



2017
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



Yellow Sea LME phase II

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	4552
GEF ID	4343
Title	Implementation of the Yellow Sea LME Strategic Action Programme for Adaptive Ecosystem-Based Management
Country(ies)	Regional - Asia and Pacific, China, Dem Rep Korea, Regional - Asia and Pacific
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Water and Oceans
Project Implementing Partner	UNOPS
Joint Agencies	
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description
<p>Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem is a water body bordered by China, RO Korea and DPR Korea, covering an area of 400,000 km². Rivers discharge about 1.6 billion tons of sediment and 1,500 billion tones of freshwater into the Yellow Sea. The low flushing rate between Yellow Sea and East China Sea of one every seven years, combined with weak water circulation, makes this sea vulnerable to pollution and its coastal areas highly susceptible to localized pollution discharges. Qingdao, Dalian, Shanghai, Seoul/Incheon (RO Korea) and Pyongyang/Nampo (DRP Korea) are the five cities with over tens of millions of inhabitants bordering the sea. This population relies on the Yellow Sea LME's ecosystem carrying capacity to provide capture fisheries resources in excess of two million tonnes per year, mariculture over 14 million tonnes per year, support for wildlife, provision of bathing beaches and tourism, and its capacity to absorb nutrients and other pollutants. Yet fishing efforts increased threefold between the 1960s and early 1980s, during which time the proportion of demersal species, such as small and large yellow croakers, hairtail, flatfish and cod, declined by more than 40 percent in terms of biomass. Other major transboundary problems include increasing discharge of pollutants; changes to ecosystem structure leading to an increase in jellyfish and harmful algal blooms; 40 percent loss of coastal wetlands from reclamation and conversions projects. Severe environmental degradation has cost the country approximately nine percent of its gross national income in 2009 . This situation has been further exacerbated by incomplete legislation and insufficient enforcement. The environmental foundation needed to sustain economic growth may be irreversibly altered, and the important human health implications of a deteriorating environment such as increased agriculture and food contamination and air and water pollution, have resulted in a series of efforts to improve the environment. In recent years, the Government aims to establish an 'ecological civilization' which indicates readiness for environmental transformation.</p> <p>The objective of the regional project is to achieve adaptive ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem bordered by China, RO Korea and DPR Korea by fostering long-term sustainable institutional, policy and financial arrangements for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea in accordance with the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (YSLME SAP) adopted by China and RO Korea in 2009. To achieve this objective, the project will support the formation of the YSLME Commission oversee the implementation of the YSLME SAP, innovate institutional arrangements, improve management capacity and quality of function. This includes, developing robust governmental coordination mechanisms, strengthening regulatory mechanisms while strengthening the incentive structure to promote environmental protection, developing mechanisms to link land and sea and resource use to carrying capacity, and systems for the participation of a range of stakeholders. The key benefits of the project include recovery of depleted fish stocks and improved mariculture production and quality; improved ecosystem health; maintenance of habitat areas; strengthened stakeholder participation in management and improved policy making; and skills and capacity significantly developed for region-wide ecosystem-based management. This project is in line with Outcome 2 of the Priority Area of Improved and Sustainable Environment of the UNDAF 2016-2020 in China: more people enjoy a cleaner, healthier environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth.</p>

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Other Partners	

B. Overall Ratings

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	High

C. Development Progress

Objective or Outcome	Description				
Outcome 1:	Ensuring Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Management				
	Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Target level at end of project	Level at 30 June 2016	Cumulative progress since project start
	Status of YSLME Commission and subsidiary bodies at regional level	Ad hoc regional co-ordination through the YSLME Regional Project Board and weak cross sector management at the national level	All the Terms of Reference for the YSLME Commission and Subsidiary Bodies) approved by all participating country Governments Functioning YSLME Commission	not completed. However, development of Yellow Sea Logos completed	<p>1.The Project Manager, Environmental Economist, Environment Officer and Administrative/MIS/Finance Assistant were on board before March 24, 2017.</p> <p>2.Terms of reference of the Interim YSLME Commission Council and its Subsidiary Bodies, Rules of Procedures for the ICC, TORs of the six Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and Secretariat Staff were approved by the first meeting of the ICC held on July 13, 2017.</p> <p>3.RO Korea nominated National Project Coordinator (NPC), members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), members to Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and National Working Groups (NWGs), while PR China nominated the NPC, members of IMCC and Chairs of NWGs. PR China will notify the Secretariat of full members to the RWGs and NWGs within two weeks after the project inception. The two countries agreed to seek further internal consultation on the chairmanship of the six RWGs and notify the Secretariat of the result by end of July 2017.</p> <p>4.The project developed a roadmap for a sustainable regional environmental governance framework specifying the key elements of the YSLME Commission, gaps and barriers in terms of institution, policy and good</p>

					governance for a sustainable Commission, and a plan of activities and timeframe for establishment of the Commission. The RWG on Governance will review and report to the next meeting of the MSTP to be held in the first quarter of 2018.
	Status of Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC)	Sector management has been the normal arrangements with limited inter-sector or inter-ministerial interactions; where coordination was done, it was on a case by case such as fishery management activities	Participation of Ministries in the IMCC will include but not limited to the following: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, relevant department or ministry of ocean & fishery. Two meetings of IMCC every year and functioning coordination	not started	1. In RO Korea, IMCC has been established with the following membership: Ministry of Foreign Affairs as GEF National Focal Agency; Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries as GEF National Implementing Agency; Other relevant Ministries including Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Unification etc., and NWG Chairpersons and representatives from private sectors and NGOs which will be decided as the Project goes on. 2. In PR China, IMCC includes the following members: Ministry of Finance (MOF); State Oceanic Administration (SOA); Ministry of Agriculture (MOA); Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and provincial governments of Liaoning, Shandong and Jiangsu. 3. Both PR China and the RO Korea held the first meetings of the IMCC right before the MSTP-1 and ICC-1.
	Number of the YS Partnerships; Number of activities on capacity building and public awareness; Number of participants in capacity building activities	20 members of the Yellow Sea Partnership	Number of partnerships: 40 Number of capacity building activities: 25 Number of public awareness initiatives: 15 Number of participants in	Draft Guideline Document for Strengthening Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership developed.	1. By end of March 31, a total of 66 international organizations and entities from China and RO Korea are identified as existing and new partners, including 4 ministries and 6 provincial government partners, 1 local government, 5 regional partners, 8 universities, 15 academic institutions, and 27 NGOs. The list of partners can

