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Eighteenth Meeting of the Coordinating  
Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)  
on the East Asian Seas Action Plan

Sanya, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China  
24 - 25 January, 2006

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA)  
ON THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING .....	1
AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING .....	1
AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	2
AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN 2004-2005.....	2
AGENDA ITEM 5: UNEP/GEF PROJECT “REVERSING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION TRENDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND” .....	2
AGENDA ITEM 6: PARTNERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA).....	2
AGENDA ITEM 7: SOUTHEAST ASIA GLOBAL CHANGE SYSTEM FOR ANALYSIS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING REGIONAL CENTER (SEA START RC).....	3
AGENDA ITEM 8: THE WHITE PAPER.....	3
AGENDA ITEM 9: WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007 .....	5
AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS.....	5
AGENDA ITEM 11: DATES AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING .....	6
AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT .....	6
AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING .....	6
<b>ANNEXES</b>	
ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	7
ANNEX II: AGENDA.....	19
ANNEX III: SUMMARY: THE TECHNICAL MEETING TO FINALIZE THE WHITE PAPER.....	21
ANNEX IV: RESOLUTION: THE NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF COBSEA.....	25
ANNEX V: BUDGET 2006 – 2007.....	27



## **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, the Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), officially opened the meeting. He welcomed participants from member countries and relevant organisations to the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) on the East Asian Seas Action Plan on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Töpfer. He also thanked the People's Republic of China for hosting the meeting.

2. The Regional Director thanked all countries and organisations for their contributions to the discussion on the White Paper at the Technical Meeting on 23 January 2006. He thanked Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon for chairing the Technical Meeting. He added that the draft White Paper provides strategic advice for COBSEA. He requested countries to take note of the Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR 2) Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land based Activities (GPA) that will be held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 16-20 October 2006, in view of its relevance to COBSEA.

3. Representatives from COBSEA member countries included Australia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Participants from the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Southeast Asia Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training Regional Center (SEA START RC), Swedish Board of Fisheries (SBF), UNEP GPA Coordination Office (UNEP/GPA) and UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand" attended as observers. The list of participants is attached as **ANNEX I** to this report.

4. Participants were invited to introduce themselves and give opening statements on behalf of their countries. Mr. Yue Ruisheng welcomed all delegates on behalf of the People's Republic of China. He mentioned that COBSEA is at a critical stage and asked countries to determine how it could move forward. He added that the strategic development of COBSEA was the most important issue to be discussed at the meeting. In the past, its implementation has always been in line with UNEP Regional Seas Programme and COBSEA has provided a platform for addressing concerns and problems related to the marine and coastal ecosystems of countries in this region. He further mentioned that with so many people directly dependent on the marine and coastal environment for their livelihoods, it was imperative that the marine environment should be protected and managed in a sustainable way and was confident that the meeting would develop practical guidelines for the implementation of activities under the framework of COBSEA.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Designation of officers**

5. The delegate from Thailand proposed Mr. Yue Ruisheng from the People's Republic of China as the Chairperson of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by the delegates from Malaysia and Cambodia. Mr. Yue was duly elected as Chairperson by acclamation.

6. The delegate from Malaysia proposed Mr. Fernandino Y. Concepcion from the Philippines as Vice-Chairperson of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by the delegates from Vietnam and Indonesia. Mr. Concepcion was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

7. The delegate from Vietnam proposed Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon from Thailand as the Rapporteur of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Malaysia and Indonesia, and Dr. Tabucanon was duly elected as Rapporteur by acclamation.

## **2.2 Organisation of work**

8. As most countries were represented by one participant, the delegate from Malaysia proposed that the session be held in plenary rather than parallel sessions as stated in the revised provisional agenda. The proposal was supported by delegates from Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

9. The meeting was conducted in English.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. The Secretariat introduced a revised provisional agenda based on the input from countries at the Technical Meeting. The delegate from the People's Republic of China informed the meeting that the question of credentials would be raised under Other Matters. The revised agenda was duly adopted and is attached as **ANNEX II** to this report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN 2004-2005**

11. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the "Report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan 2004-2005". The Secretariat presented an overview of the programme implemented during the biennium 2004-2005. The presentation covered activities on coral reef and GPA/LBA, cooperation and collaboration with other organisations, COBSEA staffing, financial report and the future.

12. The delegate from the People's Republic of China sought clarification on the outputs from the Secretariat's participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ocean Related Ministerial Meeting that was referred to in the Report of the Executive Director. The meeting was informed that there were no concrete outputs apart from information exchange between COBSEA and both the organisations.

