GEF

UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED "REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM"

UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.1/8
Date: 27 June 2005
English only

First Meeting of the Regional Science and Technical Panel for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
Dalian, China, 4-6 July 2005

Yellow Sea Partnership Reports

Name of organization: **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Seoul**

Representative: Ms. Lee Hyun-Shin, Programme Manager

Report:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Seoul, ROK
Office of the Project Principal Representative (PPR) of YSLME Project

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the development arm of the United Nations, was designated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as one of its three Implementing Agencies. With its special mandate from the United Nations General Assembly and global conventions, UNDP works to advance the UN agenda on development environment as well as reduce poverty.

The GEF is a financial mechanism structured as a trust fund that operates in collaboration and partnership with the three implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank) for the purpose of achieving global environmental benefits.

Specifically, the UNDP-GEF supports the development of projects in the environmental focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone depletion. The new focal areas of persistent organic pollutants and land degradation were approved at the GEF Assembly meetings held from 16-18 October 2002. Activities in capacity development and adaptation across focal areas comprise a significant part of our work.

The principal reason for UNDP involvement in this project is that this project falls under two of the key UNDP mandates i.e. regional cooperation and environmental protection. The project, involving People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea brings the countries closer together in achieving common goals. Currently there is a need to protect the environment in the Region since economic growth is bound to accelerate in the coming years, and there will be high possibility of environmental degradation if effective protective measures are not taken.

Another reason for UNDP assistance is the comprehensiveness and neutrality UNDP can play in the Region. UNDP has offices in all three countries, and as a multi-lateral organization, it can work disinterestedly for the benefit of the participating countries. UNDP is currently supporting a large number of National Projects in all Yellow Sea countries in ROK, PR China and DPRK.

Considering UNDP's mandates, its comprehensiveness and neutrality, and experience in the region, UNDP has a comparative advantage in supporting this project.

In order to facilitate coordination, reporting, and communications with the participating Governments, other UNDP Resident Representatives and donor agencies involved in the project, and in order to ensure proper project monitoring and evaluation, the Representative of UNDP/ROK, is designated the Principal Project Representative (PPR) for this project. In this role, the PPR will assume the primary responsibility for ensuring that activities of this project are coordinated with initiatives being supported under other government or donor programmes of a similar nature, and that proper monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of project activities are undertaken.

UNDP is also responsible to the GEF Council for the proper use of the GEF's contribution to the project budget. Therefore, UNDP is accountable for the efficient and effective use of GEF funds. As a result UNDP is responsible for ensuring GEF funds are used to achieve

the project's objectives, as set out in the project document and in accordance with GEF principles – particularly the principle of incrementality.

Name of organization: **Korea Ocean Research Development Institute**

Representative: Mr. Yoo Sinjae (on behalf President, KORDI)

Report:

In Support of YSLME Project

The Yellow Sea is known as one of the most heavily exploited seas in the world. The Yellow Sea shows strong influence of various human activities such as fishing, mariculture, waste discharge, dumping, and habitat destruction. There are many signs that the Yellow Sea Ecosystem is indeed pushed beyond its capacity in many respects. Such symptoms aroused a serious public concern about the health of the Yellow Sea ecosystem. Realizing that co-operation between China and Korea, and adoption of a research program with a sound scientific basis are crucial in any effort for conservation of the Yellow Sea, both governments supported the development of YSLME project. Since 1992, KORDI scientists have been actively involved in developing the YSLME Project. Although it took more than a decade for the Project to get launched in earnest, the Project is making progresses at a good pace. From the very inception stage of the Project, KORDI has been very supportive of the Project. Now KORDI supports the Project by providing office space and other logistic services. KORDI will do its best for the success of the Project in the future, because the success of the Project will lay the cornerstone for the conservation of the Yellow Sea ecosystem for years to come.

