

Full Report Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting 27–28 November 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. The First Project Steering Committee (1-PSC) Meeting was convened by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Regional Project Management Unit of Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project from 27 to 28 November 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, with support from the WWF/GEF Agency. The PSC was attended by PSC members, namely: Department of Fisheries and Surveillance of Viet Nam, Department of Agriculture of the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP), SEAFDEC, and an observer from WWF Viet Nam, as well as senior officials and officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD). The List of Participants appears in **Annex 1**.

2. The purpose of the 1-PSC meeting was (1) to provide an overview and status of the Project, (2) to finalize and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), (3) to finalize and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG), (4) to review and confirm key amendments that were amended in the approved project document (as stated in a Memorandum dated 28 March 2024), (5) To review and approve work plan and budget of executing agencies, (6) to discuss and provide suggestion on contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays. (7) to refresh the content of Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the project. (8) to review the communication strategy and plans, and (9) to review the M&E system and plan.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Mr. Koichi Tahara*, welcomed the participants to the Project Steering Committee meeting. In his opening remarks, he expressed his appreciation for their presence (participant's attendance) at the First Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the *Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project*. He highlighted that the convening of this Meeting marked the formal commencement of the GEF-supported initiative jointly executed by SEAFDEC, BFAR Philippines, and DFIS Viet Nam together with WWF US as Implementing Agency, noting its significance in advancing sustainable seaweed aquaculture, enhancing ecosystem services, and strengthening coastal community livelihoods across the region. He emphasized the importance of the PSC's role in reviewing the initial progress of the project, finalizing the Terms of Reference for the PSC and the Seaweed Technical Working Group, confirming amendments introduced in the updated project document, and considering the consolidated work plan, budget, and coordination procedures. He further underscored that the guidance and collective expertise of the participating agencies would ensure effective implementation and foster collaborative and gender-responsive approaches throughout the project. His Opening Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.

4. Undersecretary for Fisheries Department of Agriculture, *Ms. Drusila Esther E. Bayate*, delivered the remarks to the PSC on behalf of BFAR the Philippines. In her remarks emphasizing the significance of the Blue Horizon Ocean Relief through the Seaweed Aquaculture Project for the Philippines, highlighting the economic and environmental importance of the seaweeds. She emphasized that the project aligns with national priorities for sustainable aquaculture. The Philippines committed to implementing components two and three, focusing on national enabling environments and seaweed value chains. She added that the meeting aims to finalize the PSC terms of reference, review project documents, approve the annual work plan and budget, and address potential delays. The speaker also underscored the importance of gender inclusivity and stakeholder participation. Her Remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

5. Representative from Department of Fisheries and Surveillance of Viet Nam, *Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Mai Anh*, delivered her remarks to the PSC. In her remarks, she expressed appreciation to GEF, WWF, SEAFDEC, and the Philippines for their partnership and support in implementing the Blue Horizon Project to advance sustainable seaweed aquaculture as a nature-based solution for ocean health, climate resilience, and community livelihoods. She highlighted Viet Nam's strong commitment to the responsible and sustainable development of the seaweed sector and welcomed the Project's support in strengthening governance frameworks, improving national and provincial planning, and applying ecosystem-based and marine spatial planning approaches to promote environmentally sound and socially inclusive expansion. She reaffirmed Viet Nam's commitment to active cooperation throughout the Project implementation and emphasized the importance of regional knowledge sharing, particularly on sustainable farming models, traceability, post-harvest technologies, and market development, expressing confidence that the Project would deliver lasting regional and environmental benefits. Her Remarks appear in **Annex 4**.

II. BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AND AGENDA OF THE MEETING

6. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour* introduced the background, objectives, and expected outputs of the PSC meeting. After his presentation, the PSC member agreed on the proposed agenda, which was subsequently adopted. The Prospectus appears in **Annex 5**, and the Agenda of the PSC meeting appears as **Annex 6**.

III. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND STATUS

7. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, provided information on the project overview and status of the project. His presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

8. The PSC members from Philippines, *Ms. Drusila Bayate* sought clarification on the point based on the project workplan that has not yet been approved and how the PSC should address it. The PM responded that the PMU had already established the foundation of the project management unit including the establishment of the PSC and STWG. He also informed that the PMU is recruiting M&E consultant to establish the M&E plan and system.

9. He further informed the participants that, under the project's implementation arrangements,

SEAFDEC, as the Executing Agency, signed the Grant Agreement in April 2024, followed by BFAR Philippines in July 2025. Viet Nam, however, has not yet finalized its signing. This outstanding formalization has become a significant risk to the project's operational timeline, as SEAFDEC and the Philippines have already progressed more than one and a half years into implementation. The Meeting acknowledged that the delay resulted from an extended period of internal administrative transition within the Government of Viet Nam, which has affected the internal review, processing, and clearance of the Agreement.

10. After discussion, the PSC meeting took note of the Project Overview and current implementation status.

IV. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

11. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Rules and Procedures for the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the Committee's consideration and approval. He noted that the PSC serves as the project's primary decision-making body, responsible for providing strategic guidance and ensuring accountability. The presentation highlighted that the PSC comprises essential representatives from the government agencies, the seaweeds industry, and the SEAFDEC Secretariat, including key departments from the Philippines and Viet Nam. However, Viet Nam will submit new PSC member due to recent government structural changes. The PSC's core functions include reviewing and approving annual work plans, endorsing financial reports, and ensuring that project implementation complies with WWF and GEF requirements and aligns with national priorities. To maintain rigorous governance, the procedures require regular biannual meetings and require a high quorum of 80% of all member institutions for official decision-making. The Meeting agreed that the composition of the PSC members follows the structure approved in the WWF-GEF project documents. The agenda was considered and adopted by the PSC members. His presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

V. REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP

12. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the report on the outcomes of the Inception Workshop for the Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project held on August 14, 2025. The workshop was aimed at kicking off the project and engaging a broader audience in its objectives and activities, discuss the project's objectives, components, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes. Participants deepened their understanding of the project objectives, expected outcomes, and theory of change through joint presentations delivered by the executing agencies: SEAFDEC PMU, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. A primary achievement of the workshop was the agreement on the Implementation Arrangements of the project, the establishment and the coordination mechanisms for both the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Seaweed Technical Working Group (STWG). The Inception Workshop also informed participants that the project will formally submit a request to key stakeholders to nominate and appoint members to serve as members of STWG and PSC. The PSC Members took

note and considered the report of the Inception Workshop. His presentation appears as **Annex 9**.

VI. REVIEW OF THE MEMORANDUM DATED 28 MARCH 2024 ON AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS

13. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented (reviewed) the Memorandum dated 28 March 2024 concerning the amendment of the Blue Horizon project document under the WWF-GEF framework. The amendment revised the project’s implementation structure from one executing agency (SEAFDEC) to three executing agencies SEAFDEC, BFAR (Philippines), and DFIS (Viet Nam) which requiring separate grant agreements. The memo also mentioned new arrangements for fund flow and budget allocation, under which WWF-US disburses funds directly to the three executing agencies and each executing agency will need to submit the final progress report to WWF US for approval each tranche. The total GEF budget remains USD 6 million, with revised allocations of USD 1,359,144 for SEAFDEC, USD 2,275,428 for BFAR, USD 2,275,428 for DFIS, and USD 90,000 for WWF evaluations. Roles and responsibilities were also clarified: WWF oversees fund administration and reporting; SEAFDEC manages the Regional PMU and responsible for component 1 and component 4, while BFAR and DFIS manage national PMUs and implement Components 2 and 3. The roles and responsibilities of BFAR and DFIS on Component 4 are suggested to use unallocated budget with prior consultation with SEAFDEC and WWF US. PSC Members acknowledged the presentation and confirmed that the project amendment had already been approved by the WWF/GEF Agency. As the amendment was officially endorsed, no further comments were raised. The PSC formally noted and accepted the contents of the Memorandum on the project document amendment. His presentation appears as **Annex 10**.

VII. REPORT OF THE SEAWEED TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (S-TWG), CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE S-TWG

14. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor for the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the Report of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG), the election of Ms. Ida T. Capacio as Chair and Ms. Mai Anh as Vice Chair of STWG, the key membership, roles and responsibilities. Nour also presented draft terms of reference for the S-TWG outlining the key outputs and timeline of S-TWG. The discussion focused on refining the ToR of the S-TWG, emphasizing that the Guide must function as a regional technical reference with general provisions while also reflecting country-specific seaweed species and local contexts. The suggestion of PSC members also highlighted the need to incorporate practical considerations and to develop the Guide, Principles, and Toolkits in parallel. In addition, the PMU acknowledged the members’ suggestions, particularly the need to reflect technical considerations and country-specific conditions of seaweed farming in the development of Component 1 outputs, including the Regional Guide, Principles, and Toolkits. The PSC took note of these recommendations and formally approved and adopted the ToR of the S-TWG. His presentation appears as **Annex 11**.

VIII. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

8.1 SEAFDEC

15. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor of the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for Year 2, with initial focus on Components 1 and 4. During the discussion, members of the PSC expressed concerns regarding the AWPB for Years 1 and 2 of the SEAFDEC Project Management Unit (PMU), noting that although the workplan and budgets had been approved by WWF-US, they had not yet been formally endorsed by the PSC. His presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

16. In this regard, the PSC clarified that, as this was the first meeting of the Committee, it was now in a position to formally endorse in principle the project budgets covering AWPB Years 1 and 2 (2024–2025). *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* further explained that the appropriate reference point for financial alignment should be the date of signature of the Grant Agreement, noting that the GEF fiscal year runs from July to June of the following year. To ensure operational continuity and financial clarity, the PSC agreed to adopt a resolution authorizing reimbursement and expenditure under the approved budget. Based on this decision, the Meeting concluded that the SEAFDEC PMU remains in compliance in implementing and utilizing its allocated budget.

8.2 BFAR/PH

17. PSC members agreed *in principle* to approve the budget and proposed Annual Work Plan and Budget Year 1 of the Philippines for the period July 2025 to June 2026.

IX. ANNUAL CO-FINANCE LETTER

18. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor of the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the co-finance commitment, noting the total pledged amount of USD 600,000, with USD 120,000 already reported to GEF this year. BFAR confirmed the co-finance contributions as follows: Component 2 is PHP 2.3 million; Component 3 is PHP 4 million; and Component 4 is PHP 900,000 (in kind). The PM added that co-finance letters are required to be submitted annually every July. The PSC Members requested all Executing Agencies to consistently submit their annual co-finance letters in July. The PSC adopted the annual co-financing commitments as presented. His presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

X. FINANCE PROGRESS

19. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor of the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the financial progress. The PM reported that the financial report follows the WWF-US required format, ensuring full compliance

with agency rules and standards. He further explained that an annual project financial audit will be conducted, and WWF-US will lead the process, including the selection and recruitment of the audit consultant. All three executing agencies will provide support during the audit process to facilitate a timely and accurate financial review. The PSC Members took note of the update and approved the financial progress as presented. His presentation appears as **Annex 14**.

XI. DISCUSSION ON THE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ADDRESSING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS.

20. The Project Manager and Technical Advisor of the “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” Project, *Mr. Muhamad Nour*, presented the contingency plans to address delays in project implementation. The agenda focused on identifying delayed activities, examining their root causes, and outlining necessary contingency actions to bring implementation back on schedule. His presentation appears as **Annex 15**.

21. PSC members acknowledged that delays were caused by several factors, mainly on the delay signature of grant agreement and external conditions affecting field activities. The PSC recommended providing clearer guidance to PMU regarding timelines, reporting requirements, and coordination responsibilities to minimize further bottlenecks. The PSC further emphasized the need to improve communication among the SEAFDEC PMU, national PMUs, and WWF-US by increasing the frequency of coordination meetings and ensuring timely updates on revised plans. Members also advised revising activity timelines and updating the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) matrix so that the revised targets, indicators, and deliverables accurately reflect the project's current pace. Overall, the PSC agreed that enhanced coordination, realistic scheduling, and proactive management measures are essential for reducing delays and ensuring continued compliance with donor requirements as the project moves forward.

XII. REFRESH THE GENDER ACTION PLAN AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

22. Gender Focal Point of the SEAFDEC Training Department, *Ms. Jariya Sornkliang* presented the gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan. She emphasized the importance of strengthening the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure inclusive and equitable participation across all project components. PSC members highlighted that gender considerations should be integrated not only into community-level activities but also into policy dialogues, capacity-building events, and S-TWG processes. Several members recommended developing clearer gender indicators and sex-disaggregated reporting tools to enable consistent monitoring and better reflect progress within the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. It was further suggested that the project expand its outreach to women’s groups, indigenous communities, and small-scale seaweed farmers to promote meaningful stakeholder representation. Participants proposed increasing national-level consultations and utilizing more accessible communication platforms to reach stakeholders. The PSC further encouraged aligning the GAP and SEP with the existing national gender frameworks to ensure that gender considerations are addressed across the different value chains of the seaweed cultivation. Overall, the Committee agreed that reinforcing gender mainstreaming, broadening stakeholder

engagement, and improving data tracking would greatly enhance the effectiveness and inclusiveness of project implementation moving forward. Her presentation appears as **Annex 16**.

23. After discussion, the PSC meeting took note of the Refresh the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

XIII. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS AND ENDORSEMENT OF PSC RECOMMENDATIONS

24. On the Conclusion and Next steps and Endorsement of PSC recommendations, the PSC took note, provide suggestions, and adopt as follows;

- The PSC members adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) and took note of the STWG report, held on 25-26 November 2025. The PSC also adopted ToR of the Consultant and agreed on the election of the Chairperson for the next PSC meeting.
- The PSC took note of the outcomes of the Inception Workshop held on 14 August 2025.
- The PSC reviewed the proposed amendments to previously approved project documents and approved the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) of SEAFDEC and BFAR, with suggestions to improve coordination regarding the timing of submissions to better align with the schedule set by the GEF Agency. The PSC further agreed on the Annual Co-financing Letter.
- The PMU presented the financial progress for Years 1 and 2, while the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) presented the financial progress for Year 1. The PSC took note of the financial updates and Gender action Plans. In addition, the PSC provided suggestions and guidance to the PMU to address unexpected project delays and to consider appropriate contingency plans.
- In addition, the PSC agreed on the following follow-up actions and would circulate the full report of the Meeting to all PSC Members by 12 December 2025.
- With regard to future coordination, the schedule and venue for the next PSC meeting would be tentatively in the First week of March 2026 in the Philippines
- Furthermore, to facilitate smooth project implementation, the PMU will work in close coordination with WWF US and the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance (DFiS) of Viet Nam, to complete the signing of the Grant Agreement by 2025. In parallel, the PMU will finalize and implement appropriate contingency plans aimed at preventing further delays in the implementation of the Project.

