



**First Seaweed Technical  
Working Group  
(S-TWG) Meeting**  
Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief  
through Seaweed  
Aquaculture Project  
Bangkok, 25-26 November  
2025

WP01

---

## Provisional Prospectus and Agenda

### I. Background

*Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture* is a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and officially endorsed by the GEF CEO in July 2022. The project has been allocated USD 6 million for implementation over a four-year period (2024–2028)<sup>1</sup>. The institutional arrangement for the project includes WWF as the GEF Agency; the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as the Lead Regional Executing Agency (its Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand hosting the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Philippines and the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance (DFiS) of Viet Nam as the project executing partners in the Philippines and Viet Nam, respectively, and a Project Steering Committee.

The project comprises four components: 1) Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in Southeast Asia; 2) Enabling Environment for Seaweed Aquaculture in the Philippines and Viet Nam; 3) Seaweed Value Chains (production, processing, and marketing); and 4) Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional). The SEAFDEC PMU will specifically carry out Component 1 and 4, which focus on the development of regional plans and principles of responsible seaweed aquaculture, including a toolkit to guide the application of the principles in developing standards of products, environmental protection, and operational safety. The outputs from Components 1 and 4 are expected to foster a harmonized approach across the region. Meanwhile, BFAR (Philippines) and DFiS (Viet Nam) will implement Component 2 and Component 3, which focus on the development of national components of seaweed aquaculture and its value chains.

Under **Component 1**, SEAFDEC will develop regional plans and principles for responsible aquaculture, including a toolkit to guide the application of these principles in product quality, environmental protection, and operational safety. This will involve creating a Regional Guide for Seaweed Aquaculture in Southeast Asia, to be adopted by the SEAFDEC Governing Council, along with a set of regional principles for responsible and safe seaweed aquaculture as a foundation for developing standards of operational, environmental, and consumer safety (adapted from the Global Seaweed Coalition). Additionally, training and capacity-building activities, coordinated by SEAFDEC/AQD, will support both the plan and implementation of these principles, helping to

---

<sup>1</sup> SEAFDEC's activities will be completed within this period, while implementation in the Philippines and Viet Nam will extend to 2029.

develop safety standards, update or create codes of practice, and update or develop best management practices. Such a regional approach will enhance the region's capacity to expand, modernize, and establish a strong role in global seaweed value chains. To support the development and implementation of the outputs under this component, a regional Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG) will be constituted and formally mandated by the SEAFDEC Council. The outputs/deliverables to be supported by the S-TWG include (i) a 'Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region' and (ii) 'Regional Principles of Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture' with a complementary toolkit.

The S-TWG will have several key functions during project implementation:

- (1) To provide expertise and integrate the current state of knowledge on seaweed into the regional plans and standards.
- (2) To coordinate, develop, validate, and support the regional adoption of the Guide and Principles.
- (3) To represent a platform for awareness, networking, coordination, and knowledge-exchange among key authorities and organizations focused on seaweed development.
- (4) To facilitate regional technical cooperation to address specific and shared concerns.

Experts from member states and an expert from the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines will compose the membership. Experts from other organizations, particularly those with technical roles in the project, shall be invited to participate in the S-TWG forums. A Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be integrated to ensure inclusive participation, decision-making, and the impact of the S-TWG outputs.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) SEAFDEC together with executing agencies, BFAR (Philippines) and DFiS (Viet Nam) recently organized an online Inception Workshop on 14 August 2025 to bring together all key stakeholders, including SEAFDEC Member Countries, WWF GEF Agency, and SEAFDEC/AQD, to discuss the project's objectives, components, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes. One of the recommended action plans is to establish the Seaweed-Technical Working Group and facilitate a forum for STWG members to discuss the project implementation of Component 1. Therefore, in line with the project's workplan and to follow up on the recommendation from the Inception Workshop, the project will support the organization of the first meeting of the Seaweed-Technical Working Group.