Name of organization: **NOWPAP of UNEP**

Representative: Zhong Xiaodong, Deputy Coordinator

Report:

Cooperation between UNEP NOWPAP and UNDP/GEF YSLME Project

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Costal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) was adopted in 1994 as a part of UNEP Regional Seas Programme, aiming at the "wise use, development and management of the coastal and marine environment so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefits for the human populations of the region, while protecting human health, ecological integrity and the region's sustainability for future generations".

With the establishment of four Regional Activity Centers (RACs), four working groups and the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), NOWPAP is implementing various activities and projects with focus on marine environmental emergency preparedness and response, coastal environmental assessment, pollution monitoring, data and information management and other environmental issues.

Cooperation between NOWPAP and the YSLME project will benefit the countries and stakeholders concerned in the Northwest Pacific region.

We believe that such cooperation between NOWPAP and YSLME project could promote domestic collaboration among different institutions and authorities working on environmental protection by sharing experience, lessons learned, information and data, expertise and human resources, etc. One of the major outcomes of the YSLME project, the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Yellow Sea, could be implemented in the future by involving NOWPAP and using its institutional structure and capacity. The cooperation with YSLME project could also benefit NOWPAP in terms of capacity building and sharing the outcomes of the YSLME project, through participation of NOWPAP experts in the development and implementation of YSLME project activities.

Therefore we propose that the following potential fields could be considered for the cooperation:

Four NOWPAP working groups dealing with issues such as inputs of contaminants, harmful algal blooms and remote sensing of marine and coastal environment can share their data and findings with the YSLME project when they finish the national and regional reports on these subjects in 2005.

NOWPAP databases and information network can be shared with YSLME project. NOWPAP website (as well as RACs websites) could also be linked with the YSLME project website to share information. A completed regional overview of legal aspects of the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP region can also directly benefit the YSLME project.

By working together while implementing respective projects and activities, NOWPAP and YSLME project can contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

Name of organization: **WWF/KORDI/KEI Yellow Sea Ecoregion Planning Programme**

Representative: Yang Qin – Freshwater and Marine Programme Coordinator, WWF-China

Report:

About Yellow Sea Ecoregion Planning Programme (YSEPP)

Yellow Sea Ecoregion Planning Programme is a biodiversity conservation planning process. Its main aim is to prioritise conservation actions by conducting biological assessment of biodiversity and priority area analysis of globally significant habitat and species at the scale of Yellow Sea eco-region (ecosystem).

YSEPP is a partnership of three organisations: WWF, Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), and Korea Environment Institute (KEI), and project is jointly implemented.

MoU between YSEPP and YSLME

Following the exchanging of project information and discussing potential areas and mechanism for co-operation in promoting protection of marine and coastal environment in the Yellow Sea, (YSLME) the UNDP/GEF Project *"Reduce Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem"* and the WWF/KORDI/KEI Project on *"Yellow Sea Ecoregion Planning Programme"* (YSEPP) agreed to form "Yellow Sea Environment Partnership" for effective co-operation in the conservation of marine and coastal environment, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the Yellow Sea.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was singed on March 7th, 2005 between YSEPP and YSLME. (http://www.yslme.org/press/Pop/MOU.htm)

Mutual Benefits to YSLME participating countries and YSEPP partners

a) Data and Information sharing on biodiversity priorities

Over 120 indicator species from six taxonomic groups (mammal, bird, fish, mollusc, coastal plan, and algae) in Yellow Sea marine ecoregion have been reviewed by regional scientists from China, Korea, and Japan in order to identify taxonomic Ecologically Important Areas (EIAs). Furthermore, about 120 EIAs and 23 Potential Priority Areas (PPAs) have been identified by regional scientists in the Yellow Sea Biodiversity Vision workshop held in Qingdao, May 2005.

After editing and reviewing process, these results of YSEPP will be fully made available to YSLME so that they will be integrated into TDA and SAP processes.

