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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 Interim Commission Council (ICC) of
the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project**

*Seoul, RO Korea
Revised on 31 July 2017*

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Executive summary

The 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC-1) of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project was held in Koreana Hotel, Seoul, on 13 July 2017 hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea. Representatives from national and local governments of RO Korea and PR China, UNDP, UNOPS and NOWPAP participated in the meeting. The Meeting was chaired by Deputy Director General of RO Korea Mr. Sei-joong KWON and co-chaired by Associate Counsel of State Oceanic Administration of PR China, Mr. Fengkui LIANG.

Project Progress Report: The meeting commended on the productive work of the Secretariat in preparing the inception of the project which involved extensive consultation between UNDP and UNOPS, and between the two countries. The meeting encouraged the Secretariat to seek more contents of progress of activities in RO Korea. The meeting took note of progress of the project and encouraged the PMO to facilitate the participation of DPR Korea in project activities with assistance from UNDP. NMEMC of SOA expressed the willingness to support and facilitate the organization of YSLME meetings in Dalian and/or Dandong. RO Korea recognized the necessity of DPR Korea's participation in YSLME activities while closely watching the general situation around the Korean Peninsula.

Establishment of Interim YSLME Commission and Subsidiary Bodies: The Meeting approved the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) and its Subsidiary Bodies, Rules of Procedure for the ICC, and the TORs of Secretariat staff as endorsed by the MSTP-1. Considering the approval of the AWP 2017 and low project delivery, the meeting directed the Secretariat to proceed with organization of RWG meetings prior to the formal notification of results of internal consultation on the chairmanship of RWGs by the two countries. The Meeting urged the two countries to complete the consultation process by the end of July, 2017, to accelerate mobilization of project inputs.

The meeting approved the recommendations of the MSTP-1 in relation to:

- **Project Results Framework, Budget and Plans;**
- **Engagement of SOA in Project Implementation;**
- **Establishment of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs);**
- **Project Inception Report;**
- **Project Workplans (2017-2019), RWGs' Workplans (2017-2019), Annual Workplan and Procurement Plans of 2017; and**
- **Roadmap to sustainable regional governance framework.**

Yellow Sea Partnership: The meeting values the opportunity of collaborating with PEMSEA in EAS Congress as a meaningful contribution of UNDP, PR China and RO Korea to raising the awareness of DG 14 by the public, national and local leaders and youth. RO Korea commented that the detailed activities to be made should be reviewed by the RWGs.

Other Business: The meeting agreed that UNDP share the draft TOR of Mid-term review of the second phase of the project by email before the end of 2017, and to have the independent evaluator in place in the first quarter of 2018.

Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project

Koreana Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea
13 July 2017

1.0 Opening of the meeting

1. On behalf of the UNDP, Regional Technical Advisor Dr. Jose PADILLA welcomed the participants and congratulated on launching the 2nd Phase of the Project and expected to achieve significant success in a number of activities to be implemented in the 2nd Phase. He extended his appreciation to the government of ROK 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.
2. The meeting was followed with a self-introduction of the names and organizations the participants represent.
3. On behalf of the Government of China, Mr. Fengkui LIANG extended 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 ecology and sustainable development of marine resources. He acknowledged that the Project had obtained remarkable results in the Phase I and expected success of the second phase of the Project with remarkable results as well. He thanked the participating countries and the Secretariat for their efforts in pursuing successful results and accomplishments during the Project 2nd Phase. Liang believed the kick-off meeting is just the first step and hoped it will produce fruitful results with active discussion and implementation. Again, He wished the leadership by PMO would implement the project successfully.
4. On behalf of the Government of Republic of Korea, Mr. Sei-joong KWON welcomed all participants and thanked UNDP and UNOPS for the continuous support to the Project. He stressed on the fact that it is the long-awaited moment to implement the project on the ground. He mentioned 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 development 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. He hoped that this meeting would provide significant foundation for the successful implementation of the Project's activities.

2.0 Organization of the meeting

2.1 Election of Officers

5. The Interim Chair and Regional Technical Advisor of UNDP Dr. Jose PADILLA invited the two countries to nominate the Chair and Co-Chair for the meeting. PR China nominated Mr. Sei-joong KWON of RO Korea as the Chair, and RO Korea nominated Mr. Fengkui LIANG to serve as the Co-Chair. The Interim Chair announced that Mr. Sei-joong KWON and Mr. Fengkui LIANG were duly elected as the Chair and Co-Chair respectively.

2.2 Adoption of meeting agenda

6. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce the agenda and meeting documents referenced as UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/1, UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/2 and UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/inf.2. Observing no interventions from the floor, the Chair declared that the agenda of the meeting was so adopted.