			capacity building activities: about 200		<p>be found at project brochure and inception report.</p> <p>2. On March 1, 2017, UNOPS signed an MOU with National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of State Oceanic Administration (NMEMC/SOA) whereby the Secretariat Dalian Branch acquired a two-room office with a total of 33 square meters as branch office up to November 22, 2019 for Environment Officer.</p> <p>3. On July 14, 2017, YSLME Phase II Project organized a MPA Seminar in Ganghwa Tidal Flat Center with NEAMPAN of UNESCAP and KOEM of ROK to raise awareness of the global, regional and local importance of the tidal flat of Ganghwa. FIO/SOA, CI, KEI, EAAFP and other partners shared experience in designation and management of MPAs in Japan, PR China and RO Korea. The event was participated by Ganghwa County Governor and more than 80 persons from China, Japan and RO Korea.</p> <p>4. A project cooperation agreement with SOA was approved by the ICC-1 authorizing SOA to implement regional and demonstration activities in the amount of US\$1,331,200. The PCA will be signed in the third quarter.</p> <p>5. Guidelines for Strengthening Yellow Sea Partnership have been approved by the ICC-1.</p>
	Status of recognition and compliance to regional and international treaties and agreements	Regional and international treaties and agreements are recognized by	Better compliance of the relevant regional and international treaties and agreement e.g.	not started	<p>1. An intern in the area of environment law is being recruited to establish a clearing house of environment laws related with YSLME and help review the implementation status of the laws. It is expected that the internship will</p>

		China, but not fully compliant.	UNCLOS, The 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, CBD, Ramsar, The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the bilateral agreements between China & ROK on environment protection and fisheries		last for 6 months and be on board in September, 2017.
	Agreement on the financial arrangement for the YSLME Commission	YSLME Commission does not exist at start of project	Financing agreement between and among countries agreed to fully support YSLME for at least 5 years.	not started.	1.The roadmap for a sustainable regional environmental governance framework has also specified the roadmap for achieving financial sustainability of the office. The proposed activities will be reviewed by the RWG-G and report to MSTP for review and guidance in the first quarter of 2018.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		On track			
Outcome 2:	Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with Respect to Provisioning Services				
	Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Target level at end of project	Level at 30 June 2016	Cumulative progress since project start
	Number of fishing boats decommissioned from the fleet in YSLME waters	About 1.2 million fishing boats	Fishing boat numbers substantially reduced by 10%, in line with the 2020 target of 30% reduction	not started.	1.China has set the national targets to reduce 20,000 fishing vessels with a total capacity of 1.5 million kW and reduce fish landings by 15 percent during 13th FYP (2016-2020). Baseline fishing vessel number is yet to be determined. Field mission of CTA/Manager and Environment Officer in early April in 2017 found that with the gradual reduction of fuel subsidy to

					fishing vessels and implementation of buyback schemes, there are interests among fishermen to register for participation in the fishing vessels buyback program. In Weihai alone, over 1,000 boats will be bought back by local government in 2017, yet nearly 4,000 applicants have already registered for participation in the program.
	Status of major commercially important fish stock from restocking and habitat improvement	Effectiveness of restocking and habitat protection not evaluated	Measurable improvement (5%) in standing stock and catch per unit effort; Future management decisions on restocking based on effectiveness	not started.	Not started
	Type of mariculture production technology Level of pollutant discharge from mariculture operations	Declining quality of mariculture products Declining quantity of production per unit area from mariculture Environmental impacts of mariculture not evaluated	Reduction of contaminants caused by mariculture production (5% reduction in the demo sites) Measurable increase (5% increase in the demo sites) in mariculture production per unit area Discharge of nutrient and other discharges from mariculture	not started.	1.A 120-square meter meeting room for use in training on integrated multi-tropic aquaculture has been constructed by Dongchu Fishery Cooperation, a community-based enterprise specializing in aquaculture of kelp, abalone, scallop, sea urchin and sea cucumber with technical assistance from Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute and a demonstration site in the first phase of the project. The training course for Chinese participants will be organized in October this year to replicate the IMTA to three more sites in Liaoning and Shandong. 2.The Secretariat is currently recruiting an Mariculture Specialist to prepare a training module on IMTA for use in the training course scheduled in October this year.

			installations reduce 5%		3.Three demonstration sites in Liaoning and Shandong have been selected for entering into agreements with the project.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			
Outcome 3:	Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Regulating and Cultural Services				
	Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Target level at end of project	Level at 30 June 2016	Cumulative progress since project start
	Level of pollutant discharges particularly Nitrogen in YSLME tributaries	Discharge reductions do not meet the regional target	10% reductions in N discharges every 5 years	not started.	In 2016 China has initiated Blue Bay Action Plan incentivizing local governments to adopt integrated approaches to address coastal and marine challenges through innovative investment modalities to leverage knowledge and know and financing from private sector through public private partnership in sewage treatment, beach management, sea water desalination, etc. In YSLME, Rizhao, Dalian, Qingdao, Weihai, Yantai are selected as demonstration sites in the action plan. Each site will be supported with a total of 44 million US dollars to mitigate land-based pollutants entering the marine environment.
	Types of technologies applied for pollution reduction	Some innovations such as man-made wetlands are being undertaken nationally but without regional coordination or dissemination of results	Successful demonstration of use of artificial wetlands in pollution control in 1 sites and replicated in about 2 coastal municipalities and local government units	not started.	Field visit conducted by PMO identified Rushan Bay and estuarine area as a demonstration site. TOR is being prepared to engage service provider to conduct the baseline assessment of river channels and inventory of benthic biodiversity in bay area, and identification of suitable wetland restoration technologies to improve water quality in the river and bay area.
	Status of legal and regulatory process to control pollution	Weak legal and regulatory framework to	Develop evaluation tools, in the first year, to assist in	not started.	not started.

		control pollution in provinces bordering in the YSLME	harmonizing national and provincial legislation to improve coastal water quality in Shandong, Jiangsu and Liaoning provinces		
	Status of the control of marine litter at selected locations	Due to a lack of appreciation of the problem little action is currently being undertaken	Regional Guidelines on control of marine litter based on those initiated by NOWPAP produced and adopted for use in the Yellow Sea; Established regional data base in the first year, and significant reduction in the quantities of marine litter at selected beach locations	not started.	NOWPAP was engaged in the preparatory meeting for inception in January 23-24, 2017, and the inception workshop on July 11-13 the same year. While Guidelines on marine litter control is in place in UNEP, assessment of its applicability in China needs to be conducted by SOA who currently is developing marine litter and microplastics monitoring protocols based on the guidelines developed by NOAA. The project will explore participation by a SOA expert in NOWPAP CEARAC focal point meeting in Toyama, Japan, in September 2017 to assess the feasibility of using UNEP Guidelines for monitoring of marine litter and microplastics in YSLME.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			
Outcome 4:	Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Supporting Services				
	Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Target level at end of project	Level at 30 June 2016	Cumulative progress since project start
	Areas of critical habitats; Status of mitigation of reclamation impacts	Coastal habitats critical to maintaining ecosystem services continue to be converted or reclaimed unchecked	Areas of critical habitats maintained at current level. Increase 3% total areas as MPAs Impacts of reclamation	not started.	Not started

