



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Thansur Sokha Hotel, Kampot Province (Fisheries Refugia Site), Cambodia

**BASELINE SURVEY DATA**

Project Co-ordinating Unit

**I. INTRODUCTION**

It is indicated that in support the achievement of the SAP Target for establishment of a regional system of fisheries refugia, the priority national level actions were identified into 4 levels as: (1) the designation and operational management of priority fisheries refugia sites; (2) development of the enabling environments for fisheries refugia management at national and provincial levels, including policy reforms and enhancement of the science and information base for refugia management; (3) capacity development through improved information management and dissemination; and (4) strengthened national coordination for fisheries refugia management. This paper focuses on the baseline survey data where its objectives are to emphasize the importance of baseline study and baseline data to support, monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation at country levels.

**II. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BASELINE DATA?**

*A baseline study is data collection and analysis that defines the “pre-operation exposure” condition for the set of indicators that will be used to assess achievement of the outcomes and impact expressed in the program’s logical framework (WFP, How to Plan a Baseline Study).*

*Baseline data (or simply baseline) is data that measures conditions before the project starts for later comparison (IFRC, Baseline Basics, 2013). In other words, baseline provides the historical point of reference/benchmarks for the next steps of project monitoring and evaluation. Baseline data helps to:*

- set realistic goals and to measure the progress towards them;
- maintain accountability, informing what difference the project is making;
- inform and motivate stakeholders to pay attention to certain issues and increase their participation;
- provide justification for policy makers and donors for a project intervention;
- shape expectations and communication strategies (IFRC, Baseline Basics, 2013).

**III. IDENTIFIED KEY DELIVERABLE AND BENCHMARKS**

Baseline study and data should be designed in alignment with the identified key deliverable and benchmarks for the project as shown in the Appendix 4 of the Project Document, especially for the project Component 1, 2, and 3:

**IV. RSTC2 ARE REQUESTED TO:**

- *Provide a scientific and technical recommendations and comments on the baseline data for each component of the project..*

Summary of the **Results framework in the** Appendix 4 of the project documents:

Component	Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
1. Identification and management of fisheries and critical habitat linkages at priority fisheries <i>refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	<b>1. Reduced stress</b> on fish stocks and coastal habitats via improved national management of key anthropogenic threats to fisheries and critical habitat linkages in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	Status of formal designation, management plan adoption, and community engagement in implementation of agreed management measures, including enforcement, for priority sites	Rate of coastal habitat loss from SCS basin is high (e.g., 30% per decade for seagrass) Fishing identified as a key threat to coastal habitats	Effective management of key threats to 14 fisheries <i>refugia</i> sites [269,500 ha], including <b>~50 percent reduction in fishing pressure</b> within sites at times critical to the life-cycles of fished species of transboundary significance	Adopted management plans Regular reports of meetings of national and regional project management bodies Reports of independent mid-term and terminal project evaluations	Adequate local cooperation to compile and analyze information to establish baselines and standardized procedures to measure and monitor the effectiveness of agreed stress reduction measures
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 and Gulf of Thailand	<b>2. Increased institutional capacity</b> in the 6 participating countries for the designation and operational management of fisheries <i>refugia</i> via the transformation of enabling environments and the generation of knowledge for planning	Status of enabling environment reform, including extent of behavioural change among small-scale fisherfolk at priority sites Extent of use of available environmental state and socio-cultural information in policy and planning frameworks	Weak enabling environments and limited knowledge within national fisheries and environment departments and ministries with respect to the implementation of measures aimed at managing threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages	National and regional policy, legal and planning frameworks for demarcating boundaries and managing fisheries <i>refugia</i> , resulting in, inter alia, a 20 percent increase in small-scale fishing vessels using fishing gear and practices designed to safeguard fish stock and critical habitat linkages at priority sites	Endorsed policies and plans Regular reports of meetings of national and regional project management bodies Reports of independent mid-term and terminal project evaluations	Willingness of fisheries and environment sectors to agree on guidelines promoting cross-sectorial cooperation and make joint commitments to the reform of national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks governing the management of fisheries <i>refugia</i>
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 and Gulf of Thailand	<b>3. Strengthened knowledge management and information sharing and access</b> for enhanced uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity	Extent of demonstrable use of examples of good practice in guiding the replication, scaling-up and mainstreaming of good practices	Low-level ability of stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding how broader multiple use planning can best contribute to improving the state of fisheries and biodiversity conservation	National and regional systems for knowledge management and sharing, including the development of indicator sets and standardized statistics to guide the replication, scaling-up and mainstreaming of good practices in the use of	Routine communications on progress and lessons learned prepared and shared Annual results reports published and disseminated National and regional web portals for knowledge	If insufficient good practices are documented and shared regionally, awareness building initiatives will be based on a limited number of local examples and may not be effective in engaging community members

	<i>conservation in the design and implementation of fisheries and environmental management systems, including Marine Spatial Planning</i>			<i>fisheries refugia as a spatial planning tool</i>	<i>management and information exchange accessible online</i>	<i>and resource users in the wider region</i>
4. National and regional cooperation and coordination for integrated fish stock and critical habitat management in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	<b>Cost-effective and efficient</b> coordination of national and regional level cooperation for integrated fisheries and environmental management	<i>Extent and continuity of stakeholder participation in meetings of project management bodies, including the scope and uptake of joint management and planning decisions</i>	<i>Lack of national and regional-level mechanisms to facilitate integration of fisheries management and biodiversity conservation</i>	<i>Effective multi-lateral and intergovernmental communication and joint decision-making, including the use of a consensual knowledge-base in planning ecologically and cost-effective management actions</i>	<i>Regular reports of meetings of national and regional project management bodies Reports of independent mid-term and terminal project evaluations</i>	<i>Consultative processes will elicit adequate stakeholder input and commitment of support from national networks to enable integrated management</i>