



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

25 Years of Partnerships for
Healthy Oceans, People and Economies
Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda

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TRACK 3: BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

SESSION 3.3

Partnerships to Scale-up Community-based Ocean and Coastal Management

CONVENER:



Small Grants Programme



The East Asian Seas Congress 2018

25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda

Iloilo City, Philippines, 27-30 November 2018

Partnership Hub Track 3: Biodiversity and Coastal Management

Session 3.3: Partnerships to Scale-Up Community-based Ocean and Coastal Management

28 November 2018; 13:30-15:30

Session Room 8, Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City Philippines

Convener: GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Moderator: Mr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok, Thailand

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate program funded by the GEF and implemented by UNDP to support local actions to address global environmental challenges. SGP provides financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations to protect the environment while addressing poverty reduction issues through community empowerment. Local successes, if not being scaled up, have limited impacts and cannot reverse the environmental degradation trend in oceans and seas. Recognizing that partnerships are essential to scaling up, SGP has worked with GEF full-sized international waters projects to practice integrated ocean and coastal management through implementing regional action programs at local level and integrating local actions to regional frameworks.

SGP has collaborated with UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, PEMSEA and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project to promote the incorporation of local demonstration activities in collaboration with SGP country programs under the regional projects. SGP has also supported international waters projects to address environmental challenges in the East Asian Seas.

1.2 The panelists discussed:

- How projects generate greater results and impact beyond expectations?
- How to create an enabling environment for scaling up?
- What experiences and lessons learnt can be drawn from project implementation?

1.3 The expected outputs from the session included:

- Experiences and lessons learnt from community based international waters management;
- Factors, mechanisms or processes to scale up community-based actions; and
- Suggestions for partnership development and implementation.

2. SESSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DISCUSSIONS

2.1 The session was opened by **Mr. Jose Padilla** (Regional Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok, Thailand). Mr. Padilla welcomed participants to the session and specially highlighted that, *“Conservation, adaptation and efforts to reduce GHG will not happen at rooms like this, it will happen at the communities”*, which gave a very good start for the panel discussion. He introduced Small Grants Programme (SGP) briefly and highlighted that SGP is implemented in 125 countries globally and five case studies have been selected for this panel discussion. SGP projects have generated significant results at the local level and there are efforts in integrating local actions to regional frameworks. He then invited the first speaker, Ms. Yi Liu, the National Coordinator from SGP China to present her case studies.

2.2 **Ms. Yi Liu** (National Coordinator of GEF Small Grants Programme in China) provided an overview of SGP in China. The country programme started in 2009 and has supported 100 NGOs and community-based projects in China, of which 9 projects are under the International Waters (IW) portfolio. The IW portfolio projects include land-based pollution control, mangrove and seagrass conservation and sustainable fisheries. Ms. Yi shared three cases that SGP China implemented supporting the implementation of different Strategic Action Programmes (SAP) and are summarized below.

2.2.1 **Case 1. Dalian Coastal Marine Litter Survey and Control Project Contributing to SAP for the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)**

- The coast of Dalian is located in the east of Asia and Europe and in the north of Liaodong peninsula. It consists of 10% of China’s coastline and 73% of Liaoning province’s coastline. The main problems in the area include land-based pollution from industry, domestic sewage, wastes from tourists and aquaculture, and marine pollution from ships.
- The project supported the local NGO, Dalian Environmental Protection Volunteers Association, to investigate the pollution situation in the Dalian coastline, to conduct clean up at the beach, sea surface and underwater, and to raise public awareness on marine and coastline protection through outreach and education.
- The project achieved significant results. There are now 40 monitoring stations established along the coastline of the city; an online database for pollution investigation of the city was created; over 8,000 volunteers contributed 22,630 hours to clean up 11,590 kg of wastes; a Guide for Marine Litter investigation and Control was published and distributed to 7,000 people; and public awareness on marine and coastal protection is widely enhanced.

