



**Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting for
the SEAFDEC/UN Environment/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System
of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

11th – 13th September 2018
Trat Province (Fisheries Refugia Site), Thailand

WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE

This paper aims to introduce the initial workplan and timetable based on the Project Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and SEAFDEC signed in March 2016. However, the LOA between SEAFDEC and participating six Countries have signed since January 2017 till present there were four countries namely Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. It is expected that the remaining two countries, namely Indonesia and Viet Nam will be signed on the LOA or LOI within 2018. In this connection, the initial workplan and timetable for countries implementation is required for adjustment based upon the individual country initiatives. It is expected that the country workplan will be adjusted within the time frame from 2017 to 2020 and proposes for endorsement by the 1st Project Steering Committee

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Refers to Appendix 5: Initial Work plan and timetable of the Project Document

Table 1. Work plan and timetable for project component 1

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
COMPONENT 1: Identification and management of fisheries and critical habitat linkages at priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> in the South China Sea																	
1.1	Developing fisheries and coastal habitat information and data collection programmes for 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites (underpins Outcome 3.5)																
1.1.1.	Review existing information and data on fisheries and coastal habitats at 14 sites, including needs for management interventions identified																
1.1.2	National consultation workshops to secure community and fisherfolk support in information & data collection																
1.1.3	Design and conduct site-based surveys to produce fisheries and habitat profile report for 14 sites																
1.1.4	Design and conduct fisheries surveys at 14 sites and submit data to a national & regional online database	Design Phase															
1.2	Facilitating agreement among stakeholders on the boundaries of fisheries <i>refugia</i> at 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites																
1.2.1	Conduct consultations (including at-sea) to draft maps of fisheries <i>refugia</i> for priority species at 14 sites																
1.2.2	Prepare maps for 14 <i>refugia</i> and elicit fisherfolk input to boundary delineation through consultation																
1.2.3	Conduct assessment of environmental and social impacts of <i>refugia</i> designation at 14 locations																
1.2.4	Secure formal government designation of sites as fisheries <i>refugia</i> at 14 priority locations																
1.3	Developing Community-Based Management Plans for 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites																
1.3.1	Consultations to identify key threats to fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites and identify management measures																
1.3.2	Management plans for 14 sites developed through community-based consultations																

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.3.3	Regulations/rules required for <i>refugia</i> management drafted with fisherfolk and local authorities																
1.3.4	Management plans adopted by local authorities and regulatory reforms enacted																
1.4	Establishing operational management for 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites																
1.4.1	Establish management teams and site-based volunteer networks at 14 sites																
1.4.2	Conduct practical capacity building programme for management volunteers at 14 sites																
1.4.3	Coordinate monthly training and awareness activities at 14 sites, including pilot mgmt activities																
1.4.4	Develop and implement collaborative observer and enforcement programmes for management plan implementation at 14 sites																
1.5	Strengthening civil society and community organization participation in the management of 14 fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites																
1.5.1	Support local GEF Small Grant Programme proponents in design and execution of projects																
1.5.2	Document and share examples of best practice at regional and national levels in the 6 countries																

Table 2 Work plan and timetable for project component 2

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
COMPONENT 2: Improving the management of critical habitats for fish stocks of transboundary significance via national and regional actions to strengthen the enabling environment and knowledge-base for fisheries <i>refugia</i> management in the South China Sea																	
2.1	Enhancing policy guidance for improved management of the effects of fishing on critical habitats in the 6 participating countries																
2.1.1	Identify and document key threats from fishing and the environment to fish stock and critical habitat linkages at 14 priority sites in the 6 participating countries																
2.1.2	Formulate recommendations on policy and legal reforms to support promotion of responsible fishing at 14 priority sites in the 6 participating countries																
2.1.3	Facilitate consultations with fisheries industry and competent authorities on policy reforms for responsible fishing gear and practices in the participating countries																
2.1.4	National policy reform to promote fisheries sector's sustainable use of fish habitats and biodiversity																
2.2	Defining the policy and legal basis for formal designation and establishment of fisheries <i>refugia</i> in the 6 participating countries																
2.2.1	Reviews of policy and legal aspects on <i>refugia</i> (terminology, procedures, recommended reforms) in the 6 participating countries																
2.2.2	National expert consultations to formulate agreed recommendations for policy and legal reforms in the 6 participating countries																
2.3	Development of national guidelines on the establishment and operation of fisheries <i>refugia</i> and reflected in an updated regional <i>refugia</i> action plan																
2.3.1	Draft national guidelines (based on 2.1.2) on procedures for formal designation and mgmt of fisheries <i>refugia</i> in 6 participating countries																
2.3.2	National and local consultative process to elicit stakeholder input to the draft guidelines																

