

# 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

- Improved MPA staff capacity and knowledge on policy, techniques and GIS applications in marine biodiversity conservation through training workshops held in China Education and Training Center for Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management;
- Established strategic partnerships with bilateral donors, NGOs, village communities, private sector;
- Baseline assessments completed on the environmental and biodiversity status of pilot sites providing useful benchmarks for natural reserve planning and project implementation.

## 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  
 CPAP Outcome 7 – Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is more effective.

Website:

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

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Mr. Guo Yinfeng, Programme Manager at (86-10) 8532 0800 or yinfeng.guo@undp.org

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