Quarterly Project Progress Report

UNDP/GEF 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
[July 1, 2019]



Basic Project Information

UNDP Award ID	00074724
UNDP Project ID	00087001
Reporting Period	1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019
Participating UN agencies	UNOPS
Implementing Partners/	Ministry of Natural Resources of China, and
National collaborating agencies	Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of RO Korea
International collaborating agencies	
Cost-sharing third parties	
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1 Project Implementation Status and Progress Report (Report against AWP)

1.1 Outcome & Output Progress Report

Project Outcome/Output Indicator(s)

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Indicator Description	Progress Report		
Ensuring Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Management			
Indicator 1.1: Status of YSLME Commission and subsidiary bodies at regional level	Ad hoc ICC was held on 15-16 July 2019. The two countries agreed to prepare a MOU to conclude the YSLME mechanism. The infrastructure of the mechanism, staffing and location of the PMO will be developed bilaterally, and the PMO needs to agree with the ICC with regarding to the timelines, mechanisms among others being agreed bilaterally in ICC-4;		
	Consultant Prof. Paul Gremillion need to finalize the TDA update based on comments from PR China for review at the meeting by the RWG members immediately before the ICC-4 (November 27)		
	Project Board to evaluate the approach and process along with RWG, MSTP for update of the SAP at the ICC-4. SAP update pending consultation through a workshop in 2020 and consolidation for submission by Prof. Paul Gremillion before June 2020 (ICC-5).		
	UNDP/UNOPS needs to seek clarity from the two countries with regard to end of project targets in relation to "establishment and operationaling the YSLME Commission" and agreed on the need to draft a revised Results Framework (if applicable).		
	Issues captured: (1) As the updated TDA serves as the basis for SAP update, the it is necessary to complete the update of TDA before update of the SAP, which is best postponed to 2020. (2) Uncertainties exist in continued engagement of stakeholders and operation of IMCC and SAP implementation with ecosystem-based approach putting YSLME mechanism		
	under an existing bilateral mechanism. ICC-4 should establish minimum level of conformity with project commitments to the GEF.		
	Follow-on: Extend Paul Gremillion's contract for SAP		

Indicator 1.2: Status of Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC)

update.

Both PR China and the RO Korea held regular meetings of the IMCC right before meetings of the MSTPs and ICCs.

Indicator 1.3: Number of the YS Partners in support of YSLME SAP;

The future of the IMCC under the new governance mechanism remains to be clarified.

The 3rd YSLME Science Conference was held in Qingdao on July 15-19, 2019 with four parallel events on fishery science, biodiversity, nutrients, marine litter and microplastics.

CG Tae, the web developer consulting firm should prepare the searching functions of the legal clearing.

Indicator 1.4: Status of recognition and compliance to regional and international treaties and agreements

1 training IMPA bio-physical connectivity, Study visits (marine ranching), Lab visit in China by 8 Korean experts are planned in mid and late October.

YSFRI is yet to develop the regional guidelines for Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries. National guidelines in compliance with COC for responsible fisheries was prepared and submitted, pending review and discussion with MARA for consideration. Chinese version is expected for ease of communication.

Review of the Marine Litter related laws is completed and evidence of contribution to revision of marine environmental law is yet to be demonstrated.

Fishery genetic resources related MPA effectiveness assessment criteria and regulation in China is under development through a GSA under YSGP with CAFS.

The preparation of regional guidelines for incorporating FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in YSLME context is being undertaken by YSFRI.

Follow-on actions: Research findings should be transformed into policy recommendation for consideration by two governments.

YSFRI national standards and measures to comply with regional standards submitted recently should be presented to MARA for consideration.

Indicator 1.5: Agreement on the financial arrangement for the YSLME Commission

RAMSAR, CBD, and UNFCCC conventions joint review on implementation on YSLME was completed with identification of gaps and recommendations. Such resources should be translated into KM resource to showcase how international convention implementation can contribute to the ecosystem-based management of YSLME and regional cooperation mechanism.