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.3.3	Amend and finalise national guidelines for approval by National Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Committees in 6 countries																
2.3.4	Draft regional <i>refugia</i> action plan																
2.4	Reforming national and regional policy, legal and planning frameworks for demarcating boundaries and managing <i>refugia</i>																
2.4.1	Based on 2.1.2 & 2.1.3, draft required policy and legal reforms to support <i>refugia</i> establishment and mgmt in 6 participating countries																
2.4.2	Convene national and local stakeholder consultations to review draft text for adoption in 6 countries																
2.4.3	Facilitate approval and formal adoption of reforms by the authorities at national and provincial levels for 14 priority sites in 6 countries																
2.4.4	Develop Regional Action Plan for the management of <i>refugia</i> in coastal areas of the South China Sea																
2.5	Enhancing access to information relating to status and trends in fish stocks and their habitats in waters of the SCS marine basin																
2.5.1	Compile information and data derived from abundance surveys in 6 countries for longer-term management																
2.5.2	Compile information and data derived from surveys on size-frequency of priority species in 6 countries																
2.5.3	Compile information and data on landings of priority species (volume/value, fishing areas and gears) in South China Sea waters of the 6 countries																
2.5.4	Produce annual syntheses reports of new and additional information for national and regional review																
2.5.5	Revise national reports on fish stocks and habitats in the South China Sea for each 6 participating countries																
2.6	Improved national and regional-level management and sharing of information and data on fish early life history in the waters of the SCS																

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.6.1	Prepare 6 national and 1 regional inventory of fish egg and larvae samples collected from SCS waters of the 6 participating countries (both analysed and unanalysed)																
2.6.2	Develop and maintain 6 national databases and 1 regional database of fish egg and larval fish distribution and abundance																
2.6.3	Convene annual one-day workshops in the 6 participating countries to monitor the implementation of national programmes for the processing/analysis of fish egg and larvae samples																
2.6.4	Prepare annual status reports on fish early life history research for each participating country for regional review																
2.7	Enhancing access to information relating to the locations and status of coastal habitats and management areas in the SCS																
2.7.1	Compile and update information and data in 6 * National and 1 * regional Google Earth based GIS on: distribution of habitats; known spawning areas; locations of <i>refugia</i> ; MPAs; fisheries management areas; critical habitats for endangered species																
2.7.2	Prepare annual synthesis of new and additional information included in databases (2.7.1)																
2.8	Strengthening the information base for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of management at 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites																
2.8.1	Based on 1.1.4, produce detailed site characterizations for the 14 priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites for incorporation into national and regional datasets																
2.9	Improved basin-wide understanding of linkages between ocean circulation patterns, nutrient/chlorophyll concentrations, and sources and sinks of fish larvae in the South China Sea																
2.9.1	Development of modelling system linking oceanographic, biochemical, and fish early life history information developed applied to																

	improve regional understanding of fish early life history and links to critical habitats																
2.9.2	Publication of report on application of modelling system in identifying priority locations for replication and scaling-up of fisheries <i>refugia</i> best practices																
2.10	Regionally and locally appropriate best practices generated to address the effects of trawl and push net fishing on seagrass habitat, and the capture of juveniles, pre-recruits and fish in spawning condition																
2.10.1	Best practice fishing methods and practices to address key threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages demonstrated at priority <i>refugia</i>																

