Approach to the synthesis of the environmental services of the SCS

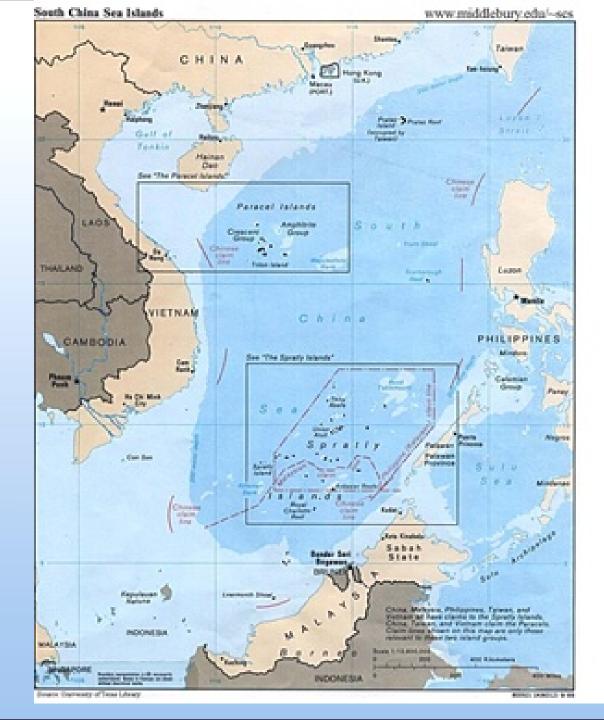
Chia Lin Sien Reference Group Meeting Bangkok, Thailand September 27-28, 2010

Eight priority services provided by the SCS

- 1) Fisheries (both marine and aquaculture)
- 2) Waste disposal
- 3) Land reclamation and land use conversions
- 4) Tourism and recreation
- 5) Natural disaster protection
- 6) Transportation, and
- 7) Oil and mineral exploration
- 8) Transboundary issues

Matrix: country x priority services

								A B
Country/Service	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
China	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x
Vietnam	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Cambodia	X	X		X		X	X	X
Thailand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malaysia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Indonesia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunei	X	X		X			X	X
Philippines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Map showing South China Sea and partial littoral states

Tasks

- Analyze and synthesize the trends of the eight priority services
- Analyze the drivers of environmental trends and services
- Assess the extent to which historical conflicting territorial claims of maritime countries have affected use and management of maritime and coastal resources and environmental trends
- Analyze the interactions, trade-offs and synergies across the eight priority services and risks that current trends pose in the short and medium term
- Identify topics for further research of high gain low cost for the purposes of this evaluation

(1) Fisheries

- Trends of fish catch and production trends, including trends of catch per unit of effort and productivity of aquaculture operations.
- Possible sources of information are FAO and SEAFDEC
- Questions:
 - national, provincial levels?
 - type of fisheries?
 - fishing grounds: national or extra-national?
 - technological change?
 - Capture fishery and aquaculture: 2 separate things

(2) Waste disposal

- Sewage, industrial and mining effluent, solid waste (cities, fishing ground, tourist/recreation...)
- Infrastructure sewage treatment plants
- Management practices including pricing
- Laws and regulations/ enforcement
- Any coastal zone planning?
- Incidence of marine pollution: algal bloom, health hazard, fish kills

(3) Land reclamation & conversion

- National, provincial policies and programs
- List of reclamation schemes each country
- Land conversion to fish farms, urban and commercial use
- Loss of coastal habitats
- Public protests
- Problem of siltation and loss of visibility
- Remedial action: Direct remediation, EIAs, public consultation
- Sources of information?

(4) Tourism & recreation

- Survey of coastal tourism & recreation
 - established and new resorts, marine reserves, marinas
 - description of types
 - data tourist arrivals, length of stay
 - case studies of coastal resorts
- Infrastructure and management
 - planning and use requirements, permits, charges
 - cruise facilities n marinas
- Government promotion and support
- Sources: government/ commercial

(5) Natural disaster protection

• Survey of natural disasters

- typhoons and tropical storms
- earthquakes and tsunamis
- flooding and mudslides

• Data: record of incidents

- date/location/damage/loss of lives
- Analysis of causes
- Remedial action
 - action plans and protective measures
 - government agencies involved
 - Private sector / foreign contributions
- Impact on tourism/fisheries, etc

(6) Marine transport

- Review of marine transport
 - ship owning
 - major ports
 - shipping and cargo handled: trends
 - seafarers: employment
- Navigation
 - shipping routes: oil tankers separately
 - designated navigation channels
 - navigation protection system of lighthouses, buoys...
- Shipping accidents and pollution
 - incidents of collisions, groundings, sinkings
 - incidents of oil pollution
 - risk in transport of exotic species
- Causes: weather, heavy traffic, human error
- Conflict with other marine sectors

(7) Oil and mineral exploration

- Review of oil and gas sector
 - offshore oil fields and exploration
 - production trends (oil and gas)
 - domestic consumption and trade
 - pipelines for oil and gas
- Mining of coastal and offshore minerals
 - sand, offshore tin
 - mining effluents
- Hazards
 - blowouts and rupture of pipelines
 - shipping disasters (see section on marine transport)
 - toxic effluents from mining activities
 - remedial action: warning systems, oil-spill contingency plans

Transboundary issues

• Basic data

- land area, length of coast
- whether signatory of UNCLOS
- variation of claims on territorial water limits

Problem of overlapping claims

- number of cases in SCS
- whether overlapping areas have resources
- cases settled/ under arbitration

Disputed islands

- Parcels and Spratleys
- Other disputed islands
- Cases settled/ under arbitration

• Successful cases

- Joint exploration and development of resources
- Conservation
- Indicators easily understood by non-specialists!!