2.2.2 **Case 2. Demonstration of Eco-Restoration and Eco-aquaculture in Mangrove Forest in the North Bay of Guangxi Contributing to SAP for the South China Sea (SCS)**

- The project demonstration site is Datang village, Maoling township which is located east of Fangcheng District of Fangchenggang City, Guangxi, one of the PEMSEA ICM sites in China. It has nine villages with 4,841 households and 22,035 population. The total coastline of Maoling township is 25 km. The main industry in the area is aquaculture, which includes oyster, shrimp and fish farming. This area is facing the problem of deforesting mangroves to build shrimp ponds and water pollution caused by aquaculture.

- The project demonstrated a fishing system using laid pipelines. At the location of the destroyed mangroves, this system is buried under the tidal flats and the mangrove seedlings are planted on top of the system. The pipeline system connects with the sea and when the tide rises, it brings large quantities of small organisms from the sea bed, which acts as natural bait to fish through the pipelines and into the newly planted mangroves. The mangrove ecosystem purifies the water, further increasing the quality of the fish and their habitat and forming a virtuous circle of mangrove conservation and fish culture.
- Through this project, a new type of eco-aquaculture system demonstration was established; the fish production value increased by 40% and the local income increased to US\$ 3,000 per year; 20,000 mangrove seedlings were replanted involving 600 people; 90 villagers were equipped with eco-aquaculture knowledge; and 800 public and students have enhanced knowledge of mangrove conservation and marine protection.

2.2.3 Case 3. Demonstration of Project on Promotion of the Ecological Aquaculture Model to Reduce Land-based Pollution Contributing to SAP for the SCS

- The project implementation area is located at the Dongliao Village in the Dongli Township, Leizhou City, and the jurisdictions of Zhanjiang City, Guangdong Province. The village is surrounded by the South China Sea on three sides with 42 km of coastline. There are 871 households with a total population of 4,039 in this village. The livelihood of local people mainly relies on aquaculture, and the income from aquaculture amounts to more than 70% of total income. The main issues in the area include marine species degradation and marine biodiversity loss, aquaculture disease, increasing insect pest, increasing incidences of red tide and marine eutrophication, water pollution by aquaculture, and organic decomposition from uneaten baits.
- The project has established an ecological aquaculture demonstration site, which is composed of two pools. The main pool is for shrimp culture and the subsidiary pool is for fish culture. Through water pump and pipe, the residue of bait and dead shrimps in the main aquaculture pool will go to the subsidiary aquaculture pool and become the bait for the fish. This way, it will avoid the residue of bait discharging into the sea; the fish in the subsidiary pool can eat the residue of bait. Water recycling can naturally fulfill aeration and control diseases, which can reduce the use of drugs. After harvesting the shrimp and fish, the pool will be cleaned up. The sediment in the pools will be used for planting vegetables as ecological fertilizer. This is a zero discharge and low carbon aquaculture system.
- Through this project, about 12,000 tons of land-based pollutants and about 400 kg chemicals were avoided; awareness of 6,650 people on marine protection and eco-aquaculture was enhanced; and knowledge of 1,500 on eco-aquaculture and a self-governance organization for marine protection was enhanced.

2.2.4 The lessons learned from the three cases were summarized as follows.

- As China has a very long coastline and large marine area, mobilizing volunteers for sea conservation can contribute to the SAP implementation on the ground and raise public awareness on marine protection.

- 80% of sea pollution comes from land. Land based-pollution control is significant for ocean and seas protection. SGP has demonstrated how NGO's engagement can reduce land-based pollution to the sea.
- As many communities live along the coastline and their life rely on ocean and seas, the SGP project demonstrated several eco-aquaculture systems to develop a win-win solution for sea conservation and community livelihood improvement, which harmonizes marine conservation and community development.
- Establishing partnership among academic institute, NGO and community is crucial in technology transfer and demonstration. Academic institute may have done lots of research but not necessarily applied in the community; community needs new technology to reduce marine pollution and enhance livelihood while NGO has played important role to bridge the 2 actors through the implementation of SGP projects.
- It is important for SGP to work with local government to showcase project results and promote buy in. For example, the Dalian Coastal Marine Litter Survey and Control Project involved the local government at the start of the project and kept the local government informed of project's progress and completion. The local government provided fund to the NGO for project replication and upscaling.

