



# Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia Implementation Plan 2023-2027







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Asia Implementation Plan  
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## SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027

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The Implementation Plan was formulated with the guidance of the Advisory Group and supported by the Technical Working Group (see Annex).

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACB	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity	IGES	Institute for Global
ADB	Asian Development Bank		Environmental Strategies
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ATSEA	Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme	IOC/WESTPAC	IOC Sub-commission for the Western Pacific
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	IOI	International Ocean Institute
CIP	Conservation International Philippines	IUCN ARO	International Union for Conservation of Nature Asia Regional Office
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia	IPIECA	The Global Oil and Gas Association for Advancing Environmental and Social Performance Across the Energy Transition
COP	Conference of Parties		
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative		
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction		
EAS	East Asian Seas		
EASPC	East Asian Seas Partnership Council	IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
EMECS	Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas	IKI	International Climate Initiative
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework	IMO	International Maritime Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility	IWLEARN	International Waters Learning Exchange and Resources Network
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion		
GOT	Gulf of Thailand	IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	IP	Implementation Plan
		IPs	Indigenous Peoples
		IPB	Institut Pertanian Bogor
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter	KEI	Korea Environment Institute
		KIOST	Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
GNPM	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management	KMI	Korea Maritime Institute
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management	KOEM	Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation



LME	Large Marine Ecosystem	PNLC	PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers
MABIK	Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea	PRF	PEMSEA Resource Facility
MPA	Marine Protected Area	RSOC	Regional State of Ocean and Coasts
NAP	National Action Plan		
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan	SAP	Strategic Action Plan
		SCS SAP	South China Sea Strategic Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NEAMPAN	North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network	SDS-SEA	Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
NEASPEC	North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	SEAKB	Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank
NIVA	Norwegian Institute for Water Research	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NSOC	National State of Ocean and Coasts	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
OPRI	Ocean Policy Research Institute		
OSRL	Oil Spill Response Limited	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia	UPMSI	University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute
PML	Plymouth Marine Laboratory		
PNLG	PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development	UPV	University of the Philippines Visayas
		YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



*Photo by: PEMSEAIR. Valiente*



# I. Introduction

For almost 2 decades from its adoption at the Ministerial Forum of the 1<sup>st</sup> East Asian Seas Congress in Putrajaya, Malaysia in 2003, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) has proven and maintained its relevance as a regional framework for cooperation and partnership to achieve sustainable development of the coasts and ocean in the East Asian Seas (EAS) Region.

This was made possible by pursuing a consultative process of ensuring that the SDS-SEA remained steadfast and responsive to global, regional and national sustainable development agenda, emerging trends and sustainable development directions of the partner countries, local governments and other partners and stakeholders through a well-established platform for regular reporting of progress in SDS-SEA implementation at the triennial East Asian Seas Congress and a mechanism for direction setting through the Ministerial Forum and the East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EASPC) (see **Figure 1**).

As we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, PEMSEA<sup>1</sup> partners set new targets by taking stock of the SDS-SEA accomplishments for the period 2018-2022 and guided by the post 2020 initiatives and actions to accelerate sustainable solutions in line with the SDGs at global, regional and national levels, the COVID-19 post pandemic recovery measures, and more importantly, the direction provided in the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration for stepping up actions on the road to 2030.

Three major global events that were recently concluded in 2022 whose call for actions for a clean, healthy and sustainable environment have confirmed the alignment, relevance and timeliness of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027 priority programs, targeted outcomes and objectives. These include the Stockholm +50 which took place five decades after the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment where the importance of collaboration and partnerships in tackling climate, biodiversity loss and pollution, also known as the triple planetary crisis and to act as a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and encourage the adoption of green

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<sup>1</sup> PEMSEA comprises of country and non-country partners

post-COVID-19 recovery plans were confirmed. These developments are captured in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan. The Second UN Ocean Conference on the other hand, which focused on assessing the progress made in SDG 14 and adopted the Lisbon Declaration, provides a series of science-based actions that are needed to deal with the triple planetary crisis while taking into account the challenges that small islands and developing nations may have in implementing these actions are likewise covered in the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan is also guided by the recommendations from the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which reflected on how recovery policies can reverse the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs and move countries on to a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.



**Figure 1.** Collaboration and partnerships in SDS-SEA implementation.

Moreover, the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 integrates the results and recommendations from the Mid-term Review of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and translates the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 into actionable steps that outline measures to achieve effective governance, healthy ocean, healthy people and healthy economies over the medium-term. (see **Figure 2**).

The SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 was developed through a consultative and participatory process, as presented in **Figure 3**, involving the Advisory and Technical Working Group who were tasked to

formulate the SDS-SEA IP. The AG/TWG is comprised of the Chair and Co-Chair of the Technical Session of the EASPC and selected representatives from Country and Non-Country Partners and PNLC. The draft SDS-SEA IP was presented at the 14th EASPC meeting for review by the Country and Non-Country Partners. Guidance on the next steps to refine and finalize the draft was provided by the Council. The final draft of the SDS-SEA IP was approved by the Country and Non-Country Partners at the 29th Expanded Executive Committee meeting. The formulation, approval and adoption of the SDS-SEA IP was undertaken within 2022.

