



United Nations
Environment Programme



UNEP/GEF South China Sea
Project



Global Environment
Facility

*Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends
in the
South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNEP/GEF SOUTH CHINA SEA PROJECT
WEBSITE**

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNEP/GEF SOUTH CHINA SEA PROJECT WEBSITE

The project entitled “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with seven riparian states bordering the South China Sea. Planning commenced in 1996, the project became fully operational in February 2002, and it is now focused on the implementation of a wide range of demonstration interventions, pilot activities, finalisation of National Action Plans, and elaboration of the Strategic Action Programme.

A Large and Expanding Partner Network

The preparatory phase of the project has enabled the development of a large and expanding partner network. There are currently in excess of one hundred institutions directly involved in the project, and more than four hundred institutions indirectly involved through individual participation on National Committees and Sub-committees and Regional Working Groups. It is anticipated that this network will continue to grow as the demonstration sites and pilot activities become fully operational.

A Wide Range of Project Outputs

The project has developed a wide range of outputs, including:

- Knowledge documents,
- An online Geographical Information System and Meta-database,
- English and national-language reviews of the science and management of marine habitats and fisheries,
- A nutrient carrying capacity model for the South China Sea,
- National Action Plans for key marine habitats, and
- 59 meeting reports and numerous discussion documents for these meetings.

The implementation of demonstration interventions and pilot activities will see the number of project outputs grow considerably over the next 2 years.

The Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned

There have been a number of key lessons learned in the project, especially in relation to the procedures used for the selection of demonstration sites and the management framework adopted for project implementation. The six meetings of each of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs), the 3 meetings of each of the Regional Task Forces (RTFs), and the two Regional Scientific Conferences have provided an effective forum for regional collaboration and sharing of national-level experiences.

This regional collaboration will hopefully continue beyond the completion of the project. Until then, each RWG and RTF will convene a series of meetings, and it is anticipated that the third Regional Scientific Conference will be held in 2007. Similarly, the project will continue to promote and support the sharing of lessons learned associated with the demonstration sites and pilot activities during the operational phase of the project.

Development of the Project Website

In 2005, the Project Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) decided that the South China Sea Project website could be used more effectively to:

- Consolidate and strengthen the partner network,
- Disseminate project outputs, and
- Share experiences and lessons learned.

A decision was made by the PCU to develop the project website to ensure that it best met the needs of the project while ensuring that the site could continue to effectively serve the project for the distribution of documents and the posting of project news and information.

The Use of Open Source Software

The Joomla Open Source Content Management System was selected by the PCU as the platform for the development of the site, primarily because it is free, easy to install, simple to manage, and reliable. The Joomla platform enables those involved in the South China Sea Project to easily and quickly publish content online themselves, instead of having to rely on a dedicated website manager, or paying large sums of money for proprietary software.

The platform not only enables the establishment of a consistent look and feel throughout the site, but gives project participants the opportunity to publish and update their own content on the site using simple web-browser based tools. It also contains a facility that can be used for controlling publishing processes and assigning specific authoring, editing and/or publishing rights to various individuals via a secure login procedure.

A wide range of content types, including simple text, documents, images, video and audio can be published to the website using the system. It also has tools for the establishment of an online community of users, including a user registry, e-forums, e-journals (or blogs), online photo albums, and events calendar.

Key Features

The following key features of the new project website are now easily accessible from the homepage:

1. **Partner Network** – contact details for all project partners searchable by partner type and country
2. **Coordinating Unit** – contact details for PCU members
3. **Demonstration Sites** – pages for each demonstration site searchable by habitat and country
4. **RWGs & RTFs** – pages for each RWG and RTF searchable by project component
5. **NAPs & SAPs** – pages for the SAP and each National Action Plan (searchable by the project component and country)
6. **E-Forums** – electronic forums for each demonstration site, RWG and RTF
7. **SCS Documents** – document repository searchable by category or keyword with fast downloads
8. **National Publications** – overview of national language publications produced by the project
9. **SCS GIS and Meta-database** – updateable by select project partners via a secure login
10. **Events Calendar** – upcoming events searchable by day, week, month and keyword
11. **User Directory** – accessible to registered users following login, user profiles updateable
12. **Photo Album** – categorised and searchable by keywords
13. **Project Links** – project related web links, facility for registered users to add links
14. **Project News** – latest news from the South China Sea Project
15. **SCS Blogs** – User e-journal facility