XIV. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

25. The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Mr. Koichi Tahara*, expressed his sincere appreciation to all PSC members, observers, and partners for their active engagement and constructive contributions throughout the two-day deliberations. He highlighted the progress made in strengthening the project's implementation direction, particularly with respect to the consolidated work plan and budget, the gender and stakeholder engagement strategies, and the proposed contingency measures to address potential implementation delays. He extended his gratitude to the participating countries and collaborating organizations for their valuable insights, and to the SEAFDEC staff for their dedication in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Meeting. He

emphasized that the outcomes of the PSC Meeting would guide the project confidently into its next phase and reinforce collaboration among SEAFDEC, BFAR, DFiS, and WWF-US in achieving its intended regional impacts. He then declared the Meeting closed. His Closing Remarks appear in **Annex 17**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Annex 1

PHILIPPINES

Drusila Esther E. Bayate (Ms.)
Undersecretary for Fisheries Department of
Agriculture

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR) Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI
Compound Brgy. Vasra, Diliman,
Quezon City 1101, Republic of the Philippines
E-mail: debayate@da.gov.ph

Ida T. Capacio (Ms.)
Center Chief, National Seaweed Focal

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (+63) 0998-889-9214
E-mail: icapacio@bfar.da.gov.ph

Mariglo Rosaida I. Laririt (Ms.)
Assistant Director for Biodiversity
Management Bureau

Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
E-mail: osec@denr.gov.ph
ohea@denr.gov.ph

Alfredo Ancheta Pedrosa III
Chairman of Seaweed Industry Association of
the Philippines

Seaweed Industry Association of the
Philippines
935 San Jose St. Mauway, Mandaluyong
City, Metro Manila Philippines
Tel: (+63) 0917-884-1226
E-mail: aapiii7773@yahoo.com

VIET NAM

Nguyen Vu Mai Anh (Ms.)
Officer, Aquaculture Division

Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Giang Vo Ward
Hanoi, Viet Nam
E-mail: nvmaianh@gmail.com
nvmanh2@mae.gov.vn

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC)

Secretariat

Mr. Koichi Tahara
Deputy Secretary-General

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail: dsg@seafdec.org

Dr. Worawit Wanchana
Policy and Program Coordinator

E-mail: worawit@seafdec.org

Muhamad Nour
Project Manager/ Technical Advisor of the
Blue Horizon Seaweed Project

E-mail: muhamad@seafdec.org

Onjira Korboon (Ms.)
Policy Officer

E-mail: Onjira@seafdec.org

Training Department (TD)

Jariya Sornkliang
Gender Focal Point

P.O. Box 97, Suk Sawat Road, Laem Fa Pha,
Phasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, 10290,
Thailand
E-mail: jariya@seafdec.org

Aquaculture Department (AQD)

Mr. Dan D. Baliao
Department Chief

Brgy. Buyu-an, Tigbauan, Iloilo,
5021, Philippines
Tel: + 63 033 330-7010
E-mail: dbaliao@seafdec.org.ph

Joseph Polido Faisan Jr.
Technical Specialist

Tel: + 63 956 058 9214
E-mail: jfaisan@seafdec.org.ph

Observers

Imelda R. Calixto (Ms.)
Officer-in-Charge
Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR) Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI
Compound Brgy. Vasra, Diliman,
Quezon City 1101, Republic of the Philippines
E-mail: ifadco@bfar.da.gov.ph
Icalixto2021@gmail.com

Beverly S. San Juan
RFPN Philippines

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail: beverly@seafdec.org

Dang Thi Thuy Quynh (Ms.)
RFPN Viet Nam

E-mail: quynh@seafdec.org

DUY Nguyen Phuong
Food Practice Coordinator

WWF Viet Nam
3rd floor, College of Environment and
Natural Resources
Campus II, Can Tho University, 3/2 Str.,
Ninh Kieu Dist., Can Tho City

Tel: +84 292 3872123
E-mail: duy.nguyenphuong@wwf.org.vn

Alijomar T. Pedrosa

Seaweed Industry Association of the
Philippines
935 San Jose St. Mauway, Mandaluyong
City, Metro Manila Philippines
Tel: (+63) 09178411226.
E-mail: jomar_ped12@yahoo.com

Secretariat of the Meeting

Arpaporn Eiamsa-ard (Ms.)
Senior Administrative Officer

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail: arpaporn@seafdec.org

Meen Limthammahisorn
Administrative Officer III

E-mail: meen@seafdec.org

Thanitta Sookklam (Ms.)
Administrative Officer

E-mail: thanitta@seafdec.org

Annex 2

OPENING REMARKS

By Koichi Tahara
SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General

Distinguished representatives from:

1. Ms. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, CESO IV Undersecretary for Fisheries Department of Agriculture of the Philippines
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam
 - a. Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Mai Anh, DFiS Viet Nam
3. Ms. Mariglo Rosaida I. Laririt Assistant Director Biodiversity Management Bureau
4. Mr. Alfredo Pedrosa III, Chairman of SIAP (Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines)
5. Mr. Dan Baliao, Chief of AQD
6. Mr. Duy Nguyen Phuong, Representative of WWF Viet Nam
7. BFAR and DFiS Representatives
8. SEAFDEC Senior Officers
9. SEAFDEC Project Management Unit
10. RPFN colleagues who come as observers of this meeting

Good morning and welcome to Bangkok

On behalf of SEAFDEC, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the **First Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project**. We are grateful for your participation and your commitment to advancing sustainable seaweed aquaculture across Southeast Asia.

This project represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to enhance the sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems, while also improving the livelihoods of coastal communities across our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's workshop marks the official start of this important collaboration, supported by the Global Environment Facility through WWF US as the Implementing Agency, and jointly executed by SEAFDEC, BFAR Philippines, and the Department of Fisheries of Viet Nam. Over the next four years, this project will strengthen seaweed value chains, advance technical innovation, and deliver tangible ecosystem services all contributing to our shared commitment to sustainable fisheries and ocean health.

Today marks an important milestone as we come together to review the overall progress of the project, finalize the Terms of Reference for both the PSC and the Seaweed Technical Working Group, and confirm key amendments introduced in the updated project document. We will also discuss and approve the consolidated work plan and budget, strengthen our coordination mechanisms, and examine contingency measures to keep the project on track.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your guidance is essential in shaping effective implementation, ensuring strong collaboration among SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DFiS, and upholding the project's goals in gender responsiveness, stakeholder engagement, and results-based monitoring.

Thank you once again for your dedication. I look forward to productive discussions and collective decisions that will support a harmonized and sustainable seaweed sector for our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you all a productive discussion and look forward to seeing the outcomes of our collective efforts in the years ahead.

Thank you and I wish you all a successful meeting.

Annex 3

**Proposed Speech for Undersecretary Drusila Esther Bayate
Agenda 1: Country Remarks – Philippines (DA-BFAR)
1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting**

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project
November 27-28, 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

Distinguished representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Vietnam, colleagues from SEAFDEC, our partners from WWF, fellow Philippine delegates from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), esteemed representatives from the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP), ladies and gentlemen, good morning. It is my honor to represent the Philippine government's Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at this First Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project. I extend my sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC for organizing this gathering and for graciously hosting us here in Bangkok.

Today marks an important milestone as we formally convene the PSC members, an essential body that will guide, oversee, and support the effective implementation of this regional initiative. As this project moves from inception into full implementation phase, our collective leadership becomes crucial in ensuring that the vision of Blue Horizon Project is translated into concrete and sustainable results.

For the Philippines, this project holds immense significance. Seaweed remains one of our most valuable aquaculture commodities—strengthening coastal economies, supporting thousands of fisherfolk households, and contributing to our role as a leading global producer. Beyond its economic relevance, seaweed aquaculture also presents a vital pathway for climate resilience, environmental protection, and community empowerment.

Thus, the Blue Horizon Project aligns deeply with the national priorities of the Philippine government and the broader regional agenda to promote responsible and sustainability-centered aquaculture.

We recognize and appreciate the regional collaborative framework established under this project. The leadership of SEAFDEC, the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through WWF, and the active engagement of Vietnam all contribute to a strong foundation for shared learning, harmonized standards, and cooperative action. This cooperation is essential if we are to elevate seaweed aquaculture in Southeast Asia to a globally competitive and environmentally sound sector.

As we proceed with the work of this Project Steering Committee, the Philippines reaffirms its full commitment to carrying out its responsibilities under Components 2 and 3, strengthening our national enabling environment and advancing our seaweed value chains. BFAR will ensure active coordination with our domestic stakeholders, local government units, industry partners, and coastal communities so that the project's benefits are felt where they matter most.

We also welcome the project's emphasis on gender inclusivity and meaningful stakeholder participation. Ensuring that women, small-scale producers, and marginalized groups are fully engaged in planning and decision-making will enrich both the quality and the impact of our interventions.

In this meeting, we look forward to finalizing the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering

Committee and the Seaweed Technical Working Group, reviewing the amendments to the project documents, approving the consolidated Annual Work Plan and Budget, and discussing strategies to address potential implementation delays. These actions will provide the structure, clarity, and foresight needed to guide the project's next phases.

Allow me to express once again the Philippines' appreciation to all partners present today. Your dedication strengthens our shared aspirations for a resilient, innovative, and sustainable seaweed aquaculture sector in our region.

On behalf of the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and BFAR, I reaffirm our readiness to collaborate closely with all of you as we work toward achieving the goals of the Blue Horizon Project.

Thank you, and I look forward to a productive and meaningful meeting ahead.

Annex 4

**Proposed Speech for Vietnam
Agenda 1: Country Remarks
1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting**

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project
November 27-28, 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

Distinguished Chair,

Esteemed Members of the Project Steering Committee,
Colleagues and Partners,

On behalf of Viet Nam, I am pleased to participate in the first Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Blue Horizon Project. We greatly appreciate the partnership with GEF, WWF, SEAFDEC, and Philippines in advancing sustainable seaweed aquaculture as a nature-based solution for ocean health, climate resilience, and community livelihoods.

Viet Nam attaches high importance to the responsible and sustainable development of the seaweed sector. We welcome the project's support in strengthening governance frameworks, improving national and provincial planning, and applying ecosystem-based and marine spatial planning tools to guide environmentally sound and socially inclusive expansion. These efforts align closely with our national priorities for a resilient blue economy and climate adaptation.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong commitment to active cooperation with GEF, WWF, SEAFDEC, Philippines, and relevant stakeholders throughout implementation. We look forward to constructive collaboration and to contributing to regional knowledge sharing for the benefit of all participating countries. In particular, we value opportunities to exchange experience on sustainable farming models, traceability, post-harvest technologies, and market development.

We are confident that through our collective efforts, the Blue Horizon Project will generate meaningful and lasting benefits for our region and our oceans. We extend our best wishes for a productive meeting and the successful implementation of the project.

Thank you very much.

Annex 5

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)¹. 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 will host 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 PMU SEAFDEC will specifically carry out Component 1 and 4 that 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 product, environmental protection, and operational safety. The outputs from component 1 and 4 are expected to foster a harmonized approach across the region. Meanwhile, DOF Viet Nam and BFAR Philippines will implement Component 2 and Component 3 that focus on the development national components of seaweed aquaculture and its value chains.

Under **Component 4**, the project will facilitate the establishment of a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to serve as the oversight, advisory, and support body for the project. The PSC will consist of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (VN), Department of Agriculture (PH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PH), Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines, and SEAFDEC. A representative (s) from WWF, as the GEF Agency, will hold an “observer status” in the Project Steering Committee.

The PSC is responsible for approving annual work plans and budgets, as well as any strategic changes, and ensures that the project remains on track to deliver tangible environmental and socio-economic benefits at both the country and regional scales. The PSC meeting sessions will be organized both virtual and in person.

The PMU SEAFDEC organized an online Inception Workshop on 14 August 2025 to bring together all key stakeholders, including the implementing agency and executing agencies, BFAR/PH and DFiS/VN. The workshop was aimed to kick off the project and engage a broader audience in its objectives and activities, discuss the project’s objectives, components, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes.

In line with the framework of the project and as follow up the Inception Workshop, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will organize 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) to discuss project implementation together with proposed PSC members from Viet Nam and the Philippines. The PMU SEAFDEC will promote gender-balanced representation within the PSC, supporting

¹ SEAFDEC’s activities will be completed within this period, while implementation in the Philippines and Viet Nam will extend to 2029.

women’s engagement in leadership roles, and ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into project planning, implementation, and evaluation.