## Framework of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027

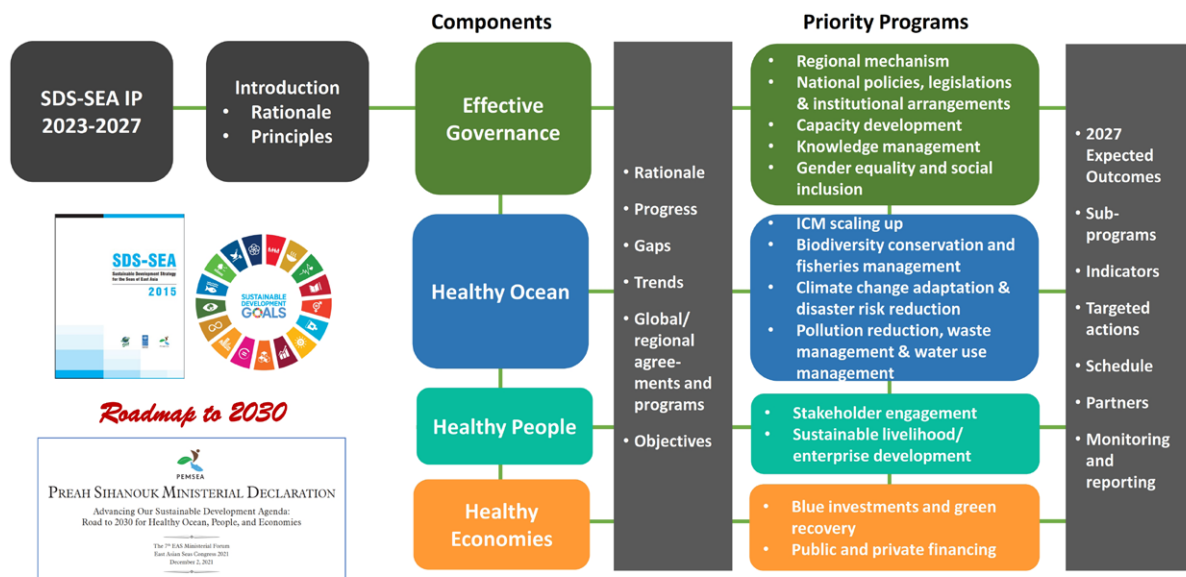


Figure 2. Framework of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.

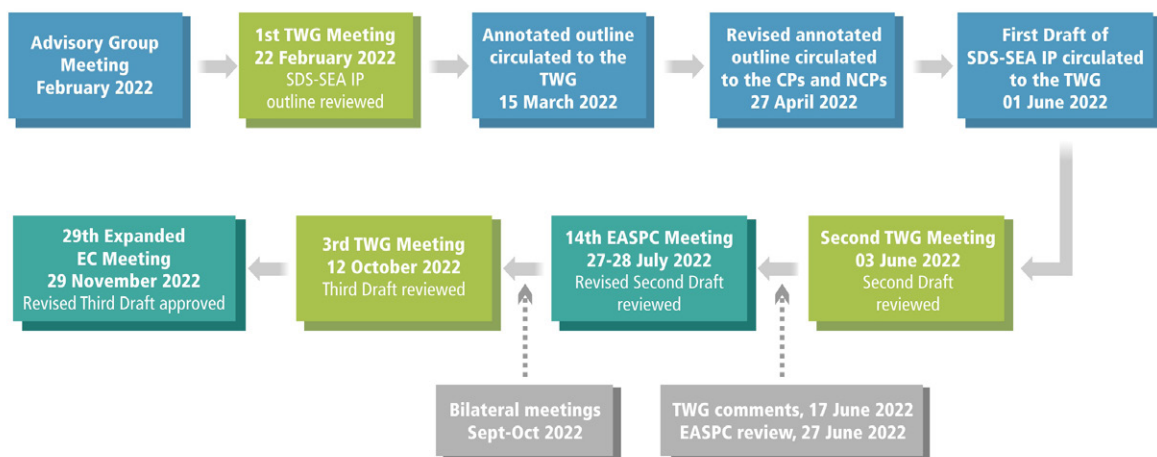


Figure 3. SDS-SEA IP formulation timeline and process.



## II. Effective Governance

Effective governance has been recognized as a critical and cross cutting element in achieving sustainable development. PEMSEA, through its strategic mechanism, has been able to make headways in transforming the partnership of Country and Non-Country Partners into a regional mechanism to deliver SDS-SEA targets through integrated coastal management (ICM) solutions over the past 29 years. Effective governance requires long-term and sustained commitment and thus, the governance programs of the SDS-SEA IP are designed to continue pursuing PEMSEA's sustainability as the regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA (see **Figure 4**) and strengthen the necessary enabling mechanisms, i.e., ocean and coastal policies, legislation and institutional arrangements, capacity development, knowledge management and gender mainstreaming and equality, in order to be more responsive to the priorities and needs of the region to support SDS-SEA implementation.

PEMSEA's governance and institutional transformation has been guided and supported by the series of Ministerial Declarations that were adopted in the past two decades, i.e., Putrajaya Declaration, Haikou Partnership Agreement, Manila Declaration, Changwon Declaration, Danang Compact, Iloilo Declaration, Preah Sihanouk Declaration, that incorporated the collective response of the region to global sustainable development targets that are embodied in SDG 17 and supporting national priorities and commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Global Programme of Action on Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Regional programmes that cover the Arafura and Timor Seas, South China Sea, Yellow Sea, Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, and regional mechanisms such as the Coral Triangle Initiative and the ASEAN have established and generated the necessary processes and practices for science-backed Strategic Action Plan implementation that further advanced the region's resolve for achieving sustainable development. It is imperative that the regional, sub-regional and LME programmes match national priorities to facilitate their integration into the national policies and programs.

On gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), the conclusion and recommendations from the 2021 East Asian Seas Congress indicated the participation of women, minorities, and other

disadvantaged groups is vital in any decision-making process to ensure an inclusive process. GESI involves looking at: differentiated capacity of men and women; segregated roles in household and community levels; access and control over resources (financial, fisheries equipment, and markets); cultural perception on gender roles and positions; gender participation; and equal benefits for men and women ([https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/EASC-2021\\_Post-Congress-report\\_Final-ao-2feb2022.pdf](https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/EASC-2021_Post-Congress-report_Final-ao-2feb2022.pdf)). A GESI Assessment and Action Plan has been developed in line with these directions and more importantly, to complement the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027. The recommendations from the GESI Assessment and Action Plan will be incorporated into the annual operational plans to be developed for 2023 to 2027 to implement the targeted actions of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan.

