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

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

### **Revised Terms of Reference for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project Regional Thematic Working Groups**

#### **Background:**

To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the YSLME Project, Regional Thematic Working Groups (RWG) for each component (Ecosystem, Biodiversity, Fisheries, Pollution, and Investment) shall be established with overall responsibility for ensuring effective management and implementation of project activities.

#### **Membership:**

Each of the five RWGs will include:

- four scientists (social and natural), two from each country;
- two additional experts drawn from the legal, regulatory, investment, and/or environmental management fields, one from each country;
- One additional expert will be elected and serve as the Chairperson, as agreed in the Project Document;
- The Working Group Chairpersons will be members of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel.

#### **Working modalities:**

Each RWG will represent the regional perspective. Working “without walls,” the RWGs will communicate primarily through email, with one or two working meetings annually. Each RWG will operate on a consensus basis. The RWGs report to the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel through the Chairperson.

#### **Meetings:**

The Project Management Office, in consultation with the Chairpersons, shall convene meetings of the RWGs according to an agreed schedule. The RWG Meetings should be included as part of the agreed work plan and timetable of the Project.

The Project Management Office shall act as Secretariat to the RWGs, and shall ensure that reports of the meetings and other activities are circulated to all members of the working groups, and are copied to the members of the RSTP.

**Tasks:**

- Co-ordinate relevant activities and contribute scientific knowledge in the area of expertise to the development of the TDA
- Assist in development of the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Yellow Sea Action Plans (NYSAPs), and implementation of agreed demonstration/pilot activities
- Contribute to the development of the Priority Investment Portfolio (PIP)
- Provide technical inputs/comments for the project workplans in their respective areas of competency
- Develop annual and quarterly work plans and assist with implementing activities in respective thematic area, based on and fully integrated in the project workplan
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation through reviewing the annual and quarterly progress reports, and provide advice where necessary
- Be responsible for regional coordination within area of competency
- Facilitate creation of effective national thematic network
- Identify the needs for necessary capacity building and training for all stakeholders of the Project, and facilitate implementation of identified activities on capacity building and training
- Assist, through the Chair, in effective Project Management by assisting with scheduling, scoping, and budgeting for various interlinked activities
- Contribute scientific and technical advice to the formulation of proposals for national and regional actions and donor funding to continue implementation of approved SAP
- Liaise closely with PMO

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

**ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**

Location of WG Chair: Republic of Korea

Tasks:

- Assess the status and trend of the Yellow Sea ecosystem. Identify data and information gaps and develop strategies for better assessment.
- Establish regional scientific and technical framework for monitoring the changing status of the Yellow Sea ecosystem.
- Assess the carrying capacities of the Yellow Sea ecosystem under changing human-induced and natural variabilities.
- Identify stressors to the Yellow Sea ecosystem, and recommend corrective measures to minimize the human-induced stresses to the ecosystem. Facilitate development and implementation of regional policies and legal measures.

## **POLLUTION WORKING GROUP**

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

### Tasks:

- Coordinate the development of a regional system of effective marine contaminant reduction and mitigation. Facilitate the establishment of regional quality assurance system.
- Establish and support a well functioning network of monitoring centres throughout the region. Compile reliable data to catalyze reduction and prevention of contamination.
- Identify "Hot Spots." Prepare regional procedures for remediation and prevention, for adoption and implementation.
- Develop regional guidelines for monitoring and assessment of the marine environment in the Yellow Sea.
- Provide guidance in developing regional strategies for pollution control and management.
- Provide scientific guidance for the development of the pollution chapter of the TDA.
- Provide scientific guidance in the development and implementation of the SAP and NYSAP.
- Prepare workplan of pollution component with detailed costed actions for consideration and approval of PSC.

## **FISHERIES WORKING GROUP**

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

### Tasks:

- Develop common methodology for regional stock assessment strategy and region-wide monitoring. Perform initial joint stock assessment. Elaborate an effective mechanism for regional stock assessment.
- Perform re-iterative series of regional analyses of carrying capacity. Develop mechanism for regional carrying capacity determination and/or other ecosystem-based fisheries management tools.
- Develop joint applied research program for sustainable mariculture. Pilot demonstration projects in mariculture. Assist region to implement more broadly proven sustainable mariculture techniques.
- Coordination of joint development and demonstration of methods for diagnosis, prevention, and control of disease in mariculture. Development of regional communication network about diseases to reduce transboundary implications.

- Facilitate developed and endorsed bilateral and/or regional agreement for sustainable use of fisheries resources.
- Facilitate improvement of fisheries management in the YSLME. Develop strategies for sustainable use of transboundary stocks building on management plans.

## **BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

Location of Chair: Republic of Korea

### Tasks:

- Develop and implement Regional Strategy for Conservation Areas, including identification of priority locations for the creation of new protected areas. Facilitate conservation of habitats of global significance. Establish regional network of protected areas as a part of global scenario.
- Facilitate implementation of regionally coordinated strategies for protection of vulnerable species. Develop approaches for conservation of species of global significance.
- Facilitate implementation of recommendations for conservation of specific gene pool.
- Facilitate implementation of identified actions to mitigate threats from possible introduction of exotic species to the YSLME transboundary biodiversity.
- Develop and implement regionally coordinated strategies for biodiversity protection. Assistance for provision of regional agreements.
- Coordinate preparation and implementation of Regional Biodiversity Action Plan, including investment strategy.

## **INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP**

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

### Tasks:

- Facilitate effective involvement of stakeholders in the Project.
- Identify and assist in development of necessary regional and national co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms.
- Identify needs for and assist in governance analysis and socio-economic analysis of Yellow Sea ecosystem.
- Assist in and facilitate establishment of data information management, and provide guidance in potential linkages with other regional data and information management systems.
- Promote public awareness and participation.

- Facilitate the strengthening of national institution's capacities for environmental management and decision making.
- Provide guidelines in preparing long term financial sustainability mechanisms for SAP / NYSAP implementation.