Publications

Scientific reports on biological assessment and priority area analysis will be published by the end of 2005.

b) GIS Database

Map data of Ecologically Important Areas and Potential Priority Areas have been entered into a GIS database with technical assistance of Sundosoft of Korea. In close cooperation with YSLME, YSEPP intends to make this mapping data publicly available for conservation uses.

c) Activities on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Based on the results of Priority Area Analysis, partner organisations in YSEPP seeks to develop projects to conserve Potential Priority Areas through cooperation with relevant government agencies, research institutes, and other stakeholders. This will be a contribution to TDA and SAP activities of YSLME.

Name of organization: **The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**

Representative: Frazer McGilvray, Regional Manager – East Asia

Report:

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an independent, global, non-profit organization with its head office based in London, UK. In a bid to reverse the continued decline in the world's fisheries, the MSC is seeking to harness consumer purchasing power to generate change and promote environmentally responsible stewardship of the world's most important renewable food source.

The MSC has developed an environmental standard for sustainable and well-managed fisheries. It uses a product label to reward environmentally responsible fishery management and practices. Consumers, concerned about over-fishing and its environmental and social consequences will increasingly be able to choose seafood products which have been independently assessed against the MSC Standard and labelled to prove it. This will assure them that the product has not contributed to the environmental problem of overfishing.

The MSC's standard was developed from the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Given the country-participants have endorsed this as a project mandate, the MSC offers its support and continued commitment to the project. The FAO recently published its guidelines on ecolabelling in fisheries, a document that the MSC not only was involved in the development of, but fulfils almost every requirement of the document. We hope to see the country-participants lend their support to this document also.

The Marine Stewardship Council was delighted to be invited to participate in the First Regional Working Group - Fisheries Meeting of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project in Qingdao, PRC, and are happy to participate in future project meetings.

To date, the MSC has certified 12 fisheries, which make up 5% of annual global capture. A further 19 fisheries are currently undergoing assessment. These fisheries have entered the MSC certification system for a variety of reasons. Some to ensure resource access, some to help them enhance their management systems, and others for a point of differentiation in the market place. As the global market increases its demand for seafood, this differentiation and the ability to demonstrate this effectively to an increasingly environmentally aware consumer is becoming more important.

The MSC feels it can contribute to the enhancement and sustainable use of the marine resources of the Yellow Sea by partnering with the country-participants, their fishing industry representatives and fellow NGOs, and is looking forward to partnering the project office and the various stakeholders involved in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project to see a successful outcome, and to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources in the Yellow Sea for generations to come.

Name of organization: **National Marine Science Centre (NMSC)**

Representative: Alistair McIlgorm

Report:

How the National Marine Science Centre can assist the YSLME project through capacity development services.

Dear Mr. Archer,

I have pleasure in attaching a capability statement which the participating countries in the YSLME project may find interesting.

The National Marine Science Centre is based on the East Coast of Australia and has academics with marine and fisheries experience from two leading Australian Universities. The Director Professor Alistair Mcilgorm has a strong academic and consulting background and has experience in Capacity Development of Fishery Managers for all government fisheries management agencies in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

In reviewing the YSLME project. I believe the staff in our centre can contribute to the project in several ways:

- We are independent of national loyalties and can assist in capacity development issues in the YSLME project on a fee for service basis;
- We can provide a range of services to assist the YSLME project with capacity development. For example
    - Assistance in diagnosing the human capacity development needs and the recommending the way they can be strategically addressed by a range of short course, personal development and other training approaches;
    - Contributing to the YSLME project through expertise in Fisheries Economics, Law, Ecology, Science and also Marine Science and Marine Mammals as well as assistance with Marine Pollution issues;
    - Our centre emphasises Management. Many institutions produce science graduates, but we specialise in developing management skills for marine scientists;
    - The centre staff can also be involved in project design and in mentoring project staff and in completing projects jointly.

