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Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem:  
Restoring Ecosystem Goods and Services and Consolidation of a Long-term Regional  
Environmental Governance Framework (UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project)

## **Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project**

Seoul, RO Korea  
11–12 July 2017



# Proceeding of the 1st Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel (MSTP) of the UNDP GEF YSLME Phase II Project

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# Summary Report

The 1st Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel (MSTP-1) of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project was held in Koreana Hotel, Seoul, on 11-12 July 2017 hosted by the Government of the RO Korea. Representatives from national and local governments of RO Korea and PR China, UNDP, UNOPS, NOWPAP, PEMSEA, ENEA/UNESCAP, CI China, Hanns Siedel Foundation (HSS) and BlueRibbon Ocean Conservation Association (BROCA) participated in the meeting. The Meeting was chaired by National Coordinator (NC) of RO Korea Mr. Jae Ryoung OH and co-chaired by Deputy Director General of National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center.

**Opening Remarks:** The Meeting congratulated the launch of the second phase of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project which builds upon regional cooperation for the sustainable use of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) put in place by PR China and RO Korea. The Meeting commended on the successful conduct of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and recognized the high relevance of the project to SDGs in particular targets of SDG 14 on pollution reduction, marine protected areas and implementation of the international laws related with oceans. The Meeting is also cognizant that implementation of the second phase project should prioritize sustainability of the regional environmental governance framework of YSLME.

**Establishment of Interim YSLME Commission and Subsidiary Bodies:** The Meeting endorsed the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) and its Subsidiary Bodies, Rules of Procedure for the ICC, and the terms of reference (TORs) of Secretariat staff. Meanwhile, the Meeting expressed concerns about the significant delay of the project implementation, which is likely to hinder implementation of the Project, noting that only 30 months are left if a full project extension of 18 months could be approved. The Meeting noticed that response measures are being developed involving the active participation of Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and project implementation arrangement through UNOPS Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) to accelerate implementation of the Project. RO Korea government encouraged the participation by representatives of private sector and NGOs in Meetings of the Interim YSLME Commission and Subsidiary bodies during the second phase of the Project.

**Establishment of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs):** The Meeting acknowledged the nomination of National Coordinator (NC), members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), members to Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and National Working Groups (NWGs) by RO Korea, and the nomination of NC, members of IMCC and Chairs of NWGs by PR China. The Secretariat will be notified by PR China of full members to the RWGs and NWGs within two weeks after the project inception. The Meeting appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in facilitating the election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the RWGs by preparing the TORs of the RWG and Chairs and Vice Chairs which have been endorsed by the Meeting. On the Chairmanship of RWGs, the Meeting noticed the interests and

support of the two countries in establishing the six RWGs. Facilitated by the Secretariat and the Chairs of MSTP, two rounds of consultations have been made during the MSTP-1 with agreement by the two countries to seek further internal consultation as soon as possible. PR China requested that any reference in the TOR of RWG on Governance to bilateral fisheries agreement with the project be deleted.

**Project Inception Report:** The Meeting appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing a comprehensive inception report that documents systematically the inception process and proposed changes to indicators, budget, management arrangement, implementation arrangement, terms of reference of management organizations and Secretariat staff. RO Korea offered to provide additional information for the inception report revision. The Meeting adopted the Inception Report while recommending the project M&E plan to keep the original indicators to ensure attribution of the results to the project activities. The Meeting endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat on engaging SOA or national institutions in PR China involved in the 1st and 2nd phase of YSLME projects in implementation of project activities through signing one or more PCAs with UNOPS. RO Korea requested the progress and results of PCA-listed activities to be timely communicated and distributed within the project. The Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to trigger activities as suggested by completing preparation of major TORs for immediate implementation for this year. The Meeting reiterated the significance of cooperation and coordination among experts of RWGs from each country.

**Project Workplans (2017-2019), RWGs' Workplans (2017-2019), Annual Workplan and Procurement Plans of 2017:** The Meeting endorsed the proposed annual workplan 2017-2019, workplans of six RWGs (2017-2019), annual workplan and procurement plan of 2017, which were also recommended for approval by the ICC-1. On annual workplan for 2017, the Meeting expressed concerns of reaching targets described in the workplan due to significant delay of the second phase of the Project and delayed establishment of the RWGs. In implementation of these plans, the Meeting stressed: 1) all planned activities should be implemented immediately, and 2) planned activities should be carefully reviewed by designated RWG members and implemented accordingly. The RO Korea approved the proposed annual workplan 2017-2019 under condition of possible revision which may take by experts. In this regard, several suggested activities were made: 1) reconsideration of activities which seems hard to achieve deliverables as planned; 2) enhanced cooperation among RWGs in respect of the interlinkages between activities; and 3) avoiding duplications in planning of activities (e.g., marine litter related activities being carried out by NOWAP).

**Roadmap to sustainable regional governance framework:** The Meeting had an opportunity to hear a presentation on the roadmap towards a sustainable regional YSLME governance framework. At the request of PR China, the concept paper was suggested to refer to RWG-G for review and discussion, and report back to the next meeting of the MSTP.



