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UNOPS



YSLME

UNDP/GEF YELLOW SEA
LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

**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)**

UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/3
English only

1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC-1)
Koreana Hotel, Seoul, RO Korea, 13 July 2017

Project Progress Report

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. This report is prepared in line with Rule 3 of the preliminary Elements of Rules of Procedure for the Interim YSLME Commission Council in relation to agenda of its meetings.

Recommendation

3. The Secretariat recommends that:
 - a. the 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council:
 - i. adopt the project progress report;
 - ii. provide guidance on future preparation of the report;
 - iii. review, provide guidance and request the Secretariat to proceed with implementation of the recommendations; and
 - iv. request the Secretariat to report the progress of implementation of the recommendations at next meeting of the ICC.

Project Progress Report

(revised in August based on inputs from RO Korea)

PART 1: NARRATIVE

A. Establishment of the Interim Commission and Subsidiary Bodies

1. Annex 3 and 4 of the Project Document contain the terms of reference (TOR) of the YSLME Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies, including the Rules of Procedure for the Interim Commission Council, and the terms of reference for key project staff. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat from 6 to 4 staff and observations of the Secretariat during in inception phase of the Project, the Secretariat has revised these TORs to enable the full operation of the Interim Commission Council. Major revisions include addition of TORs of the six Regional Working Group, a new TOR for the Administrative and Finance Assistant, and minor changes to the TORs of the Environment Officer and Environmental Economist. It is hoped that the 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council would adopt the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council and its subsidiary bodies, Rules of Procedure for the Council, and the TORs of Secretariat staff, taking into account the comments for revision from the participants
2. Both PR China and RO Korea will nominate in writing their National Coordinators, membership of IMCC and NWGs as well as members to the six RWGs.

B. Setting up Interim Commission Secretariat

3. Commission Secretariat is a permanent body shall provide administrative support and regional coordination among the bodies of the YSLME Commission, such as the Council, the MSTP, the RWGs, and the NCs. During the SAP implementation, the Secretariat functions will be served by the Secretariat which consists of Chief Technical Advisor/Manager, Environment Officer, Environmental Economist and Administrative/MIS/Finance Assistant.
4. Recruitment of the downsized 4 Secretariat staff following the Secretariat restructuring was initiated in May 2016 and in about 10 months all the four staff were on board, with Environmental Economist starting to work on March 24, 2017.

Position	Vacancy Announcement date	Interview dates	work start date
CTA/Manager	31/05/2016- 16/06/2016	24/07/2016	01/11/2016
Environment Officer	05/10/2016 – 08/11/2016	29/11/2016 – 30/11/2016	01/03/2017
Environmental Economist	28/11/2016 – 12/12/2016	12/01/2017	24/03/2017
Administrative/MIS/Finance Assistant	31/10/2016 – 21/11/2016	04/01/2017	03/03/2017

5. The office for the Secretariat in Incheon was delivered for project use on April 2, 2015 with signing of an MOU between UNOPS and Incheon Metropolitan City (IMC) where the IMC agreed to provide a free premise of 350 square meters for use until December 31, 2018 by the Secretariat in G-Tower, the same building with Green Climate Fund (GCF). Through a similar MOU signed on March 1, 2017 between UNOPS and National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of State Oceanic Administration (NMEMC/SOA), the Secretariat Dalian Branch acquired a two-room office with a total of 33 square meters as branch office up to November 22, 2019. Similar to IMC, NMEMC/SOA will also ensure availability and supply of electricity, water, heating & cooling, and facility management.
6. The Secretariat was furnished with tables, desks, chairs and partitions on December 2, 2017. Five sets of desktops and monitors, four laptops, one audio system and one projector were delivered and installed on January 20, 2017. Compatible software for desktops and laptops, two wireless access points, five telephone sets were procured and installed in March after the Administrative and Finance Assistant was on board. Before the Wi-Fi and broadband were in place, the CTA/Manager worked in Manila, the Philippines (6 weeks), Beijing (1 week), and EAAF Secretariat (4 weeks) and the office of UNESCAP North East Asia (6 weeks) based in G-Tower, Incheon, RO Korea.
7. The Secretariat opened its petty cash account on June 20, 2017, and obtained its business tax registration certificate as a non-profit organization on April 6, 2017.
8. The Secretariat also secured a new project domain www.yellowseapartnership.org, as the original domain name www.yslme.org was registered by another user.
9. UNOPS has delegated CTA/Manager the authority (reference No: DOA-PG-2017-0059) to sign single project contract up to 50,000 US dollars in value after taking four structured trainings delivered by UNOPS officer-in-charge. The delegation of authority became effective on May 29, 2017.
10. At the kind request of IMC, the Secretariat agreed to consider to move its office to the fifth floor of the same building with a meeting room on the third floor on the basis of a no-cost relocation due to the increased staffing of Global Carbon Fund (GCF) in 2017. The current MOU between UNOPS and ICM lasts until end of 2018. In the Secretariat's assessment, a total of 2,500 US dollars have to be covered by either IMC. The Secretariat will move to the fifth floor before September this year.