**Objectives:** To continually strengthen ocean and coastal governance and management at regional, national and local levels; raise public awareness; strengthen capacities, and incorporate scientific information and input to planning, managing and sustaining healthy and resilient ocean, coasts and communities, and facilitating gender mainstreaming in governance and management programs.

## II.A. Regional Mechanism

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<b>II.A.1. A self-sustaining and strengthened regional partnership coordinated by PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) with improved capacity of accessing funds from diverse sources to support the implementation of the regional strategy.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary Agreements signed between PRF and Country Partners.</li> <li>Agreements signed between PRF and Non-Country Partners.</li> <li>National, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects developed, approved and implemented.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 approved and adopted by the EASPC.</li> <li>Voluntary Agreements developed, agreed to and signed between PRF and PEMSEA Country Partners, confirming country ownership of PEMSEA and providing funding to sustain the core operation of the PRF Secretariat.</li> <li>Agreements signed between PRF and Non-Country Partners confirming resource and capacity development and technical support for joint implementation of collaborative projects that contribute to the targeted outcomes of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)</li> <li>Funding partners</li> </ul>



2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRF develop collaborative projects with global (IMO) and other regional organizations (ASEAN) and partners with the utilization of GESI-based methodologies and tools to guide GESI mainstreaming, implementation and monitoring of project activities.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• PRF implement national, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>2024-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Agreements with Country Partners fully operationalized.</li> <li>• Agreements with Non-Country Partners fully operationalized.</li> <li>• PRF managing and coordinating a full suite of products and services, including national, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects in support of the implementation of the agreements with Partners and the SDS-SEA.</li> <li>• Impact study of PEMSEA value added in sub-national, national and regional ocean governance conducted.</li> <li>• Business spin-off for revenue generating services explored by innovating new approaches for self-sufficiency.</li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> GEF developed a Guidance to Advance Gender Equality requiring gender analyses for all project proposals; a gender analysis is mandatory for all USAID projects and is required at the strategy, project, and activity levels.

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.A.2. A Regional and National State of Ocean and Coasts reporting system to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress, impacts and benefits and continually guide the planning and implementation of the SDS-SEA to achieve blue economy growth and maintain ocean health.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second RSOC and NSOC Reports and other related reports on ocean health assessment with GESI component developed, published and disseminated by PEMSEA Country Partners, collaborating organizations, LMEs and sub-regional sea areas programmes.</li> <li>R/NSOC Reports linked to other regional and global reporting systems on coasts and ocean and synergy with local SOC reporting established</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synergy of R/NSOC with regional and global reporting systems established through collaboration with the World Ocean Assessment and other global and regional reporting systems on coasts and ocean.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>GESI components of the existing R/NSOC indicators identified and guidelines for incorporating GESI indicators into the R/NSOC developed.</li> </ul> <p><b>2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the second R/NSOC Reports initiated with agreed theme and methodology for measuring changes and trends in blue economy development and ocean health.</li> <li>Theme, objectives and standardized methodology submitted to the EASPC for review and approval.</li> <li>GESI indicators incorporated into the R/NSOC reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>2025-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second R/NSOC Report prepared, published and disseminated to PEMSEA Partner Countries, LMEs/sub-regional sea areas programmes and collaborating organizations using agreed and standardized methodologies, objectives and theme.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>II.A.3. A platform for connecting people for a healthy ocean: science-policy-economy-society interface.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Asian Seas Congress convened in 2024 and 2027 in coordination with host governments, partners and collaborators.</li> <li>Ministerial Forum conducted in 2024 and 2027 in conjunction with the EAS Congress.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023 and 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for the EAS Congress 2024 and 2027 and Ministerial Forum initiated in collaboration with the host national and local governments and partners.</li> <li>GESI-focused forums, workshops, seminars, roundtables, study tours and joint learning events convened at the 2024 and 2027 EAS Congresses.</li> </ul>	

<sup>3</sup> ASEAN State of Environment Report, World Ocean Assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including socio-economic aspects, etc.

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other knowledge sharing events conducted/co-organized to promote achievements and good practices in SDS-SEA implementation and facilitate networking and partnership building.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2024 and 2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EAS Congress 2024 and 2027 conducted bringing together stakeholders from different levels of government and sectors of society, including women, indigenous people and other disadvantaged groups from within and outside the region for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange on progress, challenges, constraints and achievements in implementing initiatives that contribute to SDS-SEA implementation and the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030.</li> <li>Ministerial Forum 2024 and 2027 conducted facilitating the evaluation of the contributions, including the impacts and benefits of the partnership arrangement to SDS-SEA implementation, in accelerating national goals as well as reconfirmation of Country Partners' commitments to regional and national targets and program objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global, regional, national and local coastal and ocean governance forums, seminars, workshops, roundtables, study tours and joint learning events participated in by national and local leaders and women, indigenous people and other disadvantaged groups from PEMSEA Partner Countries, including participation in PNLG and PNLC Forums, World Ocean Week in Xiamen and EAS Congresses.</li> </ul>	