We have a team of experts available to assist your project to achieve its outcomes and to meet International standards, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

I regret not being able to attend the meeting on this occasion. An Australian fisheries colleague, Mr Frazer McGilvray from the Marine Stewardship Council, will attend and has some publicity material on the NMSC. Thank you for your interest.

Regards

Professor Alistair Mcilgorm
Director of the NMSC
email: amcilgorm@nmsc.edu.au
website: www.nmsc.edu.au

Introduction to the National Marine Science Centre (NMSC)

The National Marine Science Centre (NMSC) is positioned in the Solitary Islands Marine Park (Coffs Harbour), which is located half way between Sydney and Brisbane on the east coast of Australia. The NMSC is a joint venture of the University of New England and Southern Cross University, which serve both students from Australia and abroad (largely Asia). The Centre provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses in marine science and management, and has 30 full-time postgraduate research students.

NMSC staff undertake research projects in marine biology and science, marine, coastal and estuary ecology including pollution. Management and socio-economic impacts are also researched, as is fishing technology and conservation (by catch etc), consulting to a range of government agencies and clients. The Centre has staff who have instructed on a range of short-term training projects in Australia and the Asia- Pacific region.

The NMSC is developing its ***capacity development*** capabilities, being able to provide a suite of skills in diagnosis, planning and provision of tailored training programs for fishery and marine environmental projects, with capacity development components. The NMSC has its own staff and can also give access to expert staff in a full range of disciplines in two reputable universities. Part of the vision of the NMSC is to identify the client's needs and to package a project solution that gives the desired project outcomes. The NMSC is about developing people who understand science, conservation and managing other people.

Assistance with Capacity Development needs in Fishery and Marine Environment Development Projects - What can the NMSC offer?

Diagnosis and Planning
Professor Alistair McIlgorm, the Principal Consultant, has been involved in many fisheries management training projects. From experience with major fishery agencies there is not generally sufficient diagnosis of the desired training outcomes and the need to make project staff more effective in the workplace. This is the primary measure of the effectiveness of any training recommended.

It is also apparent that a suite of measures can be compiled to address the human skill shortfall. Reading materials, self-help exercises, as well as longer-term consideration of training of staff through formal educational programs. Generally most projects seek immediate results in a 3-5 year project framework and the purpose designed short course is developed. In fisheries and marine projects, there is often science courses recommended, when the issues are more often inadequate management and project management skills of staff working in a scientific culture.

Projects also increasingly deal with stakeholders and the needs of those involved in the co-management process. This process is subtle requiring cultural sensitivity and an understanding of institutions, people and governance structures.

***In summary, NMSC have key staff who can establish the direction and emphasis of capacity development programs maximising the effectiveness of the training interventions funded under a project*.**

NMSC can provide a range of training interventions in the marine environment and fisheries area.

Consider the following areas.

Fisheries management
Developing 300 fishery administrators and managers through short courses in fisheries management for all Australian fishery management agencies and in New Zealand and the Pacific islands (1990-2001).

Project example
Fisheries Administrators' Course Clients:- Australian Fisheries Management Authority **(AFMA)**, **MAF(NZ)**, Northern Territory Fisheries **(NTF)**, New South Wales Fisheries **(NSWF)**, Western Australian Fisheries **(WAF)**, South Australian Fisheries **(SAF),** Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol **(QBFP)**, Tasmania Sea Fisheries **(TSF),** Victorian Fisheries **(VF),** Queensland Fisheries Management Authority **(QFMA), Tongan Fisheries** and **Fiji Fisheries**.

AMC Search / FFA (Forum Fisheries Agency)*- Pacific Island Nations,* ***Fisheries Management Workshop,*** *Honiara, Solomon Islands, 13th-17th October,1997.* **Funded by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).** Participants from 9 Pacific Island Nations.

Protected Areas - Establishment of marine protected areas and regional system of marine protected areas for fisheries. It can include development of national/regional action plans. Marine protected areas as "fisheries refugia" and conservation tools.

