



Building a Blue Economy: Strategy, Opportunities and Partnerships in the Seas of East Asia

9-13 July



SUBTHEME 3

Securing Ecosystem Services through Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management

WORKSHOP 4

Sustaining Community Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services: Benefits and Strategies

CO-CONVENING AGENCY:



UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Chair:

Dr. Sulan Chen
UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme



The East Asian Seas Congress 2012
“Building a Blue Economy: Strategy, Opportunities and Partnerships in the
Seas of East Asia”

Changwon City, RO Korea, 9–13 July 2012

Subtheme 3: Securing Ecosystem Services through
Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Fourth East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, co-organized by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) and the City Government of Changwon, was held at the Changwon Exhibition Convention Center in Changwon City, RO Korea, from 9 to 13 July 2012. Carrying the theme, “Building a Blue Economy: Strategy, Opportunities and Partnerships in the Seas of East Asia,” the EAS Congress 2012 addressed the new opportunities for the ocean economy of East Asia, the range of partnerships that have developed and are required to realize the full potential of a blue economy and the progress and achievements in governance of regional/subregional seas within the framework of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).
- 1.2 The EAS Congress 2012 featured the Fourth Ministerial Forum, the International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development, the annual meeting of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG), an exhibition, the Third EAS Youth Forum and other activities. There were more than 1,200 stakeholders — policymakers, resource and economic managers, business professionals, scientists, members of the academe, local and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), youth and community representatives and other members of civil society from within and outside the East Asian Seas region — who participated in the Congress.

- 1.3 Five major subthemes comprised the international conference. These themes were: (1) Nurturing Coastal and Ocean-based Blue Economies at the Local Level: Opportunities and Challenges; (2) Accelerating Blue Innovations in Support of an Ocean-based Blue Economy; (3) Securing Ecosystem Services through Integrated Coastal Management (ICM); (4) Good Governance, Good Business; and (5) Meeting Institutional and Individual Skills and Capacities for Integrated Coastal and Ocean Governance.

Subtheme 3, Workshop 4 on Sustaining Community Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services: Benefits and Strategies aimed to explore key considerations in strengthening the initiatives of community-based organizations through the framework of ICM programs, including:

- Capacity development needs for sustaining local and community-based initiatives;
 - Replicating and scaling up good practices and lessons in community-based management to other sites;
 - Sustaining and mainstreaming community-based projects into the development and investment plans of local governments;
 - The potential in establishing eco-business models for community-based management, in support of a “blue economy” at the local level; and
 - Strengthening community participation in local governance mechanism for sustainable development of marine and coastal areas and resources.
- 1.4 The workshop highlighted country case studies on local- and community-based approaches and programs that demonstrate effective governance of terrestrial and coastal resources. Presenters showed several strategies and benefits of engaging coastal communities to protect biodiversity in order to sustain socioeconomic benefits. The workshop also explored key considerations in strengthening the initiatives of community-based organizations through the framework of ICM programs. Representatives from the local and national government agencies, private sector, civil society groups, research institutions and the academe from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Timor-Leste participated in the workshop.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Dr. Sulan Chen, Programme Advisor of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), discussed the experiences and lessons learned from the partnership between UNDP GEF SGP and South China Sea (SCS). At the start of her presentation, Dr. Chen emphasized the importance of the SGP-SCS partnership as it is able to bridge the gap between regional policies and local actions. She explained the importance of synergy of the SGP’s country-driven approach and the SCS’s international waters regional-driven approach as it reduces transaction costs by properly identifying and aligning mutually-reinforcing projects and programs. It facilitates a mechanism for the implementation of regional frameworks, which are usually the concern of central governmental agencies at the local level.