II. Objectives of the 1st PSC Meeting

The objectives of the 1st PSC meeting are:

1. To provide an overview and status of the Project
2. To finalize and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
3. To finalize and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG)
4. To review and confirm key elements that amended in the approved project document (memorandum dated 28 March 2024)
5. To review and approve work plan and budget of executing agencies
6. To discuss and provide suggestion on contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays.
7. To refresh the content of Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the project
8. To review the communication strategy and plans
9. To review the M&E system and plan

III. Expected outputs

1. Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
2. Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG)
3. Confirmation on key elements that amended to previously approved project document (memorandum dated 28 March 2024)
4. Approval of the consolidate Annual Work Plan and Budget.
5. Suggestions on contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays.
6. Suggestions on the content of Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

IV. Participants

The PSC members will consist of well-balance representatives from target countries and agencies with equal representation men and women, comprising:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam²
 - a. Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Mai Anh, DFiS Viet Nam
 - b. Ms. Le Anh, Deputy Head, Environmental Control Division
2. Ms. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, CESO IV Undersecretary for Fisheries Department of Agriculture of the Philippines
3. Mr. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Undersecretary and Deputy Head of OETF Organizational Transformation and Human Resources Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines
4. Mr. Alfredo Pedrosa III, Chairman of SIAP (Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines)
5. Mr. Koichi Tahara, Deputy Secretary General SEAFDEC Secretariat

² The PSC will invite two representatives from MAE Viet Nam

Meanwhile, the first PSC meeting will also invite observers, comprising:

1. Mr. Dan D. Baliao, Chief of Office AQD
2. Ms. Ida T. Capacio, National Project Focal Point
3. Mr. Duy Nguyen Phuong, WWF Viet Nam
4. Dr. Worawit Wanchana, PPC SEAFDEC Secretariat
5. Ms. Jariya Sornkliang, Gender Focal Point SEAFDEC Secretariat
6. Mr. Beverly S. San Juan, RFPN for the Philippines
7. Ms. Dan Thi Thu Quynh, RFPN for Viet Nam
8. Mr. Muhamad Nour, Project Manager/Technical Advisor
9. Mr. Joseph Faisan/Technical Specialist
10. Ms. Onjira Korboon, Policy Officer

V. Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held at Solitaire Hotel Sukhumvit Bangkok, Thailand during a period of 27 – 28 November 2025.

Annex 6

Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Time	Agendas	Annotation
Day 1 – 27 November 2025		
08.30-09.00	Registration	

09.00-09.30	<p>Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome Remarks by SEAFDEC 2. Country Remarks by BFAR/PH 3. Country Remarks by DFiS/VN <p>Self-Introduction of Participants</p>	<p>After remarks delivered by each agency. MC invites the participants to introduce themselves</p> <p>PM to draft opening remarks</p>
09.30-09.45	<p>Agenda 2: Introduction, Objectives and Adoption of the Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief Explanation on Workshop's objectives, Workshop's Agenda and arrangement 2. Any other issues for the attention of PSC or the secretariat 	<p>For the 1st PSC Meeting, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General will chair the Meeting and PM is Secretariat and Rapporteur of the Meeting. PM will present Agenda 2.1</p> <p>After presentation, the Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda and/or provide suggestions for other issues to be discussed.</p>
09.45-10.00	<p>Agenda 3: Project Overview and Status</p>	<p>PM present brief information on the Project information and the status.</p> <p>The Meeting is invited to take note.</p>
10.00-10.30	<p>Agenda 4: Consideration and Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Membership of the committee 4.2 Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson 4.3 Terms of reference of the committee 4.4 Rules of procedure 4.5 Meeting arrangements 	<p>PM present the draft ToR PSC, rules and procedures. Chairperson: the Meeting is requested to consider and adopt the TOR of PSC</p> <p>PM will make PPT</p>
10.30-11.00	<p>Group Photo and Coffee break</p>	
11.00-12.00	<p>Agenda 5: Report on the outcomes of the Inception Workshop including recommendations from the Inception Workshop</p> <p>Q&A</p>	<p>PM reports the outcomes of the Inception Workshop including recommendations from the Inception Workshop and immediate actions suggested from the Inception Workshop. The PSC Members are requested to consider, agree and provide observation, comments and advice.</p> <p>PM to present key recommendations of Inception Workshop</p>
12.00 – 13.00	<p>Lunch break</p>	

13.00 - 13.30	Agenda 6: Review of the memorandum dated 28 March 2024 on Amendment to previously approved documents under the WWF/GEF Project: Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	SEAFDEC informs the Meeting on the adjustments to the CEO endorsed project documentation e.g. fund and reporting flow, overall budget). The Meeting is requested to take note. PM to present this agenda 6
13.30-14.15	Agenda 7: Consideration and adoption of the membership and draft Terms of Reference for the S-TWG, including the Report of the First Seaweed Technical Working Group meeting (S-TWG).	PM presents the draft Terms of Reference for the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG). The Meeting is requested to consider and adopt the Terms of Reference for the Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG), including take note of the report of 1-STWG.
14.15-15.00	Agenda 8: Consideration and Approval of Consolidated Annual Workplan and Budget 1. SEAFDEC 2. BFAR/PH	PM to present the draft consolidated Annual Workplan and Budget. The Meeting is requested to consider and approve the Annual Workplan and Budget of SEAFDEC and BFAR.
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30 – 16.00	Agenda 9: Annual Co-finance letter	PM will present the submission of Annual Co-finance Letter. The Meeting is requested to adopt the Annual Co-finance letter
16.00 – 16.30	Agenda 10: Finance progress 10.1 SEAFDEC 10.2 BFAR/PH	PM to present actual spending and remaining budget of SEAFDEC and BFAR to provide update on the grant agreement (bank account) The Meeting is requested to take note of the financial status of each agency
16.30 – 17.00	Closing Day 1 Evaluation Day 1	PMU to provide feedback form for participants
Day 2 – 28 November 2025		
08.30 – 09.30	Agenda 11: Discussion on the contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays.	PM will moderate this Agenda to come up with the recommendation on contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays the. The Meeting is requested to take note.
09.30 – 10.30	Agenda 12: Refresh the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	PM and SEAFDEC’s Gender focal point to moderate the agenda. The Meeting will review the Gender Action Plan.
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee break	
10.45 – 11.45	Agenda 13: Endorsement of PSC recommendations and Conclusion and next steps :	PM presents the summary of major discussion and recommended action points and follow-up actions. The Meeting is requested to adopt the recommendation.

	<p>13.1 Summary of major discussion and recommended action points and follow-up actions</p> <p>13.2 Endorsement of the recommendations</p> <p>13.3 Discuss and propose next PSC meeting (date and venue)</p>	<p>The Meeting is invited to consider the date and venue of the next PSC meeting</p>
11.45 – 12.00	Agenda 14: Closing of the Meeting	MC will invite DSG SEAFDEC Secretariat to convey closing remarks

Annex 7

PROJECT DOCUMENT

**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR 2025
AND
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2026**

			Project ID: 202306003
Program Category:	ASEAN-SEAFDEC ASSP and FCG Mechanism		
Project Title:	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture		
Program Strategy No:	II	Total Period	2024–2028 ³
Lead Department:	Secretariat/AQD	Lead Country:	-
Donor/Sponsor:	GEF/WWF-US	Total Project Budget:	GEF IW allocation 6,000,000 USD SEAFDEC received grant 1,359,144 USD
Project Partner(s):	BFAR (PH), DFIS (VN)	Budget for July 2024- June 2025⁴:	SEAFDEC: 217,375 USD
Lead Technical Officer:	Mr. Muhamad Nour	Project Participating Countries	The Philippines and Viet Nam

PART I: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Background/Introduction

Seaweed farming is becoming a lucrative business in coastal provinces - farmed as a foodstuff, with seaweed being cultivated not only as a food source, but also used for in food processing, cosmetics, and medical industries. The livelihoods of coastal communities are closely linked to the quality of water and habitat in these rich marine ecosystems. Seaweed cultivation addresses multiple environmental threats to coastal waters by absorbing excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, thereby reducing the risk of hypoxia and converting these nutrients into valuable protein, oils, green chemical feedstock, and a range of industrial products. This process supports ecosystem services, enhances biodiversity, and contributes to carbon sequestration.

From a socio-economic perspective, seaweed farming promotes livelihood resilience for coastal communities. It can also be integrated into multi-trophic aquaculture systems, further

³ For SEAFDEC Component and other participating countries may go beyond 2028

⁴ Based on 1st Year annual workplan and budget approved by WWF, covers from July 2024-June 2025, fiscal year of WWF)

strengthening these communities' economic stability while simultaneously providing environmental benefits that contribute to the overall health and sustainability of coastal ecosystems.

While the seaweed industry has significant untapped potential to supply high-quality, cost-competitive biomass for emerging international value chains, such as producing sustainable fishmeal and oil alternatives to support the environmental sustainability of the aquaculture sector, it faces several challenges that hinder its growth. The current industry structure is marked by frequent disease outbreaks (e.g., ice-ice disease) exacerbated by climate change and the low genetic variability of seed stocks. Additionally, the widespread use (and subsequent loss) of plastics, along with the lack of standardized protocols that follow an eco-system approach, limits the ability to optimize the environmental footprint of seaweed production.

The project, *Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture*, aims to strengthen and develop seaweed value chains at global, regional, and national levels. The focus will be on the coastal and marine ecosystems in Viet Nam and the Philippines, where there is significant potential for expanding seaweed aquaculture and its associated value chains. The project is expected to deliver both environmental and socio-economic benefits. Environmental benefits include enhanced ecosystem services provided by seaweed farms, such as reducing ocean acidification, oxygenating coastal waters, mitigating eutrophication and harmful algal blooms, and improving conditions for aquatic biodiversity. Socioeconomic benefits include livelihood opportunities through higher production and quality of seaweed biomass, leading to greater profits for seaweed farmers; enhanced income-producing and trading higher-value processed seaweed products, and strengthened capacities within local communities.

These benefits are expected to be measured as follows:

- 66,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions mitigated (based on seaweed biomass that falls off during production and ends up sequestering carbon at the ocean bottom)
- 15,000 beneficiaries benefiting from the project
- 4,400 tons of Nitrogen and phosphorus captured

2. Project in relevance to the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030



3. Gender Sensitivity of the Project

During the project development phase, the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan were

conducted for the Philippines, Viet Nam, and at the regional level (a total of three Gender Analyses and Gender Action Plans) to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle. The Gender Analysis examines the differences between men and women, their access and control over resources, and the implications for the project's goals, objectives, outcomes, and outputs. As a result, the project is fully aligned with and supports SEAFDEC, WWF, and GEF. It will also integrate best practices and lessons learned to promote gender equity and empowerment along the seaweed value chain.

4. Project Goal, Components, Outcomes, Outputs, and Overall Implementation Plan

4.1 Project Goal, Outcomes, Outputs

The overarching goal of the Project is to “create new sustainable seaweed value chains that will deliver ecosystem services and provide socio-economic benefits to communities, particularly to households whose livelihoods depend on marine ecosystems.”

To achieve the goal, the project will be conducted in the following four components:

- **Component 1: Regional capacity building for seaweed aquaculture.** This Component focuses on strengthening regional capacity and developing strategic plans for seaweed aquaculture. It also includes participation in global seaweed coalitions to enhance regional collaboration.
- **Component 2: Enabling Environment for Seaweed Aquaculture in Philippines and Viet Nam.** This component aims to create an enabling environment for seaweed aquaculture at the national level by supporting processes to identify appropriate areas for expansion and operationalizing management plans specific to such areas, with accompanying plans and coordination mechanisms at national and global levels.
- **Component 3: Seaweed Value Chains (production + processing + marketing).** This component requires collaborating with producers and cooperatives to pilot offshore seaweed farms as proof-of- concept sites for off-shore seaweed production. It will also test a scalable seaweed carbon credit model and expand partnerships with finance and private sectors.
- **Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional).** This component involves knowledge sharing and robust monitoring and evaluation. Activities will be monitored and communicated through multiple channels, building on existing baseline initiatives in the seaweed industry in the Philippines and Viet Nam to promote the interests of seaweed farmers, support their communities, and expand the global seaweed market sustainably.

The project will deliver several key outputs and outcomes, as described below:

Component 1 Regional capacity building for seaweed aquaculture

Outcome 1.1: Regionally adopted plans and principles to harmonize seaweed aquaculture in Southeast Asia

- Output 1.1.1 Regional Seaweed Technical Working Group, constituted and formally mandated by SEAFDEC Governing Council
- Output 1.1.2. Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region, endorsed by the SEAFDEC Governing Council
- Output 1.1.3 SEA Regional Principles for Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture, including a toolkit for applying principles, aligned to the Safe Seaweed Coalition
- Output 1.1.4 Training modules and information packages to support a sustainable seaweed industry in South East Asia

Component 2 Enabling Environment for Seaweed Aquaculture in Philippines and Viet Nam

Outcome 2.1: Improved planning for seaweed aquaculture and capture of nutrients from the ocean

Output: Communication products, including a website to share project outcomes

- Output 2.1.1 Marine spatial planning that integrates more sustainable seaweed farming
- Output 2.1.2 National Seaweed Plan presented for adoption (VN) and National Seaweed Industry Roadmap (PH) adapted to local levels

Outcome 2.2: Robust institutional and regulatory frameworks ensure that the expansion of seaweed farming is sustainable, responsible, and equitable

- Output 2.2.1 Policy and Regulatory gap analysis and associated frameworks (e.g. Circulars; technical guidelines) to facilitate seaweed aquaculture planning, development, and management
- Output 2.2.2 An open-source Information Management System to facilitate national and provincial-level planning and management of the seaweed aquaculture sector (VN)

Component 3 Seaweed Value Chains (production + processing + marketing)

Outcome 3.1: Improved technologies and testing for seaweed value chains in PH and VN

- Output 3.1.1: Six demonstration farms to provide proof of concept of different seaweed farming options:
 - ✓ Four demonstration farms (of Eucheumatoid species) to provide proof of concept of off-the-coast or off-shore scalable seaweed businesses (based on zones identified in 2.1.2).
 - ✓ Two demonstration farms (*Caulerpa* sp.), one in degraded former shrimp ponds and another in an adjacent shallow nearshore area

- Output 3.1.2: Implementation of at least 2 seaweed value chain initiatives (adding value to raw seaweed in seaweed farming communities; improved propagules; transparency)

Outcome 3.2: Generating benefits from seaweed aquaculture for target communities (PH and VN)

- Output 3.2.1: Sustainable Seaweed Toolkit and training for improved production, processing, and market access
- Output 3.2.2: Seaweed farmer/cooperative support systems (value chain development and participation, business management, access to financing and other key inputs)

Outcome 3.3: Expanded collaboration with the finance sector and private sector to support seaweed value chains in the Philippines and Viet Nam

- Output 3.3.1. Development of 3-4 bankable business propositions to scale up sustainable seaweed value chain solutions tested under 3.1 and new innovative solutions
- Output 3.3.2: Investment seminars and industry and investment forums conducted in collaboration with government representatives, development partners, and the private sector, including key value chain actors

Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)

