



United Nations
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UNEP/GEF South China Sea
Project



Global Environment
Facility

***Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends
in the
South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand***

REPORT

**Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group for
the Wetlands Sub-component**

Shenzhen, China, 4th - 7th September 2002

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Report of the Meeting

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome address

1.1.1 The Senior Expert, Mr. Yihang Jiang opened the meeting on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Klaus Töpfer; the Director, Division of GEF Co-ordination (UNEP/GEF), Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif; and the Project Director, Dr. John Pernetta. Mr. Jiang welcomed all experts from the participating countries. He conveyed to the meeting and to the distinguished Vice-President of the Sun Yat-sen University and the representative of the Government of Shenzhen the apologies and regrets of Dr. Pernetta that, he was unable to attend the meeting.

1.1.2 Mr. Jiang noted that the Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group for Wetlands (RWG-W) was being held in Shenzhen City, which was the centre of international celebrations for the last World Environment Day, and which was also a recipient of the Global 500 Award. These events demonstrate a wider international recognition of the excellent achievements here in Shenzhen in reconciling developmental needs with sound environmental management. The meeting expressed its appreciation to Sun Yat-sen University and the Waterlands Resort for hosting the meeting in Shenzhen.

1.1.3 One of the good examples of such sound development is the Waterlands Resort where the Second Meeting of the RWG-W was being held. The resort was built on a wetland area, while maintaining biodiversity, with investment from both government and private sectors. It provides an example of the sustainable use of wetlands as one of the important coastal habitats bordering the South China Sea and could possibly serve as a model for developments elsewhere in the region.

1.1.4 Mr. Jiang informed the meeting that during the first meeting of the Regional Working Group, the tasks and workplan at the national level were discussed and outlined. During this four-day meeting, the Regional Working Group will need to work very hard to complete the business listed in the agenda, which includes important issues regarding the scope of work. The work of this meeting is critical to laying the groundwork for completing the initial regional review by the middle of next year. The tasks of the meeting include a review of what has been achieved during the last intersessional period but the real emphasis must be to provide guidelines to the national committees in the participating countries for the next intersessional period.

1.1.5 The Vice-President of Sun Yat-sen University, Ms. Li Ping extended her warm greetings to the members of the Regional Working Group for the Wetland sub-component in Shenzhen.

1.1.6 Ms. Li spoke of the South China Sea as an important region for China and of the biodiversity of the South China Sea as considerably important to the sustainable development, social security, and the social stability of the coastal countries. The UNEP/GEF project will have an enormous contribution in controlling pollution, protection, management, and wise utilisation of coastal resources.

1.1.7 She finally confirmed, on behalf of her University, the strong support to the project activities, in particular to the Wetland sub-component, undertaken by Prof. Chen of the University. She expressed her wish that the implementation of the project will bring the maximum benefits to the people and the countries around the South China Sea.

1.1.8 On behalf of the Government of Bao An District, City of Shenzhen, Mr. Long Yaotin, the Deputy Director welcomed all participants to Shenzhen. He outlined the present situation regarding economic development and protection of the environment in Shenzhen. He informed the meeting that the government not only pays special attention to the rapid development of the economy but also to environmental protection.

1.1.9 Mr. Long stated that, the Waterlands Resort follows an example of sustainable development, where the wetlands are used for development with consideration of the environment. He invited the experts attending the meeting to provide their comments for future development.

1.1.10 On behalf of the Waterlands Resort, Mr. Wang Zhenyu, the Assistant General Manager, welcomed all experts and guests from the participating countries, and thanked the UNEP GEF South China Sea Project for selecting the resort as the venue of the meeting.

1.1.11 Mr. Wang briefly described the development of the Waterlands Resort as an example of sustainable development of coastal wetlands. He informed the meeting that the resort is located in the estuary of the Pearl River of Shenzhen City. The first phase of development covers an area of 1.73 million square meters and an investment of RMB 596 million. The resort now can fully meet the requirements of eco-tourism and ecological education.

1.2 Introduction of members

1.2.1 The Focal Points and expert members of the Regional Working Group for Wetlands (RWG-W), and observers introduced themselves and provided the meeting with a brief outline of their roles in the project and their expertise and experience relevant to the wetland activities. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Documents available to the meeting

2.1.1 The Senior Expert introduced the documentation available to the meeting (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/INF.2), including the discussion documents prepared by the PCU for the meeting, together with additional information documents available to participants. He also noted that apart from the working documents for the relevant agenda items, an executive summary should be prepared to enable the Chairperson to report to the second meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee. The list of documents available to the meeting is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

2.2 Organisation of work

2.2.1 In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Project Steering Committee, which had been adopted as the rules of procedure for conduct of meetings of the Regional Working Group, the officers elected during the First Meeting serve for one calendar year, i.e., two meetings. Mr. Dibyo Sartono, Focal Point for Wetlands in Indonesia, Ms. Marlynn M. Mendoza, Focal Point for Wetlands in the Philippines and Mr. Narong Veeravaitaya, Focal Point for Wetlands in Thailand, continued therefore to serve as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur respectively, for this Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group.