The screenshot shows the homepage of the South China Sea Project website. The layout includes a top navigation bar with links: Home, SCS Documents, Project Links, Forums, Photo Album, SCS GIS, and SCS -Events. A search bar is located on the right. The main header features the SCS logo and the title 'Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand', along with UNEP and GEF logos. A sidebar on the left contains a 'SCS MAIN MENU' with links like Project Background, Coordinating Unit, Demonstration Sites, Fisheries Activities, Project News, NAPs & SAP, RWGs & RTFs, Partner Network, and Training. Below this is a 'SUB MENUS' section with links like Home, Section Index, Search, FAQs, and SCS Blogs. A 'USER MENU' section includes links like Your Details, Submit News, User Directory, Submit Weblink, Edit Profile, Write a blog entry, and Show your blog. A 'USER LOGIN' section shows a user logged in as 'Hi, Rastrelliger brachysoma' with a Logout link. A 'UNEPSCS SYNDICATION' section displays RSS feeds for various topics. The main content area features a 'Browse SCS Documents' banner, a 'LATEST INFORMATION' section with links to SCS Meta-database Online, RSTC-6 Documents Online, and UNEPSCS News 1, 2, and 3. A 'WELCOME TO UNEPSCS' section includes a 'Welcome Message from the Director' and a paragraph about the Indo-west Pacific's marine biodiversity. Below this are two news items: 'UNEPSCS News 1' and 'UNEPSCS News 2', both dated Wednesday, 09 November 2005. The right sidebar contains 'UPCOMING EVENTS' (Chinese New Year, First Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the RSTC), 'SCS GIS & Metadatabase', 'NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS' (Sustaining Philippine Reefs), 'EVENTS CALENDAR' (January 2006), and 'COLLABORATION' (Fisheries Refugia & SEAFDEC). A 'WHO'S ONLINE' section shows 4 guests online. The footer includes copyright information for 2006 and a Joomla! license notice.

7 13 6 12 9

Home SCS Documents Project Links Forums Photo Album SCS GIS SCS -Events search...

SCS MAIN MENU

Project Background

Coordinating Unit

Demonstration Sites

Fisheries Activities

Project News

NAPs & SAP

RWGs & RTFs

Partner Network

Training

SUB MENUS

Home

Section Index

Search

FAQs

SCS Blogs

USER MENU

Your Details

Submit News

User Directory

Submit Weblink

Edit Profile

Write a blog entry

Show your blog

USER LOGIN

Hi, Rastrelliger brachysoma

Logout

UNEPSCS SYNDICATION

RSS 0.91

RSS 1.0

RSS 2.0

ATOM 0.3

OPML SHARE IT!

DOCUMENTS BY DATE FORMAT

Browse SCS Documents

LATEST INFORMATION

SCS Meta-database Online

RSTC-6 Documents Online

UNEPSCS News 1

UNEPSCS News 2

UNEPSCS News 3

UNEPSCS HIGHLIGHTS

RSTC-6 Documents Online

Vietnam

UNEPSCS News 3

Thailand

Vietnam

Home

Welcome to UNEPSCS

Written by Web Master

Monday, 24 October 2005

Welcome Message from the Director

The Indo-west Pacific has long been recognised as the global centre of shallow water marine biological diversity and the South China Sea, which is located at the center of this marine biogeographic realm, therefore represents an area of globally significant marine biodiversity.

Numerous actions are taking place at the national and regional levels to address the environmental problems that have resulted from the rapid pace of development and industrialisation, which has occurred over the last decade. This significant GEF project (32 million US\$), implemented by UNEP, represents the first attempt to develop regionally co-ordinated programmes of action designed to reverse environmental degradation particularly in the area of coastal habitat degradation and loss, halt land-based pollution and address the issue of fisheries over-exploitation.