C. Inception preparation

a. Project Management Arrangement

11. In the section on Management Arrangements of the Project Document, State Oceanic Administration (SOA) is recognized for having successfully implemented national UNDP-GEF projects in China with satisfactory implementation records as a national implementing partner and therefore will be engaged in the implementation of activities in this project. In the Project Document, the signatories (UNDP, UNOPS and SOA) further agrees that the scope of activities and the corresponding budget will be determined and approved by the Project Board within the first year of project start.

12. In UNOPS cooperative arrangements, national institutions can be engaged to implement project activities through a jointly signed Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to reflect national ownership, leadership and prioritization by national government.
13. Based on initial consultations between the Secretariat and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of RO Korea and SOA under the guidance of UNOPS, a list of activities and budget to be implemented by SOA under a PCA has been established.
14. It is envisaged that by signing of a PCA with UNOPS, SOA of PR China can take full responsibilities in implementing the activities to be paid by UNOPS upon delivery of agreed products and services in accordance with agreed budget and payment schedule specified in the PCA.

b. Preparatory meeting

15. On January 23-24, 2017, the Preparatory Meeting for Inception was held at the Secretariat in Incheon, RO Korea, participated by 20 officials and experts from PR China, RO Korea and EAAF and NOWPAP. The meeting reviewed the draft workplan 2017-2019 prepared by the CTA/Manager, with assumption that an extension of full 18 months of project implementation would be approved by the CEO/Chair of the GEF Secretariat as agreed with UNDP GEF and UNDP China Office. The meeting reached consensus on project end-of-project targets and activities in principle, narrowing down the differences to two Outputs of Outcome 4.3.

c. Preparation of inception documents

16. The following reports and plans have been prepared by the Secretariat for review and adoption by the Interim Commission Council:

1) Revised project results framework

17. To measure the progress of the project implementation and improvements in environmental and/or social status and economic benefits, it is important to establish at the inception stage and implement a monitoring and evaluation program including scientific research to provide scientific knowledge and environment information on the status of marine environment, and apply adaptive management. The UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project is meant to facilitate the implementation of the SAP and help set up such a M&E system to enable application of adaptive management of YSLME.

18. YSLME SAP has set up the indicators and sub-indicators of monitoring and evaluation containing 5 process indicators and 5 process sub-indicators, 4 stress reduction indicators and 11 stress reduction sub-indicators, and 3 environmental status indicators and 7 sub-indicators. Using these indicators as a reference and taking into account the revisions to end of project targets, the indicators of the Project Results Framework have been revised for review and discussion at the 1st meeting of the MSTP and adoption by the 1st meeting of the Interim Commission Council.

2) Overall project budget (2014-2019)

19. The Secretariat prepared a revised project workplan and budget integrating the expenses of 2014-2016 and budget for 2017-2019 to enable the project team and stakeholders to have an

overall understanding of the project budget. A total of US\$422,112 were disbursed in accordance with the UNOPS financial reports, with a remaining budget of US\$7,140,31 to be programmed for remaining years. Budgeting of workplan up until end of 2019 is based on the assumption that the project will have a full extension of 18 months allowable by the GEF Secretariat.

