

## **Final Annual Project Review Meeting**

**Sustainable Planning in the Coastal Zone – Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development  
Implemented through COBSEA with financial support from Sida**

**Bangkok, Thailand  
25 October 2013**

### **Participants:**

1. Mr. Göran Haag, Programme Manager, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand
2. Mr. Peter Funegård, Senior Analyst, International Coordination Unit, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden
3. Mr. Jerker Tamelander, Head, UNEP Coral Reef Unit
4. Mr. Reynaldo Molina, Consultant, COBSEA Secretariat

### **Objective:**

The Final Annual Project Review Meeting was held to review project activities implemented in 2013 and to discuss the preparation for project closure in October 2013 as per the project document.

The Final Annual Project Review Meeting was held back-to-back with a project's Regional Concluding Workshop held from 24-25 October 2013 to save time and resources.

### **Introduction:**

The meeting started with Mr. Jerker Tamelander welcoming the Sida delegation, and expressing his appreciation to Sida for the support provided to the project.

Mr. Haag expressed his appreciation to UNEP and COBSEA for the successful organization of the concluding workshop and the implementation of the project as seen in the country presentations and was pleased with the achievements and outcomes of the project. As the project is completing end of October, he stressed the need to prepare for the project closure.

### **Meeting Highlights:**

Mr. Haag discussed the procedure for the closure of the project which requires the preparation and submission of the final project report and financial report, which should be submitted to Sida/Embassy of Sweden by 30 April 2014. He stressed that the report should cover the whole implementation period, be analytical and forward looking as this will be basis for planning follow up projects and activities.

He mentioned that there is no particular format for the final project report and may use as format the regular annual report prepared and submitted by COBSEA to Sida. He noted the need to share the final project report to countries for their information.

For the financial reporting, Mr. Haag made reference to the requirements as provided in the donor agreement between Sida and UNEP. The submission will also include the

usual certified financial statement from Nairobi submitted to Sida. He also inquired on the audit report whether it is required under the UN system. Per consultation with UNEP ROAP, Mr. Molina noted that auditing are regularly done but covering the whole UN-wide system and that project audit are done only if requested by the donor. Mr. Molina inquired if COBSEA can use any unspent balance to fund similar activities after project completion. Mr. Haag stressed that as soon as all final payments have been made, we have to close the project account and return any unspent money to Sida.

Mr. Haag noted the initial findings of the evaluation and recognized the initial delays in project implementation and inconsistencies in the planning and formulation of the project. He however noted the significant improvement in the mid-year of project implementation. He noted that the project evaluation findings should support the final project report, and that the draft evaluation report should be shared to Sida and countries.

Mr. Haag noted the next phase or step of the project and stressed the need to create an enabling mechanism to keep the momentum of work going. He suggested that COBSEA should have some funds to support activities like organizing meetings and events on coastal and marine spatial planning. Mr. Tamelander noted that COBSEA will try to create and establish a stronger connection to UNEP's global community of practices. Mr. Molina noted the various regional strategies and programmes developed by COBSEA with funding support from Sida which were not implemented due to lack of resources and stressed the possibility for Sida to support its implementation. Mr. Haag noted the achievements and results of the project and would like to see UNEP developing good well planned projects for consideration by other donors and development partners.

Mr. Haag inquired about the country ownership of COBSEA whether countries recognized COBSEA as a regional mechanism for cooperation. Mr. Tamelander noted that country ownership is apparent during COBSEA IGM where member states stressed and recognized the importance of COBSEA in the region.

Mr. Funegard inquired about the status of the proposed GEF/UNEP South China Sea Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Implementation Project. Mr. Tamelander informed that the proposed project would involve updating and implementation of the SAP and national plans which were developed four years ago. He noted that UNEP will be the Implementing Agency while COBSEA will be the Executive Agency of the project. He noted that Thailand and Malaysia preferred not to participate in the project as they have been doing already the activities as part of their national plans. He informed that China has not yet endorsed the project but there was indication that China will endorse it soon. Mr. Funegard requested COBSEA to provide them updates on this project.

The Sida delegation noticed the good results and ownership demonstrated during the second half of the project and Mr. Haag suggested to COBSEA to organize internal network group among countries and experts and utilized existing resources to keep the momentum going since this project has a value to COBSEA. He noted the national experts and knowledge products produced under the project which may be put to use by other organizations. He also suggested for various regional organizations with similar programs like the MFF to collaborate and work together to seek synergies in order to leverage the output from the respective programs.

The Final Annual Review Meeting between COBSEA and Sida concluded with Mr. Haag expressing his appreciation to UNEP and COBSEA for the smooth and successful implementation of the project, and the constructive handling of the initial implementation challenges. Mr. Tamelander thanked Sida for their generous and continuous support to UNEP and COBSEA, and wished continued collaboration beyond the current project.

For UNEP COBSEA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Jerker Tamelander  
Head, Coral Reef Unit  
UNEP ROAP  
Bangkok, Thailand

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

03/02/2014

For Sida

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Göran Haag  
Programme Manager  
Development Cooperation Section  
Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

06/02/2014