



**The 5th 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**

3 September 2021

(08:30 – 12:30PM, UTC+7)

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Platform

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84388367882?pwd=MVBnV2ZENG4a1JiUGZoNTV2R3I2QT09>

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE FOURTH REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Executive Summary Report

SEAFDEC/PCU organized the 4th Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting (RSTC4) via Zoom Platform on July 22nd, 2021. The RSTC4 aimed to harness the national scientific and technical expertise and knowledge required to inform the policy, legal and institutional reforms for fisheries refugia management in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The RSTC4 was attended by National Scientific and Technical Focal Points from 6 participating countries, regional experts, scientists from national institutions, and SEAFDEC/Training Department. A total of 43 participants, including 21 females and 22 males.

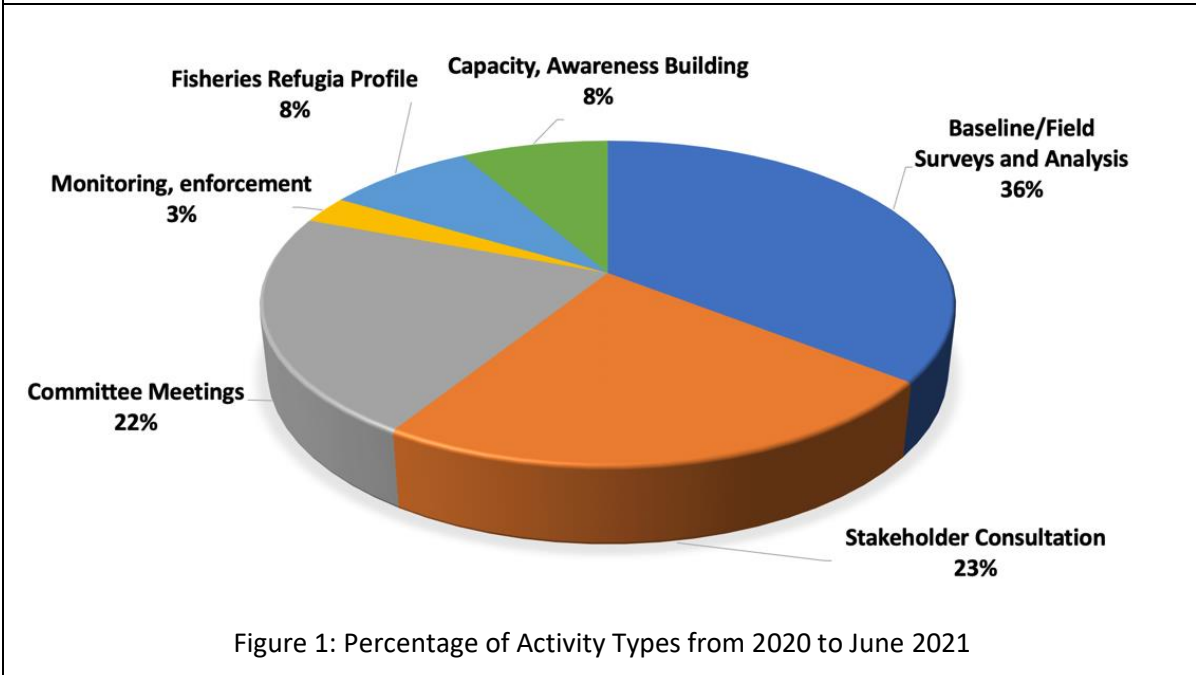
I. Highlights of the Project Achievements from 2020 to 30 June 2021

A total of 70 activities at national and regional levels, implemented from 2020 to June 2021, are summarized. It highlights the achievements of the project implementation, particularly the planned outputs such as seven fisheries profiles, revision of fisheries law, regulation, fisheries management plan, strategic plan, and adoption of the Regional Action Plan for Short mackerel. Significantly, two adopted fisheries refugia in Cambodia together with a total of 5 tentative fisheries refugia in Malaysia (2), Thailand (2), and Cambodia (1). The activities-based progress in percentage and cumulative expenditure and co-financing to date from all executed partners are presented. A highlight of the project implementations are as follows:

