



**Developing and protecting the world's  
centre of marine biodiversity**

*Coordinating Body on the  
Seas of East Asia  
(COBSEA)*

### **What is COBSEA?**

The Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas Region (the East Asian Seas Action Plan) was originally adopted in April 1981 and revised in 1994. The principal objective of the Action Plan is the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, for the health and well-being of present and future generations. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) oversees the implementation of the Action Plan. The COBSEA Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UN Environment.

### **Participating Countries**

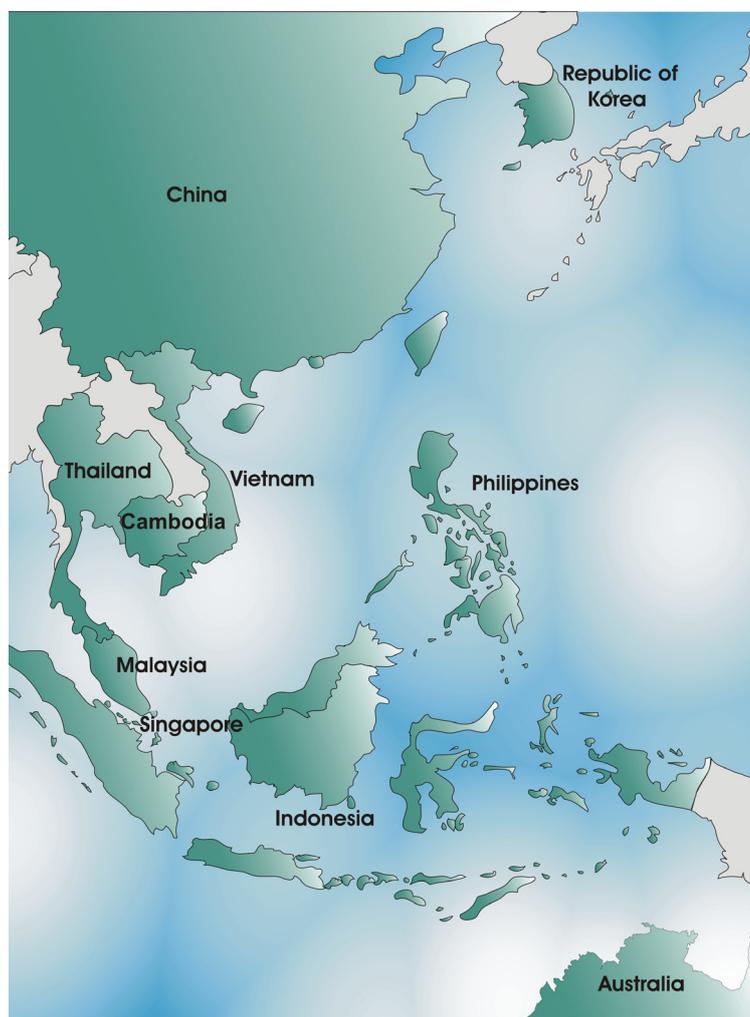
Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

### **How we support the implementation, review and follow-up of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals**

- The COBSEA Secretariat has mapped regional objectives, goals and targets for the East Asian Seas Action Plan, in line with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). COBSEA Strategic Directions 2017-2021, currently under development for adoption in 2017, will guide the development and implementation of COBSEA activities to support participating countries in implementing and tracking achievement in relation to ocean-related SDGs.
- A regional initiative is being developed for the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, adopted in 2008.

## Key achievements and success stories

- The South China Sea Strategic Action Programme and associated National Action Plans have been adopted.
- Two Global Environment Fund projects have been approved:
  - The US\$15 million-project, 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea', addresses the habitat, land-based pollution and regional coordination components, starting in 2017
  - The US\$3 million-project, 'Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand', covers the fisheries component and the implementation started in 2016.
- COBSEA's Regional Resource Document on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, developed to support the integration of new approaches into existing spatial planning frameworks and systems, has been used in six countries to prepare national training manuals and resource documents for capacity-building.
- Over 500 recreational diving companies in the region are continuously and measurably reducing their environmental footprint through 'Green Fins', an industry partnership for environmental stewardship initiated through COBSEA.



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This material has been funded by the EC-UN Environment Strategic Cooperation Agreements, signed under the EC Thematic Programme for Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)