



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.1/5
Date: 8 June 2005
English only

**First Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Dalian, China, 4-6 July 2005

Project Manager’s Report

1. BACKGROUND

Following the approval of the Implementation Plan by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) at its First Meeting (Seoul, Korea, 7-8 March 2005), the project started its implementation with the first round of the meetings of the Regional Working Groups. The main objectives of the first round meeting of the Regional Working Groups were:

- (i) Identify the environmental problems faced by the Yellow Sea for each of the respective regional working groups;
- (ii) Identify the required data and information and gaps to address the problems;
- (iii) Perform an initial causal chain analysis and governance analysis for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), with aims at identifying the required information on social economic, legal aspects and institutional framework;
- (iv) Prepare a list of activities for input into the TDA; and
- (v) Prepare a workplan for each project component for 2005 to 2006.

There were five meetings organised in China and Korea from 6 April – 20 May 2005. The meetings successfully completed the tasks assigned to each working group, and showed strong co-operative spirit among all members.

This document summarises the major outcomes and outputs of these meetings, lists the major activities that need to be considered by the Regional Scientific & Technical Panel (RSTP) and the PSC, and identifies the difficulties encountered during the meetings.

The RSTP is invited to consider the outcomes and outputs, and to discuss relevant issues raised during the meetings of RWGs and agree on the actions for further implementation of the project activities approved by the PSC.

2. MAJOR OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

2.1 The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Pollution Component (RWG-P) (Qingdao, China, 6-9 April 2005)

The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Pollution Component (RWG-P) was organised in Qingdao, China, 6-9 April 2005, with 16 participants from China, Korea, UNDP Korea Office, and the Project Management Office (PMO). The meeting elected Mr. Wen Quan from China as the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group.

The meeting discussed and agreed on identifying pollution-related problems of the Yellow Sea, the types of data and information to support the identified problems, the format of the data and information to collect, and proposed activities to gather additional required data. Institutions in China and Korea will be commissioned over the next 6 months to carry out the proposed activities. The major outcomes and outputs were:

- Finalised data and information requirement table;
- Prepared preliminary causal chain and governance analysis, and identified the data and information requirements for social economic and legal aspects;
- Finalised and prioritised inter-calibration parameters;
- Revised list of activities for the Pollution Component, and workplan for 2005-2006;
- Revised TOR for RWG-P, adding additional responsibilities: provide guidance in regional procedures for remediation and prevention of pollution, and testing the implementation; provide guidance for regional guidelines for marine pollution monitoring and assessment; establish regional network of monitoring centres;
- Identified “hot spots” as sources and impacts of pollutants; and
- Need for joint survey with the fisheries and ecosystem groups.

2.2 The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component (RWG-F) (Qingdao, China, 11-14 April 2005)

The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component (RWG-F) was organised in Qingdao, China, 11 - 14 April 2005, with 15 participants from China, Korea, and the PMO. A representative from Marine Stewardship Council attended the meeting as an observer. The meeting elected Mr. Xianshi Jin from China as the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group.

The meeting discussed the immediate activities required to obtain data, the methodology for the calculation of costs for these activities, and developed a work-plan for 2005 & 2006. From here, relevant institutions will be commissioned to undertake numerous activities according to this workplan. The major outcomes and outputs were:

- Finalised data and information requirement table;
- Prepared preliminary causal chain and governance analysis and identified the data and information requirements for social economic and legal aspects;
- Revised list of activities and workplan for 2005 – 2006;
- Revised TOR for RWG-F with the major change being: the removal of the word ‘annual’ from the document paragraph referring to one of the ‘Major Responsibilities of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries’ being ‘annual’ regional stock and carrying capacity assessment; and
- Recommend joint RWG Meetings in the future.

2.3 The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Biodiversity Component (RWG-B) (Qingdao, China, 19 -22 April 2005)

The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Biodiversity Component (RWG-B) was organised in Qingdao, China, 19 - 22 April 2005, with 14 participants from China, Korea, and the PMO. Representatives WWF-Japan, and WWF-China attended the meeting as observers. The meeting elected Mr. Lee Yoon from Korea as the Chairperson of the Regional Working Group.

