

**Draft Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the  
YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2020-2030**

2:30PM to 6:00PM (Seoul time)  
17 September 2020

**INTRODUCTION**

- i. The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2020-2030 was conducted virtually via zoom video conference call on 17 September 2020 from 2:30PM to 6:00PM (Seoul time).
- ii. Representatives from Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of PR China and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of RO Korea and members of the National Working Groups from the two countries participated in the meeting.
- iii. The YSLME Project Management Office (PMO) served as Secretariat of the Meeting.
- iv. The full list of participants is given in Annex 1.

**1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

- 1.1 On behalf of the Project Management Office, Mr. Yinfeng Guo, Project Manager and Chief Technical Officer, YSLME Phase-II Project opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation to all the meeting participants. He highlighted the importance of the meeting to facilitate exchange of views between PR China and RO Korea, as well as to address remaining issues on the updating of the YSLME SAP 2020-2030.
- 1.2 Ms. Hyung Won Kim, Deputy Director, MOF of RO Korea delivered an opening statement on behalf of RO Korea. Ms. Kim expressed her appreciation to the PMO for organizing the meeting and to the members of the National Working Groups (NWGs) of China for their review and inputs on the draft SAP. As part of the review process, Ms. Kim indicated that RO Korea has reviewed and prepared their inputs to the draft SAP for further discussion at the meeting. In closing, Ms. Kim wished for a fruitful discussion and looked forward to reaching an initial agreement on the draft SAP so as to facilitate the conduct of internal and inter-ministerial discussion on the SAP.
- 1.3 On behalf of PR China, Mr. Wang Bin, Director General, Department of Strategic Planning and Marine Economy, MNR of China, thanked all the participants for joining the meeting. He congratulated all the parties involved for their dedicated efforts in drafting the SAP. Mr. Wang expressed optimism that through this meeting, both countries would be able to share additional inputs, clarify concerns, and reach a consensus on the document. Mr. Wang also reminded everyone of the limited time left to complete the SAP updating process in view of the forthcoming closure of the YSLME Phase-II Project.

- 1.4 Mr. Guo assured the meeting that the PMO would do its best to work with both countries to finalize the YSLME SAP 2020-2030 within the project period, with a target adoption at the culminating meeting of the Interim Commission Council in October 2020.

## **2.0 ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

### **Election of Chair/Co-Chair of the Meeting**

- 2.1 The Meeting requested the PMO to Co-Chair the Meeting. Mr. Yinfeng Guo, and Mr. Sangjin Lee, Environmental Economist of the YSLME Phase-II Project, served as Co-Chairs of the meeting.

### **Adoption of the Meeting Agenda**

- 2.2 Mr. Sangjin Lee presented the Meeting agenda. The meeting adopted the agenda as presented.
- 2.3 The Meeting Agenda is provided in Annex 2.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION OF THE PROGRESS ON SAP UPDATE**

- 3.1 Mr. Paul Gremillion, Ocean Adviser of YSLME Phase-II Project, presented an overview of the process undertaken and progress to date on the updating of the YSLME SAP. In particular, the process included three major steps: (1) Mapping of targets and actions based on the National Strategic Action Programs (NSAPs); (2) Review of consolidated and refined targets and management actions in collaboration with NWGs; (3) Drafting and refinement of SAP Vision and Mission based on experience gained through the YSLME Phase-II Project and new insights into ecosystem management; (4) Agreement on the SAP Outline; and (5) Development of full draft. The full draft identified 3 major goals, 10 targets, and 27 management actions.
- 3.2 The Meeting requested that a copy of the PPT presentation be shared to all participants by email immediately after the Meeting. (*Secretariat Note: The PPT has been emailed to all participants as requested*).

## **4.0 COMMENTS OF THE KOREAN NWGs TO THE REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE CHINESE NWGs AND THE OCEAN ADVISER**

### ***Highlights of Discussion:***

- 4.1 Mr. Jae Ryoung Oh, National Project Coordinator of RO Korea, introduced the feedback of Korean NWGs to the Management Actions revised by Chinese NWGs. Namely:
- In pursuing specificity in the Management Actions, there appears to be a lack of flexibility in implementation under the contexts of both countries;
  - Korea proposed to include the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in the revised SAP;

- The need for ensuring consistency and interconnectivity between Targets and Management Action; and
- Unclear definition of marine disasters.

4.2 Mr. Wang Bin responded to the comments of Korean NWGs by highlighting the following points in the revision of the Management Actions:

- Management Actions should be responsive to the transboundary environmental problems identified in the TDA update. He also underscored the need for measures and actions to be specific rather than generic, and that actions must be implementable. The priority at this moment for the NWGs of the two countries is to agree on the text of the SAP document.
- Some of the issues were discussed repeatedly but were tabled for discussion again, as in the case of TAC, which seems to be inappropriate.
- Regarding reduction of marine disasters, there is an intrinsic linkage with marine ecosystem degradation and therefore should be included.