The NMSC would be suited to doing capacity development in support of a range of shorter-term steps:

- Establishment of refugia on a scientific basis (including demonstration site proposals);
- Prepare and submit proposal(s) to the competent national authorities for the establishment of refugia for fish stocks of transboundary and regional significance to be adopted by the governments.
- Collaboration with national institutions and stakeholders to establish refugia;
- Consultation with local fisheries community and other stakeholders to develop refugia on both socio-economic and biodiversity criteria;
- Contribute to education and awareness campaigns in creating refugia;
- Investigate alternative income generation activities for affected fishers.

Project example
"Fishery Adjustment and the Great Barrier Reef Representative Areas Program". An unpublished Report to the Great Barrier Reef Campaign, of the **World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia (WWF), Brisbane, Queensland.**

"Developing and managing the Authority's communication and community consultation process including: designing and implementing communication plans for general and specific issues relating to the management of the GBR; designing and implementing specific consultation programs to target affected groups such as commercial and recreational fishers, rural communities, conservation, and indigenous groups". **NMSC consultant, formerly Manager, Education and Extension Unit, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.**

Project development and financial analysis

- Economic valuation – appraising costs and benefits will provide valuable information for any consideration in conservation, protection and sustainable use of fisheries/coastal resources.
- Project selection and planning the financial sustainability of these projects/sites;

Project examples

Preparation of a tuna longline fishing venture financial proposal for a Company in Papua New Guinea. Client: ***The South Pacific Project Facility, International Finance Corporation, World Bank.***

Fisheries Economics and Financial Analysis a 10 day short course in the Federated States of Micronesia. Clients:- ***The National Fisheries Corporation of FSM,*** *Departments of Marine Resources, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae State Governments.* ***Funded by Australian Aid.***

AMC/ FFA (Forum Fisheries Agency)*- Venture Appraisal Courses I and II, June and Nov.) - Nadi, Fiji.* ***Funded by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).*** *Participants from 12 nations..*

Resource/Environmental Economics - Marine resource and environmental economics training. Economics is used in:

- determining the profitability of fishing fleets and their long term viability;
- determining optimum bio-economic carrying capacity and sustainable levels of effort;
- the reduction of fishing effort and industry over-capitalization through adjustment schemes, alternative governance regimes and capacity reduction policies.

Project example

"An Economic Appraisal of the South East Fishery Adjustment Program (SEFAP)". **Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries - Australia, Canberra (AFFA)** with AMC Search Ltd. A team appraisal of the effectiveness of $4m of Commonwealth funds used in adjustment in the SE trawl Fishery.

Fishery Economics section of external studies materials for the Undergraduate external studies program of the Marine Studies program, ***University of the South Pacific (USP Solutions & USAID).***

Appraisal of implementation of a regional bioeconomic tuna model in the FFA region. appraisal trip to Solomon Islands. **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).**

Staff at NMSC can both research and instruct in these areas.

Socio-economic impacts from projects:

- Stakeholder Analysis - what are the major activities, and the level of dependence on fisheries/coastal resources?; what kind of co-management schemes are required?;
- Development of alternative livelihoods for displaced fishers;
- Diversifying income sources and improving the financial security of local people with low incomes.

Project example

"Fisheries Management Strategy and Environmental Impact Statement for the NSW Abalone Fishery". Client: **The Ecology Group Pty Ltd and NSW Fisheries/JAWG.**

"Assessment of Economic and Social issues in the Environmental Impact Statements for the Ocean Trawl (Prawn trawl and Fish trawl) and Ocean Trap and Line fisheries in NSW". Client: **NSW Fisheries.**

Community development

- Development of community based businesses based on analysis of potential future uses, value, net income and costs.
- Market research to identify potential pilot activities and sites and, where feasible, promote the establishment of such businesses;
- Investigation of the need for funding to stimulate and support community businesses and
- Options for providing funding, including the identification of existing sources and the scope for establishment of a micro-credit scheme.