3) Annual Workplan (AWP) 2017-2019

20. This three-year workplan integrates the changes to the project results framework with respect to end-of-project targets and indicators, activities and budget which are documented in detail in the draft inception report. It also takes into account the comments of experts at the Preparatory Meeting for Inception held on January 23-24 in Incheon, RO Korea, and the requests of State Oceanic Administration of PR China expressed at the meeting between CTA/Manager and the new YSLME National Focal Point of PR China.

4) AWP 2017

21. The AWP of 2017 was prepared on the basis of the AWP 2017-2019. In total, US\$ 1,639,090 is budgeted for 2017, which amounts to US\$1,794,804 taking into account project management costs.

5) Procurement plan 2017

22. The Secretariat prepared the procurement plan for 2017, which contains 1 Project Cooperation Agreement, 16 subcontracts and 710 days of individual consultancy services.

6) Inception report

23. This is key reference document of the Inception Phase in UNDP project management cycle and monitoring and evaluation system. It documents any changes in project document, be at output level or activity level, with respect to indicators or budget, or concerning management arrangement or terms of reference of management organizations or project management staff. In reality, many of the plans and reports are contained in the report, including the revised results framework, overall project budget (2017-2019), annual workplan 2017 and procurement plan 2017.

7) RWG workplan for 2017-2019

24. Based on the draft TOR of the RWGs, the Secretariat has prepared this document for adoption at the first meeting of the MSTP indicating the activities from 2017-2019 of each RWG designed in line with the objectives and deliverable of respective RWGs.

8) Monitoring and evaluation plan

25. This document was prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with UNDP project management requirements for monitoring and evaluation. In particular, it identifies the indicators, data collection methods and frequency of collection. Once approved, the Secretariat will need to integrate monitoring and evaluation activities specified in the Plan in

the TORs for subcontractors as appropriate. Meanwhile, the Secretariat and RWGs will implement the monitoring and evaluation plan and report progress of project implementation in accordance with the Plan.

9) Roadmap towards a sustainable arrangement for effective ecosystem-based management of Yellow Sea in accordance with YSLME SAP

26. In the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the YSLME, PR China and RO Korea recognized the need to establish the YSLME Commission as a soft, non-legally binding and cooperation based institution to contribute to better coordination of national efforts and to enhancing effectiveness of regional efforts. Preparing, agreeing to and implementing a roadmap for a sustainable regional mechanism for implementation of the SAP was recommended by representatives from PR China and RO Korea at the Preparatory Meeting for Inception held on January 23-24, 2017, Incheon, RO Korea. This document, prepared by Professor Suh-Yong Chung of Korea University as an external consultant in collaboration with the Secretariat, is intended for the stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the key elements of the institutional framework, process, a plan of activities and timeframe for establishment of the Commission, and how to launch the YSLME Commission at the early stage of implementation of the Project.

10) Draft Guidelines for Strengthening Yellow Sea Partnership

27. Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP) was established in 2006. During the first phase of YSLME Project, the 20 partners communicated and collaborated actively by having regular meetings, developing common strategies, and planning and implementing activities for environmental conservation and public awareness. The YSP was operated by the Secretariat and had its website during the first phase. Implementing the YSLME SAP relies on a strengthened YSP and participation of partners. Thus, this guideline is intended to build consensus among stakeholders the partnership principles, values, eligibility and means to strengthen and maximize the benefits of the YSP.

D. Project progress with respect to ecosystem services

28. Buybacks of fishing vessels, of licenses or access and other use rights and of gear can be key management tools to address overcapacity, overexploitation of fish stocks and distributional issues. Buybacks can also contribute to a transition from an open access fishery to a more rationalized one. As a strategic policy tool, buybacks can help restructure relations among participants in a fishery, creating positive incentives. Buybacks are therefore adopted in YSLME SAP to achieve 25-30 percent of reduction of fishing vessels in Yellow Sea to reduce pressure on fish stocks.

29. China has set the national targets to reduce 20,000 fishing vessels with a total capacity of 1.5 million kW and reduce fish landings by 15 percent during 13th FYP (2016-2020). Specific fishing vessels reduction target for Yellow Sea is under development. Field mission of CTA/Manager and Environment Officer in early April in 2017 found that with the gradual reduction of fuel subsidy to fishing vessels and implementation of buybacks policy, there are interests among fishermen to register for the fishing vessels buyback program. In Weihai alone, over 1,000 boats will be bought back by local government in 2017, and nearly 4,000 applicants have already registered for participation in the program.

30. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries in RO Korea has implemented fishing efforts reduction programme from 1994 to 2013 to strengthen fishing competitiveness and protect coastal resource. During that period, the number of vessels has been reduced down to 18,560 with 1,589 billion KRW. In total 45,589 vessels are only registered in 2013. In addition, a total of 520 vessels have been reduced with costs of 32.1 billion KRW.
31. A 120-square meter meeting room for training on integrated multi-tropic aquaculture has been constructed by Dongchu Fishery Cooperation, a community-based enterprise specializing in aquaculture of kelp, abalone, scallop, sea urchin and sea cucumber with technical assistance from Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute. IMTA is a good aquaculture practice that can increase productivity per unit sea area while reducing environmental stresses in water column of the aquaculture which has been successfully demonstrated in the first phase of the project. A small meeting room and an office have also been constructed for use by project. The training course for Chinese participants will be organized in October this year to replicate the IMTA to three more sites in Liaoning and Shandong. The Secretariat is currently recruiting an Mariculture Specialist to prepare a training module on IMTA for use in the training course scheduled in October this year. In addition, an international IMTA workshop is being planned on September 14-15, 2017, in RO Korea. The National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) plans to host the International Symposium in order not only to promote IMTA but also to build network among scientists. Scientists from 5 countries and stakeholders from academia, local governments and industries will be invited and the YSLME Project will co-host the workshop.

E. Project progress with respect to supporting services of ecosystems

32. On January 23-24, China and RO Korea had a preparatory meeting for project inception agreeing to make recommendations to the Interim Commission Council to focus conservation efforts of biodiversity on mammals, migratory waterbirds, Yellow Sea Cold Water Mass and fish spawning and nursery sites. The countries also agreed to adopt YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan, YSLME Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network and conduct of annual MPA Forum.
33. In the field mission, the Secretariat and experts in First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) identified Xiaoyangkou of Rudong Mudflat as a site to be established into an MPA, a staging site along the eastern line of EAAF, habitat for Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*), a critically endangered species in accordance with IUCN. In a survey, 143 Spoon-billed Sandpipers were recorded, accounting for about 40% of the global population of the species. Ten threatened species of water birds and 32 species of water birds whose population has reached 1% of global population are also recorded in Rudong Mudflat. With support from the Project, Prof. Zhang Zhaohui of the First Institute of Oceanography of SOA is currently preparing a technical proposal to register the Xiaoyangkou mudflat as a national MPA at the request of local government. In addition, Shandong province of PR China, the provincial government has planned to establish 10 marine protected areas to conserve the fish spawning and nursery sites.
34. A similar initiative to expand MPA coverage of marine and coastal areas is under consideration in RO Korea. Ganghwa Island is located in one of tidal flats of the Han River estuary in Yellow Sea, the larger of the only two known breeding sites globally for the critically endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*). During phase I of the YSLME Project, Ganghwa mudflat was studied by experts from Anyang University and a recommendation to designate the area as a national MPA was made to local government. Given the importance

of tidal flats, Government of RO Korea is considering to register the critical areas of Ganghwa Island as an MPA.

35. An MPA Seminar will be held back to back with the inception in Ganghwa Island of RO Korea hosted by Ganghwa County and co-organized by YSLME Phase II Project and UNESCAP. A pre-seminar visit was conducted by the Environmental Economist Dr. Sangin Lee and the Administrative and Finance Assistant Ms. Kyungsuk Lee to finalize the logistics and speakers for the Seminar. It is hoped that the seminar will contribute to the designation process and effective and equitable management of the coastal habitats to contribute to the achieving the SDG 14 and Aichi Biodiversity Target of expanding MPA coverage to 10 percent of coastal and marine areas under effective and equitable management.

F. Partnership development

36. By end of March 31, a total of 66 entities from China and RO Korea are identified as existing and new partners, including 4 ministries and 6 provincial government partners, 1 local government, 5 regional partners, 8 universities, 15 academic institutions, and 27 NGOs. The target of the project is to have collaborative agreements with 40 of these entities in implementation of the SAP.

