



Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia

Potential activity development to strengthen implementation

Regional Workshop on the Development and Finalization of the Outlook on COBSEA
Follow-up and Review of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals

Manila, Philippines 11-12 December, 2019

Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator

Ongoing and Potential Projects

Project pipeline presented/reviewed at IGM 24 (UNEP/COBSEA IGM 24/9 rev.1)

- Ongoing projects

New project ideas aligning to

- COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022
- Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
- SDG Outlook (draft, as presented at this workshop)



Ongoing Projects

SEA circular: Solving plastic pollution at source (Sida funded project)

Support towards marine litter work in the context of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea

Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

Project ideas aligning to COBSEA's Strategic Directions

Theme 1: Land-based Marine Pollution

Nutrients, sediments and wastewater

- Nutrients

Marine litter and microplastics

- Sea-based sources

Nutrient focus: Establish an East Asia Nitrogen Hub

Context

- UNEA 4 resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management (UNEP/EA.4/Res.14)
- Ongoing global GEF project: International Nitrogen Management Systems (INMS)
- UN Nitrogen Campaign launched Oct 2019 led by the Global Partnership on Nutrient Mgmt
- Colombo Declaration Oct 2019, endorsing Roadmap for Action on Sustainable Nitrogen Management 2020-2022
- South Asia Nitrogen Hub established in collaboration with SACEP 2019

Why an East Asian Seas Nitrogen Hub?

- Nitrogen fertilizer and other run-off significant in region but unknown
- Countries identified need to address nutrients through COBSEA
 - Strategic Directions theme 1: Land-based sources of pollution
 - 14.1.1 speaking to minimizing coastal eutrophication
 - SDG Outlook

Nutrient focus: Establish an East Asia Nitrogen Hub

Components/main action areas of Nitrogen Hub

- Policy framework: develop framework policy on nitrogen management
- Science-policy interface: assessment of scope of problem, translate interventions into policy recommendations
- Capacity building: governments, institutions, farmers

How

- Initiate through COBSEA with support from UNEP HQ and University of Edinburgh in their capacity as Secretariat for GEF INMS
- Replicating/learning from South Asia

Sea-based sources of pollution: marine litter from aquaculture

Context

- Strategic Directions - theme 1.b on marine litter and microplastics
- RAP MALI – Action 2. sea-based sources of marine litter
- WGML – identified this as a gap/need for project development

How

- Project concept shared with the Norwegian Retailer's Environment Fund (Handelens Miljofond)
- 1,5 year project
- Directly linked with other ongoing marine litter work (Sea Circular) and work on other land-based sources of pollution

Sea-based sources of pollution: marine litter from aquaculture

Proposed activities

- Adapting a targeted monitoring and assessment methodology
- Data collection at target/pilot sites using the methodology
- Identifying evidence-based interventions and incentives for reduction and prevention
- Outreach and awareness raising
- Upscaling and knowledge sharing

Expected results

- Build evidence base on scale, sources, types and impact of marine litter from aquaculture
- Raise awareness
- Catalyse targeted interventions
- Support development of monitoring and reporting

Theme 2: Marine and Coastal Planning and Management

Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning and, in that context, MPA network planning with initial focus on coral reefs, building climate resilience and strengthening coral reef monitoring

COBSEA Strategic Directions theme 2

- Enhanced ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning, focusing on MSP and MPAs
- Increased resilience to adverse impacts of climate change
- Capacity building on addressing climate change in coastal and marine environments

Building on past COBSEA projects focusing on: spatial planning, coastal erosion and climate resilience (KOICA, Sida, MFF...)

Project carried out through leveraging previous tools and established networks

Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning

Proposed activities

- Regional training on marine and coastal spatial planning, using Blue Solutions training module (UNEP, IUCN, GIZ, GRID-Arendal) – one in 2020, one in 2021
- Review national and regional legal and policy frameworks to provide recommendations on enabling conditions
- Develop regional guidance for ecosystem-based approach, with focus on setting MPAs/MPA network within broader integrated planning frameworks

Implementation

- Potential MCSP demonstration projects
- Initial focus on coral reefs – climate resilience and conservation (data, analysis, integration into MPAs and MCSP)

Systematic conservation planning for coral reef climate resilience

Context

- Coral reefs: critical habitat, an ‘indicator system’
- Universal uniform projections for future climate impacts available
- Regional Seas programmes recognized as key institutional mechanisms for coordination or facilitation of coral reef monitoring at regional level, and for considering findings in a policy context
- Data on MPAs readily available, with some gaps

Proposed activities

- Analysis of coral reef conservation priorities towards a climate resilient network of MPAs
- Two regional workshops on reef monitoring and networking, training, uptake of findings in MCSP/SCP activities
- Demonstration projects at site level, replicating pilot in Malaysia (ICRI-UNEP small grant) on integrating coral reef climate change vulnerability into conservation planning and MPA design, with capacity transfer/exchange between sites.

Theme 2: MCPM – project results

Overall results from project proposals

- Scientific knowledge enhanced and tools produced to support ecosystem management
- Existing MPAs re-zoned or extended for enhanced climate resilience
- COBSEA countries consider priorities for coral reef conservation in regional MPA network

Aligns with broader efforts

- Strategic Directions
- SDG 14.2
- SDG 14.5



Questions