2.2.2 The Senior Expert briefed participants on the administrative arrangements for the conduct of the meeting and the proposed organisation of work (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/INF.3).

2.2.3 The meeting was conducted in plenary and in English.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

3.1 The Chairperson presented the draft agenda prepared by the Secretariat as document UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/1, and invited the Regional Working Group to propose any amendments or additional items for consideration.

3.2 The Provisional Agenda was adopted as the agenda of the meeting without change, and this is attached as Annex 3 to this report.

4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE MID-YEAR REVIEWS AND REPORTS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

4.1 Dr. Annadel Cabanban, Project Coordinating Unit Member of the Regional Working Group introduced this agenda item. She presented the Secretariat review of the 6 monthly progress reports, expenditure statements, and cash advance requests from the Specialised Executing Agencies (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/4).

4.2 Mr. Vong, Focal Point for Wetlands in Cambodia, informed the meeting that the 6-monthly progress report has now been prepared and will be submitted to the PCU when approved by the National Technical Focal Point.

4.3 Ms. Mendoza asked if the Focal Point for Wetlands has to report his/her attendance in meetings with other sub-components or components of the South China Sea Project in this Section. It was clarified that the organiser of the meeting is the person responsible for reporting on that meeting and stressed that only meetings organised by the SEA should be reported in the mid-year report.

4.4 Mr. Jiang informed the meeting that in order to achieve the overall goals of the project, the national infrastructure should be strengthened during the implementation of the project. Therefore, the Focal Points from participating countries are encouraged to develop contracts with other institutions even though there is the possibility to provide contracts to individuals for specific tasks.

4.5 Mr. Jiang also informed the meeting that the staff of PCU would make individual appointments with the members from the participating countries to discuss with them improvements in the six monthly reporting process.

4.6 Ms. Mendoza emphasised that it is important to give recognition to the members of the National Wetland Committee, who can continue to provide assistance in implementing conservation efforts on wetlands even after the completion of the South China Sea Project.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FOCAL POINTS ON INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

5.1 The Chairperson invited each Focal Point to provide a report of the work of the National Committees with respect to activities conducted during the inter-sessional period in accordance with the agreed workplan and timetable. The Focal Points were invited to present the outcomes of: the review of past and ongoing activities; the review of national data and information; and, outline progress in the development of the national meta-databases.

5.2 Mr. Sok Vong, Focal Point for wetlands in Cambodia, presented a review of the past and on-going activities in Cambodia during the last inter-sessional period.

5.3 He noted that there are few projects/programmes working directly in wetlands, and some of the projects focus on community development, and socio-cultural-economic support. The national and international projects/programmes related to wetlands are generally classified into two zones (i) fresh water zones and (ii) coastal zones. The fresh water zones are mainly focusing on the Mekong River and Tonle Sap areas and receive strong financial support from many different sources. The coastal areas of Cambodia are in four provinces: Kep Town, Sihanoukville, Koh Kong, and Kampot. Activities related to environmental issues are generally focussed on community development, public awareness, and public participation in the protection and conservation of the coastal resource for holistic management. There is no scientific research on specific environmental issues as yet. All research and surveys are carried out through interviews and participatory approaches. Therefore, the past and on-going activities in the coastal areas are limited.

5.4 Mr. Vong reported that data and information are available and that initiatives towards the development of the meta-database have begun. Data, databases, and information have been reported from many different sources including National, UNDP, UNFPA, European Union Delegate, FAO, MRC, MRD, JVC, CCC, CNMC, CZM, WI, CDRI, MoE, MAFF, and MRD Libraries. There are many data and information on wetlands with regard to socioeconomic conditions, development, education, and health. There are limited scientific databases, which are basically of socio-economic data, biodiversity, and community. The "mappable" databases are generally stored in the ArcView 3.1 and particularly relate to land use, land cover, and forest cover in Cambodia.

5.5 Prof. Chen Guizhu, Focal Point for Wetlands in China, gave a presentation of the national review of past and on-going activities; national data and information; national criteria for selecting priority wetland sites; and the existing management system and legal framework.

5.6 Professor Chen noted that there are 16 reserves in Guangdong Province and six (6) of these belong to the scope of the Wetlands sub-component of the Project. There are 23 reserves in the Hainan Province and 6 of these are within the scope of the wetlands sub-component of the project. There are 3 marine and coastal wetlands reserves in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

5.7 The past and ongoing activities are as follows:

- Chinese Biodiversity Protection Action Plan;
- Chinese Trans -century Green Project Programme;
- Determination of Water Quality Objectives for Coastal Waters;
- Chinese 21st century agenda - Forestry Action Plan; and
- National wetland Conservation Action Plan of China.

5.8 The criteria for selection of the national critical wetlands are the following:

- Belongs to the list of Ramsar Convention;
- A reserve at National or Provincial level;
- Typical and special type of wetlands in the local region;
- Large enough for management;
- Presence of the endangered and special animal and plant species;
- Habitat of more than 20,000 waterfowls, spending the critical phase of their life history, and
- A critical habitat for breeding of fishes and roosting or "over -wintering" or migratory birds.