G. Visibility and awareness

species, black-faced spoonbill and had an educational programme in tidal flat center.

37. The Project has produced and printed 300 copies of project brochure to promote the visibility of the project and raise awareness of the challengers to the Yellow Sea. The 12-page brochure, supported with maps, photos and graphs, contains context of YSLME, background and objectives, project components and activities, and their linkage with YSLME SAP targets, organization framework and partnerships. It also illustrates the eight key transboundary environment challenges identified in the transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA), and targets and actions as contained in the YSLME SAP.
38. A piece of news report entitled Protecting the Home of Endangered Species was prepared and published on UNDP China website on April 30, 2017 to highlight UNDP/GEF initiative in the Yellow Sea to protect the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper by designating the Xiaoyangkou of Rudong as a national Marine Protected Area. The news report can be accessed through the following weblink: <http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/05/14/protecting-the-home-of-endangered-species.html>.
39. Prior to the UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14, convened in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, the YSLME initiatives contributing to the implementation of SDG 14 were registered as “Voluntary Commitments”. Specifically, the YSLME Project has registered to achieve the following three deliverables as commitments to the SDG 14: 1) By December 2019, establish the YSLME Commission as a non-legally binding collaboration arrangement; 2) By December 2019, 25-30% of fishing vessels are reduced using the year 2004 as the baseline to relieve the pressure on fish stocks; and 3) By December 2020, 10 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are created in YSLME to contribute to 10% coverage of coastal and marine areas under conservation and management, using 2009 as the baseline.

For more information, please click the link below:
(<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19068>).

40. In 2015 and 2016, RO Korea produced educational materials to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in sustainable fisheries and habitat conservation for general public of Yellow Sea region. In addition, a programme was also designed to train instructors who can educate the general public with the educational materials. The instructors will conduct educational activities at tidal-flat visitor centers, promote the YSLME project and conservation activities of the Yellow Sea
41. Ro Korea also organized 2016 Korea-China Marine Environment Round Table. The meeting invited 10 Chinese students from Ocean University of Qingdao and 10 students from RO Korea to discuss the environment issues of the Yellow Sea. Students mainly touched upon two issues: 1) the importance of international cooperation and international organizations in protecting the Yellow Sea marine environment and 2) the current Yellow Sea related issues and ways to solve them. The students also visited Ganghwa islands to see the habitat of endangered Black-faced Spoonbill.

H. Internship program

42. On June 19, UNOPS has posted on its website two vacancies for interns in the areas of environmental law and communication. The objective of the YSLME II Project Internship Program is to offer students or recent graduates the work experiences that would enhance their employability and/or skills and to provide a unique learning opportunity through a better understanding of UN values and culture in a diverse and international working environment.
43. The Guide for Internship to UNDP/GEF Phase II Project was prepared as well. YSLME Internship Program offers internship opportunities through the following arrangements:
- UNOPS, which recruits interns in line with its internship policies and procedure. Internship opportunities will be published on UNOPS employment website and the Global Personnel Recruitment system (GPRS).
 - MOU with participating governments in the Project. Under this arrangement, candidates will be nominated by governments.
 - Incheon Metropolitan City “International Organizations Career Experience Program”. Only students from collaborative universities with Incheon Metropolitan City of RO Korea are eligible for participation.
44. Internship lasts from a minimum of 2 months to a maximum of 12 months with duty station in Incheon, RO Korea, or Dalian, PR China.
45. Through partnership with IMC, the Secretariat has engaged one intern for a duration of two months to assist in organizing the inception events, preparation of inventory of equipment, filing of documents, and organizing field trip for participants in Ganghwa, RO Korea.

PART II: FINANCIAL

46. A total of US\$243,469 has been disbursed from January 1 to June 30, 2017, representing 14 percent of the budget for 2017. Breakdown of the project expenditure by Activity (Components) and by Account generated from oneUNOPS is presented in the table below.

PART III: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Implementation of the AWP 2017

47. Due to late approval of the AWP 2017, achieving the annual delivery target could be challenging without taking management measures. Similar to any regional projects, extensive consultation needed in making consensus over methodologies and terms of reference of activities among members of the RWGs may slow the contracting process for consultancies. Management measures should be made in order to facilitate the achievement of annual delivery targets.