Mr. Tobai Sadayosi, Co-ordinator of the WWF/KORDI/KEI Yellow Sea Eco-Region Planning Programme (YSEPP) was invited to give a presentation on the outcomes of the YSEPP Biodiversity Vision workshop organised prior to this meeting and held from the 16th to the 17th April, and a joint workshop between the two projects, in Qingdao, China. The workshop discussed critical species, habits and prepared a list of critical indicator species and a map of the Ecologically Important Areas (EIA) for the Yellow Sea, the Bohai Sea, and the East China Sea, which are valuable for the RWG-B when discussing the requirements for data and information in preparation of the biodiversity component of the TDA, and the implementation of activities in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The major outcomes and outputs of the meeting were:

- Produced preliminary data and information requirement table: still requires more consultation on whether endemic, new and introduced species information exists in both countries;
- Prepared preliminary causal chain and governance analysis and identified the data and information requirements for social economic and legal aspects;
- Revised list of activities and workplan for 2005 to 2006;
- Revised TOR for RWG-B, with no major changes;
- Recommend that meeting reports be disseminated to other RWGs after meetings;
- Allow and invite observers to all RWG meetings;
- Recommend that RWG Members should be fixed as much as possible, or at least stable until the end of TDA, substitutions occurring where required;
- RWG-B would try to incorporate YSEPP Biodiversity information into their database, as much as possible and concurrently assist in the development of this organisation's dataset; and
- RWG-B would try to incorporate data from IUCN Red List for Threatened Species in the Yellow Sea to complement national and regional information.

2.4 The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Ecosystem Component (RWG-E) (Goeje Island, Korea, 10-13 May 2005)

The First RWG-E Meeting was held in Goeje, Korea, 10-13 May 2005, at KORDI's South Sea Institute. Dr. Yoo Sinjae was elected as the Group's Chairperson, and chaired the Meeting, and guided all members and observers to achieve the objectives of the Meeting. The major outcomes and outputs of the meeting were:

- Finalised data and information requirement table;
- Prepared preliminary causal chain and governance analysis and identified the data and information requirements for social economic and legal aspects;
- Revised list of activities to include processing raw data, and workplan for 2005 - 2006;

- Revised TOR for RWG-E;
- Suggested that carrying capacity activities should be carried out jointly with RWG-F;
- Discussed the needs for joint survey; and
- Agreed to finalise inter-calibration parameters.

2.5 The First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Investment Component (RWG-I) (Yan Tai, China 17- 20 May 2005)

The RWG-I Meeting took place in Yantai, China, 17-20 May 2005. Dr. Zhu Mingyuan chaired the Meeting, and led discussions on various issues, including data and information management, stakeholder involvement, public awareness and participation, socio-economic analysis, and financial sustainability. National and regional co-ordination of the Project was also discussed, with additional activities proposed to strengthen national capacity in future project implementation and Yellow Sea ecosystem management. The major outcomes and outputs of the meeting were:

- Revised TOR for RWG-I, Inter-ministerial Co-ordinating Committee (IMCC), National Project Co-ordinator (NPC);
- Revised list of activities to include: local government participation, study tours, national research seminars, establishment of national level co-ordinating bodies;
- RWG-I will review the socio-economic aspects of all the identified environmental problems in an integrated manner, and **proposed a plan for socio-economic analysis to be approved by the RSTP**;
- Proposed that integrated governance analysis should be carried out by the special institutions in the participating countries to cover the cross component issues; each RWG will carry out their own causal chain analysis, with assistance from the Investment group. Initial efforts for socio-economic analysis will focus on the fishery component to provide experiences to other components;
- Agreed on the needs for meta database and GIS database, and **proposed options for hosting of databases to be approved by the RSTP**;
- Public awareness activities should include inputs into multi-language public media;
- Prepared a list of stakeholders and when and how to involve them in the Project; and
- Recognised that the Small Grants Fund is an important activity, and recommended that it should be implemented when funds are available.

