



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-B.1/Inf.4
Date: 23 March 2005
English only

First Regional Working Group Meeting
For the Biodiversity Component of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Qingdao, China, 19-22 April 2005

Terms of Reference
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Regional Thematic Working Group on Biodiversity

Background:

To facilitate the achievement of the regional goals and objectives, Regional Thematic Working Groups (RWG) for each component (Ecosystem, Fisheries, Biodiversity, Pollution, and Investment) shall be established with overall responsibility for ensuring effective implementation of project activities and to provide a mechanism for exchange of information and experience of management experiences in each country.

Membership:

Each of the five RWGs will include:

- Two scientists (social and natural);
- Two additional experts drawn from the legal, regulatory, investment, and/or environmental management fields, from both countries;
- The Chairman of each RWG will be nominated by the respective NFP, in collaboration with the Project Manager, and will be reviewed and endorsed at the First Project Steering Committee Meeting; and
- The Working Group Chairs will be members of the Regional Science and Technical Panel.

Working modalities:

The RWGs are not an institution in themselves. In essence, each WG is headquartered where the Chair is located. Each RWG will represent the regional perspective and not just national perspective. Working “without walls,” the RWGs will communicate primarily through email, with one or two working meetings annually. Working group members are part-time, and are compensated based on specific scientific tasks undertaken in support of the working group. The Chair is also part-time, but will be provided partial support for his/her coordination activities. Each RWG will operate on the basis of working parties involving participation of experts from all coastal countries together with external experts where this is considered necessary. The RWGs report to the PMO, although they may also have national reporting requirements from NPCs.

Meetings:

The Project Management Office, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall convene meetings of the RWGs according to an agreed schedule, which will form part of the agreed work plan and timetable for the work of the Project.

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

Tasks:

- Provide technical inputs/comments for the project workplans in their respective areas of competency;
- Develop annual and quarterly work plans and implement activities in respective thematic area, based on and fully integrated in the project workplan, and make annual and quarterly progress reports;
- Be responsible for regional coordination within area of competency;
- Facilitate creation of effective national thematic network;
- Organise and conduct working parties and training within area of competency;
- Develop relevant regional recommendations, guidance and strategy within area of competency;
- Contribute scientific knowledge in the area of expertise to the development of the TDA;
- Assist in development and implementation of the National Yellow Sea Action Plans and Regional Strategic Action Programme;
- Contribute to the development of the Priority Investment Portfolio;
- 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;
- Network with national and international institutions and specialists in respective focal area;
- Prepare and implement regional pilot projects;
- Liaise closely with PMO, through RWG Chairs;
- Contribute scientific and technical expertise to YSLME information system development, public awareness activities and stakeholder participation;
- Cooperate with other RWGs; and
- Develop and maintain a database within area of competence.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF REGIONAL THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY

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.
- Develop and 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.