13. The meeting adopted sections (1) to (5) of the "Report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan 2004-2005". Section (6) of the report included reference to the draft White Paper. The adoption of this section by the meeting was considered premature as the White Paper requires further revisions and has to undergo a comprehensive review in the respective member countries. The meeting suggested that in the future the progress reports were to be submitted by the Secretariat.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: UNEP/GEF PROJECT "REVERSING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION TRENDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND"**

14. The Chairperson invited the Project Director to present the report on the UNEP/GEF Project "*Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*". The Project Director presented a comprehensive account of the highlights and outcomes of the project from 2002 – 2005 and gave a short background of the project's relationship with COBSEA.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: PARTNERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA)**

15. The Chairperson invited the delegate from PEMSEA to make a presentation of its activities. The delegate from PEMSEA informed the meeting of recent development in PEMSEA activities, particularly the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) by countries and other stakeholders. The Strategy is a regional platform for the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation for

sustainable ocean development, building on the practices, experiences and lessons learned in the region through application of integrated management approaches to coastal and marine environmental and natural resource issues. The major components of the SDS-SEA implementation include, over the next 10 years, the promotion of integrated coastal management programmes to cover 20% of the region's coastal areas, development of ecosystem based management approaches to address linkages among the rivers, estuaries and the adjacent coastal seas, collaborative arrangements among various stakeholders for the SDS-SEA implementation, sustainable financing and investment promotion projects for environmental improvement and, to this end, strategic partnership with other global partners. In support of these programmes, national coastal and marine policies and programmes, as well as regional collaborative mechanisms are being developed. In this context, the participating countries decided to transform PEMSEA from a GEF project into a country-driven regional implementing mechanism for the SDS-SEA. Moreover, the concept and the PDF-B application for developing a new GEF/PEMSEA initiative and work programme for the implementation of the SDS-SEA have been endorsed by the participating countries and the GEF. In addition, the World Bank/GEF project on pollution reduction investment funds for the East Asian large marine ecosystems with PEMSEA as a major partner has been approved by the GEF Council. Dr. Yu thanked the participating countries for the support, commitments and endorsement, notably with regard to new GEF/PEMSEA initiative and the World Bank / GEF project. He conveyed the messages of furthering partnership between PEMSEA and COBSEA in a number of areas, such as the organization of workshops/events during the East Asian Seas Congress 2006, the development of a shared data/information pool for the state of the coast report, and the implementation of the World Bank/GEF project in support of the GPA activities.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: SOUTHEAST ASIA GLOBAL CHANGE SYSTEM FOR ANALYSIS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING REGIONAL CENTER (SEA START RC)**

16. The Chairperson invited Dr. Anond Snidvongs, the Director of SEA START RC to make a presentation on its activities related to the regional GPA. The Director of SEA START RC gave a brief account of the activities to be undertaken under the project "Identification of Regional Hot Spots on Land-based Pollution, their Characteristics and Impacts – Towards Better Management" involving quantitative modelling for pollutants using modelling and GIS.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: THE WHITE PAPER**

17. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the White Paper.

18. The Senior Advisor to COBSEA provided a list of comments made at the Technical Meeting to finalize the White Paper, held on 23 January 2005. The summarized report of the Technical Meeting is attached as **ANNEX III** to this report.

19. The Chairperson requested general comments from the Chairperson of the Technical Meeting to finalize the White Paper. Dr. Tabucanon informed the meeting that all their comments had been noted. On behalf of Thailand, she also added that Thailand had no reservation on the White Paper and would go along with it.

20. The Chairperson again emphasized the importance of COBSEA as a Regional Seas Programme and reiterated the need to find ways to sustain COBSEA.

21. The delegates from the People's Republic of China and Malaysia sought clarification about the special meeting that was decided by the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA. The Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP explained that the "Brainstorming Meeting in June 2005" was the "special meeting" that is referred to in the 17<sup>th</sup> COBSEA report. The delegate from the People's Republic of China indicated that the People's Republic of China did not get the impression from the Secretariat that the Brainstorming Meeting was in fact this "special meeting".

22. The delegate from Singapore suggested that COBSEA's new strategic direction should be focused on some components of the White Paper based on available resources and ease of implementation. This will enable COBSEA to demonstrate its relevance to member countries and donor agencies in these priority areas first, before considering other components. While noting that all components are important, the delegate from Singapore proposed that a more streamlined "Plan B" should be pursued initially. The delegate from the People's Republic of China supported Singapore's suggestion.

23. The delegate from Australia recognized that the development of the White Paper provides an opportunity to communicate its vision to institutions and stakeholders interested in the COBSEA region. She suggested providing a more discrete COBSEA focus (thereby potentially reducing resources), clearer articulation of goals, objectives, priorities, timelines and resources. Regional coordination was recognised as one of the important components of the strategy. She noted that the White Paper is likely to raise resourcing issues. She informed the meeting that Australia needs to undertake whole-of-government consideration and ministerial approval of the White Paper.

24. The delegate from Indonesia suggested that formal agreement with partner institutions should be sought for the White Paper to be more acceptable.

