



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/3
Date: 7 May 2008
English only

**Third Meeting of the Strategic Action Programme Ad-hoc Working Group
For the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Hangzhou, China, 6-7 May 2008

Meeting Report

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1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome addresses

- 1.1.1 On behalf of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea project, Mr. Yihang JIANG, Project Manager and Chairperson of the Ad-hoc Working Group, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the third meeting of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Ad-hoc Working Group. He expressed his gratitude towards the SAP Drafting Group members for their efforts to prepare the Draft SAP.
- 1.1.2 On behalf of the delegation from China, Mr. Fengkui LIANG welcomed all the participants to Hangzhou. He thanked the Project Management Office as well as the Drafting Group for preparing the Draft SAP. Mr. Liang hoped that the meeting would have fruitful discussions to improve the Draft and facilitate activities relevant to the SAP implementation.
- 1.1.3 On behalf of the delegation from Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr. Sun-Bae HONG thanked the Project Manager and the Drafting Group to prepare the Draft SAP. He expressed the country's willingness to invite the DPRK to the Project. Mr. Hong hoped that three coastal countries—ROK, China, and DPRK—would have valuable discussions to prepare a practical, acceptable and implementable SAP.
- 1.1.4 On behalf of the delegation from Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mr. Chol NAM thanked the Meeting for providing the country with an opportunity to participate in the meeting. He mentioned that he would like to take advantage of this meeting fully so as to understand the SAP process well.

1.2 Introduction of members

- 1.2.1 Members and other participants were invited to introduce themselves, and they gave a brief introduction on their background and roles in the Project. The list of participants is attached to this report as [Annex I](#).
- 1.2.2 The list of documents and the meeting agenda are attached to this report as [Annex II](#) and [Annex III](#), respectively.

2 EXPECTED OUTPUTS FROM THE MEETING

- 2.1 The Chairperson introduced this agenda item. The Meeting was expected to discuss and agree on (i) the Draft SAP prepared by the SAP Drafting Group, (ii) the participation of the DPRK in the Project's second phase, and (iii) the preparation of National Strategic Action Plans (NSAPs). The decisions and suggestions made by the Ad-hoc Working Group Meeting will be provided to the third meeting of the Special Project Steering Committee (PSC) for its consideration and approval.
- 2.2 The Meeting noted the requirements for and outputs expected from this meeting.
- 2.3 A suggestion was made to discuss the preparation for the Project's second phase. Having appreciated this suggestion, **the Meeting agreed to add a new item, "4.2b Discussion on the potential second phase of the YSLME Project," to the meeting agenda.**

- 2.4 The participants thought that the Political and Social Acceptance Analysis (PSAA), the Participation of DPRK, and the Preparation of the NSAPs should be discussed in another occasion, but not at the Ad-hoc Working Group meeting.

3 QUICK REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN SAP DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- 3.1 Mr. Isao ENDO updated the Meeting of the latest development in the SAP preparation (Document, UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/2). Following the recommendations from the second meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group, two meetings of the SAP Drafting Group were organised. The Group prepared a draft SAP for this Meeting to consider and improve.
- 3.2 The participants took note of the progress made since the last Ad-hoc Working Group, appreciating the efforts made by the Drafting Group to prepare the Draft SAP.

4 INTRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT, “DRAFT SAP”

4.1 Report of the progress in SAP Development

- 4.1.1 Referring to Document, UNDP/GEF/YS/SDG.2/3, Mr. Endo highlighted the major elements of the Draft SAP. The Project’s SAP, taking the ecosystem-based approach, aims at maintaining and improving the “Ecosystem Carrying Capacity (ECC)” in the Yellow Sea. The SAP not only sets the regional targets until 2020 for the environmental quality of the Yellow Sea, but also devises management actions to meet those targets.