3.0 Project Progress Report

7. The Chair invited the participants to refer to the document UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC/1/3 and invited Mr. Yinfeng GUO, CTA and Project Manager to introduce the Project Progress Report. Mr. Guo summarized the progress of the project since signing of the Project Document, reported the status of expenditure and challenges and recommendation in implementation of the project. The meeting took note of progress of the project and commended on the productive work of the Secretariat in preparing the inception of the project which involved extensive consultation between UNDP and UNOPS, and between the two countries.
8. UNDP requested the Secretariat to include progress of SAP implementation in RO Korea in its future reporting.

Project low delivery

9. Regarding the challenges of low delivery, Mr. Guo ascribed slow progress of the project to late approval of the annual workplan of 2017 and suggested quick feedback in the review of methodologies and terms of references of activities by the Regional Working Groups which is critical in expediting implementation.

Engagement of DPR Korea

10. Mr. Guo also suggested the PR China and RO Korea to engage DPR Korea in implementation of the Project with the objective of adopting the updated SAP by all the three countries. In this regard, he proposed to hold workshops and activities either in Dandong or Dalian to facilitate participation of representatives of DPR Korea.
11. In response to the inquiry from RO Korea on the selection of Dandong as the venue for meeting, the Secretariat cited Dandong as a border city between DPR Korea which will reduce costs of participation by representatives of DPR Korea. Meanwhile, the unique role of Dandong as a city with rich and large aerial extent of intertidal mudflat and estuarine biodiversity was also mentioned by the Secretariat. Gap analysis of biodiversity conservation in YSLME conducted by Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of Chinese Academy of Sciences identified parts of Dandong intertidal mudflat as critical for protection, the Secretariat added.
12. PR China expressed the willingness to support and facilitate the organization of YSLME meetings in Dalian and/or Dandong. RO Korea recognized the necessity of DPR Korea's participation in YSLME activities. The meeting encouraged the Secretariat to facilitate the participation of DPR Korea in project activities with assistance from UNDP.

4.0 Establishment of the interim YSLME commission and subsidiary bodies

13. The Chair of ICC-1 invited the Chair of the MSTP Dr. Jae-Ryoung OH to introduce the recommendations of the MSTP-1.
14. Dr. OH reported to the meeting that: 1) the MSTP-1 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 of Secretariat staff; 2) the MSTP-1 welcomed the nomination of National Project Coordinator (NPC), members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), members to RWGs and National Working Groups (NWGs) by RO Korea, and the nomination of NPC, members of IMCC and Chairs of NWGs by PR China, and that the Secretariat would be notified by PR China of full members to the RWGs and NWGs within two weeks after the project inception; 3) on the chairmanship of RWGs, the MSTP-1 noticed the interests and support of the two countries in establishing the six RWGs, and that, facilitated by the Secretariat and the Chairs of MSTP-1, two rounds of consultations have been made with agreement by the two countries to seek further internal consultation as soon as possible; 4) PR China requested that any reference in the TOR of RWG-G to bilateral fisheries agreement within the project be deleted; and 5) 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.
15. The Interim Commission Council approved the revised TORs of the Interim Commission Council and its subsidiary bodies, Rules of Procedure for the Interim Commission Council, the TORs of Secretariat staff as endorsed by the 1st Meeting of the Interim YSLME Commission Council.
16. RO Korea requested that RWG meetings be held as soon as possible even if Chairs and Vice-chairs of RWGs have not been designated or elected. Until the Chairs and Vice-chairs are elected, the Chairs of NWGs in both countries should take a leading role for RWG meetings. Co-Chair of the meeting Mr. Fengkui LIANG commented that both countries still do not know the chairmanship of the RWGs which is a risk to the project given the short remaining time for implementation in the Project. Considering the approval of the AWP 2017 and low project delivery, the meeting directed the Secretariat to proceed with organization of RWG meetings prior to the formal notification of results of internal consultation on the chairmanship of RWGs by the two countries.
17. UNDP emphasized that there is not much time left with the project and recommended that both countries make progress and prepare for mid-term review. UNDP also suggested both countries organize the RWG meetings as soon as possible.
18. PR China responded that the full list of candidates of all NWGs will be shared with the Secretariat after completing internal consultation with competent agencies and their respective departments which may take a couple of weeks. Yet UNDP requested the two countries complete the consultation process on chairmanship of RWGs and notify the Secretariat the results before the end of July, which was so decided by the meeting.