25. The delegate from Malaysia, while supporting the White Paper, expressed the need for COBSEA to be relevant and therefore to be focused on its strategies. COBSEA should focus on what is manageable and within its means given its small and limited Secretariat.

26. The delegate from Vietnam informed the meeting that Vietnam recognised the White Paper as a big step forward. Consultation with various stakeholders in Vietnam generally indicated support for the draft White Paper.

27. The delegate from Indonesia suggested that clearly described goals and objectives of the White Paper were needed. She also suggested that the White Paper should include a flow-chart describing the connection between the five inter-linked components.

28. The delegate from the People's Republic of China mentioned that the White Paper presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA included new initiatives compared to the previous version circulated to member countries. She suggested that more attention should be given to the development of a new strategy of COBSEA, which may require further discussion. She also suggested that the White Paper should have a strong relevance to the purpose and targets of COBSEA and should be consistent with the Regional Seas Programme. Activities and cooperation under COBSEA should benefit all member countries. Further development of COBSEA should take into consideration financial availability. She also pointed out that COBSEA activities should depend on the capacity of both member countries and the Secretariat. Policy coordination with PEMSEA and ASEAN may not be feasible, taking into consideration the available financial resources and the capacity of the Secretariat. There is a need for a specific Action Plan of COBSEA and real action and achievement. The strategic development of COBSEA should move forward step by step, firstly to find out one or two very specific areas of cooperation and secondly, after an assessment of the achievements of the activities carried out, the intergovernmental meeting may consider further cooperation which could include policy dialogue and regional coordination components.

29. The delegate from Malaysia observed that suggesting policy direction to countries is a difficult field and that COBSEA might benefit from some collaboration with ASEAN.

30. The Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP reminded the meeting of the need for suggestions from the member countries to make progress and the need for a time frame to be fixed for the purpose.

31. The delegate from UNEP/GPA reminded the delegates of the need to clearly document the



decisions made during this meeting in the report, so that the same issues would not be raised in future.

32. The delegate from Singapore expressed the view that the White Paper should be revised in line with the decisions from this meeting, mainly to refocus it on information management or capacity building which are easier to implement. The revised White Paper should be circulated to member countries within six weeks from the conclusion of the meeting and member countries are requested to respond in six weeks. It was also suggested that any special intergovernmental session on the White Paper should be considered after at least two rounds of national consultations.

33. The meeting adopted the Resolution on the New Strategic Direction attached as **ANNEX IV** to this report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2006-2007**

34. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to present the revised work plan reflecting the outcome of the discussions on the White Paper.

35. The delegate from the People's Republic of China raised the question of salaries for the Secretariat staff that were to be paid from the Trust Fund and on the level of approval needed.

36. The Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP explained what had transpired at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA regarding the support from the UNEP Environment Fund. It was proposed that the use of Trust Fund for the Secretariat be reduced to USD 350,000, so that a total of only USD 700,000 was to be approved for the biennium.

37. The delegate from Singapore requested clarification from the Secretariat regarding the 2006-2007 contribution from UNEP Environment Fund and any future contribution from UNEP beyond this biennium. The delegate from UNEP/GPA explained that only USD 100,000 is approved for this biennium. Future contributions will have to be approved by the UNEP Governing Council. The Chairperson proposed that countries should raise this matter at the next UNEP Governing Council Meeting.

38. The meeting noted that Australia needs to further consider the work plan and budget and will need to seek a whole-of-government consideration and ministerial approval. Australia will communicate its decision on the Work Plan and Budget within six weeks.

39. The Chairperson suggested that member countries should communicate with the Secretariat on their interest to be lead countries for the activities in the work plan.

40. The delegate from Malaysia pointed out that the current arrears of contribution to the Trust Fund amounts to over USD 220,000. He added that it is imperative that the member countries honour their pledges to ensure the sustainability of COBSEA. The statement made by the delegate was fully supported by the delegate from the People's Republic of China.

41. The meeting approved the Work Plan for 2006-2007 as presented by the Secretariat.

42. The meeting approved a total budget of USD 700,000 from the Trust Fund for 2006-2007. The final budget is attached as **ANNEX V** to this report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS**

43. The Meeting discussed the issue of letters of credentials that was brought up during the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA and that the Secretariat was tasked to look into. The meeting was advised that

according to the United Nations Rules of Procedure regarding the convening of inter-governmental meetings, country representatives were required to provide the Secretariat with letters of credential as fully accredited representatives of their countries. The Chairperson requested that member countries report this matter to their capitals.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: DATES AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

44. Countries that are willing to host the Special Inter-governmental Meeting of COBSEA are welcome to inform the Secretariat of their interest.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

45. The meeting adopted the Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

46. The Chairperson noted that even though the White Paper had not been adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA, it had paved the way for future discussions. It was therefore important to consider how COBSEA should now move forward, particularly with regard to financial resources. He further emphasized that a realistic and pragmatic approach was needed in the White Paper. The Chairperson requested the delegates to report back to their governments and provide feedback on the revised White Paper that would be distributed by the Secretariat, for its possible adoption at the Special Inter-governmental Meeting of COBSEA. He then thanked all participants at the meeting for their hard work.