**Guidelines for Strengthening Yellow Sea Partnership:** The Meeting highlighted the dynamics and values of a strengthened YS Partnership in support of the achievement of the YSLME SAP and endorsed the guidelines for implementation by the Secretariat. To fully engage the partners in knowledge sharing and implementation of collaborative activities, the Meeting suggested to host YS Partnership Forum on an annual basis, with the first Forum to be scheduled in 2018. PEMSEA invited YSLME Phase II Project to consider collaborating in EAS Congress. The Meeting acknowledged the interest and appreciated the participation of UN Agencies and NOWPAP, CI China, BlueRibbon Ocean Conservation Association, HSS and Incheon Metropolitan City in YSLME activities.

As for wrap-up, the Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of RO Korea for hosting the Meeting with warm hospitality. The Chair and Co-Chair expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for its preparation of the 1st Meeting of MSTP and also thanked delegations for their active participation.



# 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. On behalf of the UNOPS, Mr. Kirk BAYABOS welcomed the participants and congratulated to the launching of the 2nd Phase of the Project. He extended his appreciation to the government of RO Korea for hosting the 1st Meetings of the MSTP and the interim YSLME Commission Council as well as the inception ceremony of the YSLME Phase II Project. He also invited the participants to give a self-introduction of the name and organization they represent.
2. The participants were invited to give a self-introduction. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
3. On behalf of UNDP, Mr. Jose PADILLA, Regional Technical Advisor, congratulated the launch of the Project and hoped that it would be carried out within the East Asian Seas Programmatic Approach which also includes scaling up SDS-SEA implemented by PEMSEA. At this meaningful moment after the Project Document was officially signed with relevant Parties on July 11, 2014, significance of this Project could be highlighted with three major targets of SDG14 – 1) prevention of significant pollution by 2025; 2) effective regulation of harvesting and overfishing which IUCN instructed, and implementation of science-based plans to restore fish stocks; and 3) 10% increase of coastal protected areas including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020 in cooperation with NGOs. During the 2nd phase, UNDP China will take a role of operational oversight, UNDP Bangkok will take a technical oversight and both agencies will fully support the 2nd phase.
4. On behalf of the Government of PR China, Mr. Fengkui LIANG expressed his appreciation to the government of RO Korea and the Secretariat for organizing the Meeting. He introduced the Project as an ecosystem-based management project which requires regional cooperation aiming at enhancing protection of marine ecosystem and sustainable development of marine resources. He acknowledged that the Project had obtained remarkable results in the first Phase with completing the TDA, conducting two joint-cruises, holding two regional science conferences, and implementing two batches of small grant programs. He expected success of the Project phase II with remarkable results as well. He thanked the participating partners and the Secretariat for their efforts trying to acquire successful results and accomplishments during the Project 2nd Phase. Again, he hoped this Meeting will produce fruitful results with engagement of active discussion.
5. On behalf of the Government of Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr. Jeong-Ho SEO welcomed all participants and thanked UNDP/GEF and UNOPS for the continuous support to the Project. He stressed on the fact that the success of the Project comes from common understanding of importance of the YSLME Project. During the Project Phase I, ROK government provided strong support for the establishment and approval of SAP, and will enhance more efforts on conservation of the Yellow Sea (YS) than ever before. He emphasized on the importance of cooperation in



addressing environmental problems of the YS. Hoping that the Project will be steadily proceeded in the 2nd phase, he hoped that this Meeting would provide significant foundation for the successful implementation of the Project's activities.

## 2. Organization of the Meeting

### 2.1. Election of officers

6. Mr. Kirk BAYABOS invited the participants to nominate the Chair and Co-Chair for the Meeting. Reminding the Meeting that PR China chaired the last meeting, Mr. Fengkui LIANG suggested that the Chair for this Meeting be elected from RO Korea, and he nominated Mr. Jae-Ryoung OH as the Chair. RO Korea then nominated Ms. Juying WANG to serve as the Co-Chair. The interim Chair then declared that Mr. OH and Ms. WANG were duly elected as the Chair and Co-Chair respectively.
7. The Chair expressed his appreciation to all participants from PR China, RO Korea, regional organizations, NGOs, and academia at the 1st Meeting of the MSTP and then introduced key mandate of the MSTP.
8. The Chair also requested Secretariat's view on decision-making mechanism of the 1st Meeting of the MSTP. Without Chairs of the six Regional Working Groups being elected, the Secretariat suggested the decisions of the Meeting be made by consensus by PR China and RO Korea, and it was so decided after observing no objections.
9. The Chair requested the Secretariat to serve as Rapporteur.

