

3 STRATEGIES FOR SLB DEVELOPMENT

The objective of the SLB Master Plan is to administer and manage SLB under sustainability framework. The plan aims to restore ecological system, natural resource and environment, to its original state, as much as practicable. It thus identifies vision, goal and strategies, as follows:

3.1 Vision

Songkhla Lake Basin shall be restored and managed along a sustainability framework, keeping balance among ecological, economic and social systems; under institutional framework which pays high respect to public participation, efficiency, transparency and justice.

3.2 Objective

The objective is to establish mechanism which can manage and administer SLB in an integrated manner, keeping balance among ecological, socio-economic and community systems; allowing strong participation from all stakeholders, recognizing their key roles in steering SLB people's and communities' actions.

- (1) **Ecological dimension:** SLB ecological system must be restored and conserved, so that valuable natural resources and environment-such as forest, mangrove, biodiversity, water resource, unique and pleasant topographical features, arts and culture, ancient and historical sites and local wisdom-can be proudly handed over to younger generations.
- (2) **Economic dimension:** Management of natural resource utilization in SLB must be efficient and cost-effective, so as to sufficiently and sustainably accommodate public consumption and other economic activities, without detrimental environmental impacts.
- (3) **Social dimension:** Restoration, conservation and utilization of natural resource in SLB must be equitably shared among, and responsible by, various sectors in the communities, without imposing negative impacts upon other sectors; consequently leading to better quality of life.

3.3 Strategic Goals:

- (1) Restore Songkhla Lake Basin to its original natural state, as much as practicable;
- (2) Promote resource utilization in SLB which is appropriate to its potentials, without disrupting ecological balance, in accordance with societal demand;
- (3) Maintain high environmental quality to an acceptable level by introducing mechanisms to tackle water pollution, air pollution and soil pollution, as well as preventing pollution which may arise from public consumption and economic activities;
- (4) Conserve and restore arts and culture, archeological and historical sites and local wisdom, so that their values can be passed on to future generations;
- (5) Establish mechanisms to enable all sectors in SLB to jointly play role in making decision for policy, plan and execution of projects in SLB.

3.4 Strategies for SLB Development

It is imperative that SLB development in the next decade place emphasis on: (1) rehabilitation of natural resource and biodiversity of the Basin, as much as practicable; (2) sustainable use of the natural resources; (3) prevention and control of pollution; (4) conservation of arts and culture, historical, archeological and tourism sites; and (5) develop a mechanism and process which can efficiently and effectively manage Basin natural resource and environment, in transparent manner, while providing venue for proper public participation. Herewith, 5 strategies and 26 measures are proposed, as follows:

Strategy 1: Rehabilitation of SLB natural resource and biodiversity,
consisting of 5 measures

- 1) Restoration of, and thereafter nourishing, forest in upstream part of the Basin;
- 2) Restoration of, and thereafter nourishing, mangrove forest and peat swamp forest along coastline of the Lake, and around islands within the Lake;
- 3) Provision of public land for inhabitants who may be displaced following the above measures;
- 4) Dredging the Lake where appropriate, e.g., where siltation is severe, or where it is anticipated that dredging can restore abundance of aquatic fauna; and
- 5) Restoration of rare and vulnerable aquatic fauna

Strategy 2: Sustainable use of SLB natural resources, consisting of 6 measures

- 1) Management of soil resource and land use in SLB, in line with their natural potentials;
- 2) Management of surface water and groundwater, in an integrated manner, both for consumption and other economic activities;
- 3) Controlling the amount of freshwater pumped from the Lake during dry seasons;
- 4) Management of water resource with emphasis on public participation;
- 5) Improvement of drainage system and mass transportation system; and
- 6) Sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture activities.

Strategy 3: Pollution prevention and control, consisting of 6 measures

- 1) Reduction of discharge nutrients, from domestic waste, industrial waste, swine farms and aquaculture activities, into the Lake;
- 2) Installation of appropriate waste treatment systems for municipalities;
- 3) Campaign for environmental awareness in pollution problems;
- 4) Establishment of efficient and effective management scheme for solid wastes, with careful consideration on economic, social and political feasibility;
- 5) Controlling land use and pollution source; and
- 6) Improvement of environmental quality for communities along selected waterways, allowing sufficient participation from stakeholders.

Strategy 4: Restoration and conservation of arts and culture, historical and archeological sites, tourism sites and local wisdom, consisting of 4 measures

- 1) Restoration and conservation of arts and culture, tradition and local wisdom;
- 2) Restoration and conservation and utilization of historical and archeological sites, and tourism sites;
- 3) Development of network for learning and exchanging information about arts and culture, historical and archeological sites and local wisdom; and
- 4) Promotion of sustainable tourism, in line with potentials of the sites, with careful consideration on communities' benefits.

Strategy 5: Enhancement of efficiency in SLB administration and management, with emphasis on public participation, consisting of 5 measures

- 1) Improvement of mechanism for administration and management of SLB natural resource and environment, so as to drive execution of the Master Plan;
- 2) Enhancement of public participation;
- 3) Establishment of mechanism for improving work culture;
- 4) Establishment of mechanism where SLB database can be continually improved and updated, while maintaining its integrity; and
- 5) Establishment of a surveillance process where SLB development can be continuously and effectively monitored and evaluated.

3.5 Performance Indicators of the Master Plan

It is anticipated that, after 10 years (AD 2006-2015) of implementation of this Master Plan, there will be, at least, the following improvements:

- 1) An SLB development agency, a research management coordinating center, as well as networks of various occupational groups will be established;
- 2) Administration and management of natural resource and environment in SLB will adhere to good governance principal, all stakeholders will come to consensus that it is efficient, transparent, and just;
- 3) Community is content in improved quality of life, including economic condition, social situation and ecological system; indicators of all 3 components are simultaneously improved in good balance;
- 4) At least 20% of the SLB area will be covered with healthy forest;
- 5) At least 30% of sitting cage and set bag net will be removed, enabling fish catch per unit fishing gear to increase, at least 30%;
- 6) Two historical parks, one each in Songkhla and Phattalung provinces, will be established plus at least 26 local-level and locally-administered learning institutes; and

- 7) Songkhla Lake water quality will be at least of Type 3, as classified by National surface water quality standards.

Volume 3 of this report, “Master Plan,” proposes interim performance indicators for the medium term (Years 2006 and 2010). They will be used for assessment and continual improvement and implementation of the Master Plan.

3.6 Project Ideas under the above Strategies

In order to launch the SLB Development Master Plan into implementation, the study team has prepared a number of project ideas following the aforementioned strategies. The project ideas are the outcomes from public consultation process involving all sectors of the public. Adhering to the 5 strategies and 26 measures, 57 project ideas have been developed. Their details are described in Volume 2 of this report, "Main Report".

Besides adhering to the strategies and measures, the proposed project ideas have been developed to meet public demands. They are intended primarily to serve as starting points which could facilitate and expedite development of project details. It should however be noted that these project ideas represent only examples of a much more plausible projects under this Master Plan, and by no means are exhaustive. Other plausible projects which adhere to the above vision, strategies and measures, could be developed and should be considered by the SLB Board which is proposed to be formed under this Master Plan. Furthermore, the budget proposed herewith should also be taken as tentative figures. Given that this Master Plan is meant to be dynamic and rolling, responsible agencies will have to adjust them according to the actual tasks, when more information are available.