Outcome 4.1: Full participation in IW: LEARN and knowledge management/communication

- Output 4.1.1: Participation in two IW: LEARN regional meetings and one GEF International Waters Conference, delivering IW: LEARN experience notes
- Output 4.1.2: Knowledge management and communication platform and products

Outcome 4.2: Monitoring and evaluation system in place

- Output 4.2.1: Monitoring and Evaluation reports (including project progress reports, midterm evaluation, terminal evaluation)

4.2 Project overall implementation plan for Year 1-Year 4 (original project document)

The GEF CEO approved the project document for “*Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture*,” including the overall implementation plan for four years (48 months). WWF-US serves as the GEF Agency, with three (3) Executing Agencies: SEAFDEC as the regional Executing Agency and host of the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Viet Nam as national Executing Agencies. The overall implementation structure is shown below.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Component 1: Regional capacity building for seaweed aquaculture				
Outcome 1				

Output 1.1.1	X			
Output 1.1.2	X	X	X	X
Output 1.1.3		X	X	X
Output 1.1.4		X	X	X
Component 2: Enabling Environment for Seaweed Aquaculture in Philippines and Viet Nam				
Output 2.1.1 (PH)	X			
Output 2.1.1 (VN)	X	X	X	X
Output 2.1.2(PH)	X			
Output 2.1.2(VN)	X	X	X	X
Output 2.2.1 (PH)	X			
Output 2.2.1(VN)	X	X	X	X
Output 2.2.2 (VN)	X	X	X	X
Component 3: Seaweed Value Chains (production + processing + marketing)				
Output 3.1.1 (PH)	X	X		
Output 3.1.1 (VN)	X	X	X	X
Output 3.1.2 (VN)	X	X	X	X
Output 3.2.1 (VN)		X	X	X
Output 3.2.2 (PH)	X			
Output 3.2.3 (PH)	X	X	X	X
Output 3.3.1 (PH)		X	X	X
Output 3.3.1 (VN)		X	X	X
Output 3.3.2 (PH)				X
Output 3.3.2 (VN)				X
Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)				
Output 4.1.1		X	X	X
Output 4.1.2	X	X	X	X
Output 4.2.1	X	X	X	X

4.3 Project overall proposed budget for activities implementation for Year 1-Year 4

Component	Budget (USD)	Responsible Agencies
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1	730,690	SEAFDEC
2	1,283,629	PH+VN
3	2,646,163	PH+VN
4	588,250	SEAFDEC, PH, VN, WWF-US

PART II: PROJECT STATUS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

1. Project Summary in 2025 (as of 3 November 2025)

Since the GEF CEO endorsed the project in July 2022, the WWF GEF Agency has been working with SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam to initiate project execution. The WWF GEF Agency would provide grants separately to each executing agency. SEAFDEC and WWF GEF Agency entered into an Agreement on 26 April 2024, with the Grant Agreement effective until 31 December 2028. SEAFDEC is responsible for regional activities under Components 1 and 4, as well as the project management unit, while BFAR and DOF Viet Nam are responsible for national activities under Components 2 and 3, and contributing relevant inputs to the PMU. As of 1 July 2025, the Philippines has signed grant agreement with the WWF US as GEF Implementing Agency, meanwhile Viet Nam is still in progress.

For activities under SEAFDEC’s responsibility, SEAFDEC submitted the 2nd Year Annual Workplan⁵ and Budget of SEAFDEC to WWF-GEF Agency, covering the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. This plan was approved by the WWF GEF Agency on 23 May 2025. The 2nd Year Annual Workplan and Budget would also require approval from the Project Steering Committee (PSC) once the 1st PSC Meeting convenes, which will occur after at least one of the countries begins operations. Meanwhile, SEAFDEC has completed establishing the Project Management Unit (PMU) Office and recruiting PMU staff comprising Project Manager/Technical Advisor, Administrative Office, and Technical Specialist. Several consultants of Monitoring and Evaluation, Information and Technology, and Communications were also recruited to support the project in implementing Component 1 and Component 4.

2. Outputs, proposed activities, and budget in 2025-2026⁶

Project Outcomes/Outputs	Proposed Activities	Duration	Proposed Budget (USD)
Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SE Asia			
Outcome 1.1	Regionally adopted plans and principles to harmonize seaweed aquaculture in SE Asia		

⁵ The fiscal year of the Project is 1 July-30 June of each calendar year.

⁶ Component 1 and 4 of Workplan Year 2 covering 1 July 2025-30 June 2026. The workplan was approved by WWF GEF Agency

Output 1.1.1: Regional Seaweed Technical Working Group, constituted and formally mandated by SEAFDEC Governing Council	<u>Activity 1.1.1.1</u> Develop a Draft Terms of Reference of the S-TWG, including gender-specific considerations	July 2025	30,000
	<u>Activity 1.1.1.2</u> Obtain Governing Council's approval of the draft Terms of Reference of the S-TWG, its formation and giving it a formal mandate.	November 2025	
	<u>Activity 1.1.1.3</u> Obtain nominations from each government for a member in the S-TWG taking into consideration gender balance in the S-TWG	September 2025	
	<u>Activity 1.1.1.4</u> Convene the First Meeting of the S-TWG taking into consideration gender balance in the STWG	November 2025	
Output 1.1.2: Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region, endorsed by the SEAFDEC Governing Council	<u>Activity 1.1.2.1</u> Draft ToR and contract a consultant to support development of the Guide (of which Guide is developed with gender-sensitive considerations)	September 2025	-
	<u>Activity 1.1.2.2</u> S-TWG meeting to define the scope of the Guide and review ToR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide consider gender and inclusion dimensions in the scope of the Guide.	November 2025	
Output 1.1.3: SEA Regional Principles for Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture, including toolkit	<u>Activity 1.1.3.1</u> Desktop assessment to inform the development of principles and criteria including consideration of gender and inclusion dimensions.	September 2025	12,000

for applying principles, aligned to the Safe Seaweed Coalition			
Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)			
Outcome 4.1: Full participation in IW: LEARN and knowledge management/communication			

Output 4.1.1 Participation in two IW: LEARN regional meetings and one GEF International Waters Conference, delivering IW: LEARN experience notes	Activity 4.1.1.1 website uploaded/included on IW: Learn ensuring gender and inclusion learning are highlighted when and where relevant.	Oct - Dec 2025	15,000
Output 4.1.2: Knowledge management and communication platform and products	Activity 4.1.2.1 Formulate the KM and C Strategy and Plan (including Gendersensitive/responsive consideration)	June 2025	9,400
	Activity 4.1.2.2 Develop the Project website hosted by AQD, continuously update with project information.	Sept - Oct 2025	
Outcome 4.2: Monitoring and evaluation system in place			
Output 4.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation reports (including project progress reports, midterm evaluation, terminal evaluation)	Activity 4.2.1.1 Inception workshop and PSC meeting taking into consideration gender balance in the event	August 2025	109,300
	Activity 4.2.1.2 Produce, deliver 6monthly project progress reports	July 2025	
	Activity 4.2.1.3 Produce, deliver Financial Reports Quarterly	Jan, Apr, and Jul 2025	
	Activity 4.2.1.4 Organize Adaptive Management/Reflection Meetings Yearly (4th Qtr, Yrs 1,2 and3)	Apr-June 2026	
	Activity 4.1.2.6 M&E consultant develop M&E plan (including Monitoring against gender disaggregated or gender-specific indicators)	Oct - Dec 2025	

3. List of Publications in 2025 (e.g. technical report(s), technical article(s), annual report(s), VDO, presentation file)

- ✓ <https://www.seafdec.org/wwf-blue-horizon-seaweed/>
- ✓ <https://www.seafdec.org/seafdec-conducts-kick-off-workshop-to-advance-sustainable-seaweed-aquaculture/>

- ✓ <https://www.seafdec.org/blue-horizon-seaweed-project-pmu-meets-aqd-bfar-tostrengthen-collaboration/>

4. Evaluation of Workshops/Training Courses by Participants of AMSs

None

5. Major Impacts and Issues

SEAFDEC and WWF GEF Agency entered into an Agreement on 26 April 2024 and the 1st Year Annual Workplan and Budget of SEAFDEC was approved on 30 July 2024, the 2nd Year Annual Workplan and Budget of SEAFDEC was approved on 23 May 2025. The Philippines has signed the grant agreement with WWG GEF Agency, meanwhile Viet Nam is currently working on obtaining final government approval before signing the agreement with the WWF GEF Agency. With the Philippines' agreement, the regional component will proceed, including the PSC and STWG establishment, M&E training, and finalizing the Gender Action Plan. The PSC meeting will also address approaches to expedite project implementation following a one-year delay.

PART III: PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2025 AND 2026 (1 July 2025-30 June 2026)

The 2nd Year Annual Workplan and budget for SEAFDEC activities under Components 1 and 4, along with PMU cost, covering the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 was approved by WWF, as provided in Part II. Below are the proposed activities for the 3rd Annual Workplan (1 July 2026-30 June 2027), which will be submitted to WWF for approval in April 2026.

Proposed Activities	Descriptions	Duration
Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SE Asia		
Outcome 1.1	Regionally adopted plans and principles to harmonize seaweed aquaculture in SE Asia	
Output 1.1.2:	Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region, endorsed by the SEAFDEC Governing Council	
Activity 1.1.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Validate the draft Guide	Jan-Mar 2027
Output 1.1.3:	SEA Regional Principles for Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture, including toolkit for applying principles, aligned to the Safe Seaweed Coalition	
Activity 1.1.3.1	<input type="checkbox"/> S-TWG meeting on the Principles of Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture.	Jul-Sept 2026

Output 1.1.4:	Training modules and information packages to support a sustainable seaweed industry in South East Asia	
Activity 1.1.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage consultants to produce training modules and information packages for the ‘Guide’, Principles and	Jul-Sept 2026
	toolkit, and 3 priority subjects selected from the shortlist above	
Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)		
Outcome 4.1:	Full participation in IW: LEARN and knowledge management/communication	
Output 4.1.1:	Participation in two IW:LEARN regional meetings and one GEF International Waters Conference, delivering IW:LEARN experience notes	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.1.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop lessons learned/experience notes for IWLEARN participation and website posting	July 2026-June 2027
Output 4.1.2:	Knowledge management and communication platform and products	
Activity 4.1.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop knowledge products identified in KM Plan	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.1.2.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Package and disseminate knowledge products	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.1.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain website hosted by AQD, continuously update with project information.	July 2026-June 2027
Outcome 4.2:	Monitoring and evaluation system in place	
Output 4.2.1:	Monitoring and Evaluation reports (including project progress reports, midterm evaluation, terminal evaluation)	
Activity 4.2.1.1	Project Steering Committee meeting	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.2.1.2	Produce, deliver 6-monthly project progress reports	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.2.1.3	Produce, deliver Financial Reports Quarterly	July 2026-June 2027
Activity 4.2.1.4	Organize Adaptive Management/Reflection Meetings Yearly (4th Qtr, Yrs 1,2 and3)	July 2026-June 2027

Require Consideration by PSC

- To take note of the overview of the Project and status

Annex 8

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

I. BACKGROUND

The **Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture** project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the World Wildlife Fund

(WWF US) as the GEF Implementing Agency, with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as Lead Regional Executing Agency, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR, Philippines) and the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance (DFiS) as national executing partners. The Project duration covers the period from 2024 to 2028⁷, with the possibility for extension. The overarching goal of the project is to develop sustainable seaweed value chains that deliver ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits.

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 Project execution is managed by the Project Management Unit (PMU), under the supervision of the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. The PMU Office is based at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand. The Project is governed by the Project Steering Committee to oversee implementation throughout the project's duration.

II. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the project entitled “*Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture*”, a **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be established as the primary decision-making body for the project, to provide strategic oversight, guidance, and approval of key project deliverables in line with the Project Document, Grant Agreements, and GEF requirements.

The role of PSC shall provide guidance, coordination, and accountability across the regional and national levels to the project, and to guide the Project Management Unit (PMU) of SEAFDEC and National PMUs in the Philippines and Viet Nam in the implementation and monitoring of the project, ensuring that the project remains on track to deliver tangible environmental and socio-economic benefits both at regional and national level.

The PSC will serve as a regional forum for reviewing and resolving cross-cutting concerns, reviewing and approving annual work plans and budgets, and facilitating stakeholder participation. One of the first activities during full project implementation will be to reconfirm and/or constitute the membership of the PSC, agree on meeting procedures, and finalize the Terms of Reference for the PSC.

⁷ SEAFDEC's activities will be completed within this period, while implementation in the Philippines and Viet Nam will extend to 2029.

III. THE TERM OF REFERENCE OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

- a. Provide direction and strategic guidance to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and National executing partners regarding project execution of agreed activities over the entire period of the project, including incorporating gender mainstreaming
- b. Approve at their first meeting: a) the membership, meeting arrangements, and terms of reference of the committees; and b) such standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee
- c. Meet on an annual basis during the implementation of the project to guide the timely execution of project activities
- d. Approve annual work plans and budgets and approve any changes to the project strategy or budget alongside WWF GEF Agency
- e. Approve the financial reports of the expenditure for prior years and also adopt the audited financial reports
- f. Provide guidance and advice for the Project Management Unit (PMU) on the project monitoring and evaluation plan, Project Progress Report (PPR), annual Results Framework and workplan tracking, Mid-term Project Evaluation Report, and Project Closeout Report, for submission to SEAFDEC, WWF US, and GEF Secretariat
- g. Approve key project outputs (e.g. reports, policy documents, communication and knowledge projects, etc)
- h. Assist the PMUs in ensuring coordination among national site-based activities and other national-level activities to further enhance national capacity to develop integrated approaches seaweed aquaculture and environmental management.
- i. Provide guidance on the interactions and partnership with other relevant bodies and network
- j. Assist the PMU in leveraging required project co-financing and additional funds that may be required from time to time
- k. Work with the PMU and National Lead Agencies in mainstreaming integrated seaweed aquaculture and environmental management and the replication of project successes at the national level.
- l. Participate in both virtual and in-person annual reflection workshop to discuss the theory of change and project progress.

