



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-B.2/6
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English only

**Second Regional Working Group Meeting
For the Biodiversity Component of
The UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
*Jeju, Korea, 9th to 12th November 2005***

**Activities to be Implemented
2005 to 2006**

One of the responsibilities of the Biodiversity Regional Working Group is to provide technical guidance for implementation of activities under this project component. Certain activities have previously been identified for implementation during the first two years of the Project. Many of these activities require the technical inputs of the RWG members whilst others involve consultant contracts that will be issued to individuals through a bidding process following UNOPS guidelines.

The results of these activities will contribute to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), to the development of strategic action plans and prioritisation of project interventions, and will enhance capacity to manage biodiversity-related problems on a regional scale.

The successful completion of the activities will ultimately produce:

- Regionally agreed methods for the observation, monitoring and sampling of biological and environmental parameters relating to biodiversity in the Yellow Sea;
- An enhanced co-operative mechanism for regional monitoring, observation and protection of biodiversity;
- Upgraded skills in the observation and monitoring of parameters for the protection and management of biodiversity;
- And ultimately, a better scientific understanding of biodiversity in the Yellow Sea ecosystem.

Following are descriptions of the upcoming activities requiring action and/or technical guidance from the Regional Working Group for the Biodiversity Component. These fall under the 4 major activity categories for the Biodiversity Component: 1) Habitat Conservation and Vulnerable Species; 2) Genetic Diversity; 3) Introduced Species; and 4) Synthesis of reviews and development of coordinated strategies, as listed in the Implementation Plan.

Members are asked to review and familiarise themselves with these activities, especially with regards to the RWG inputs that may be required and how the results of these activities will contribute to the TDA and Strategic Action Programme. Members are also asked to consider suitable candidates for implementing the consultant activities which follow at the end of this document.

Members should consult the List of Activities and Workplan (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-B.2/8) that lists the current schedule of project activities relating to the Fisheries Component and describing the expectant start dates and the order in which they occur. Note that the PMO has modified the schedule to reflect the current status of activities and members will be given the opportunity to review the project schedule later in Agenda 8.

Description of Activities for Biodiversity Component

1. Habitat Conservation and Vulnerable Species

The current RWG-Biodiversity meeting will review the data at the completion of the current data & information collection activities, and from this, a set of reviews will be developed describing: existing national practices of coastal habitat use, conservation and restoration; and status of vulnerable species and trophic linkages, for input to the TDA scheduled for publishing in September, 2006.

This information will then be utilised to analyse and prioritise gaps of regional importance, identify capacity gaps and prioritise training needs.

Members of the RWG-B are asked to assist in the development of mechanisms for regionally coordinated strategies for conservation and restoration of habitats and for protection of vulnerable species in the Yellow Sea. A consultant will be asked develop a regional strategy for the above (refer to TOR. A), which will be discussed and modified if necessary at the next RWG-B meeting (Meeting 3). The RWG-B will work with the consultant through RWG meetings to revise and finalise these strategies for input to the Regional SAP. Considerations during the development process should include approaches to improving management for protected areas, development of a regional network of well-managed protected areas, and developing a regional monitoring system for biodiversity including action plans for selected vulnerable species. Once a regional strategy has been agreed upon, then the strategy will be contracted to national focal points for implementation.

2. Genetic Diversity

Although the budget allocation for this activity was reassigned by agreement of the 1st Regional Technical Meeting in Beijing, China 14th to 16th December, 2004, in the light of contemporary information the importance of this activity in the project is currently being deliberated. A description of the activity is included in this document with the possibility that future budget re-arrangements may liberate funds that can be used to reinstate it, and pending the approval of the Project Steering Committee.

At the completion of the current data & information collection activities, the RWG-B will describe the genetic state of important bio-resources of the Yellow Sea, identifying if possible, situations of genetic degradation, listing the species and the current activities which are attempting to address genetic degradation, for input to the TDA and for contribution to the GIS database. Gaps in the data and information will be identified and prioritised for future action.

Based on the list of activities of the Implementation Plan, a consultant will be required to develop a plan for the regional conservation of genetic diversity, including; guidelines for a

training course on recommended genetic techniques, an agreed list of genes and a plan for the conservation gene resources. The RWG-B would be required to assist in the development of these guidelines for input to the SAP.

3. Introduced Species

Upon completion of the current mariculture data & information collection activities the RWG-B, using the contemporary data & information, will document exotic species and their pathways, and where possible, assess their impacts and risks for input to the TDA.

The budget allocation for this activity was also reassigned at the 1st Regional Technical Meeting with no interest in its reinstatement and a description of activities will not be included here as a result.

The RWG-Fisheries is currently collecting data and information on the introduction of species via aquaculture which may contribute to the Biodiversity Component's data and information requirements.

4. Synthesis of Reviews and Development of Coordinated Strategies

By Mid 2006 a consultant will be required to synthesize the outputs from No. 1, 2 and 3 above and, working in conjunction with the RWG, discuss and prioritise actions and prepare a coordinated regional SAP for the protection of biodiversity in the Yellow Sea for input to the TDA.

Description of Upcoming Consultant Requirements

A. *Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Coastal Habitats and Protection of Vulnerable Species of the Yellow Sea*

Background

In the approved Implementation Plan of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project, 'Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem', one of the activities of the Biodiversity Component is to develop a comprehensive strategy for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity, in and around the Yellow Sea.