### 2.2. Adoption of Meeting agenda

10. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce the agenda and Meeting documents, and invited comments from the Countries.
11. UNDP suggested to move Agenda 4.0 on Review of Draft Project Inception Report after Agenda 9.0 on Yellow Sea Partnership.
12. PR China requested Agenda 8.0 on Roadmap Towards A Sustainable Arrangement for Effective Ecosystem-based Management of Yellow Sea in accordance with YSLME SAP be removed from the agenda as the paper was prepared by independent consultant rather than the Secretariat. The Secretariat clarified that preparing a concept paper on roadmap towards a sustainable environmental governance framework for the YSLME was discussed and agreed at the preparatory meeting for

inception held on January 23-24, 2017. The Secretariat also pointed out that the paper was prepared under the guidance of the Secretariat and therefore can represent the views of the Secretariat. In view of the request made by PR China, the Secretariat suggested the Meeting to allow the consultant to present the paper for information sharing while the recommendations of the Secretariat would not be discussed and considered by the Meeting. The Secretariat further suggested the paper be referred to Regional Working Group on Governance for further review and report back to the next MSTP for consideration. With these clarifications by the Secretariat, PR China agreed to the keep Agenda 8.0.

13. RO Korea requested to include engagement of SOA in implementation of project activities on the agenda. Given the relevance of the issue to implementation arrangement of the Project, the Secretariat suggested to include a new agenda immediately before the adjusted agenda item on Review of Draft Project Inception Report.
14. The Meeting adopted the revised agenda which is attached as Annex II to this report.

## 3. Establishment of YSLME Interim Commission and Subsidiary Bodies

### 3.1. Terms of reference of YSLME Interim Commission and subsidiary bodies, and Secretariat staff

15. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce the documents ( UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/3). Dr. Sangjin LEE, Environmental Economist of the Secretariat, explained in detail the document prepared on the basis of Annex 3 and 4 of the Project Document containing the TOR of the YSLME Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies, Rules of Procedure for the Interim Commission Council, and TORs of Secretariat staff.
16. After the presentation by the Secretariat, the Chair opened the floor for discussion and invited participants to provide comments to the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council and its Subsidiary Bodies, and Secretariat staff.
17. RO Korea suggested to encourage participation of NGOs and private sector in implementation of YSLME Project to contribute to finding solutions and bringing about new ideas to implementation of on-the-ground activities. PR China reiterated the need for identification of NGOs and private sector which could work with RWGs. UNDP also highlighted the importance of including private sector and NGOs as members of RWGs.
18. RO Korea also suggested to change the title of the “Administrative/MIS/Financial Assistant” to “Administrative Officer”.

19. On the membership of ICC, RO Korea requested a clarification of the roles of UNDP. In response, UNDP explained that UNDP Bangkok takes technical oversight role while UNDP China focuses on operational matters and UNOPS on procurement and financial transactions. UNDP further clarified the roles of UNDP and UNOPS as members of Project Steering Committee of the YSLME Phase II Project only while ICC will cover SAP implementation which might go beyond implementation of YSLME Phase II Project.
20. Professor Suh-Yong CHUNG expressed concerns over possible imbalance among activities of the YSLME Project due partly to the non-eligibility of RO Korea for access to the GEF grant and therefore emphasized that the Project needs to be implemented based on regional cooperation. In this context, he suggested to always invite UNDP Seoul Policy Center to Project meetings to explore to seek its support and collaboration in SAP implementation.
21. Further inquiries on the TOR of the Secretariat were raised by Mr. Se-Jong JU who requested an explanation on the overall revisions of TOR of Secretariat. He also expressed a concern on possible poor management of the Project due to the reduced number of the Secretariat staff.
22. In response, the Secretariat introduced the rationale for revision of the Secretariat staff TORs and introduced two ways to deal with the obstacles which may be faced in the implementation of the Project: 1) engagement of SOA in project implementation; and 2) active participation of RWGs in close collaboration with the Secretariat.
23. RO Korea commented that in spite of reference in the Project Document of SOA in implementation activities, the role of PMO should not be replaced by SOA in project implementation.
24. UNDP suggested participating countries to think over the addition of staff members to accelerate the implementation process taking into consideration the current status of not having enough time to implement activities to reach the targets.
25. After in-depth discussion, the Meeting endorsed the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council and its subsidiary bodies, Rules of Procedure for the Interim Commission Council, and the TORs of Secretariat staff, taking into account the comments for revision from PR China, RO Korea and UNDP; and recommended for approval of the documents as revised by the 1st Meeting of the Interim YSLME Commission Council.

### **3.2. National Coordinators, memberships of the Inter-Ministry Coordinating Committees (IMCCs) and the National Working Groups (NWGs)**

26. The Chair invited delegations of PR China and RO Korea to introduce the National Coordinators, memberships of IMCC and NWGs for information of the Meeting.

27. PR China informed the Meeting of the nominated National Coordinator (NC), members of IMCC and institutes to serve as Chairs of National Working Groups (NWGs). The whole list of NWG members has not yet been approved and thus PR China is unable to provide to the Meeting.
28. RO Korea introduced the list of appointed NC, IMCC and NWGs. The Meeting was informed that participation of private sectors and NGOs will be decided as the Project proceeds.
29. Upon request of the Chair, the Secretariat proposed to proceed with nomination of country as Chairs of each RWG rather than by name of experts, and asked PR China to propose a date to get the full list of candidates for RWGs.
30. PR China informed the Meeting that the full list of candidates of all NWGs will be shared after completing internal consultation with designated agencies and their respective departments, which may take a couple of weeks.
31. In the absence of full list of candidates of Chairs of RWGs from the two countries, the Chair requested PR China to submit the full list of nomination at the earliest convenience to enable the establishment of the Interim Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Then the Chair concluded by recommending endorsement of the nominations other than Chairs of RWGs by the 1st Meeting of the ICC.

