



**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

REPORT

CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH ATTENDING PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF

**SARAWAK, MALAYSIA
5-6 NOVEMBER 2019**

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

1. Dr. Ngurah Wiadnyana
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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the SEAFDEC / UNEP / GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand was held on November 5 - 6, 2019 in Miri City, Sarawak, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by 5 (five) representatives of Participating Countries countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Secretary General of SEAFDEC (Mrs. Malinee Smithrithee), Project Director Fisheries Refugia (Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon), and UNEP Program Task Manager (Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck) via Skype. The Viet Nam representative at this meeting was unable to attend.

The Indonesian delegation was led by the Head of the Research Institute for Fish Research Enhancement-RIFRE (Mr. Joni Haryadi) as the National Focal Point, Senior Researcher of Research Center for Fisheries Research (Prof. Ngurah N.Wiadnyana) as the National Technical and Scientific Focal Point, and representatives of the Bureau of Public Relation and International Cooperation and RIFRE as observer.

The meeting discussed several main agendas, the recent status of implementation of fisheries refugia project from all participant countries, overview of the results of the meeting under the Fisheries Refugia cooperation project, realization and status of the project budget until September 2019, project financing plans for 2020, planned extension of the activity period projects for 1 - 2 years, as well as proposed new project indications of funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) or Green Climate Fund (GCF) scheme

2. MATTERS OF MAIN ATTENTION TO INDONESIA AT THE 2ND PSC FISHERIES REFUGIA MEETING

The meeting was chaired by Dato 'Dr. Bah Piyan Tan, Deputy Director of the General of Fisheries Department of Malaysia as Chairperson, and accompanied by representatives of the Philippines as Vice Chairperson. The Secretary General of SEAFDEC conveyed in his remarks that the enhancement of the Coastal Ecosystem region was very important for the Southeast Asian region because it had been damaged due to the use of Destructive Fishing Gear, and IUU Fishing. The meeting is expected to discuss strategic steps in the implementation of the fisheries refugia project in an effort to rehabilitate the ecosystem and maintain the sustainability of fisheries resources.

Indonesian Delegation Dr. Ngurah Wiadnyana as the outgoing Chair (2018-2019) said that this meeting was expected to be able to identify the potential challenges faced by all participating countries, as well as formulate counter measures so that the project

could proceed in accordance with the specified timeline and had a large impact on implementation fisheries refugia throughout the country.

Furthermore, all representatives of 5 (five) countries submit updates on the implementation of the fisheries refugia project. For information, Cambodia proposes 3 sites Juvenile Grouper species, Indo-Pacific Mackerel, and Blue Swimming Crab, Philippines 3 sites which are Mud Crab, Frigate Tuna, and Fusillier Fish species, Indonesia 2 Sites (West Kalimantan and Bangka Belitung) with Shrimp species, Malaysia 2 sites with Tiger Prawn and Lobster species, Thailand 2 sites with Blue Swimming Crab and Indo-Pacific Mackerel species.

The meeting was followed by an overview by the Project Director regarding the results of the coordination meeting under the Fisheries Refugia project, the 2nd Regional Scientific And Technical Committee on 21-23 May 2019 in Cambodia, Regional Meeting on Indicators for the Refugia Management on Project Follow Up and Technical projects Consultative Meeting on Drafting of Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species Short Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub Region on September 9-13, 2019 in Pattaya, Thailand.

The meeting noted that there were several points raised by several countries including the need for standardization of indicators on the management of fisheries refugia, including regarding standardization of SOPs for data collection and information on the management of Fisheries Refugia in the long term. The next steps that will be carried out are the preparation of the Draft Guidebook which consists of indicators and standardized procedures and contents that can be used as a reference for all participating countries involved in the project.

The meeting was continued with PCU (Project Coordinating Unit) related to the realization and status of the project budget until September 2019, mechanism and periodic reporting by all members, the status of Co-Financing implementation until June 2019, and the Proposed Budget discussion for 2020. Based on exposure from Project Director, the total use of the budget until September 2019 is USD 997,620.67.

Regarding the proposal for the 2020 budget, it is said that each country must propose quarterly withdrawals of funds, and adjust each activity carried out with its financing component. Next Dr. Somboon conveyed the indication of the project extension plan for the next 1-2 years with a clause without additional costs. Representatives from all countries are of the view that this should be done considering that there are several challenges faced by each country at the national level, such as holding elections, changing of leadership, as well as the involvement of Indonesia and Viet Nam who signed the LoA in the second quarter of 2019.

The UNEP representative said that the proposed extension of the project for the next 1-2 years must be balanced with the revised regional budget component in the PCU secretariat. The meeting in principle agreed on an extension of the project period of 1-2 years and asked the PCU to recalculate the budget for the regional component in 2020 and circulate it to all countries for further input and approval.

The Project Director will further remind all countries to determine who will be the auditor in the 2019 financial realization. All countries are expected to use the available templates and submit a 2019 financial audit report to the PCU before 31 March 2020, then the PCU will compile and report back to UNEP before 30 June 2020.

The meeting also discussed the agenda of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC meeting for 2020. Considering that the Fisheries Refugia project is in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation

scheme, all progress of activities can be delivered at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC forum in 2020 such as the SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Tokyo (March / April 2020), ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi), SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting and Fisheries Consultative Group ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership.

The next 3rd PSC meeting will be held in Coron, Philippines in November / December 2020. The PCU will coordinate with the Philippine government to prepare other supporting matters for the implementation of the meeting and will inform all participating countries 3 (three) months before the meeting.

The meeting also emphasized that the 3rd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee meeting, which was originally to be held in 2019, was postponed to February 5-7, 2020 in Hai Pong, Viet Nam.

3. Follow Up Notes and Suggestions

Following up on the results of the meeting regarding the extension of activities for 1 - 2 years, Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (AMFRHR) c.q RIFRE and Research Centre of Fisheries to make revisions and adjustments to the activity implementation workplan until 2021. It is hoped that the project can be completed on time and can support the KKP Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

In connection with the end of the 2019 fiscal year, the National Focal Point is expected to coordinate and prepare matters related to financial reporting and administration for audit purposes. It is expected that before March 30, 2020, Audited financial reports can already be submitted to PCU for further elaboration with 5 (five) other countries.

AMFRHR c.q RIFRE will hold a meeting and cross-stakeholder coordination meeting as a follow up to the socialization of the results of the 2nd PSC meeting on 5 - 6 November 2019 in Miri, Sarawak. The meeting is expected to accommodate substantive input and information in determining the steps to accelerate the implementation of the fisheries refugia project.

Documentation

