



**The 3rd 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**

5th – 7th February 2020
Classic Hoang Long Hotel, Hai Phong City, Viet Nam

**REPORT OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR ON
PROGRESS WORKS**

Executive Summary

This summary highlights the Progress Works from the past half years implementations (as of 30 December 2019) by all participating countries and the SEAFDEC/PCU. The progress work of each activities are identified in percentage to understand the status of works in each country and the PCU. Noted that for Viet Nam, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Department (MARD) approved the yearly project budget plan in October 2019. The NFRC and NTSC had first meeting in January 2020 to give direction and instruction to implementing agency to prepare the project detailed budget plan to get MARD approval and promote the project implementation in 2020 onward.

ACTIONS BY THE RSTC3:

- ❖ Take notes, consideration and suggestion to the PCU on the Highlight of Progress Report for finalization.

PROGRESS WORK DURING A PERIOD OF JUNE TO DECEMBER 2019

1. STATUS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA BY COUNTRY: are as follows:

a. Cambodia,

- i. there are 3 priority fisheries refugia sites located in three Provinces along the coastal area of Cambodian sea.
 1. **Kep Province:** for blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*)
 2. **Kampot Province:** for juvenile grouper (*Epinephelus spp.*); and
 3. **Koh Kong Province:** for short mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*);
- ii. Main activities in this quarters are continued monthly baseline surveys for fish-larvae of short mackerel and scientific data to support the preparation of the Action Plan for implementation of the Fisheries refugia in Koh Kong Province. In addition, FiA established Technical working group for management of marine fisheries resources and conservation area in Koh Kong,
- iii. At Kep Fisheries Refugia, FiA conducted the Provincial Management Committee Meeting to approve the 5 Years Action Plan for Marine Fisheries Management Area or fisheries Refugia for Blue Swimming Crab.

b. Indonesia,

- i. 2 tentative priority fisheries refugia sites are located in 2 Provinces.
 1. **Pulau Kecil in Bangka-Belitung Province:** for pelagic species: squid, and
 2. **Bengkayang in West Kalimantan Province:** for penaeid shrimp.
- ii. Since signing of the LOA between SEAFDEC and MMAF in June 2019, the AMFRHR as a National Lead Agency have conducted a series of preparatory Meetings on fisheries refugia profiles for two selected sites including the Inception workshop for implementation of the project. All meeting reported are compiled to guide for the 2020 stakeholder consultations at the selected sites.

c. Malaysia,

- i. there are 2 priority fisheries refugia sites located in east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and in Sarawak State of Malaysia as follows:
 1. **Tanjung Leman, Johor:** for spiny lobsters (*Panulirus polyphagus* as a main species) and other *Panulirus spp.* such as *P. versicolor*, *P. ornatus*, *P. homarus* and *P. longipes*) refugia; and
 2. **Miri, Sarawak:** for tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) refugia
- ii. Department of Malaysia as a National Lead Agency of the project renovated the Refugia Information Center (RIC) established in late 2017 through the cooperation with private sector for spiny lobsters and local government for tiger prawn at Tanjung Leman Pier, Johor and Miri, Sarawak State of Malaysia, respectively.
- iii. DOF/MY also continued the Lobster resources survey on-board Trawler and tiger prawn survey in Pasu River and Lutong River with aims to find the scientific evidence for establishment of the Refugia in the selected areas.
- iv. For better understanding on the management in long term on Fisheries Refugia, DOF/MY conducted the capacity building and workshop for stakeholder at Mersing through the introduction of EAFM (Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management). In addition, the capacity to national officers to better understand the status of Fisheries Refugia project was made by sending relevant officers to attend the Project Steering Committee Meeting organized by SEAFDEC/PCU and hosted by DOF/MY in MIRI, Sarawak Malaysia.

