



DA NANG COMPACT

ON

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA 2015

The Fifth Ministerial Forum | East Asian Seas Congress 2015

Da Nang, Viet Nam • 20 November 2015

We, the representatives of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have gathered this 20TH day of November 2015 in Da Nang, Viet Nam to revisit our regional coastal and marine strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (“SDS-SEA”), and to lay down the post-2015 Strategic Targets of PEMSEA. Today, we aim to reiterate the core mission of our partnership, and to keep this mission relevant to our present and future concerns, attuned to the changes that have occurred both in our physical and international policy environments.

Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Our Vision

With the adoption of the SDS-SEA (*Putrajaya Declaration*, 2003), we committed ourselves to the sustainable development of the region’s oceans and coasts. This commitment stems from our connection with the valuable ecosystems and resources produced by our oceans and coasts—the well-being of our communities, security of our food supply, and the sustainable development of our economies. This is what PEMSEA has aimed to accomplish in the past, and what it aims to achieve today and in the years to come.

The Current Situation

Since 2003, we have:

- a. transformed PEMSEA into a country-owned regional organization focused on the implementation of the SDS-SEA (*Target 1, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006);
- b. developed and adopted national ocean and coastal policies and strategies in 75 percent of PEMSEA Partner Countries (*Target 2, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006);
- c. scaled-up the implementation of ICM programs from less than 1 percent to more than 14 percent of the region’s coastline (*Target 3, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006); and
- d. developed and implemented a reporting system (State of Coasts or SOC) for measuring progress and trends in coastal and ocean governance and management among our local governments implementing ICM programs (*Target 4, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006).

By doing so, we have advanced the objectives and action programmes of the SDS-SEA at the regional, national and local levels. We have also strengthened our confidence in the application of ICM to address new and emerging challenges to sustainable development, including addressing climate change and its effects on our oceans and coasts (*Manila Declaration*, 2009), and building an ocean-based blue economy in support of the Rio+20 The Future We Want and other international agreements (*Changwon Declaration*, 2012).

We gratefully acknowledge that this was only possible with the valuable support and commitments of the GEF, the UNDP, the World Bank, our Non-Country Partners and other collaborating donors and organizations over the past 12 years, including the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments through its adoption and implementation of the *Dongying Declaration on Building a Blue Economy through ICM* in 2011.

Our post-2015 Solutions

We reconfirm our commitment to the vision of the SDS-SEA for healthy oceans, people and economies, which parallels the aims of recently adopted international instruments, including, the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the *Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* under UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*.

We look forward to the successful outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC to be held in Paris in December 2015.

We agree to adopt the SDS-SEA 2015, an updated version of the SDS-SEA 2003, which incorporates strategies, objectives and action programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. The SDS-SEA 2015 is adopted as a common platform for regional cooperation, and as a framework for policy and programme development and implementation, at the national and local level, on a voluntary basis, where deemed appropriate by each concerned individual state with the East Asian region, without imposing legal obligations or prohibitions.

We also agree to adopt the following post-2015 Strategic Targets as key indicators of our progress in implementing the SDS-SEA 2015 over the next 5 years:

TARGET 1: By 2017, a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility managing and coordinating a suite of products, services and financing mechanisms for advancing SDS-SEA implementation at the regional, national and local levels.

TARGET 2: By 2018, a regional State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system to monitor progress, impacts and benefits, and to continually improve planning and management of SDS-SEA implementation.

TARGET 3: By 2021, national coastal and ocean policies, and supporting legislation and institutional arrangements set up and functional in 100% of PEMSEA Partner Countries, consistent with international environmental and sustainable development commitments and based on best available scientific information.

TARGET 4: By 2021, ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas covering at least 25% of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, supporting national priorities and commitments under the UN SDGs, UNFCCC, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other relevant environmental and sustainable development targets subscribed to by PEMSEA Partner Countries.

To achieve these targets, we agree to formulate, adopt and implement mutually supportive SDS-SEA implementation plans at both regional and national levels, in accordance with our respective national priorities and capacities. The national implementation plans should indicate the priorities, actions, roles and responsibilities, in accordance with our respective national priorities and capacities, to achieve the updated Strategic Targets for 2016 to 2021. The regional implementation plan should indicate the actions, supporting products and services, sustainable financing mechanism and SOC reporting system, as appropriate, for SDS-SEA implementation at the national and regional levels, while contributing to regional and global targets for sustainable development of oceans and coasts. The sustainable financing mechanism should include ways and means to assist country and non-country partners to accelerate and secure long-term funding for updated SDS-SEA action programmes at national and regional levels, as appropriate, and for the PEMSEA Resource Facility to provide products and services to country and non-country Partners, collaborators and the business community in support of the implementation of the updated SDS-SEA.

We agree to develop and utilize a scientifically sound State of Oceans and Coasts (“SOC”) Reporting System which should serve as a mechanism to monitor regional progress in the implementation of the SDS-SEA 2015, including agreed indicators and data requirements, to facilitate improved and effective planning, and policy- and decision-making. The regional SOC Report should be presented to the 6th EAS Congress 2018 and to every EAS Congress thereafter.

Our Call for Expanded Partnership

We believe that PEMSEA has a greater role in facilitating transboundary initiatives for sustainable development through joint planning. We stand by the time-tested principle that proactive cooperation among partners is key to addressing the numerous challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of our oceans and coasts.

It is to our greatest advantage to stand together with our PEMSEA Non-Country Partners to fully commit to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We call on them once more to affirm their continued commitment for the implementation of the updated SDS-SEA 2015 and the Strategic Targets for 2016 to 2021.

At the same time, we invite governments of the region at the national and local levels, international organizations, development agencies, financial institutions, businesses, coastal and ocean industries, and academic and independent scientific institutions, to join our PEMSEA Partnership in order to better face the challenges of our times.

Adopted in Da Nang City, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, this 20TH day of November 2015.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



Hon. Khieu Muth
Secretary of State
Ministry of Environment

The People's Republic of China



Hon. Chen Lianzeng
Deputy Administrator
State Oceanic Administration

**The Democratic People's Republic
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Hon. Kim Yong Jae
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic Relations

Republic of Indonesia



Hon. Karliansyah
Director General
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Ministry of Environment and Forestry

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