IV. COMPOSITION OF PSC

The PSC members will consist of well-balance representatives from target countries and agencies with equal representation men and women, comprising:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam⁸
 - a. Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Mai Anh, DFiS Viet Nam
 - b. Ms. Le Anh, Deputy Head, Environmental Control Division
2. Ms. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, CESO IV Undersecretary for Fisheries Department of Agriculture of the Philippines

⁸ The PSC will invite two representatives from MAE Viet Nam

3. Mr. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Undersecretary and Deputy Head of OETF Organizational Transformation and Human Resources Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines
4. Mr. Alfredo Pedrosa III, Chairman of SIAP (Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines)
5. Mr. Koichi Tahara, Deputy Secretary General SEAFDEC Secretariat

The PSC shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from amongst its full members with responsibility for chairing each formal meeting of the Committee and for acting as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any meetings convened during the subsequent inter-sessional period. At the start of each meeting, the PSC may agree by consensus to invite additional experts to participate as observers or advisors for all or part of the meeting, as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

V. SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE

- a. The Project Manager/Technical Advisor of SEAFDEC's PMU shall act as Secretary to the meetings of the Committee.
- b. Other staff of SEAFDEC's PMU may provide secretariat and technical support to the meetings of the PSC as required.

VI. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

- a. The PMU shall convene regular biannual and annual meetings
- b. *Ad hoc* meetings may be convened by the Chairperson both in person and online: when a majority of the Committee members make a request for such a meeting to the Project Steering Committee; and at the request of the Project Steering Committee when circumstances demand.

VII. CONDUCT OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Committee shall operate and take decisions on the basis of consensus, regarding any matter relating to project execution that has regional significance. Where full consensus cannot be achieved in reaching agreement during a full meeting of the Committee, on any matter relating to project execution that has regional significance, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, facilitate negotiations during the subsequent inter-sessional period with a view to seeking resolution, and will report the results of these negotiations to the Committee members. The detailed operational guidance of the PSC is

provided below:

- a. *Members*: Each organization represented in the PSC will appoint a primary representative and an alternate in case the primary representative is not available to ensure that each organization is represented appropriately.
- b. *Convening*: PSC meeting invitations, materials and agenda will be issued by the PMU at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the meeting. New items can be added to the agenda at the request of any member of the PSC on the condition that it is informed before the meeting to the other members.
- c. *Quorum*: the quorum of the PSC will be 80% of the member institutions.
- d. *Protocol*: PMU SEAFDEC will coordinate with the PSC Chair to set the date of meetings, agenda, and invitation to PSC members. PSC materials will be shared in advance.
- e. *Meeting minutes*: as the secretary of the PSC, the SEAFDEC PMU will provide PSC meeting minutes (including summary of decisions and agreements) and share with all PSC members no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the meeting is held.
- f. *Amendments to the PSC TOR*: Any changes to the TOR, including its membership, must be approved by both WWF GEF Agency and approved by the PSC following the decisionmaking clause above.

VIII. Require Consideration by PSC

- Adopt TOR of the Project Steering Committee

Annex 9

REPORT VIRTUAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP

**Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture
14 August 2025**

Executive Summary

The Virtual Inception Workshop of the *Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project* was convened on 14 August 2025, bringing together 44 participants (23 women and 21 men) from SEAFDEC Member Countries, the executing agencies BFAR – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines), DFIS – Department of Fisheries and Surveillance of Viet Nam, WWF-US, SEAFDEC/AQD, and SEAFDEC Secretariat.

The workshop was formally opened by Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, who underscored the importance of establishing a shared understanding of the project’s objectives, strategies, and outcomes. She emphasized the need for a strong foundation to guide coordinated implementation, strengthen seaweed value chains, advance technical innovation, and deliver tangible ecosystem services for sustainable fisheries and ocean health. Ms. Rachel Kaplan, Lead Manager WWF-US, highlighted WWF’s role as the implementing agency and called upon SEAFDEC Member Countries and other stakeholders to actively contribute to the project, particularly in the development of regional seaweed aquaculture guides and principles.

The workshop featured technical presentations in three sessions from the Project Management Unit of SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DFIS, covering the purpose of the inception workshop, project’s objectives, components, project structure, and expected outcomes over its four-year duration.

Feedback from participants indicated strong recognition of the project’s relevance to addressing current needs in ocean relief through seaweed aquaculture. Many expressed interests in further understanding the project’s Theory of Change and welcomed the forthcoming establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Seaweed Technical Working Group (STWG).

In his closing remarks, the SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Koichi Tahara conveyed deep appreciation to all participants for their active engagement and collaboration. He encouraged continued cooperation as the project advances toward its next milestones, including the formalization of the PSC and STWG and the implementation of the Year 2 Work Plan.

The workshop successfully laid the groundwork for a collaborative approach to strengthening sustainable seaweed aquaculture, enhancing coastal ecosystems, and improving the livelihoods of communities dependent on ocean resources.

Introduction

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture is a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and was 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). The PMU SEAFDEC component will specifically cover this 2024–2028 implementation period, during which regional coordination, technical oversight, and knowledge exchange activities will be carried out. Meanwhile, national-level components in the Philippines and Viet Nam may be extended beyond 2028. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF US) serves as the GEF Implementing Agency, while the project is executed by three agencies: the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines (BFAR/PH), and the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance of Viet Nam (DFIS/VN).

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture seeks to strengthen and develop seaweed value chains at global, regional, and national levels. The primary focus is on the coastal

and marine ecosystems of Viet Nam and the Philippines, where there are significant opportunities for expanding suitable seaweed aquaculture and its associated value chains. The project aims to establish new value chains that not only generate economic benefits but also deliver crucial ecosystem services and socio-economic improvements.

As part of the project's implementation, SEAFDEC PMU organized a virtual Inception Workshop to bring together key stakeholders, including SEAFDEC Member Countries, WWF US, SEAFDEC/AQD, the implementing agency and executing agencies, BFAR/PH, and DOF/VN. The workshop aimed at kicking off the project and engaging a broader audience in its objectives and activities, discuss the project's objectives, components, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes.

Opening Session

The Virtual Inception Workshop was formally opened by Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn, Secretary-General of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, followed by welcoming remarks from Rachel Kaplan, Lead Manager from WWF US. Both speakers highlighted the importance of the project in strengthening regional collaboration and ensuring sustainable seaweed aquaculture development.

Dr. Suttinee in her opening remarks conveyed this seaweed aquaculture project is very important to strengthen seaweed value chains, advance technical innovation, and deliver tangible ecosystem services. These all outputs will contribute to sustainable fisheries and ocean health. She expects through this workshop, the stakeholders are improved their common understanding of the projects' objectives, strategies, and expected outcomes. In the end her remark, she encourages all participants to actively share your perspectives, experiences, and ideas to help shape the project's direction and maximize its impact.

Meanwhile, Ms. Rachel Kaplan in her remark highlighted WWF's role as the implementing agency and she also encourages SEAFDEC Member Countries to actively contribute to the project, particularly in the development of regional seaweed aquaculture guides and principles.

Session Delivered

The workshop was structured into three sessions facilitated by the executing agencies:

- Session 1: Introduction, Objectives, and Agenda. The Project Manager provided an overview of the inception workshop, outlining its purpose and agenda.
- Session 2: Project Objectives, Outcomes, and Theory of Change. SEAFDEC PMU, BFAR (Philippines), and DFIS (Viet Nam) jointly presented the current updates, project's objectives, key components, strategies, indicators, and Theory of Change. They also highlighted the upcoming work plan and priorities for the next months.
- Session 3: Project Structure and Implementation Arrangements. SEAFDEC PMU and BFAR detailed the project's governance arrangements, including the establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Seaweed Technical Working Group (STWG).

Roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms among SEAFDEC Member Countries were also discussed including the nomination of seaweed experts.

In addition, the Project Manager/Technical Advisor emphasized the integration of gender mainstreaming through the Gender Action Plan, designed to guide executing agencies in ensuring inclusivity across project activities.

Each session provided opportunity for participants to share perspectives and feedback through interactive Q&A discussions, fostering collective understanding and ownership of the project's direction.

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

It was agreed during the workshop that the following steps will be undertaken:

1. Circulation of invitations to nominate members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and experts for the Seaweed Technical Working Group (STWG).
2. Issuance of official invitation letters to confirmed PSC members.

Annex: Supporting Documents

1. List of Participants
2. Provisional Agenda and Timetable
3. Photo
4. News article <https://www.seafdec.org/seafdec-conducts-kick-off-workshop-to-advancesustainable-seaweed-aquaculture/>

Annex 1. List of Participants

No.	Full Name	Country	Email Address	Gender	Position	Organization
SEA FDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES						
1	Takeru Iida	Japan	takeru_iida150@maff.go.jp	Male	Assistant Director, Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Office, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, and SEAFDEC National Coordinator	Fisheries Agency of Japan
2	Takahiro Fukushima	Japan	takahiro_fukushim820@maff.go.jp	Male	Section Chief	Fisheries Agency of Japan
3	Oudone Khounsavanh	Lao PDR	oudone_kh@yahoo.com	Male	Deputy Director of Fisheries Division	Department of Livestock and Fisheries
4	Sophasith Thammaboud	Lao PDR	so88thammaboud@gmail.com	Female	Officer	Department of Livestock and Fisheries
5	Lim Ai Gaik	Malaysia	aigaik@dof.gov.my	Female	Head of International Section Policy and Strategic Planning Division	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Malaysia
6	Mohamad Firdaus bin Elias	Malaysia	firdauselias@dof.gov.my	Male	Fisheries Officer Marine Aquaculture Section	Aquaculture Division

No.	Full Name	Country	Email Address	Gender	Position	Organization
7	Muhammad Na'im Syafiq bin Othman	Malaysia	naim@dof.gov.my	Male	Assistant Fisheries Officer Marine Aquaculture Section	Aquaculture Division
8	Mya Mya Sint	Myanmar	myamyasint@gmail.com	Female	Deputy Director	Department of Fisheries
9	Myat Khine Mar	Myanmar	mar268354@gmail.com	Female	Deputy Director	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
10	Erna Y	Indonesia	nc.indonesia@gmail.com	Female	Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
11	Hendri Kurniawan Hendrikur16@gmail.com	Indonesia	Hendrikur16@gmail.com	Male	Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
12	Indri Zaini	Indonesia	indry.zaini@yahoo.com ,	Female	Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
13	Jiang Junhui	Singapore	jiang_jun_hui@sfa.gov.sg	Male	Director	SFA

14	Lim Huan Sein	Singapore	Lim_huan_sein@sfa.gov.sg	Male	Senior Consultant Scientist	Singapore Food Agency
15	Choltisak Chawpaknum	Thailand	choltisak.dof@gmail.com	Male	Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division	Department of Fisheries

No.	Full Name	Country	Email Address	Gender	Position	Organization
16	Chaiwud Sudthongkong	Thailand	chaiwudss@gmail.com	Male	Acting Expert on Coastal Aquaculture	Department of Fisheries
17	Nawanith Klongklaew	Thailand	nawanith@gmail.com	Female	Fishery Biologist, Senior Professional Level	Department of Fisheries
18	Irma F. Ortiz	The Philippines	ortizirma472@gmail.com	Female	EPSDP Technical Consultant	BFAR - EPSDP
19	Chanel Odric S. Sauler	The Philippines	chanelodricsauler@gmail.com	Female	EPSDP Staff	BFAR-EPSDP
20	Madelyn L. Aguilar	The Philippines	ncu_sdp@bfar.da.gov.ph	Female	EPSDP Staff	BFAR-EPSDP
21	Elymi Ar-J S. Tuñacao	The Philippines	etunacao@bfar.da.gov.ph	Female	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines
22	Rhoda S. Bacordo	The Philippines	rbacordo@bfar.da.gov.ph	Female	Alternate, SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines

23	Ida T. Capacio	The Philippines	icapacio@bfar.da.gov.ph	Female	National Focal	Enhanced Philippines Seaweed Development Program
24	Gelli R. Naig	The Philippines	gnaig@bfar.da.gov.ph	Female	Senior Aquaculturist	Mariculture Section, Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

No.	Full Name	Country	Email Address	Gender	Position	Organization
25	Nguyen Vu Mai Anh,	Viet Nam	nvmaianh@gmail.com	Female	Focal point of the Project	Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
26	Nguyen Thi Hong Nhung,	Viet Nam		Female	SEAFDEC Alternate National Coordinator	Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
27	Chau Thi Tuyet Hanh,	Viet Nam		Female	Officer of Aquaculture Division	Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
SEAFDEC Secretariat						
28	Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn	Secretariat	sg@seafdec.org	Female	Secretary-General	SEAFDEC

29	Mr. Koichi Tahara	Secretariat	dsg@seafdec.org	Male	Deputy SecretaryGeneral	SEAFDEC
30	Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn	Secretariat	pattaratjit@seafdec.org	Female	Senior Policy Officer	SEAFDEC
31	Ms. Sawitree Chamsai	Secretariat	sawitree@seafdec.org	Female	Senior Program Officer	SEAFDEC
32	Ms. Onjira Korboon	Secretariat	onjira@seafdec.org	Female	Policy Officer	SEAFDEC
33	Ms. Nattha Srihera	Secretariat	nattha.s@seafdec.org	Female	Program Officer	SEAFDEC
34	Mr. Muhamad Nour	Secretariat	muhamad@seafdec.org	Male	Project Manager/Technical Advisor of the Blue Horizon Seaweed Project	SEAFDEC

No.	Full Name	Country	Email Address	Gender	Position	Organization
35	Mr. Taam Tunsira	Secretariat	taam@seafdec.org	Male	Administrative Officer of the Blue Horizon Seaweed project	SEAFDEC
36	Mr. Beverly S. San Juan	Secretariat	beverly@seafdec.org	Male	Regional Fisheries Policy Network for Philippines	SEAFDEC
37	Ms. Dang Thi Thuy Quynh	Secretariat	quynh@seafdec.org	Female	Regional Fisheries Policy Network for VietNam	SEAFDEC