Recommendation:

- a) By August 20, the Secretariat complete all major TORs for consultancies;*
- b) The Secretariat consult relevant RWG Chairs and Vice Chairs in writing on the methodologies and TORs of consultancy services;*
- c) The Chairs and Vice Chairs of relevant RWGs communicate and provide joint responses to the request of the Secretariat within 10 working days; and*
- d) The Secretariat closely follow up the implementation of the contracts to ensure timely submission of deliverables by the consultants or subcontractors.*

By Workpackage	by Account	TOTAL (\$)
91007-ACTIVITY 1 - Sust. Reg. & Nat. Cooperation	CMDC_Supervised Staff	141
	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	2,229
	Daily Subsistence Allow-Intl	2,076
	ICA Annual Leave Accrual	(2,497)
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	149
	LICA PF Org Contribution	863
	Printing and Publications	941
	Realized Gain	(15)
	Realized Loss	141
	Travel - Other	832
	Travel DSA Mtng Partic	581
	Travel Tickets-International	10,465
	UNOPS ICA Fee	98,254
91007-ACTIVITY 1 - Sust. Reg. & Nat. Cooperation Total		114,161
91007-ACTIVITY 2 - Provisioning services	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	523
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	20
	UNOPS ICA Fee	17,603
91007-ACTIVITY 2 - Provisioning services Total		18,146
91007-ACTIVITY 3 - Regulating and cultural servic	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	533
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	21
	UNOPS ICA Fee	18,049
91007-ACTIVITY 3 - Regulating and cultural servic Total		18,603
91007-ACTIVITY 4 - Supporting services	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	680
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	26
	UNOPS ICA Fee	23,414
91007-ACTIVITY 4 - Supporting services Total		24,120
91007-ACTIVITY 5 - Project Management	Acquis of Computer Hardware	10,165
	Acquis of Computer Software	3,272
	Acquisition of Audio Visual Eq	792
	Acquisition of Communic Equip	1,065
	CMDC non- person related (Engagement Services)	3,121
	CMDC non- person related (IPAS Services)	1,551
	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	774
	Connectivity Charges	212
	Daily Subsistence Allow-Local	2,188
	Foreign Exch Translation Gain	36
	Foreign Exch Translation Loss	(0)
	Furniture	12,497
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	206
	Inform Technology Supplies	79
	Leased office equip and furnit	1,096
	LICA PF Org Contribution	2,014
	Machinery and Equipment	2,793
	Realized Gain	(78)
	Realized Loss	1,220
	Stationery & other Office Supp	685
	Travel - Other	386
	Travel Tickets-International	3,293
	UNOPS ICA Fee	16,558
	Utilities	4,516
91007-ACTIVITY 5 - Project Management Total		68,438
Grand Total		\$ 243,469

B. Engaging DPR Korea

48. During the preparation stage of the YSLME Phase II project, DPR Korea submitted the letter of endorsement of the project to UNDP confirming its interest of participation. Due to special circumstances, UNDP was requested by the GEF to submit the project proposal without DPR Korea as a participating country. Being aware of the fact that it is unrealistic to invite DPR Korea representatives to participate in the inception workshop, the Secretariat has updated its embassy in Beijing of the inception workshop and provided electronic versions of meeting documents for sharing with its national counterpart agency of the YSLME Project in Pyongyang.
49. It is to the interest of all partners to revitalize the collaboration with DPR Korea in the project, with the objective of having the updated SAP jointly adopted by the three countries bordering the Yellow Sea. Having project meetings and workshops in RO Korea makes the participation of DPR Korea in project activities politically unrealistic.

Recommendation:

- a) *The Secretariat consider organizing more events in China at the border city with DPR Korea, i.e. Dandong of Liaoning Province, or Secretariat Dalian Branch, to allow participation of DPR Korea counterparts in project activities possible and in a cost-efficient manner; and*
- b) *Furthermore, the Secretariat explore opportunities of financial support from UN Agencies or organizations with field operations in DPR Korea to facilitate the participation of DPR Korea colleagues in project meetings and workshops.*