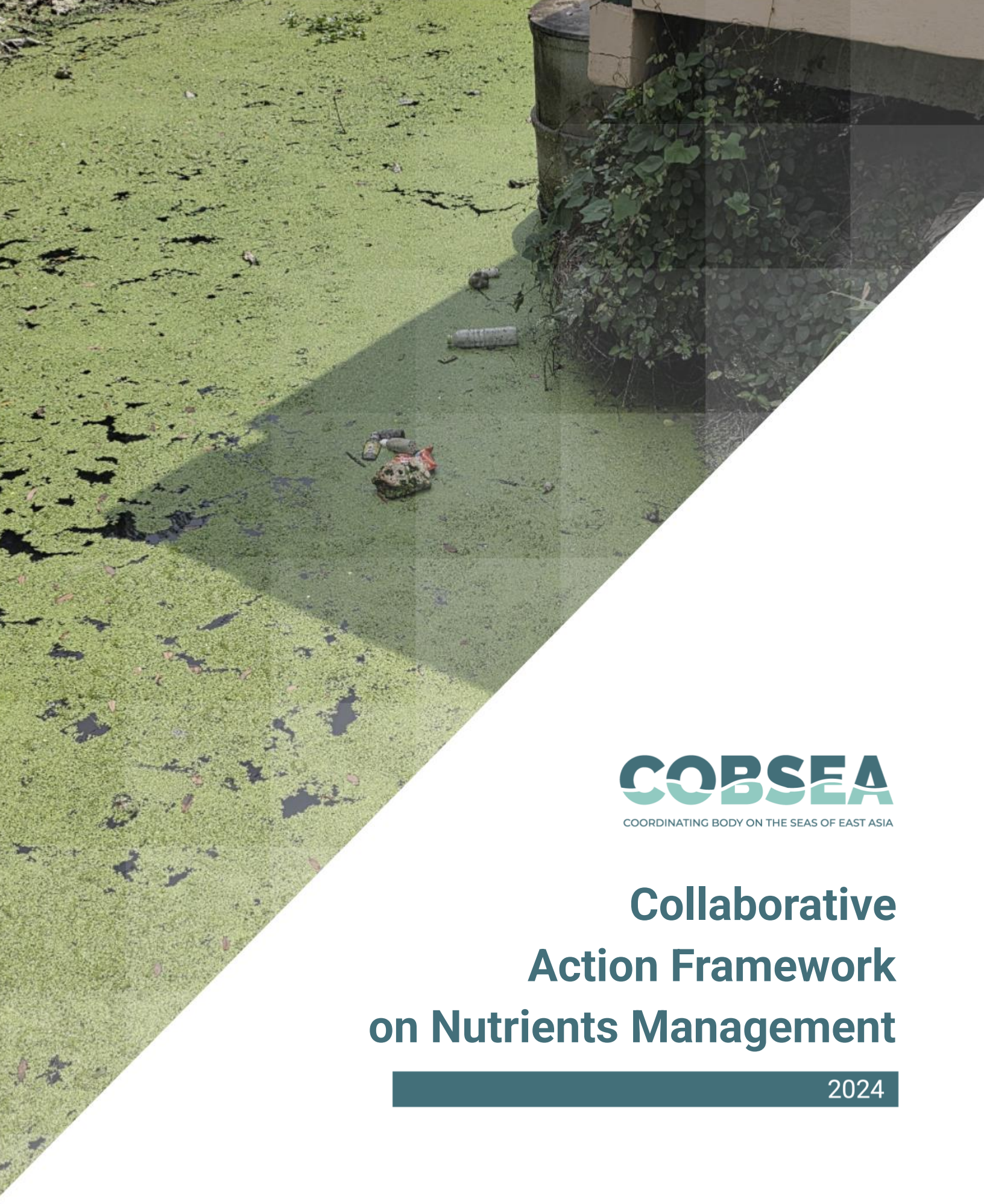

COBSEA

COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

# Collaborative Action Framework on Nutrients Management

2024

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**Cover photo credit**
Plankton bloom in Bangkok, Thailand, 2025. Photo by Mahesh Pradhan.

UN environment programme

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# Collaborative Action Framework on Nutrients Management

Adopted during the 26th COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting,
Siem Reap, Cambodia, October 2024

Cyanobacteria and bleached coral, Raja Ampat, Indonesia. Photo by Iris Uijttewaal.

# Vision:

COBSEA participating countries enjoy healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and the life-sustaining services these provide by ensuring that risks from excess nutrients are minimized, where possible, at source, including threats from eutrophication and hypoxia.

Red Noctiluca Scintillans bloom, Penang, Malaysia, 2023. Photo by Penang Fisheries Department.

# Goal:

To establish a collaborative framework on nutrients management, covering the progressive reduction of impacts from excess nutrient emissions on marine and coastal ecosystems of the seas of East Asia.

A man collects snails amid a nitrogen-fueled algae bloom, Jiangsu province, China. LIU JIN/AFP/Getty Images

# Overall Objectives:

1. To support and assist COBSEA participating countries in increasing their capacities to develop national strategies/activities on nutrient pollution reduction, using a watershed scale approach, where land-based (e.g. agriculture and point sources) and in-water nutrient sources (e.g. aquaculture, submarine groundwater discharge) are addressed, including development and resource mobilization for pilot projects.