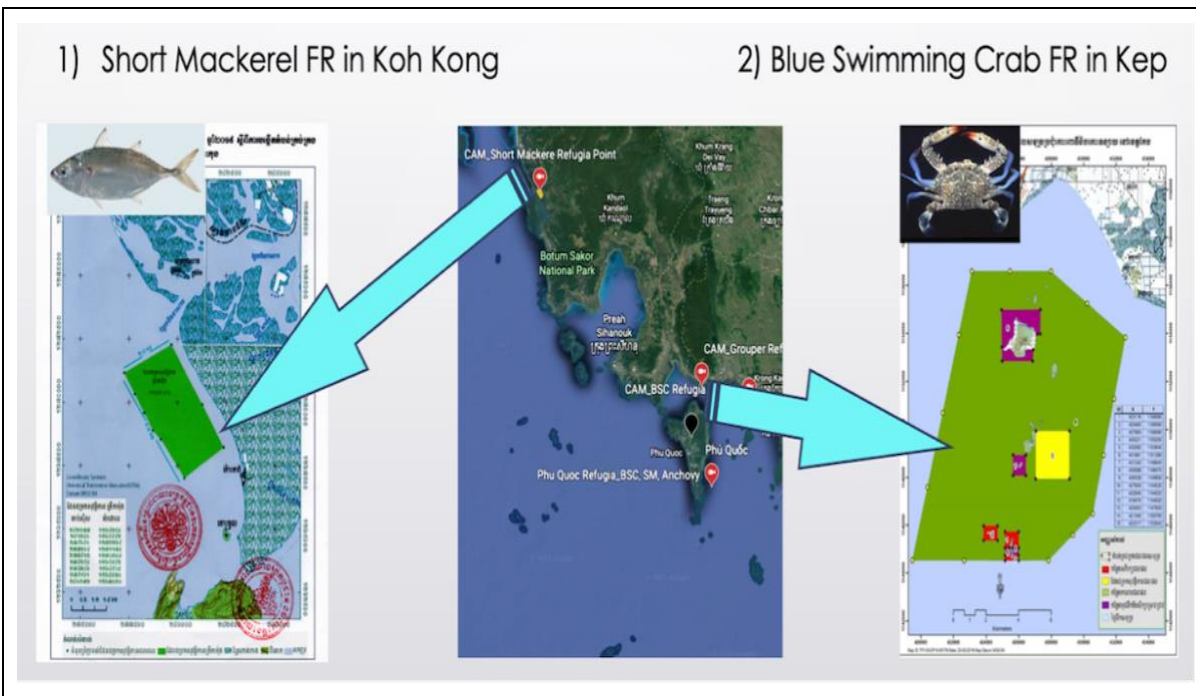
- 1.1 A total of 73 activities were conducted by six participating countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Table 1 shows list of activities implemented by countries from 2020 to 30 June 2021. Figure 1 shows the percentages by types of activities implemented by countries

Table 1: List of Activities by countries from 2020 to 30 June 2021

Activities	CAM	ID	MY	PH	TH	VN	Total	Total %
Baseline/Field Surveys and Analysis	11	2	3	4	3	3	26	36
Stakeholder Consultation	7	4	1	3	2		17	23
Committee Meetings	4	3	3	2	4		16	22
Monitoring, enforcement	2						2	3
Fisheries Refugia Profile	3			1	2		6	8
Capacity, Awareness Building	3	1		1	1		6	8
Total	30	10	7	11	12	3	73	100



1.2 Two Fisheries Refugia were adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia:



Indicators	Name/Location/Province	Target Species	Status		Estimated Refugia Size (Hectares)	Marine Habitat linkage		Refugia Profile (done/not yet)
			Adopted	In process (expected date)		Type (coral, seagrass, mangrove)	Estimated Size (ha)	
Fisheries Refugia Adoption	Marine Fisheries Management Area including Fisheries Refugia at Koh Po, Kep province	Blue Swimming Crab (<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>)	12 April 2018		417 ha	- Coral reef, - Sea grass - Mangrove	Coral reef = 52ha Sea grass= 2790ha Mangrove= 1005ha	Done
	Fisheries Refugia at Peam Krosob, Koh Kong province	Short Mackerel (<i>Rastrelliger brachysoma</i>)	16 Sept. 2019		1283 ha	- Coral reef, - Sea grass - Mangrove	Coral reef = 602ha Sea grass= 3993ha Mangrove= 62000ha	Done

1.3 Five Fisheries Refugia are in processing for adoption:

- 1) In Trat, Thailand for Short Mackerel
- 2) In Surat Thani, Thailand for Blue Swimming Crab
- 3) In Tanjung Leman, Malaysia for Spiny Lobster
- 4) In Miri, Malaysia for Tiger Prawn
- 5) In Kampot, Cambodia for Juvenile Grouper

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			Adopted	In process (expected date)		Type (coral, seagrass, mangrove)	Estimated Size (ha)	
Malaysia	Site 1: Tanjung Leman, East Johor, Malaysia	Spiny Lobster (<i>Panulirus polyphagus</i>)		2022	140,023 ha	Coral, seagrass	Johor Marine Park: 76,565 ha Seagrass: 706 ha	Done
	Site 2: Kuala Baram, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia	Tiger Prawn (<i>Penaeus monodon</i>)		2022	85200	Coral, mangrove	Miri-Sibuti Coral reefs National Park-186,930 ha	Done
Thailand	Site 1: Trat	Short mackerel	✓		154,600 ha	coral, mangrove, seagrass	coral = 2,841 ha mangrove = 9,553 ha seagrass = 1,016 ha Total = 13,410 ha	done
	Site 2: Surat Thani	Blue swimming crab	✓		900 ha	mangrove, seagrass	mangrove = 2.94 ha seagrass = 8.13 ha Total = 11.07 ha	done
Cambodia	Marine Fisheries Management Area including Fisheries Refugia at Trapaing Ropaov, Kampot province	Grouper (<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>)		2021	N/A	- Coral reef, - Sea grass Mangrove	Coral reef = 953ha Seagrass= 25000ha Mangrove= 1900ha	Done