- 2.2 Dr. Chen presented a brief overview of the history of the SGP-SCS. The partnership started with a discussion that has led to two NGO forums, signing of a joint communiqué and agreement and an implementation review workshop. Aside from these activities, the SGP-SCS has also participated in other conferences that focus on the international, regional and local levels. She then identified the partnership's targets that include establishing community-based demonstration sites, providing training to multilevel stakeholders and building the capacity for strategic action plan (SAP) implementation. These targets are achieved through the projects, grants and co-financing through the SCS-SGP partnership. She also noted that partnerships in the SGP projects are part of ICM implementation.
- 2.3 Dr. Chen pointed out that despite such efforts, it cannot be denied that there are still gaps between regional policies and local actions. Regional frameworks deal primarily with central government actors/agencies while local actions operate at a micro scale. SGP projects are focused on more specific elements, such as management of biodiversity such as mangroves and coral reefs.
- 2.4 Dr. Chen stressed the importance of foundational training and capacity development for the stakeholders, with an emphasis of National Steering Committees that need to be well-informed and involved in projects and activities under the SGP. She also highlighted the need for regional technical support and scientific guidance through linkages and collaboration with SCS networks. Lastly, she expressed the necessity for interagency trust and confidence.
- 2.5 Mr. Poonsin Sreesangkom, National Coordinator of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, presented the experiences and outcomes of the community-based approaches in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. The presentation addressed various sustainable development issues, including habitat protection, waste management, fisheries and livelihood, and natural and man-made hazards such as oil spills. Mr. Sreesangkom started his presentation by providing an overview of the activities of the GEP-SGP in the region and its contribution to community-based integrated environmental management. He identified the common ecosystem and environmental threats that SGP attempts to address, which include habitat degradation, impact of climate change, land- and marine-based pollution and overexploitation of coastal and marine resources.
- 2.6 He then detailed how a community-based approach to coastal management can address these issues through various means, such as capacity development, monitoring organizations, investments in infrastructure, strengthening public participation and developing innovative and sustainable practices with industries.
- 2.7 Ms. Tuminah Paiman, from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, International Islamic University, identified the gaps in integrating coastal management concerns into town planning. Ms. Paiman gave an overview of the study area of Klang District, Sengalor, Malaysia, as well as the issues and threats that the district faces like degradation of habitats, erosion and sedimentation and land and water-based pollution. She also included the roles of the local government and the involvement of the local community in her analysis as well as the impact of national plans and vision on the local level plan.

- 2.8 Ms. Paiman presented her study that aimed to investigate the relationship between coastal management and town planning in managing the coastal zone in Klang District, Selangor. To identify the content and practice of the present town planning systems in the context of the coastal management systems in the Klang District, she reviewed the various legislations and structures set in place. Based on the Town and Country Planning Act and Port Klang Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan, she identified the strengths and weaknesses of the development plan and control, as well as the elements and functions of coastal management.
- 2.9 Ms. Paiman found that the relationship between town planning and coastal management in Selangor, Malaysia, has been established but needs further improvement. She observed that coastal management is an integral part in town planning and can serve as supplementary input for town planning practice. She also observed that town planning and coastal management documents are essential in coastal development and management. She concluded that though the current relationship between town planning and coastal management is not as strong as anticipated, there are possibilities for improvement as identified in her study's recommendations.
- 2.10 Various suggestions were made by the workshop in integrating coastal management concerns into local planning, with examples from ICM sites including Chonburi (Thailand) where the coastal strategy provides a common platform for achieving a shared vision and mission among various stakeholders and community. The targets and objectives of the coastal strategy are included in the local development plan to ensure the continuity of implementation, with the province and other sources/stakeholders, providing funding for implementation.
- 2.11 Mr. Rasyad Muhara, Program Management Office, Sukabumi ICM program, shared the lessons learned from the Green Turtle Conservation program in Pangumbahan, Sukabumi (Indonesia). Mr. Muhara gave an introduction of the Sukabumi Regency from its location to its biophysical and geophysical characteristics. He explained that while the Sukabumi Regency is committed to pursuing economic development of the maritime city through the development of coastal and maritime industries like tourism and fishers, the government recognized the importance of applying an integrated approach on the use and management of its coastal and marine resources.
- 2.12 He then discussed the details of the Turtle Conservation in Pangumbahan, Sukabumi, which is home to three species of turtles and is among the 30 location index in the world for green turtle population observation. He traced the policy history for turtle conservation in Pangumbahan which started in 1973 through a ministerial regulation and three local legislations. He explained the objectives of the conservation program which are to recover the green turtle population and protect their habitat, and at the same time, raise public awareness through education. Mr. Muhara showed that there is an increase in the number of turtle hatches and releases in 2009 and 2010 and, consequently, ecotourism-education visits. These resulted in positive socioeconomic impacts for the communities of Pangumbahan, as tourism brought in by the turtle conservation efforts has contributed to their local economy.

