

## Meeting summary of Virtual Workshop on the MCSP Policy Review

1. On 20 May 2021, COBSEA Secretariat hosted a virtual workshop to discuss the draft marine and coastal spatial planning (MCSP) policy review and invite input to support its finalization as well as exchange views on possible future efforts to address MCSP through COBSEA. The workshop was organized in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Blue Solutions Initiative<sup>1</sup>. See Annex 1 for agenda of the webinar and COBSEA's website<sup>2</sup> for presentations.
2. Over 20 attendees from seven COBSEA countries participated in the event along with consultants carrying out the desk review, representatives from Blue Solutions Initiative, UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP headquarters and the COBSEA Secretariat. A list of participants can be found in Annex 2.

### Opening remarks – Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Interim COBSEA Coordinator

3. Mr. Pradhan welcomed participants to workshop. He further thanked everyone who contributed to the draft policy review including the consultants and nominated national experts. Mr. Pradhan introduced the workshop agenda and acknowledged the conducive collaboration on MCSP activities with co-hosts UNEP and Blue Solutions Initiative.

### Introduction – Ms. Katrin Eitrem Holmgren, COBSEA Secretariat

4. Ms. Eitrem Holmgren provided an introductory overview of COBSEA's work on MCSP in general and the policy review in particular. She recognized COBSEA's mandate in relation to MCSP, based on the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas Region (the East Asian Seas Action Plan) and the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022. One of the two substantive themes from the Strategic Direction targets Marine and Coastal Planning and Management and includes an activity to review national and regional legal and policy frameworks in the COBSEA region and to identify recommendations for creating enabling conditions for ecosystem-based approaches. Ms. Eitrem Holmgren noted that the policy review builds on past COBSEA MCSP activities, such as the Regional Resource Document on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning which was developed through a project aimed at reducing and preventing the effects of natural disasters and climate change as well promoting the sustainable development of coastal areas in the COBSEA region through the application of MCSP. The policy review will further inform upcoming activities, such as work towards establishing a COBSEA network of marine protected areas and a training on Sustainable Ocean Economy to be held in collaboration with Blue Solutions Initiative. Ms. Eitrem Holmgren thanked the consultants, national experts and participants who provided input to the desk review. Findings of the review will be presented to the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA (IGM 25) for consideration.

### Presentation of Blue Solutions Initiative – Mr. Jan Kleine Buening, Blue Solutions Initiative

5. Mr. Kleine Buening introduced Blue Solutions Initiative (BSI), a partnership between UNEP, GIZ, GRID-Arendal and IUCN, engaged for healthy oceans for sustainable development. BSI collates and shares knowledge; supports capacity development; and strengthens policy dialogue. The focus of BSI is on MCSP, nature-based solutions and Sustainable Ocean Economy, working in close collaboration with bilateral, regional and global projects via the four implementing partners and other interested

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<sup>1</sup> Blue Solutions Initiative is a partnership between UNEP, GIZ, GRID-Arendal and IUCN, funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of Environment

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/events/workshop/mcsp-policy-review-workshop>

organizations. Knowledge of proven, replicable solutions is shared via the Panorama Solutions platform<sup>3</sup>. Mr. Kleine Buening described various Blue Solutions trainings, including the Blue Planning in Practice training which was held for COBSEA participating countries in November 2020 and the Sustainable Ocean Economy training which will be held for the COBSEA region in August/September 2021. A training on leadership is further being provided via Blue Solutions, as are technical online seminars and advisory services. Blue Solutions support policy dialogue to foster implementation and is engaged in policy processes by providing provisions of practical examples, contributing to action to support policy implementation as well as providing a platform for partners and local champions. Mr. Kleine Buening thanked COBSEA for fruitful collaboration and wished all participants an insightful discussion about MCSP.

#### **Overview of UNEP's Sustainable Blue Economy work – Mr. Ole Vestergaard and Ms. Makiko Yashiro, UNEP**

6. Mr. Vestergaard and Ms. Yashiro provided an overview of UNEP's work on sustainable blue economy initiatives on a global and regional scale. UNEP is developing guiding frameworks and resources to support countries in enabling a transition to sustainable, climate resilient and equitable blue economies. One such example is the Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework, which assists countries in delivering upon a developed vision through a strategic process of planning and implementation. Mr. Vestergaard emphasized that the MCSP process is a core delivery mechanism for sustainable blue economy. UNEP's guiding principles for a sustainable blue economy include protecting, restoring and regenerating healthy ecosystems; enabling climate stability; delivering equitable processes and sustainable consumption and production as well as applying circular economy approaches. Ms. Yashiro acknowledged the growing number of initiatives related to blue economy in the Southeast Asian context, such as the joint UNEP/Asian Development Bank knowledge product on financing a blue economy and the dialogue on blue economy at ASEAN level, including a workshop on theoretical development and practical manifestations of blue economy to be held 23 June 2021. National level initiatives from the COBSEA region were further introduced, including the development of a national blue economy blueprint for Malaysia; a GEF project on integrating natural capital values into local coastal planning and operation to commence in Thailand in 2021; and GEF projects on national capital accounting and sustainable blue economy in the Philippines and in Viet Nam.