Table 3 Work plan and timetable for project component 3

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
COMPONENT 3: Information Management and Dissemination in support of national and regional-level implementation of the fisheries <i>refugia</i> concept in the South China Sea																	
3.1	Enhancing uptake of best practices in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the 6 participating countries																
3.1.1	Quarterly capture and documentation of best practices in the establishment and operation of fisheries <i>refugia</i> in the 6 participating countries																
3.1.2	Online catalogue of best practices approaches and measures developed and updated each 6 months																
3.1.3	6 monthly development of communications on best practices for dissemination and syndication, both nationally and regionally																
3.2	Improving community acceptance of area based approaches to marine management in the 6 participating countries																
3.2.1	Produce locally appropriate public awareness and outreach materials to promote local social, economic and environmental benefits of fisheries <i>refugia</i>																
3.2.2	In connection with activity 1.4.3, implement targeted annual outreach programmes at priority communities at the 14 sites in the SCS																
3.2.3	Benchmark and annually track community acceptance of <i>refugia</i> approach as a marine spatial planning tool																
3.3	Knowledge generated and experiences from establishing and operating fisheries <i>refugia</i> captured and shared nationally, regionally, and globally																
3.3.1	Establish and operate 6 national and 1 regional web portals for knowledge management on fisheries <i>refugia</i>																
3.3.2	Prepare and publish 6 GEF International Waters Experience Note on application of <i>refugia</i> approach at the national level																
3.4	Information and Education Campaigns for small-scale fisherfolk on the links between fisheries, habitats and biodiversity coordinated regionally through a Regional Education and Awareness Centre																

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020				
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4	
3.4.1	Establishment of Regional Education and Awareness Centre on fisheries and critical habitats																	
3.4.2	Production and regional-level sharing of information and education materials for <i>refugia</i> management																	
3.5	Standardised methods for collection and analysis of information and data for use in assessing impacts of <i>refugia</i> and design appropriate indicators for the longer-term operation of the regional system of fisheries <i>refugia</i> (underpinned by information and data collection programmes of Component 1)																	
3.5.1	Develop standardised information and data collection procedures in support of longer-term operation of a regional system of fisheries <i>refugia</i> ,																	
3.5.2	Regional consultation to agree on stress reduction and environmental state indicators for managed <i>refugia</i>																	

Table 4. Work plan and timetable for project component 4

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
COMPONENT 4: National cooperation and coordination for integrated fish stock and critical habitat management in the South China Sea																	
4.1	Strengthened cross-sectorial coordination in the establishment and operation of fisheries <i>refugia</i> in the participating countries																
4.1.1	Develop and agree ToR, membership & operational rules for National Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Committee's (or equivalent) for 6 participating countries																
4.1.2	Establish and convene quarterly meetings of the National Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Committee (NFRC) (or equivalent) for 6 participating countries																
4.1.3	NFRC review and endorsement of quarterly work plans and progress and financial reports, including tracking of continuity of participation of stakeholders, in each of the 6 participating countries																
4.1.4	National NFRC inputs to mid-term review and terminal evaluation of national and regional aspects of project in each 6 participating countries																
4.2	Harnessing national scientific and technical expertise and knowledge to inform policy, legal and institutional reforms for fisheries <i>refugia</i>																
4.2.1	Establish and convene 6 monthly meetings of the National Scientific and Technical Committee (or equivalent) in each of the six participating countries																
4.2.2	Provision of technical and scientific inputs to planning of activities in components 1, 2 and 3 led by National Lead Agencies in each of 6 participating countries																
4.3	Catalyzing local community action via establishment and operation of site-based management boards at 14 priority <i>refugia</i> sites																
4.3.1	Review governance arrangements at each site to identify required ToR and membership of site-based management boards, including links to other local planning bodies																

	Activity Description	YEAR 1> 2017				YEAR 2> 2018				YEAR 3> 2019				YEAR 4> 2020			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4
4.3.2	Establish and convene quarterly meetings of site-based management boards at the 14 sites																
4.3.3	Preparation of quarterly work plans and progress and financial reports on activities at each of the 14 sites																
4.4	Regional cooperation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making																
4.4.1	Establishment and operation of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (biannual meetings)																
4.5	Regional cooperation in the establishment and operation of a regional system of fisheries <i>refugia</i>																
4.5.1	Establishment and operation of a regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) (annual meetings)																
4.6	Effective coordination of regional and national-level activities and reporting requirements of UNEP and GEF satisfied																
4.6.1	Establishment and operation of the regional Project Coordinating Unit, including appointment and retention of a Project Director																