- 2.13 Mr. Muhara then identified the initiatives and developments that contributed to the success of turtle conservation in Pangumbahan. The establishment of a committee for the development of the Pangumbahan Turtle Conservation Center has institutionalized community participation through increased public awareness and a consultation process. The conservation center has been supported by the national government which saw the establishment of Pangumbahan and its surroundings as a wildlife protection and conservation zone. The master plan of the Pangumbahan Conservation Zone provides management guideline on the core zone and provides direction to the center for its research, environmental education and eco-tourism.
- 2.14 Mr. Muhara discussed that while the conservation effort is considered to be relatively successful, community education needs to be done to improve surveillance and monitoring of violators.
- 2.15 Mr. Poonsin from SGP Thailand queried about the status of construction of road and port for shipping of iron sand as indicated in the presentation of Mr. Muhara. If it was still in progress, he felt that support is needed to provide argument in favor of turtle conservation. Mr. Poonsin cited the case of the Mekong River, where the organizations argued that the noises of construction machines near the Mekong River affect fish breeding and/or the wildlife population.
- 2.16 Dr. Chen clarified how species-focused conservation (turtle) relates with ICM initiatives. Mr. Muhara replied that it is directly linked with habitat management and its impact on livelihood and species conservation. These, he said, are all under their ICM framework. A question was raised by a participant concerning the loss of income. Local people traditionally pick turtle eggs and sell them to the market. Mr. Muhara claimed that these traditional pickers have been provided employment through other means.
- 2.17 An interesting point was raised in dealing with illegal activities done by some community members. Mr. Len Garces of the WorldFish Center argued the need for engagement of the local people at the very start of the program or project. Alternative and/or supplemental livelihood options are necessary to wean them away from resource-based activities. This process requires continuous monitoring and evaluation.
- 2.18 In Timor-Leste, turtle hunting is traditionally practiced, and changing this cannot be done overnight. There is a need for information, education and communications (IEC) campaigns with the affected communities and to transform communities to police their own rank or change their behavior. In the case of Bohol, Philippines, some residents refrain from catching prohibited species in their own coastal area but do this in their neighboring municipalities.
- 2.19 A Cambodian participant noted the need for complementary measures besides IEC, such as alternative livelihood activities. Mr. Muhara mentioned that in Indonesia, turtle conservation is now associated with the decrease of illegal fishing activities. Many coastal residents have changed their mindsets in treating turtle eggs as an aphrodisiac.

- 2.20 Ms. Belyn Rafael of PEMSEA shared her own experience in reducing illegal fishing operations in an island in the Philippines. There were three levels of enforcement. A first-time offender, depending on the gravity of the offense, should be dealt with more “patience” and be informed of the consequence of such actions. For the second offense, imparting the loss of benefits to the offender should be shown, while appealing to their “conscience.” If offenders still commit the same crime, community members should be sanctioned. Although monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is very important, it has to be complemented with livelihood options and a social acceptability of methods should be used in enforcement and punishment.
- 2.21 Mr. Subhat Nurhakim, National Coordinator for Indonesia, Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action, discussed the importance of a regional planning exercise matched with parallel implementation at the community level in strengthening regional cooperation. He first provided a background on the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) and its importance in global and regional natural processes, such as the Coral Triangle, global ocean circulation and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon. He stressed that the ATS have significantly important economic and ecological roles for the surrounding countries as it is extremely rich in living and nonliving marine resources that provide livelihoods for millions of people and contribute to the food security in the region.
- 2.22 His paper on “Strengthening regional cooperation in Arafura and Timor Seas through community livelihood development” discusses the two types of demonstration projects: national and regional. The latter covers three countries: Indonesia, Australia and Timor-Leste. They are still identifying the appropriate NGO to spearhead the project.
- 2.23 Mr. Nurhakim presented the project goal and objective of the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Programme that will improve socioeconomic conditions and opportunities for stakeholders in the ATS region through the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. This is hoped to be achieved through the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programs (NAPs). Mr. Nurhakim identified five program components and the program’s flowchart process that begins with governance, stakeholder and causal chain analysis as well as the biophysical and socioeconomic profiles of three sites. These eventually lead to the implementation of demonstration projects.
- 2.24 Mr. Nurhakim enumerated the five priority environmental concerns that focus on living coastal and marine resources: habitats, biodiversity, marine and land-based pollution and climate change. He explained the key direct and indirect drivers that caused these issues, such as unsustainable practices, lack of awareness, unequal socioeconomic conditions and absence of governance frameworks and limited enforcement. He added that each of these priority environmental concerns negatively impact the community and their food, health, nutrition, livelihood opportunities and social security. He then explained these concerns will be addressed by proposed strategic actions that range from awareness and cleanup campaigns, stakeholder participation and partnerships and establishment of management plans and protected areas.

