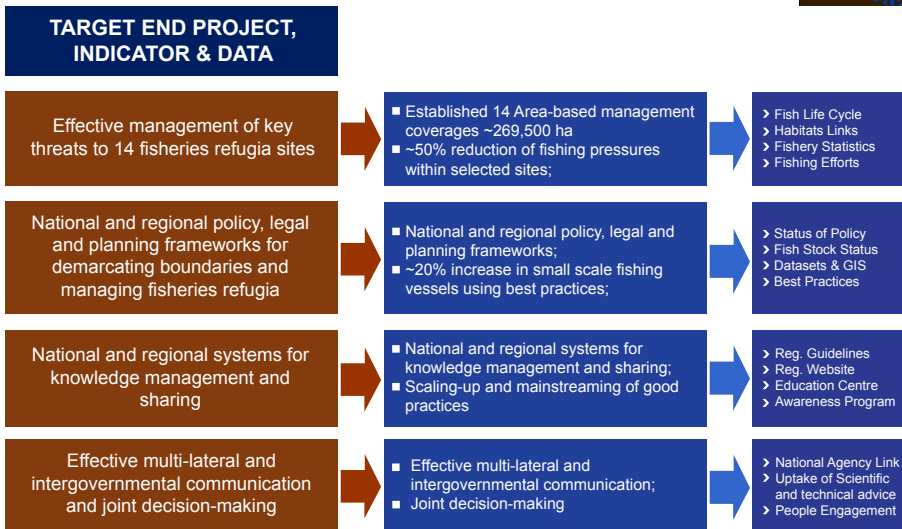
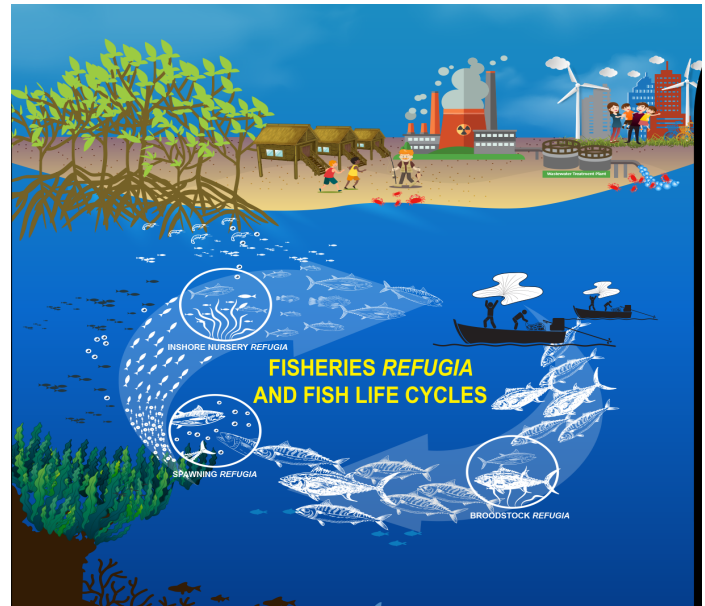


Establishment and Operation of A Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

INTRODUCTION

The South China Sea is a global center of shallow-water marine biological diversity that supports significant fisheries that are important to the food security and export income of Southeast Asian countries. These fisheries are characterized by high levels of fishing effort from the small-scale sector. Accordingly, all inshore waters of the South China Sea basin are subject to intense fishing pressure and using destructive fishing gear and practices. The inshore fishing pressure has been identified as a significant cause of the degradation and loss of coastal habitats in the South China Sea. With fish production intrinsically linked to the quality and area of habitats and the heightened dependence of coastal communities on fish, a need exists to improve the integration of fish habitat considerations and fisheries management in the region.



PROJECT TARGETS

- by 2022, to have established a regional system of a minimum of 14 refugia for the management of priority transboundary, fish stocks and endangered species; and
- by 2022, to have prepared and implemented fisheries management systems in the identified priority refugia based on and consistent with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030).



RES&POA-2030
ASEAN-SEAFDEC



A. Planning and Information



B. Fisheries Management



F. Regional and International Policy Formulation



HOW THE PROJECT SUPPORTS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs



1 NO POVERTY

By 2030, ensure that all fishers, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to natural resources with appropriate new technology.



2 ZERO HUNGER

Enhancing food security of vulnerable, small-scale fishing communities of Southeast Asia and supported politically via the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020"



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. In addition, support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

By 2022, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.



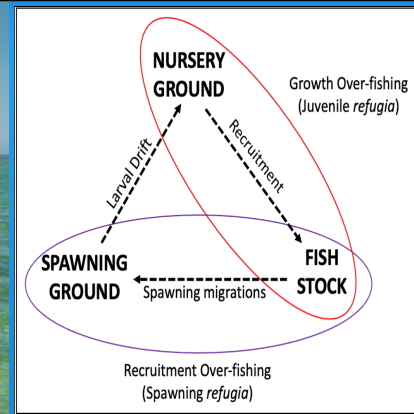
Scope : Regional
Countries : Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam
Partners : SEAFDEC, UNEP, National fisheries and environment agencies
GEF Grant : \$3 million
Co-finance : \$12.7 million



What's Fisheries Refugia

Fisheries *Refugia* Concept, a novel fisheries resource management approach, was developed for the identification and designation of priority areas in which to integrate fisheries and habitat management in the context of maintaining fish stock, and critical habitats as satisfying the fishing community, social needs now and futures.