The Financing Specialist contracted by UNOPS submitted the YSLME Partnership Trust Fund to the countries but the proposal was rejected at the meeting as non-relevant to YSLME context.

Financing agreement to the post-YSLME governance mechanism is yet to be developed.

Audit and terminal evaluation should be organized in June 2020

Partners need to agree at the ICC-4 with regard to the financial arrangements (including staffing) being agreed bilaterally in ad hoc ICC.

2. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with Respect to Provisioning Services

Indicator 2.1: Number of fishing boats decommissioned from the fleet in YSLME waters

Yantai University is yet to train 250 displaced fishermen on alternate employment through the PCA with YSFRI. First payment was made, and second payment was received.

Nanjing University to assess the socio-economic implications of fishing vessel buy-back scheme - pending

With project support, effectiveness of license system was assessed in PR China by YSFRI and recommendations were proposed and should be communicated to MARA for consideration.

Follow-ups: 1) Though with good progress under a conducive policy framework, baseline number of fishing vessels is determined for China yet progress is unknown. Baseline year and number of fishing vessels for RO Korea needs to be confirmed as well to showcase the progress of the project. 2) In addition, the policy recommendations of the license system in PR China should be brought to the attention of MARA for consideration in their policy making. 3) Check the fishery bulletin issued by the Fishery Bureau(s) of PRC for reduced vessel number in China, and similar check

Indicator 2.2: Status of major	should be done in ROK.
commercially important fish stock from restocking and habitat improvement	KM activities to be planned for knowledge sharing in relation to joint fish fry release and marine ranching visits.
	Follow-up: obtain data from respective government departments to understand the impact with regard to improvement of standing stocks and catch per unit effort, etc.
	Use of TAC as a conservation and management measure for joint stock management in Yellow Sea is still at infantry stage and more exchanges can be promoted.
Indicator 2.3: Level of pollutant discharge from mariculture operations	Follow-ups: In the following months, the Project needs transform these studies and recommendations into knowledge products for awareness raising and consideration by the MARA in its future planning and investment for fish stock enhancement. Sharing of learning results from study visits for improving the restocking is another area for PMO to follow up.
	Review of areas suitable for IMTA operation conducted by YSFRI took place in Chudao of Rongvcheng. Comments are being considered in finalizing the report.
	Social economic study of IMTA application to the livelihoods of fishery community is ongoing to assess the level of contribution of IMTA to improvements of community livelihoods and welfare
	Promoting plan for IMTA in Shandong is under preparation by YSFRI.
	A good practice document on IMTA is being consolidated by authors for development into a KM product.
	IMTA enterprise alliance is under development by China Aquatic Product Processing and Marketing Alliance (CAPPMA) and Qingdao Marine Conservation Society (QMCS). Aquaculture Stewardship Society standards will be promoted to mariculture enterprises as well through study visits, training on the certification process and exchange of experience.
3. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Regulating and Cultural Services	

Indicator 3.1: Level of pollutant discharges particularly Nitrogen in YSLME tributaries

The diagnostic analysis of ID sources and sinks of pollutants is ongoing.

Through NMEMC the following studies are being conducted: 1) methods for assessing deposition flux of nitrogen and phosphate in various forms and final loading report of Haizhou Bay of Jiangsu Province; 2) marine environment monitoring from sources of atmosphere, fertilizer use and sea and production of data products.

Indicator 3.2: Types of technologies applied for pollution reduction

KM activities are needed to share the data and information, and advocacy for implementation of best-practices and better governance for reduction of pollutants (fertilizers from agriculture etc.)

(NCSMEC) wetland survey of Jiaozhou Bay is ongoing report expected by Oct/Nov 2019.

Indicator 3.3: Status of legal and regulatory process to control pollution

Follow-up: provide guidance to NCSMEC on the structure and outline of the interim report, and expedite delivery

Replication to 2 other sites - not delivered. - KM activities for replication

Legal analysis of the policies and regulations of PRC and ROK in relation to pollution reduction is ongoing. PMO should follow-up and expedite delivery.