d. **Philippines,**

- i. There are 3 priority fisheries refugia sites as follows:
 1. **Bolinao, Pangasinan:** for Rabbitfish (*Siganus spp.*) refugia in seagrass bed off Bolinao;
 2. **Masinloc, Zambales:** for juveniles of Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*) refugia; and
 3. **Coron, Palawan:** for fusilier fish refugia in coral reef area, and mud crab refugia in mangrove area.
- ii. NFRDi as a National Lead Agency of the Project for Philippines continued the Ichthyo-plankton survey in Masinloc site, and conducted the Three Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for Reviewing the Draft Guidelines on procedures for formal designation of fisheries refugia in three sites: Masinloc, Bolinao, and Coron.
- iii. To build the capacity of local institutions at Fisheries Refugia Site in Coron, the Training workshop on Essential ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) was conducted in Coron City, Palawan Province. It is very useful for the local officers to understand on development of the management plan which apply to fisheries refugia management. This Training workshop will expand to other refugia sites in 2020;
- iv. The Project Year-end assessment for 2019 and 2020 workplan were conducted in IBA, Zambales, where the relevant officers attended.

e. **Thailand,**

- i. there are 2 priority fisheries refugia sites as follows:
 1. **Trat Province:** for short mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) as a transboundary species with Koh Kong Province of Cambodia; and
 2. **Surat Thani Province:** for blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*)
- ii. DOF/TH as a National Lead Agency of the Project for Thailand conducted the Sixth Meeting of Thailand National Fisheries Refugia Committee, and the Second Meeting of Thailand National Scientific and Technical Committee with aims to update the achievements and way forwards on the demarcation of fisheries refugia areas for Indo-Pacific Mackerel in Trat and Blue Swimming Crab in Suratthani Provinces.
- iii. Encourage the Thai Trawlers to voluntary releasing the lived blue swimming crab into the sea in which it is believed that the best way to conserve and enhance the Blue Swimming Crab in the Gulf of Thailand.

f. **Viet Nam,**

- i. There are 3 Tentative refugia sites located in the North, Central and South of Viet Nam as follows:
 1. **Bech Long Vi Island, Haiphong Province:** for small pelagic fishes
 2. **Hon Cau Island, Binh Thuan Province:** for Frigate tuna (as a tentative species)
 3. **Phu Quoc Island, Kien Giang Province:** for anchovy species and short mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) refugia as 2nd priority;
- ii. After signing the Letter of Intent in May 2019, long internal processes to get approval for the workplan and setting committee by the Government. The results during a period from June to December 2019 are as follows:
 1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Department (MARD) approved the yearly project budget plan in October 2019.
 2. Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH) as a National Lead Agency of the project assigned the National Fisheries Refugia Committee (National Project Steering Committee) with 11 members headed by DDG Nguyen Quang Hung and National Technical and Scientific Committee with 7 members

headed by a Deputy Director for Conservation and Aquatic Resource Development in November 2019