## II. Objectives of the 1<sup>st</sup> S-TWG Meeting

1. To elect the S-TWG Chairperson and agree on meeting schedules (2025-2028)
2. To provide an overview of the Project (*i.e.*, Project objectives, components, and expected outputs, institutional arrangement)
3. To inform Terms of References of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG), scopes of work, roles and responsibilities, etc.
4. To provide an update on the status of seaweed aquaculture and its value chain in Southeast Asian countries, and to identify key challenges and regional priorities in promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the Southeast Asian Region
5. To develop a detailed work program for drafting Guides and identification of key outputs (Component 1)
6. To discuss and define key elements for the development of the “Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region” (Output 1.1.2) (scope and outline of the Guide, workplan, ToR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide.
7. To establish Gender Integration in S-TWG activities

## III. Expected outputs

1. A clear understanding and familiarization of the Terms of Reference of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG), and scope of works, roles and responsibilities, etc.
2. National-level updates on seaweed aquaculture and its value chain, key challenges facing the seaweed industry across member countries and compilation of regional priorities in promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the Southeast Asian Region
3. Agreed a detailed work program of key outputs (Component 1)
4. Define key elements for the development of the “Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region” (Output 1.1.2) (scope and outline of the Guide, workplan, ToR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide.
5. Gender perspectives integrated into S-TWG work program.

## IV. Target Participants

The first S-TWG meeting will invite well-balance representatives from target countries and agencies with equal representation of men and women, comprising:

1. S-TWG members comprise one nominated expert from the AMSs (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) and a seaweed expert from SEAFDEC/AQD (11 persons)
2. SEAFDEC Gender Focal Point from SEAFDEC/TD (1 person)
3. The Project Management Unit staff (PM, TS) (2 persons)
4. Representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat and AQD (3 persons)

5. National Focal point for BFAR (Philippines) and DFIS (Viet Nam) (2 persons)
6. Representatives from WWF US, WWF PH, and WWF VN will be invited to participate as observers (2 persons)
7. Admin staff SEAFDEC (2 persons)

Total participants: 20-25 persons

## V. Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held at the Solitaire Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 26 November, 2025.

## VI. Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Time	Agenda	Annotation
<b>24 November</b>	<b>Final preparation meeting at the hotel</b>	
Day 1 – 25 November 2025		
08.30-09.00	Registration	
09.00-09.15	<b>Agenda 1:</b> Opening of the Meeting by SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General	After the Opening remarks were delivered, all the participants will introduce themselves
09.15-09.30	Introduction of participants	MC (Aomam) to please the participants to self-introduction
09.30-09.45	<b>Agenda 2:</b> Election of Chairperson and Agreement on Meeting Schedule (2025-2028)	Chairperson elected; schedule endorsed
09.45-10.15	<b>Group photo and Refreshment break</b>	Draft script (n Aomam will share the script)
10.15-10.15	<b>Agenda 3:</b> Background, Objectives and Adoption of the Agenda	The Chairperson invites PM to present the Background, objectives, expected outputs, and Provisional Agenda of the Meeting. After the presentation, the Meeting is invited to adopt the agenda and/or provide suggestions for

		other issues to be discussed.
10.15-10.30	<b>Group photo and Refreshment break</b>	
10.30-11.00	<b>Agenda 4:</b> Overview of the Project	<p>PM presents the Overview of the Project, Project Components. Specifically, focus on Component 1 and its expectations. The presentation will also cover the overview of the institution arrangement and the roles (PMU, N-PMU, PSC, S-TWG).</p> <p>The Meeting to <b>take note</b> of the information.</p>
11.00-11.20	<b>Agenda 5:</b> Terms of Reference of Seaweed Technical Working Group	<p>PM presents ToR of S-TWG and later to be approved by PSC members.</p> <p>The Meeting to <b>take note</b> of the information.</p>
11.20-12.00	<p><b>Agenda 6:</b> Understanding of the Status of Seaweed Aquaculture and its Value Chains at the National Level</p> <p>11.20-11.30 Brunei Darussalam  11.30-11.40 Cambodia  11.40-11.50 Indonesia  11.50-12.00 Q&amp;A</p>	<p>The countries will make a country presentation (max 10 minutes) to present on the status of Seaweed Aquaculture and the value chain, issues, and challenges. 10 minutes will be allocated for Q&amp;A</p>
12.00-13.30	<b>Lunch break</b>	

