



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

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English only

**Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Kunming, China, 15-17 December 2005

**Revised Terms of Reference for the
Regional Working Groups (RWGs)**

Background: In order to achieve the project overall goals and objective, five Regional Working Groups (RWGs) shall be established in accordance with the approved Project Document of the UNDP/GEF Project entitled, “*Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)*.” These five RWGs are responsible for five project components: fisheries, biodiversity, ecosystem, pollution and environment investment. The RWGs shall be established with overall responsibility for ensuring effective implementation and management of project activities.

Membership: Each RWG shall consist of one Chairperson in accordance with the agreement in the approved Project Document, and three experts from each participating country. Each of the 5 RWGs will include:

- 4 social and natural scientists - 2 from each country;
- 2 experts from the legal, regulatory, investment, and/or environmental management fields – 1 from each country; and
- One additional expert will be elected and serve as the Chairperson.

The Chairpersons of the RWGs will represent the respective Regional Working Groups on the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel (RSTP), and will attend the meetings of the Panel.

Secretariat

The Project Management Office (PMO) shall act as Secretariat to the Regional Working Groups, and shall prepare the meeting reports of the RWG meetings. The meeting reports shall be circulated to all members of the RWGs and RSTP and project partners.

Meetings

In consultation with the Chairpersons of the RWGs, the PMO shall convene meetings of the RWGs according to the agreed schedules.

Tasks:

The RWGs shall:

- Provide technical direction and guidance to the National Working Groups for the project components in implementing the project activities at national levels;
- Prepare annual work plans and implement agreed activities in respective responsible components, and ensure regional co-ordination in implementing the project activities;
- Develop relevant regional technical recommendations, guidance and strategy within area of competency, supporting the implementation of project activities;
- Participate in and contribute scientific knowledge in the area of expertise to the preparation of the regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA);
- Assist in preparation of the regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Yellow Sea Action Plans (NYSAP), and implementation of the identified demonstration and/or pilot activities;
- Identify regional needs on capacity building and trainings to assist with implementation of the project;
- Review and evaluate the progress achieved in the respective project components, and provide recommendations for improvement when necessary; and
- Report, through the Chairpersons of the RWGs, to the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

1. Regional Working Group for Fisheries (RWG-F)

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

Tasks:

- Provide guidance to 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.
- Provide guidance to perform re-iterative series of regional analyses of carrying capacity, and provide recommendations for regional carrying capacity determination.
- Develop joint applied research programmes for sustainable mariculture. Pilot demonstration project(s) in mariculture to assist the participating countries in implementing sustainable mariculture techniques that are suitable for the Yellow Sea region.
- Coordinate joint efforts in developing and demonstrating technical methods for diagnosis, prevention, and control of disease in mariculture. Develop a regional communication network about diseases to reduce transboundary implications.
- Facilitate preparation and endorsement of regional agreement for sustainable use of fisheries resources.

2. Regional Working Group for Biodiversity (RWG-B)

Location of Chair: Republic of Korea

Tasks:

- Facilitate conservation of marine and coastal habitats of global and regional significance. Establish regional network of protected areas as a part of global scenario.
- Facilitate implementation of regionally co-ordinated activities for protection of vulnerable species. Develop approaches for conservation of global and regional significant species.
- Facilitate implementation of identified actions to mitigate threats from possible introduction of exotic species to the Yellow Sea.
- Co-ordinate efforts in preparing relevant sections of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

3. Regional Working Group for Pollution (RWG-P)

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

Tasks:

- Co-ordinate the regional monitoring system for better understanding of the status and trends of marine pollution in the Yellow Sea, and facilitate the establishment of regional data quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) system.
- Identify marine pollution hot spots in the Yellow Sea, and provide technical guidance in preparing regional procedures for remediation and prevention of pollutants in marine and coastal environments of the Yellow Sea.
- Co-ordinate efforts in preparing relevant sections of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
- Prepare workplan of the Pollution Component with detailed costed actions for consideration and approval by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

4. Ecosystem 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.

5. Investment Working Group

Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China

Tasks:

- Facilitate effective involvement of stakeholders in project activities.
- Enhance regional and national co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms in protection of marine and coastal environment and sustainable use of marine resources in the Yellow Sea.
- 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 for the project, 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.