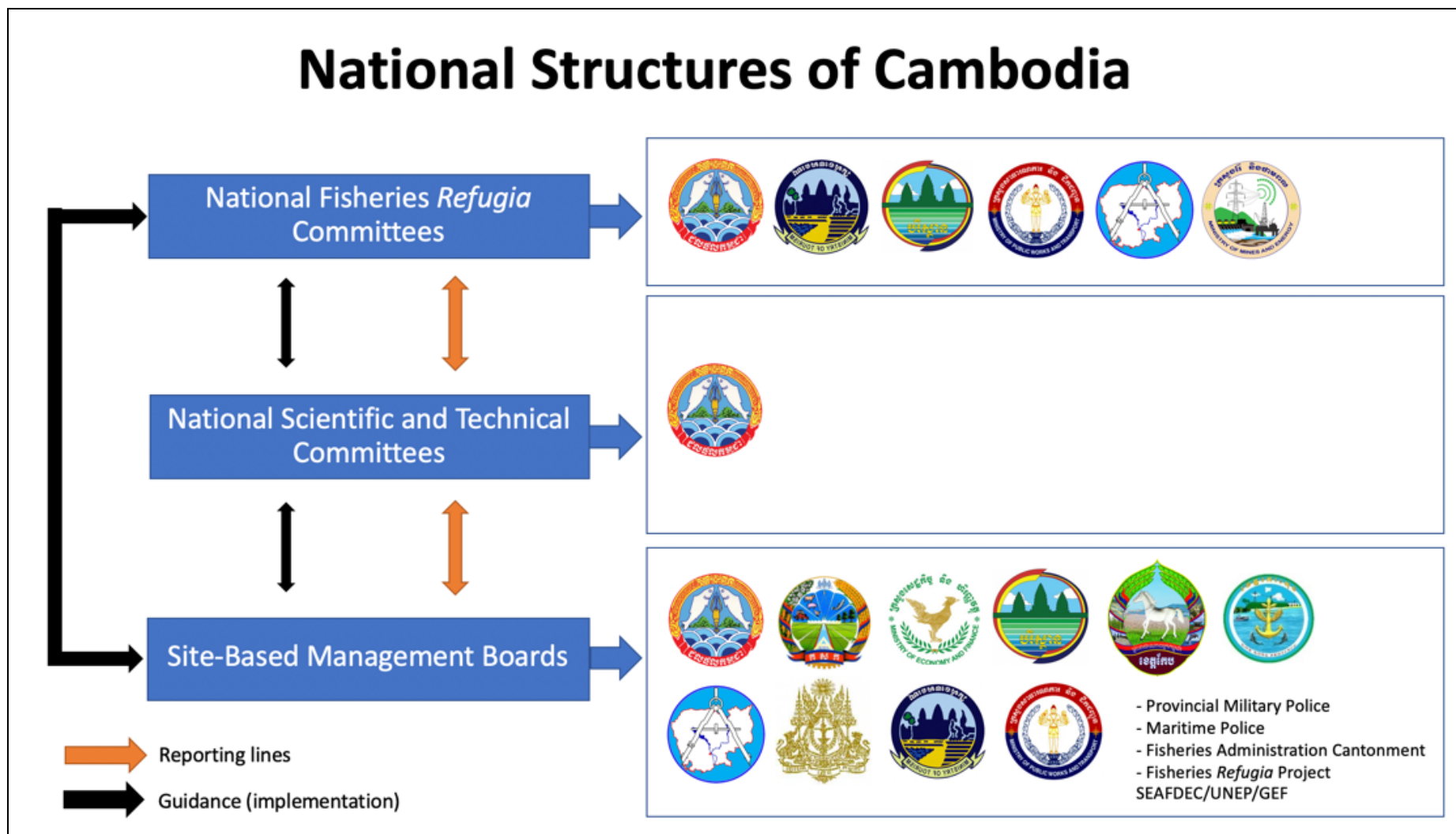
3. The NFRC and NTSC had first meeting in January 2020 to give direction and instruction to implementing agency to prepare the project detailed budget plan to get MARD approval and promote the project implementation in 2020 onward.
4. DFISH has been submitting the ODA registration to the Ministry of Finance as Vietnamese financial regulation.

2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BY PCU

- a. Finalized and Published the Meeting Reports, Regional Action Plan, etc:
 - i. Report of the Regional Meeting on Indicators for Fisheries Refugia Management and Discussion on Project Follow-up held at A-one The Royal Cruise Hotel, Pattaya City, Chonburi Province, Thailand from 9th – 11th September 2019;
 - ii. Report of the Regional Consultative Meeting on Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species, *Rastrelliger brachysoma* in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region, held at Bay Beach Resort, Jomtien, Chonburi Province, Thailand 12th – 13th September 2019;
 - iii. Regional Action Plan for management of transboundary species: Indo-pacific mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) in the gulf of thailand sub-region (for endorsement by SEAFDEC and ASEAN
- b. Preparatory work for organizing the Regular Meeting as follows:
 - i. the 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee Meeting held on 5th-6th November 2019 in MIRI, Sarawak, Malaysia:
 - ii. the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee to be held on 5-7 February 2020 in Hai Phong, Viet Nam in cooperation with D-FISH
- c. Organizing the 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee Meeting held on 5th-6th November 2019 in MIRI, Sarawak, Malaysia
- d. Updated the status of Partner's Implementation on establishment of Fisheries Refugia and Updated the Fisheries Refugia Websites;
- e. Technical Support to participating Countries:
 - i. Cambodia:
 1. Analysis of the genetic of Indo-Pacific Mackerel from Koh Kong Province by the Project Partners (Chula Longkorn University)
 2. Consultation for workplan on the impact of fishing gear to the Fisheries refugia site in KEP province, Cambodia
 - ii. Philippines: Support the capacity building to local institutions and local government on applying EAFM for better management of fisheries refugia in Coron site;
 - iii. Thailand: Support the stakeholder consultation for demarcation of the areas for fisheries refugia of Indo-pacific Mackerel in Trat Province.
- f. Reporting the Progress of Fisheries Refugia as well as the Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Region at the SEAFDEC and ASEAN Forums.