47. On behalf of the Secretariat, the Coordinator thanked the Chairperson and participants for their suggestions and recommendations on the direction of COBSEA. The Coordinator informed the meeting that the Secretariat would ensure that all inputs would be reflected in the revised version of the White Paper.

48. The Chairperson closed the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA at 17.30 hours on Wednesday 25 January 2006.

**ANNEX I:  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**AUSTRALIA**

Ms. Astrida MEDNIS  
Assistant Director  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
Marine International Section  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Tel: (6126) 274 2751  
Fax: (6126) 274 1662  
E-mail: astrida.mednis@deh.gov.au

**THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

Mr. Koch SAVATH  
Deputy Director General  
Ministry of Environment  
48 Samdech Preah Sihanouk  
Tonle Bassac, Chamkamon  
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia  
Tel: (85512) 787088  
Fax: (85523) 215925  
E-mail: kochsavath@yahoo.com

**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Mr. YUE Ruisheng  
Deputy Director General  
Department of International Cooperation  
State Environmental Protection Administration  
(SEPA) No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6655 6492  
Fax: (8610) 6655 6494  
E-mail: yuers@sepa.gov.cn

Mr. TONG Yu  
Director  
Division of Marine Environmental Protection  
Department of Pollution Control  
State Environmental Protection Administration  
(SEPA) No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6655 6273  
Fax: (8610) 6655 6272  
E-mail: marine@sepa.gov.cn

Ms. ZHANG Mengheng  
Deputy Director  
Division of International Organizations  
Department of International Cooperation  
State Environmental Protection Administration  
(SEPA) No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6655 6515  
Fax: (8610) 6655 6513  
E-mail: zhangmh@sepa.gov.cn

Mr. LIU Xitao  
Programme Officer  
Department of International Cooperation  
State Environmental Protection Administration  
(SEPA)  
No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6655 6518  
Fax: (8610) 6655 6513  
E-mail: liuxt@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

Mr. ZHANG Liangfu  
First Secretary  
Asian Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
c/o State Environmental Protection  
Administration (SEPA)  
No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6596 2185  
Fax: (8610) 6596 2964  
E-mail: azhlf@yahoo.com

Mr. XU Shiming  
Senior Engineer  
China Maritime Safety Administration  
C/o State Environmental Protection  
Administration (SEPA)  
No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie  
Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (8610) 6529 2878  
Fax: (8610) 6529 2875  
E-mail: xushiming@msa.gov.cn

## **THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Ms. Wahyu INDRANINGSIH  
Assistant Deputy Minister In charge for Marine  
and Coastal Degradation Control  
Ministry of Environment of Indonesia  
5<sup>th</sup> JL D.I. Panjaitan Kav 24, Kebon Nanas  
Jakarta 13410, Republic of Indonesia  
Tel: (6221) 851 8138, 858 0111, 8590 5638  
Fax: (6221) 858 0111, 8590 4929  
E-mail: pkepl@menlh.go.id  
windraningsih@yahoo.com

**THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Keun-hyung YOOK  
Researcher  
Korea Maritime Institute  
1027-4, Bangbae 3-dong  
Seocho-gu, Seoul 137-851, Republic of Korea  
Tel: (822) 2105 2757  
Fax: (822) 2105 2779  
E-mail: ykh690@kmi.re.kr

**MALAYSIA**

Mr. Hashim bin DAUD  
Director, Water and Marine Division  
Department of Environment  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Level 7, Block C4  
Federal Government Administrative Center  
62662 Putrajaya, Malaysia  
Tel: (7603) 88858238  
Fax: (7603) 88884070  
Email: hd@jas.sains.my, hd@doe.gov.my

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Mr. Fernandino Y. CONCEPCION  
Assistant Director  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources, DENR Compound  
Visayas Avenue  
Quezon City 1100, Republic of Philippines  
Tel: (632) 920 2260  
Fax: (632) 927 1518  
E-mail: dingcon@emb.gov.ph

**THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

Ms. Ranjini RAMAKRISHNAN  
State Counsel  
International Affairs Division  
Attorney-General's Chambers  
1 Coleman Street  
#10-00 The Adelphi  
Republic of Singapore 179803  
Tel: (65) 6332 2914  
Fax: (65) 6332 5203  
E-mail: ranjini\_ramakrishnan@agc.gov.sg