- 2.25 Mr. Nurkahim provided some criteria in determining the Demonstration Pilot Project which should be a small-scale and issue-based project. It should also be compatible with the objectives of the ATSEA program in using a participatory approach to enhance the capacities of coastal communities in improving their own livelihoods and surrounding ecosystems. The most significant contribution of the project is the improvement of livelihoods of local coastal communities while addressing at least one priority environmental concern.
- 2.26 Mr. Geronimo Silvestre, Chief of Party of the Sulu-Celebes Seas Sustainable Fisheries Management Project based in the Philippines, inquired about the time frame of the project. Dr. Nurhakim replied that it only started in July 2012, although it should have started six months earlier. The delay was due to the late approval of the transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) in January 2012. The program will terminate in 2013.
- 2.27 Dr. Chen noted the planning and implementation processes for international projects and programmes. For international waters (IW) projects, the TDA is undertaken first to identify the regional priorities, after which a strategic action program is developed to address the issues in the regional action programs (RAPs). The national action programs are developed either before or after, although the process could be done simultaneously.
- 2.28 Prof. Gil Jacinto of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (MSI) mentioned that the SAPs become the basis for the NAPs in the Philippines. A query was made on capacity building for fisheries and ICM in the Philippines. It was clarified that several management measures were instituted, such as improved MCS and/or law enforcement; enhancing technical capabilities in stock assessment; sustainable harvesting of capture fisheries (no destructive fishing techniques); and promotion of environment-friendly aquaculture (mangroves for aquasilviculture).
- 2.29 Dr. Chen also noted that the transaction cost, in the case of the SCS project, was relatively top heavy. Three years is very short, and more time is needed to produce more remarkable results. There were relative "failures" on some short-term project components. Regardless, more on-the-ground actions are needed as soon as possible. Dr. Chen clarified that the total budget for countries varies for the SGP projects.

3.0 OPEN FORUM, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 An issue was raised on how communities can be mobilized in times of hazards such as oil spills.
- 3.2 One participant mentioned that in the case of Indonesia, one organization was involved in the development of an environmental sensitivity index (ESI) specifically for oil spills. This organization has been involved in preparing the necessary technical reports. It is not involved, however, in the actual coastal cleanup.

- 3.3. Ms. Ingrid Narcise of PEMSEA shared the case of an oil spill in Chonburi province which developed an oil spill contingency plan in line with Thailand's national oil spill contingency plan. Such a scheme, nonetheless, has limited elements in terms of actual/operational mechanisms. This plan has been integrated with disaster risk reduction and management plan. In terms of shoreline response, they organized a volunteer group to respond in case of an oil spill.
- 3.4 Dr. Maripaz Perez, the WorldFish Center's Regional Director for Asia, discussed the issue of capacity building. A key question raised was on how members of "less-trained" communities are able to address new or emerging issues such as saltwater intrusion in their freshwater systems. This is a relatively new "deviation" from the traditional development concerns of coastal communities.
- 3.5 Dr. Chen responded by explaining the SGP approach to community development. The SGP project ideas normally come from the communities themselves, and the ideas do not emanate from nowhere. She cited one case in Africa where water projects were directly identified by the community members themselves. Water and sanitation projects are more commonly understood by the communities. These are easier topics to introduce, rather than biodiversity or climate change issues. Nevertheless, the SGP projects often address these three pillars: poverty reduction, environmental protection and participatory development.
- 3.6 Dr. Perez noted that mariculture activities must be pursued in more environment-friendly manners.
- 3.7 Mr. Poonsin added that the management of local projects must be lodged largely in the community members' hands. In the case of SGP Thailand, the need is for demonstration projects to show that the intervention is working. Aside from being based on community desire, it requires a lot of hard work and dedication due to the relatively limited economic access education of the recipient communities.
- 3.8 Dr. Chen emphasized that there is no one-size-fits-all project intervention. A key requisite, however, is for the people to first believe in the project to be implemented. In India, some women are involved in handicraft making to generate additional income. Other approaches require community members to contribute in kind. She referred the audience to the webpage of the SGP for details of projects where lessons learned are also documented.
- 3.9 Dr. Chen queried on the presentation of Ms. Paiman on the role of town planning in coastal management. It appeared that some projects were not well-known to the community, such as the current zoning/utilization pattern. Ms. Paiman responded that the community members were not active; they generally preferred the government agencies to do most of the work.
- 3.10 Mr. Poonsin of SGP Thailand provided an example of integration, where a coal power plant integrates biodiversity concerns for birds in a community in Thailand.
- 3.11 Ms. Narcise clarified that the ICM demonstration site of PEMSEA has continued to implement the program through the Selangor Water Authority. Community concerns were integrated in the development of a coastal strategy. She added