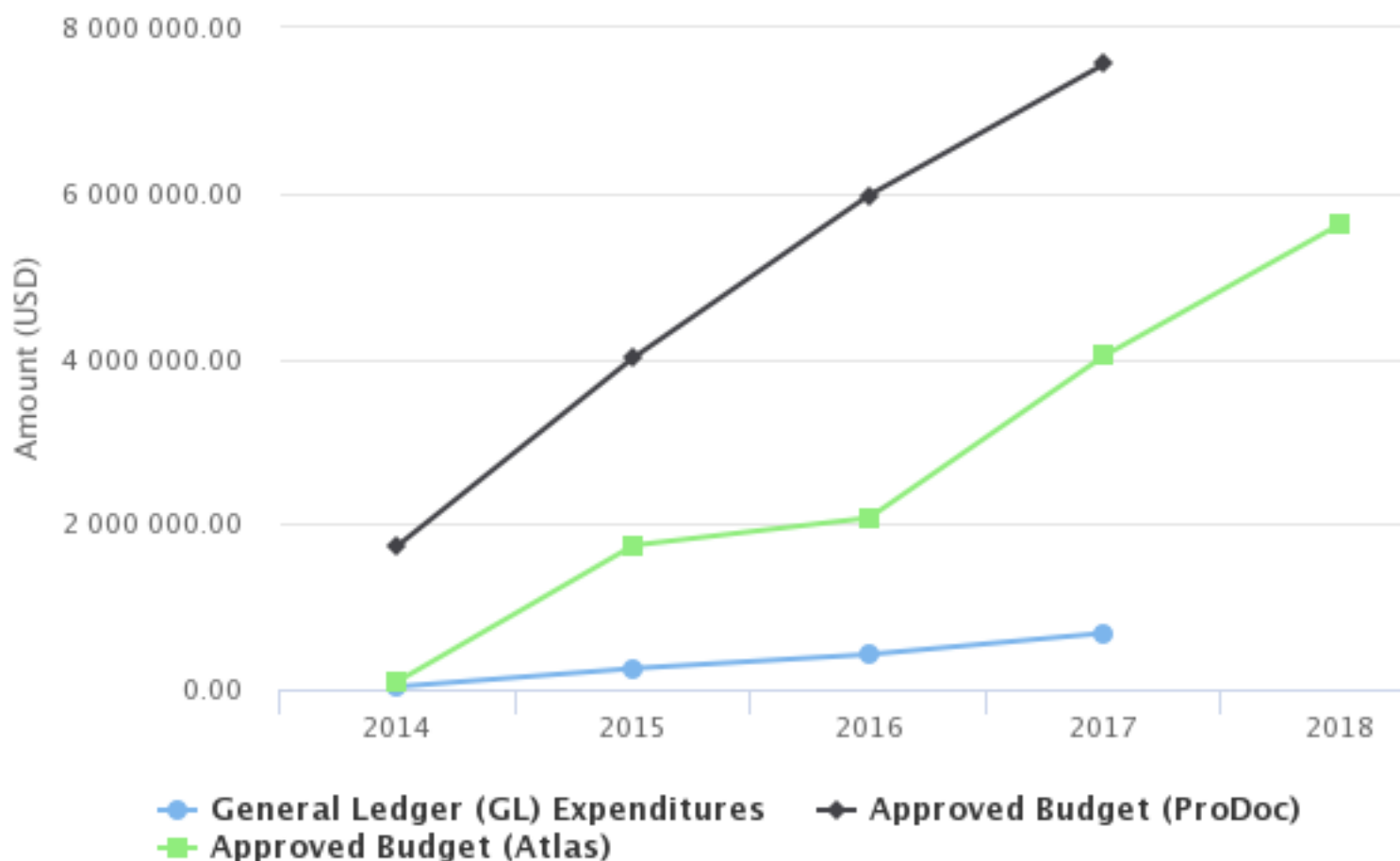
			prepared in 2 demo sites		
	level of ecological connectivity in expansion of the Yellow Sea MPA system.	the planned expansion of the MPA system currently does not take into account ecological connectivity	the planned expansion of the MPA system currently does take into account ecological connectivity (measured by use of developed connectivity tool kit or other means)	not started.	<p>In the project preparatory meeting for project inception held on January 23-24, experts from the two countries agreed focus conservation efforts of biodiversity on mammals, migratory waterbirds, Yellow Sea Cold Water Mass and fish spawning and nursery sites. The countries also agreed to adopt YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan, YSLME Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network and conduct of annual MPA Forum.</p> <p>Xiaoyangkou of Rudong Mudflat was identified as a site to be established into an MPA, a staging site along the eastern line of EAAF, habitat for 40% of the migratory populations of Spoon-billed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris pygmaea</i>), a critically endangered species in accordance with IUCN. With support from the Project, Prof. Zhang Zhaohui of the First Institute of Oceanography of SOA is currently preparing a technical proposal to register the Xiaoyangkou mudflat as a national MPA at the request of local government.</p> <p>A similar initiative to expand MPA coverage of marine and coastal areas is under consideration in Ganghwa Island of RO Korea, one of tidal flats of the Han River estuary in Yellow Sea, the larger of the only two known breeding sites globally for the critically endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (<i>Platalea minor</i>).</p> <p>A 7 million US dollar project is now being implemented in Ganghwa to</p>

					restore the ecosystem connectivity of intertidal mudflats by replacing a causeway linking Donggum-Do and Ganghwa-Do with a bridge in RO Korea. Pre-project assessment of ecological effects have been conducted and post-project assessment is also integrated into the project.
	Status of incorporation of adaptive management of climate change regional strategies and in ICM plans for selected coastal communities	Inadequate considerations are being given to the impacts of climate change	CC adaptation strategies incorporated in regional strategies such as YSCWM and plankton communities ICM plans in (specify number) coastal communities incorporate CC adaptation to improve climate resilience	Draft Regional Guideline for the Involvement of Stakeholder Groups in the Implementation of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme developed.	Not started
	Status of Regional Monitoring Network for application of ECBM	National Monitoring will continue without regional linkages and harmonisation making regional analyses difficult or impossible	Agreed number of cruises & parameters for the regional monitoring network established and data shared regionally via the project web site. Regular LME-wide assessments; enhanced information exchange; periodic	not started.	not started.