5.0 Review of project results framework, Budget and Plans

19. The Chair invited Dr. Jae-Ryoung OH to introduce the conclusions and decisions of MSTP-1 on this agenda item.

20. Dr. OH reported that MSTP-1 endorsed the proposed annual workplan 2017-2019, workplans of six RWGs (2017-2019), annual workplan and procurement plan of 2017, and recommended approval of the budget and workplans by the meeting. On the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project prepared by the Secretariat, which is also related to the revision of the project results framework, Dr. OH conveyed UNDP's suggestion to keep the original indicators to ensure attribution of results to project activities.
21. Dr. OH also reported the concerns of the MSTP-1 over achieving the targets of the workplan 2017 due to significant delay of the second phase of the Project and unresolved chairmanships of the six RWGs. He further informed the meeting that RO Korea endorsed the workplan 2017-2019 under conditions of possible revision by experts taking into consideration: 1) practicality of achieving deliverables of activities as planned; 2) the inter-linkages between activities; and 3) the need to avoid duplications in planning of activities (e.g., marine litter related activities being carried out by NOWAP). Dr. OH also informed that the MSTP-1 encouraged the Secretariat to trigger activities by completing preparation of major TORs for immediate implementation for this year and the reiteration of the significance of cooperation and coordination among experts of RWGs from each country.
22. UNDP mentioned that there is some flexibility on workplan and budget even after endorsement by MSTP. The Chair invited the two countries to give further comments and, after observing no further interventions, declared the recommendations of the MSTP-1 are approved.

6.0 Engagement of SOA in project implementation

23. After a 30-minute break, the meeting resumed and the Chair invited Dr. OH to report the conclusions and decisions of the MSTP-1 on this agenda item.
24. Dr. OH reported to the meeting that MSTP-1 recommended to endorse 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 PCA(s) with UNOPS.
25. RO Korea requested that the progress and results of PCA-listed activities to be timely communicated and distributed within the Project.
26. After observing no further comments, the Chair decided to approve the recommendation of the MSTP-1 and requested the Secretariat to communicate and distribute the results of the activities listed in the PCA timely within the Project.

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

27. At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. OH informed the meeting that at the MSTP-1 PR China suggested the concept paper be referred to RWG-G for review and discussion, and report back to the next meeting of the MSTP. After hearing no comments from the two countries, the Chair announced approval of the recommendation of the MSTP-1.

8.0 Yellow Sea Partnership

28. At the request of the Chair, Dr. OH serving as the Chair of the MSTP-1 reported that the MSTP-1 highlighted the dynamics and value of a strengthened Yellow Sea Partnership in support of the implementation of the YSLME SAP and accordingly endorsed the guidelines for implementation by the Secretariat. Furthermore, the MSTP-1 requested the Secretariat to fully engage the partners in knowledge sharing and implementation of collaborative activities and to host Yellow Sea Partnership Forum on an annual basis, with the first forum to be scheduled in 2018.
29. Dr. OH informed the meeting that PEMSEA invited YSLME Phase II Project to consider collaborating in organization of workshops at the 6th EAS Congress. He also acknowledged the interest and participation of UNDP, UNOPS, NOWPAP, CI China, BlueRibbon Ocean Conservation Association, HSS and Incheon Metropolitan City in YSLME activities.
30. The meeting approved the recommendation of the MSTP-1. The Chair valued the opportunity of collaborating with PEMSEA in EAS Congress as a meaningful contribution of UNDP, PR China and RO Korea to raising the awareness of SDG 14 by the public, national and local leaders and youth. RO Korea commented that the detailed activities should be reviewed by the RWGs.
31. Regarding partnership activities, RO Korea suggested that the detailed plans be reviewed by relevant RWGs. In addition, RO Korea mentioned small grant programmes had a good reputation from NGOs in this region but NGOs had an English barrier. Moreover, RO Korea suggested to conduct more on-site/practical activities involving participation of NGOs during the second phase not just having indoor activities such as workshops and meetings.

9.0 Venue and time of next meeting

32. PR China informed the meeting of the intention to host the second ICC. The Chair welcomed the offer made by the Head of Chinese Delegation for holding the 2nd ICC meeting in China in the first quarter of 2018 as suggested by UNDP. PR China informed the meeting that further consultation will be made with the Secretariat on the venue and date at later stage.

10.0 Other business

33. UNDP reminded the meeting that the mid-term evaluation of the project should be scheduled in the first quarter of 2018 so that the second meeting of the ICC can decide on the extension of the project taking into account the recommendations of the mid-term evaluator. UNDP further advised that UNDP China Office will organize the evaluation and that for YSLME Project one evaluator would be sufficient with a focus on institutionalization of the Interim YSLME Commission.
34. The meeting agreed that UNDP share the draft TOR of mid-term review of the second phase of the project by email before the end of 2017, and have the independent evaluator in place in the first quarter of 2018.

11.0 Adoption of meeting decisions

35. The Chair invited the meeting to review the meeting report prepared by the Secretariat. On the engagement of DPR Korea, RO Korea added to the report the need to “closely watch the general situation around the Korean Peninsula” in the process of engagement of DPR Korea. Then the meeting adopted the report of conclusions and decisions of the meeting.