5.9 China does not have a special law on wetlands protection. There are some laws on the protection of natural resources and environment that are, to some extent, relevant to the protection of wetlands.

5.10 Following presentation of the national review of China, the meeting noted with great interest the sustainable use of wetlands in Shenzhen, in particular the Waterlands Resort. The meeting encouraged the PCU to summarise the experience of the Waterlands Resort as an example to demonstrate sustainable use of coastal resources.

5.11 Mr. Dibyo Sartono, Focal Point for wetlands in Indonesia, presented the progress report of work in Indonesia. He reported that even though limited activities were implemented during the first half of 2002, they had been very successful in building the foundation for the implementation of the remaining activities in the Project. The National Wetland Committee was established, which consists of representatives from relevant institutions and individuals. Mr. Dibyo reported that it was his intention to obtain the necessary commitment of the members from the beginning of the project through the understanding and appreciation of the objectives of the Project.

5.12 In Indonesia, the implementation of the project activities focused on those provinces bordering the South China Sea. These provinces are Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, Lampung, Bangka Belitung, Banten, Jakarta Special Area, West Jawa, and West Kalimantan.

5.13 Mr. Sartono also informed the meeting that the review of national data and information, legislation, and management has begun. The information on number and corresponding area of wetlands in the 9 provinces has been collected. The review of legislation will be undertaken soon by a legal expert, agreed upon by the National Technical Working Group, for all sub-components of the Habitat Degradation and Loss Component of the SCS Project. There is no specific management regime for wetlands in Indonesia. The wetlands are considered within the context of river-basin wide management.

5.14 Dr. Pan Khang Aun, informed the Meeting that Malaysia is in the process of signing the MoU of the SCS Project and that the MoUs between the Government of Malaysia and UNEP would be signed soon.

5.15 Even though the country has not signed the MoU with UNEP, significant progress has been made with the reactivation of the National Technical Committee (NTC) and the National Steering

Committee (NSC) of Wetlands. In the NTC and NSC meetings held recently, two important agenda items for wetland conservation and management had been discussed: the formulation of the proposed National Policy and the conduct of the National Inventory of Wetlands. The purpose of the National Inventory of Wetlands is to review and update the previous National Inventory of Wetlands that was conducted in 1987. The Focal Point for wetlands in Malaysia is ever mindful of the commitment and work schedule of the SCS Project and will try his best to provide, in due course, the PCU with information relating to Agenda items 5 and 7.

5.16 Ms. Marlynn M. Mendoza, Focal Point for Wetlands in the Philippines, reported to the meeting on the activities carried out in the Philippines during the last inter-sessional period.

5.17 With regard to the review of past and on-going activities including economic valuation, the projects conducted or being conducted on the agreed habitats (tidal flats, coastal lagoons, and estuaries), which are found on the west portion of the country facing the South China Sea, are very few. Most of the information gathered, involved project areas within which the agreed habitats are included, but the focus was on larger ecosystem studies, species-specific studies, or community based activities.

5.18 In the review of national data and information, the meeting was informed that data on some areas like Balayan Bay including the tidal flats, Pansipit River with its estuary, and Taal Lake have initially been collected. The information gathered was presented based on the agreed format (Annex 7 of the report of the First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Wetland Sub-component). Taal Lake and Pansipit River, which are inland waters, are included in the data collection because of their connection to the Pansipit River Estuary and Balayan Bay, with transboundary significance in the South China Sea.

5.19 She also presented the initial list of national legislation for review (see Annex 2).

5.20 Mr. Narong Veeravaitaya, Focal Point for wetlands in Thailand, presented the review of on-going and past activities relating to wetland projects in Thailand. He informed the meeting that the list had been generated using a questionnaire that was distributed to all members of the National Wetland Committee and other relevant agencies in July and August. The information from the questionnaires was compiled and the Committee reviewed the list in the last week of August.

5.21 Mr. Narong requested for a common format and content for compiling the national information of past and on-going project for easy use in later stage.

5.22 Mr. Narong reported progress in reviewing national data, and informed the meeting that this task is still on-going. He also informed the meeting that a wetland inventory in Thailand has already been conducted twice. The first survey was implemented by IUCN in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department and this identified 42 wetland sites as important areas for waterfowl habitat. In 1996-1999, the Office of Environmental Policy and Planning (OEPP), under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, conducted a second survey on wetland areas in the whole country. The result of the inventory shows that at least 40,000 wetland sites are found in Thailand. The wetland sites were divided into 3 categories: those of international, national, and local significance. There are 61 sites of international importance and 48 natural wetland sites of national importance covered by this inventory.

5.23 In reviewing management regimes, institutional and legal frameworks, Mr. Narong reported that in 1993, the National Environment Board established a National Sub-Committee on Wetlands Management. This sub-committee is composed of representatives of various governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, and some experts on wetlands. The National Sub-Committee on Wetlands Management had formulated policy, strategic measures, and an action plan for wetland management. Mr. Narong expressed the need for guidance from the PCU in the task to review legislation in the country.