			scenarios of ecosystem change		
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			

D. Implementation Progress

Cumulative Disbursements



Highcharts

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	8.99%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	8.99%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	679,969.65

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	(not set or not applicable)
GEF Grant Amount	7562430
Co-financing	225,481,766

Key Project Dates

PIF Approval Date	Apr 12, 2013
CEO Endorsement Date	Feb 25, 2014
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Jul 11, 2014
Date of Inception Workshop	Jul 13, 2017
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	April 1, 2018
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	(not set or not applicable)
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Dec 1, 2018
Original Planned Closing Date	Jul 11, 2018
Revised Planned Closing Date	(not set or not applicable)

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2016 to 1 July 2017)

2017-07-13

E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Political	<p>1.1 External risks stem from the geopolitical situation and may result in one or more countries either not participating or participating only partially Mitigation Measures: 1, the engagement of DPR Korea in project was formally discussed at the board meeting held on July 13, 2017 concluding with continued interest of China and RO Korea to engage DPR Korea to participate in project activities. PMO was directed to identify resources other than GEF grant to support representatives of DPR Korea in participation. 2, Letter of invitation to participate in YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Planning Workshop to be held in PF China was sent to Ambassador of DPR Korea in Beijing. 3, PMO regularly touches base with both China and RO Korea about establishment of YSLME Commission, participation in RWG meetings and provides support in implementation of Project activities. So far both countries have showed continued interest in participating in implementation of YSLME Phase II Project implementation.</p> <p>1.2 Potential partners unwilling to make formal commitments 1.3 Stakeholders unwilling to participate 1.4 Governments unwilling to actively engage the NGO community Mitigation Measures: 1, Project Board has adopted the guidelines for strengthening the Yellow Sea Partnership and directed PMO to organize one Yellow Sea Forum each year. 2, PMO has maintained close collaboration with regional organizations in jointly implementation of the YSLME SAP. It has collaborated with UNESCAP in jointly organization of MPA Seminar in Ganghwa, RO Korea, and participated in PEMSEA Partnership Council meeting to renew the partnership and collaboration in the 6th EAS Congress. NOWPAP participated in Inception workshop and YSLME has introduced its marine litter program through WebEx with CEARAC focal point meeting. 3, Program for SGP is currently being developed to strengthen partnership NGOs in China and RO Korea.</p> <p>1.5 Government Ministries/ departments unwilling to share development and management plans Mitigation Measures: In the RWG meetings, the Project has scheduled presentations by China and RO Korea on developments in legal and regulatory reforms related with ocean and seas; update reclamation in the past and in the future. Through information sharing, governments are more inclined to showcase the developments with potential implications on the achievements of the project targets in conservation of critical coastal wetlands, and monitoring of marine litter, etc.</p> <p>1.6 Provincial and local governments may not agree to the establishment of new MPAs Mitigation Measures: 1, Currently four MPAs in China and one MPA in RO Korea are identified as coastal areas with global significance with conservation gaps. In China, Project supported a study on development of the critical habitats for spoon-billed sandpiper into a special MPA and the proposal will be submitted to local government for consideration. In addition, a workshop is being proposed to be held in Rudong County which harbors the habitat to further raise the awareness of the significance of conservation of the intertidal mudflat of Rudong. 2, In RO Korea, conflicts between conservation of Black-faced spoonbill in the Ganghwa and local livelihoods exist. The Project has organized a regional MPA Seminar in collaboration with UNESCAP, KOEM and Ganghwa government to highlight the significance of wetland of Ganghwa as the world largest breeding site for the species, and appreciation of the conservation efforts of the local government in restoring the coastal wetland. Experiences of co-management, community management and other sustainable use management modalities were shared at the meeting as well.</p> <p>1.7 Lack of trust between participating countries may delay the nomination of Chairs of Regional Working Groups and implementation of regional activities Mitigation Measure:</p>

	<p>As an interim arrangement, CTA served as the Chair of the RWG Habitat meeting. The host country of the RWG meetings will serve as Chair of the RWG meetings, and this is currently proposed by PMO and agreed by RO Korea and China. PMO will continue to follow up with Implementation of the decisions of the Project Board</p>
Regulatory	<p>2.1 Government policy changes, making boat buyback a low priority. Mitigation Measure: Fishing policies in China are changing but to the positive side. In addition to the conventional approach of buying back fishing vessels, China is gradually reducing the fuel subsidies to fishing vessels as an additional measure to support the implementation of the scheme. The project will also address the reemployment of displaced fishermen participating in the buy-back scheme through design and implementation of microfinance, ecotourism and other sea-based income-generating opportunities.</p> <p>2.2 National, Provincial and Local Governments continue to encourage land reclamation. Mitigation Measure: The project will support studies of past, ongoing and future reclamation in coastal areas in Yellow Sea. Results will be presented to assess the overlapping with potential priority sites identified by WWF Japan as well as areas with conservation gaps in coastal areas by Chinese Academy of Sciences. Results of the studies will be presented to SOA for their consideration in developing the ecological redline system in coastal areas which will subject reclamation to very strict control.</p>
Strategic	<p>3.1 Difficulties in negotiating the joint fisheries stock assessment, causes delay or cancellation Mitigation Measure: This risk still exists and PMO will organize a regional workshop to draw experiences from other LMEs in joint fisheries management. Harmonizing assessment methodologies is listed on the agenda of the Regional Working Group on Fish Stocks to be held in October 17-18</p> <p>3.2 Mariculture enterprises unwilling to adopt integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) in place of monoculture Mitigation Measure: In addition to studies in China proving the increased productivity in IMTA operations than in monoculture, studies in RO Korea by National Institute of Fisheries Science indicate 2.7 times faster of sea cucumber growth, 40% increase in survival rate of rockfish, no report of disease in IMTA system and 5.5 times stronger in pollution mitigation. With these studies, IMTA proves to be real sustainable mariculture practices for replication in China, now in RO Korea and in other LMEs through trainings facilitated by IW:Learn. In China IMTA Promotion Plan will be developed with project support, along with support to development of IMTA standards and a training manual.</p> <p>3.3 Possible risk of non-compliance by polluting enterprises Mitigation Measure: The project approach to addressing non-compliance is through strengthening legal and regulatory framework, training in law enforcement for improved compliance with existing environmental laws. Opportunities for enterprises to develop business cases for recycling economies will also be explored and piloted.</p>
Operational	<p>4.1 New techniques for pollution reduction not widely adopted Mitigation Measure: The risk may continue exist. A review of best available technologies and economic analysis of pollution reduction in compliance with national pollution control standards will be conducted by consultants. Identification and development of policy and financial incentives in pollution reduction and use of wetland as nutrient sinks will be supported by project.</p>

