



YSLME

UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea
Large Marine Ecosystem

3rd Interim Commission
Council Meeting

12-14 MARCH 2019 • QINGDAO, PR CHINA

3.4

Status of Implementation of MTR Recommendations



Status of Implementation of Key Actions Recommended in MTR

Focal areas	Key actions	Recommendation	Management response
TE	<p><i>To include an agenda item on TE to allow better planning and contracting for evaluation by PMO and governments in the second half of 2019</i></p>	<p>UNDP and UNOPS should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan well in advance, and commence the contracting process for the TE consultant. ● Organize detailed meeting schedule with stakeholders well in advance. ● Provide private space for TE consultation meetings. ● Provide an ‘independent’ interpreter when needed. ● Avoid having any PMO (or UNDP) staff present during consultations. 	<p>UNDP/UNOPS: agree. Following actions will be taken to implement the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A total of \$5,000 is budgeted for interpretation. ● ICC to include an agenda item on terminal evaluation to allow earlier and better. ● UNDP will send and introduce the TE guidelines to all partners.
	<p><i>Include in the project WP \$5,000 for interpreter for terminal evaluation</i></p>		

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<p>Need for Project extension</p>	<p><i>Extend the project for 18 mo., and have UNDP/ UNOPS approve</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Discuss/agree on 2nd extension beyond 2020 at ICC-3</i></p>	<p>Given the three-year delay to operational start of the Project, it is recommended that the maximum extension available under UNDP-GEF rules should be applied for and approved, ASAP.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>The ICC-2 decided to extend the project for 18 months, and UNDP and UNOPS approved the extension of the project until December 31, 2019.</p>

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<p>Project Design and need for prioritization</p>	<p><i>Reduce the number of activities while maintaining those that have been covered in the 3 signed PCAs, and activities with TORs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The highest priority should be given to implementing Project activities in order to achieve Project Outcomes and Objectives by the (extended) Project-end. ● For the remaining Project duration, absolute highest priority should be given to focusing on completing all Outcomes and Outputs in Comp. 1. 	<p>The project ICC-2 meeting agreed to reduce the number of activities while maintaining those that have been covered in the three signed PCAs and those activities with TORs being cleared by the RWGs.</p>

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UNOPS Project support	<p><i>Strengthen its project delivering support system</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Conduct management review of UNOPS systems</i></p>	UNOPS should urgently review and reform its project-support functions to ensure that no further delays and blockages occur. Urgent reforms that are specific to accelerating the YSLME Phase II Project should be implemented immediately.	<p>Agree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNOPS has strengthened its project delivering support system with integration of weekly project meeting with PMO, monthly meeting with UNDP.
PMO staffing	<i>Hire an environmental specialist to oversee the YSGP, implementation of the project</i>	The two countries look at seconding a Government officer each to the PMO, at national Government cost, and at Project Officer level with at last 3 years experience in international projects.	UNDP and UNOPS agreed to hire an environmental specialist. Yet based on the assessment of the UNOPS, there is also a need to strengthen the implementation support to National Coordinator in each country.

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Work planning (WP)	<i>Give CTA and Operations Associate trainings on communication, procurement, WP and CBI</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The PMO and UNOPS make greater use of whole-of-project / whole-of-timeline WPs to identify and prepare for all key milestones that require timely action, to assist in preventing further Project delays. ● The PMO should make efforts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● take a more strategic approach to WP and workload management, ● focus on implementation of high priority activities (e.g. Comp. 1), ● stick to structured WPs 	<p>Agree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTA and Operations Associate received trainings in Copenhagen on communication, procurement, WP and competency-based interview (CBI). • UNOPS/PMO will introduce the MS Project in project management to allow more detailed planning of project activities. The project will continue to use the RWG meetings and ICC to review and approve annual.
	<i>Introduce the MS in project management to allow more detailed planning of project activities</i>		