### **3.3. Establishment of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs)**

#### **3.3.1. Approval of members**

32. RO Korea suggested again that private sector, NGOs and regional experts appointed by the Secretariat could also be considered as members of RWGs as the project proceeds.
33. The Chair declared that this agenda item is no longer valid as a full list of members of the six NWGs from the two countries has not been submitted for review and approval at this Meeting.

#### **3.3.2. Terms of reference of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs**

34. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the TOR of each RWG and Chairs and Vice Chairs (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/2) and asked the Meeting to provide comments for endorsement.
35. Professor Suh-Yong CHUNG of Korea University pointed out the need of cooperation and coordination among RWGs since activities to be implemented are interlinked.

36. Specific revisions to TORs of RWGs were proposed by experts from the two countries, namely: 1) deletion of the term of “habitat” from “habitat conservation” in Deliverable 4 and Task c) in the TOR of RWG-H suggested by the Chair of NWG-H of PR China; 2) removal of the term “bilateral fisheries agreement” in Task d) of TOR of RWG-G requested by PR China; and 3) deletion of “Bio-Floc, Shellfish restoration in tidal flat, etc.” in the TOR of RWG-M suggested by the Chair of NWG-M of RO Korea.
37. With regard to SAP revision, more careful thoughts were advised by Professor CHUNG as revision requires the consultation with the participating countries and the Secretariat at a later stage before initiating possible revision.
38. With respect to the draft TOR of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs of UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project, RO Korea suggested the Secretariat to revise “Each RWG shall organize its regular meetings once a year” as “Each RWG will assist the Secretariat to organize its regular meetings once a year” under the heading of “Meetings”.
39. In response to a comment on the need of a TOR for the 3rd member of each NWG, the Secretariat informed that no additional TOR would be needed for other members of the RWGs as deliverables of the TORs of any RWG are sufficiently clear and adequate to determine the collective responsibilities of all members of each RWG.
40. The Meeting endorsed the attached draft TORs of the six RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs, taking into account the comments from participating countries and stakeholders, and determined that the annexed TORs of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chair supersede the “TOR for the 2nd YSLME Project Regional Working Groups” as contained in section “3d” of Annex III of the Project Document.

### **3.3.3. Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs**

41. The Chair asked the Secretariat to find appropriate ways to proceed election process under current circumstance of not having the full list of NWGs from PR China.
42. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat suggested the nomination of Chairs and Vice Chairs by country rather than by individual as an option.
43. UNDP suggested each RWG to go through election process by members themselves based on the TOR of RWGs which was endorsed at this Meeting.
44. Some participants at the Meeting expressed concerns over further delay if the election process in each RWG is going to be held at a later stage.

45. Professor CHUNG agreed to the suggestion made by the Secretariat to elect the Chairs based on countries, not names, in order to accelerate the implementation of activities.
46. The Secretariat proposed that Participating Countries consider the “term” of Chairs/Vice Chairs.
47. After several options were proposed for consideration by the countries, the Meeting decided to have a separate meeting to be held with participation of only two country representatives coordinated by the Secretariat.
48. At the bilateral consultation meeting the two countries exchanged views and opinions, suggesting to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs taking into account “terms” of the Chair/Vice Chair for effective Project implementation in the 2nd Phase. Major suggestions included the following:
  - The chairmanship arrangement during the first phase of the project be followed during the second phase of the Project, proposed by PR China; and
  - PR China takes the Chair positions of three RWGs for a term for 18 months they wish but on a rotational basis, proposed by RO Korea.
49. RO Korea suggested PR China to have internal consultation with relevant agencies and departments as soon as possible to get the full list of the nominations.
50. The Meeting reached agreement that the both countries will initiate internal consultation on the proposal of the other country and notify Secretariat the results of the nomination within two or three weeks.

## 4. Workplan 2017-2019, and annual workplan and procurement plan of 2017

51. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced 1) a 3-year workplan for 2017-2019 which was revised in accordance with the comments provided at the preparatory meeting for the inception workshop on January 23-24, 2017 and also comments from PR China on March 30, 2017; and 2) annual workplan and procurement plan of 2017 as contained in draft Inception Report as Tables 9 and 10.
52. Following the presentation by the Secretariat, the Chair expressed appreciation on the efforts of the Secretariat for planning of activities for 2017-2019.
53. Mr. JU suggested to reduce number of activities and targets which will bring too much experts to achieve targets planned for RWG-A.