F. Adjustments

Comments on delays in key project milestones

<p>Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.</p>
<p>Within the reporting cycle of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the Project inception and implementation of activities were delayed for over three months as planned. Three factors caused such delays: 1) the project started to recruit the CTA/Project Manager on May 31, 2016, who came on board on November 1, 2016. Hiring of Environment Officer, Environmental Economist and Administrative Assistant completed on March 24 when all the three PMO staff were board. 2) An initiation plan was prepared and implemented by the PMO targeting launch of the project on March 27-29. Due to change of YSLME Project focal point in China from Department of International Cooperation to Department of Marine Environmental Protection within the SOA of PR China, on March 10, 2017 PR China requested to postpone the project inception. Two missions by the Project Manager followed, one on March 30 and the other on June 23 to brief the new National Focal Point of the project background, objectives and results to be achieved, and the key roles China will play in the inception. Based on the mission results, the PMO proposed July 11-13 as the final dates of inception after consultation with UNOPS, UNDP and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of RO Korea. Delayed inception also affected the implementation of activities. The Portfolio Manager of UNOPS sent two letters to UNDP, ROK and PR China requesting authorization of PMO to mobilize consultancy to implement two activities and approval of the AWP 2017 by communication. 3) Another cause of delay in implementation of project activities is the lack of consensus between the PR China and RO Korea on the chairmanship of Regional Working Groups. The absence of Chairs and Vice Chairs of RWG affected the review process of meeting documents, workplans of the six RWGs and review of TORs of consultancy. Two rounds of consultation were facilitated by the PMO during the inception workshop which helped to each country to understand the positions of each country and narrow down the differences, yet the two countries would still need to go through internal consultation process to determine whether to accept the chairmanship arrangement of the RWGs proposed by the other party.</p>
<p>Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.</p>
<p>UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.</p>

G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>The project design is continuously relevant to most targets of SDG 14 in particular to pollution reduction, MPA and sustainable fisheries. Reduction of fuel subsidies to offshore fisheries in China, the continued implementation of fishing vessels buyback scheme by PR China and RO Korea, Blue Bay Action Plan and investment facilitation by new PPP policies in PR China and interest of local governments supported by national level redline habitat protection plan have provided add-on enabling policy and investment conditions and environment aligned with the project development objectives. A significant barrier to a sustainable management of YS is the absence of a regional governance mechanism.</p> <p>To address this barrier, the Interim YSLME Commission has been established to oversee joint actions addressing the transboundary issues identified in the SAP. The flexible implementation by PR China of project activities through a PCA between SOA and UNOPS as a response to slow progress of implementation has been approved by the project board. Also, considering approval of AWP 2017 and low project delivery, both countries acknowledged needs to proceed implementation of projects prior to completing issue of chairmanship of RWGs. The launch of the project in RO Korea has also demonstrated the effectiveness and efficiency of the newly established PMO in facilitating the implementation of the project. Both countries are geared towards expedited implementation of the project which heralds successful implementation and achievement of the development objectives of the project. The delivery of project appears to be low in mid-year of 2017 due to late approval of AWP 2017. With adaptive arrangement of PCAs between SOA and UNOPS and a fully staffed PMO, implementation of the project is likely to be on fast track in the second half of the year.</p> <p>For Component 1 on regional and national governance, two countries are congratulated for operationalizing the interim regional environmental governance framework – the Interim YSLME Commission. Institutionalization of this decision-making mechanism of the YSLME Phase II Project or the governance mechanism of Interim YSLME Commission are indicated by: 1) the approval of the TORs of the Interim Commission, rules of procedure, and TORs of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), Regional Working Groups (RWGs), National Working Groups (NWGs), and Secretariat staff; 2) nomination of National Project Coordinators by the two countries, members of IMCC, RWGs and NWGs; 3) conduct of the first meeting of Interim Commission Council and the IMCCs in PR China and RO Korea prior to the Inception Ceremony; 4) a fully-staffed and operational Secretariat for the Interim Commission; and 5) agreed workplan and procurement plan for 2017 and workplans for the six RWGs and corresponding budget.</p> <p>For Component 2 (provisioning services), Component 3 (regulating services and cultural services) and Component 4 (regulating services), two participating countries expressed interests and support on the establishment of the six RWGs by resolving chairmanship of RWGs as soon as possible at the Meeting. Co-financing from governments of the two countries have contributed to the progress of the achievement of project targets. Current project interventions are limited to preparing training modules, assistance in preparing a proposal to designate MPAs in Rudong, more efforts should be made in implementation of activities at full scale with the approval of AWP 2017.</p>	
Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall Assessment	<p>This is the second PIR of the YSLME Project, I rated HU for the first PIR in 2016 as no progress has been made even nearly two years passed after signature of the ProDoc at that time. The project made some progresses after the new PMO on board since last Nov. the project Launching Ceremony was successfully organized on July 13 in ROK after the SMTP meetings and ICC was established and first meeting was organized, the TYWP and AWP was principally approved by ICC. UNDP sincerely hope to put the project on the right track in terms of implementing strategy, involvement of related stakeholders, mainstreaming efforts, public awareness, pilots etc.</p> <p>The PMO staff have been on board since Nov. 2016, with their great efforts and good coordination between the two countries, cooperation with UNDP as PRR and UNOPS as EA, the preparation for the launching of the project was successfully organized in July 2017. All planned agendas have been convened, which laid a great foundation for implementation of the project from then on.</p> <p>The Interim YSLME Commission has been established to oversee joint actions addressing the transboundary issues identified in the SAP. The flexible implementation by PR China of project activities through a PCA between SOA and UNOPS as a response to slow progress of implementation has been approved by the project board. Also, considering approval of AWP 2017 and low project delivery, both countries acknowledged needs to proceed implementation of projects prior to completing issue of chairmanship of RWGs. The launch of the project in RO Korea has also demonstrated the effectiveness and efficiency of the newly established PMO in facilitating the implementation of the project.</p> <p>The delivery of project appears to be low in mid-year of 2017 due to late launching of the project for approval of AWP 2017 by ICC. The starting date of the project was on July 11, 2014, which was already 3 years passed. The accumulative expenditure if 518,858 USD until the end of June 2017, the accumulative delivery rate is only 7% of the total project budget, which is 7,562,430 USD.</p> <p>1.Key achievements against the targets of the project to date as following: Under Component 1: The Interim YSLME Commission was established after the official launching of the project. The ICC approved all the proposals proposed by SMTP supported by PMO as secretariat.</p> <p>Under Component 2 (provisioning services), Component 3 (regulating services and cultural services) and Component 4 (regulating services), two participating countries expressed interests and support on the establishment of the six RWGs by resolving chairmanship of RWGs as soon as possible at the Meeting. Co-financing from governments of the two countries have contributed to the progress of the achievement of project targets. Current project interventions are limited to preparing training modules, assistance in preparing a proposal to designate MPAs in Rudong, more efforts should be made in implementation of activities at full scale with the approval of AWP 2017. Components 3 and 4 have not been started yet.</p> <p>2. Overall suggest for the project implementation towards the end of the project It's very clear that the project was quiet slow and heavily delay, which is far behind the planned schedule. Only one year left, but 93% budget has not been spent and no specific target has been obtained yet. UNDP would propose the following advice for the PMO and UNOPS:</p> <p>2.1 Speed up the implementation of the project. The project will strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the governments in two countries, and other related stakeholders. PMO need to have top urgency for finalize the TYWP/AWP and coordinate to sign it for proceed implementation. We also suggest PMO prepare everything for implementation, such as TORs draft, contracts prepared, coordination with potential candidates including sub-</p>
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	<p>contractors and consultants ready etc. The activities could be implemented immediately after contracts signed.</p> <p>2.2 Capacity building of PMO and related stakeholders for improve project implementation from delivery and quality perspectives.</p> <p>2.3 Pay much attention to summarize the results and achievements of the project, enhance the communications with media, NGOs and local residents to raise public awareness, as well as increase the visibility of the project. Well prepared for MTR of the project in the first quarter of 2018 by speeding up activity implementation, timely M & E, public awareness, knowledge management etc. And preparation for potential application of extension.</p> <p>2.4 Last but not least, strengthen the coordination and facilitate the communications between the two countries for reach consensus for key issues during the implementation.</p> <p>In summary, the overall progress of both ratings unsatisfactory with MU for implementation. We hope that the project could achieve the objectives in the end by all means of efforts and great support from all stakeholders.</p>	
Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
GEF Operational Focal point		<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment		
Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Implementing Partner	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>The respective governments from the two participating countries are the most important since the project seek to establish and strengthen the regional governance regime with respect to the protection and conservation of the Yellow Sea's ecosystem. The role of each of the central governments of the participating countries have been important in the past in promoting regional approaches since these entities have the power and authority to control and regulate the actions of both public and private sector enterprises operating in the coastal zone. Also, the role of coastal communities with central governments from two participating countries is expected to be enhanced by getting benefit directly and indirectly from the various services of the coastal ecosystems. UNOPS has noticed the enabling policy environment in both PR China and RO Korea to address the marine environmental challenges in the YSLME. With these policies in place, it is highly likely that the project will achieve the DOs beyond any doubts.</p> <p>Reference is made to the request by PR China to stop all activities in the YSLME II project in 2015, including the hiring of project personnel and suspension of project activities. At the time of the request, UNOPS had already recruited three project personnel. A meeting between UNOPS, UNDP, ROK and PR China was held in September 2015 continued to discuss the request of PR China to terminate the contracts of the project personnel. Yet a request needed to be received from UNDP or the countries to that effect that UNOPS can legitimately terminate the contracts of the three PMO staff because of the possible legal and reputational risk meant for UNOPS as the hiring agency. UNOPS never received an official instruction from either from UNDP or any of the countries or any kind of feedback of how to deal with three project personnel. Consequently, the contracts were led to naturally expire while the project activities were suspended until termination of contracts without delivery any meaningful outputs by the team except two technical reports prepared by the CTA. After expiry of all contracts of staff, UNDP and UNOPS prepared new CTA TOR to commence recruitment along with other PMO staff. After putting on board the new CTA/Manager on November 1, 2016, a project inception plan was prepared and implemented and a preparatory meeting for inception was held with participation of officials and experts from PR China and RO Korea to build consensus on a three year workplan prepared by the CTA/Manager. On</p>	

