



History of Cambodia's Engagement in Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

- 1993** Participated in the establishment of a regional GEF/UNDP/IMO project on Marine Pollution Prevention in the East Asian Seas (MPP-EAS) alongside representatives from IMO, UNDP, China, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
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- 2000** Joined the continuation of the regional GEF/UNDP/IMO MPP-EAS phase 2. This led to the establishment of national integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration sites in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, in addition to Xiamen, Batangas, Da Nang, Nampho and Chonburi.
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- 2003** Participated in the inaugural East Asian Seas Congress hosted by the government of Malaysia and along with other country partners, adopted the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. It also endorsed the shared regional framework called the 'Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia' with 11 other countries in the region.
- Sihanoukville's Coastal Strategy, a long-term strategy for the sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas in Sihanoukville was adopted and signed by Dr. Mok Mareth, then the Senior Minister of MOE.
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- 2005** Coastal use zoning plan of Sihanoukville was adopted by the National Coastal Steering Committee.
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- 2006** Signed the Haikou Declaration which transformed the governing body from a Project Steering Committee into a Partnership Council.
- The Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Ministry of Environment signed the Joint Statement on the Implementation of the Framework Programme on Partnerships in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand (GOT) together with Thailand and Vietnam. Since then, the country participated in annual contact points meeting and sub-regional workshops and activities for the GOT.
- The province of Preah Sihanouk, then the Municipality of Sihanoukville also joined the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development.
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- 2008** The Municipality of Sihanoukville hosted the Annual Forum of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development, which convened more than 80 local executives and technical staff from 9 PEMSEA countries. The Forum discussed critical issues on "Water Resources Protection, Utilization and Management".

2009 Adopted the Manila Declaration where together with 10 other countries in the region committed to strengthen the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of East Asia.

The Sihanoukville Autonomous Port signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the PEMSEA Resource Facility for the implementation of Port, Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (PSHEMS).

Memorandum of Agreement between PEMSEA and the Royal University of Phnom Penh was also signed in 2009 to provide capacity building support for ICM implementation in Cambodia.

2011 Preah Sihanouk Province, as member of the PEMSEA Network of Local Government signed the Dongying Declaration on Building a Blue Economy through ICM.

2012 Participated in the 4th EAS Congress held in RO Korea and adopted the Changwon Declaration on Blue Economy together with 10 other countries in the EAS region.

Influenced by the successful implementation of coastal use zoning and tourism development and management in Occheateul Beach in Preah Sihanouk, the Royal Government of Cambodia issued Circular No. 1 on Development and Management of the Coastal Areas in 2012. The Circular prescribes the zoning scheme in the coastal areas and instructs ministries and relevant institutions at the sub-national level to implement sustainable development and management of the coastal areas.

Phnom Penh Port signed a Memorandum of Agreement with PEMSEA Resource Facility for the implementation of PSHEMS.

Deputy Governor Prak Sihara of Preah Sihanouk served as Vice President to the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) and became PNLG President from 2013-2015.

2014 Joined the multi-year seven country GEF/UNDP Scaling up SDS-SEA implementation which aimed to catalyze actions and investments at the regional, national and local levels to rehabilitate and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem services and build a sustainable coastal and ocean-based economy in the East Asian region.

2015 Participated in the 5th EAS Congress held in Vietnam and endorsed the 2015 SDS-SEA framework together with 10 other countries in the EAS region, which is a package of applicable principles, relevant existing regional and international action programs, agreements, and instruments, as well as implementation approaches, for achieving sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. It offers a regional framework for the interested countries and other stakeholders to implement, in an integrated or holistic manner, the commitments they have already made, without assuming new legal obligations. The SDS-SEA embodies the shared vision of the countries and other stakeholders for the Seas of East Asia, and the ways by which they will achieve that shared vision.

Signed the Da Nang Compact which reaffirms the regional coastal and marine strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), and lays down the post-2015 Strategic Targets of PEMSEA. The Compact is the region's support for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant international and regional commitments related to coasts and oceans.