54. Mr. PADILLA expressed a concern on eligibility of marine litter and coastal clean-up activities planned, which do not seem to address the root cause of the problems in the Yellow Sea. If approval is made based upon agreement of the two countries, those activities can be implemented through co-financing, not through GEF fund.
55. RO Korea intervened that it approved the workplan 2017-2019 under the condition that suggested works and activities are allowed to be modified by each RWG, and PR China agreed to the suggestion made by RO Korea.
56. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat presented annual workplan 2017 and procurement plan for 2017 focusing on activities and budget.
57. Mr. Ning LIU, the representative of NOWPAP, introduced marine litter activities NOWPAP has done since 2005. He suggested the Meeting to take consideration of the need to avoid any possible duplication and to support more meaningful and useful activities and encouraged to use scientific data on marine litter for the development of any relevant policy and/or management tools.
58. Following the intervention made by NOWPAP, Ms. Juying WANG introduced marine litter activities including even micro-plastic researches in Bohai sea being implemented in PR China since 2007.
59. The issue of duplication of marine litter activities was emphasized again by Ms. Sunyoung CHAE, suggesting cautious approach be applied with relevant RWG members to avoid any duplication on relevant activities being implemented by other relevant organizations and suggested the Meeting to focus more on the "implementation approach".
60. Ms. Hyunjung LIM requested more information on IMTA training workshops and hiring of consultants in this regard. As for the workplan of RWG-M, she introduced upcoming international symposium on IMTA to be held on September in Busan, RO Korea, with participation of experts from five countries for sharing experiences and lessons learned on IMTA, and encouraged the Meeting participants to join, especially the experts of RWG-M.
61. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced procurement plan for 2017 by focusing on the plans together with all the requirements asked from UNOPS.
62. After all questions raised by the participants were duly answered, the Meeting thanked the Secretariat for the work, and endorsed the proposed workplan 2017-2019, annual workplan 2017, and procurement plan for 2017.

## 5. Workplan of Regional Working Groups (2017-2019)

63. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced briefly on the 3-year workplan (2017-2019) of each RWG and activities in 2017.
64. In response to the inquiry on the possible updates of SAP by Professor Suh-Yong CHUNG, the Secretariat responded that the targets and activities should be in line with TOR of RWGs as presented and the revision of SAP should be further discussed after consolidating the activities planned for RWGs.
65. Ms. Juying WANG pointed out the importance of coastal acidification as an emerging issue which is closely related to the eutrophication and climate change in the YS.
66. Mr. JU suggested that activities and duration be carried out after consulting with RWG members since some activities suggested by the Secretariat seem hard to achieve the targets in the given timeframe. Therefore, the project has to have some flexibility to implement the activities and the workplan should be still regarded as a draft. Also, in response to the suggestion to consider "ocean acidification" as emerging issue in the YS, he reiterated that activities should be discussed and decided among the respective RWG members.
67. Considering the time available for the second phase, the Chair advised members of RWGs to think about the possible dates for the kick-off meetings to be held at the earliest convenience.
68. RO Korea suggested that each RWG meeting be held in order to develop detailed plans for the activities even if the nomination process of Chairs/Vice Chairs has not completed.
69. Professor Gyoung-Soo PARK encouraged the Meeting to share ideas more focused on "how to implement" the activities since the identification of problems and plans to be carried out were already made through TDA and SAP during the 1st Phase.
70. The significance of methodology was reiterated in the Meeting in terms of its compatibility, allowing scientists to utilize necessary data for the implementation of activities.
71. Mr. Jose PADILLA expressed a concern on the possible lack of results which is likely to occur under constrained time. The Meeting noted that the poor performance of the Project would affect the monitoring and evaluation process in deciding the possible 18-month extension for this Project.

72. In order to reach an agreement on the proposed modifications, a consultative discussion was held between the participating countries on the modification of the final 3-year workplan, and the result of these consultations was reported to the Meeting.
73. Major suggestions included the following:
- Activities and duration for the activities will be decided after consulting with the RWG members which includes ocean acidification as an emerging issue – by RWG-A
  - Close cooperation between two RWGs should be made to implement activities effectively– by RWG-F
  - Kick-off meeting for RWG-G should be held earlier than the one suggested due to several new issues to be discussed by members – it was suggested to have the meeting on the week of 18 September in Korea University – by RWG-G
  - The 3rd Objective was advised to be revised regarding the participation of DPR Korea as an observer status and this revision will be made by consulting among RWG members – by RWG-G
  - Relevant activities on “Biodiversity Conservation” should be added during WG meeting to be held later, by taking consideration of current status in YS facing problems on endangered species – by RWG-H
  - Activities 3 under objective 2 should be implemented within 3 years rather than 5 years – by RWG-H
  - Training workshop on IMTA in collaboration with IW: Learn was suggested to be organized and coordinated by the Secretariat – by RWG-M
  - Considering the marine litter activities being implemented by NOWPAP, activities on marine litter including microplastic issue are advised to be carried out by utilizing data and information available – by RWG-P
74. In response to Mr. Gyoung-Soo PARK’s comment on how to share each working groups’ plans and works, the secretariat answered that to facilitate discussion on common issues such as updating TDA and SAP and sharing of the project results, the PMO can organize joint workshops and avail of the Yellow Sea Partnership forum as venue for exchange of information and progress on substantive issues related SAP implementation.
75. The Meeting recommended the 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) to approve the draft workplans of the six RWGs as revised.

