



---

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

---

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-B.4/6  
Date: 15 September 2007  
English only

**Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group  
for the Biodiversity Component**

*Seogwipo, Republic of Korea, 17 - 19 October 2007*

**Preparation of Yellow Sea Strategic Action Plan (SAP)**

1. According to the overall workplan, the Project has begun developing the SAP. The “TDA/SAP Training Module” developed by UN’s TRAINSEACOAST network gives the definition of SAP as:

“a negotiated policy document which should identify policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address the priority transboundary problems. Endorsed at the highest level, it establishes clear priorities for action to resolve the priority problems which were identified in the TDA. The preparation of a SAP is a cooperative process among the countries of the region.”
2. Given the definition, the Project has now focused its activities over the next two years on those that will be relevant to the development of the SAP, including the regional and national SAPs, i.e. activities that will eventually lead to formation of management actions, some of which will be included in the pilot implementation phase during Project Year 5, for their feasibilities, efficiency and effectiveness in addressing Yellow Sea’s transboundary biodiversity problems.
3. During the SAP Consultation Meeting, Carrying Capacity of the Environment was adopted as the central linkage in the SAP and was defined as the Services delivered by the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem in term of Provisioning Services (fisheries, mariculture and other extractive goods), Supporting/Regulating Services (carbon sink, nutrient balance, ecosystem stability) and Cultural Services (tourism, education and religion).
4. A three-step approach is proposed: a) environmental problems, b) regional environmental targets, c) management actions. While it is suggested that these three steps are taken to develop the biodiversity section of the SAP, all steps should be considered simultaneously:
  - a) Identification of Biodiversity related problems;
  - b) Recommendation of realistic and achievable regional targets for biodiversity conservation and management;

- c) And suggest sustainable actions for execution by political, technical, institutional, and legal bodies to address the causes of the biodiversity problems as identified in the Causal Chain Analysis.

#### Identification of Biodiversity related problems

5. During the first two years of project implementation, the RWG-B agreed to focus the Biodiversity Component's activities on the higher trophic levels and habitat issues
6. For the Biodiversity Component of primary concern is:
  - Loss of Habitat through reclamation and conversion;
  - Vulnerable Species;
  - Introduced Species;
  - And loss of Species and Genetic Diversity

#### Ecosystem Quality Objectives or Regional Targets

7. During the First Ad Hoc SAP meeting experts outlined regional targets for all components.
8. For Biodiversity:
  - Maintain and improve current populations/distributions and genetic diversity of endangered and endemic spp.;
  - Maintain current habitats according to standards and regulations of 2007 and according to current zoning plans.

Members should review the suggested Regional targets and suggest possible improvements that may facilitate the either the understanding or the measurement of achievement

Members may also elaborate additional activities related to the development of regional biodiversity targets.

#### Proposed Management Actions

9. During the Second Ad Hoc SAP meeting experts outlined the management actions that are needed in order to achieve the previously mentioned regional targets.
10. For Biodiversity these included
  - Regional plan for MPAs to ensure a well connected representative network of MPA's;
  - Increased capacity and knowledge amongst stakeholders;
  - Regional conservation plan for endemic and endangered species and improvements to the laws protecting vulnerable and endemic species

- and regulation introduction of non-indigenous species and their enforcement;
- Regional guidelines to coastal habitat management with agreements to halt any further coastal reclamation other than those areas already designated under national zoning plans;
  - More detail is available in Annex 1

Members should review the suggested Management actions and suggest possible improvements that may improve the clarity and ease of implementation and additional management actions.

### Feasibility Studies

11. For Biodiversity these included

- Acceptability analysis of Stakeholders on the increase in MPAs and number of protected species

For the technical feasibility study,

- Following identification of management actions (and/or options) at the second meeting of the SAP Ad Hoc Working Group, the National Working Groups for the project components should discuss possible approaches to carrying out the technical feasibility study. One approach may be that;
  - The experts should consider whether there is or will sufficient technical ability to perform the suggested action;
  - The experts could score the actions based only on technical ability: (1) Not possible (2) Unlikely (3) Likely or (4) Very likely;
  - The experts should provide a rationale for their selection;
  - The experts should also comment on the action in terms of institutional and political obstacles.

The Regional Working Groups for the Project Components should discuss the national proposals and provide comments and guidance to the National Working Groups.

National Working Groups are responsible for the relevant feasibility studies in the participating countries, and the study results will be reported to the members of the SAP Ad Hoc Working Group through PMO as outlined in the TOR.

### Proposed Demonstration Sites

12. During the Second Ad Hoc SAP meeting, experts drew up some guidelines to select: firstly which management actions should be selected for demonstration; and secondly how to choose the demonstration site (See Annex 2).
13. Participants should prepare a short presentation on their ideas for demonstration sites and which management actions they would like to demonstrate using the selection criteria in Annex 2. Using the PPAs of the YSEPP, the outputs from the Biodiversity Coastal Survey and WWF's scoping study a demonstration site on

each side of the Yellow Sea will be selected for the demonstration of the effectiveness of management actions proposed under the SAP.

14. Another factor that might need to be considered is that the site may be shared with the Pollution Component, whose selection criteria will be influenced by the impact of pollution on a habitat and the possibility of remedial action.
15. Therefore selection criteria for Biodiversity may include
  - Species richness
  - Presence of vulnerable species;
  - Environmental awareness amongst policy makers and stakeholders;
  - Impact of pollution
  - Development plans for the area
  - Functional zoning

#### EXPECTED RESULTS FROM THE MEETING

16. In summary, during the consideration of this Agenda, members should discuss and agree on :
  - Regional biodiversity targets
  - Biodiversity Management actions
  - How the biodiversity component can contribute to the feasibility studies.
  - Selection criteria for demonstration sites