Mr. Navin P. RAJAGOBAL  
Assistant Director  
International Relations Division  
Ministry of the Environment and Water  
Resources, Environment Building  
40 Scotts Road #23-00  
Republic of Singapore 228231  
Tel: (65) 6731 9807  
Fax: (65) 6738 4468  
E-mail: navin\_rajagobal@mewr.gov.sg

**THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

Ms. Monthip Sriratana TABUCANON  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Office of Permanent Secretary  
92 Soi Phahon Yothin 7  
Phahon Yothin Road, Bangkok 10400  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 278 8620, 278 8622, 278 8623,  
278 8624, 278 8626  
Fax: (662) 278 8621

Ms. Cherdchinda CHOTIYAPUTTA  
Marine and Coastal Resources Management  
Specialist  
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources  
92 Phaholyothin 7, SamSen Nai  
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400,  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 298 2167  
Fax: (662) 298 2659  
E-mail: cherdchc@dmcr.go.th

Ms. Asdaporn KRAIPANOND  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
92 Phaholyothin 7, SamSen Nai  
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 298 2014, 298 2659  
Fax: (662) 298 2014, 298 2659  
E-mail: asdaporn@hotmail.com

**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Mr. Hua Chien THANG

Head of Integrated Coastal Zone

Management Division

Vietnam Environment Protection Agency

No. 67 Nguyen Du Street

Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Tel: (844) 822 4419

Fax: (844) 822 3189

E-mail: [hthang@nea.gov.vn](mailto:hthang@nea.gov.vn)

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEMS  
AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
(ROAP)**

Mr. Surendra SHRESTHA  
Regional Director  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block A  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1870  
Fax: (662) 280 3829  
E-mail: surendra.shrestha@rrcap.unep.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
Global Programme of Action Coordination  
Office (UNEP/GPA)**

Mr. Anjan DATTA  
Programme Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
GPA Coordination Office  
Kortenaerkade 1, 2518 AX  
The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Tel: (3170) 311 4468, 311 4460/63  
Fax (3170) 345 6648  
Email: a.datta@unep.nl

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU)**

Ms. Srisuda JARAYABHAND  
Co-ordinator  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1905  
Fax: (662) 281 2428  
E-mail: jarayabhand@un.org



**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU)**

Mr. Vellayutham PACHAIMUTHU  
Programme Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1860  
Fax: (662) 281 2428  
E-mail: pachaimuthu@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU)**

Ms. Birgitta LISS  
Junior Professional Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 2214  
Fax: (662) 281 2428  
E-mail: liss@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU)**

Ms. Charuvan KALYANGKURA  
Administrative Assistant  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block A  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1894  
Fax: (662) 281 2428  
E-mail: kalyangkura@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU)**

Ms. Krittika KLEESUWAN  
Secretary  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1889  
Fax: (662) 281 2428  
E-mail: kleesuwan.unescap@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU) – Senior Advisor**

Mr. Gunther MAU  
Senior Advisor  
23 Lakeview Gardens  
Jerrabomberra, NSW 2619, Australia  
Tel: (612) 6255 8638  
Fax: (612) 6255 8639  
E-mail: mau@un.org, gunthermau@bigpond.com

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
(EAS/RCU) - Consultant**

Mr. CHOU Loke Ming  
Department of Biological Sciences  
The National University of Singapore  
Faculty of Science  
Blk S2, 14 Science Drive 4  
Republic of Singapore 117543  
Tel: (65) 6874 2696  
Fax: (65) 6779 2486  
E-mail: dbsclm@nus.edu.sg

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**GEF Project Co-ordinating Unit**

Mr. John PERNETTA  
Project Director  
UNEP/GEF Project Co-ordinating Unit  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 1676  
Fax: (662) 288 1094  
E-mail: pernetta@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**GEF Project Co-ordinating Unit**

Ms. Sulan CHEN  
Associate Expert  
UNEP/GEF Project Co-ordinating Unit  
United Nations Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block B  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 288 2279  
Fax: (662) 288 1094  
E-mail: chens@un.org

**Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRC)**

Mr. Wijarn SIMACHAYA  
Director, Environment Division  
Mekong River Commission Secretariat  
P.O. Box 6101 Unit 18 Ban Sithane Neua  
Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Tel: (856) 21 263 263  
Fax: (856) 21 263 264  
E-mail: wijarn@mrcmekong.org

**National University of Singapore (NUS)**

Mr. Durairaju Kumaran RAJU  
Research Fellow  
Tropical Marine Science Institute  
14 Kent Ridge Road  
Republic of Singapore 119223  
Tel: (65) 6874 6395  
Fax: (65) 6774 9654  
Email: drraju@nus.edu.sg

**Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG  
Deputy Coordinator  
Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
(NOWPAP) of UNEP  
408-1 Shirang-ri, Gijang-up, Gijang-gun, Busan  
619-906, Republic of Korea  
Tel: (8251) 720 3000  
Fax: (8251) 720 3009  
E-mail: xiaodong.zhong@nowpap.org