3. NATIONAL INSTITUTION STRUCTURES (DRAFT):

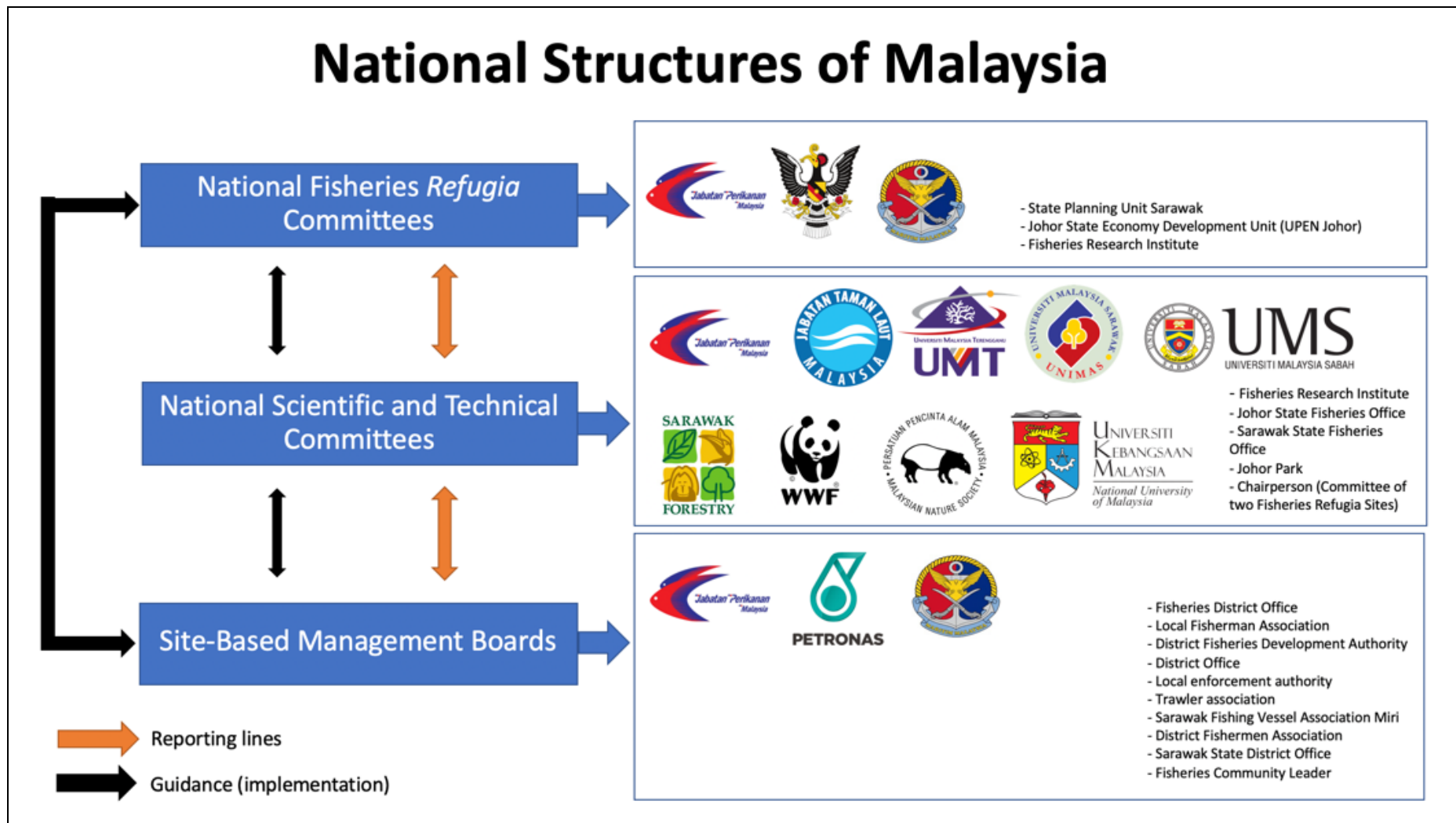
3.1) CAMBODIA



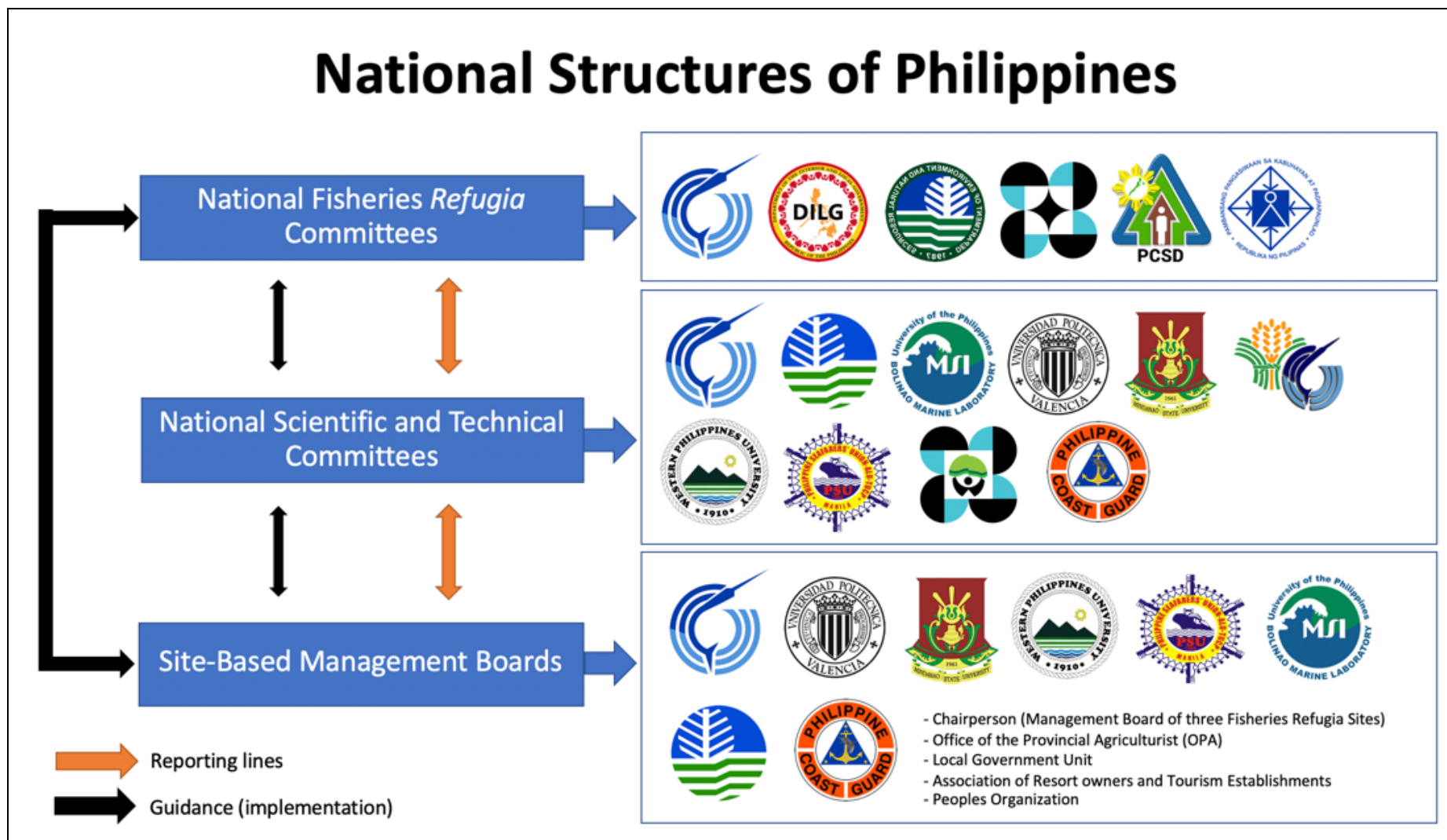