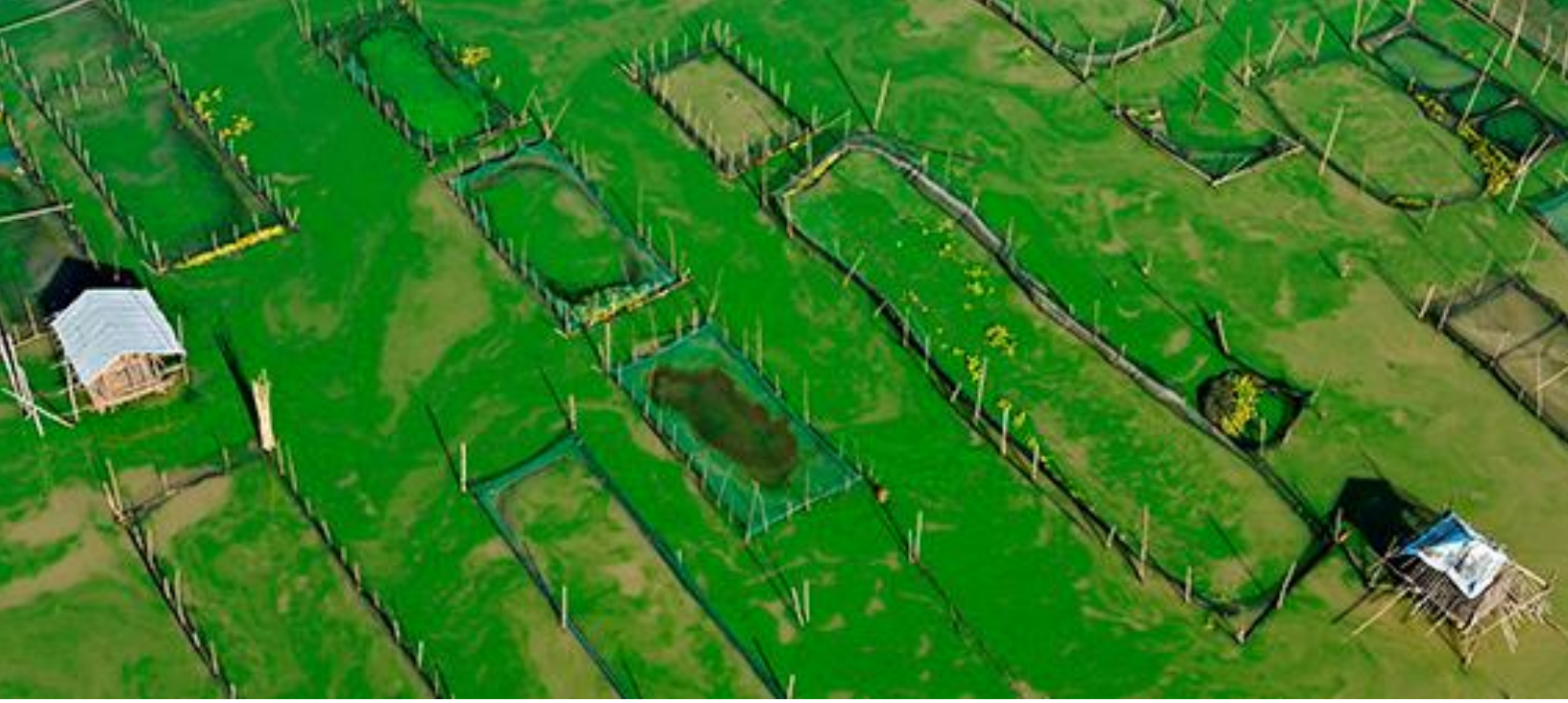
2. To support and assist COBSEA participating countries, as requested, in implementing institutional, policy and regulations relating to nutrient pollution reduction and management including identifying measures to reduce discharge of untreated sewage, nutrients and sediments, and promote recovery of nutrients and water from wastewater, including sharing of best practices amongst COBSEA participating countries.

3. To contribute to implementation of relevant regional and global commitments including the Strategic Directions of the COBSEA for the period 2023-2027, the UNEA Resolutions on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, SDGs 6 and 14, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

# Underpinning Principles:

1. Science-based approach, using the best available science, data and information, and incorporating local/ traditional knowledge.
2. A source-to-sea, integrated watershed approach that considers nutrient sources and their impacts in coastal waters, and the heterogeneity among COBSEA participating countries in terms of their biogeophysical features and the sectors that contribute to nutrient pollution.
3. Balancing ecological, social and economic exigencies in decision-making throughout the land-sea continuum.
4. Alignment with goal, objectives and targets with relevant national, regional and global policies, frameworks and priorities to achieve multiple benefits.
5. Engagement of key stakeholder groups.

Tanuspong Pokavanich, a marine scientist from Kasetsart University, pours sample of green sea water caused by plankton bloom at Chonburi's coastline, Thailand, 2023.
Photo by REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha



Heavy blooms of cyanobacteria in Laguna Lake, Philippines. Photo by Rhoy Cobilla.

## References:


1. RENEWSEAS - DRAFT Summary for Policymakers, July 2024
2. RENEWSEAS DRAFT Regional Strategy and Action Plan for IGM26, July 2024
3. Desk Review on Nutrient Pollution as a Regional and Transboundary Challenge in the East Asian Seas Region, March 2021