38	Ms. Arpaporn Eiamsaard	Secretariat	arpaporn@seafdec.org	Female	Senior Administrative Officer	SEAFDEC
39	Mr. Satana Duangsawasdi	Secretariat	satana@seafdec.org	Male	Information Officer-II	SEAFDEC
40	Dr. Worawit Wanchana	Secretariat	worawit@seafdec.org	Male	Policy and Program Coordinator	SEAFDEC
SEAFDEC AQD						
41	Dan Baliao	AQD	dbaliao@seafdec.org.ph	Male	Department Chief	SEAFDEC/AQD
42	Joseph Faisan, Jr.	AQD	jfaisan@seafdec.org.ph	Male	Associate Researcher	SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department
43	Ronilo Subaldo	AQD	rsubaldo@seafdec.org.ph	Male	Information Assistant	SEAFDEC/AQD
44	Leobert de la Peña	AQD	leobertd@seafdec.org.ph	Male	Division Head/Sr. Scientist	SEAFDEC/AQD

Annex 2. Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Time (UTC+7:00)	Agenda	Annotation
07:30 – 08:00	Participant registration	
08:00 – 08:10	Opening session 1. Welcome Remarks (SEAFDEC) 2. Opening Remarks (WWF US)	
08:10 – 08:15	Session 1: Introduction, Objectives, and Agenda the Workshop	PM will explain briefly the purposes and agenda of the inception workshop.
08:15 – 08:50	Session 2: Revisit the project’s objectives, outcomes, outputs, and theory of change	PM, BFAR PH, and DOF VN will refresh the objectives of the project, key Components, strategies, key indicators/outcomes, and theory of change, workplan and budget, cross cutting issues
08:50 – 09:00	Q&A Session	Facilitator will moderate this session
08:45 – 09:10	Session 3: Project Structure and Implementation Arrangements - Roles and responsibilities, coordination mechanisms, reporting lines, finalizing the plan for first PSC meeting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this session, PM will refresh the institutional arrangement of the project, the roles and responsibilities of PMU and PSC 2. Ms. Rachel Kaplan will refresh the roles and responsibilities of WWF US as the implementing agency
09:20 – 09:30	Discussion and Feedback	PM will moderate this session
09:30 – 09:50	Conclusion and Next step Group Photo	PM will conclude and inform the next step
09:50 – 10:00	Closing remark by SG	

Annex 3. Photo



MEMORANDUM
AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS UNDER THE
WWF/GEF PROJECT:
“BLUE HORIZON: OCEAN RELIEF THROUGH SEAWEED AQUACULTURE”

Introduction

The project “*Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture*” received endorsement from the GEF CEO on 12 July 2022 with WWF-US as the GEF Agency. The original documents for the project were prepared based on the plan to have one lead Executing Agency (EA) responsible for fund management, overall project-level coordination and execution, and reporting. Nevertheless, with the subsequent discussion and decision to separate the implementation by three Executing Agencies, namely: the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as a regional Executing Agency, the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Viet Nam as national Executing Agencies; there is a need for amendment of relevant documents for the project.

This Memorandum outlines updates and amendments to the following documents:

1. WWF GEF Seaweed ProDoc_Submission 4 (26 May 2022)
2. Blue Horizon_Appendices Submission 4 (26 May 2022)
3. GEF-7 Request for Project Endorsement/Approval (CEO Endorsement) (26 May 2022)
4. Project Budget Seaweed_SEAFDEC Actual

This Memorandum shall constitute as part of the grant agreements signed separately between the WWF-US with SEAFDEC, the Philippine BFAR, and the DOF Viet Nam.

Updated Information to the Documents

Fund Flow and Reporting Lines

The fund flow and reporting lines for the project were updated with the following agreement:

- Funds will directly flow from WWF-US as GEF Agency to SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam
- SEAFDEC, through the regional Project Management Unit (PMU) hosted by SEAFDEC, shall be responsible for regional activities under project Component 1 and 4; while BFAR and DOF Viet Nam shall be responsible for national activities under Component 2 and 3 (and provide relevant inputs to the PMU)

[Annual Workplan and Budget]

- SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam shall submit the annual workplan and budget of their respective components to WWF-US; BFAR and DOF Viet Nam will send a version approved by their national steering committees/advisory groups

- WWF-US shall provide the annual workplan and budget from SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF, after clearance, to the PMU
- The PMU shall consolidate the annual workplan and budget for approval by the Project Steering Committee and send the final approved version to WWF-US. Comments by the Project Steering Committee shall be accommodated by the respective agency.

[Financial Report and Progress Report]

- SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam shall submit “financial reports” and “progress reports” of their respective components to WWF-US
- WWF-US has the responsibility to check/clear the “financial report” from SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam.
- WWF-US has the responsibility to check/clear the “progress report” from SEAFDEC, BFAR and DOF, and provide the progress report to the PMU.
- The PMU shall consolidate the “progress report” for submission by SEAFDEC through the SecretaryGeneral to the WWF-US.
- WWF-US shall disburse funds for the subsequent quarter to SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF/VN after clearance of the “financial report” and “progress report”.

The diagram on fund flow and reporting lines shall be as appear in **Figure 1**.

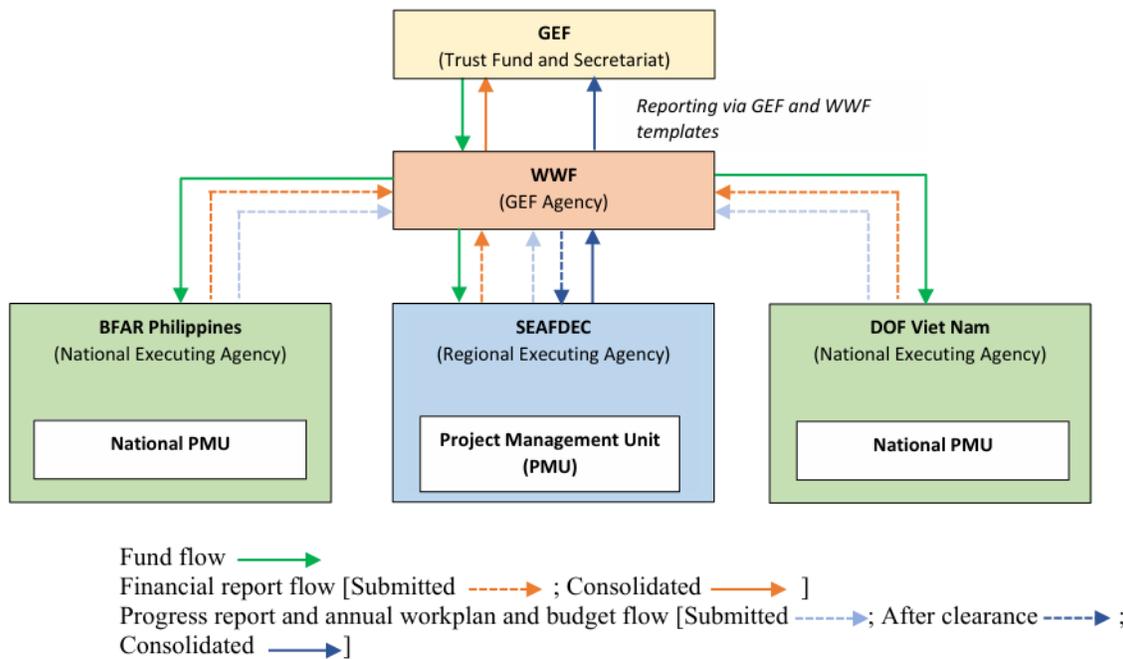


Figure 1. Diagram on fund disbursement and submission of financial and progress reports and annual workplan and budget

Budget

With the separation of the agreement into three agreements between WWF-US with each executing agency, the budget was modified to reflect the revised fund flow structure. The original and revised budget allocation shall be as follows:

Agency	Original allocation (USD)	Revised allocation (USD)
SEAFDEC	1,862,860	1,359,144
BFAR (Philippines)	2,068,570	2,275,428
DOF (Viet Nam)	2,068,570	2,275,428
WWF (for Mid-term and Final Evaluation)	90,000 ¹	90,000
TOTAL GEF	6,000,000	6,000,000

The breakdown of revised fund allocation by Component and Agency is as appears below:

Project Components/Program	GEF Project Financing (USD)				
	WWF-US	SEAFDEC	BFAR	DOF Viet Nam	Total
Component 1		730,690	0	0	730,690
Component 2		0	378,438	905,191	1,283,629
Component 3		0	1,574,133	1,072,030	2,646,163
Component 4	90,000 (for midterm and terminal evaluation)	290,900	116,000	91,350	588,250
Subtotal	90,000 ⁹	1,021,590	2,068,571	2,068,571	5,248,732
Project Management Direct Costs (PMC)		151,269			151,269
Project Management Costs (PMC) - SEAFDEC Management fee		123,558			123,558

⁹ Captured under the SEAFDEC budget (included in the \$1,862,860); stated in the ProDoc that the funds would be used to recruit an independent consultant with WWF-US, but not explicitly stated that WWF-US would be managing the funds

Sub-total Project Costs	90,000	1,269,417	2,068,571	2,068,571	5,523,559
		62,727	206,851	206,857	476,441
Total Project Costs	90,000	1,359,144	2,275,428	2,275,428	6,000,000

Allocation of budget for outcomes and outputs under each component under the responsibility of each agency was also changed as reflected in the respective grant agreement.

Roles and Responsibilities

In line with the amendment of the budget, fund flow, and reporting lines, the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the project shall be as follows:

GEF (Trust Fund and Secretariat)
WWF-US (GEF Agency)
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide overall oversight to ensure compliance with WWF GEF policies and requirements and achievement of project objectives. • liaise between the project and the GEF Secretariat • provide timely reporting to the GEF Secretariat and GEF trustee • closely work with SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam, approve annual workplan and budget of SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam • approve budget revisions, certify fund availability, and disburse and administer funds to SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam • disburse funds for the subsequent quarter to SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF/VN after clearance of the financial reports. • clear the technical progress reports and provide to the PMU hosted by SEAFDEC • Overall financial oversight of the project, including tracking the budget and checking/clearing the financial reports from SEAFDEC, BFAR, and DOF Viet Nam • certify project operational and financial completion of SEAFDEC, BFAR and DOF Viet Nam • provide no objection to key terms of reference for the Project Management Unit (PMU) and National PMUs. • organize the mid-term and terminal evaluation (USD 90,000) • review project audits <p><i>GEF Agency Staff:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Manager</i> • <i>Financial Administrator</i> • <i>Safeguards Specialist</i> • <i>Gender Specialist</i> • <i>Results-Based Management Specialist</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">SEAFDEC (Regional Executing Agency)</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting Project Management Unit (PMU), including timely recruitment and oversight of PMU staff positions • provide staff to support project execution, including technical expertise of AQD, financial staff from Finance Division, and others • support procurement of equipment required for project execution under Com 1 and Com 4 • oversight and certify the technical progress reports and quarterly financial statements of Com 1 and Com 4 executed as prepared by PMU, and submit the report to WWF-US • oversight and certify the consolidated progress report (all Components) and financial 	<p style="text-align: center;">Philippine BFAR & DOF Viet Nam (National Executing Agencies)</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting national-level project management units for delivery of Component 2 and 3 (with contributions to Component 4), including timely recruitment and oversight of National PMU staff positions • Ensure compliance with grant agreement guidelines and reporting requirements
<p>statements of Com 1 and Com 4 as prepared by PMU, and submit the report to WWF-US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to PMU in hosting the Project Steering Committee and annual reflection workshop 	

<p style="text-align: center;">Regional PMU (hosted by SEAFDEC)</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works under the supervision of SEAFDEC and liaises with the WWF-US • day-to-day management of the project including overall project implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project management and execution of Component 1 and Component 4 outputs • coordinate with the Managers of the Philippines and Viet Nam National Project Management Units (N-PMU) • prepare, consolidate, and deliver draft annual workplan, M&E/results framework, project progress reports, and close-out report, in collaboration from BFAR and DOF Viet Nam, for submission by SEAFDEC to WWF-US (see Figure 1 for reporting structure) • prepare and deliver quarterly financial reports of SEAFDEC, audited annual financial reports of SEAFDEC and cofinance letter of SEAFDEC for submission by SEAFDEC to WWF-US (Com 1 and Com 4) • organize and serve as secretariat of the project steering committee meetings and the annual reflection workshops, including prepare reports of PSC meetings and annual reflection workshops and circulate these documents to participants. <p><i>PMU Staff:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Manager/Technical Advisor</i> • <i>Finance and Admin Officer</i> • <i>Technical Specialist Consultants:</i> • <i>M&E Specialist</i> • <i>Communication Specialist</i> • <i>I.T. Specialist</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">National PMU (hosted separately by BFAR & DOF Viet Nam)</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide contributions to Regional PMU to ensure the achievement of project • day-to-day project management (See ProDoc, Grant Agreement, and TOR's of staff positions for full list of roles and responsibilities) • coordinate with Regional PMU in development of the annual work plan, and M&E/results framework, project progress reports, and close-out report • prepare and delivery of quarterly financial reports, annual co-finance letters, and annual audit to WWF-US • Delivery of Component 2 and 3 (with contributions to Component 4) <p><i>National PMU Staff:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Manager</i> • <i>Finance and Admin Officer</i> • <i>Technical Specialist</i> • <i>Safeguard and Gender Officer</i> • <i>Etc. Ref to Pro doc</i>
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TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR SEAWEED TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Background

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous intergovernmental body established in 1967. SEAFDEC comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The mission of SEAFDEC is “*To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.*”

SEAFDEC is implementing the Project “**Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture,**” which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the WWF-US GEF Agency from May 2024 to December 2028. The Project is managed by the Project Management Unit (PMU) under the supervision of the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, with the PMU Office located at the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand. The overarching goal of the project is to develop sustainable seaweed value chains that deliver ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits. 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).

Under **Component 1**, SEAFDEC will support the development of regional plans and principles of responsible aquaculture, including a toolkit to guide the application of the principles in developing standards of product, environmental protection, and operational safety. These outputs are expected to foster a harmonized approach across the region. Training activities will enhance the capacity of Member Countries in applying these plans and standards.