2.2.5 Ms. Yi mentioned that in the coming year, SGP China will implement Seascape Approach in the Beibu Gulf area, which will focus on mangrove, coastal wetland and bird conservation, control of land-based pollution, and improvement of local livelihood.

2.3 **Ms. Lee Shin Shin** (National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Program in Malaysia) provided overview of the SGP programme in Malaysia. The SGP started operation in Malaysia in 2000. A total of 178 projects have been supported by SGP Malaysia. SGP Malaysia has served as local community incubators of innovation and scalable initiatives. Ms. Lee mentioned that SGP programme in Malaysia is now ready to broaden its works and replicate the best practices through larger projects and support policy changes in the government.

2.4 Ms. Lee highlighted that the following areas will be the focus of SGP Malaysia in the next phase of GEF.

- **Community-based projects targeted for the protection of threatened ecosystems and species conservation with special focus on community co-management.** The target is to work with government agencies in recognising communities in management of Protected Areas (PA) and enable local community to be employed in the government PA work-force and promote sustainable use of biodiversity with indigenous people.
- **Promote workable SGP model on reduction of chemicals and waste management through policy change.** Workable waste solution from SGP to be incorporated into government policy and promote communities' efforts in reduction of solid waste and chemical use.
- **Youth empowerment.** Support the participation of youth delegates to international climate change convention and provide skills training for rural youth in renewable energy such as micro-hydro, biomass and solar photovoltaic system.

- **Low-carbon energy access benefits.** Promote the adoption of SGP renewable energy model through the Rural Development Agency for rural electrification in all remote areas in Malaysia.
- **Sustainable agriculture and fisheries for food security.** Climate resilience and good practises in farming incorporated into National Agriculture Policy, and promotion and training of good practices in farming.
- **Community entrepreneurship.** Community corporation to market local products nationally and internationally.

2.5 Ms. Lee shared two case studies related to the GEF-SGP Malaysia partnership to scale-up community-based ocean and coastal management.

2.5.1 Case 1: Reducing by-catch turtle excluder device (TED)

- Sea turtles share habitats with certain shrimp and fish species and are put at risk by shrimp trawling. As the nets roll along the seabed, they indiscriminately catch numerous sea turtles. The annual estimate is between 3,000 and 4,000 in Sabah alone. Unfortunately, due to limited ecosystem-based fishery management measures and low involvement of local fishing communities in fishery management in Malaysia, by-catch caused turtle populations to decline at alarming rates.
- To protect this precious species, with the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), the Marine Research Foundation (MRF) developed a long-term national by-catch reduction program, in partnership with the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia (DOFM).
- To improve the conservation status of sea turtles and their habitats in Malaysia, the project applied an ecosystem-based approach through the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). TEDs are oval metal grids affixed to the narrow portion of the net, allowing fish and shrimp to pass through to the end while ejecting turtles through a net webbing 'trapdoor'.
- The first step of the project was to successfully remove knowledge barriers on turtle protection. This was achieved through at-sea trials on the use of TEDs to demonstrate its impact on reducing by-catch, and by hosting community dialogues to share information about TEDs.
- Following consultations and demonstration, they empowered fishing crews by providing dedicated training on TEDs to foster community-based stewardship among fishers.
- The initiative successfully led to the establishment of a TED Implementation Task Force at the national level and the commitment of the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia to make TEDs mandatory through an enacted with legislation in 2017. By November 2017, all 184 vessels licensed along the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia were TED compliant.
- In March 2018, this fishery was inspected by a US task-force as a pre-requisite for certification under the US TED programme, which led to successful certification.

- The project also helped Malaysia achieve key commitments under international agreements including the Convention of Biological Diversity, the IOSEA Turtle MoU, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape programme.

