



INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF
FISHERIES *REFUGIA* PROJECT

**ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A
REGIONAL SYSTEM OF FISHERIES *REFUGIA*
IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF
THAILAND**

Purpose, goals and objectives of the project



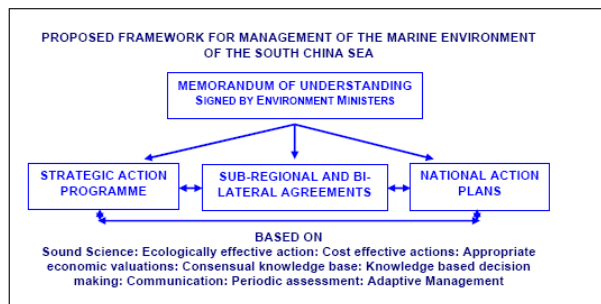
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Purpose of the project

To implement of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea



STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

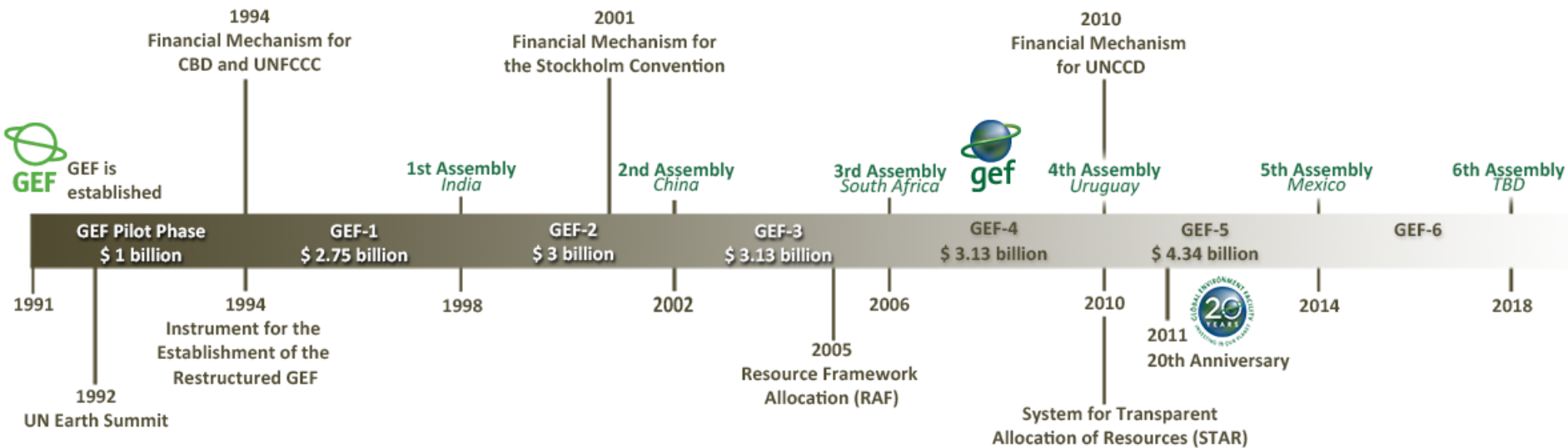


August 25th 2008

- ❖ Strategic Action Programme included as document # 6
- ❖ Sets out priority costed actions to address habitat degradation, land-based pollution, establish a network of fisheries refugia, and promote regional cooperation
- ❖ Inter-governmentally adopted
- ❖ Based on cost-benefit analysis of action versus non-action
- ❖ Project goals and objectives outlined in document #8



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- ❖ Due to global financial conditions and uncertainty with replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, the GEF CEO placed a moratorium on approval of any new projects in 2009
- ❖ As the GEF entered GEF-5, the GEF Evaluation Office initiated a special evaluation of its impact in the South China Sea – no investment until it was concluded ~ 2013



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Longer-term goals of the fisheries *refugia* initiative

Focus on transformational change in how the fisheries and environment sectors work together

Aim to contribute to:

- ❖ improved integration of habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations in the management of fisheries in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand
- ❖ improved national management of the threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages within fisheries *refugia*; and,
- ❖ enhanced uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the design and implementation of regional and national fisheries management systems



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Medium-term objectives of the initiative

Align with those of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea

Medium-term objectives are to:

- ❖ build the resilience of Southeast Asian fisheries to the effects of high and increasing levels of fishing effort;
- ❖ improve the understanding among stakeholders, including fisherfolk, scientists, policy-makers, and fisheries managers, of ecosystem and fishery linkages as a basis for integrated fisheries and ecosystem/habitat management
- ❖ build the capacity of fisheries departments/ministries to engage in meaningful dialogue with the environment sector regarding the improvement of fisheries and management of interactions between fisheries and critical marine habitats



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Specific project objective:

Focuses on operational management of key threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages

“to operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea”, including:

- ❖ by 2020, to have established a regional system of a minimum of fourteen (14) *refugia* for the management of priority transboundary, fish stocks and endangered species; and
- ❖ by 2020, to have prepared and implemented fisheries management systems in the identified priority *refugia* based on and consistent with, the ASEAN SEAFDEC Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia.



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Component 1: Identification and management of fisheries and critical habitat linkages at priority fisheries *refugia* in the South China Sea



Component Indicator: Status of formal designation, management plan adoption, and community engagement in implementation of agreed management measures, including enforcement, for priority sites



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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 refugia management in the South China Sea



Component Indicator(s): (a) Status of enabling environment reform, including extent of behavioural change among small-scale fisherfolk at priority sites; (b) Extent of use of available environmental state and socio-cultural information in policy and planning frameworks



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Component 3: Information Management and Dissemination in support of national and regional-level implementation of the fisheries *refugia* concept in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand



Component Indicator: Extent of demonstrable use of examples of good practice in guiding the replication, scaling-up and mainstreaming of fisheries *refugia* approaches



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Component 4: National and regional cooperation and coordination for integrated fish stock and critical habitat management in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand



Component Indicator: Extent and continuity of stakeholder participation in meetings of project management bodies, including the scope and uptake of joint management and planning decisions



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**Establishment and operation of a regional
system of fisheries refugia in the South
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A regional fisheries sector led initiative to integrate fisheries and environmental management in the South China Sea



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The fisheries *refugia* concept focuses on safeguarding critical fish stock and habitat linkages



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This initiative will operationalize the effective management of a network of 14 priority fisheries *refugia* sites in the South China Sea



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With more than 270 million people living on the SCS's coasts the initiative promotes sustainable use rather than the prohibition of fishing



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Contributing to SEAFDEC led efforts to ensure nutritional security, livelihoods and the sustainability of small-scale fishing communities



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Promoting human-rights based approaches and gender mainstreaming in small-scale fisheries management



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Supporting actions that have benefits for fish stocks and habitats at both the local and South China Sea basin level



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Testing fishing gear and practices that reduce the capture of juveniles and fish in spawning condition



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Pelagic species



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Demersal species



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Cephalopods



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Crustaceans