To support these efforts, the project will establish a **Seaweed Technical Working Group (STWG)** as a platform for technical collaboration, policy alignment, and capacity building. The project’s Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be integrated across the entire project cycle to ensure inclusive participation, decision-making, and impact. SEAFDEC will promote gender-balanced representation within the S-TWG, supporting women’s engagement in leadership roles, and ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into project planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Objectives

The main objective is to foster a supportive regional enabling environment for seaweed aquaculture through a coordinated regional approach. This will strengthen Southeast Asia’s capacity to expand and modernize its seaweed industry and increase its contribution to global seaweed value chains. In particular, the S-TWG will guide the development of a Guide to

Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the Southeast Asia; the Principles of Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture; and a complementary Toolkit to support the application of these principles in developing standards of product quality, environmental management, and operational safety aligned with the Global Seaweed Coalition.

Expected Outcomes of S-TWG

1. Completion and regional endorsement of the Guide, Principles, and Toolkit
2. Enhanced regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing
3. Positive stakeholder feedback on the relevance and usability of the outputs
4. Mainstreaming of gender equality strategies into the seaweed industry, including actionable policy and practice recommendations.

Scope of Work

The Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG) will be composed of nominated experts from SEAFDEC Member Countries, a representative from the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines, and technical experts from relevant regional and international organizations, such as the Global Seaweed Coalition. The PMU SEAFDEC will lead the coordination process for the formal establishment of the S-TWG. This includes reaching out to Member Countries to request official nominations, identifying and engaging relevant institutions and experts, and facilitating their participation in technical forums. The PMU will also organize and convene the inaugural S-TWG meeting to review and endorse the Terms of Reference, develop a detailed work program for drafting the Regional Guide and Principles for Seaweed Aquaculture, and define strategies for scaling and sustaining project outcomes across Southeast Asia.

To promote gender equality and meaningful participation of women in the S-TWG, the project will adopt a gender-responsive approach from the start. SEAFDEC will encourage Member Countries to nominate qualified women and prioritize gender balance across sectors. The PMU SEAFDEC will embed gender considerations into the S-TWG's Terms of Reference, invitations, and work program to ensure inclusive participation and diverse perspectives in decision-making. Capacitybuilding will incorporate gender-sensitive content, and progress will be monitored through the Gender Action Plan to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Terms of References of the S-TWG

1. Provide technical advice and recommendations on seaweed aquaculture development, including sustainable farming practices, value chain improvement, and ecosystem service integration.
2. Facilitate knowledge exchange, including technologies and best practices, to improve productivity and sustainability of seaweed products.
3. Provide technical expertise, leadership, and inputs for the consultant to develop, validate, review, and support adoption of the regional Guide (output 1.1.2) and Principles (output

- 1.1.3), and relevant guidelines/toolkits and standards to ensure the quality and safety of seaweed products.
4. Assist the consultant to connect with Member Countries in assessing seaweed regional and national regulatory, technical, and logistical challenges for market access.
 5. Coordinate with regional and global initiatives to ensure strategic alignment and maximize synergies in sustainable seaweed production and development.
 6. Represent a platform for awareness, networking, coordination, knowledge exchange among key authorities and organizations focused on seaweed development
 7. Facilitate regional technical cooperation to address specific and shared concerns.

Composition and Membership of S-TWG

1. **Members:** one expert from each ASEAN Member States with expertise in seaweed aquaculture and value chains, and an expert from SEAFDEC/AQD.
2. **Chairperson:** Elected at the start of each meeting, from among members. The Chairperson will report the S-TWG progress to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
3. Other **resource persons/experts:** Additional experts from ASEAN Member States or international/regional organizations may be invited on an ad-hoc basis as needed.
4. **Gender Expert:** SEAFDEC's Gender Focal Point will guide the integration of gender perspectives in all outputs.
5. **Secretariat:** PMU SEAFDEC, led by the Project Manager/Technical Advisor in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC/AQD, shall serve as the secretariat of the S-TWG meetings, will coordinate meeting logistics, prepare agendas, and manage documentation.
6. **Rapporteur:** The Secretariat of S-TWG will act as rapporteur and circulate meeting reports to all members.

Nature of S-TWG Activities and Financial Arrangements

1. S-TWG meetings will be convened throughout the project period, coordinated by PMU SEAFDEC with input from members and under the guidance of the SEAFDEC Secretariat.
2. Inter-sessional activities may be conducted as necessary, subject to funding availability.
3. Meetings and workshops will be funded by the Blue Horizon Seaweed Project, including cost for member participation. These may be conducted in-person, online, or hybrid formats.
4. Costs for attendance of consultants and resource persons during meetings or intersessional activities will be covered by the PMU SEAFDEC.
5. Based on S-TWG's advice, the SEAFDEC Council will determine appropriate follow-up actions, including referral the ASEAN mechanism.

Meeting Schedule of Seaweed Technical Working Group (S-TWG)

Meeting #	Purpose	Year
1	Develop the S-TWG work program, agree on meeting schedule and expected outputs, and endorse the ToR	2025
2	Define the scope and outline of the Guide , define tasks and responsibilities and timeline, review ToR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide	2026
3	Initiate work on the Principles of Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture with experts and resource persons	2026
4	Review the draft Guide	2026
5	Validate the draft Guide	2027
6	Review the Principles and Toolkit and begin finalization of the drafts	2027
7	Validate the Principles and Toolkit	2028
8	Finalize the Guide , Principles and Toolkits; submit recommendations to SEAFDEC Council for endorsement	2028
9	Organize an online regional workshop to launch the Guide and Principles	2028

Period: Year 2 (1 July 2025- 30 June 2026)

ANNUAL WORK PLAN										WORK PLAN TRACKING (Tracking at end of project year)												
COMPONENT / OUTCOME / OUTPUT #	ACTIVITIES	Responsible	YEAR 2 TIMING												# UNITS ACHIEVED	% ACHIEVED BY OUTCOME (if unit(s) achieved / target)	% ACHIEVED BY COMPONENT	BUDGET (actual) by IN USD				
			Q1 (Jul - Sep)				Q2 (Oct - Dec)				Q3 (Jan - Mar)								Q4 (Apr - June)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
A. ACTIVITY COSTS																						
Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SE Asia																						
Outcome 1.1: Regionally adopted plans and principles to harmonize seaweed aquaculture in SE Asia																						
1	Activity 1.1.1.2: Obtain Governing Council's approval of the draft Terms of Reference of the S TWG, its formation and giving it a formal mandate.	SEAFDEC																0	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 1.1.1.3: Obtain nominations from each government for a member in the S TWG, taking into consideration gender balance in the S TWG	SEAFDEC																0	0%		\$0	
3	Activity 1.1.1.4: Convene the First Meeting of the S TWG taking into consideration gender balance in the S TWG	SEAFDEC																30,000	0%		\$0	
4	Activity 1.1.1.5: Personal cost for PM and Technical Advisor (local in Com 1)	SEAFDEC																21,200	0%		\$0	
																		\$51,300	0%		\$0	
1	Activity 1.1.2: S TWG meetings to define the scope of the Guide and review TOR for a consultant to assist in drafting the Guide, consider gender and inclusion dimensions in the scope of the Guide.	SEAFDEC																0	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 1.1.2.3: S TWG meetings to render draft Guide	SEAFDEC																25,400	0%		\$0	
																		\$25,400	0%		\$0	
1	Activity 1.1.3.1: Desktop assessment to inform the development of principles and criteria including consideration of gender and inclusion dimensions.	PMU/AID																0	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 1.1.3.2: S TWG meeting on the Principles of Responsible and Safe Seaweed Aquaculture	SEAFDEC																24,700	0%		\$0	
3	Activity 1.1.3.3: Personal cost for Project Technical Specialist (AID)	AID																12,000	0%		\$0	
																		\$36,700	0%		\$0	
1	Activity 1.1.4.1: Shortlist topics for the regional trainings, consider gender and inclusion dimensions in the training courses	AID																0	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 1.1.4.2: Develop TOR and contract consultant (ensuring gender equity approach) --	PMU/AID																0	0%		\$0	
																		\$6,200	0%		\$0	
3	Activity 1.1.4.3: Produce training module and information package	AID																31,500	0%		\$0	
																		\$31,500	0%		\$0	
																		\$11,500	0%		\$0	
COMPONENT 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)																						
Outcome 4.1: Full participation in IW-LEARN and knowledge management/communication.																						
1	Activity 4.1.1: Update updated/included on IW Learn covering gender and inclusion training or highlighted when and where relevant	PMU/AID																0	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 4.1.2: Participate in IW-LEARN Forums	PMU																15,000	0%		\$0	
																		\$15,000	0%		\$0	
1	Activity 4.1.2.1: Develop knowledge products identified in PM Plan	PMU																400	0%		\$0	
2	Activity 4.1.2.2: Develop the Project website hosted by AID, continuously update with project information.	PMU/AID																9,000	0%		\$0	
3	Activity 4.1.2.4: Communication Specialist (total 3600 USD for 4 years)	PMU																0	0%		\$0	
4	Activity 4.1.2.5: Formulate Grievance Redress Mechanisms	PMU, UN, PH																24,900	0%		\$0	
																		\$8,400	0%		\$0	
																		\$12,300	0%		\$0	
Outcome 4.2: Monitoring and evaluation system in place																						

Output 4.2.1.1: Monitoring and Evaluation reports (including project progress reports, midterm evaluations, terminal evaluations)	Activity	PMU	Quarterly Progress				Yes	Meetings	0%	0%	\$0
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
1	Activity 4.2.1.1: Inception workshop and PSC meeting taking into consideration gender balance in the event	PMU					1	Meetings	0%	\$0	
2	Activity 4.2.1.3 Produce, deliver 6-monthly project progress reports	PMU					2	Reports	0%	\$0	
3	Activity 4.2.1.4 Produce, deliver Financial Reports Quarterly	PMU					4	Reports	0%	\$0	
4	Activity 4.2.1.5: Organic Adaptive Management (Reflection Meetings Yearly (4th Qtr, 7th, 12 and 8th))	PMU					1	Reports	0%	\$0	
5	Activity 4.2.1.7 Project personal staff cost PM (conduct 1 the NBE tasks)	PMU					1,09,300			\$0	
6	Activity 4.2.1.8 M&E consultant develop NBE plan (including Monitoring against gender disaggregated or gender-specific indicators)	PMU					1	NBE plan	0%	\$0	
7	Activity 4.2.1.9: NBE Training on how to use the M&E tools and collect data based on project logical framework	PMU					1	Training/report	0%	\$0	
8	Activity 4.2.1.10 PM participate in the 48th Meeting of S&B/HEC Program Committee, 3-5 Nov 2025, Malaysia	PMU					1	Inclusion report	0%	\$0	
9	Activity 4.2.1.11 IT Specialist (total 36000 USD for 4 years)	PMU					11		0%	\$0	
B. Project Management Costs										\$62,018	
Office costs										\$62,018	
Project Management Unit	1	Sundry (communications, postage, copies, freight, clearance charges, etc)	PMU							385.50	
	2	S&B/HEC Operating Costs (rent, HR, legal)	PMU							30,888.50	
	3	PMU Personnel cost for Project Manager (others under activities in the components 1 and 4)	PMU							5,400	
	4	PMU Personnel cost for admin officer (47,000 THB/month)	PMU							16,977	
	5	Annual Financial Audit (duration: May 2024-Dec 2025)	PMU					1	Reports	0%	8,667
Capital Assets										\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL (A+B)										\$352,618	
										YR 1	
										\$352,618	
										% achieved for activities overall	

Project Manager/Technical Advisor
 Salary total 1,75000 USD

up to 3200 USD/month expected to start in September 2024
 3% rise yearly based on work performance
 Year 1= 3200*12 months=38400 USD
 Year 2= 3360*12 months=40320 USD
 Year 3= 3520*12 months=42240 USD
 Year 4= 3680*12 months=44160 USD
 Year 5= 3840*12 months=46080 USD
 Total=171,360 USD

Comm 1= 1375 USD/month
 Comm 4= 1375 USD/month
 PMU 450 USD/month

CO-FINANCING LETTER FOR THE BLUE HORIZON: OCEAN RELIEF THROUGH SEAWEED AQUACULTURE PROJECT



SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SEAFDEC Secretariat

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10903, Thailand; Tel: +66 2940 6326; Fax: +66 2940 6336; www.seafdec.org

Training Department (TD)	Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)	Aquaculture Department (AQD)	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRMD)	Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)
P.O. Box 97 Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand Tel: +66 2425 6100 Fax: +66 2425 6110 +66 2425 6111 www.seafdec.or.th	52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01, Singapore 608550 Tel: +65 9046 4787 Fax: +65 6334 1831 www.seafdec.org/mfrd	Buyu-an, Tigbauan, 5021 Iloilo, Philippines Tel: +63 33 330 7000 +63 33 511 9170 Fax: +63 33 330 7002 www.seafdec.org.ph	Taman Perikanan, Chendering, 21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia Tel: +609 617 5940, 617 1543 Fax: +609 617 5136, 617 4042 www.seafdec.org.my	Jl. Gubernur. HA. Bastari No.08 RT.29 RW.07 Kel. Silaberanti Kec. Seberang Ulu I, Jakabaring, Palembang 30252 Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia Tel: +62 711 5649600; Fax: +62 711 5649601 www.seafdec.id

Our ref.: SOA220218

Ms. Renae Stenhouse
Executive Coordinator,
WWF GEF Agency World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC, 20037

18 February 2022

Dear Ms. Stenhouse,

Re: Co-financing Support for the Project
“Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture”
GEF ID: 10573

The letter is to confirm that the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) will provide the in-kind co-financing at the amount of 600,000 USD to support the project “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture”, for the 4-year project implementation from 2022-2026.