4.3 The Chair of the meeting facilitated the further elaboration and discussions on the four points raised by Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh.

#### Broadening the scope of Management Actions

4.4 Ms. Hyun Hee Ju, NWG-G (Governance) Chair, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), raised the point of seeking joint responses to specific problems based on understanding and objectives of the SAP. She also recalled the focus of the SAP on ecosystem-based management in YSLME Phase-I rather than on nature-based solutions. She further explained that based on RO Korea's review, the draft SAP with inputs and proposed revisions from China's NWG have too specific and technical Management Actions, which rendered the current draft to seem more like a National SAP for China, rather than a regional SAP. As an example, Management Action 4.2 was cited whereby management of direct discharge of sewage without treatment could be an issue at the national scale and not feasible at the regional scale. Another example of national rather than regional action is in Management Action 6.2 on the control of marine litter where production and sales of plastic products are targeted in the regional SAP. She emphasized that in principle, the regional SAP should be broader in scope in order to provide a guiding framework in the subsequent development of National SAPs. Ms. Ju further underscored the need to ensure that proposed SAP Management Actions consider applicability in national policies and rules being implemented in both countries.

4.5 Citing the current status in PR China, Mr. Ziwei Yao, NWG-P (Pollution Reduction) Chair, NMEMC of Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China, admitted that Management Actions for nutrients and marine litter pollution problems were described based on Chinese situations. He concurred with RO Korea's suggestion to expand the scope of Management Actions.

4.6 Ms. Ting Zhang, Deputy Director, Department of Monitoring and Early Warning of MNR, PR China, expressed her understanding of the need to respect the policy and socioeconomic context of each country in developing the management actions. In this

regard, she suggested Korean counterparts to formally share their proposed actions for Chinese NWGs to consider in broadening the scope of management actions.

#### Proposal to include total allowable catch (TAC) as a management action

- 4.7 Mr. Jung Hee Cho, NWG-F (Fish Stocks) Chair, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), underscored the importance of TAC as a management tool for conservation and management of fisheries resources in the Yellow Sea. RO Korea recognized that while the application of TAC in China is currently implemented with limited number of species, it would be crucial to reflect the TAC in the SAP as this would provide a basis for potential cooperation in the future. In particular, the mere mention of TAC in the SAP could open opportunities for the establishment of a TAC joint management system in the Yellow Sea.
- 4.8 In response, Mr. Yue Jin, NWG-F member, Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute , Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (YSFRI/MARA) of China, explained that quota management was implemented in China since 2017 targeting to limit production to 10 million tons in the whole country. Though piloted, TAC was not successful in China. He also drew attention to the fact that TAC application in the world has mixed successes, in particular in the case of TAC for squid. A drawback to TAC application in China is the lack of integration of monitoring and evaluation of species under TAC into the regular monitoring programs. Finally, he reminded the Meeting that inclusion of TAC in the SAP would require a very tedious and complicated process of internal consultations and approval of relevant authorities within China.
- 4.9 Mr. Wang Bin confirmed Mr. Jin's concerns and indicated that inclusion or mere mention of TAC would have to be referred back to relevant authorities. Thus, Chinese NWGs did not deem the suggestion ideal at this time.
- 4.10 The Meeting was unable to reach any conclusion for the time being on the proposed inclusion of TAC as a SAP Management Action.

#### Definition of "marine disaster"

- 4.11 Mr. Se-Jong Ju, RWG-A (Monitoring and Assessment) Chair, KIOST, suggested that further review be conducted on the following targets and management actions:
- Management Action 9.1 and 9.2 of Target 9 - to align with the definition of "marine disaster". Currently, MA9.1 and 9.2 are focusing only on addressing harmful organism or macroalgae blooms.
  - Management Action 1.5 of Target 1 - to expand the scope of the Management Action beyond fisheries in order to broadly cover biological resource development and management.
- 4.12 Recognizing the valid points made by Mr. Ju, Mr. Wang Bin said that Chinese NWGs will voluntarily propose further revisions to the MA 9.1 and MA 9.2 to ensure consistency between Target 9 and MAs thereunder.

#### **Conclusion:**

- 4.13 Chinese NWG agreed to further revise Targets 9 (MA 9.1 and 9.2). Regarding MA 1.5 of Target 1, the Chair suggested Korean NWGs to provide their inputs to ensure consistency of the proposed actions under MA 1.5 with its heading. .

