



UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”

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English only

Second Project Steering Committee Meeting for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project Kunming, China, 19-20 December 2005

NGO and Private Sector’s Membership in PSC

1 Background

During the PDF-B phase, the participating countries and other project partners discussed and agreed on the composition of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which was submitted to and approved by the GEF Council. The following paragraph was included in the Project Document:

“Membership: Initial Steering Committee membership will include:

- *a leading scientist for the YSLME, National Focal Agencies, and National Implementing Agencies;*
- *OPS as the project executing agency;*
- *UNDP (Country Offices and GEF); and*
- *reps from the Private Sector and NGO community (at a later date).*

The Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) will act as Secretary for the Steering Committee. Additional members can be added at the discretion of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will consider adding representatives from the Private Sector and NGO community at a later date.”

At the First Regional Technical Meeting (Beijing, China, 14-16 December 2004), the NGOs and private sector’s participation in the PSC was discussed, and the meeting agreed that:

“The Project Manager will continue to consult with various concerned people and prepare a proposal to be submitted to the 2nd meeting of PSC for review and approval.”

This document provides outcomes of the consultations on this issue, and is submitted to the Second meeting of the PSC for consideration.

2 Benefits of NGO and Private Sector’s Participation

During the preparation of the project, it was widely understood by the governments of the participating countries and the project partners that involvement of non-governmental

organisations (NGOs) and private sectors are critically important for the success of the project. It is needless to emphasize again the importance of NGO and private sector involvement. The project would benefit from their participation if the selection process could be defined appropriately. The major benefits to the project would include following:

(i) The decision-making process would be more transparent

Considering that the existing environmental problems in the Yellow Sea will require a number of management decisions to reduce environmental stress, it is critical that the decision-making processes are scientifically based and transparent to all the communities using the Yellow Sea. The participation of NGOs and private sectors would certainly include more stakeholders in the decision making process, and make the processes more transparent to all stakeholders.

(ii) Generating more political support from participation

As some NGOs and private sectors represent a large number of people and communities, the involvement of NGOs and private sector will certainly generate political support to the protection of the Yellow Sea marine environment and sustainable use of its coastal and marine resources. It should be noted that even though the political systems in the participating countries are different, the existence and active participation of the NGOs and private sector in the economic development will largely contribute to the necessary political support required by the project, and its management decision in a later stage.

(iii) Enhancing ownership of the project outcomes and outputs, in particular the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Successful implementation of a project, and later, the implementation of the management decisions agreed by the project require clear and strong ownership. Apart from the governments (including local governments), stronger ownership of the project outcomes and outputs by all concerned communities will make the implementation and enforcement of project decisions more representative and effective.

(iv) Generate more financial and human resources for the project

Active participation and involvement of NGOs and private sectors would bring more financial and human resources available to the project activities, not only during the project's five year period, but also contribute to the later implementation phase of the regional Strategic Action Programme and national Strategic Action Plans.

(v) Assist in preparation and approval processes for SAP

The involvement of NGOs and private sectors in the process of preparation of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SAP, in particular, involving them in the decision making processes of TDA and SAP, will facilitate the process to be more successful, as additional expertise and views would be reflected in the final documents of the TDA and SAP. With the transparent decision-making process, and the support from the NGOs and private sector, it will ensure a smoother approval process of the SAP.

3 Proposed Procedure and Membership

In order to obtain appropriate representatives of NGOs and the private sector in the Project Steering Committee, the following procedures are proposed:

- (i) Inviting NGOs and private sectors to participate in the PSC as observers to examine the participation of the organisation in the decision-making process;
- (ii) Establishing partnerships with the NGOs and private sector in the implementation of project activities to assess their involvement, participation, and contribution to the project; and
- (iii) Selecting representatives of NGOs and private sector to serve in the Project Steering Committee. It is anticipated that the representatives would be invited to participate the Third Meeting of the PSC.