36. On the effectivity of the meeting report, UNDP proposed to complete the adoption process by signing the meeting report by the Chair and Co-chair according to the new rule from UNDP, which was accepted by both the Chair and Co-Chair after going through an internal clearance process.

12.0 Wrap-up and closure of the meeting

37. In summary, the Chair thanked the participants for showing open-minded and co-operative attitudes at the meeting and expressed his pleasure to see that the YSLME Phase II Project was officially initiated with activities proposed and adopted by the two countries. He 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, the Chair was confident that the Project would produce even better results in the future.
38. The Co-Chair felt the meeting was successful with the endorsement of various documents representing the achievement of some most important outputs of the Project. He thanked delegation of RO Korea for their understanding and support to the implementation of the Project. He also thanked the Secretariat for its work in organizing the meeting smoothly. Finally, he hoped that the two countries continue to cooperate, and believed that the Project would be successful in the second phase as well.
39. Following the closing remarks, the Chair declared the closure of the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Annex 1: Annotated Agenda

The 1st Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project

*Koreana Hotel, Seoul, RO Korea
13 July 2017*

Annotated Agenda

13:00-13:30 REGISTRATION

13:30-13:50 1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

UNDP will open the meeting and welcome participants (*refer to UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/inf.1 for list of participants*).

The representative from each delegation of the participating countries will be invited to give opening addresses.

13:50-14:00 2.0 ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Election of officers

The meeting will be invited to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Project Management Office (PMO) will serve as secretariat. UNDP will turn over the chairmanship to the newly elected chairpersons.

2.2 Adoption of Meeting Agenda

The Chairperson will invite the Secretariat to introduce the agenda and meeting documents. (*reference documents: UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/1, UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/2 and UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/inf.2*)

The agenda will be adopted taking into consideration of interventions.

14:00-14:20 3.0 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The meeting will invite CTA/Manger to report the progress of the project, highlight issues and make recommendations for the Council to consider. (*reference document: UNDP/GEF/YS/ICC.1/3*)

**14:20-14:50 4.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERIM YSLME COMMISSION AND
SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

The meeting will be invited to review and approve the following documents recommended by the MSTP:

- 1) The Terms of Reference of the Interim YSLME Commission and subsidiary bodies, and PMO staff
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/1*);
- 2) The Terms of Reference of each RWG and Chairs and Vice Chairs
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/2*); and
- 3) Nominees of Chairs and Vice Chairs of RWGs;

The meeting will be invited to review and endorse the following nominations approved by the MSTP:

- 4) National Coordinators (NCs), members of the Inter-Ministry Coordinating Committee (IMCC) and the National Working Groups
- 5) Members of the six RWGs

14:50-15:30 5.0 REVIEW OF PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK, BUDGET AND PLANS

The meeting will be invited to review the recommendations of the MSTP and adopt the inception report. In particular, the meeting will be invited to approve following documents therein revised in accordance with comments of the 1st Meeting of the MSTP:

- 1) Project Results Framework (Table 6 of Project Inception Report);
- 2) Project budget 2014-2019 (Table 7 of Project Inception Report); and
- 3) Annual workplan and procurement plan of 2017 (Table 9 and Table 10 of Project Inception Report);
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/9*)

The meeting will also be invited to review and approve the following documents revised in accordance with comments of the 1st Meeting of the MSTP:

- 4) Project Workplan for 2017-2019;
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/3*)
- 5) Workplan (2017-2019) of each RWG and activities in 2017 (reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/4*); and
- 6) Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/5*).

15:30-16:00 GROUP PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK

16:00-16:30 6.0 ENGAGEMENT OF SOA IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The meeting will be invited to review and approve the scope of activities and corresponding budget to be implemented by SOA.
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/8*).

16:30-17:00 7.0 ROADMAP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ARRANGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT OF YELLOW SEA IN ACCORDANCE WITH YSLME SAP

The MSTP will be invited to introduce its recommendations for discussion and approval by the Council.
(reference document: *UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/6*)

17:00-17:30 8.0 YELLOW SEA PARTNERSHIP

The MSTP will be invited to report on its recommendations. The meeting is invited to review and approve the document to guide the partnership development in implementation of YSLME SAP.

(reference document: UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/7).

17:30-17:35 9.0 VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

China PR will be invited to suggest time and venue of next meeting.

17:35-17:45 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

The key stakeholders will be invited to raise any other issues to seek guidance from the meeting in relation to the project duration, mid-term evaluation, and other matters.

17:45-18:00 11.0 ADOPTION OF MEETING DECISIONS

The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the report of the meeting prepared by Secretariat.

18:00-18:10 WRAP-UP AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chairperson will call a motion to close the meeting.

Annex 2: List of Participants

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