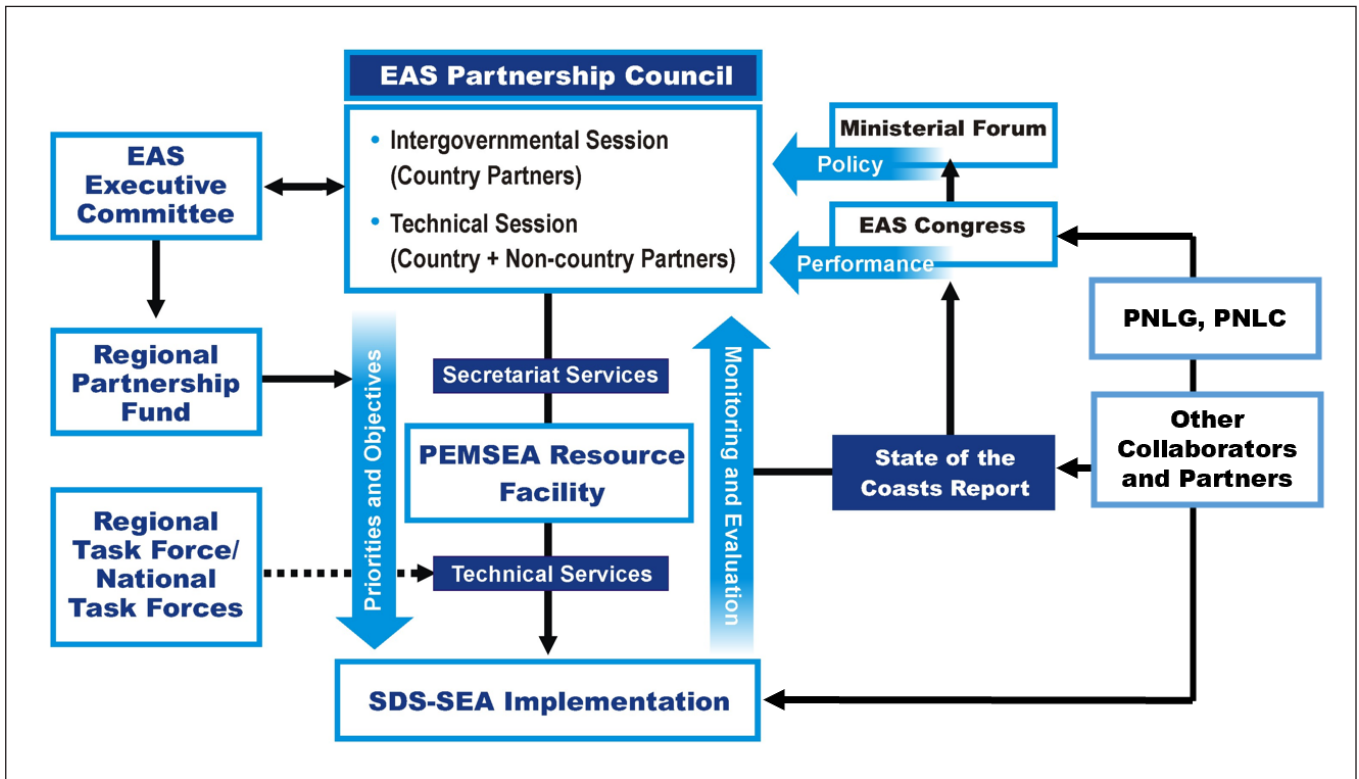


Figure 4. PEMSEA Regional Coordinating Mechanism.

## II.B. National Ocean and Coastal Policies, Legislations and Institutional Arrangements

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.B.1. National ocean and coastal policies, supporting legislations and institutional arrangements set up and functional in PEMSEA Partner Countries.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ocean policy and other ocean and sectoral-related policies, legal instruments and institutional improvements for the sustainable management of priority coastal and marine areas, surrounding watershed and blue economy development under respective national context and governance structures initiated, adopted and implemented.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional and national policy forums and consultations organized and convened in conjunction with the EAS Congress and other regional and national events to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase awareness and understanding and consensus on the need for national ocean policy and supporting legislation in accordance with the national policies and strategies; and</li> <li>share and discuss innovations and experiences in policy, regulatory, environmental, economic and financial instruments among policymakers and legislators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review of national ocean policy, institutional arrangements and legislation completed as part of the Second R/NSOC reporting with the following considerations:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts and benefits with regard to achieving national and regional targets for sustainable development and blue economy; and</li> <li>Development and adoption of gender policies, institutional arrangements and legislations and how these are mainstreamed into the strategies and plans on ocean and coastal management and sustainable development, including their contribution to international and national commitments on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Communications and advocacy campaigns developed and implemented in support of proposed policies/laws targeting policy makers at national and local levels, including women, indigenous people and other marginalized groups to promote better awareness and understanding of the importance of GESI in policy formulation and in designing GESI-based policy solutions (cross-reference to II.D.2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners (IPIECA; Ocean Policy Research Institute, Korea Maritime Institute)</li> </ul>



2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.B.2. ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas further scaled up from the 2020 coverage across the region’s coastline and contiguous watersheds.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICM mainstreamed into national and local long- and medium-term development plans and legislative agenda of national and local governments.</li> <li>• Length of coastline covered by ICM and related programs supporting national priorities and commitments under the UN SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD’s GBF, UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk reduction, GPA and other relevant environmental and sustainable development targets subscribed to by PEMSEA Partner Countries.</li> <li>• ICM performance index utilized by the County Partners to determine level of ICM implementation, including effectiveness and impacts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National ICM or ICM-related strategic (long-term) and operational plans (medium-term) developed, approved and implemented by PEMSEA Country Partners identifying national priority coastlines for ICM demonstration and implementation and upscaling.</li> <li>• Length of coastline covered by ICM, including ICM effectiveness and impacts determined using standardized and/or harmonized methodology (e.g., ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index incorporating relevant SDG indicators to measure level of implementation) in collaboration with the PNLG and PNLC (cross-reference to III.A.1).</li> <li>• Guidelines on mainstreaming ICM with GESI components into the local government planning processes developed, approved, piloted and implemented.</li> <li>• ICM with GESI attributes mainstreamed into national development plans and included in the legislative agenda of the national government.</li> <li>• National ICM Forum convened as venue for knowledge and experience sharing and fine tuning of strategic actions for scaling up.</li> </ul>	