Project example

"Community Representatives Fisheries Management Short Course", with AMC Search Ltd for the **Marine and Coastal Community Network (MCCN), Environment Australia**.

Developing communication and co-management strategies for targeting traditional communities in areas ranging from remote aboriginal communities to the **Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, New Guinea and Fiji.** 4 community and communications projects by NMSC consultant.

Consultative Mechanisms – Much of the project work is conducted by working groups with stakeholder representatives. NMSC offer services to reduce under-performance in consultative processes.

- Participants may not contribute information due to several fears, others are confused by the problems and what to do.
- There is a real need to produce decisions and results in very short periods.
- Committee training of stakeholder representatives is required. This also involves communication skills for project staff.
- Groups and committees need to be trained in how to think collectively about the problems they are dealing with.

Project example

Management Advisory Committee two day short courses for stakeholder/ industry representatives in all states of Australia. **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Canberra. (300 person trained)**

Capacity development for recreational fishing committee representatives. Client: **Recreational Fishing Trust Fund, NSW Fisheries, Australia.**

"Extension skills workshop", training environmental extension officers as part of the **SeaNet** project. **A National Heritage Trust funded program for Australian Marine Conservation Society, Oceanwatch, and Australian Seafood Industry Council.**

Geographical Information Systems – GIS is a central part of both fisheries and marine environmental science and management. Both NMSC universities have excellent GIS capabilities being able to highlight the detail required when it comes to packaging the outputs for use by scientists and managers. Training sessions can be held and dvds and other materials produced for instructive purposes.

Project example
Bio-Regionalisation mapping of Great Barrier Reef, mapping threats to natural processes, mapping cultural values and using zoning schemes for protection of representative habitats, **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

Endangered/Threatened Species Management - NMSC have expertise in managing to protect endangered and threaten species, adapting fishing technology to minimize bycatch. This extends to the management of species of regional, global and transboundary significance including economic, legal and policy considerations.

In the case of cetacean and fishery interactions, the NMSC use the expertise in the **Whale Research Centre** based at **Southern Cross University** (an NMSC partner University).

Project example

Cetacean research projects in the South Pacific Islands. Projects involve working with local South Pacific government and NGO's to investigate the current status of populations of whales and dolphins in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Independent Samoa and Rarotonga. Focuses on the biology and conservation of humpback whales, dolphins and other cetaceans in order to develop effective management strategies for their long-term protection. **Whale Research Centre, SCU.**

Development of a coral reef and marine resource management educational training package for Secondary Schools in **the Republic of the Maldives**, **Macquarie Research Ltd/AUSAID.**

Regional synthesis of data and information – Marine fishery and environment projects produce many documents, regional reports, national reports.

- The NMSC can assist in getting these report up to a standard for regional/international publication.
- Technical and English editing of reports can be of benefit to projects.

Project example
"Improving quality in ministerial advice papers" a review and quality assessment paper prepared for the **Ministry of Fisheries New Zealand (MF-NZ).**

"Developing a regional resource management plan" a workshop for the Abalone Development Company of NSW Client: **AFFA/ FARMBI$ Program.**

The following is a list of key staff at the NMSC and their area of expertise. From this team a range of suitable short course and planned training and personal development schedules can be produced for marine and fishery projects.

Brief summary of key NMSC staff

Principal Consultant ***Professor Alistair McIlgorm, Centre Director***
Specialist area: Fishery science economics and management, socio-economic environmental impact of fishery plans.
Capacity development experience: 18 years lecturing and training consultant in over 50 short courses and fishery management programs in 4 countries.

Consultant ***Mr David Lloyd***
Specialist area: Socio-ethnology and co-management in fisheries and the marine environment
Capacity development experience: 15 years lecturing and training in 5 countries.

