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

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UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-I.5/5

Date: 2 September 2008

English only

**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group  
for the Investment Component**  
*Shanghai, China, 14 - 16 October 2008*

**Completed and On-going Investment Component Activities**

1. Investment Component-relevant activities completed during the past year are described below.

**Agenda 5.1**

**Contribution to the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)**

*Agenda 5.1.1*

*Political and Social Acceptance Analysis (PSAA)*

2. The Project conducted a Political and Social Acceptance Analysis (PSAA) in co-operation with the Korea University and the Shandong Sustainable Development & Environmental Law Academy, Law School of Ocean University of China.
3. The objective of the Analysis was to make the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) better known by relevant stakeholders, clarify the public opinions towards potential management actions, find out the limitations of the draft SAP, and create possible solutions to address them.
4. The PSAA analysed (i) understanding of the SAP by government and society, (ii) appropriateness of the management actions, (iii) consistency of the management actions with national policies and guidelines, and (iv) main problems in accepting the SAP. It is understood that the analysis will help in approval of the SAP in the participating governments.
5. Based on the analysis, the PSAA recommended practical and concrete suggestions to address the problems.
6. The results of the PSAA will be used as a reference to support the approval of the SAP.
7. **Consultants of PSAA will give brief reports on the results.**

#### *Agenda 5.1.2*

##### *Cost-benefit analyses (CBA) of Demonstration Activities*

8. The Project has initiated cost-benefit analyses (CBA) of some SAP demonstration activities such as the activity for improving sustainable mariculture techniques.
9. The objectives of the analyses are to assess the cost-benefit performance of the activities and to show how economic analyses can be used for better ecosystem management as one of decision-support tools.
10. The CBA works, to be completed by July 2009 at the latest, are conducted in close co-operation with the organisations/individuals who implement the concerned demonstration/pilot activities.
11. The Project published the "Guideline for Economic Analyses of Environmental Management Actions for the Yellow Sea" that is used as a reference for the CBA works.

##### **12. Consultants of CBA will give brief reports on the progress.**

#### *Agenda 5.1.3*

##### *National Strategic Action Plans (NSAPs)*

13. The Project will develop the National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) in line with the regional SAP, following the regional priorities and the concept and proposed activities of the SAP.
14. The objective of the NSAP is "to implement necessary management actions to protect marine environment and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources at national level" (Document, "UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-I.4/3," p. 5; Revised at 4th Regional Working Group for Investment Component Meeting; Approved at 4th Project Steering Committee [PSC] Meeting).
15. It is expected that the NSAP would greatly contribute to and/or complement the implementation of the Regional SAP at the national level.
16. The management actions of the NSAP should be prepared and implemented to meet not only national targets or priorities, but also regional targets defined by the SAP in order to address transboundary issues in the Yellow Sea.
17. Two NSAPs will be prepared under the Yellow Sea Project: one for China and one for Republic of Korea (ROK).

##### **18. Consultants of NSAPs will give brief reports on the progress.**

#### *Agenda 5.1.4*

##### *Approval of the regional SAP*

19. To address major transboundary environmental issues in the Yellow Sea, identified by the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as well as the new information reported since then, the YSLME SAP was developed.
20. The SAP set regional management targets for environmental quality of the Yellow Sea and the required management actions to achieve these targets by 2020.

21. Based on the concept of the “ecosystem carrying capacity” (ECC), the SAP proposed the targets and actions according to the services that the Yellow Sea ecosystem provided.
22. The actions consisted of both technical and institutional/legislative (governance) interventions.
23. The special PSC meeting (Hangzhou, China, 8 May 2008) reviewed and approved the SAP as the final draft to be submitted to the participating governments for their consideration and endorsement.
24. The final draft SAP was sent on 20 May 2008 for National Project Co-ordinators (NPCs) as well as the members of the PSC to process the draft internally to secure endorsements from the participating countries.
25. **NPCs or their representatives will explain the progress in securing the government approval for the SAP.**

## **Agenda 5.2**

### **Data and Information Management – Regional GIS Databases & Technical Workshop**

26. The Project established the Regional GIS and Meta Databases in 2006 at the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center (CKJORC).
27. The CKJORC provided the Project with necessary consulting services to develop, and also operate and maintain the Databases.
28. Under the contract made in 2008 with the Project, the Center improved the Databases by updating existing data and information, by strengthening the network with other relevant databases, and by enhancing the interface/functions of the databases to allow easy retrieval and presentation of data.
29. Following the agreement made by the fourth RWG-I meeting, the CKJORC also organised the Technical Workshop on Regional GIS Databases (Qingdao, China, 23-24 August 2008) as the Project's activity to create ideas and solutions to enhance the information services provided by the Databases.
30. **Consultants of Regional GIS Databases will give brief reports on the results.**

## **Agenda 5.3**

### **Stakeholder Involvement, Public Awareness and Participation**

#### *Yellow Sea Partnership*

31. The third Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP) Workshop will be organised in conjunction with Birds Korea's meeting during the meeting of Ramsar Convention in Changwon, ROK from 28 October to 4 November 2008. Birds Korea, a member of the YSP, volunteered to host the Workshop.
32. The meeting will review the completed and on-going co-operative activities since the last workshop, discuss co-operative activities from 2009 and onwards, and discuss the management mechanism of the YSP. The Workshop will decide what organisation becomes the YSP's new secretariat, taking over the position from the

Project. (The Project had served as the YSP's secretariat since 2006, organising the first Workshop, processing membership application/registration, and maintaining the YSP website.)