5.24 Dr. Mai Trong Nhuan, focal point for wetlands in Vietnam presented the national reviews of the past and ongoing activities and the national data and information, and creation of national database. The activities reported were as follows:

- (i) 102 publications and maps published mainly in 1986 - 1996, 1998 and some of them in 2000, which are directly relevant to wetlands have been collected. The overview data on geographical and biological characteristics for coastal wetlands has been done.
- (ii) A preliminary review of national management regimes, institutional and legal frameworks on wetlands has been conducted on the basis of examination of the whole administrative system, laws, regulations, decisions and policies concerning wetlands
- (iii) Up to the present, an overview of threats and their causes to Vietnam wetlands have been conducted. Due to the absence of characterisation of selected sites, the similar work has not been carried out at the site level.
- (iv) The two classification systems of Vietnam wetlands proposed by Forest Investigation and Planning Institute and Mekong Regional Committee have been reviewed. Based on the Ramsar classification and combination on 4 most important characteristics, some typical for Vietnam wetland types have been added to the wetland classification systems.
- (v) The outline of the National Wetland Strategy and the National Wetland Management and Conservation Programme has been conducted in co-operation with National Environmental Agency and IUCN (report 7.3). The strategy would be submitted to the Government of Vietnam in November 2002. It is expected that the strategy would be approved in early 2003.
- (vi) Based on the regional criteria and primary evaluation agreed by the first meeting of the RWG-W, eleven coastal wetland sites have been initially selected as the priority sites for characterisation. The data input formats for characterisation of 11 selected wetland sites have been developed. Primary characterisation on ecology and diversity of the eleven selected sites have been conducted.

5.25 Dr. Nhuan expressed his eagerness to receive comments from the experts on the outlines of the National Wetland Strategy and National Management and Conservation Programme.

5.26 Following these presentations, the members of the Regional Working Group felt that it would be important to have a common format to put the information together. The meeting discussed the necessary format to review past and on-going projects. In this regard, Mr. Narong presented the format he had used for national information for Thailand. The Regional Working Group discussed and agreed the format to be used for compiling the information. The meeting further agreed that the information contained in the national review should be compiled in the following agreed tabular format and submitted to the PCU before the end of September 2002.

Project title	Objectives	Responsible Agencies	Implementing Agencies	Duration (Years)	Remarks

5.27 For the review of national criteria, management regimes, institutional and legal frameworks, the PCU will prepare a simple format and circulate these to the members of the group before end of September 2002.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE AQUATIC HABITATS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF WORK OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS (RWG-W)

6.1 Dr. Cabanban introduced this agenda item by presenting the summary of the ediscussion (UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/5) that was held during the inter-sessional period. The ediscussion was

conducted to address the request of the RWG-M to re-scope the type of wetlands that was agreed in the First Meeting of the RWG-W. The request was made by the RWG-M in order to avoid overlap of work on wetlands and to ensure that other types of wetlands that are important in the South China Region are included in the Project.

6.2 Dr. Cabanban informed the meeting of the results of the e-discussion, which indicated that different views were held by different members. She noted that in the SAP, there was the intention to include peat swamps, swamps and fens, etc. The RWG-W should provide justification to the Project Steering Committee that the scope of the work met with the requirements of the SAP.

6.3 After an extensive discussion on the possibility of broadening the scope of work of the wetland working group, the meeting recognised that from both the scientific and environmental points of view, it was clearly understood that all types of wetlands affecting the South China Sea should be included in the scope of the work for the group. However, due to the constraints of available resources, both human and financial, and limitation of time, the group had made the initial decision to focus its work and efforts on the three types of wetlands, i.e. estuaries (including deltas), tidal flats and lagoons.

6.4 The Working Group re-defined its scope of work, considering that:

- Expansion of the scope of work of the group to include other types of wetlands is necessary for a better understanding of the environmental problems in the South China Sea; and
- Some countries have already included other types of wetlands, which are directly linked with the South China Sea (e.g. peat swamps, non peat swamps, and lakes) within their national review of past and on-going projects and national data and information.

6.5 The meeting agreed to enlarge the scope of collection and compilation of data and information to other types of natural wetlands (e.g., peat swamps, non peat swamps, and lakes) in the areas bordering the South China Sea, wherever possible.

6.6 The meeting noted the comments made by Mr. Jiang that the current status of project programme and budget only indicated that GEF grant funds would not be allocated to Wetland demonstration sites. However, there is a possibility to have such sites funded through co-financing sources if the work accomplished by the Regional Working Group can demonstrate the transboundary importance of coastal wetlands. It is extremely important that the Regional Working Group produce substantial outcomes to prove the value of regional co-operation in sustainable use of wetlands and wetland resources.