	<p>the issue of project implementation by SOA as prescribed in the project document, UNOPS and CTA/Manager had extensive consultation with RO Korea and China, and institutions to be involved in implementation of regional activities, leading to the approval of activities and budget to be implemented by SOA through signing of Project Cooperation Agreement between SOA and UNOPS. UNOPS will closely follow up on the signing of PCA between SOA to allow activities to be implemented as soon as possible. The approval of DOA level 1 to CTA/Project Manager and UNOPS' continued support to project transactions will improve the implementation effectiveness and efficiency in the second half of the year. In retrospect, the lost trust between the countries in implementation of the Project and in the performance of UNOPS has been resumed, the interests of the two countries in institutionalizing the YSLME Commission have been rejuvenated. Under the leadership of the current CTA, it is apparent that the project has returned to the right track after two years' stalemate.</p>	
Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
Other Partners		- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment		
Role	2017 Development Objective Progress Rating	2017 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>DO Rating is Unsatisfactory and IP Rating is Moderately Unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Finally, project implementation has started with concrete work on the ground with the hiring of a new CTA/project manager in Nov. 2016. The other members of PMU staff (environment officer, admin/finance officer, environmental economist) came on board on March 2017. However, the project inception workshop and the first Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting were delayed further due to the change in the project focal point within the Chinese national implementing partner – the State Oceanic Administration. To avoid further delay, the project manager briefed the new Chinese focal point face-to-face upon the suggestion of the RTA. Notwithstanding, the focal point requested a later date for the inception/RSC meetings to allow sufficient time for them to be familiar the project. Eventually, these important meetings to officially launch the project were held in July 2017, more than 3 years after CEO endorsement in February 2014. It was hosted by ROK in Seoul. The holding of the inception/RSC meetings is actually beyond the reference period for this PIR. This PIR is taking exemption of the reference period for lack of progress before June 2017, which is clearly shown by the 13% delivery rate.</p> <p>The implementation of this second-phase project mirrors the dynamics between China and ROK in the years leading to the submission of the project document during the bridging phase from the first to the second phase. There have been prolonged negotiations between the two countries in, for instance, hosting of the project management office (PMO), location of project staff, among other operational matters. Often, country representatives who attended meetings required clearance from their respective capitals before making commitments. These processes, while necessary, have taken time and slowed down project progress.</p> <p>A key component of the project is support for regional governance through the establishment of the YSLME Interim Commission Council and its associated bodies, primarily the six Regional Working Groups as agreed on by the countries in the Strategic Action Program. The delayed consensus on the chairmanship of RWGs meant that implementation of activities that required endorsement for the RWGs had to wait. To speed up activities, two rounds of consultations were facilitated by the PMO in the lead up to and during the inception workshop. The two countries agreed to seek further internal consultations on the chairmanship of the six RWGs and notify the PMO of the result by end of July 2017.</p>	

UNDP through the China CO and the RTA suggested to proceed with the implementation of activities that do not require the endorsement of the RWGs.