- that the coastal strategy process involves harmonization. It depends on the planning cycle, which normally starts in April at Chonburi province.
- 3.12 Ms. Paiman responded that there are different strategies between and among government bodies in Malaysia. The Selangor Water Authority is just one of the agencies involved. A participant from Cambodia mentioned that, in his country, there are too many planning among agencies.
- 3.13 Dr. Michael Pido of the Palawan State University highlighted the need for an operational definition of the term “community.” This is because community is not necessarily a single entity. Levels of community participation (contractual, consultative, collaborative and collegial) vary in a relative hierarchy. A participant added that in the context of the SGP, this has to relate to key questions of integrating community concerns in the government process and contextualizing local initiatives into regional programs to bridge the gap between regional and local strategies.
- 3.14 Ms. Narcise shared that the Chonburi planning process involves not only government agencies but NGOs and academic institutions, among others. Some of the shellfish vendors were even willing to lose one day of income just to be able to participate in the ICM program activities. In Chonburi province, representatives from various stakeholder groups, including the private sector, have been involved in ICM activities and information campaigns such as turtle conservation.
- 3.15 Engr. Lourenco Borges Fontes, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from Timor-Leste, shared his country’s involvement to the PEMSEA initiatives. He mentioned that externally-funded programs have to be known to the local people and the government agencies involved. The government will have to take responsibility for activities being implemented on the ground. Hence, these agencies must be on track with the projects being developed and the ongoing activities. He reiterated that the “first door to knock” is that of the government’s.
- 3.16 Dr. Chen shared that the Small Grants Programme in Timor-Leste was launched in June 2012. She said that the program personnel always work with their local partners. The SGP had varying experiences, though, with the local governments. Some local governments are extremely supportive, whose counterpart contributions were about US\$ 20,000 for an SGP project worth US\$ 50,000. She admitted, though, that some local governments could be “controlling.”
- 3.17 Mr. Fontes from Timor-Leste acknowledged the role of the government is coordination. Hence, donors must go to the right agencies, as in the case of the SGP. The key is to find the right contact person. Dr. Chen clarified that although the SGP program has already started, there is no funding yet and that the National Steering Committee is still being set up. She assured Mr. Fontes that the SGP will never work alone.
- 3.18 Mr. Fontes reiterated his Ministry’s commitment to support the SGP implementation in Timor-Leste.

- 3.19 Dr. Chen thanked all the workshop participants and wrapped up the workshop with the following points:
- Community-based approaches have many meanings and interpretations. There are many mechanisms to engage communities, and there is a need to address immediate and urgent concerns on livelihood and create incentives for communities to effectively manage their resources. The levels of community participation likewise vary.
 - It is acknowledged that there are “stubborn” community members. Some forms of socially-acceptable sanctions should be developed to avoid any negative activities. Similarly, there is a need to strengthen law enforcement through community surveillance and patrolling.
 - Promoting an effective information sharing system at the local level should be done for better understanding among local communities on the benefits of effective community participation on coastal management.
 - There is a dynamic relationship between the governments and community members. Multisectoral participation will remain crucial, and governments must be involved at all stages of development planning and implementation for community-based projects.
 - Creating a strong linkage and consistency between regional, national and local strategies and plans to ensure that these are implemented on the ground. This necessitates a stronger partnership among regional, national, local and community organizations, which can be implemented under the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.
 - Development of projects and programs at the regional level must be matched with on-the-ground implementation of programs that address urgent concerns, such as livelihood.
- 3.20 The SGP workshop formally adjourned around 1830.