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Draft Guideline for Demonstration Sites

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and national data and information reports high-lighted the major problems and priorities facing the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem and Causal Chain Analysis (CCA) the underlying causes of those problems. At the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), experts identified the Regional Ecosystem Quality Objectives or Regional (environmental) Targets to be achieved by 2020. During the second Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting, experts will be expected to formulate management actions that will enable the Regional Targets to be met. There will also be some discussion of feasibility studies of these management actions to ensure only appropriate actions are selected. In addition, experts will present ideas on the SAP demonstration sites.

These sites will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the SAP management actions to government, policy makers and stakeholders in order to maximize their uptake/implementation by these groups. Therefore, during the process of site selection a number of questions should be considered:

Using Mariculture as an example

1) What is the primary aim or regional target?
   - The reduction of the environmental impacts of mariculture
   - Increase in productivity.

2) How can this best be achieved?
   - Setting of limits to release of nutrients/chemicals from mariculture institutions or limit nutrient release by polyculture
   - Reduction in the output of particulate material (benthic choking) by rotation of sites
   - Limiting the amount of pond construction in coastal areas
   - Environmentally appropriate species and culture densities
   - Regulation of the import of non-indigenous species
   - Monitoring guidelines for disease outbreaks and vaccine development

3) How can the site be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of management actions?
    - By showing increased productivity in terms of growth and survival rates
    - By showing increased profitability, or maintenance of profits and reduced environment impacts.
    - By showing decreased environmental impact in terms of abundance of benthic animals and release of nutrients and red tide occurrence

4) What is the likely impact of the demonstration site/activity in terms of adoption by stakeholders/other mariculture farmers?
    - How many people are likely to visit the demonstration activity
    - What is the density of the neighbouring mariculture farms that can be adapted to adopt the demonstrated management actions
    - How receptive is the local fisheries cooperative

5) How replicable is the activity in other areas around the Yellow Sea?
    - How many different areas in the Yellow Sea have appropriate socio-economic and physical conditions to permit the demonstration activity to be replicated elsewhere

6) How active are the local/regional governments in environmental issues, what support is the demonstration activity likely to receive?
    - The best results would be through a carrot and stick approach where the project can demonstrate the economic benefits while the government legislates or enforces existing legislation to discourage environmentally destructive practices.
    - This could be assessed using similar guidelines to those proposed by YSESP that include number of MPAs and budget percentage spent on environmental issues.

7) What is the level of environmental awareness amongst the stakeholders?
    - Awareness of the impact of mariculture on the environment
    - Measures that individuals have taken
    - Measures that the fisheries cooperatives have recommended.