Progress under component 1, “Ensuring Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Management”. The terms of reference of the YSLME Interim Commission Council (ICC) and its Subsidiary Bodies, Rules of Procedures for the ICC, TORs of the six Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and Secretariat Staff were drafted by the PMO and subsequently approved by the first meeting of the ICC in July 2017.

RO Korea completed the nomination of National Project Coordinator (NPC), members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), members to Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and National Working Groups (NWGs). The IMCC has been participated by the following Ministries: Foreign Affairs; Oceans and Fisheries; Environment; Unification. In PRC, the IMCC included members from the State Oceanic Administration and the following Ministries: Foreign Affairs; Finance; Environmental Protection; Agriculture. Also included are the coastal provincial and municipal governments in China.

The YSLME Partnership is a key element for the regional implementation of the SAP and there are 66 partner agencies including IGOs, governments, academic institutions, NGOs from PRC and ROK. During the reference period, the PMO has started to mobilize the Partnership. UNOPS signed the MOU with National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of State Oceanic Administration (NMEMC/SOA).

Under component 2, “Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with Respect to Provisioning Services”. There have been progress in this component. For the mariculture work, 3 demonstration sites have been selected. The recruitment of the consultant to prepare training modules started. For the decommissioning fishing boats, there were interests among fishermen in PRC to register in the fishing vessels buyback program. In Weihai alone, over 1,000 boats (national target: reduce 20,000 fishing vessels) will be bought back by local government in 2017, yet nearly 4,000 applicants have already registered for participation in the program. This is a bright aspect in efforts to reduce fishing effort that the project should readily support by mobilizing the RWG on Fisheries.

Under component 3, “Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Regulating and Cultural Services”. Of relevance is China’s Blue Bay Action Plan financial policies to incentivize PPP in environmental protection, particularly reduction of pollutants discharges from land-based sources, 5 sites in YSLME (Rizhao, Dalian, Qingdao, Weihai, Yantai) were selected as demonstration sites. For the progress to control marine litter, the project will assess feasibility to use UNEP guidelines as regional guidelines for monitoring litter and microplastics in YSLME.

Under component 4, Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Supporting Services”, Progress for MPA-related outcomes is that a proposal to register Xiaoyangkou of Rudong Mudflat to be a national MPA is under processing while Ganghwa Island of RO Korea is also under consideration. However, activities under climate change impact assessment have yet to start. The MPA seminar to raise awareness of the global, regional and local importance of the tidal flats of Ganghwa was arranged & participated by Ganghwa County Governor and more than 80 persons from China, Japan and RO Korea.

Budget utilization.

The 2017 Budget is \$1,962,615 with the expenditure in the first 2 quarters at \$257,858 . The delivery in this reporting period is higher at 13% compared to the previous PIR in 2016 at 3%. The mobilization of the PMO staff accounted for most of the expenditures in 2017 with limited expenditures for concrete action.

Adaptive Project Management

The hiring of PMO staff was a positive development but still the progress is still very slow, thus the MU rating. Considering that this is the 3rd year of a 4-year project, the project will definitely be unable to achieve the objectives, hence the U rating. At this stage, an extension has been discussed by UNDP and UNOPS with China and ROK.

The risks identified in this PIR are quite numerous, covering political, regulatory, strategic and operational. The inability of the project to mitigate these risks would have serious consequences on achieving the objectives of the project. UNDP has taken more active role in implementation.

UNDP through the CO and the RTA has actively undertaken steps to accelerate project implementation. At the RSC/inception meetings, UNDP has strongly communicated to the two governments about the delays and the need to set timelines and targets and monitoring progress accordingly. The CO staff has liaised directly with PRC partners, specifically SOA to facilitate agreements on pending issues particularly those that are key bottlenecks to implementation. An open line of communication has been encouraged with the PMO. At the RSC meeting, the suggestion by UNDP for the MTR to be undertaken in early 2018 was adopted so that the project could benefit from the recommendations.

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.

<p>Has a gender analysis been carried out this reporting period? Please note that all projects approved in GEF-6 (1 July 2014 through 30 June 2018) are required to carry out a gender analysis.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>If a gender analysis was carried out what were the findings?</p>
<p>Currently, the project has not undertaken works on gender equality or gender mainstreaming due to recent launch of the 2nd phase of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Project on 11-13 July 2017. However, YSLME Phase II Project is planned to provide job opportunities to women.</p>
<p>Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and improving the empowerment of women.</p>
<p>Results reported can include site-level results working with local communities as well as work to integrate gender considerations into national policies, strategies and planning. Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.</p>
<p>Gender sensitivity of project interventions has not been assessed during the inception phase. Based on the experiences of other IW projects, the fishery and aquaculture sector intervened by YSLME Phase II Project have high potential of providing job opportunities to women. Gender-segregated data will be collected in the implementation of Outcome 2.1, Outcome 2.2 and Outcome 2.3 related with fishery management and replication of IMTA. Based on the assessment, gender considerations will be integrated into planned activities.</p>

I. Communicating Impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.

(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)

YSLME Voluntary commitments to the UN Ocean Conference. On June 10th, 2017, New York, the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously agreed to accelerate action to stop and reverse environmental degradation of oceans at the largest ever gathering of states under the UN umbrella – the UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, convened in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Ocean Conference, the first UN conference of its kind on the issue has raised global consciousness of ocean problems ranging from marine pollution to illegal and over fishing, from ocean acidification to lack of high seas governance. The YSLME initiatives contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 were registered as “Voluntary Commitments” and introduced YSLME SAP with identification of 11 regional targets aimed at restoring and maintaining the ecosystems capacity. Specifically, the YSLME Project has registered to achieve the following three deliverables as commitments to the SDG 14: 1) By December 2019, establish the YSLME Commission as a non-legally binding collaboration arrangement; 2) By December 2019, 25-30% of fishing boats are reduced using the year 2004 as the baseline to relieve the pressure on fish stocks; and By December 2020, 10 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are created in YSLME to contribute to 10% coverage of coastal and marine areas under conservation and management, using 2009 as the baseline. In addition to contribution to targets of SDG14, the project will also contribute the achievement of SDG1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG12 (sustainable consumption and production) and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals).