Last Updated (Wednesday, 11 January 2006)

UNEPSCS News 1

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 09 November 2005

The First Mayor's Round Table Meeting of the UNEP/GEF South China Project will be convened on Sunday 13th November 2005 at the Amari Watergate Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. This represents the first time that local government officials from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam will meet to discuss the role of local government units in the successful implementation of interventions aimed at reversing environmental degradation trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand.

Last Updated (Wednesday, 11 January 2006)

Read more...

More...

UNEPSCS News 3

UNEPSCS News 2

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 09 November 2005

The Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project has been working closely with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) to develop a system of fisheries *refugia* for the management of fish stocks important, in terms of income generation and food security, to coastal fishing communities in the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea.

Last Updated (Wednesday, 11 January 2006)

Read more...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese New Year

January 29 (8:00 am) - January 31 (11:59 pm), 2006 (UNEPSCS Events)

First Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the RSTC

February 6 (8:00 am) - February 10 (11:59 pm), 2006

SCS GIS & Metadatabase

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Sustaining Philippine Reefs

Events Calendar

January 2006

Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Post New Event

COLLABORATION

Fisheries Refugia & SEAFDEC

WHO'S ONLINE

We have 4 guests online

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Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License.

Figure 1 Layout of the South China Sea Project website homepage (the numbers relate to the key features outlined on Page 2).

Preliminary Strategy for Initiating Partner Contributions to the Website

By using the facilities of the Joomla content management system, it is intended that more project participants will be able to contribute material directly to the project website, which may assist in developing a sense of ownership over the site amongst project partners. In fact, the PCU hopes that, in the longer run, the project partner network can assume high levels of responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the website.

The system distinguishes 5 types of website users:

- **Public** – who have rights to use all publicly available aspects of the website
- **Registered** – who have rights to use e-forums, contribute news items, and submit web links
- **Authors** – who have rights to create content for the website
- **Editors** – who have rights to decide on what content will be published on the website and where
- **Publishers** – who have rights to publish content to the website

The level of rights and control over what is published to the website increases from the public user level to the publisher level. Users with higher levels of control over the site also have the same rights as those users with less control, although it is possible to restrict the rights or level of control of all users to specific parts of the site. For instance, the manager of a demonstration site may be assigned publisher level rights to a part of the website relating to that demonstration site, and be assigned registered user rights for the rest of the site.

Step 1

Initially, all project partners will be set-up as registered users, and usernames and passwords will be sent to them by the PCU. These users will be able to update their individual online profiles, participate in the e-forums, and submit basic content such as news items, information about upcoming events, and web links to their own or other interesting websites. Any basic content submitted to the site by these users will not go public until the PCU reviews, approves, and publishes the material in the private administration area of the website.

Step 2

As the registered users become familiar with the basics of the website, selected focal points, regional experts, and demonstration site managers will be assigned authoring and editorial rights for the parts of the website relating to the Regional Working Groups, Regional Task Forces, and Demonstration Sites that they are associated with. Initially, the action of actually publishing the changes made to the website by these users will remain the responsibility of the PCU, although the PCU will assign publisher rights to these users for their parts of the site following a brief trial period.

Step 3

In November 2006 the PCU will invite the 7th Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee to (a) evaluate and comment on the contributions of the partner network to the project website, and to (b) nominate individuals from the partner network capable of assuming authoring, editorial, and publisher responsibilities for the site during 2007 and 2008. The PCU will then invite the nominated individuals to participate in a brief period of training on the administration of the website. Interested individuals will be trained and assume responsibility for all aspects of the site. The 8th Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee in 2007 will be invited to advise the PCU on how the site can be best developed to support future actions.

Instructional Manual for the Website

The Project Co-ordinating Unit has prepared an instructional guide on the use of www.unepscs.org. This guide has been sent to all project partners and can be downloaded from the “Instructions” section of the website’s document repository.