



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE
YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”**

UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.2/5
Date: 1 November 2011
English only

**2nd Special Meeting of the Project Steering Committee
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Beijing, China, 19 December 2011

REPORT OF THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MPA NETWORK

1. Background

The MPA Network for the Yellow Sea was established in October 2009, following recommendation made by the Regional Working Group for Biodiversity of the UNDP/GEF Project on Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME).

In close co-operation with the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), the Yellow Sea Eco-regional Supporting Project (YSESP) of WWF, local governments and marine protected areas (MPAs) managers, the Network has organised a series of activities to enhance co-operation and knowledge/experiences sharing amongst the MAPs in the Yellow Sea region.

The 2011 Annual meeting of the Yellow Sea MPA Network was organised in Suncheon, R. Korea, 27-28 October 2011, with 26 participants from China and RoK, including local governments, MPAs, NGOs and research institutes. The representatives from WWF-China, and WWF-Japan participated in and gave presentation to the meeting. UNEP/NOWPAP sent written presentation to the meeting.

The meeting was hosted by the Suncheon government, and KMI provided partial financial support to cover the costs of travels and local expenses of the meeting. The meeting was organised in both Chinese and Korean, and simultaneous interpretation was provided to the meeting participants. The List of Participants is attached as the Annex I to this report.

2. Opening

On behalf of KMI, the UNDP/GEF YSLME Project and the Suncheon City Government, Mr. Sung Gwi Kim, Mr. Yihang Jiang and Mr. Yeong Seon Gang welcomed all the participants, respectively.

In their speeches, the importance of the MPA Network was reiterated, including biological diversity conservation, ecological linkage of the MPAs, and enhancing co-operation on sharing knowledge and experiences on the management of marine protected areas. The speakers expressed their satisfactions on the MPA Network, and the willingness to enhance the operation and implementation of more activities of the Network.

The programme of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

3. Session 1. Knowledge and Experience Sharing

The following presentations were provided to the Session 1 of the meeting:

- (i) Requirements of ecologic linkages in MPAs, and scientific implications of MPA network – by *Jong Geel JE*;
- (ii) Ecologic considerations of MPA management: A case study of Mai Po Nature Reserve – by *Xianji WEN*
- (iii) A study on bio-ecology of the stopover site of waders within China's Yalu River estuary wetlands – by *Nianbin WANG*
- (iv) Marine Protected Area, Ecotourism and Community Festival: In the case of Suncheon Bay – by *Jiyeon CHOI*
- (v) Korea-style Green Growth Model: Korea's ecological capital, Suncheon – by *Byung Chul CHO*
- (vi) Current efforts in biodiversity conservation in the estuary areas in China – by *Quan WEN*
- (vii) Experiences and lessons learn from Muan demonstration project on biodiversity conservation – by *Shigeki YASUMURA*
- (viii) Activities on marine and coastal biodiversity assessments – by *Yihang JIANG on behalf of NOWPAP; and*
- (ix) Major considerations in preparing a management plan in the Yalu river estuary – by *Yujing ZHOU*

The presentations provided useful information and knowledge on the management of marine protected areas since the last meeting in Dalian and Dandong, September 2010. The key points of the presentation include:

- (i) The scientific justifications of establishing MPA network indicated the usefulness and effectiveness of the Network on maintaining and enhancing ecological linkage. To have wider coverage of MPA and to establish and operate MPA networks are the global trends in the protections of marine biological diversity;
- (ii) The roles of coastal wetlands in supporting entire ecosystem, not only birds, were emphasised, in particular in supporting the life cycles of pelagic fishes.
- (iii) While implementing the biologic diversity conservation, the alternative economic yield from the conservation, e.g. eco-tourism should be considered, to enhance the conservation efforts and to raise the public awareness.
- (iv) It was noted in the presentations that scientific and technical supports are urgently needed for the better management of MPAs, in order to produce meaningful results and create stronger arguments to maintain and expand the MPAs.

4. Session 2. Social and Economic Impacts of MPAs

The following presentations were provided to the Session 2 of the meeting:

- (i) Ecosystem issues and policy options: Addressing sustainable development of China's Ocean and Coasts – by *Jilan Su*
- (ii) On-going efforts facing development challenges in Ganghwa area, Korea – by *Gyung Soo PARK*
- (iii) Economic consideration of management action – cost and benefits analysis of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture – by *Wei ZHENG*

The presentations provided updated information on the challenges facing to the protections of marine habitats from various kinds of development activities. They provided not only the politicise, legal and economic arguments for the biological diversity conservation, but also indicated that the protection of marine habitats needs stronger policy, legal and economic studies, and generate stronger justifications for better management of the marine and coastal resources.

Through extensive discussions on the presentations, the participants felt that the presentations were well-organised, and provide scientific and technical justifications for better management of MPAs. It was strongly noted that in order to improve the current management systems, there are needs to improve economic and legal work in the MPA Network.

5. Operational Matters of the MPA Network and Workplan

5.1 Proposal on Establishment of a Secretariat for the MPA Network

Mr. Jinlong LI gave a presentation on “*the proposed arrangement for the secretariat of the MPA network*”. He highlighted the relevant work on protection of marine and coastal environment in the Liaoning Province; the advantages of the Province in hosting a secretariat for the MPA Network. Mr. Li informed the meeting that the Liaoning provincial government is willing to host a secretariat for the MPA Network, and provide necessary staff, office space, and RMB 50,000 every year to cover the operational costs of the secretariat.

The meeting welcomed with appreciation the offers provided by the Liaoning provincial government, and further indicated it is very useful to continue the efforts and momentum generated under the MPA Network, in particularly at present time as the 2nd phase of YSLME project has not finally approved by the GEF Secretariat.