Please accept, Madam, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Ms. Malinee Smithrithee
SEAFDEC Secretary-General



SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SEAFDEC Secretariat

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10903, Thailand; Tel: +66 2940 6326 to 27; Fax: +66 2940 6336; www.seafdec.org

Training Department (TD) Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand Tel: +66 2425 6100 Fax: +66 2425 6110 +66 2425 6111 www.seafdec.or.th	Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) c/o Singapore Food Agency 52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01, Singapore 608550 Tel: +65 9046 4787 Fax: +65 6334 1831 www.seafdec.org/mfrd	Aquaculture Department (AQD) Tigbauan, 5021 Iloilo, Philippines Tel: +63 33 330 7000 Fax: +63 33 330 7002 www.seafdec.org.ph	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) Fisheries Garden, Chendering, 21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia Tel: +609 617 5940 Fax: +609 617 5136 www.seafdec.org.my	Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) Jl. Gub. HA. Bastari No.08 Rt.29 RW.07 Kel. Silaberanti Kec. Seberang Ulu I, Jakabaring, Palembang 30252, South Sumatra, Indonesia Tel: +62 711 564 9600 Fax: +62 711 564 9601 www.seafdec.id
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Our ref.: SOW250721

Dr. Renae Stenhouse
Vice President
WWF GEF Agency
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC, 20037

21 July 2025

**Re: Co-financing Report for WWF GEF Project, entitled
“Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” GEF ID: 10573**

Dear Dr. Stenhouse,

I am pleased to inform you that SEAFDEC has committed a total co-financing contribution of USD 600,000 to the WWF GEF Project, entitled “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” over the full duration of the project.

In this regard, SEAFDEC has provided USD 120,000 in co-financing for the above-referenced project from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn
Secretary-General

cc: *Ms. Rachel Kaplan*, WWF GEF Project Manager (E-mail: Rachel.Kaplan@wwfus.org)
Ms. Tracey Smith, WWF GEF Financial Administrator (E-mail: tracey.smith@wwfus.org)
Mr. Muhamad Nour, Project Manager/Technical Advisor (E-mail: muhamad@seafdec.org)

Require Consideration by PSC

- Adopt the co-finance letter of SEAFDEC
- Take note status of co-finance letter of BFAR and DFiS

Finance Progress

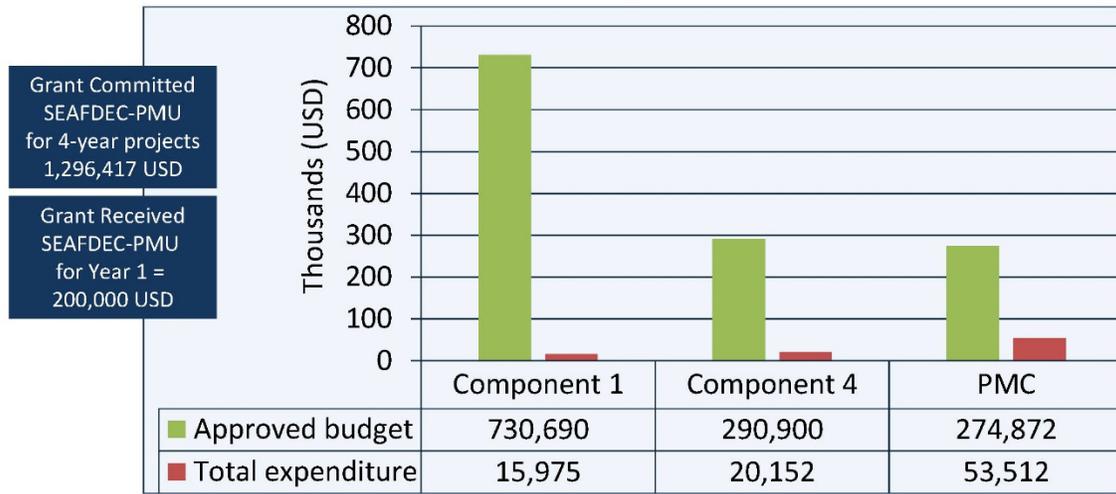
Deliverables: Financial report

Quarterly Financial Report	Timeline for Submit Report
1 Jan- 31 Mar	30 Apr
1 Apr- 31 Jun	31 Jul
1 Jul- 30 Sep	31 Oct
1 Oct- 31 Dec	31 Jan

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Budget line	Component 1			Component 4			PMC		
	Approved	Expenditure	Balance	Approved	Expenditure	Balance	Approved	Expenditure	Balance
Contract services-Individual	10,000		10,000	14,000		14,000	-		
Contract services-company	-		-	400		400	26,000		26,000
International Consultants	326,400		326,400	102,000		102,000	-		
Salary and Benefits/ Staff cost	128,873.22	15,975	112,898.22	72,500	15,975	56,525	111,627	11,070.45	100,556.55
Training, Workshops, Meetings	121,417		121,417	36,000	51.33	35,948.67	-		
Travel	144,000		144,000	64,000	4126.21	59,873.79	-		
Offices Supplies	-		-	2,000		2,000	12,100	3,522.97	8,577.03
Other Operating Cost	-		-	-			125,100	38,919.37	86,180.63
Total	730,690.22	15,975	714,715.22	290,900	20,152.54	270,747.46	274,827	53,512.79	221,314.21

The overall budget of SEAFDEC-PMU



Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Period of annual workplan and budget 1 July -30 June

Draft annual workplan, budget and procurement plan	Timeline submission
Year 1	30 June 2024
Year 2	30 April 2025
Year 3	30 April 2026
Year 4	30 April 2027

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

The contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays



1st Meeting of Project Steering Committee Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project

Agenda 11 : Discussion on the contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Agenda Objective:

To identify, assess, and agree on contingency measures to mitigate project implementation delays and ensure timely delivery of project outputs and compliance with donor requirements.

Expected Outputs:



List of priority activities delayed and root causes identified.



Agreed contingency actions with timelines and responsible units.



Revised implementation and monitoring plan.



Communication plan to inform donors and partners.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Situation Analysis

1. **Review** current implementation status (by component, activity, and country).
2. **Identify** activities at risk of delay: technical, administrative, or financial.
3. **Clarify** root causes of delays (e.g., recruitment delays, late nominations, or external dependencies, forced majeure, etc).
4. **Assess** the impact of delays on project timeline, budget, and deliverables.

Guiding Questions:

1 Which activities are behind schedule and why?

What are the implications for upcoming milestones or donor reporting?

3 Which areas need immediate management intervention?

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Mitigation and Contingency Strategies



Discuss short-term measures to accelerate implementation (e.g., fast-tracking procurement, virtual meetings, partial contracting)



Identify alternative implementation options (e.g., adjusting sequencing, reallocating resources, revising timelines)



Explore collaborative mechanisms with partners or consultants to maintain momentum.



Consider budget flexibility for reprogramming or timeline extensions.

1 What actions can be taken within the next 1–3 months to recover progress?

Guiding Questions:

Can some activities be implemented in parallel or virtually?

3 Are there any tasks that can be delegated or simplified without compromising quality?

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Communication and Coordination



Existing coordination mechanism: regular meeting, PSC, M&E system, Pause and Reflect Meeting



Strengthen communication channels between SEAFDEC PMU, national PMUs, and WWF-US



Ensure timely updates to stakeholders and donors regarding revised plans or adjustments



Define roles and responsibilities for follow-up and monitoring.

Guiding Questions:

1 How can coordination between PMUs be improved?

What reporting or meeting frequency is needed to monitor progress effectively?

2

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Revision of Workplan and Timelines



Review Yearly Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) and adjust activity timelines where necessary.



Update the M&E matrix to reflect revised deliverables and indicators.



Prepare updated implementation schedules for approval by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) or donor agency

Guiding Questions:

1 Which milestones should be shifted, and what is the new target date?

How will progress be tracked and validated after adjustment?

2

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Agreement on Next Steps:

Summarize agreed contingency measures and responsible parties.

Set clear timelines and accountability for implementing corrective actions.

Schedule a follow-up review (e.g., in 4–6 weeks) to assess progress.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Required Consideration by PSC

The meeting is requested to take note, provide comments and suggestion on Contingency plans for addressing project implementation delays

Project Steering Committee (PSC) | 27-28 November 2025 | Solitaire Hotel Bangkok, Thailand



1st Meeting of Project Steering Committee

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project

Agenda 12: Refresh the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Solitaire Hotel Bangkok
27-28 November 2025

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Review the Gender Action Plan of Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture Project

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Introduction of the Gender Action Plan (GAP)

SEAFDEC has adopted a **Gender Strategy** to facilitate gender mainstreaming across all its programs and initiatives.

The **Blue Horizon Project** recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to achieving sustainable development.

This GAP is designed to systematically address and integrate gender considerations throughout the entire project cycle.

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SEAsia

This component will integrate gender-specific activities to ensure a regional strategy that is equitable and inclusive.



The GAP outlines clear, actionable steps to be implemented from planning through to evaluation.

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SEAsia

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
1.1.1. Regional Seaweed Technical Working Group, constituted and formally mandated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equitable participation of men and women. Include gender-specific considerations in the ToR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of the Working Group is women. The ToR includes specific gender-sensitive considerations. 	SEAFDEC PMU (and SEAFDEC AQD and TD)

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SEAsia

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
1.1.2: Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region, endorsed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream gender throughout the Guide with recommendations and action items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide is developed with gender-sensitive considerations throughout. 	SEAFDEC; consultant writing the guide (with the Gender focal points in AQD and TD).

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SEAsia

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
1.1.3. Principles and toolkit for safe seaweed applicable to SEAsia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include gender-responsive standards. • Provide a guide for the application of the principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles and toolkit are gender-sensitive. 	Focal points of AQD and TD, BFAR's GAD Committee, Gender officers of PH and VN N-PMU

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 1: Regional approach and capacity for seaweed value chains in SEAsia

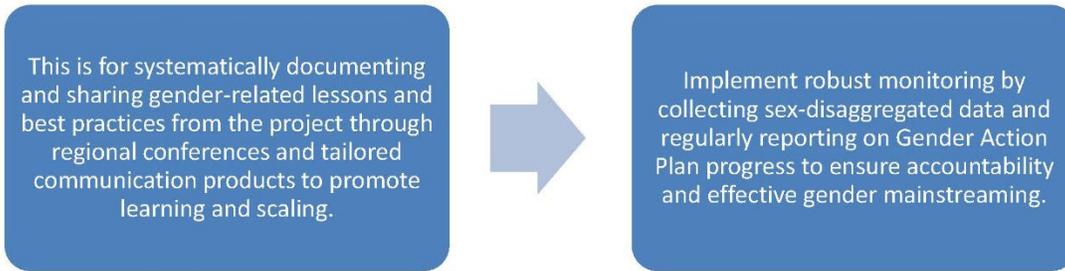
Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
1.1.4. Training modules and information packages to support a sustainable seaweed industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include specific components on gender in the modules and packages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 60% of training participants are women. • A gender-responsive training module is developed and used. 	SEAFDEC PMU (and SEAFDEC AQD, facilitators develop and conduct the trainings)

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)



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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
4.1.1: Participation in two IW:LEARN regional meetings and two IW Conferences, delivering IW:LEARN experience notes	Project lessons learned and best practice related to gender will be documented and disseminated in through IW: LEARN project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific lessons and best practices related to gender documented and included in at least 2 products • Communication platform and products are gender-sensitive • Information is disseminated in an equitable way (to ensure women and men have equal access). 	SEAFDEC PMU (and through communications consultant), Philippines coordination unit, Viet Nam coordination unit

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
4.1.2 Knowledge management and communications products	The project will develop and publish communication products related to gender. This includes lessons learned, best practices, and other information gleaned from the project and that could support scaling up of gender equality and women's empowerment in the SEA seaweed industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific lessons and best practices related to gender documented and included in at least 2 products • Communication platform and products are gender-sensitive • Information is disseminated in an equitable way (to ensure women and men have equal access). 	SEAFDEC PMU (and through communications consultant), Philippines coordination unit, Viet Nam coordination unit

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Addressing the GAP in the Project Cycle

Component 4: Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional)

Output	Gender-Specific Activity	Indicator & Target	Responsible Party
4.2.1: Monitoring and Evaluation reports (including PPR, midterm, terminal evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect sex-disaggregated data at regional and national levels. • Assess progress against the GAP in project reporting. • Report against gender-specific indicators annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring against gender-disaggregated or gender-specific indicators. • Project reports include information on progress towards GAP goals. 	SEAFDEC PMU, Philippines coordination unit, Viet Nam coordination unit

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Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming: Tracking Progress and Impact

Assessment Methods:

- **Surveys:** Quantitative data collection on participation and benefits.
- **Qualitative Assessments:** In-depth interviews and focus groups to understand impact and perceptions.

Key Indicators:

- **GEF Core Indicator 11:** Degree of gender mainstreaming in the project.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Metrics on decision-making, leadership, and economic autonomy.
- **Equitable Resource Access:** Measuring women's and men's access to project resources, training, and technologies.

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Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) : Documenting Gender Integration



Annual Project Progress Report (PPR)



6-Month Project Progress Report (PPR)



Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) Reports



Project Prospectus



Financial Reports



Mid-Term Review



Terminal Report

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Contact Person for Gender Mainstreaming

1. Muhamad Nour – Project Manager/Technical Advisor, muhamad@seafdec.org
2. Jariya Sornkliang – Gender Focal Point SEAFDEC, jariya@seafdec.org
3. Safeguard and Gender Specialist (SGS) National PMU Philippines
4. Safeguard and Gender Specialist (SGS) Viet Nam
5. Gender Specialist WWF US

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Require Consideration by PSC

The meeting is required to consider, agree, and provide observation, comments, and advice for the Gender Action Plan

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CLOSING REMARKS

*By Koichi Tahara
SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General*

Distinguished representatives, partners, and colleagues,

As we conclude the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all PSC members, observers, and partners for your active engagement and valuable contributions over the past two days.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your collective insights on the project implementation arrangements, workplan and budget, gender and stakeholder engagement strategies, and the contingency measures to address implementation delays have strengthened our shared direction and reaffirmed our commitment to delivering meaningful impact across the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SEAFDEC, together with BFAR, DFiS, and WWF-US, looks forward to working closely with all of you as we carry forward the recommendations agreed upon in this meeting and move confidently into the next phase of the project.

Thank you once again for your dedication and collaboration. We wish everyone safe travels and look forward to reconvening at the next PSC meeting. I wish you all good health, continued success, and I hope you enjoy Bangkok and safe trip back home. Thank you very much.