#### *Youth Programme*

33. The third Youth Programme was organised in Buan, ROK, from 19 to 21 August 2008 in cooperation with a number of organisations, including the Buan Municipal Government, the Korea Marine Rescue Center, the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the China Ocean News, and the Sea Explorers of Korea.
34. Twenty middle/high-school students attended the Programme from the Yellow Sea's coastal provinces and cities: ten students from China and ten students from ROK. Professional scholars with expertise in marine ecosystem as well as officials at local government and international organisations were invited as lecturers.
35. The Programme, a 3-day activity consisting of classroom lectures, field activities, and group work, provided the students with an opportunity to understand the importance of the Yellow Sea and to observe and experience its ecosystem.
36. Through the Programme, the students achieved a better understanding of the Yellow Sea, and they were encouraged to actively think and act for conservation. The students also nurtured a friendship each other by sharing and exchanging views and opinions.

#### *Drawing and photo competitions*

37. For World Ocean Day (8 June 2008), the Project organised drawing and photo competitions to raise public awareness of the importance of the Yellow Sea. (The World Ocean Day was proposed during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 to raise awareness of the need to manage the oceans and their resources in a good manner.)
38. More than 400 people, including elementary school students, participated in the competitions from China and ROK. Some selected pieces of work were available online at the Project's website.

#### *Voluntary internship programme*

39. As part of co-operative activities agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Division of International Studies of Korea University, the Project co-hosted the Korea Model United Nations in Seoul, ROK on 14 February 2008.
40. More than a hundred university students as well as high-school students participated in this simulation of the U.N. General Assembly, U.N. Security Council, and other relevant bodies to broaden knowledge of various issues that the world faces today and to exercise and improve diplomatic and negotiation skills required for debates.
41. Twenty students from the University visited the Project Management Office (PMO) on 16 May 2008 to obtain a better understanding of the Project's activities. After the presentation by the PMO, the students exchanged their views and opinions with Project Manager and his staff members on the marine environmental issues as well as the role of the United Nations.

### *Associate Expert programme*

42. The Project will invite two Chinese government officers to this year's "Associate Expert Programme" to provide them with an opportunity to become intimately familiar with the operational procedures of United Nations' international projects.
43. The Associate Experts, nominated by National Project Co-ordinator (NPC) for China, will station in the PMO to assist in implementing various activities under the Project. An intern with training in environmental science as well as international economics, invited from State Oceanic Administration, will serve her three-month internship from September 2008. Another intern is expected to start the Programme in December 2008.
44. There was no appropriate Korean candidate identified, although the position was advertised three times (25 Jan – 29 Feb, 4 Mar – 15 Apr, and 23 May – 30 Jun 2008). Therefore, the Project decided to have no Korean Associate Expert this year. The PMO informed NPC for ROK of this decision on 1 July 2008.

### **Agenda 5.4**

#### **National Co-ordination and Implementation**

- 45. NPCs or their representatives will present the status and progress of national co-ordination with the focus on the activities of the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee and the National Working Groups.**

### **Agenda 5.5**

#### **Small grants programme**

46. Six projects, funded by the Small Grants Programme 2006, were completed successfully, and the Programme Report summarising those projects was published (available online at <http://www.yslme.org/publication.htm>).
47. Five projects funded by the Programme 2007 were implemented as scheduled; two projects were completed already, that were conducted individually by Korea Marine Rescue Center and by Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department.
48. Following the successful implementation of the Programme in the past two years, the Project decided to fund five projects under the Programme in 2008.
49. The five grantees, selected from 14 submitted proposals by the External Review Panel, consisted of local environmental NGOs, local fisheries association, and universities (Table 1).

Table 1: Projects selected for Small Grants Programme 2008

Project Title	Proponent
Resource Reliance of Surrounding Communities' Economy on Binzhou Shell Dyke Island and Wetland National Natural Reserve and Their Participations in the Management of the Reserve	School of Economics, Ocean University of China
Establishing preliminary guidelines, processes and basic designs for the enhancement, restoration and "Wise Use" of the "Mokpo Urban Wetland"	Birds Korea
Protecting the seagrass beds for a better future	Rongcheng Fisheries Association
Ecological pre-warning assessment on environmental quality in the core area in Yancheng Biosphere Reserve: heavy metal pollution status of macrobenthos caused by economic development in recent years	Nanjing University
Living with black-faced spoonbill, the symbol of peace in the Yellow sea	PGA Wetlands Ecology Institute