Consultant ***Dr Steve Smith***
Specialist area: Marine biodiversity assessment, marine conservation ecology.
Capacity development experience: 15 years research and lecturing.

Consultant ***Assoc. Prof. Richard Faulkner***
Specialist area: Coastal hydrologist, pollution and water engineer
Capacity development experience: 25 years of water engineering and training experience in 10 countries.

Consultant ***Professor Rod Simpson***
Specialist area: Marine ecology, bio-indicators and marine pollution
Capacity development experience: 25 years

Consultant ***Assoc. Prof. Peter Harrison, Director Whale Research Centre***
Specialist area: Marine Biologist (coral reefs) and Whale and Cetacean scientist
Capacity development experience: 22 years lecturing and training experience in several countries.

Other experts are available in:

- **Water catchment policy and management,**
- **Law of the Sea (LOS),**
- **Fisheries science,**
- **Fishery conservation (bycatch) technology,**
- **Marine policy,**
- **Economics and**
- **Marine geology.**

NMSC can also access other academics and consultants in Australia.

Contact details: info@nmsc.edu.au

Website: www.nmsc.edu.au

Name of organization: **IOC/WESTPAC**

Representative: Miguel D. Fortes, Head - Regional Secretariat

Report:

STATEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP

The close historical background and geographic coverage of IOC/WESTPAC and the UNDP/GEF YSLME make it imperative that a functional partnership between the two bodies be established –and without delay. This potential initiative has been officially declared at the 6th Session of the WESTPAC Sub-Commission held in Nha Trang, Vietnam am, 23-27 May 2005. While constraints (largely financial) have been the hindrance to direct and physical attendance of WESTPAC's representatives in high-level meetings of partners (as the one to be held in Dalian in Jujly 2005), this does not lessen our resolve to pursue the partnership that exists between IOC, UNDP and GEF especially in subjects of mutual concern in the Western Pacific region.

Name of organization: **Wetlands International**

Representative: Anna Van Paddenburg, Wetlands Project Development Officer - China

Report:

YSLME Project provides a major opportunity to develop and commence implementation of the strategic approach to ecosystem-based environmentally sustainable management and use of the Yellow Sea. Wetlands International is keen to collaborate and contribute to this outcome.

Background on Wetlands International

Wetlands International works globally, regionally and nationally to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as a contribution to sustainable development. We are an independent, not-for-profit, global organisation supported by government membership from around the world.

We are a science-based organisation producing tools and information to assist the development and implementation by government of relevant policies, conventions and treaties that are required to achieve wetland conservation. We are a source of "best-informed" opinion on key issues affecting wetlands and priority actions for their conservation and wise use, drawing on scientific analyses and our own experience in global and national conservation and natural resource management programs.

In doing this work, we are responsive to the needs expressed by governments, industry sectors, local communities and other stakeholders. Addressing the major global wetland conservation needs, we act as a catalyst for inter-sectoral cooperation, partnership and network development. We aim to combine our competencies with those of others through building capacity, partnerships and cross-regional collaboration, and, through multi-sectoral field programmes, demonstrate innovative solutions to wetland management problems.

We develop and manage multi-sectoral, global, regional and national programs that are implemented through partnerships of locally based NGOs, governments, industry groups and scientific institutions. In this way, we are able to develop lasting local partnerships and act as a catalyst for conservation and natural resource management.

The Global Goals for the Organisation for the 2005 – 20014 period are:

1. Stakeholders and decision-makers are well informed about the status and trends of wetlands, their biodiversity, socio-economic values and priorities for action.
2. The values and services delivered by wetlands are recognised and integrated into sustainable development.
3. Conservation and wise use of wetlands is achieved through integrated water resource and coastal zone management.
4. Improved conservation status of wetland biodiversity is achieved through large scale, transboundary initiatives for wetland-dependent species and critical wetland habitats.

Wetlands International has approximately 12 staff working in East Asia from Offices in Beijing and Tokyo. Both Offices have been operating for over 10 years and have a mature

relationship with national government agencies. Both China and Japan are members of the global Wetlands International organisation.