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation of the project

76. Mr. Chaode MA introduced the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of UNDP.
77. Professor CHUNG suggested the Secretariat to note procedural requirements UNDP is looking for to reduce potential risk of the Project. He also stressed on the willingness of participation of RO Korea even without having GEF funding.
78. Mr. LIANG suggested the Meeting to consider national processes in the implementation of activities to realize planned targets. He also expected the Secretariat to play a critical role in coordinating activities effectively without any delay.
79. Ms. Suyeon KIM raised an issue of the role of UNDP China mentioning UNDP China will oversee the YSLME activities implemented in PR China while UNDP Bangkok will oversee both PR China and ROK but UNDP Seoul Policy Center could assist UNDP Bangkok regarding ROK's activities. In addition, RO Korea requested UNDP Seoul Policy Center be invited to the future Project meetings. Lastly, RO Korea requested clarification of signed dates on Project Document which were written differently as 11 July and 23 May in 2014.
80. Mr. PADILLA clarified with detailed explanation on the roles of UNDP China as one of UNDP agencies supporting the Projects. Also, 11 July is the date for the UNOPS signed as the last signing party which is officially regarded as starting date for the Project.
81. RO Korea sought clarification by UNDP on the fact that there is no signature from RO Korea government on the cover page of Project Document. UNDP answered that there are other cases that non-GEF eligible countries did not sign the Project Document. Therefore, UNDP could share such documents if requested (eg. Arafura Timor See Project between Timor Leste and Indonesia and PEMSEA). RO Korea also added that for better understanding of the procedure of the project, relevant information should be shared with stakeholders to keep both countries well informed of project procedures in a timely manner.
82. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the draft project monitoring and evaluation plan (UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/5), with explanation on the format of Plan prepared in compliance with UNDP project management requirements.
83. In response to inquiries on sources of indicators from the representative of RO Korea, the Secretariat explained about the indicators were drawn from TDA, SAP, and GEF monitoring tool, and asked the Meeting to endorse for approval by the 1st Meeting of ICC.

84. Mr. PADILLA advised the Secretariat to think over on the development of indicators – 1) resources will be needed for reporting progress against additional indicators; 2) concrete indicators should be developed which can contribute to reaching the targets of the Project and 3) new indicators besides the indicators mentioned in the project documents should not be developed. He mentioned that the indicators should be used as a tool to assess contribution of the Project.
85. Mr. MA also suggested the Secretariat with two points on indicators – 1) update baseline during the inception phase and 2) maintain same indicators during the implementation phase in order to monitor properly.
86. After lengthy discussion on indicators, the Meeting endorsed the 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) to approve the project monitoring and evaluation plan taking into account the comments from UNDP.

## 7. Roadmap towards a sustainable arrangement for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea in accordance with YSLME SAP

87. After brief introduction of the agenda by the Chair, Professor CHUNG in his capacity as project consultant introduced the roadmap towards a sustainable arrangement for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea in accordance with YSLME Strategic Action Programme.
88. With regard to the proposed YSLME Commission, Ms. Suyeon Kim said that the importance of establishing the Commission is fully recognized and pointed out that the establishment of the Commission (including interim Commission) is one of the major activities to be achieved through cooperation of both countries with the guidance of UN organizations including UNOPS and UNDP.
89. Mr. LIANG appreciated the efforts on the preparation of the work provided by Professor CHUNG, and introduced the recent initiative being implemented by PR China called “Eco-Civilization Construction,” which is regarded as one of the national priorities which the YSLME Project can fit into.
90. Ms. Juying WANG of PR China also shared initiatives being carried out by the Chinese Government on marine environment protection. She also introduced two major action plans which have recently been released – 1) water pollution prevention action plan including the context on marine

environment in 2015 and 2) coastal pollution prevention action plan in 2017. Based on these two action plans, water quality in coastal environment should meet the control requirements. Recently large amounts of investment from central government have been earmarked to conserve ecosystems including wetlands.

91. Ms. KIM, a representative of RO Korea, encouraged the Meeting to conduct utmost efforts for the successful implementation of the activities during the YSLME 2nd Phase, including the establishment of the Commission which requires substantial efforts from both Parties.
92. The Secretariat thanked the Meeting participants for their suggestions and comments, and indicated that comments and suggestions stated during the Meeting would be incorporated in the revised document.
93. The members thanked for the significant efforts made by the consultant.