"Spatially and geographically defined, marine or coastal areas in which specific management measures are applied to sustain important species [fisheries resources] during critical stages of their life cycle, for their sustainable use."



Life-history triangle highlighting the need for *refugia* to protect the recruitment

Stakeholder Engagement



More than 100 multi-stakeholders engage in the project, including inter-agency concerns from fisheries and environment agency, tourism department, public organization, navy, coastguards, NGOs, CSOs, academy, research institutes, local government at a provincial and state level, fishing community, and private sectors.



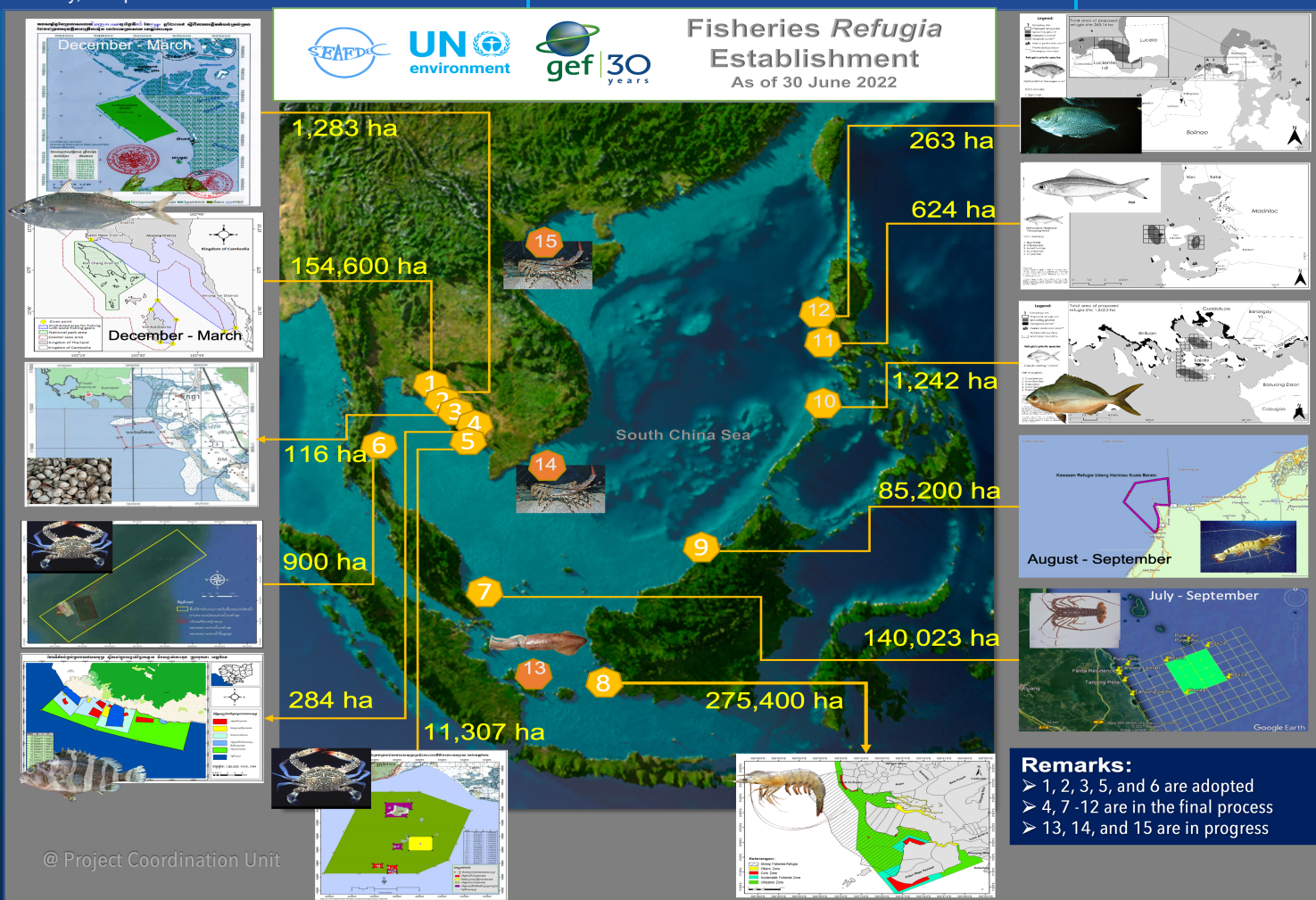
Legislative and Regulatory Reform

Developing management plans for the 14 priority sites will outline the agreed management measures to address key threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages. Management plans and regulatory reforms are enacted through community negotiation and agreement..

Gender Mainstreaming



The project integrated Gender Mainstreaming into a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia*. 48% of the gender ratio between Women and Men Stakeholders engaged in the activities.



Remarks:
 > 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are adopted
 > 4, 7 - 12 are in the final process
 > 13, 14, and 15 are in progress

@ Project Coordination Unit



Refugia Facebook



Refugia Website

<https://fisheries-refugia.org>
<http://www.seafdec.org>