13.30-15.00	<p><b>Agenda 6:</b> Understanding of the Status of Seaweed Aquaculture and its Value Chains at the National Level (<i>continuation...</i>)</p> <p>13.30-13.40 Lao PDR  13.40-13.50 Malaysia  13.50-14.00 Myanmar  14.00-14.10 Q&amp;A  14.10-14.20 Philippines  14.20-14.30 Singapore  14.30-14.30 Thailand  14.30-14.40 Viet Nam  14.40-15.00 Q&amp;A session</p>	
15:00-15:30	<b>Refreshment break</b>	
15.30-17.00	<p><b>Agenda 7:</b> Discussion on Challenges and Regional Priorities in promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region. Develop template for discussions, explanation and introduction of what and how.</p>	<p>Breakout groups (2-3 groups) to discuss challenges and regional priorities in Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region (1 hour)</p> <p>Report to the plenary (10 minutes each group)</p>
17.00-17.10	<b>Closing Day 1 – wrap up: more information needed</b>	Evaluation Day 1
17.10 – 17.40	<b>Debrief meeting: SEAFDEC, BFAR, DFIS</b>	Discuss key points of the meeting
<b>Day 2 – 26 November 2025</b>		
09.00-10.00	<p><b>Agenda 8:</b>  Establishment of Work Program and Identification of Key Outputs (Component 1)</p> <p>8.1 Key topics in the Guide, toolkits, and Principles of seaweed  8.2 Discuss work plan and program, including capacity building plan  8.3 Discuss scaling up and sustainability of the Guide and Principles in Southeast Asia</p>	<p>MC Aomam to open. PM present on the Component 1 and expected outputs and timelines of each output.</p> <p>Breakout and plenary discussion</p>
10.00-10.15	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

10.15-12.00	<p><b>Agenda 9:</b> Discussion on the Development of the “Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region” (Output 1.1.2)</p> <p>9.1 Scope and outline of the Guide</p> <p>9.2 Workplan</p> <p>9.3 ToR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide.</p>	<p>Technical Specialist (TS) introduces the scope and draft outline, and work plan for the development of the “Guide”, including draft TOR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide.</p> <p>The Meeting is invited to <b>consider, discuss, and suggest</b> on the scope of the Guide and draft outline, workplan for the development of the “Guide”, including draft TOR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide.</p>
12.00-13.30	<b>Lunch break</b>	
13.30-14.30	<p><b>Agenda 10:</b> Gender Integration in S-TWG Activities</p> <p>10.1 Introduction to gender mainstreaming and incorporation into the activities of the Project</p> <p>10.2 Summary and discussion on the data provided by each member country on gender roles in seaweed farming</p> <p>10.3 Development of Gender Action Plan</p>	<p>SEAFDEC Gender Focal Point provides information on the gender action plan and its expectations for Component 1. The Meeting will discuss how to incorporate gender in the S-TWG activities and indicators, M&amp;E plan.</p> <p>The Meeting is invited to take note.</p>
14.30 – 15.30	<p><b>Agenda 11:</b> Breakout Discussions on Guide, Principles, and Toolkit Inputs</p> <p>9.1 Plenary discussion: sharing group discussions</p> <p>9.2 Conclusion</p>	Group discussions; rapporteurs report back
15.30-16.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

16.00-16.30	<b>Agenda 11:</b> Plenary – Consolidation of Inputs and Next Steps	Facilitated plenary discussion
16.30-17.00	<b>Agenda 12: Conclusion and</b> Way Forward	<p>PM will summarize the decision, outputs, work plan, and next steps.</p> <p>After that, the participants are invited to provide feedback session and meeting evaluation.</p>
17.00-17.15	<b>Agenda 13:</b> Closing of the Meeting by SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General	