7. DISCUSSION OF ON-GOING ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE CHARACTERISATION AND REGIONAL PRIORITISATION OF WETLANDS

7.1 Identification and characterisation of sites for regional prioritisation

7.2 Reviews of threats at site level and identification of the proximate and ultimate causes of degradation

7.3 Review of management regimes including national priorities and possible interventions

7.1.1 Considering the structure of the national presentations, the meeting agreed to deal with the three sub-agenda items together.

7.1.2 Dr. Cabanban introduced this agenda item. She referred to Annex 7 of the Report of the First Meeting on the Criteria, Indicators, Data and Information Requirements for National Review and the Workplan agreed by the first meeting of the group.

7.1.3 The meeting noted that progress has been made in some countries regarding the characterisation of national wetlands. As indicated in the workplan of the RWG-W, the relevant work should be completed by the end of 2002. The meeting encouraged the focal points for wetlands in the

participating countries to continue their work, and provide to PCU a report on these activities before end of October 2002.

7.1.4 Ms. Mendoza asked for clarification on the meaning of "proximate and ultimate causes", before initiating the activity. The meeting discussed this issue extensively, and agreed that the wording should be changed to "immediate and root causes", in the "causal chain analysis" of the degradation of wetlands, for clarity and better understanding by the focal points and national committees.

7.1.5 Preliminary work on characterisation of sites had been conducted in China, and the Philippine. To encourage other focal points to develop the characterisation, Prof. Chen made a presentation of the experiences.

8. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE GIS WORKSHOP JOINTLY CONVENED BY THE PCU AND SEA START RC IN AUGUST 2002

8.1 Mr. Jiang introduced this agenda item by presenting the outcomes of the UNEP/GEF and SEA START RC, GIS Workshop, organised in Bangkok, Thailand, 7-9 August 2002, together with the tasks the Regional Working Group needed to complete.

8.2 The meeting reviewed the outcomes of the GIS workshop and discussed the relevant responsibilities of the Focal Points and SEA's. The meeting reported that the GIS experts of some countries who attended the GIS workshop had already presented and explained to the Focal Points the workshop outcomes and actions. In some countries, related actions had already been taken.

8.3 Mr. Jiang informed the meeting that following the request of the Regional Working Groups concerning access to remote sensing images for use in the project components, the PCU had discussed this matter with the relevant division in UNEP Headquarters. It will be possible to obtain such data if the geographic coverage and other relevant technical requirements were identified by the project. The meeting also is informed that there is only one request received by PCU. The meeting encouraged all members to consult with their experts on remote sensing and to provide the necessary technical requirement as soon as possible.

8.4 The meeting expressed its appreciation to the PCU and SEA START RC for the successful organisation of the GIS workshop, which provides useful tools and information for the implementation of the identified project activities. The meeting further adopted the outcomes of the GIS workshop and agreed to follow the workplan defined by the workshop.

8.5 The meeting discussed the GIS questionnaire regarding the wetland sub-component. Mr. Vong asked for clarification on the aspects of "GIS Map" and "non GIS map". The meeting discussed this issue. With clarification provided to the meeting, the format of the questionnaire to be used for the wetland sub-component was agreed. The meeting also noted that the questionnaire is designed for the three types of wetlands identified by the first meeting of the RWG-W, and that the Regional Working Group had agreed to broaden the scope of work. The meeting also agreed to use the same questionnaires for the other types of wetlands.

8.6 Mr. Jiang outlined the format of regional meta-database to be used in the project. He briefly introduced the purpose of the meta database. With appreciation to SEA START RC for preparing the format of the meta-database, the meeting accepted the format as contained in Annex 4.

9. REVISION OF THE WORKPLAN AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS

9.1 Dr. Cabanban introduced this agenda item referring to the workplan adopted in the first meeting the group, the workplan suggested by the GIS workshop, and the agreements reached during this meeting on expansion of the scope of work of the sub-component.

9.2 The meeting strongly suggested that there should be co-ordination between the components and sub-components of the project on the workplans, in order to co-ordinate the implementation of the project activities in both national and regional levels.

9.3 The Regional Working Group carefully reviewed its workplan item by item, taking into account that the scope of the work has been broadened to include all other types of wetlands bordering the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. The agreed workplan is attached as Annex 5 to this report.

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS

10.1 The meeting was informed that in order to facilitate the co-ordination of the relevant project activities, and exchange views and information on the implementation of the project activities, The Project Director proposed to convene the next meetings of the Regional Working Groups for Wetlands and Mangroves concurrently and at the same venue. In order to convene at least a one-day, joint meeting. The date for the meeting proposed by the Project Co-ordinating Unit is the beginning of March 2003. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

10.2 Mr. Dibyo Sartono, Focal Point for wetlands in Indonesia, informed the meeting that his government is offering to host the third meeting of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands in Indonesia. With appreciation for the kind offer from Indonesia, the meeting expressed its preference to have the next meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

10.3 Mr. Sok Vong, Focal Point for wetlands in Cambodia also expressed the willingness of his government to host the next meeting in Cambodia as an alternative venue of the meeting.

