

UNDP/GEF/YS/MSTP/ICC.1/6

Terms of Reference of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs of UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project

Secretariat

11 July 2017

TOR of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs

- **To effectively manage and execute the various activities** approved by the ICC
- Focus on **6 areas**

Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair and Vice Chair elected by WG• 2-4 Leading regional experts• 1 Representative from Private Sectors and 1 representative from NGOs
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One regular meeting per year• The chairpersons attend the MSTP meetings to present recommendations and activity reports prepared by the RWG
Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PMO shall serve as Secretariat to the Regional Working Groups, and shall prepare the meeting reports

TOR

- **Directly communicate with** the Commission Secretariat, Chair/Vice Chair of the MSTP, National Coordinators and Chair of the corresponding NWG
- **Prepare the RWG workplan and budget** in consultation with RWG members with support from the Secretariat
- Coordinate the work of members to ensure achievement of the RWG objectives and deliverables
- Organize annual RWG meetings, including preparation of meeting program, with assistance from the Commission Secretariat and in consultation with Vice Chair of the RWG
- **Report the progress of the RWG to the MSTP and challenges**

TOR of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs

- **Draft recommendations or proposal on technical issues for endorsement by the MSTP and adoption by the Interim Commission Council**
- Advise the Secretariat on partners to be engaged for the RWG to better achieve or in furtherance of the purposes of the RWG
- Propose and develop programs of international and regional symposium and conferences
- As deemed necessary or at the request of the CTA/Manager, represent YSLME Phase II Project at international conferences and meetings

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-A. Monitoring and Assessment

Goal	To improve the ECC with respect to supporting services by mainstreaming adaptive management
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To harmonize monitoring and assessment methodologies and to improve understanding the N/P/Si ratios and impact2. To improve understanding of the impact of climate change on ecosystem structure3. To improve the monitoring capacity and awareness of jellyfish and HAB
Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Technical report on trend in N/P/Si ratio and its impacts on the marine and coastal ecosystem structure2. Technical report on climate-induced ecosystem changes in the Yellow Sea and adaptive management strategies3. Regional jellyfish and HAB monitoring programs established and implemented in collaboration with partners

RWG-A. Monitoring and Assessment

Tasks

- Lead the **development of regional strategy and systems for monitoring and assessing the long-term trend in N/P/Si ratios** and its impacts on the marine and coastal ecosystem structure
- Coordinate the development of regional strategies for long-term ecosystem forecast
- Facilitate the **assessment and monitoring of the impact of climate change**
- Coordinate the preparation of **regional adaptive management strategy**
- Lead the development of regional jellyfish and HAB monitoring programs and establishment of committees

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-F. Fish Stocks

Goal	To improve Ecosystem Carrying Capacity (ECC) with respect to provisioning services by recovering and enhancing depleted fisheries stocks
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To assess the progress of SAP Target 1 implementation and make recommendations on targets and actions in the updated SAP2. To enhance capacity of national and local governments in monitoring and assessment of fish stocks, and effectiveness of licensing, closure and restocking management
Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Methodologies of joint stock assessment & data management protocols2. Technical report on status of stocks of selected species in YS using harmonized assessment methodologies and recommendations on new targets and actions to improve management effectiveness of licensing, closure and restocking measures3. Training module on stock assessment and fish restocking

RWG-F. Fish Stocks

Tasks

- **Sharing of collated data on catches in the Yellow Sea (YS)** and analyse patterns of species
- **Develop methodologies for improved estimates** on fish stock, construct models covering patterns of fish stocks, analyse relations of fishing efforts, closure, licensing and restocking effectiveness
- **Assist to rebuild over-exploited marine living resources** by improving quality of habitats and fisheries management
- **Identify the effect of climate change** on fish populations
- **Prepare training modules** on fish stock assessment and restocking

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-G. Sustainability (Socioeconomics and Governance)

Goal

To improve regional environmental governance by strengthening institutional, legislative, and financial capacities of the region and the countries

Objectives

1. To enhance the capacity of governments at different levels
2. To guide relevant RWGs and coordinate efforts in the **development of institutional, policy and financial framework of the YS Commission**
3. To advise on the means and approaches for **full participation of DPRK**
4. To enhance coordination of bilateral fisheries agreement

Deliverables

1. **Roadmap towards a sustainable framework** and MOU or political statement
2. Training modules on cost-benefit analysis (CBA)
3. Training modules for better implementation of multilateral environmental agreements including EBM
4. Regional guideline to incorporate FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

RWG-G. Sustainability (Socioeconomics and Governance)

Tasks

- Coordinate the conduct of **Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)** to examine the economy and efficiency of management actions
- Provide **advice and recommendation on establishment of YSLME Commission including its legal personality**. Identify ways and means to engage **DPRK's full participation**
- Lead the review of regional and national measures and actions to improve the implementation of international and regional treaties and guidelines
- **Enhance coordination between the bilateral Fisheries Agreement** between two countries in the YSLME Commission
- Strengthen partnerships with existing regional co-operative institutions including PEMSEA, NOWPAP, the Joint Fisheries Commission, etc.