## 8. Yellow Sea Partnership

94. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the draft guideline for strengthening the Yellow Sea Partnership in support of the implementation of the YSLME SAP. The Secretariat recommended the Meeting to review, discuss, and endorse the proposed principles, values, eligibilities, and potential partners.
95. Ms. KIM, a member of the Delegation of the ROK, mentioned that the participation of stakeholders is important for effective implementation of activities during the 2nd Phase. However, joint activities to be carried out with relevant stakeholders should be decided prior to implementation and also suggested to hold the Partnership Forum on an annual basis instead of biennially.
96. In response to the inquiry on holding the Forum every year, the Secretariat expressed several concerns, including: 1) many RWG meetings and training workshops to be organized each year; 2) lack of human resources in the Secretariat; and 3) feasibility of the project to share knowledge and good practice on an annual basis.
97. As for the frequency of conduct of the Partnership Forum, the Chair suggested to hold on an annual basis, with the first Forum to be conducted taking consideration of all the factors described above.
98. After all questions raised by participants on the Forum were duly answered, the Meeting recommended for the adoption of the proposed principles, values, eligibilities, potential partners, and the proposed YS Partnership Forum be held in 2018 and 2019 by the 1st Meeting of the YSLME ICC.



## 9. Review of draft project inception report

99. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat presented the draft Inception Report (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/9), highlighting some of the major revisions to the project results framework, activities and budget, and invited the Meeting to review and adopt the inception report. In the report, 1) project Results Framework (Table 6 in the report); 2) project budget 2014-2019 (Table 7 in the report); 3) annual workplan for 2017 (Table 9 in the report) and 4) procurement plan for 2017 (Table 10 in the report) were discussed.
100. Ms. KIM raised questions on the project arrangement with request for clarification of implementing mechanisms which will be discussed later on agenda about the PCA. She insisted the Secretariat to consider more information relevant to RO Korea in the Inception Report which were described mainly with information on PR China (refer to 2.4 of the report on project management arrangement). Additional information on the project management mechanisms to clarify circumstances of RO Korea was suggested to be added in the report with the relevant information (refer to section 3.4 of the report.).
101. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat explained the implementing mechanisms briefly saying that the Project is implemented by UNOPS, facilitated by the Secretariat, and decided by ICC which is the decision-making body. He further explained project implementation arrangement described in the Project Document, mentioning that SOA of PR China can be mobilized for the project implementation based on the agreement made among UNOPS, UNDP, and SOA of PR China. He also introduced that the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) could be a good tool as an alternative way to accelerate the implementation of activities.
102. Ms. CHAE suggested the Secretariat to revise inception report with information provided by RO Korea since the current version is somewhat skewed with information on PR China.
103. Mr. MA reminded the Secretariat of four points – 1) indicators should be consistent in line with the Project Document; 2) starting date should be revised to July 2014 not May 2014; 3) budget shifts between outcomes should be within the 10% of the total project budget, and 4) the request from ROK to include project progress information in Project report is reasonable given the regional nature of the YSLME Project.

## 10. Engagement of SOA in Project Implementation

104. In accordance with the revised Meeting agenda, the Secretariat presented the proposal to engage SOA in implementation of Project activities (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/8) in accordance with the arrangement in the Project Document. Proposed activities (Annex III) with designated research institutes containing suitable mandate and expertise were also introduced by stressing on the regional cooperation.
105. RO Korea commented that they can understand the necessity of a PCA to a certain degree since there are too many activities in the 2nd phase. However, for the sake of transparency of the project, RO Korea asked the Secretariat to share the results and outcomes of the Projects with the Governments of PR China and RO Korea, together with the relevant agencies including UN agencies. Participation of RO Korea in project activities which will be implemented by SOA was also suggested.
106. UNDP reminded the Secretariat that since PCA is also aligned with the policy of UNOPS, it should be entered into with agencies directly implementing the activities. UNDP further added that PCA-listed activities should not to be sub-contracted to other agencies or other parties. As for the transparency issue, which was raised by RO Korea, UNDP added that audit could serve as the mechanism to ensure projects are implemented systematically and transparently.
107. Mr. LIANG shared the idea of having an MOU or an MOA between UNOPS and SOA, and separate PCAs with designated institutes for project implementation, and SOA is not placed to enter into an agreement with financial elements.
108. Upon the request of the Chair, the Secretariat agreed develop PCA taking into account the needs of SOA while considering UNDP policy as appropriate.
109. After all questions raised by the participants were duly answered, the Meeting thanked the Secretariat for its work, and adopted the draft Project Inception Report taking into account comments from the Meeting.

## 11. Time and venue of next meeting

110. The Chair welcomed the offer made by the Head of Delegation of PR China for hosting the 2nd MSTP Meeting and ICC Meeting in PR China. Mr. LIANG explained that PR China would consult with the Secretariat on the venue and dates at a later stage.