**Southeast Asia Global Change System for  
Analysis, Research and Training Regional  
Center (SEA START RC)**

Mr. Anond SNIDVONGS  
Director  
Southeast Asia START Regional Centre  
(SEA START RC)  
SWO Pathumwan 5 Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Henri Dunant Road  
Bangkok 10330, Kingdom of Thailand  
Tel: (662) 218 9464-7  
Fax: (662) 251 9416  
E-mail: anond@start.or.th

**Swedish Board of Fisheries**

Mr. Lars JOHANSSON  
Director. The Unit for International Development  
Cooperation and  
Consultancy within the Swedish Board of  
Fisheries, SWEDMAR, Ekelundsgatan 1  
Box 423, SE-40126 Göteborg  
Kingdom of Sweden  
Tel: (4631) 743 0376, 512 9973  
Fax: (4631) 743 0045  
E-mail: lars.johansson@fiskeriverket.se

**Partnerships in Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asian (PEMSEA)**

Mr. Huming YU  
Senior Programme Officer  
Partnerships in Environmental Management for  
the Seas of East Asian (PEMSEA)  
P.O. Box 2502, Quezon City 1165  
Republic of Philippines  
Tel: (632) 920 2211 to 14, 926 9712 (D)  
Fax: (632) 926 9712  
E-mail: humingyu@pemsea.org

**OBSERVER**

Mr. HUANG Zhengguang  
Senior Engineer  
South China Institute of Environmental Sciences  
7 West Street,  
Yuancun Guangzhou 510655  
Guangdong Province, People's Republic of  
China  
Tel: (8620) 8552 8748  
Fax: (8620) 8552 8748, 8552 4439  
E-mail: georgehuang@scies.com.cn



**ANNEX II:  
AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN 2004-2005**
- 5. UNEP/GEF PROJECT “REVERSING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION TRENDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND”**
- 6. PARTNERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA)**
- 7. SOUTHEAST ASIA GLOBAL CHANGE SYSTEM FOR ANALYSIS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING REGIONAL CENTER (SEA START RC)**
- 8. THE WHITE PAPER**
- 9. WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2006 – 2007**
- 10. OTHER MATTERS**
- 11. DATES AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**
- 12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**
- 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**





**ANNEX III:  
SUMMARY:  
THE TECHNICAL MEETING TO FINALIZE THE WHITE PAPER**

**I INTRODUCTION**

1. The Technical Meeting to Finalize the White Paper was held on 23 January 2006 in Sanya, Hainan Province, the People's Republic of China. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, the Regional Director of United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), opened the meeting. In his welcome address, he summarized the discussions held at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and presented the White Paper as the outcome of the desire to change COBSEA's direction, which was expressed at that meeting. He further emphasized the importance of the Technical Meeting since the future of COBSEA's strategic direction depended on its outcome. Mr. Shrestha pointed out the major changes outlined in the White Paper including the change of the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU) to a COBSEA Secretariat, a policy-oriented approach rather than project-oriented, a decentralized approach rather than a centralized one and an increased collaboration with national institutions.

2. Representatives from COBSEA member countries of Australia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam attended the meeting. The representative of the Union of Myanmar was present as an observer. Participants from the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Southeast Asia Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training Regional Center (SEA START RC), Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Coordination Office (UNEP/GPA) and the UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand attended as observers.

3. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the draft White Paper outlining the proposed new strategic direction for COBSEA, which was presented by the Secretariat. The paper was discussed in detail and the outcomes of the discussion were presented to the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA.

4. The meeting was conducted informally with Ms. Monthip Sriratna Tabucanon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, as the Chairperson.

**II PRESENTATIONS**

5. The Consultant, Dr. Chou Loke Ming presented his report "Proposed Regional Coordination Mechanisms for COBSEA" including the proposed joint coordination mechanism between the three major policy bodies, i.e. COBSEA and relevant working groups of Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), closely connected to other regional partners and supported by the active involvement of national focal points and national institutions.

6. The Senior Advisor, Mr. Gunther Mau introduced the draft White Paper. The main components of the White Paper were presented including the marine environment policy think tank as a tool to identify regional strategic priority issues; information management through national one-stop-shops and expert/manager networks; regional coordination including intergovernmental programmes; operational programmes as well as national institutions; and capacity development regarding the implementation of national and regional marine policies and national commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

### III. COMMENTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

7. The Chairperson invited the various partner organisations that were present at the meeting to give their general comments and to explain their relationship with COBSEA.

