

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

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### Overview of UNDPGEF Experiences in Management and Governance for the Restoration of the YSLME

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Oceans and seas contribute to global economy in terms of market value of goods and services including fisheries, tourism, recreation and shipping, and non-market ecosystem services such as climate regulation, nutrient recycling and carbon sequestration. Yet the integrity of these ocean values and services is at risk due to a range of ocean management policy and market failures. In the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME), the UNDP and the GEF facilitated the cooperation between PR China and RO Korea to identify environmental priorities and agree upon governance reforms to address challenges through transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP). In the past decade, the actions outlined in the SAP have been undertaken at regional, national and sub-national levels with substantial ecological, social and economic benefits. On the ground results include reduced fishing efforts, successful scaling up of integrated multitrophic aquaculture and other sustainable mariculture technologies to meet continued demand for seafood, increase in number and areas of marine protected areas and networking using biophysical connectivity as the key principles, and reduced marine litter at beaches under monitoring in both countries. In assessing the primary transboundary issues in the region in the TDA update in 2007-2020, it was found that challenges identified in the original TDA remain to be crucial in the coming years. These include fishing efforts exceeding ecosystem carrying capacity, unsustainable mariculture, pollution and contaminants, eutrophication, change in ecosystem structure and climate change. The TDA 2020 highlights microplastics, seasonal ocean acidification, broader range of climate change impacts, and changes in patterns of harmful algae bloom as emerging issues to the YSLME. The updated TDA and ongoing SAP update being delivered for the benefits of the peoples of the YSLME provide a tangible example of using science-based strategic planning approach to LME management and governance in the next decade. Good practices in YSLME Project implementation include effective regional cooperation at the technical and political levels through establishment of regional working groups (RWGs) across six thematic subjects, maintaining of consistency and coherency on YSLME issues through involvement of key stakeholders in the Phase I and Phase II projects, coordination and collaboration with other regional initiatives, e.g., PEMSEA, NOWPAP, NEAMPAN, etc. and expanding stakeholder engagement among civil society organizations and private sector at facilitating multi-stakeholder buy-in for conservation and sustainable production initiatives. With excessive nutrients as the persistent transboundary issues, broadening stakeholder engagement among the agriculture and water resources management sectors are suggested by the terminal evaluation of the second phase of the project. The finalization of the updated SAP covering 2020-2030 and signing of the MOU defining the post-YSLME project regional governance mechanism will provide a new starting point for strengthening the partnership-based governance of the YSLME.