Preah Sihanouk Province received ICM System Certification in 2015.

2016

Motivated by the socioeconomic and environmental gains brought by effective management in Preah Sihanouk, the other 3 coastal provinces (Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong) started implementing their provincial ICM programs. Cambodia proudly announced its 100% coastline coverage of ICM implementation.

The provinces of Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong also joined the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments in 2016.

2018

Signed the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration which commits to pursue PEMSEA's self-sustainability post 2019 and endorsed the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022 which is composed of 3 Priority Management Programs and 3 Governance Programs to operationalize the SDS-SEA regional framework and align the region to international commitments such as the UN SDGs, UNFCCC and CBD Aichi Biodiversity targets. The Priority Management Programs include: a) Biodiversity Conservation and Management; b) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; and c) Pollution Reduction and Waste Management. The cross-cutting Governance Programs include: a) Ocean Governance and Strategic Partnerships; b) Knowledge Management and Capacity Development; and c) Blue Economy Investment and Sustainable Financing.

Accepted the responsibility of hosting of the EAS Congress 2021 during the flag turn-over ceremony of the 6th EAS Congress held in Iloilo, Philippines.

Deputy Governor Kong Vitanak of Preah Sihanouk was elected as Vice President of the PEMSEA Network of Local Government for Sustainable Coastal Development.

2019

Dr. Vann Monyneth, Deputy Secretary General of the National Council for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment was elected as the EAS Partnership Council (EAS pc) co-Chair during the 11th EAS PC Meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Confirmed the country's annual contribution to PEMSEA and affirming its commitment to PEMSEA's sustainability.

Published the first National State of the Ocean and Coasts in Cambodia which highlights the contribution of the ocean economy to the country. It is a mechanism to monitor ocean health, investment and net returns from ocean economic activities and the outcomes of policies and governance espousing the blue economy approach.

2020

Hosted the Annual Contact Points meeting for the Gulf of Thailand Joint Cooperation Framework Programme held in Phnom Penh on February 2020 involving Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Successfully concluded the implementation of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling up SDS-SEA implementation in Cambodia. A National Forum to share the major accomplishments of the project including lessons learned, good practices and discussions for sustaining the gains from the project and possible replication and scaling up was convened on September 2, 2020 at Phnom Penh Hotel, Cambodia.

The provinces of Kampot, Kep, Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk joined the 1st virtual PEMSEA Network of Local Governments Annual Forum and Technical Workshop in November 2020 with the theme "Marine Eco-civilization, Blue Development.

Preah Sihanouk Province re-certified for ICM System Level 1 Certification during the PNLG Forum in November 2020.

2021

Hosted the East Asian Seas Congress 2021 through the Ministry of Environment and the Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk, with the theme "Charting a New Decade of HOPE (Healthy Ocean, People and Economies) and participated by 1,417 individuals from 27 countries around the world both virtually and physically in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Signed the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration on Advancing our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People and Economies, which re-affirms Cambodia's commitment to the regional collaboration on sustainable coastal and ocean development together with 10 countries in the East Asian Seas region.

Provinces of Kampot, Kep, Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk signed the Preah Sihanouk Declaration on PNLG Leadership for the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development of the Coasts and Oceans through Integrated Coastal Management and adopted the PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2022-2030.

Royal University of Phnom Penh signed the Charter for the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers, which formalized the Network and specified the ground rules on membership, as well as identified joint activities and outputs among its members and options for sustainability and funding support.

2022

H.E. Thay Chantha, Deputy Secretary General of National Committee for Cambodian Coastal Management and Development and Deputy General Director of General Directorate of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment officially designated as PEMSEA National Focal Point in Cambodia; Mr. Roath Sith, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment was identified as Alternate Focal Point.

Dr. Vann Momyneath, Deputy Secretary General of the National Council for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment begins his three-year term as Chair of the EAS Partnership Council (EAS PC) in July 2022.

Preah Sihanouk Province is awarded ICM System Level 2 Certification during the 2022 PNLG General Assembly held in in Tangerang, Indonesia on November 26, 2022.