4.2a Improvement and agreement on Draft SAP

- 4.2.1 The Chairperson invited the Drafting Group members to present the Draft SAP to the Meeting. The members (Mr. Suh-Yong CHUNG, Mr. Endo, Mr. Jiang, Mr. Mark WALTON, Mr. Quan WEN, and Mr. Sinjae YOO) explained the Draft accordingly.
- 4.2.2 After the presentations, the Meeting was invited to examine the contents of the Draft SAP. An extensive discussion was made among the participants; as a result, a number of comments and suggestions were provided to improve the Draft. Major comments include the following:
- The meeting noticed necessities of the linkage between the LMEs of adjacent sea areas to the YSLME due to the fact that these LMEs were connected and there were interactions between ecosystems in the long term basis. The meeting decided to focused the efforts of the project in the Yellow sea at this stage
 - The meeting discussed the Section 4.4, and felt that it should be rephrased to clearly describe the linkage between “Ecosystem Carrying Capacity (ECC)” and “Regional Targets.” The Chairperson suggested convening a sessional meeting to improve the description of the section.
 - The sessional group proposed the revisions in Section 4.4. The revised Section defines Regional Management Targets as the regional management objectives to be achieved by 2020 through implementation of management actions. The Regional Management Targets are the same as the Regional Ecosystem Quality

Objective, the term used by the GEF. The Meeting agreed on the revisions proposed by the group, and they were reflected in the Draft SAP.

- About Section 5, an extensive discussion was made on Target 1 and management actions to achieve that target. The Meeting agreed to insert the footnote (i) to cite the reference as a basis for the proposed rate of reduction in fishing effort and (ii) to mention that the details of the proposed management actions would be adjusted based on knowledge obtained from future activities. The Meeting also agreed to add one paragraph in the description of Management Action 2-3, that the participating countries should reduce fishing efforts to nationally acceptable level to ensure the sustainability of provisioning services.
- It was suggested to include a statement that the programme of controlling total nutrient loading is encouraged by reducing pollution discharge or enhancing sewerage treatment. The Meeting accepted this suggestion, and the statement was included in the Draft SAP.
- The nature and objectives of the YSLME Commission should be stated clearly in the Meeting Report (this document) so that the participating governments fully note the characteristics of this implementation mechanism.

Proposed implementation mechanism: YSLME Commission

Objectives:

- To continue and expand current efforts through the YSLME Project.
- To contribute to better coordination and effective regional efforts.

Nature: Soft, non-legally binding, and co-operation based institution.

Institutional framework: Steering Committee, Secretariat, and Sub-Commissions.

- Written comments received by the PMO were introduced to the meeting, and relevant agreements incorporated in the revised version of the SAP.

4.2.3 Following the agreements made by the Meeting, **necessary amendments were made in the Draft SAP which was attached to this document as Annex IV.** The document will be submitted to the Special PSC for its consideration and approval.

4.2b Discussion on the potential second phase of the YSLME Project

4.2.4 The Chairperson briefed the Meeting on the procedure of preparing the Project's second phase. Mr. Jiang explained necessary actions required for the preparation step by step. He presented a possible schedule with activities, including the preparation of the Project Concept and the Project Proposal.

4.2.5 The participants exchanged their views and comments on the steps and schedule for preparing the second phase. Major comments include the following:

- Participants asked for clarification whether the endorsement of the SAP and NSAPs was a precondition for the second phase. The Project Manager replied to this inquiry by stating that the endorsement of the SAP was necessary for securing the approval from the GEF Council for the second phase, while that of the NSAPs was not necessary, although it would be ideal to prepare the NSAPs by the time when the Council's approval for the next phase is sought.

- A question was raised regarding the issue of co-finance, the meeting discussed and agreed on the financial mechanism as included in the SAP. The Proposal would be different from the NSAPs in a sense that the former focuses on regional issues while the latter focuses on national issues.
 - The meeting felt that it might take the country more time than expected to consider and approve the SAP. The Meeting agreed on an idea schedule as attached as [Annex V](#).
- 4.2.6 To facilitate the discussion of Special Project Steering Committee (PSC), a suggestion was made to have an informal consultation during this meeting with respect to the timeline for preparing the second phase. This suggestion was well accepted, and the Meeting decided to organise a sessional group with representatives from the countries of China, ROK, and DPRK.
- 4.2.7 The sessional group reported that the group worked backwards from the GEF council meeting in July 2009. The PIF should be submitted to the GEF CEO in February 2009, after approval by the PSC meeting in November 2008. Development of the PIF occurs between August and November 2008. Participants agreed that a mechanism was necessary to draft the PIF with at least two meetings in August and September 2008.
- 4.2.8 After clarification was duly made on the schedule suggested by the sessional group, **the Meeting agreed on the proposed timeline ([Annex V](#)) for preparing the Project's second phase.** The timeline will be presented to the Special PSC for its consideration and approval.
- 4.2.9 The Meeting briefly discussed the preparation of the NSAPs. It was agreed that the NSAP may take more time to prepare the necessary documents following the endorsement of the regional SAP.
- 4.2.10 With regard to relevant issues of the DPRK participation in the possible second phase of YSLME Project, YSLME PMO was requested to prepare a list of the necessary actions for discussion in the meeting of the Special PSC.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 The Chairperson invited the Meeting to raise any other issues that were needed to be considered at this meeting. There was no other issue raised by the participants.