8. Dr. John Pernetta, the Project Director of the UNEP/GEF Project on “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand” outlined the relationships between the project and COBSEA. The Project Director noted that the project was developed by EAS/RCU and the UNEP/GEF Division at the request of COBSEA. He noted that planning for the project had commenced in 1996 and had involved: national evaluations of water related environmental issues and problems; development of a trans-boundary diagnostic analysis and a framework strategic action programme. The project document that was developed, required extensive negotiation due to the sensitive nature of co-operation among the countries bordering the South China Sea. Consequently the project was approved by COBSEA and the GEF only in December 2000. The project involved only the seven GEF eligible member countries of COBSEA. The Project Steering Committee was constituted as an intergovernmental body with supreme decision-making power regarding project budgets and activities that would report on project progress to the periodic meetings of COBSEA. The Project Director noted that during the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee the issue of how to sustain project benefits following completion of the project had been raised and that, subsequently the countries had agreed to progressively assume responsibility for financing the costs of national level co-ordination activities, and that a strategy for achieving financial sustainability of the management costs was incorporated into each demonstration site activity. He noted that implementation of subsequent follow-on activities such as the expansion of the regional fisheries *refugia* system could be assumed by a regional entity such as SEAFDEC, but that the Project Co-ordinating Unit would cease to exist once the project is completed. He noted that in his view, part of the success of the project is its well-designed management framework that clearly separates the scientific and technical discussions from those involving policy, with the former being undertaken in the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee that made recommendations to the policy level body, the Project Steering Committee.

9. Dr. Anond Snidvongs, the Director of SEA START RC commented that it would be advisable to look at strategies first and then make a small start focusing on marine policy. It would be beneficial to use existing work and be innovative not to risk wasting resources by going through a path already tried and found not useful.

10. Mr. Xiadong Zhong of NOWPAP commented that NOWPAP and COBSEA are both Regional Seas Programmes and have many similarities. There is much to share between them, and NOWPAP should be included in the regional coordination mechanism.

### IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

11. The Chairperson then requested the participants to provide comments on the White Paper. The summary of the discussion on the subject is as follows:

- The need for closer cooperation between the different regional programmes and projects was expressed by some countries. In relation to this, some noted that more detailed information on the proposed regional coordination mechanism would be a useful inclusion in the White Paper.
- It was mentioned that there is a need for coordination at national level between the focal points of different programmes and projects and that COBSEA could assist in strengthening the national institutions. Though national coordination is still a challenge, the three intergovernmental bodies, COBSEA, ASEAN and APEC, could work together to provide support to the countries in the region. The meeting was informed that an informal discussion has been held with ASEAN but none with APEC yet.

- Concern was expressed regarding the level of funding and the ambitious work programme of COBSEA, considering the varying capacities among the member countries in the region. There was support for 'starting small' with information management as a suitable start. It would therefore be beneficial to develop a more discrete focus and look more closely at priority areas, time frame and strengths where COBSEA would be able to add value to the region.
- It is important to show that COBSEA delivers services distinctly different from those offered by other projects and programmes in order to prove COBSEA's relevance to the member countries. The goals, objectives and priority areas with a concrete Action Plan for implementation need to be clearly defined in order for countries to see the benefits that could be derived at the national level.
- The need for support with the development of national marine environment policies was raised and it was suggested COBSEA could support this process through involvement of expertise from countries which have already developed national marine environment policies and established institutional mechanism to ensure its implementation.
- There were views expressed on the issue of providing equal benefits to the member countries and how this would be dealt with by the Secretariat, in particular regarding the Marine Environment Policy Think Tank. It was suggested that the countries could take a lead in the activities through a process of rotation.

12. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the comments of the participants would be noted. Their views and concerns would be addressed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA.



**ANNEX IV:  
RESOLUTION:  
THE NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF COBSEA**

*Decision taken at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)*

**Noting** the decisions made at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA;

**Noting** recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Partners Workshop on Regional Coordination Mechanisms in the East Asian Seas Region on 9-10 May 2005 to re-orient COBSEA in order to strengthen its relevance at regional and national level on coastal and marine environmental policy issues;

**Noting** the discussions from the Brainstorming Meeting of National Focal Points on the New Strategic Direction of COBSEA on 11 May 2005 on the need to revitalize COBSEA;

**Considering** that the necessity of harmonization and coordination among projects and programs dealing with the marine environment in the region and the consequent priority needs for improved information management, and capacity building measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of program interventions;

**Considering** also that the concrete gains made out of these projects and programs need to be sustained beyond their term for the benefits of member countries in the region;

**Desiring** the phased revitalization, restructuring and reorientation of COBSEA to ensure its continued relevance to support and assist member countries;

**Requests** the East Asian Seas / Regional Coordination Unit (EAS/RCU) to:

- I. Revise the White Paper to reflect the discussions of the 18<sup>th</sup> COBSEA with an immediate focus on capacity building, information management and other priorities as indicated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA such as habitat protection, pollution management and public education;
- II. Circulate the revised White Paper to member countries within six weeks from the closure of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA;
- III. Request the member countries to communicate their comments on the revised draft to the secretariat within six weeks;
- IV. To incorporate comments received and circulate a 2<sup>nd</sup> revised draft to member countries for review and to communicate their comments to the Secretariat within six weeks to ensure their incorporation in the revised draft for presentation to the Special Inter-Governmental Meeting of COBSEA;
- V. Subject to view of countries at the time, convene a Special Inter-Governmental Meeting of COBSEA within eight months from closure of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COBSEA to consider recommending adoption of the final revised White Paper at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COBSEA.