2.5.2 Lessons learned from the implementation of the Turtle Excluder Device are summarized below.

- Upscaling does not happen accidentally. 10 years of continuous effort was part of the success of this project. There is a need for a persistent effort and a champion to sustain the project. There is a need to work with all stakeholders with continuous funding support until the government is ready to take on the project.
- Regulations have been adopted to govern TED use and licensing.
- SGP supports communities to promote innovative technologies and circulate knowledge on marine wildlife protection. Citizen awareness and working with governments to drive national policy are key tools to better protect life under water more effectively in the long run.
- Through the support of upscaling this project, SGP helped this NGO-initiated and state-based TED promotion practice to influence national policy and grow into a nationwide practice. It also contributes to the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Under Water).

2.5.3 **Case 2: Road to gazettement: Tun Mustapha Park (WWF Malaysia)**

- The initiative to gazette Tun Mustapha Marine Park started in 2003 and it took almost 13 years to be finally gazetted on 19 May 2016.
- One of the obstacles in the gazettement was the rejection of local communities due to the concern over loss of fishing ground for the marine part, which is very important to support their livelihood.
- The project started with awareness raising and promoting environmental stewardship.
- The project implemented an ecosystem approach to fisheries management by building capacity and empowering local communities and stakeholders to conduct patrolling and collaborative enforcement.
- The project team also developed conservation enterprises linked to resource management with the local communities such as sea cucumber and seagrass farming.
- There were several community members trained for Scuba under the Citizen Science Program. Some of the members provide services to tourist in scuba diving while some supports continuous reef health monitoring.
- During project implementation, the reliance on vegetable resources from other areas of the community was documented, which is attributed to the community's high dependence on coastal resources. The project team trained a number of communities in nature farming, which later on provided vegetables to their own community and nearby villages.

- Conservation and ecotourism may not promise desirable income generation for some of the communities. More tourists would also entail the faster depletion of natural resources.

2.5.4 Questions raised during the presentation are summarized as follows.

- On why ecotourism is not a good option for conservation and benefits the local communities. It is important to consider proper resource stock taking and conduct carrying capacity for desired ecotourism activities in an area. The management of the area includes the implementation of zoning in the area. Zoning allows the protection and management of the area and provides alternative livelihood. Ecotourism is not so much supported particularly in community with limited freshwater resources. Tourists may deprive the community of these limited resources. For the presented case in Malaysia, carrying capacity study is currently being undertaken to determine the long-term impact of ecotourism.
- On how the transformation of an NGO-led to a government-led project was undertaken. How was the project sustained in terms of funding? What was the involvement of the government? How was it done in Malaysia for 10 years? SGP started with communities so we make things happen at local level. Since 2007, SGP has supported phase I and II of the turtle by-catch reduction project through two small grants, and then Phase III through a Strategic Initiative Grant, one of only three such grants ever awarded in Malaysia. The grantee also raised substantial amount of co-financing through various foundation. Most of the time, only the people working on-the-ground understand the difficulty in upscaling their project, thus it is important to bring important stakeholders to provide continuous support especially on policy that will have much impacts on desired outcomes. It is important to look on what can help you, how big projects can help in scaling up the projects at the community, and how much of the policies have impact on the ground. The present government in Malaysia wants to see changes on the ground so our SGP project is being recognized. We want to take this momentum and working in partnership with organizations with resources and government agencies to upscale the experiences on the ground.

2.6 **Ms. Catharina Dwihastarini** (National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Program in Indonesia) presented the SGP programme in Indonesia which started in 1992. Right now, Indonesia is implementing Phase-6 of the GEF programme (2017-2021). SGP Indonesia works in three seascapes (Semau Island, Nusa Penida Island, and Wakatobi Isle) and one landscape management (Gorontalo). All of which are located in the Eastern part of Indonesia.

2.7 Ms. Dwihastarini presented the case study on Semau Island, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia (a small island of 265 km², 30 minutes by sea from Kupang City in Timor Island).

