

Biodiversity Management in the Coastal Area of China's South Sea

The Challenge

China's coastal and marine biodiversity is under threat. For the past decade, the southeast coast of China has experienced unprecedented economic growth, social change and population growth. This process is threatening the health of the ecosystems – both terrestrial and marine – that support a significant portion of the world's biodiversity. The coastal area faces many problems including poorly planned land use, pollution, over-fishing and other forms of resource extraction. For example, several species of lobster, sea cucumbers and grouper have been extirpated at some points along the coast, while other species, such as the Chinese white dolphin are seriously threatened. The objective of this project is the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biological diversity along China's coastline.

The Response

The Government of China has put substantial emphasis on marine protected areas (MPAs) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as tools for improved management of its coastal environment and its living resources as enshrined in China's Agenda 21 and China Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan. The project will strengthen conservation and sustainable management capacities at four existing Marine Protected Areas (MPA); Develop, test and demonstrate tools, instruments and approaches for addressing the root causes of critical threats to marine biodiversity; and Implement appropriate tools for conservation and sustainable use in six sites to promote broader adoption across China's South Sea coastal area.

UNDP partners under this project are The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), local government of Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang Provinces and Guangxi Autonomous Region as well as Stora Enso and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Achievements

- Strengthen conservation and sustainable use management capacities at four existing MPAs;
- Develop, test and demonstrate tools, instruments and approaches for addressing the root causes of critical threats to marine biodiversity in China's South Sea coastal areas;
- Implement appropriate tools for conservation and sustainable use at the six sites and promote their broader adoption across China's South Sea coastal area.

At A Glance

Start Date: February 2005
End Date: December 2012
Implementing Partner(s): State Oceanic Administration
Project ID: 00041691

UNDAF Goal: Outcome 3 - more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behavior in order to ensure environmental sustainability.

MDG: Goal 7 - ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7)

CPAP output: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is more effective.

Total Budget:	US\$	12,979,000
UNDP (GEF):	US\$	3,515,000
Government:	US\$	8,974,000
Stora Enso:	US\$	230,000
NOAA:	US\$	260,000

Project location(s): Hainan, Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Guangxi

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