Revision of the marine environmental protection law in PR China provides a timely opportunity to transform the results of the assessment into policy recommendation for consideration in the revision process.

Indicator 3.4: Status of the control of marine litter at selected locations

A further YSGP grant of 46,312 USD was awarded to Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center (Rendu) for a marine debris monitoring project to strengthen the marine debris survey network in 6-8 locations in the Yellow Sea area. It will focus on fishery and aquaculture marine debris. Based on the survey data collected, Rendu will produce an analysis report and propose potential solutions.

In order to further achieve the vision of zero litter, the project is supporting the establishment of the Clean Beach City Alliance. The evaluation committee concludes that the proposal would be granted and a

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	relaunch will follow up.
	Follow-up: 1) dialogue should be scheduled by PMO for consultancy firm (Shandong) to communicate the results of the study with Weihai municipal government for consideration in improving their management measures to address marine litter; 2) Compile and consolidate the data provided by NMEMC and Korean counterpart (OSEAN) to establish a regional database.
4. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Supporting Services	
Indicator 4.1: Areas of critical habitats;	
	Ongoing GSAs with Chinese Academy of Fishery Science (CAFS), Beijing Chaoyang District Yongxu Global Environmental Institute (GEI) and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) support the MPA management effectiveness for fish genetic resources, engagement of communities in migratory birds conservation through conservation agreements, and engagement of volunteers in the monitoring and reporting on the conservation of mudflat and associated migratory waterbirds in the Yellow Sea region.
	The project is supporting the development of YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2020-2030 to integrate MPA development.
Indicator 4.2: level of ecological connectivity in expansion of the Yellow Sea MPA system.	FIO and Liaoning Marine and Fisheries Research Institute will collaborate with NIFS of RO Korea in conducting spotted seal migration through satellite tracking supported by the project.
	Follow-up on MPA feasibility for YSCWM (FIO).
Indicator 4.3: Status of incorporation of adaptive management of climate change regional strategies and in ICM plans for selected coastal communities	All reports were submitted and are currently reviewed by ROK experts. Will be finalized by 1 November 2019
Indicator 4.4: Status of Regional	KM activities - reports to be shared as a reference for policy makers at the national and regional level
Monitoring Network for application of ECBM	Follow-up: KM activities to transfer data/recommnedations etc from the monitoring reports for policy-level changes (potential) at the community level

II. Finance Management

Please mark with red the 'Accumulated Quarterly Delivery Rate' box (Accumulated Expenditure/ Accumulated Budget) if the delivery rate is under 60%. For delivery rate ranging from 60% to 85%, please mark with yellow. For delivery rate in the range of 85% - 100%, please mark with green. Comments must be provided for delivery rates of outputs marked with red and yellow texts. The content of comment should cover reasons for low delivery rate and action plans for catching up.

Output	Annual Budget (incl UNOPS fee)	Accumulated Expenditure	Qtr Budget (USD)	Qtr Expendit ure (USD)	Accumul ated Annual Delivery Rate%	Comments
1. Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Management	995,973	751,690.75			76%	ICC-4 planned in Q4
2. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to provisioning services	724,958	156,690.40			22%	4 received reports under revision Delay in PCA implementaiton by YSFRI
3. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to regulating and cultural services	806,019	118,405.89			15%	Delayed implementation by NCSEMC
4. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to supporting services	2,240,884	579,797.70			26%	14 reports received on August 31, and now and under revision
5. Project Management Cost		99,612				Wrong recording of expenditure
Total	\$4,767,833	\$1,706,196.74			36%	

3. Project Management and Oversight

3 Risk Log Status Update

below is the table updating the risks and management responses in the project.

#	Description	Status	Management Response
1	Potential partners unwilling to make formal commitments	new	Sustaining EBM of YSLME and stakeholder participation through bilateral mechanism may limit participation of key line ministries in both countries and endorsement of the SAP by all members of the IMCC
2	Communication with partners		Partners' activities are well coordinated to avoid overlapping. There is also a need to regularly update partners of YSLME progress
3	MPA designation		Provincial and local governments may not agree to the establishment of new MPAs