## II.C. Capacity Development

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.C.1. ICM and specialized skills training programs, targeted research, joint learning events promoting science-policy interface, materials, case studies, advisory and mentoring services supporting scaling up of ICM programs and SDS-SEA implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity Development Plan 2021-2025 updated to 2027 and approved by the EASPC.</li> <li>Capacity Development Plan implemented in collaboration with governments and other partners.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity Development Plan updated to 2027 incorporating the identified needs of countries for capacity building, tools, methodologies and services, including GESI, that are standardized to allow cross-comparison across countries in support of the development, implementation and replication of ICM programs and SDS-SEA.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity Development Plan implemented at regional, national and local levels with the following strategic initiatives as part of ongoing and planned programs and projects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Courses in ICM and Specialized Skills (e.g., risk and vulnerability assessment; habitat assessment; pollution monitoring; fisheries management; GESI methodologies and tools; communication planning; knowledge-attitude-practices, etc.)</li> <li>Training of Trainers</li> <li>Conduct of Study Tours</li> <li>Leadership Training</li> <li>Internship/Traineeship Program</li> <li>Fellowship Program for PNLC scientists and scholarships for young PNLC scientists in RCOEs/other PNLC member universities</li> <li>Establishing and engaging ICM Learning Centers</li> <li>Recognizing and engaging Regional Centers of Excellence</li> <li>Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Events</li> <li>Building awareness and sharing experiences on sustainable development and integrated coastal and ocean management through knowledge platforms and various media and forums.</li> <li>Conduct of e-learning course offerings through MOOCs and webinars, online conferences, information dissemination, virtual meetings, e-working meetings, scientific and popular webinars, e-publications and dissemination of reports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners (Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas; Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-commission for the Western Pacific; International Ocean Institute; Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology; Korea Maritime Institute; Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation; Plymouth Marine Laboratory</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers</li> <li>Supporting partners with capdev programs</li> </ul>

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNLC engaged as trainers, resource persons and facilitators, including women leaders and experts and other marginalized individuals with subject matter expertise in the implementation of the Capacity Development Plan, including the conduct of scientific seminars and forums on ICM and in the preparation of ICM solutions and ICM-related publications capturing the lessons learned and good practices in ICM implementation.</li> <li>• Under the UNDOS, explore opportunities for developing a regional plan of action on advancing ocean science to support SDS-SEA implementation, including the identification of conditions that are adapted to women scientists and experts to facilitate their contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science.</li> </ul>	
<b>II.C.2. Global and regional capacity development programs provide opportunities for country participation facilitating partnership building and networking.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the purview of the updated Capacity Development Plan, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration to facilitate country participation in regional and international capacity building activities identified.</li> <li>• Regional training events and targeted research activities conducted in collaboration with PEMSEA Non-Country Partners and other partners.</li> </ul>	<b>2023-2027</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Ocean Science through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction through the Global Ocean Forum) and other programs/projects identified.</li> <li>• Working relationships and partnership arrangements established with institutions, organizations, programs and projects to support country participation and capacity building.</li> </ul>	

## II.D. Knowledge Management

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.D.1. The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB), a regional knowledge-sharing, education and capacity building platform, strengthened and operationalized.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functionalities and contents of SEAKB enhanced, including GESI considerations.</li> <li>• Linkages of SEAKB to other relevant KM platforms on coasts and oceans, selected dashboards, databases and clearinghouses at national, regional and international levels established.</li> <li>• Digital technologies including tools and strategies for knowledge management in light of COVID-19 pandemic identified and utilized.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of SEAKB enhanced through linkages with other national, regional and global knowledge hubs [International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IWLEARN), Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, National Clearinghouse Mechanisms, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity Dashboard, others).</li> <li>• PRF project’s knowledge products (e.g., ASEANO Project, ATSEA 2 Project, IRBM Project, Blue Solutions Project, etc.), including GESI-related knowledge products made available to a broader user group, including women, youth, IPs and PWDs, including PNLG and PNLC newsletters, through the SEAKB.</li> <li>• Mechanism created for the increased production of, and improved access to, gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data on women and men’s participation in resource use, management and decision making to fill in key data gaps and inform gender equality strategies and action plans.</li> <li>• Available and applicable technologies and tools and strategies for knowledge management in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and global and regional trends reviewed to optimize the utilization of digital technologies in PEMSEA’s business and work processes.</li> <li>• Functionalities of SEAKB (e.g., PNLG Tracking Tool, SOC reporting, Communities of Practices, Enabling ICM Investment) reviewed and improved, including considerations to create a Communities of Practice for GESI to facilitate and enhance capacity and gender participation in SDS-SEA implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Partners</li> <li>• Non-Country Partners</li> <li>• PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> <li>• PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)</li> <li>• Supporting partners with KM programs/platforms (IWLEARN)</li> </ul>

