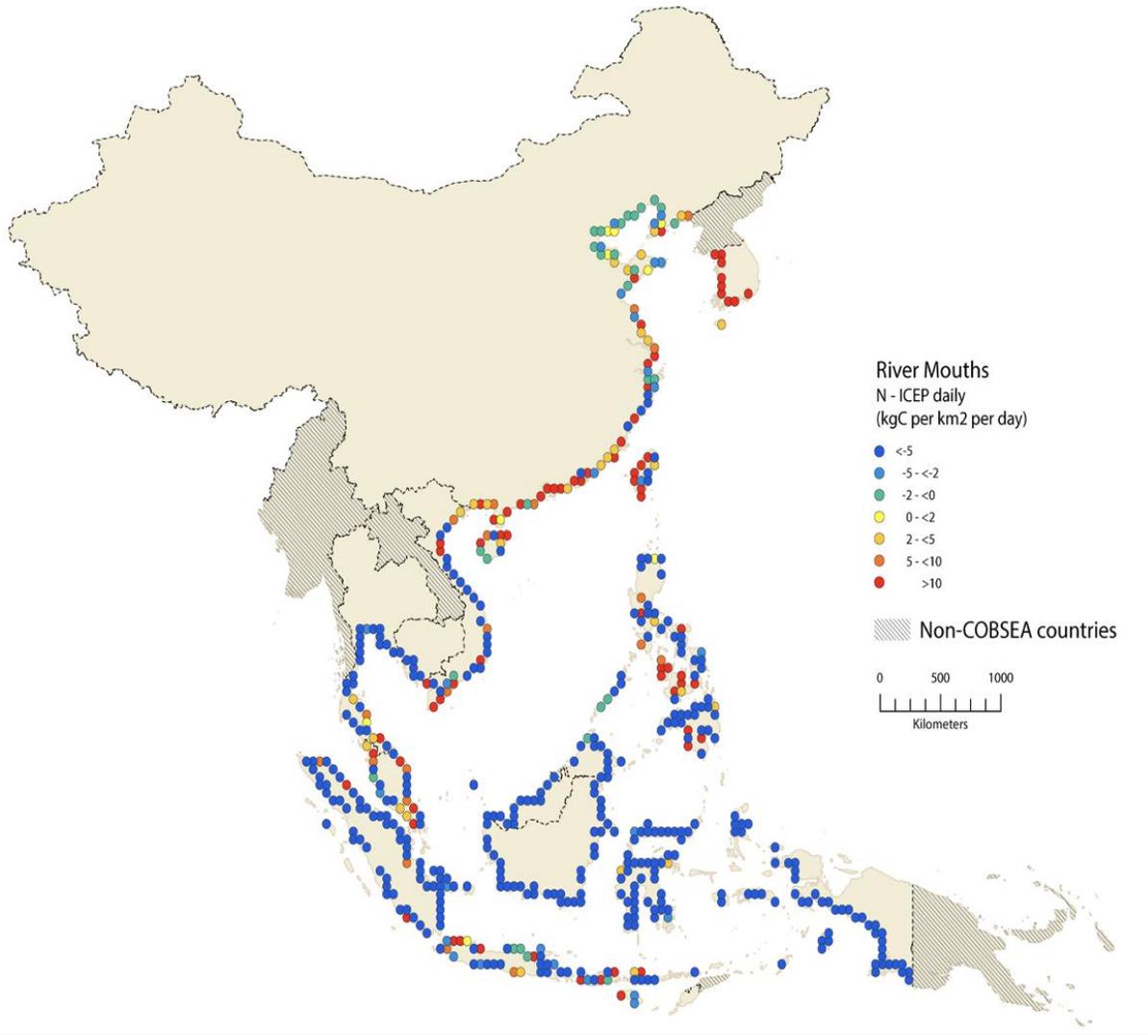
River mouths in the COBSEA region with **Indices of Coastal Eutrophication Potential** using modeled data for year 2000 (UNEP/ McManus et al. 2022)
Data source: Mayorga et al. 2010, potential to obtain 2020 update

Blue Economy Risk Assessment and SAP Recommendations

- No. of fishers, No. of tourist operators, No. of tourist visitors
- Median annual income per economic activity
- Average/ median family size
- No of dependent family members by gender
- Poverty level
- Protein dependence
- Educational attainment, scale
- Average/ median longevity
- Exposure/Risks to natural disasters (coastal flooding, storms, etc.)

Governance Risk Assessment and SAP Recommendations

- Subnational/ National pollution reduction policies
- Subnational/ National marine protected area policies
- Subnational/ National coastal development plans
- Subnational/ National fisheries and aquaculture policies
- Capacity for environmental monitoring
- Capacity for law enforcement
- Capacity for environmental education and awareness building



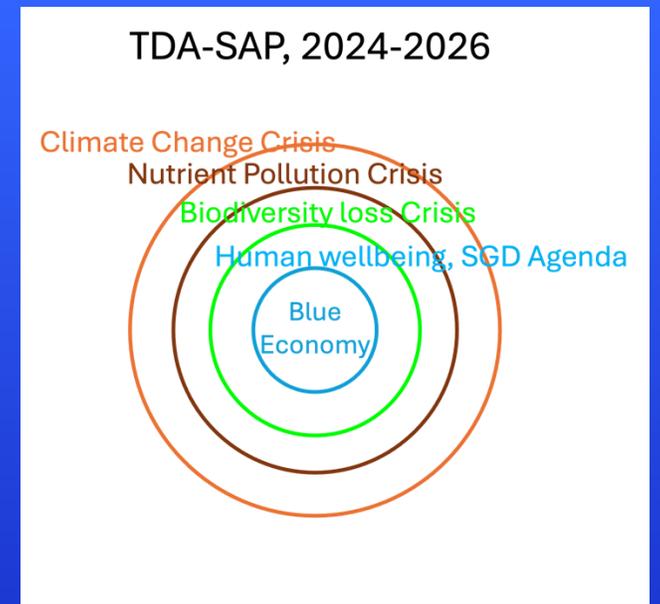
Governance Scenarios

Pollutants,
Resource extraction,
Population, Climate,
Land use

Ecosystem health:
Function /
biodiversity

Impacts on Blue Economy & Human Wellbeing
(disaggreg to show impacts on women and children)

Comparative Assessment of Levels of Risk for Associated Landscape-Seascape systems of [COUNTRY] in the South China Sea



Landscape-Seascape systems Of Country-South China Sea	Landscape factors	Water quality at river mouth	Socioeconomic factors	Governance factors	Coastal Habitat Health	Level of Risk
A						High
B						Medium
C						Low
D						Medium
E						High

Next steps and Indicative Work Plan 2025 - 2026

- Regional TDA– SCS Team Formation
- Coordination with National- and Regional Level Technical Working Groups for TDA and SAP data
 - ✓ National TDA and SAP Reports (national watersheds)
 - ✓ Regional TDA and SAP Report (LME scale)
- Coordination with Inter-ministerial National Committees and the Regional Science and Technical Committee as well as COBSEA for Endorsement of Regional SAP Report

Thank you!