3.2) INDONESIA



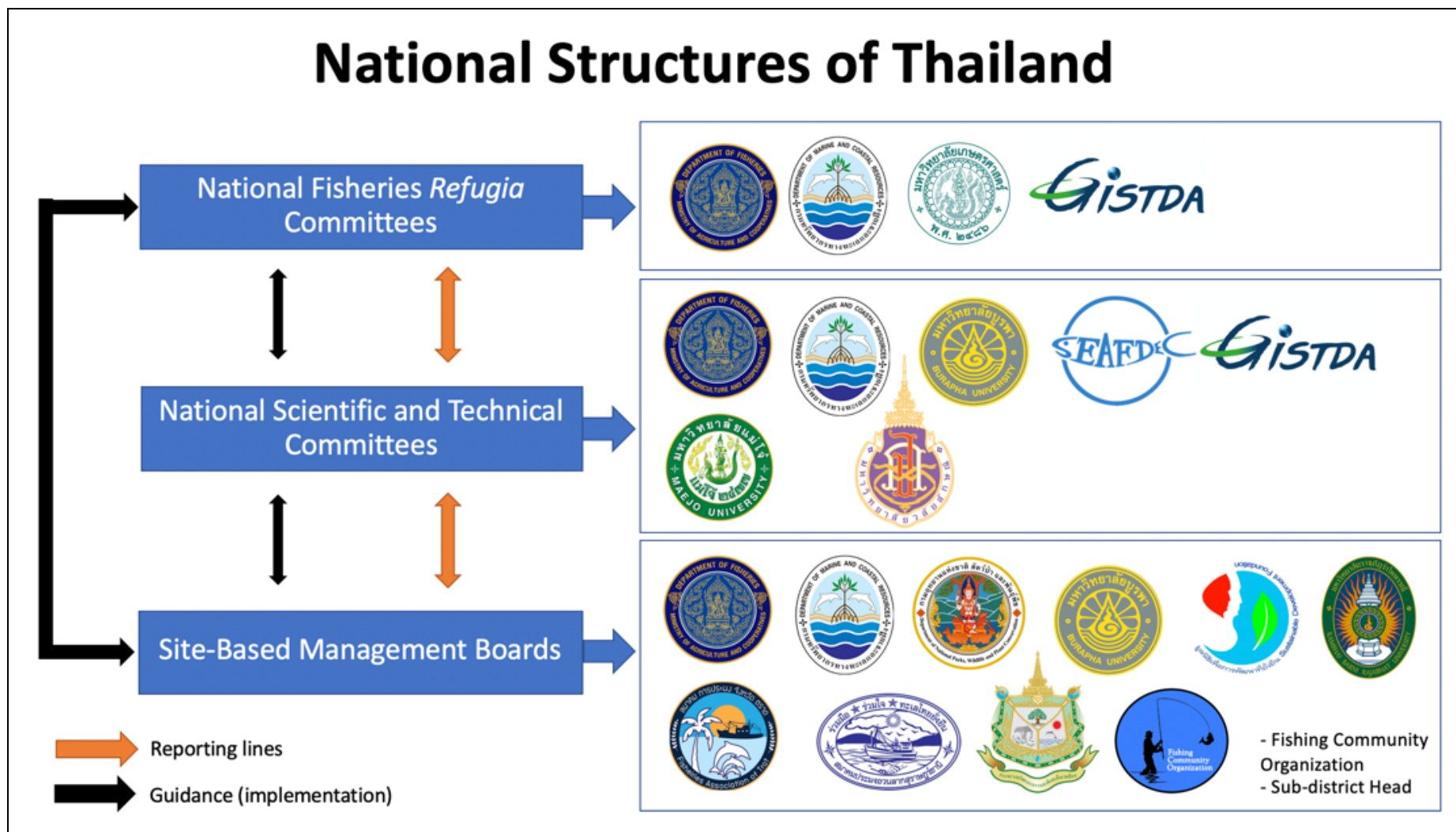
3.3) MALAYSIA



3.4) PHILIPPINES



3.5) THAILAND



3.6) VIET NAM (WILL BE UPDATED)

4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS IN PERCENTAGE BY COUNTRY AND PCU AS OF 30 DEC. 2019