For more information, please click the link below.

(<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19068>).

What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period? (This text will be used for internal knowledge management in the respective technical team and region.)

As a regional initiative the project has operationalized the interim regional environmental governance framework – Interim YSLME Commission. This is indicated by 1) the approval of the TORs of the Interim Commission, rules of procedure, and TORs of the inter-ministerial coordinating committee (IMCC), Regional Working Groups (RWGs), National Working Groups (NWGs), and Secretariat staff; 2) nomination of National Project Coordinator by the two countries, finalization of membership of IMCC, members of RWGs and NWGs; and 3) conduct of the first meeting of Interim Commission Council and the IMCC in PR China and RO Korea; and 4) a fully-staff and operational Secretariat for the Interim Commission (PMO); and 5) agreed workplan and procurement plan for 2017 and workplans for the six RWGs and corresponding budget. Institutionalization of the governance mechanism of the YSLME Phase II Project is therefore a significant change during this reporting period.

Describe how the project supported South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year.

(This text will be used for internal knowledge management within the respective technical team and region.)

N/A. Through co-financing the project has entered into partnership with Rongcheng Dongchu Fisheries Corporation in establishing an integrated multitrophic aquaculture (IMTA) training center to replicate the experiences of sustainable mariculture to other provinces of Yellow Sea, China and other large marine ecosystems among countries in the Seas of East Asia. Currently a 120 square meter meeting room has been constructed, and a training module on IMTA will be prepared in 2017 by project-hired consultant. In November 2017, YSLME will share the IMTA experiences in a training course to be organized by MOFCOM during the Xiamen World Ocean Week. A training course on IMTA will be organized in 2018 to other LMEs participated by peers from other developing countries.

Project Links and Social Media

Please include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP-ALM) platform, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file upload' button in the top right of the PIR.

-A piece of news report entitled Protecting the Home of Endangered Species was published on UNDP China website on April 30, 2017 to highlight UNDP/GEF initiative in the Yellow Sea to protect the endangered spoon-billed sandpiper by designating the Xiaoyangkou of Rudong as a national Marine Protected Area. The news report can be accessed through the following weblink:
<http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/05/14/protecting-the-home-of-endangered-species.html>

-Project inception news will also be reported on IW:Learn website.

-News report of the MPA Seminar as a collaborative arrangement between UNESCAP and YSLME. The report in Korean is accessible from the following link:

<http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=102&oid=079&aid=0002989548>

J. Partnerships

Give the name of the partner(s), and describe the partnership, recent notable activities and any innovative aspects of the work. Please do not use any acronyms. (limit = 2000 characters).
 This information is used to get a better understanding of the work GEF-funded projects are doing with key partners, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and other partners. Please list the full names of the partners (no acronyms please) and summarize what they are doing to help the project achieve its objectives. The data may be used for reporting to GEF Secretariat, the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP Corporate Communications, posted on the UNDP-GEF website, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The RTA should view and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter "N/A" in cells that are not applicable to your project.

<p>Civil Society Organisations/NGOs</p> <p>Two NGOs participated in the Inception meeting, CI China and BlueRibbon Ocean Conservation Association (BROCA) as self-funded participants. While CI has long been known as a champion in advancing OHI at national level, BROCA is a new partner the YSLME plans to engage in the years to come in the areas of ocean awareness and mobilization of youth and volunteers in marine environment conservation awareness, protecting marine environment and cleaning up marine litter in beaches and outreach activities. BROCA has volunteer programs in 13 colleges and universities in the provinces of Liaoning (1), Shandong (10), Jiangsu (1) and Shanghai (1) neighboring the Yellow Sea with potential of mobilizing nearly 2,000 student volunteers in marine litter survey and clean-up programs, community outreach and other conservation-oriented activities. Representatives from BROCA confirmed to enter into an MOU with YSLME.</p>
<p>Indigenous Peoples</p>
<p>Private Sector</p> <p>YSLME's partnership with private sector in replicating the sustainable mariculture of integrated multi-tropic aquaculture (IMTA) has turned out initial results. Agreed with Dongchu Fishery Cooperation (DFC), a community-based enterprise specializing in aquaculture of kelp, abalone, scallop, sea urchin and sea cucumber with technical assistance from Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute and a demonstration site in the first phase of the project based in Sungo Bay, Rongcheng of Shandong Province, the DFC has built a 120-square meter new meeting room for project use in training on IMTA. The training course for Chinese participants will be organized in October this year to replicate the IMTA to three more sites in Liaoning and Shandong.</p>
<p>GEF Small Grants Programme</p> <p>The project has allocated \$200,000 in support of community-based organizations through call for proposal for small grant program. Consultation will be made with SGP Manager of UNDP China to synergize and strengthen the SGP of UNDP China in support of implementation of YSLME Strategic Action Programme.</p>
<p>Other Partners</p> <p>YSLME's partnership with Incheon Metropolitan City (IMC) and NMEMC have bright potential to bear more fruits. Recently the MPA Seminar in YSLME and East and Northeast Asia is hosted by Ganghwa County of IMC. In addition, YSLME has joined the "International Organizations Experience Program" facilitated by IMC through which YSLME enlisted two interns for two months each to help organize the inception events. In addition to hosting of Secretariat Dalian Branch through an MOU with UNOPS, National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center (NMEMC) of SOA agreed to assist in organizing YSLME activities in Dalian and Dandong to enable participation of DPR Korea representatives.</p> <p>Entering into MOUs with several key organizations is underway. Korea Ocean Management Corporation (KOEM) and the Center for Global Climate and Marine Governance of Korea University have expressed intention to enter into MOU with YSLME Phase II Project. In addition to this, PCAs will be signed with First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) of SOA, NMEMC/SOA and Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute (YSFRI) to enable implementation of project activities directly as approved by the Interim YSLME Commission Council.</p>

K. Grievances

Environmental or Social Grievance

This section must be completed by the UNDP Country Office if a grievance related to the environmental or social impacts of this project was addressed this reporting period. It is very important that the questions are answered fully and in detail. If no environmental or social grievance was addressed this reporting period then please do not answer the following questions. If more than one grievance was addressed, please answer the following questions for the most significant grievance only and explain the other grievance(s) in the comment box below. The RTA should review and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. RTAs are not expected to answer these questions separately.

What environmental or social issue was the grievance related to?
How would you rate the significance of the grievance?
Please describe the on-going or resolved grievance noting who was involved, what action was taken to resolve the grievance, how much time it took, and what you learned from managing the grievance process (maximum 500 words). If more than one grievance was addressed this reporting period, please explain the other grievance (s) here.

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.