3. LIST OF ACTIVITIES THAT NEED TO BE CO-ORDINATED AMONGST THE RWGS

Based on the discussions of the Regional Working Groups, there were several aspects regarding the cross components issues that need to be considered by the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel. These are summarised as follows:

- During the discussion, the Regional Working Groups for Pollution, Ecosystem and Fisheries strongly suggested that the joint surveys covering the entire sea areas of the Yellow Sea should be organised. With approval of the workplan and budget of the joint cruises by the PSC, there is a need to discuss relevant issues with participation of all RWGs concerned and make

the cruise plan as soon as possible, as there is a need for the participating governments to approve the cruise. This item will be discussed in the RSTP meeting in a separate agenda item.

- Determination of carrying capacity needs joint efforts of the Ecosystem and Fisheries groups. Therefore, appropriate mechanisms for this purpose need to be discussed and agreed upon during the RSTP meeting.
- The Regional Working Group for the Ecosystem discussed and agreed on the data and information requirements for the group, in which there are some data and information that should be shared from RWG-F, B, and P.
- During the meeting of the Regional Working Group for Investment, there were extensive discussions on how the socio-economic and governance analysis of the TDA could be carried out for the project components. It was realised that it would be more effective if these analysis could be carried out together by the Investment Group. However, considering the current situations of the other regional working group, it was agreed that necessary assistance to carry out the socio-economic and governance analysis should be provided by the Investment group.
- The RWG-I discussed and agreed that a meta database and a GIS database should be established within the project, taking into consideration that the database needs to be co-ordinated with other existing data centres and databases. Regarding the location of the databases, it meeting agreed *“the meta database and GIS database could be hosted at the PMO or another institute. The First Institute of Oceanography, China, expressed their desire to host the databases. The meeting felt that the host place of the databases should consider long-term existence of the system and maximising benefits from the Project.”*
- The Regional Working Group for Biodiversity discussed necessary data and information requirements and agreed that:
 - (i) The data and information related to saltpan and Mariculture would be required from other components.
 - (ii) There are needs to coordinate with RWG-E with regard to physico-chemical data.
 - (iii) The group will require coastal zoning information from other components.
- It was recognised by all the regional working groups that the public awareness campaigns need to be designed and implemented in a co-ordinated way within the project components, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and maximise the benefits.

The RSTP will be invited to discuss the above-mentioned cross component issues and come up with agreements.

4. MAJOR DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE MEETINGS OF RWGS

It was recognised that the members of the RWGs should be relatively consistent, in order to ensure smooth functioning of the project and discussions. Dates for next meetings are decided at current meetings, and members should mark their calendars accordingly.

Inconsistencies in membership or lack of attendance at meetings do impact the results of the meetings, and hence affect the next steps of Project implementation.

It was also recognised that some of the members who attended the meetings of RWGs did not review the meeting documents prepared by the PMO in advance of the meeting. This situation negatively impacted the success of the meetings. It was suggested that all members should spend time reading meeting documents before coming to the meeting. Documents are placed on the PMO website at least 2 weeks before the meeting. Members should contact their component officers if they have trouble downloading the documents.

The compositions of some RWGs come from single institutions from participating countries. In order to achieve better results defined by the project, it would be more appropriate that the Regional Working Groups would consider members from a wider variety of institutes and backgrounds.

During this initial phase of the implementation of the project activities, the PMO felt some difficulties in lack of response to correspondences issued from PMO. In some cases, the members had difficulties in downloading documents from the project website, but they did not inform the PMO to take necessary actions. It should be noted by all members and partners of the project that smooth communication is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the project activities.

5. LIST OF ACTIONS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE RSTP AND/OR PSC

Apart from the tasks listed in item 3 of this document, the following issues need to be considered by the RSTP and/or PSC:

- Finalise joint cruise plan at the RSTP meeting, in order to submit the plan to the governments of the participating countries;
- Agree on overlaps in the agreed data and information collections of the RWGs, and decide on the responsibilities of each RWG on the data and information collection;
- Determine the destiny of 'gene pool analysis' given the perceived importance of this component (RWG-B) and the fact that there is no budget allocated to it;
- Approve revised TORs for the RWGs, including the general responsibilities of all the RWGs and specific tasks for each RWG;
- Approve the revised TORs for the IMCC and NPC;
- Review revised activity lists and workplans 2005-2006, agreed by the RWGs; and
- Review calendar of meetings for 2005.