10.4 The meeting proposed that the PCU co-ordinate with the Regional Working Group on Mangroves to determine a mutually acceptable location for these two meetings.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Taking into account the effective electronic discussion during the last inter-sessional period regarding the scope of the work for the group, Dr. Nhuan, Focal Point for Wetlands in Vietnam, suggested that similar communications should be continued during the next inter-sessional period. The meeting agreed on the suggestion made by Dr. Nhuan, and proposed that, the PCU facilitate e-group discussions on specific topics.

12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

12.1 The Rapporteur presented the draft report of the meeting, which was considered, discussed, amended and approved as contained in this document. The report was adopted without objection as a record of the meeting.

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

13.1 The meeting expressed its sincere gratitude to Prof. Chen for her excellent arrangements in hosting the meeting in Shenzhen, China, which ensured the success of the meeting, and to the expert members for their participation and advice during the meeting. Following an exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 7:45 PM on 7th September 2002.

ANNEX 1**List of Participants****Focal Points****Cambodia**

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ANNEX 2

List of Documents

Discussion documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/2	Provisional annotated agenda
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/3	Report of the meeting
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/4	Report of the Secretariat concerning the mid-year reviews and reports from the Specialised Executing Agencies.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/5	Summary of the e-group discussion and recommendations regarding the scope of work of the Regional Working Group on Wetlands (RWG-W)
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/6	Revised workplan for calendar year 2002-2004

Information documents

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.2/INF.3	Draft programme
UNEP/GEF/SCS/EW.1/3	UNEP/GEF/SCS and SEA START RC, GIS Workshop in support of the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/EW.1/3, Bangkok, Thailand, 7-9 August 2002
UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.1/3	First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/PSC.1/3. UNEP, Bangkok Thailand.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Scientific & Technical Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/RSTC.1/3 Pattaya, Thailand, 14 - 16 March 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Land-based Pollution Component for the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-LbP.1/3 Bangkok, Thailand, 3 - 5 April 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Wetland Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-W.1/3 Phuket, Thailand, 24- 26 April 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Mangrove Component for the UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand". Report of the meeting , UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-M.1/3 Phuket, Thailand, 29 April - 1 May 2002.

UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Seagrass Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project <i>"Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"</i> . Report of the meeting. UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-SG.1/3 Bangkok, Thailand, 6 - 8 May 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Coral Reef Sub-component for the UNEP/GEF Project <i>"Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"</i> . Report of the meeting. UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-CR.1/3 Bangkok, Thailand, 9 - 11 May 2002.
UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.1/3	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component for the UNEP/GEF Project <i>"Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"</i> . Report of the meeting. UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.1/3 Bangkok, Thailand, 20 - 22 May 2002.

Documents tabled by focal points during the meeting

China	Report of Work of the National Committee for Wetlands in the South China Sea Project Identification and Characterisation of Sites for National Prioritisation
Indonesia	Progress Report - Project Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (received 20/08/2002) Workplan for Wetlands Component - Indonesia 2002-2003 (received 20/08/2002) SCS Project: Number of Wetlands in 9 Provinces bordering the SCS; Site List of "Coastal Wetlands" of Indonesia for SCS Project (20/08/2002) SCS Project: Site List of Wetlands Bordering the South China Sea
Philippines	Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand - Wetland Component: Review of Past and on-going Projects; Review of National Data and Information; Review of national Legislations - with Annexes for each review
Thailand	Example of List(ing) of On-going and Past Wetland Projects in Thailand (2 tabular formats) General Information on Wetland Inventory in Thailand List of National Wetland Committee (Thailand)
Vietnam	Report 5.1 - Past and On-going Activities Report 7.1 - Identification and Characterisation for Regional Prioritisation Report 7.3 - Development of National Wetland Strategy and National Wetland Programme

ANNEX 3

Agenda

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
 - 1.1 Welcome address**
 - 1.2 Introduction of members**
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
 - 2.1 Documents available to the meeting**
 - 2.2 Organisation of work**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
- 4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE MID-YEAR REVIEWS AND REPORTS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**
- 5. REPORTS FROM THE FOCAL POINTS ON INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**
 - 5.1 Review of past and on-going activities including economic valuation**
 - 5.2 Review of national data and information and creation of national meta-database**
 - 5.3 Review of national criteria, management regimes, institutional and legal frameworks**
- 6. DISCUSSION ON THE AQUATIC HABITATS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF WORK OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS (RWG-W)**
- 7. DISCUSSION OF ON-GOING ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE CHARACTERISATION AND REGIONAL PRIORITISATION OF WETLANDS**
 - 7.1 Identification and characterisation of sites for regional prioritisation**
 - 7.2 Reviews of threats at site level and identification of the proximate and ultimate causes of degradation**
 - 7.3 Review of management regimes including national priorities and possible interventions**
- 8. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE GIS WORKSHOP JOINTLY CONVENED BY THE PCU AND SEA START RC IN AUGUST 2002**
- 9. REVISION OF THE WORKPLAN AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS**
- 10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WETLANDS**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**
- 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

ANNEX 4

Meta-Data Format for Entries in the Regional Meta-Database

Metadata Entry Form

(Save this form under a new filename for each metadata)