## 12. Other business

111. The Meeting was invited to raise any issues to be considered by this Meeting.
112. Ms. KIM suggested to have an agenda to discuss how to deal with the budget being used during the suspended period of the Project in the next meeting which could be a compensation issue. Another suggestion was not to count the suspended period into the project period since no progress of the project implementation was actually carried out.
113. Mr. BAYABOS introduced possible ways to be compensated through prompt fulfilment of projects with possible extension of the Project. He emphasized the significance of collaboration among relevant Government Agencies for the implementation of the Project.
114. Professor CHUNG suggested to hold a Parliamentary Conference, which had a good reputation to raise public awareness for policy decision makers in both countries, based upon the agreement of RWG-G, and further suggested to initiate discussion as soon as the RWG-G is established.
115. In response to the suggestion made by Professor CHUNG, Mr. LIANG encouraged RWG-G to explore the chances of having such conferences.
116. Ms. Juying WANG asked the Secretariat to place the institute she belongs (NMEMC) from “government” sector to “Academia” sector in the partnership list.
117. Mr. Adrian ROSS, Executive Director of PEMSEA, suggested YSLME to resume its non-country partner status with PEMSEA. He also invited YSLME to consider collaboration with PEMSEA at the 6th EAS Congress which will be held in November 2018 in the Philippines. With PEMSEA and YSLME under UNDP/GEF programmatic approach, he welcomed the contribution of YSLME to the State of Coast (SOC) Report in 2018 to be reported at the ministerial forum during the EAS Congress. He also welcomed YSLME to participate in the upcoming regional blue economy forum planned in Thailand in November 2017 to discuss the SOC report before the upcoming EAS Congress.
118. In response to the remarks from PEMSEA, the Secretariat proposed to have a joint workshop during EAS Congress to enhance cooperation of regional organizations.
119. In response to the request from the Chair, an internship program was introduced briefly, by announcing two posts available which are communication for developing website and environmental law for developing legal clearing house, posted on the UNOPS website. He also introduced another way to provide opportunities for interns through MOU with governments.

## 13. Adoption of Meeting report

120. The Chair invited the participants to review and adopt the Meeting report and recommendations of the 1st Meeting of the MSTP prepared by the Secretariat. The draft report and recommendations were discussed, amended, and adopted by the Meeting.

## 14. Wrap-up and closure of the Meeting

121. The Chair summarized the discussions, highlighting major outputs of the Meeting.
122. Thanking the participants for showing open-minded and co-operative attitudes, Ms. KIM expressed her pleasure that the YSLME Phase II was officially initiated with activities proposed and adopted by the two countries. She believed that the YSLME Phase II Project would be a major asset to guide future activities in protecting the ecosystem of the Yellow Sea. With that, Ms. KIM was confident that the Project would produce even better results in the future.
123. Mr. Fengkui LIANG, the Head of Delegation of the PR China, felt the Meeting was successful by endorsing several agenda, considering it as one of the most important outputs of the Project. He thanked ROK for its work in understanding and support in endorsing all issues, and also the Secretariat for its work in organizing the Meeting smoothly. He also hoped that the two countries continue to cooperate, and believed that the Project would be successful in the 2nd Phase as well.
124. The Secretariat thanked the Chair for his leadership, patience, and guidance to lead the Meeting in order to achieve its objectives.
125. Following the closing remarks, the Chair declared the closure of the Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on 12th July 2017.

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## Annex 2. Agenda of the Meeting

Day 1: 11 July 2017 (Tuesday)	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:10	<b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b>
09:10-09:30	<b>2. Organisation of the Meeting</b> 2.1 Election of Officers 2.2 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
09:30-10:30	<b>3. Establishment of Interim YSLME Commission and Subsidiary Bodies</b> 3.1 Terms of reference of Interim YSLME Commission and subsidiary bodies, and Secretariat staff 3.2 National Coordinators (NCs), memberships of the Inter-Ministry Co-ordinating Committees (IMCCs) and the National Working Groups (NWGs) 3.3 Establishment of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs) 3.3.1 Approval of Members 3.3.2 Terms of Reference of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs 3.3.3 Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs
10:30-10:50	Group Photo and Coffee Break
10:50-12:30	<b>Continuation of Agenda 3</b>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:30	<b>4. Workplan 2017-2019, and Annual Workplan and Procurement Plan of 2017</b>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-18:00	<b>5. Workplan of Regional Working Groups (2017-2019)</b>
18:00	Adjournment of the meeting
18:30-20:00	<b>Welcome Dinner</b> Hosted by Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), RO Korea
Day 2: 12 July 2017 (Wednesday)	
09:00-10:00	<b>Continuation of Agenda 5</b>
10:00-10:45	<b>6. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project</b>
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-11:45	<b>7. Roadmap Towards a Sustainable Arrangement for Effective Ecosystem-Based Management of Yellow Sea in Accordance with YSLME SAP</b>
11:45-12:30	<b>8. Yellow Sea Partnership</b>
12:30-13:30	Lunch

**Day 2: 12 July 2017 (Wednesday) (CONTINUED)**

**13:30-14:45**      **9. Engagement of SOA in Project Implementation**

**14:45-15:30**      **10. Review of Draft Project Inception Report**

**15:30-16:00**      Coffee Break

**16:00-16:20**      **11. Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

**16:20-17:00**      **12. Other Business**

**17:00-17:30**      **13. Adoption of Meeting Report**

**17:30-17:45**      **14. Wrap-up and Closure of the Meeting**

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