6 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

- 6.1 The Chairperson led the discussion of the draft meeting report prepared by the Secretariat. **The report was reviewed, amended, and adopted by the Meeting.**

7 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

- 7.1 The Chairperson thanked all the participants for their hard work to provide suggestions to facilitate the SAP/NSAP preparation.
- 7.2 The meeting closed at 18:30 hours on 7th May 2008.

Annex I

List of Participants

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

Mr. LIANG Fengkui

Director
Department of International Co-operation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860, China
Tel: 86-10-6801-9791
Fax: 86-10-6804-8051
Email: fkliang@soa.gov.cn

Mr. YANG Yafeng

Programme Officer
Department of International Co-operation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860, China
Tel: 86-10-6804-8051
Fax: 86-10-6804-8051
Email: yyf@soa.gov.cn

Mr. ZHANG Zhaohui

Department of International Co-operation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860, China
Tel: +86 10 68019791
Fax: +86 10 68048051
Email: zhang@fio.org.cn

Mr. ZHU Mingyuan

Professor
First Institute of Oceanography, SOA
6 Xianxialing Road Hi-Tech Industrial Park
Qingdao, Shandong 266001
China
Tel: 86-532-8896-7548
Fax: 86-532-8896-7447
Mobile: 86-136-0898-3422
Email: zhumingyuan@fio.org.cn

Mr. HUH Hyung-Tack

Sr. Scientist Emeritus,
KORDI
253, Yonghyun-Dong, Nam-Gu
Incheon 402-751
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-6201
Fax: 82-31-408-5934
Email: hthuh@kordi.re.kr

Mr. CHOI Gwang Su

Deputy Director
Marine Environment Policy Division
Marine Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Transportation and
Maritime Affairs
Jungang-dong, Gwancheoun-city,
Gyeonggi-do, R. Korea
Tel: 82-2-2110-8478
Fax: 82-2-503-2070
Email : ksbada@mltm.go.kr

Mr. HONG Sun-Bae

Assistant Director
Marine Environment Policy Division
Marine Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Transportation and
Maritime Affairs
Jungang-dong, Gwancheoun-city,
Gyeonggi-do, R. Korea
Tel: 82-2-2110-8478
Fax: +82-2-503-2070
Email : hong0610@mltm.go.kr

Mr. LEE Youn Ho

Principal Research Scientist
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-6428
Fax: 82-31-406-2495
Email: ylee@kordi.re.kr

Mr. WEN Quan

Chief Scientist
SOA Key Lab of Coastal Ecosystem and
Environment Research
National Marine Environmental Monitoring
Center
42 Linghe Street
Dalian, Liaoning 116023
China
Tel: 86-411-8478-2522
Fax: 86-411-8478-2522
Email: qwen@nmemc.gov.cn

Mr. XU Xiangmin

Dean
Law School of Ocean University of China
No. 23 Hong Kong Dong Road,
Qingdao, Shandong Province, 266071
China
Tel. 86-532-8590-1857
Fax. 86-532-8590-1851
Email: xuxiangmin58@hotmail.com

Mr. DAI Guilin

Deputy Director
School of Economics
Ocean University of China
No.23 East Hongkong Rd. Qingdao
China 266071
Tel. 86-532-8590-1559
Fax. 86-532-8590-1560
Email: qldai@public.qd.sd.cn

Mr. KWON Sukjae

Senior Researcher
Policy Research Department
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong, Sangnok
Ansan City, Gyeonggi Province 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-6502
Fax: 82-31-400-6505
Email: sjkwon@kordi.re.kr

Mr. YOO Sinjae

Principal Research Scientist
Climate Change Research Division
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-6221
Fax: 82-31-408-5934
Email: sjyoo@kordi.re.kr