2. Data Set Name:

3. Data Set Producer(s):	
---------------------------------	--

LAND SURFACE

FRESHWATER

- ☐ Ground Water
- ☐ Surface Water
- ☐ Water Quality
- ☐ Other Hydrosphere

☐ Bathymetry

☐ Coastal Processes

☐ Marine Geophysics

☐ Marine Sediments

☐ Marine Chemistry/Water Quality

☐ Marine Physics/Physical Oceanography

☐ Other Ocean/Marine Aspects

- ☐ Terrestrial Habitats
- ☐ Freshwater Aquatic Habitats
- ☐ Mangrove
- ☐ Coral Reef
- ☐ Seagrass
- ☐ Estuary
- ☐ Lagoon
- ☐ Intertidal
- ☐ Pelagic
- ☐ Other Marine Habitats
- ☐ Ecological Dynamics
- ☐ Microbiota
- ☐ Vegetation
- ☐ Zoology
- ☐ Other Biosphere
- ☐ Vegetation

☐ Geochemistry
☐ Geophysics
☐ Rocks/Minerals
☐ Volcanoes
☐ Other Solid Earth

HUMAN DIMENSIONS

- ☐ Attitude/Behavior
- ☐ Boundaries
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Environmental Impacts
- ☐ Other Human Dimension

Name(s): _____

Country(s) ☐ China ☐ Cambodia ☐ Indonesia ☐ Malaysia ☐ Philippines ☐ Thailand
☐ Viet Nam

Horizontal Boundaries:

Southernmost Latitude:
Northernmost Latitude:
Westernmost Longitude:
Easternmost Longitude:

Horizontal Resolution:

Minimum:
Maximum:

Vertical Boundaries:

Minimum Altitude:
Maximum Altitude:
Minimum Depth:
Maximum Depth:

Vertical Resolution:

Minimum:
Maximum:

Start Date:

Stop Date:

Temporal Resolution:

Minimum:

Maximum:

8. **Additional Keywords:**

9. **Data Quality:**

Procedures:

Position Accuracy:

Data Accuracy:

Completeness:

Recognition:

Knows errors:

10. **Data Set Progress:**

☐ Planed ☐ On Going ☐ Complete

11. **Summary:**

12. **Data Center:**

Long Name:

Short Name:

Contact Person:

Given Name:

Middle Name:

Family Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Fax:

Mailing Address:

URL:

12. **Access Constraints:**

13. **Use Constraints:**

14. **Distribution:**

Distribution Media:

☐ Online Internet (HTTP) ☐ Online FTP ☐ E-mail ☐ Other Online Modes
☐ CD-ROM ☐ Diskette ☐ Other Digitally Encoded Media
☐ Hardcopy Media ☐ Photographic Media

Distribution Size:

Distribution Format:

☐ ASCII ☐ BIL ☐ EXCEL ☐ CDF ☐ DBF ☐ DEM ☐ DIF
☐ DOC ☐ DXF ☐ EPS ☐ ERDAS ☐ GIF ☐ GRASS ☐ HDF
☐ HTML ☐ IGES ☐ JPEG ☐ MS Word ☐ MPEG ☐ Native Format ☐
netCDF ☐ PLT ☐ PS ☐ SHP ☐ TIFF ☐ WK1 ☐ WKS ☐ Other

Fee:

15. **Metadata Creation Date:**

16. **Last Revision Date:**

17. **Metadata Revised by:**

Given Name:

Middle Name:

Family Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Fax:

Mailing Address:

UNEP/GEF Project “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” (UNEP/GEF SCS Project)

Metadata Entry Form

(Save this form under a new filename for each metadata)

1. Entry Identifier: SEA START RC 006.doc

2. Data Set Name: High Resolution CTD from the South China Sea, 1996-1999

3. Data Set Producer(s): Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

4. Parameter(s):

LAND SURFACE

- ☐ Topography
☐ Soil
☐ Land Use/Land Cover
☐ Other Land Surface

AGRICULTURE

- ☐ Aquaculture
☐ Fisheries
☐ Agriculture/Cropping
☐ Animal Production
☐ Forestry

- ☐ Other Agriculture

SOLID EARTH

- ☐ Geochemistry
☐ Geophysics
☐ Rocks/Minerals
☐ Volcanoes
☐ Other Solid Earth

ATMOSPHERE

- ☐ Atmospheric Chemistry/Air Quality
☐ Atmospheric Physics/Meteorology/Climate
☐ Other Atmospheric Aspects

HYDROSPHERE (FRESHWATER)

- ☐ Ground Water
☐ Surface Water
☐ Water Quality
☐ Other Hydrosphere

OCEAN

- ☒ Bathymetry
☐ Coastal Processes
☐ Marine Geophysics
☐ Marine Sediments
☒ Marine Chemistry/Water Quality
☒ Marine Physics/Physical Oceanography
☐ Other Ocean/Marine Aspects

HUMAN DIMENSIONS

- ☐ Attitude/Preferences/Behavior
☐ Boundaries
☐ Economics
☐ Health
☐ Infrastructure
☐ Environmental Impacts
☐ Other Human Dimension