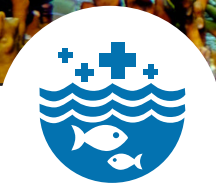
2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<p><b>2024-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAKB fully operational and utilized by PEMSEA Partner Countries and interested stakeholders as the preferred platform for knowledge products, services and networking opportunities across the Seas of East Asia region.</li> <li>Performance of SEAKB regularly reviewed for finetuning of its functionalities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>II.D.2. Increased knowledge and widespread stakeholder participation in SDS-SEA implementation enhanced through communication planning and information-education and communication campaign.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge products on ICM, blue economy and sustainable development consolidated and disseminated through the SEAKB and other platforms/fora for greater visibility and reach.</li> <li>Media engaged in environmental communication.</li> <li>Knowledge-Attitude-Practices Surveys conducted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Strategy/Plan developed to facilitate better understanding, awareness and participation of stakeholders in SDS-SEA implementation in a culturally appropriate, gender sensitive and timely manner.</li> <li>Lessons learned, good practices, case studies, policy briefs and toolkits on ICM and sustainable development consolidated for uploading into the SEAKB for wider dissemination (cross-reference to II.D.1).</li> </ul> <p><b>2024-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Strategy/Plan implemented through sustained IEC, marketing and advocacy on the benefits of ICM and SDS-SEA in achieving blue economy and sustainable development to foster behavior change and mindsets.</li> <li>KAP surveys conducted to identify gaps, beliefs, women, youth, IPs and PWDs participation and behavioral patterns on issues related to ocean and coastal governance and implementation of sectoral policies to better inform communication planning and processes and management programming, including gender equality.</li> </ul> <p><b>2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Strategy/Plan updated based on the results of KAP surveys and new developments on blue economy and sustainable development to achieve the 2030 Roadmap targets.</li> </ul>	



## II.E. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>II.E.1. Evidence-based gender policies and interventions facilitate mainstreaming of gender perspective in SDS-SEA implementation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender analysis conducted to understand gender dynamics and relations in support of SDS-SEA implementation, including the application of context-specific Gender Inequality Index.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender analysis conducted using gender-focused baseline studies, stakeholder mapping and participatory consultations, including gathering of evidence and gender dis-aggregated data focusing on intersectionality and the differentiated impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution to women and men’s health, well-being and employment opportunities, including the application of Gender Inequality Index, where appropriate, thus allowing better understanding of gender dynamics in ocean governance and coastal resources management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers</li> <li>NGOs, others</li> </ul>
<p><b>II.E.2. Gender equality mainstreamed throughout the relevant policy and planning cycle for governance and management programs in support of SDS-SEA.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Mainstreaming Plan developed and implemented.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the results of the gender analysis, Gender Mainstreaming Plan and results chain developed, which outlines examples and initiatives, as well as impacts in promoting gender equality throughout the relevant policy and planning cycle for governance and management programs (e.g., climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihood, pollution management), and linked to relevant SDG targets in addition to SDG 5, in support of the SDS-SEA.</li> <li>Collaborative projects developed with international and regional organizations and partners with the utilization of gender-based methodologies and tools to guide gender mainstreaming, implementation and monitoring of project activities (cross-reference to II.A.1).</li> </ul>	

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<p><b>2024-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Mainstreaming Plan implemented and monitored based on agreed quantitative and qualitative indicators as part of the R/NSOC reporting for advancing gender equality in ocean and coastal management and in support of the SDS-SEA.</li> </ul> <p><b>2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Mainstreaming Plan updated in consideration of the results of implementation and to capture new gender-sensitive initiatives in response to new developments on blue economy and sustainable development to achieve the 2030 Roadmap targets.</li> </ul>	



### III. Healthy Ocean

In 2020, ICM programs across the region have covered an estimated 40 percent of the regional coastline, which included the scaled-up national and local ICM programs in 12 countries (i.e., Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam). The 40 percent coastline covered is home to important habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses and wetlands that provide critical ecosystem goods and services that fuel sustainable growth and development of the countries in the region. ICM programs have facilitated the implementation of priority management programs on biodiversity conservation and management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and pollution reduction, waste management and water use conservation at national and local levels.

While significant progress has been made in ICM scaling up, majority of the management programs in the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 are still in progress and some may not be fully achieved in 2022, as reported in the Mid-Term Review. The Healthy Ocean component of the SDS-SEA IP reevaluates and enhances the management programs focusing on biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and pollution reduction, waste management and water use management to address the continuing threats (e.g., habitat and ecosystem degradation, climate change impacts, nutrient pollution, marine debris, marine plastics, etc.) as well as emerging ones (e.g., microplastics, medical wastes and health care wastes, E-waste, etc.) that undermine the integrity and resilience of the coastal and marine ecosystems and the services that they provide. This component also considers the decadal actions on the ocean and coasts that are included in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the Hyogo Framework for Action, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the COP 26/Glasgow Climate Pact, the COP27/Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan and COVID-19 social and economic recovery plans of the governments.

This component will also showcase the relevance of the ICM framework through the four major priority programs in achieving the SDGs, which finds support from the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly during its 74th Session in December 2019 entitled, Strengthening Cooperation and Use of ICZM and Other Area-based Management Approaches for Achieving the UN SDGs and their Targets.

**Objectives:** To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of coastal and ocean governance at regional, national and local levels to achieve healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in priority coastal and marine and watershed areas.

### III.A. ICM Scaling up

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>III.A.1. Local governments across the EAS Region facilitate ICM scaling up covering priority coastlines and watersheds that support critical habitats and ecosystems.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB captures progress in SAP 2022-2030 implementation demonstrating the benefits and impacts of ICM program implementation and local government contributions to SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Progress in SAP implementation reported at the Annual PNLG Forum.</li> <li>• PNLG members' ICM Systems certified under the ICM Code and Recognition System.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNLG SAP 2022-2030 covering local governance strengthening, management programs implementation and enhancing local M &amp; E mechanisms implemented by PNLG members (53 local governments and 4 associate members in 10 countries as of 2022).</li> <li>• Progress in SAP implementation reported by PNLG members by populating the PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB highlighting the achievements in SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and mainstreaming of gender into the management programs related to these SDG targets.</li> <li>• Progress made in SAP implementation consolidated by the PNLG Secretariat and PRF for reporting at the PNLG Annual Forum.</li> <li>• ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index that serve as standard for measuring ICM effectiveness implemented by PNLG members, in coordination with PNLG (cross-reference to II.B.2).</li> <li>• PNLG members that are compliant to the requirements of the ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index recognized during the PNLG Annual Forum.</li> <li>• PNLG sister-city programs initiated.</li> </ul> <p><b>2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNLG SAP updated in consideration of the progress and challenges in SAP 2022-2030 implementation, including new development directions of local governments in ocean and coastal governance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Partners</li> <li>• Non-Country Partners</li> <li>• PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> <li>• PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation); 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); 12 (Responsible consumption and production); 13 (Climate action); 14 (Life below water); 15 (Life on land).