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Adaptive management	<i>Allocate at least \$300,000 to YSGP, and a maximum of \$100,000 for each project</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional opportunities to use accelerated modalities such as PCAs and sub-contracts should be explored urgently. If budget rules allow, and subject to application of stringent accountability procedures, increasing the YSGP from a total of US\$200K to US\$1M. 	<p>Agree.</p> <p>The project will expand the PCA with FIO by including more activities and budget, with satellite tracking of spotted seal for connectivity analysis, development of climate change adaptation ICM model in Dandong, seasonality and inter-annual study on <i>Sargassum horneri</i></p>
	<i>Expand the PCA with FIO</i>		
Rationalizing the ICC, MSTP & RWGs	<i>Consult PR China and RO Korea of amalgamating the ICC/MSTP, & consolidation of 6 RWGs to 4.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICC and MSTP be amalgamated. In line with this simplification that the ICC should meet twice per year. The total number of RWGs be reduced to four, by amalgamating RWG-F/M and RWG-P/A. 	<p>Both PR China and RO Korea will be consulted as to the feasibility of amalgamating the ICC and MSTP, and consolidation of 6 RWGs to 4.</p>

Focal areas	Key actions	Recommendation	Management response
Budget & financial management	<i>Include audit into the WP of 2019 and review and discuss at the ICC-3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A detailed, external, independent audit of overall Project expenditure and financial management, disbursements and flows should be undertaken. ● UNOPS should undertake financial audit of funds disbursement and flows under all 3 PCAs. ● Every effort should be made to ensure that the costing basis of each sub-contract is fully justified and transparent 	<p>Agree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audit will be one agenda item on the workplan of 2019 to be discussed at the ICC-3. ● PMO will consult with UNOPS on the conduct of financial audits of fund disbursement and flows under the three PCAs.
	<i>Consult with UNOPS on financial audits of fund disbursement under the 3 PCAs</i>		

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Project communication & visibility	<i>Prepare a project communication strategy. Develop and implement the plan.</i>	This Plan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clearly identify the Project's strategic communication objectives, target audiences and key messages. ● Give priority to targeting in-country audiences. ● Use the full range of social media platforms. ● Seek partnerships with national television producers and broadcasters. ● Seek partnerships with NGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project communication strategy was prepared and a plan is being developed and partially implemented, and approved by the ICC-3. ● To develop the Chinese and Korean versions of the website and social media, an Intern with Chinese language and another intern of Korean national will be hired soon to help with contents of website and social media.
	<i>Recruit interns with Chinese and Korean language backgrounds to help website</i>		

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<p>Risks to establishment of YS Commission</p>	<p><i>To request for a high-level meeting between PRC and ROK</i></p>	<p>Once the current restructure of the PRC Government is complete, that UNDP, PMO and ROK MOFA & MOF seek a ministerial-level meeting with new PRC Minister for Natural Resources, to brief them on the Project and seek high-level support in PRC for the Project, for SAP implementation and for the establishment of a permanent, sustainably financed Yellow Sea Commission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>PMO will use the ICC-3 as the avenue to mobilize political commitment to the establishment of the Commission.</p>

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Involving DPRK	<i>Continue and expand partnership to identify ways to engage DPRK in project activities</i>	<p>In addition to continuing to work through the Hanns Siedel Foundation, the Project should also work towards more complete participation of DPRK, including progressively in the regional governance framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In doing so, this effort might be led by ROK MOF and Ministry of Reunification through direct bilateral dealings with DPRK, in consultation with PRC. ● As a UN program, it is also vital to ensure that relevant UN Resolutions and rules, and GEF rules and procedures, are fully complied with. 	<p>Agree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNESCAP is also mobilized to support YSLME. ● Meanwhile, frequent communication is made between PMO and UNDP HQ on the engagement of DPR Korea to ensure project activities are implemented in compliance with UN resolutions.

Recommendations

The Secretariat recommends that the 3rd Meetings of the MSTP and ICC:

- **Review the status of the implementation of key actions in response to the MTR recommendations;**
- **Assess the adequacy of key actions** to fully implement recommendations taking into account the emerging policy, institutional and political situations at regional and national levels;
- **Provide guidance on additional or new actions** to be taken by the Secretariat in furtherance of the implementation of the MTR recommendations.