Reclassifying some management actions

- 4.14 Mr. Jae Ryoung Oh, NWG-P (Pollution Reduction) Chair and National Coordinator for RO Korea, indicated that RO Korea’s NWGs will prepare the draft regarding the proposed reclassification of some Management Actions. The draft, once completed, will be shared with China’s NWG by email for further discussion by both countries.
- 4.15 Mr. Wang Bin suggested to take a cautious approach in revising the structure of agreed SAP framework which was already discussed systematically between the NWGs of the two countries under the coordination of PMO with support of the Ocean Adviser. He called for the NWGs of the two countries to move forward from what has been achieved thus far to avoid uncertainties to the adoption of SAP after the closure of the PMO at the end of October, 2020. With this in mind, he further suggested the NWGs of the two countries to make their utmost efforts in concluding negotiations on the text of the SAP before the ICC-5 scheduled on October 19, 2020.

**Conclusion:**

- 4.16 The meeting agreed to come up with a SAP draft agreed by NWGs of the two countries before October 19, 2020.

**5.0 TIMEFRAME AND PROCESS TO REVISE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BASED ON AGREED CRITERIA ON THE SCOPE OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

- 5.1 The Meeting agreed to proceed with the following actions and timeframe to finalize the SAP update:

| ACTION   | TIMEFRAME          |
|--|--------------------|
| RO Korea’s NWGs to provide to PMO the revised version of the SAP with their proposed changes including the text of each Management Actions | September 25, 2020 |
| China’s NWG to provide to PMO the revised Management Actions 9.1 & 9.2   | September 25, 2020 |
| PMO to provide to TE mission the draft SAP 2020-2030 agreed by NWGs of PRC and ROK   | October 16, 2020   |

**6.0 CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

- 6.1 The Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM (Seoul time).

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## Annex 1

### 1<sup>ST</sup> Meeting on the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2020-2030

#### LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

##### PR China

Ms. Ting Zhang  
Deputy Director  
Department of Monitoring and Early  
Warning  
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Mr. Bin Wang  
Director General  
Department of Strategic Planning and  
Marine Economy

Ms. Xinping Chen  
Associate Professor  
NMHMS/MNR

Mr. Shouqiang Wang  
NWG-A Chair  
FIO/MNR

Mr. Hao Guo  
NWG-A Vice Chair  
NMEMC/MEE

Mr. Ziwei Yao  
NWG-P Chair  
NMEMC/MEE

Ms. Ming Yu  
Associate Professor  
Ocean University of China

Ms. Jing Wang  
Ocean Program Director  
Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology

Mr. Yue Jin  
NWG-F member  
YSFRI/MARA

Ms. Fangyuan Qu  
NWG-H member  
FIO/MNR

##### RO Korea

Ms. Hyung Won KIM  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)

Dr. Jae Ryoung OH  
NWG-P Chair  
National Coordinator for RO Korea

Prof. Gyung Soo PARK  
RWG-H Chair  
Anyang University NWG-H

Dr. Se-Jong JU  
RWG-A Chair  
KIOST, NWG-A

Dr. Jung Hee CHO  
NWG-F Chair  
KMI, NWG-F

Dr. Hyun Hee JU  
NWG-G member  
KIOST NWG-G

Ms. Joon Young CHANG  
Team Head  
KOEM

Ms. Jayeon KIM  
Coordinator  
KOEM

**YSLME Consultant**

Prof. Paul Gremillion  
Ocean Adviser/UNOPS Consultant

Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo-Aguiling  
Communications Consultant  
UNOPS

**YSLME PMO**

Mr. Yinfeng Guo  
Project Manager & Chief Technical Advisor

Mr. Sangjin Lee  
Environmental Economist

Ms. Yanan Cao  
Operations Intern

Ms. Jiajie Fang  
Operations Intern

## **Annex 2:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Meeting on the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2020-2030  
14:30~18:00 (GMT+9), 17 September, 2020**

### **MEETING AGENDA**

- 14:30 - 14:35**    **Opening of the Meeting**
- 14:35 – 14: 40**    **Organization of the Meeting**
- Election of Chair/Co-Chair of the meeting
  - Adoption of the Meeting Agenda
- 14:40 – 15:00**    **Introduction to the progress of the SAP update**  
Prof. Paul Gremillion  
Ocean Adviser/UNOPS Consultant
- 15:00 - 16:00**    **Comments of the Korean NWGs to the revisions proposed by the Chinese NWGs and the Ocean Adviser with Facilitated Discussion**
1. Broadening the scope of management actions – key considerations and criteria
  2. Proposal to include total allowable catch (TAC) as a management action
  3. Definition of “marine disaster”
  4. Reclassifying some management actions
- 16:00 – 16:10**    **Coffee Break**
- 16:10 – 17:15**    **Continuation of Moderated Discussion**
- 17:15 – 17:30**    **Timeframe and Process to Revise Management Actions Based on Agreed Criteria on the Scope of Management Actions**
- 17:30**            **Closure of the Meeting**

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