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>III.A.2. Areal extent of healthy and resilient habitats increased resulting in ecological, social and economic benefits to coastal communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local (national) governments with ICM or related action plans implementing programs to protect, restore and conserve coastal and marine habitats, including the watersheds.</li> <li>In line with ICM mainstreaming (cross-reference to II.B.2), gaps and support needed to strengthen capacity to implement the ICM national strategies and action plans identified and captured in the updated Capacity Development Plan (cross-reference to II.C.1).</li> <li>SOC reports published with data/information on socio-economic and ecological benefits and impacts to coastal communities</li> <li>ICM effectiveness assessment report detailing the methodology, indicators and results in support of ICM scaling up (cross-reference to II.1.A.1)</li> <li>Good practices in ICM implementation, including practical examples in GESI mainstreaming</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal and marine areas and contiguous watersheds covered by area-based management approaches (e.g., coastal use zoning, marine spatial planning, source-to-sea, integrated river basin management, integrated water resources management, other effective area-based conservation measures, etc.) that delineate conservation areas for significant coastal and marine sites, habitats and resources, including watersheds.</li> <li>ICM effectiveness assessment in coordination with local governments and PNLC conducted using agreed framework and methodology with considerations on gender participation in the leadership and decision-making processes for ICM</li> <li>SOC indicators reviewed/expanded based on data availability and reports prepared in coordination with local governments and PNLC showcasing progress in governance and ecological and socioeconomic indicators, including GESI-related indicators compared to baseline conditions.</li> <li>Practical examples in mainstreaming GESI in integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems and context specific GESI interventions documented to guide the implementation of GESI-sensitive and GESI-responsive actions and research.</li> <li>Good practices in ICM implementation documented and shared at the EAS Congress, EASPC meetings and various international, regional and national for and utilized as learning materials in training workshops and training of trainers.</li> </ul>	

## III.B. Biodiversity Conservation and Fisheries Management

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>III.B.1. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) incorporate post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets on ocean and coastal and marine management.</b></p> <p><b>Fisheries management enhancement programs incorporate policies and priorities in ecosystem approach to fisheries management.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NBSAPs updated in line with the relevant Post-2020 GBF targets on oceans and coasts and SDG 14, including ensuring food security and sustainable management of marine resources.</li> <li>Fisheries management enhancement programs in line with international standards (FAO).</li> <li>Priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management for convergence with sub-national ICM programs identified.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to update the NBSAPs in consideration of the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the commitments made by the PEMSEA Partners in the Post-2020 GBF pertaining to oceans and coasts and SDG 14, including ensuring food security and sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources and considerations on equitable access, gender, youth, IP's and local communities participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity conservation programs in line with the GBF's Gender Plan of Action post 2020.</li> <li>Consultations conducted to consolidate existing and planned initiatives at regional (e.g., CTI RPOA, ATSEA2), national (CTI NPOA, etc.) and bay-wide level with EAFM plans and fisheries management programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country consultations conducted to identify priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management based on national context and priorities highlighting the:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to relevant targets of SDG 14 and the post 2020 GBF, including the 30x30 target (Target 3) in accordance with the Country Partner's commitment by increasing the areal coverage of coastal and watershed areas with coastal use zoning plans, marine spatial plans, MPAs and MPA networks and/or networking and other area-based management processes and approaches (cross-reference to III.A.2) to enhance the productivity and sustainable use of the coastal and marine ecosystems and translating the benefits in terms of food provision and livelihood improvement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners (ASEAN Center for Biodiversity; Conservation International Philippines; International Union for Conservation of Nature Asia Regional Office; Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea)</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute; University of the Philippines Visayas; Institut Pertanian Bogor, others)</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> </ul>



2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring food security and sustainable management of marine resources (Targets 9 &amp; 10) and protecting and conserving threatened migratory species and addressing invasive alien species.</li> <li>○ Fisheries management enhancement programs in capture fisheries and mariculture in line with national policy.</li> <li>○ Solutions to habitat loss and ecosystem destruction and degradation due to changes in ocean and land use, unsustainable use, pollution and climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023 – 2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries implemented through ecosystem approach to fisheries management with the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ecosystem and fisheries standard and threshold on each EAFM indicator for sustainable use and fisheries management.</li> <li>○ Adoption and implementation of EAFM indicator on fisheries management practice.</li> <li>○ EAFM monitoring program.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>III.B.2. NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting scaled up across the EAS region enhancing the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and threatened migratory marine species, alien and invasive species and fishery resources.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed between and among government and non-government sectors in support of NBSAP implementation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023 – 2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors including various regional mechanisms, organizations and donor-funded projects<sup>5</sup> with priority locations (corridors, hotspots and threatened fishing grounds) and activities (MPA establishment, management and MPA networking and EAFM) for protection of habitats and ecosystem services, fishery resources and/or rare and endangered species in support of NBSAP implementation and fisheries management.</li> </ul>	

<sup>4</sup> ASEAN Heritage Parks, Northeast Asian Sub-Regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation/Northeast Asian Marine Protected Areas Network, Bio Bridge Initiative, Coral Triangle Initiative, Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2, South China Sea Strategic Action Plan, ASEAN Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region, Coral Reef Rescue Initiative, others

