Regional Seas Governance in East Asian Seas: the Need for Vertical Integration of Community-based Action to National and Regional Management Process

Sulan Chen
GEF Small Grants Programme
United Nations Development Programme
Funding and technical support to communities and civil society organizations

- Awareness and capacity development
- Foster a positive multi-stakeholder relationships, esp. the government-civil society
- Learning and testing
SGP’s “small grants” means:

- Level of grant: up to $50,000 (average at $25,000); with planning grants up to $2,000.

- Fast delivery mechanism – aim for “shortest distance from idea into action”

- To build capacity of and provide access to GEF for the poorest, most vulnerable communities/CBOs/NGOs; SGP support is thus partly “venture capital” and risk taking
Our challenge: a drop of water in the Ocean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>SGP funding</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
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<td><strong>$2,557,008</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,801,433</strong></td>
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Challenges of Management Scale

Conventional Approach

• Issue-based
• Dominant sectoral demand (habitat, pollution, or fisheries etc)
• Local linkages

Seascape Approach

• Multiple Drivers
• Multi-sectoral Demands
• Long-distance linkages
Nested, Multi-layered and Coordinated

SAP: Regional Consensus & Confidence Building

Regional Governance Structure/Institutional Framework

National
National
National
National

Local
Local
Local
Local
Local
Local
Local
Local

Capacity building and SAP implementation at community level
Implications of Seascape Approach for SGP IW work

**Seascape Approach**

Identification and selection of priority areas for SGP IW interventions

Strategic development

Implementation: *nested, multi-layered* and *coordinated* portfolio

**SGP Operations**

SGP and FSPs

Country Program Strategy

Grantees
Transitioning from a NGO to a Government Programme/Policy

2007
Through an SGP grant, MRF introduced TEDs for trawl fisheries in Sandakan, Sabah

2008
MRF signs MOU with Fisheries Dept of Sabah

2009
A 2nd SGP grant expands TED trials to new fishing ports & integrate with Federal Fisheries Dept

2012
MRF brings policy makers on study visit, approaching the TED implementation plan from the bottom up and from the top down

2013
Director General of Dept of Fisheries Malaysia witnessed MRF TEDs trials & certification.

2014
A locally adapted TED is produced

2015
MRF undertakes national workshops together with Dept of Fisheries

2017
National policy Compulsory for all fishing trawler to use TED in Peninsular Malaysia

2023
MRF receives a Strategic grant to expand the TEDs program nationwide
Road to gazette: 
Tun Mustapha Park

SGP supports 3 projects that build the capacity of the local communities in resource management.
Lessons Learnt

- Community development work takes **time**
- **Partnership**: upscaling to meet “downscaling”
- **Grantmakers+**: knowledge management, linkages and networking are not management cost
GEF SGP welcome you to join our family