



**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON
UNEP/GEF SCS AND GEF SGP PARTNERSHIP
for the Implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Programme of the South China
Sea¹**

VISION

The UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project (UNEP/GEF SCS) and the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) join in partnership to promote community involvement in support of the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the South China Sea. The two partners share a common vision of building community capacity, promoting sound environmental management, and establishing linkages between various levels of marine environmental management in the South China Sea.

MISSION

The mission of the partnership is:

- To strengthen community involvement in the implementation of the regional SAP;
- Build capacity of national coordinators, SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and coastal communities to implement the SAP at the community level;
- Incorporate community-based experiences into the management of biologically significant coastal ecosystems through upscaling by national governments and regional entities, and the facilitation of vertical exchanges of information between local, national and regional levels.

ACTIONS

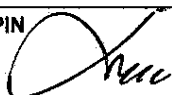
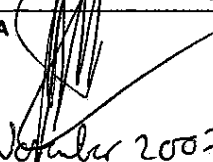
To initiate actions on this partnership, the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project and the GEF Small Grants Programme agree to:

- Follow the priorities for intervention identified in the SAP and those of the SGP country programme strategies, develop and implement SGP projects in community-based management of coastal ecosystems;
- Fund an equal number of small grant projects, to be determined by the two partners. The appropriate operational procedures will be determined based on further consultations and agreements between the two partners;

¹ UNEP/GEF SCS is a multi-million marine environment project entitled: *Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The GEF Small Grants Programme is a GEF cooperate programme implemented by UNDP that aims to empower non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in addressing environmental problems related to biological diversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation and persistent organic pollutants.

- Build local and community capacity in support of the implementation of the SAP through the development of joint and/or complementary initiatives one such being the provision of regional training in TDA and SAP development to be provided by the SCS Project in March 2008;
- Share and exchange experiences and lessons learned in coastal and marine environment management, and strengthen linkages between: the two programmes; local communities; and municipal and provincial governments;
- Promote regional networking among NGOs and community-based organizations, and build their capacity through the convening of a regional NGO Forum as part of, or in conjunction with the Mayor's Round Table of the South China Sea Project to be organised by the second half of 2008.

The SGP NGO forum was organized on 26 November 2007, Bangkok, Thailand, in parallel with UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project Mayors' Roundtable to exchange information and explore further opportunities for the collaboration between the two programmes. The two programmes commit to explore further procedures to launch and strengthen the partnership, and will jointly launch project activities in 2008 to support the implementation of the region's SAP.

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