



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-B.5/6
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English only

**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group
for the Biodiversity Component**
Weihai, China, 2 - 4 September 2008

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INPUTS FOR THE 2ND PHASE PROJECT DOCUMENT

As the project is now in its final phase with the drafting process of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) complete and awaiting final approval by the PSC, planning for the implementation of the SAP needs to start. In order to attain GEF funding PMO is developing the 2nd Phase Project Document and the initial PIF document. For successful proposal PMO needs to identify the activities needed to implement each management action and the associated costs and source of co-funding. To achieve this, members of the 5th RWG-Biodiversity will:

1. Review and familiarise themselves with the SAP Biodiversity Management Actions (Annex 1)
2. Identify activities required under each management action (Annex 2).
3. Suggest inputs for 2nd Phase Project Documents

Members should review the SAP management actions and suggest activities that are required to implement each action both by the countries and PMO

Annex 1: SAP Biodiversity Management Actions

Target 9: Maintenance and improvement of current populations/distributions and genetic diversity of the living organisms including endangered and endemic species

Management Action 9-1: Establish and implement regional conservation plan to preserve biodiversity

As signatories to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)^[73], both countries already have national conservation strategies. The next logical step is to establish a regional conservation plan that would include: the establishment of new regional nature reserves/MPAs needed to maintain the population structure, distribution and genetic diversity of the living organisms and endangered and endemic species; regular regional biodiversity monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the conservation plan; and the promotion of the concept of sustainable use.

Target 10: Maintenance of habitats according to standards and regulations of 2007

Management Action 10-1: Develop regional guidelines for coastal habitat management

Under the CBD, signatories are obliged to identify areas that are important for biological diversity in combination with management plans for protecting these critical habitats through promotion of the sustainable use and creation of protected areas.

Management Action 10-2: Establish network of MPAs

Inter-linkage of MPAs is important to ensure that migration routes and genetic exchange are maintained. As required by CBD operational objective 3.1, a national and regional system of representative nature reserves/MPAs should be established. Moreover in order to improve effectiveness of these reserves/MPAs, enforcement should be strengthened and management improved through annual assessments.

Management Action 10-3: Control new coastal reclamation

Intertidal wetlands play a vital role in the provision of supporting services such as nutrient absorption, carbon sequestration, sediment deposition, shore line stability, and as habitat for many commercially important fish and shell fish species as well as birds and other animals. Therefore, governments should enforce strict limits on new coastal reclamation according to current government plans.

Management Action 10-4: Promote public awareness of the benefits of biodiversity conservation

The benefits of biodiversity preservation in terms of increased productivity from fisheries and mariculture and the ability of the ecosystem to adapt to change and continue providing the vital ecosystem services is not generally appreciated by the general public. To raise support for conservation measures increased public awareness of both the benefits of biodiversity preservation and the conservation regulations are required.

Target 11: Reduction of the risk of introduced species

Management Action 11-1: Control and monitor ballast water discharge

The introduction of non-native species through exchange of ballast water is a growing international problem that can reduce the productivity of native species in the existing

ecosystem, such as the introduction of zebra mussel to the American Great Lakes and transfer of toxic dinoflagellates that cause human shellfish poisoning, from Asia to Australia^[74]. Improved control and monitoring of ballast water discharge is needed following the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments.

Management Action 11-2: Introduce precautionary approach and strict control of introduction of non-native species

Aquaculture farmers frequently select non-native species for their growth performance, but these introductions can have serious consequences for native species. The precautionary principle should be employed when assessing the risk of introducing a non-native species^[75], and once introduced strict monitoring of the organism should continue until the risk of ecosystem modification is negligible.

5.4.1 Governance Action

- Improved legislation and enforcement to ensure that vulnerable and endemic species and critical habitats are protected are required as recommended in the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Regional and national mechanisms for raising awareness of environmental issues and legislation should be improved and public involvement through educational programmes and the promotion of eco-tourism and ecotourism livelihoods should be encouraged.
- A regional conservation plan and strengthened national legislation on coastal habitat management (including MPAs) as agreed under the Convention of Biological Diversity in addition to the creation of appropriate enforcement bodies should be established.
- Clear national and regional guidelines on biodiversity monitoring and assessments of the benefit of biodiversity to the local economy and the effectiveness of management should be identified.
- Improved enforcement of international regulations on the introduction of non-native species in combination with a strengthening of national legislation on species introductions and the use of risk assessment procedures is recommended.

	MA 11-2: Introduce precautionary approach and strict control of introduction of non-native species					
	Governance Actions					
	Project Management					
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