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-H. Habitat Conservation

Goal

To provide guidance and co-ordination for regional activities to improve the ECC with respect to **supporting services by conserving biodiversity**

Objectives

1. Develop **regional conservation plan for biodiversity** (BD)
2. Develop regional guidelines for assessment of effectiveness of coastal and marine ecosystem restoration projects
3. Maintain and improve the **effectiveness of YSLME MPA Network**
4. Develop the capacity and public awareness of benefits of BD conservation

Deliverables

1. Regional biodiversity conservation plan
2. Regional guideline for assessment of coastal and marine ecosystem restoration projects
3. **Network of MPA in YSLME** that integrate the principles of connectivity
4. A training module on habitat-based and food-chain based approaches
5. Conduct of three YSLME MPA forums

RWG-H. Habitat Conservation - Tasks

- Coordinate the development and implementation of a **regional biodiversity conservation plan**. Coordinate the conduct of study on the **YS cold water mass**
- Assist in **identifying policies for management of estuarine and marine nurseries** in both countries
- Coordinate the preparation of training modules of habitat-based and food-chain based approaches for habitat conservation. Facilitate the development of **regional guidelines for assessment of coastal and marine ecosystem restoration projects**, and provide advice on maintaining and **strengthening a network of MPAs**
- Organize annual regional MPA forum

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-M. Sustainable Mariculture

Goal	To improve the ECC with respect to provisioning services by enhancing mariculture production and quality and by reducing and controlling pollutant discharge from mariculture
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">To establish and optimize the integrated aquaculture of bivalve, fish, etc. and bioremediation technology for increased productivity and reduced marine environmental pollution per unit areaTo prepare training module and disseminate IMTA experience and knowledge YSLME-wide and other LMEsTo standardize IMTA for commercialization at industrial scale
Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none">High proficiency IMTA successfully demonstrated in three sites in ChinaRegional guidelines for sustainable and GAP of IMTATraining module of IMTA publishedConduct of three international conferences and training programs on sustainable mariculture

RWG-M. Sustainable Mariculture

Tasks

- Coordinate the **development of regional guidelines for sustainable mariculture**
- **Prepare training module for IMTA**
- **Conduct regional and international training workshops on IMTA** and other sustainable mariculture techniques
- Conduct field visit to identify demonstration sites, assess the replication potential across YSLME
- Disseminate current knowledge on the environmental effects of mariculture and opportunities of environmentally friendly technologies
- **Identify ways to replicate the sustainable mariculture technologies** for blue economy development in other regions for support

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-P. Pollution Reduction

Goal	To improve the ECC with respect to regulating and cultural services by reducing pollutant levels and strengthening legal and regulatory processes
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To facilitate the establishment and operation of an YSLME marine environment pollution monitoring network2. To enhance capacity of national and local government on monitoring, assessment and mitigation of land and sea-based contaminants3. To harmonize regional marine litter (including microplastics) monitoring and assessment methodologies and advise on approaches to reduce marine litter
Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional marine environment monitoring mechanism2. Technical report on marine environment status and trend in YS3. Regional marine litter (including microplastics) baseline survey report4. Training module on contaminants from river-sea interaction and atmospheric disposition, and the carrying capacity of LME5. Regional strategy for using wetland as nutrient sink

Major responsibilities of RWGs

RWG-P. Pollution Reduction

Tasks

- Provide advice on **enhancing exchange and sharing of pollution data and information at a regional level** and on ‘Hot Spot’ control actions. Assist to update facilities/equipment to control or reduce discharge from industrial and municipal sources
- Facilitate **to establish a guideline for regional routine monitoring and assessment, quality standards and network on marine environmental pollution**
- Facilitate the development of diagnostic strategy for identifying sources and sinks of pollutants.
- Coordinate the development of a regional strategy for using wetland as nutrient sink. Prepare technical report on environmental status and trend in the YS
- Prepare a training module on contaminants from river-sea interaction and atmospheric disposition and the carrying capacity of LME

The Secretariat recommends that:

The Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel (MSTP):

- **Endorse the establishment of 6 Regional Working Groups (RWGs)** as proposed in the Annex III of the Project Document;
- **Endorse the attached draft TORs of the 6 RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chairs**, taking into account the comments from participating countries and stakeholders;
- **Determine that the annexed TORs of RWGs and Chairs/Vice Chair supersede the “TOR for the 2nd YSLME Project Regional Working Groups”** as contained in section “3d” of Annex III of the Project Document.

Thank You!