**ANNEX V:  
BUDGET 2006 – 2007**

		Trust Fund	Envi. Fund	XE/6030-96-12 Hotspots	XE/6030-00-06 CR monitoring	UNF (ICRAN)	Sida Support	Total
<b>1000</b>	<b>PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT</b>							
<b>1100</b>	<b>Project personnel</b>							
	Programme Officer (P5)	270,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>270,000</b>
	Programme Officer (P-3)	220,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>220,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>490,000</b>
<b>1200</b>	<b>Consultant</b>							
	Senior consultant	-	-	-	-	-	13,000	<b>13,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b>1300</b>	<b>Administrative support</b>							
	Administrative Assistant	86,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>86,000</b>
	Senior secretary	86,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>86,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>172,000</b>
<b>1600</b>	<b>Travel on official business</b>							
	Staff travel	-	20,000	5,000	3,000	-	25,000	<b>53,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>53,000</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>662,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>728,000</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>SUB CONTRACT COMPONENT</b>							
<b>2100</b>	<b>Sub-contracts (non-profit organs)</b>							
	Assist countries in developing national marine policies	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	<b>40,000</b>
	Assist countries to set up national databases	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	<b>50,000</b>
	Review status of MEAs	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	<b>20,000</b>
	Support national capacities in MEA implementation	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	<b>40,000</b>

		Trust Fund	Envi. Fund	XE/6030-96-12 Hotspots	XE/6030-00-06 CR monitoring	UNF (ICRAN)	Sida Support	Total
	State of Environment Report	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
	Green Fins	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
	<b>Total</b>	-	30,000	-	20,000	-	150,000	200,000
<b>2999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	-	30,000	-	20,000	-	150,000	200,000
<b>3000</b>	<b>TRAINING COMPONENT</b>							-
<b>3200</b>	<b>Group Training</b>							-
	Support participation in IGR2	-	-	23,850	-	-	-	23,850
	Regional consultation in preparation for IGR2	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	<b>Total</b>	-	-	43,850	-	-	-	43,850
<b>3300</b>	<b>Meetings/conference</b>							-
	Regional Experts Meeting (Database)	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	Session at EAS Congress	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
	Special COBSEA Session	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	COBSEA Meetings	13,000	10,000	-	-	-	15,000	38,000
	Workshop National Marine Environmental Policy Development	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
	Regional Forum MEAs	-	-	-	-	-	22,000	22,000
	Green Fins Workshop	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
	Coral Reef Review Workshop	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
	<b>Total</b>	13,000	30,000	-	25,000	30,000	107,000	205,000
<b>3999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	13,000	30,000	43,850	25,000	30,000	107,000	248,850
<b>4000</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>							
<b>4100</b>	<b>Expendable Equipment</b>							
	Office supplies	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
	<b>Total</b>	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000



		Trust Fund	Envi. Fund	XE/6030-96-12 Hotspots	XE/6030-00-06 CR monitoring	UNF (ICRAN)	Sida Support	Total
<b>4200</b>	<b>Non-expendable equipment</b>							
	Office equipment	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	<b>4,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>4300</b>	<b>Premises (office rent, maintenance etc)</b>							-
	Office space rental	24,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>24,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,000</b>
<b>4999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,000</b>
<b>5000</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT</b>							
	Operation and maintenance of equipment	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	<b>2,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>5200</b>	<b>Reporting costs (publications, maps, etc.)</b>							
	Printing reports	-	4,000	-	3,000	3,000	7,500	<b>17,500</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>17,500</b>
<b>5300</b>	<b>Sundry (communication, postage, etc.)</b>							
	Communication	1,000	4,000	1,500	1,500	-	2,000	<b>10,000</b>
	Postage and pouch	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	<b>1,000</b>
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	280	373	1,798	<b>2,451</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>3,798</b>	<b>13,451</b>
<b>5400</b>	<b>Hospitality and entertainment</b>							
	Hospitality	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	<b>1,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>5999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>3,373</b>	<b>11,298</b>	<b>33,951</b>
<b>9999</b>	<b>BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>50,350</b>	<b>52,780</b>	<b>33,373</b>	<b>306,298</b>	<b>1,242,801</b>