The development objective of the task is to develop a regional strategy for the development and management of the biodiversity of the Yellow Sea. The strategy will be integrated into the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Yellow Sea Action Plans (NYSAPs) and submitted to governments for approval and implementation. Concomitantly it is hoped that this strategy will provide a mechanism for continued development of regionally agreed methods for observation, monitoring and sampling of the Yellow Sea ecosystem, enhanced co-operative mechanism for regional monitoring and observation; upgrading of skills in observation and monitoring of biodiversity issues; a better scientific understanding of the ecosystem status; and an increased mutual understanding and trust amongst the participating nations.

The immediate objectives of this task are to prepare a regional synthesis of the data and information existing on biodiversity of the Yellow Sea for input to the YSLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and prepare a regional strategy for the development and management of habitat and species diversity via the development of protected areas for the conservation and restoration of the vulnerable species.

Description of Required Services

A competent incumbent, selected through the required United Nations bidding procedure, will be contracted to prepare a synthesis of recently collected data and information and develop a coordinated strategy for the protection of habitats and vulnerable species in, and around the Yellow Sea. This will include a collation of existing information on national practices of coastal habitat use, conservation and restoration, status of vulnerable species and vulnerable trophic linkages (including keystone species) and analyse and prioritise gaps of regional importance as per the list of activities of the Implementation Plan. The incumbent shall carry out the following activities:

- 1) Prepare a regional synthesis of the data and information on habitats and vulnerable species summarizing the status of biodiversity in the region and incorporating:
 - a. Data and information collected by the Biodiversity Regional Working Group during the recent data & information collecting activities;
 - b. Data and information from the Fisheries RWG collection activities regarding mariculture-related introduced species;
 - c. The output from the Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Project (YSEPP) biodiversity project, in particular the designation of Ecologically Important Areas (EIAs).

The summary should highlight the knowledge gaps and barriers to obtaining data and should describe the following:

- a. The status of coastal habitats and current conservation actions;
 - b. The status and trends of genetic diversity, highlighting areas of genetic degradation; and
 - c. The pathways and impacts of introduced species.
- 2) Present the results of the synthesis at the meeting of the Regional Working Group, to be reviewed with all members of the RWG and the Project Management Office.
- 3) Based on comments from the Regional Working Group, finalise the document and prepare for input to TDA.
- 4) Prepare a regional strategy for the conservation and restoration of habitats and protection of vulnerable species, including:
 - a. Approaches to improving management for protected areas;
 - b. Developing a regional network of well managed protected areas;
 - c. Developing a regional monitoring system for biodiversity; and
 - d. Actions plans for selected vulnerable species.
- 5) Present the strategy to the meeting of the Regional Working Group, for review and approval by members of the RWG and the Project Management Office. Based on the comments of the Regional Working Group, finalise the strategy for implementation by national focal points.

Expected Outputs/Results

The final product (report) should be a set of reports as listed below:

- (i) A comprehensive report describing the status of biodiversity in this region with consideration of contemporary data and information collected by the Biodiversity Regional Working Group during the recent data & information collecting activities; data and information from the Fisheries RWG collection activities regarding

mariculture-related introduced species; and outputs from the Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Project (YSEPP) biodiversity project.

The summary should highlight the status of, and/or current mitigating actions for protection of coastal habitats, genetic diversity and impacts of introduced species.

- (ii) A list of data and information sources to indicate any sources of data and information collected and/or used in item (i), the location of these data and information centres, and conditions of access to data and information by different users;
- (iii) A comprehensive report detailing a proposed strategy for the conservation and restoration of habitats and for the protection of vulnerable species. The report must include:
 - i. Approaches for improving management for protected areas in and around the Yellow Sea
 - ii. Proposal for the development of a regional network of well-managed protected areas
 - iii. Proposal for the development of a regional monitoring system for biodiversity
 - iv. Actions plans for selected vulnerable species (at least 5)
- (iv) A report containing the comments and agreements from both Regional Working Group Meetings in response to proposals.
- (v) Project progress reports and financial report in format as provided by the PMO.

Qualifications:

The incumbent selected to carry out this task should have the following qualifications:

- Extensive knowledge of contemporary biodiversity issues, research and the analysis of relevant data and information.
- At least 5 years experience with the designation and establishment of protected area research in the Yellow Sea.
- At least 5 years experience with research in vulnerable species in the Yellow Sea.
- Ability to access necessary biodiversity-related data & information through databases, information centres, and other relevant institutions in the country.
- Appropriate academic qualifications, available time and good interpersonal skills and ability to liaise with NGOs, governments, and other institutions.
- Financial accountability with a professional financial management system.

Deliverables and Deadlines

The commissioned assignment will be carried out from June 2005 through January 2006, according to the following schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Contract signature	February, 2006
Draft Report on Status of Biodiversity for review at Regional	May, 2006

Working Group Meeting;	
Draft Regional strategy for the conservation and restoration of habitats and protection of vulnerable species for review at next Regional Working Group Meeting;	May, 2007
Progress report and interim financial statement submitted to PMO/UNOPS	June, 2007
Presentation of final report for review at next Regional Working Group Meeting;	May, 2008
Final Report and Final financial statement submitted to PMO/(UNOPS)	July, 2006