Mr. LEE Jang-Uk

President of Korean Fisheries Society
Professor, Pukyong National University
#599-1 Daeyeon 3-Dong, Namgu,
Busan, 608-737
Republic of Korea
Tel. 82-51-343-3898
Fax: 82-51-622-3306
E-mail: julee0922@korea.com

Mr. YANG Dong Beom

Principal Research Scientist
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-6157
Fax: 82-31-408-4493
Email: dbyang@kordi.re.kr

Mr. CHUNG Suh-Yong

Assistant Professor
Division of International Studies,
Korea University
5-1 Anam-dong Seonbuk-gu
Seoul 136-701, Korea
Tel: 82-2-3290-2424
Fax: 82-2-303-7838
Email: mahlerchung@korea.ac.kr
; mahlerchung@yahoo.com

OBSERVER**Mr. NAM Chol**

Director
State Hydrometeorological Administration
(SHMA) Representative in China
No.771, Huanghelu
Dalian, China
Tel:86-0411-8403 9230
Fax: 86-0411-8403 9230
E-mail: nc-000@163.com

Ms. CHAE Sunyoung

Graduate School of International Studies
Korea University
5-1 Anam-dong Seonbuk-gu
Seoul 136-701, Korea
Tel: 82-2-3290-2424
Fax: 82-2-303-7838
Email: chaekatarina@hanmail.net

Ms. YU Ming

Law School of Ocean University of China
No. 23 Hong Kong Dong Road,
Qingdao, Shandong Province, 266071, China
Tel. 86-532-8598-1335
Fax: 86-532-8598-1335
Mobile: 86- 13964259972
Email: yumingnancy@hotmail.com

Mr. CHAE Song Min

Researcher
State Hydrometeorological Administration
(SHMA)
Oesongdong, Central District
Pyongyang,
DPR of Korea
Tel: 85-02-381 4419
Fax: 85-02-381 4410
E-mail:

Ms. KWON Yuna

Division of International Studies of Korea
University
Korea University
5-1 Anam-dong Seonbuk-gu
Seoul 136-701, Korea
Tel: 82-2-3290-2424
Fax: 82-2-303-7838
Email: unaberry@korea.ac.kr

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)

Mr. JIANG Yihang

Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-7825
Fax: 82-31-400-7826
email: yihang@yslme.org

Mr. WALTON Mark

Environmental Specialist
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-7832
Fax: 82-31-400-7826
Email: mark@yslme.org

Mr. ENDO Isao

Environmental Economics Officer
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-7793
Fax: 82-31-400-7826
Email: isao@yslme.org

Mr. PARK Sungjun

Finance & Administrative Officer
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute
1270 Sa-dong Sangnok-gu Ansan-si
Gyeonggi-do 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-400-7828
Fax: 82-31-400-7826
Email: sungjun@yslme.org

Annex II

List of Documents

Working Documents

UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/1	Provisional Agenda
UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/2	Progress of SAP Development
UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/3	Report of the Meeting (to be prepared at the meeting)
UNDP/GEF/YS/SDG.2/3	Draft SAP
UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/4	Progress report of Political and Social Acceptance Analysis
UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/5	Progress report of National Strategic Action Plans

Information Documents

UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNDP/GEF/YS/AWG.3/inf.2	Provisional List of Participants

Annex III

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Expected outputs from the Meeting
3. Quick review of the progress in SAP Development since the last Meeting
4. Introduction of Document, "Draft SAP"
 - 4.1 Report of the progress in SAP Development
 - 4.2a Improvement and agreement on Draft SAP
 - 4.2b Discussion on the potential second phase of the YSLME Project
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the Meeting Report
7. Closure of the Meeting

Annex IV

Third Draft of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Annex V

Proposed timeline for SAP approval and second phase

	Action	Date
Step 1	Preparation of SAP	End May 2008
Step 2	Endorsements in principal from the governments	July & early August 2008
Step 3	Process of government endorsement	August 2008
Step 4	Prepare Project Concept (PIF)	August - November 2008
Step 5	Final endorsement of the SAP	November 2008
Step 6	Consideration of PIF by PSC	November 2008
Step 7	GEF CEO Reviews PIF	February 2009
Step 8	GEF Council Approval of its Work Program and includes YSLME PIF	June 2009
Step 9	Preparation of Project Proposal	June to September 2009
Step 10	CEO Endorsement	October to November 2009
Final	Start 2nd phase	July 2010