2.8 The following summarizes the presentation of Ms. Dwihastarini.

- *Actors:* Village governments, Sub-district and District governments, NGOs (Pikul and potential strategic NGO partners such as Geng Motor Imut, CIS Timor), and community-based organization (farmers group, traditional authorities, and cooperative).
- Problems that should be addressed in Semaui Island and other small islands in Indonesia:
 - Indonesia is an archipelago country consisting of 17,504 islands (Indonesian Statistic Bureau – BPS, 2013), with a total of 13,466 small islands – spreading across 34 provinces. The small island landscape in Indonesia is highly vulnerable to degradation of ecosystem functions and services.
 - The small islands in Indonesia are isolated, lack government attention, have limited basic facilities and infrastructure, vulnerable to external threats, including climate related threats, and suffer from increasing human pressure on ecosystem function and biodiversity.
 - The problem to be addressed by this project is the ongoing weakness of community groups to envision multifunctional, resilient landscapes and seascapes and collectively plan a course of action to achieve their vision, and carry it through with appropriate financial, logistical and capacity support.
 - Resources in the area include monsoon forest (dry forest), sandy beaches, mangrove areas, and underground waters, and built environment such as check-dams, and small dams, underground water communal lands, private lands.
 - The governance control over resources is mainly based on customary lands and private lands. Sandy beaches are controlled by village governments, while tidal area in some villages is distributed among seaweed farmers.
- Key achievements and results from project implementation are as follows.
 - The program has conserved and rehabilitated around 67 ha of landscape (monsoon forest) managed by clan system and the villages;
 - Raising of 5,000 native tree seedlings to be distributed to villagers for landscape rehabilitation purposes;
 - Establishment of environmental forums in seven villages as participatory governance bodies of natural resources;
 - Protection of sandy beaches from mining; and
 - Establishment of village regulations in 2 villages.
 - The project-driven dialogues and presentations at the local and national levels on participatory landscape management had contributed to the passing of a national regulation to recognize clan-/family-/village-based forest management. While at the village level there is still no regulation on spatial planning, with the Village Law there is an opportunity to foster village-based regulation.
 - Active involvement of women in meetings to voice their concerns and perceptions on landscape and water management. Involvement of women in landscape management

however still need to be strengthened due to their traditionally limited roles in landscape management and decision-making.

- Engagement of customary leaders is key to participatory landscape management because of their authority over lands.
 - The project contributed to a common vision of actors across 14 villages to improve sustainability of Semaun Island landscape and seascape through landscape conservation, rehabilitation, increased biodiversity to support economy (forest honey), and sustainable and low input agricultures in the future.
 - The NGO Pikul as Local Host promoted knowledge and lessons of the program at local and national events (GEF-SGP, URDI Learning Forum, Knowledge Sector Conference with National Planning Agency); and established a network on small island and coastal management with government and NGO partners.
- Lessons learned from the implementation are as follows.
- *Creating understanding*: It is important to get customary leaders on board in landscape management. Traditional landscape governance is more likely stronger than village government. There should be a common understanding towards long-term goals among customary leaders, clan members, community members and village governments towards sustainable landscape management
 - *Facilitate social inclusion*: Revitalizing traditional values blended with human rights values is an important process to promote inclusive dialogue among stakeholders. Dialogue on equity together with landscape and seascape control need to be put forward as well as discussing details how shared values will be implemented in landscape management.
 - *Collaborating*: Mapping aspirations of a sustainable landscape and livelihoods among stakeholders, including aspirations of the private sector and government is important. Dialogue on common goals that promote the goals of individual stakeholders is the key towards collaboration.
 - *Harmonization* with existing development and environmental programs is important.
 - *Upscaling or replication*: Best practices including cost-effectiveness and process of institutionalization of landscape management need to be well documented. The documentation will need to be transferred into policy and program language so government and any other stakeholders would be able to understand that would promote their willingness to scale-up and replicate the process.
 - *Ensuring sustainability*: Establishment of institutions or groups that have interest to continue the program is most important. The group should also have the capacity to advocate policy, program, and manage implementation at the local level. Collaboration with the private sector and NGOs on sustainable products (food crops, commodities, etc) will ensure sustainability of the project.