BIOSPHERE

- ☐ Terrestrial Habitats
☐ Aquatic Habitats
☐ Wetlands
☐ Ecological Dynamics
☐ Microbiota
☐ Vegetation
☐ Zoology
☐ Other Biosphere

5. Location(s):

Name(s):

Country(s) ☐ China ☐ Cambodia ☐ Indonesia ☒ Malaysia ☒ Philippines ☒ Thailand ☒ Viet Nam

6. Spatial Coverage:

Horizontal Boundaries:

Southernmost Latitude:

1N

Northernmost Latitude:

24E

Westernmost Longitude:

99E

Easternmost Longitude:

127E

Horizontal Resolution:

Minimum:

0.25 degree

Maximum:

0.5 degree

Vertical Boundaries:

Minimum Altitude:

Maximum Altitude:

Minimum Depth:

0 m

Maximum Depth:

2000 m

Vertical Resolution:

Minimum:

1 dbar

Maximum:

1 dbar

7. Temporal Coverage:

Start Date:

1996-09-25

Stop Date:

1999-06-10

Temporal Resolution:

Minimum:

3 hour

Maximum:

155 day

8. Additional Keywords: salinity, temperature, oxygen, fluorescence, profile

9. Data Quality:

Procedures:	Only uninterrupted downcast data were used. Original data were collected at 25 Hz. Data were pressure averaged at every 1bar. Outlier points were removed manually.
Position Accuracy:	+/- 0.005 degree
Data Accuracy:	Temperature +/-0.001 C, salinity +/-0.001 psu, oxygen +/-0.01 ml/l, fluorescence +/-0.01 V
Completeness:	Cover only EEZ of Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam. Only 1-2 cruises per year.
Recognition:	Several scientific papers were published based on this dataset.
Knows errors:	None

10. Data Set Progress: ☐ Planed ☐ On Going ☒ Complete

11. Summary:

CTD data were collected as a part of the SEAFDEC Collaborative Research on Marine Fishery Resources Survey in the South China Sea.

12. Data Center:

Long Name:	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Short Name:	SEAFDEC
Contact Person:	
Given Name:	Penjan
Middle Name:	
Family Name:	Rojana-anawat
E-mail:	penjan@seafdec.org
Phone:	66 24256100
Fax:	66 24259919
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
URL:	www.seafdec.org

12. Access Constraints:

13. Use Constraints:

14. Distribution:

Distribution Media: ☐ Online Internet (HTTP) ☐ Online FTP ☒ E-mail ☐ Other Online Modes
☒ CD-ROM ☒ Diskette ☐ Other Digitally Encoded Media
☒ Hardcopy Media ☐ Photographic Media

Distribution Size:

Distribution Format: ☒ ASCII ☐ BIL ☒ EXCEL ☐ CDF ☐ DBF ☐ DEM ☐ DIF ☐ DOC
☐ DXF ☐ EPS ☐ ERDAS ☐ GIF ☐ GRASS ☐ HDF ☐ HTML ☐ IGES
☐ JPEG ☐ MS Word ☐ MPEG ☐ Native Format ☐ netCDF ☐ PLT ☐ PS
☐ SHP ☐ TIFF ☐ WK1 ☐ WKS ☐ Other

Fee:

15. Metadata Creation Date:

16. Last Revision Date:

17. Metadata Revised by:

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Bangkok 10330, Thailand.

ANNEX 5

Workplan and Timetable for the Regional Working Group on Wetlands

Table 1 Provisional schedule of meetings for 2003

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M							
January			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
			N.Y																																	
February						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
						Chinese N.Y.																RWG-F-3									RWG-LbP-3					
March						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
								RWG-M-3																							RWG-S-3					
								RWG-W-3																							RWG-C-3					
April		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
													Thai N.Y.																							
May				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
								RSTC-3																												
June						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
August				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
																													RWG-LbP-4							
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
								RWG-F-4														RWG-S-4						RWG-C-4								
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
			Cont.					RWG-W-4							RWG-M-4															Ramadan						
November						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
						Ramadan																														
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
				Regional Sci. Mtg				RSTC-4							PSC-3											Xmas										

Table 2 Revised Workplan and Timetable for Completion of Agreed Activities in the Wetlands Sub-component: 2002-2004

Activity	2002				2003												2004
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
National Committee Meetings																	
NTWG Meetings																	
Review Regional Database and Respond																	
Task 1 National Baseline																	
Review of past and on-going activities		Final 1		Final 2 ²													
Review of national data and information																	
Creation of national metadatabase						Set-up											
GIS-related activities:																	
Step 1																	
Step 2																	
Step 3																	
Identification and characterisation of "sites"				Draft	Final Report												
Review national criteria																	
Review economic valuation data and information																	

¹ Review of past and on-going activities on estuaries/deltas, intertidal mudflats, and lagoons

² Review of past and on-going activities on freshwater swamps, peat swamps, and other types of natural wetlands bordering the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

[illegible]