Over the past 10 years Wetlands International has been involved in a major international initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. This initiative covers 22 countries, from Russia and Alaska to Australia and New Zealand. The core components of this work has been building a network of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds (now 85 sites in 13 countries), appropriate management of Network Sites and improving the information base on migratory birds. Five of these Network Sites are within the study area of the YSLME [Yancheng Biosphere Reserve (China), Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve (China), Mundok Wetland Reserve (DPR Korea) Han River Estuary (Ro Korea) and Tonggin River Lagoon and mudflat (Ro Korea)]. There are also two Network Sites in Bohai Wan (Huanghe Nature Reserve and Shuangtaizihe Nature Reserve) and one in the mouth of the Yangtze River (Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve).

Potential Collaboration with the YSLME

Wetlands International would like to collaborate on activities in the shallow water areas (<6m) and coastal wetlands around the Yellow Sea. This includes constructed wetlands such as aquiculture and salt ponds. Whilst having this focus, we recognise the important ecological links between the shallow water areas and the overall productivity of the Yellow Sea. Wetlands International is best positioned to collaborate in China.

All four of the Global Goals of Wetlands International link well with the YSLME Project:

- Increasing knowledge and informing stakeholders and decision-makers on the status and trends of coastal wetlands and shallow waters of the Yellow Sea
- Increasing the recognition for the values and services delivered by these wetlands and integration of these into sustainable development
- Integrated water resource and coastal zone management
- Improving the conservation status of wetland biodiversity through large scale, transboundary initiatives for wetland-dependent species and critical wetland habitats.

Wetlands International has developed and will continue to improve the database on migratory waterbirds of the Yellow Sea, which is part of the greater database on migratory waterbirds within the East Asia/ Australasian Flyway. Within this Flyway approach we aim to engage and connect people throughout the Flyway, from New Zealand to Alaska, to assist in waterbird monitoring and wetlands conservation. The outcome of our work is the establishment of wetland ecological networks and increased capacity for the coastal communities of the Yellow Sea to engage in wetland management and protection. A partnership between YSLME and the migratory waterbird WSSD framework will ensure awareness and recognition of the importance of the Yellow Sea region to the larger Flyway region covering several continents.

Cross-referencing to the Activities and Workplan 2005-2006, Wetlands International is interested to discuss collaboration in the following areas:

Ecosystems

- Status of Ecosystem: coastal zone assessment (GIS)
- Stresses to Ecosystem: coastal zone assessment

Biodiversity

- Habitat conservation and vulnerable species: biodiversity assessment, regional strategy development and implementation
- Synthesis of reviews and development of coordination strategies: input

Fisheries

- Mariculture Production: assessment of aquiculture and salt pans

- Regional Agreements and National Laws and Management Plan (Fisheries): Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

Investment

- Stakeholders: especially in locations where Wetlands International has existing networks of contacts with protect areas and local government
- Regional Coordination: providing input
- National Institutions: increasing institutional links
- Financial Instruments: input and potential links to Waterbird Network Sites.
- Data and information management: input
- Public Awareness and Participation: developing links with the programs of Wetlands International in China

As Wetlands International will continue to be active in the Yellow Sea region, we have a long term commitment to the implementation of the outcomes of the SAP for the Yellow Sea. Our international experience and links to national, provincial and local government bodies around the Yellow Sea will be able to strengthen local capacity to ensure sustainability of the coastal zone.

Wetlands International shares with the YSLME project the goal of ensuring the optimal ecological and social outcomes for all stakeholders interested in the resources on coastal areas of the Yellow Sea. We look forward to identifying opportunities for collaborative work in coastal zone assessment, awareness raising and capacity development for resource management.

Name of organization: **UNDP - China**

Representative: Li Rusong, Programme Manager – Environment and Energy

Report: Pending