The meeting adopted a Recommendation to be submitted to the forthcoming Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting for consideration and approval. The Recommendation is attached as the Annex III to this report.

5.2 Workplan

The meeting discussed the workplan and activities for the next inter-sessional period, and agreed that the following activities should be considered as the priorities:

- (i) establishing a secretariat for the MPA Network to take appropriate co-ordinating functions for the Network;

- (ii) organising next annual meeting whenever and wherever appropriate to facilitate the exchange of management knowledge and experiences, and continue the efforts and momentum generated under the framework of the Yellow Sea MPA Network;
- (iii) Publishing a Newsletter as information exchange mechanism; and
- (iv) Organising a relevant training workshop for the local governments.

6. Closure of the meeting

The meeting participants were invited to visit the Suncheon eco-tourism site and the 2013 World Garden Expo site. The participants expressed sincere thanks to the city government and staff of Suncheon city for excellent arrangements ensured successful meeting and pleasant stay of all participants in Suncheon during the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 12:20, on 28 October 2011.

Annex I

List of Participants

(Participants listed alphabetically by last name)

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Annex II.
Programme

Date & Time	Titles	Names
Day 1		
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	Facilitate: Gyoung Hee KIM
	Opening remark – KMI	<i>Sung Gwi KIM</i>
	Welcome remark – YSLME Project	<i>Yihang JIANG</i>
	Welcome remark – Suncheon City	<i>Yeong Seon GANG</i>
	<i>Introduction of Participants</i>	
09:30 – 12:30	Session 1. Knowledge and Experience Sharing	Chairperson: Jilan SU
09:30 – 10:00	Requirements of ecologic linkages in MPAs, and scientific implications of MPA network	<i>Jong Geel JE</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Ecologic considerations of MPA management: A case study of Mai Po Nature Reserve	<i>Xianji WEN</i>
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:50 – 11:20	A study on bio-ecology of the stopover site of waders within China's Yalu River estuary wetlands	<i>Nianbin WANG</i>
11:20 – 11:45	Marine Protected Area, Ecotourism and Community festival: In the case of Suncheon Bay	<i>Jiyeon CHOI</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Korea-style green growth model: Korea's ecological capital, Suncheon	<i>Byung Chul CHO</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Current efforts in biodiversity conservation in the estuary areas in China	<i>Quan WEN</i>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Group Photo and Lunch</i>	
13:30 - 15:20	Session 1. Knowledge and Experience Sharing (Cont)	Chairperson: Gyung Soo PARK
13:30 – 14:00	Experiences and lessons learn from Muan demonstration project on biodiversity conservation	<i>Shigeki YASUMURA</i>

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14:00 – 14:30	Activities on marine and coastal biodiversity assessments	<i>Yihang JIANG</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Major considerations in preparing a management plan in the Yalu river estuary	<i>Yujing ZHOU</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee Break	
15:20 – 18:00	Session 2. Social and Economic Impacts of MPAs	Chairperson: <i>Jong Geel JE</i>
15:20 – 15:50	Ecosystem issues and policy options: Addressing sustainable development of China's Ocean and Coasts	<i>Jilan SU</i>
15:50 – 16:20	On-going efforts facing development challenges in Ganghwa area, Korea	<i>Gyung Soo PARK</i>
16:20 – 16:50	Economic consideration of management action – cost and benefits analysis of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture	<i>Wei ZHENG</i>
16:50 – 18:00	Discussion	
Day 2		
09:00 – 12:00	Session 3. Operational Matters of the MPA network and workplan	Chairperson: <i>Quan WEN</i>
09:00 – 09:30	The proposed arrangement for the secretariat of the MPA network	<i>Jinlong LI</i>
09:30 – 10:30	Discussion and agreement on the arrangement of the secretariat for the MPA network	<i>All participants</i>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break	
10:50 – 12:00	Proposed workplan for the next intersession period	<i>Yihang JIANG</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 18:00	Field Trip in Suncheon	

Annex III

Recommendation on Establishment of a Secretariat for the Yellow Sea MPA Network

The 2011 Marine Protected Areas Network Meeting (Suncheon, R. Korea, 27-28 October 2011),

Recognised with full satisfaction, the progress made in the MPA Network of the Yellow Sea since its establishment at the first meeting in October 2009, within the framework of the UNDP/GEF YSLME project;

Expressed sincere appreciations to the all members of the MPA network for their substantial contributions to the establishment and operation of the network. Special thanks gave to the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) for its continued financial support to the activities of the Network. The appreciation also gave to the Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Research Institute, for the support provided to the 2nd MPA Network meeting in Dalian and Dandong, September 2010;

Noted with great interests of the usefulness of the MPA Network through its effective operation, in particular considering the fact of the ecological linkage between the MPAs;

Appreciated highly the offers made by the Liaoning provincial government of China on the proposal to host a secretariat of the Yellow Sea MPA Network in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. **Expressed appreciation** to the government of Liaoning Province for the intention to provide staff, office space for the proposed secretariat, and to provide financial support to cover the operational costs of the secretariat;

Emphases the importance to have a secretariat to co-ordinate future activities of the MPA Network, and the usefulness to continue the momentum has been generated by the Network. Following careful consideration, **the meeting welcomes** the proposal made by the Liaoning Province;

Recommends to the YSLME Project Steering Committee to approve the proposal, and agrees to establish a secretariat as proposed by the Liaoning Provincial government;

Requests the YSLME PMO preparing necessary arrangements for the secretariat, including necessary TORs and operation mechanism, following the approval from PSC.