Outputs	CAMBODIA	INDONESIA	MALAYSIA	PHILIPPINE	THAILAND	VIET NAM	PCU
Component 1 - Identification and management of fisheries and critical habitat linkages at priority fisheries refugia in the South China Sea							
Activity 1.1: Developing fisheries and coastal habitat information and data collection programmes for 14 priority fisheries refugia sites	50%	70.25 %	50%	50%	50%		N/A
Activity 1.2: Facilitating agreement among stakeholders on the boundaries of fisheries refugia at 14 priority fisheries refugia sites	70%	0 %	40%	25%	50%		N/A
Activity 1.3: Developing Community-Based Management Plans for 14 priority fisheries refugia sites	30%	0 %	20%	25%	50%		N/A
Activity 1.4: Establishing operational management for 14 priority fisheries refugia sites	40%	0 %	10%	25%	30%		N/A
Activity 1.5: Strengthening civil society and community organization participation in the management of 14 fisheries refugia sites	40%	0 %	0%	10%	20%		N/A
Component 2 - Improving the management of critical habitats for fish stocks of transboundary significance via national actions to strengthen the enabling environment and knowledge-base for fisheries refugia management							
Activity 2.1: Enhancing policy guidance for improved management of the effects of fishing on critical habitats in the 6 participating countries	80%	0 %	10%	2.5%	30%		N/A
Activity 2.2: Defining the policy and legal basis for formal designation and establishment of fisheries refugia in the 6 participating countries	70%	0 %	10%	0%	30%		N/A
Activity 2.3: Development of national guidelines on the establishment and operation of fisheries refugia and reflected in an updated regional refugia action plan	70%	0 %	10%	45%	20%		N/A

Activity 2.4: Reforming national and regional policy, legal and planning frameworks for demarcating boundaries and managing refugia	50%	0 %	10%	2.5%	20%		N/A
Activity 2.5: Enhancing access to information relating to status and trends in fish stocks and their habitats in waters of the SCS marine basin	0%	0 %	50%	60%	10%		N/A
Activity 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	60%	0 %	10%	40%	10%		N/A
Activity 2.7: Enhancing access to information relating to the locations and status of coastal habitats and management areas in the SCS	20%	0 %	0%	0%	30%		N/A
Activity 2.8: Strengthening the information base for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of management at priority fisheries refugia sites	40%	0 %	10%	0%	10%		N/A
Activity 2.9: Improving basin-wide understanding of linkages between ocean circulation patterns, nutrient/chlorophyll concentrations, and sources and sinks of fish larvae in the South China Sea	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Activity 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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%
Component 3 - Information Management and Dissemination in support of national-level implementation of the fisheries refugia concept							
Activity 3.1: Enhancing uptake of best practices in integrating fisheries management and	50%	0 %	10%	0%	10%		N/A

	biodiversity conservation in the 6 participating countries							
Activity 3.2:	Improving community acceptance of area-based approaches to marine management in the 6 participating countries	70%	0 %	30%	0%	20%		N/A
Activity 3.3:	Knowledge generated and experiences from establishing and operating fisheries refugia captured and shared nationally, regionally, and globally	40%	0 %	10%	0%	10%		N/A
Activity 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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Activity 3.5:	Standardised methods for collection and analysis of information and data for use in assessing impacts of refugia and design appropriate indicators for the longer-term operation of the regional system of fisheries refugia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%
Component 4 - National and Regional coordination for integrated fish stock and critical habitat management								
Activity 4.1:	Strengthened cross-sectoral coordination in the establishment and operation of fisheries refugia in the participating countries	50%	18.88 %	100%	28%	50%		N/A
Activity 4.2:	Harnessing national scientific and technical expertise and knowledge to inform policy, legal and institutional reforms for fisheries refugia	60%	0%	100%	12%	50%		N/A
Activity 4.3:	Catalyzing local community action via establishment and operation of site-	40%	0%	10%	40%	50%		N/A

	based management boards at 14 priority refugia sites							
Activity 4.4:	Regional cooperation in the integration of scientific knowledge and research outputs with management and policy making	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Activity 4.5:	Regional cooperation in the establishment and operation of a regional system of fisheries refugia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Activity 4.6:	Effective coordination of regional and national-level activities and reporting requirements of UNEP and GEF satisfied	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	60%