2.9 **Atty. Rodolfo Ferdinand Quicho, Jr.** (Country Programme Manager, SGP-Philippines) presented the programme (GEF-SGP OP5) in the Philippines. SGP in the Philippines started in 1992 but with changing priority sites. The current SGP 5 is focuses on landscape and seascape approach and considers the role of local communities and indigenous people in biodiversity conservation. The sites for SGP 5 include Palawan (Calamianes and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River), Samar Island (focused on recovery from Typhoon Haiyan) and Aurora (Sierra Madre).

2.10 Some of the lessons leaned from SGP implementation in the Philippines include:

- Interconnectedness of ecosystems;
- Community benefit is best connected to biodiversity conservation;
- Local networks have enabled stronger civil society organization's (CSO) presence in local government decision-making, including development planning and budgeting;
- Partnerships with stakeholders help a lot; and
- Government has the resources to be used to support biodiversity conservation.

2.11 **Mr. Sangjin LEE** (Environmental Economist of UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project) introduced the overview of SGP in Yellow Sea. The SGP in Yellow Sea has three objectives: 1) supporting non-profit social welfare organizations (NGOs), fisheries associations and societies, research institutes, colleges and universities to conduct on-the-ground activities in support of the implementation of the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP); 2) supporting resource mobilization, organizational development and management capacity of NGOs in PR China; and 3) through the YSLME platform, improve the overall capacity of the society for region-wide ecosystem-based management.

2.12 Considering the relevance of the 11 SAP targets of the YSLME, he stressed the importance of developing on-the ground results through Yellow Sea grant program to promote regional collaboration of CSO in YSLME SAP implementation. He also briefly introduced the YSLME Small grant Program to be launched shortly with several focal areas including marine litter requiring community actions for its reduction. It means that the public's understanding on marine litter and microplastics is needed to reduce citizen's waste discharges effectively.

2.13 Questions raised during the presentation are summarized as follows.

- On consideration of fish life history in establishing MPAs and area-based conservation measures. Is there any consideration in terms of providing support to MPAs in consideration of fish life history which covers a long-term period? The concept of connectivity in MPA is critical by considering the life history of marine organisms and their protection. As such, the YSLME organized training workshop in 2018 with MPA experts from PR China, RO Korea. As for financial support, the Project supports capacity building of the MPA network, but not providing financial support at this stage.
- On tangible and intangible benefits of converting denuded mangrove forest. The local people cut down mangroves to build shrimp aquaculture. It is encouraged to develop a technology to increase fish population so that the income of the community will be increased by conserving mangrove. It is important to understand that mangrove purifies and improves water quality for fish. However, the technology requires big investment and SGP needs to demonstrate the technology and share the idea to the Government for their support. The technology is very costly for the community.

3. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Mr. Jose Padilla concluded that the case studies presented in the sessions is a small subset of the SGP portfolio, which has funded more than 200,000 projects in the last 25 years. The wealth of experience generated from SGP implementation have been the basis of scaling up community projects into provincial and national policies. SGP is one of very important programmes under GEF.
- 3.2 The presentations from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines national Small Grants Programs (SGP) and the collaboration with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project shared experiences from projects that focused on coastal, marine and fisheries management. The diversity of the projects reflects the priorities in their respective countries. The lessons learned from each community project provided valuable experiences at the national level.
- 3.3 The lessons learned from the case studies have provided the basis for upscaling and replication to other sites. Moreover, these have provided the basis for policy making. The next steps should include sharing of lessons from mainstreaming SGP lessons into policies at the local and national levels.

Provisional Program:

Time	Description
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Moderator: Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yi Liu, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme in China• Shin Lee, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Program in Malaysia• Catharina Dwihastarini, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Program in Indonesia• Rodolfo Ferdinand Quicho Jr., Country Programme Manager, GEF Small Grants Programme, Philippines• Dr. Sangjin Lee, Environment Economist of the YSLME Project