



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for  
the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of  
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Pullman Hotels and Resorts, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

**PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand 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 those areas are subject to intense fishing pressure. This situation of high small-scale fishing pressure and declining fisheries resources has contributed to the implementation of unsustainable fishing methods to maintain catch and increase incomes in the short-term. These include the use of destructive fishing gear and practices, such as the operation of demersal trawls and push nets in seagrass areas, and the detonation of explosives and release of fish poisons in coral reef areas. Small-scale inshore fishing pressure has therefore been identified as a significant cause of the degradation and loss of coastal habitats in the South China Sea.

Although action aimed at reducing the rate of loss of coastal habitats has been implemented by countries bordering the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, the decadal rate of loss of such habitats remains high due to many reasons from not only fishing activities but including other human activities and climate changes. This continued decline in the total area of habitats critical to the life cycles of most aquatic species, combined with the high levels of coastal community dependence on fish, has raised serious concerns for the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the region. With fish production being 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. This project entitled “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” (Fisheries *Refugia* in short) has been developed to meet this need via implementation of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Program for the South China Sea. Executed regionally by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in partnership with the government agencies responsible for fisheries in the 6 participating countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, the project is comprised of the following 4 project components:

Component 1 will result in the establishment of operational management at 14 priority fisheries *refugia*, with community-based *refugia* management plans being key outputs;

Component 2 focuses on strengthening the enabling environment for the formal designation and operational management of *refugia*;

Component 3 focuses on strengthening information management and dissemination aimed at enhancing the national uptake of best practices in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity

conservation, and in improving community acceptance of area-based approaches to fisheries and coastal environmental management; and

Component 4 will strengthen cross-sectorial coordination for integrated fisheries and environmental management and will harness the national scientific and technical expertise and knowledge required to inform the policy, legal and institutional reforms for fisheries *refugia* management in the participating countries.

To kick-off implementation of the Project, the Inception Workshop was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 with the aims to introduce the overall project goals, objectives, overview of the Project Framework including monitoring and evaluation, sharing of regional and national initiatives related to fisheries *refugia* project, required Letter of Agreement (LOA), work plan and finance matters, and other business. The project implementation at country level is, therefore, based on the status of LOA submission to the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), and presently all 6 relevant countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam have signed the LOA and started the project implementation since 2017, excepted for Indonesia and Viet Nam in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2019.

To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Fisheries *Refugia* project, the national and regional institutions have been established to facilitate the implementation of the Fisheries *Refugia*. At regional management frameworks two institutions: Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC); and Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) shall play an important role to ensuring effective implementation of activities undertaken during project execution; and providing sound scientific and technical advice for further policy decision made by the PSC. The first Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC1) was organized at Jasmine City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The PCS1 discussed and adopted the terms of reference and rule of procedure for the PSC, and agreed the national results framework including proposed revision of workplan/timetable due to relay of implementation. The progress of works made by partners and countries as well as the country commitments to active implementation the project is also recorded. The PSC1 report is enclosed via this link: [https://1drv.ms/b/s!AntX\\_2ae6\\_25gaBnl3w\\_tes1d-xilg?e=lbMTjI](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AntX_2ae6_25gaBnl3w_tes1d-xilg?e=lbMTjI)

To continue updating the progress of works and review the issues raised for consideration and approval by the PSC, The SEAFDEC/PCU have consulted with Malaysia national lead agency to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC2). With the support from DOF/Malaysia, the PSC2 is scheduled in MIRI, Sarawak, Malaysia.

## II. MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held at the Hotel, MIRI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA during a period of 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## III. PARTICIPANTS/OBSERVERS

- Refers to the proposed TOR for the Project Steering Committee, SEAFDEC will support two persons from partner countries as followed:
  1. A National Focal Point (NFP); and
  2. A National Scientific and Technical Focal Point;
- A Project Task Manager and/or a representative of the UN Environment;
- SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT;
- Observers from the Department of Fisheries/ Malaysia (Host Country);
- The SEAFDEC/PCU staffs as the secretariat of the meeting.

#### **IV. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

##### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

- 1.1 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE CURRENT PSC CHAIRPERSON (2018-2019)
- 1.2 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY SEAFDEC/SECRETARY-GENERAL
- 1.3 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY UNEP PROJECT TASK MANAGER
- 1.4 WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA
- 1.5 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

##### **2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

- 2.1 DESIGNATION OF OFFICES
- 2.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

##### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

##### **4. OPENING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

##### **5. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

##### **6. DISCUSSION ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAM**

- 6.1 PROGRESS ON INDICATORS FOR MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA
- 6.2 REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY SPECIES: SHORT MACKEREL
- 6.3 OCEAN MODELLING
- 6.4 WORKPLAN FOR REGIONAL WORKS ON BEST PRACTICES OF FISHING GEARS AND METHODS
- 6.5 KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES
- 6.6 OTHER MATTER

##### **7. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

- 7.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019
- 7.2 CONSIDERATION OF THE CO-FINANING AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019
- 7.3 COSTED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2020
- 7.4 CONSIDERDATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT EXTENSION WITH NO COST
- 7.5 PROPOSED BUDGET REVISION
- 7.6 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2016-2018
- 7.7 REQUEST FOR THE FINANCIAL AUDIT OF 2019
- 7.8 NONE-EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT
- 7.9 OTHERS

##### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 8.1 GCF PROJECT ON IMPROVING HEALTHY OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH BEST PRACTICES IN TRAWL FISHERIES
- 8.2 RESULTS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> LMEs FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE AGENDA 2030
- 8.3 RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA)
- 8.4 ASEAN-SEAFDEC FORUMS IN 2019-2020
- 8.5 POSTPONEMENT OF THE 3RD RSTC TO FEBRUARY 2020

- 8.6 OTHER MATTER
- 9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
- 10. TECHNICAL SITE VISITS
- 11. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING
- 12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING