



**The 2nd 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**
5th – 6th November 2019
Pullman Miri Waterfront Hotel, MIRI, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

**RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA) aimed at protecting this marine and coastal environment for the health and well-being of present and future generations, the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas Region (the East Asian Seas Action Plan) was adopted in April 1981 and revised in 1994. At the request of participating countries, UN Environment established the Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas Action Plan in 1993, functioning as a Secretariat for COBSEA. The Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UN Environment.

COBSEA is one of 18 Regional Seas programmes for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. Individual Regional Seas programmes reflect a similar approach, tailored to address regional context and environmental challenges while supporting delivery of global environmental and development goals.

The East Asian Seas Action Plan brings together nine countries - Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam - in development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the region, for the health and wellbeing of present and future generations. Specifically, efforts are focused on addressing land-based marine pollution; strengthening marine and coastal planning and management; and sharing marine environmental management experiences and policies towards strengthened regional governance.

Taking into consideration the PROJECT on Implementing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the South China Sea where the fisheries component is one of the six components under the SAP for SCS. Other five components of SAP are related to marine habitats and land-based pollution coordinating by COBSEA.

This paper aims to update the project steering committee to the COBSEA activities at the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the COBSEA for information.

II. 24th INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE COBSEA

The Twenty-fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) was held on 19-20 June 2019 at the Inaya Putri Bali Hotel in Bali, Indonesia, back to back with the meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter. The meeting, inter alia, addressed the revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), discuss activities carried out in the context of the action plan, and consider the establishment of a Regional Activity Centre, hosted by the Republic of Indonesia.

Participating countries, the COBSEA Secretariat and observers shared updates on progress made to address marine litter in particular, including ongoing initiatives and planned projects. Outcomes of discussions at the Working Group meeting regarding the revision of the RAP MALI and the evolving institutional framework of COBSEA, were presented at the Intergovernmental Meeting and respective decisions put forward for approval by participating countries. The PCU-Refugia was also invited to share the progress work to the meeting.

III. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE PSC

- The Committee is requested to take note the report of the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA);
- The committee is also invited to provide advice concerned to the COBSEA activities.