1.4 Revision of fisheries law, regulation, fisheries management plan, Strategic plan:

- Cambodia adopted the 5-year Action Plan for Marine Fisheries Management Area, including management measures in KEP Province
- Cambodia also adopted the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management 2020 – 2029 (includes FMA: Fisheries Management Area/FR)
- Cambodia revised Fisheries Law by including Fisheries Refugia concept in the law

- Indonesia consulted with Interagency (Directorate General (DG) of Marine Spatial Management) to include Fisheries Refugia in the MPA regulation of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
- Thailand reformed the law, regulation, and management of Fisheries Refugia
- Malaysia evaluates and identifies management measures based on scientific findings
- Viet Nam reviews and assesses legal basis and policy for the establishment of Fisheries Refugia.
- Philippines reviews existing fisheries management measure in the area of the 3 project sit

1.5 Stakeholder Consultations

- Cambodia conducted four consultations and three field surveys to finalize the Marine Fisheries Management Area map of the Juvenile Grouper Refugia in Kampot province.
- the Philippines conduct Stakeholder consultations in three priority Refugia sites; a total of 413 persons attended.
- Consultative Meeting for establishing fisheries refugia of Penaeid shrimp in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, a total of 43 persons attended the meeting
- Thailand conducted Stakeholder Consultation to finalize the fisheries refugia boundary areas:
 - At Trat for short mackerel: five meetings in 5 districts. A total of 400 stakeholders engaged in the discussion
 - At Surat-thani for blue swimming crab: covering 7 Districts where 497 stakeholders engaged in the discussion

1.6 Fisheries Refugia Profiles (will be published and online in August 2021):

- Profile for Short Mackerel in Trat, Thailand (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1699>)
- Profile for Short Mackerel in Koh Kong, Cambodia (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1722>)
- Profile for BSC in Surat Thani, Thailand (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1705>)
- Profile for BSC in Kep, Cambodia (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1723>)
- Profile for Grouper in Kampot, Cambodia (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1724>)
- Profiles for the Philippines: three priority sites (<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12067/1716>)

1.7 Regional Programs:

- The Third Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting (RSTC3) was held on February 5th-7th, 2020, in Hai Phong, Viet Nam.
- The Third Project Steering Committee Ad-hoc Meeting (PSC3-Adhoc) was held online on June 16th, 2020 with aimed to finalize on the proposed two-years project extensions from 2021 to 2022.
- The Fourth Project Steering Committee Ad-hoc Meeting was also held online on October 6th, 2020 with aimed to adopt the budget revision and the proposed costed Workplan for the two-years project extensions.
- Information and Knowledge dissemination via Fisheries Refugia Websites (<https://fisheries-refugia.org/>)

II. Other Matters for Information and Decisions by the RSTC4

2.1 Contents of the Regional Guidelines on Indicators of Sustainable Management of Fisheries refugia.

The Committee took note of the proposed contents of the Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Sustainable Fisheries Refugia Management to be drafted by the PCU. The PCU expected to complete the 1st draft of Indicators Guidelines by the end of 2021 for further consideration by RSTC before submission to PSC for endorsement.

2.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species, Indo-Pacific Mackerel (*Rastrelliger Brachysoma*) In the Gulf of Thailand Sub-Region.

The committee took note the adoption of the RAP-Mackerel by SEAFDEC Council Director in May 2020. The RAP-Mackerel was later endorsed at the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in November 2020 and further consideration by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in mid of 2021 and further support by the 42nd Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-42nd AMAF) in August 2021.

2.3 Regional Training/Workshop for Identification of Fish Larvae and Expected Outputs

The PCU informed the committee of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which limited traveling from 2020 until the present. The PCU cannot organize the Regional Training. The PCU proposed to spend this allocated budget for other activities such as developing the Identification Guidebook based on the existing data in the region. However, a lack of knowledge and expertise for larval identification is a critical requirement by countries. The committee, therefore, suggested maintaining the Regional training/workshop for 2022 but no later than November 2022. Because the Regional Training Program is an independent activity on knowledge transferring, not relates to any policy matter. Regarding this, the maximum of participants in this training workshop is 15 persons suggested by Trainer. The budget for this activity will be revised, if needed, for consideration by both RSTC and PSC later.

2.4 Mid-Term Reviews

PCU informed the meeting that the PCU received comments and suggestions from SEAFDEC and UNEP Task Manager on the 1st draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Mid-Term Review in mid-July 2021. The Mid-term Review consultant will be selected and recruited by SEAFDEC with UNEP task manager and project director support. Countries are welcomed to share the TOR with national and regional experts to apply for this job.

REQUIRED ACTION BY THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

- The committee is welcomed to provide comments on the issues discussed at the RSTC4 and advise PCU on specific topics in the next RSTC Meeting;
- The Committee is also requested to adopt the report of the RSTC4.