#### **Presentation of draft MCSP Policy Review – Dr. Zhiwei Zhang and Professor Lawrence Hildebrand**

7. Dr. Zhang and Professor Hildebrand presented the draft MCSP policy review including methodology and preliminary results. The overall aim of the review is to identify key recommended actions towards an enabling policy environment for MCSP and ecosystem-based approaches. The consultants noted that there is a strong foundation of legal and policy instruments in support of MCSP in the East Asian Seas region while also acknowledging a gap between policy frameworks and implementation. An ecosystem-based approach has been employed in MCSP-related frameworks across the nine COBSEA countries while the principles of climate change and blue economies have yet to be fully incorporated. The consultants noted that most countries consider social, economic and environmental objectives equally and mentioned that emphasis has been put on protection and conservation measures. Recommendations towards effective MCSP policy include enhancing capacity development and data sharing; strengthening vertical and horizontal integration; increasing transboundary and regional collaboration; as well as investing in coastal and ocean science and strengthening science-policy integration. Several suggested follow-up actions were further presented, including establishing a cooperation platform for MCSP in the East Asian Seas region; conducting periodic MCSP

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<sup>3</sup> <https://panorama.solutions/en>

assessments and launching a MCSP project within the framework of the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

**Input from COBSEA countries including discussion** – Representatives from COBSEA countries

8. COBSEA countries expressed their support to the work and provided input to the draft desk study. It was acknowledged that the policy review will be useful for countries in planning and implementing MCSP. Comments included updates and additional information on country-specific policies and regulations as well as supplementary information to case studies. One participant recommended to refine the focus on MCSP, referencing to the COBSEA Strategic Directions. It was further recommended to include additional background information explaining the reasoning of the review as well as include reference to global treaties in the report. One country recommended including an analysis of environmental pollution as it relates to spatial planning while another country suggested to incorporate an analysis on the limitation of laws and regulations. It was further suggested to assess COBSEA countries based on the Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats analysis on legal and policy frameworks in order to guide countries in their MCSP development. In regard to future action, one country proposed launching a campaign to promote the objectives and activities of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development while another country acknowledged the need for further capacity building. The consultants thanked participants for their comments and suggestions which will be reflected in the revised draft policy review.

**Suggested follow-up and closing** – Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Interim COBSEA Coordinator

9. Countries yet to submit written comments on the draft desk review were encouraged to do so. The draft desk review will be revised on the basis of provided input and the final draft version of the desk review will be presented to IGM 25 for consideration. Mr. Pradhan thanked all participants for their active engagement and for valuable input received during the workshop.

## Annex 1. Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
14:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Interim COBSEA Coordinator
	Introduction	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren, COBSEA Secretariat
14.05	Presentation of Blue Solutions Initiative (BSI)	Jan Kleine Buening, BSI
14.10	Overview of UNEP's SBE work	Makiko Yashiro and Ole Vestergaard, UNEP
14.15	Presentation of draft MCSP policy review	Consultants
14.35	Input from COBSEA countries (3-5 min per country)	Representatives from COBSEA countries
15.30	Discussion	Moderated by Katrin Eitrem Holmgren, COBSEA Secretariat
15.55	Suggested follow-up and closing	Interim COBSEA Coordinator

## Annex 2. List of participants

<i>COBSEA country</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Cambodia	Sum Dara	Department of Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation, Ministry of Environment
	Than Monomoyith	Department of Marine and Coastal Zone Conservation, Ministry of Environment
People's Republic of China	Pan Zhang	National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, Ministry Ecology and Environment, Dalian China
	Chen Ma	College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences Ocean University of China
	Yu Yunjun	South China Institute of Environmental Sciences
	Lin Pan	College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences Ocean University of China
	Wenyue Chen	College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences Ocean University of China
Indonesia	Ario Damar	Department of Aquatic Resources Management, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, IPB University of Indonesia
	Ganesh Wicaksana	Ministry of Environment and Forestry Republic
	Ardhian Indra Cahya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry Republic
Republic of Korea	Sung-Jin Cho	Korea Maritime Institute
Malaysia	Muhammad Ammar Mohd Ghause	Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA)
	Cheryl Rita Kaur	Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)
	Malisa Mat Noor	Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA)
Thailand	Suthida Kan-atireklap	Research and Development Institute Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
	Ronawon Boonprakob	Research and Development Institute Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
	Chanokphon Jantharakhantee	Research and Development Institute Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Viet Nam	Luu Anh Duc	Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation
	Pham Minh Khoi	Department of Sea and Island Use Management
	Tran Van Hung	Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation
	Nguyen Cong Minh	Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation
COBSEA Secretariat	Mahesh Pradhan	Interim COBSEA Coordinator
	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren	Associate Programme Officer
	Krittika Kleesuwan	Programme Assistant
UNEP	Ole Vestergaard	Programme Officer, Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative

	Makiko Yashiro	Programme Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Blue Solutions Initiative	Jan Kleine Buening Erick Ross Salazar	Head of Project Advisor
Consultant	Lawrence Hildebrand Zhiwei Zhang	Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning Consultant Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning Consultant