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring programs established to measure improvements in the areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas including biodiversity hotspots and priority fishing grounds [cross-reference to II.A.2 (R/NSOC) III.A.2 (Local SOC)].</li> <li>Progress in NBSAP implementation reported through the National Reports, knowledge sharing and learning events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design of standardized monitoring programs discussed and developed or enhancement of existing monitoring programs conducted to track changes in areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas, biodiversity hotspots and priority fishing grounds, including assessing the management effectiveness of protected areas that demonstrate improved governance and ecological and socioeconomic benefits and impacts.</li> <li>Communities engaged in biodiversity conservation activities/programs.</li> <li>Documentation and consolidation of progress in NBSAP (or site-specific management plans) implementation from government programs, regional programmes with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects into the National Reports undertaken and shared in various learning events and international, regional and national fora.</li> </ul>	

### III.C. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>III.C.1. Climate Change National Action Plans (NAPs) incorporate the Country Partner commitments to COP 21 Paris Agreement towards net-zero emissions and the decisions from COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact and COP 27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan in relation to oceans.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Strategy and Action Plans on Climate Change updated in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact, Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan and SDG 13.</li> <li>Priority locations for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming of climate smart policy and legislation into comprehensive development plans.</li> <li>Blue carbon assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to update the National Strategy and Action Plans on Climate Change in consideration of SDG 13 and the provisions of the Glasgow Climate Pact and Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan on integration and strengthening of ocean-based actions and solutions where parties are also urged to implement the Glasgow Work Programme of Action for Climate Empowerment with due consideration on gender equality and women empowerment and equal participation of women in climate action (cross-reference to III.C.2).</li> <li>Consultations conducted to identify priority locations for climate change adaptation based on national priorities and context for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming of climate smart policy and legislation and GESI into comprehensive development plans to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities and enhance the resilience of coastal and marine resources to the impacts of climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National platform for blue carbon assessment established utilizing standardized protocols for sampling and analyzing blue carbon stocks and fluxes.</li> <li>Communities engaged in the conservation and rehabilitation of blue carbon ecosystems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners (Korea Environment Institute; Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology; Korea Maritime Institute; Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation; Plymouth Marine Laboratory)</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, others)</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> </ul>

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>III.C.2. NAPs implementation and reporting, including regional programs with CCA/DRR components.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between government and non-government sectors to support post-2020 climate change mitigation measures as called for in the Paris Agreement.</li> <li>Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between government and non-government sectors to support ocean-based adaptation measures as called for in the Glasgow Climate Pact and Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan.</li> <li>Monitoring programs established to measure the impacts of committed climate change mitigation actions.</li> <li>Progress in NAP implementation reported and/or communicated through the National Communication and Nationally Determined Contribution in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors, including regional and international organizations and institutions (e.g., ADPC; UNISDR, universities) and projects<sup>6</sup> to support post-2020 climate change mitigation measures including improved access to capacity development opportunities among Partner Countries and local governments.</li> <li>Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors including regional and international organizations and institutions to support ocean-based adaptation measures as called for in the Glasgow Climate Pact, including habitat protection and restoration of critical habitats (coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and mangroves and island ecosystems), and established MPAs and MPA networks based on scientifically sound information, to improve the resilience of watershed areas and coastal and marine ecosystems to the impacts of climate change and to enhance the carbon sequestration capacities of relevant habitats.</li> <li>Design of standardized monitoring programs discussed and developed or enhancement of existing monitoring programs conducted to measure the impacts of committed climate change mitigation actions and improvements in the areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas including areas-at-risk to climate change (cross-reference to II.B.2).</li> </ul>	

<sup>6</sup> International Climate Initiative, International Maritime Organization for maritime decarbonization efforts

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation and consolidation of progress in NAP implementation generated from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects reported/communicated through the National Communication<sup>7</sup> and Nationally Determined Contribution<sup>8</sup> in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, as well as in knowledge sharing and learning events.</li> </ul>	
<b>III.C.3. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans incorporate the targets in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Strategy and Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management updated in line with the 2030 targets of the Sendai Framework of Action for DRR.</li> <li>Priority locations identified for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming DRR measures into comprehensive development plans.</li> <li>Monitoring and reporting of progress in NAP implementation enhanced in connection with Climate Change NAP reporting (cross-reference to III.C.2).</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to update the National Strategy and Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in line with the 2030 targets of the Sendai Framework of Action for DRR where women and their participation in DRR are recognized as key to designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive DRR policies, plans and programs.</li> <li>Consultations conducted to identify priority locations based on national priorities and context for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming DRR measures into comprehensive development plans to ensure reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood, properties and health of individuals, businesses, communities, women, IPs and the marginalized sector including strengthening capacities to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-induced hazards and disasters, particularly for the most vulnerable to be able to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations.</li> <li>In connection with Climate Change NAP reporting, design of monitoring program developed or enhanced, including reporting and communicating the progress in NAP implementation.</li> </ul>	

<sup>7</sup> All UNFCCC country partners [Annex 1 (Japan) and Non-Annex 1 (all other country partners)] have submitted the required NCs; submission dates vary depending on NC1 submission date; the next NC is due every four years thereafter.

<sup>8</sup> Next round of NDCs (new NDCs or updated NDCs) are due in 2025 and 2030.

### III.D. Pollution Reduction, Waste Management and Water Use Management

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<b>III.D.1. NAPs on Global Programme of Action from Land-based Sources of Pollution (GPA) and NAPs on marine litter/marine plastics lay out actions to combat pollution from land-based sources, including marine plastics in support of SDS-SEA.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAPs on GPA or its equivalent incorporate the objectives and priorities of GPA on pollution reduction.</li> <li>Priority coastal and marine areas and river basins identified for the development and implementation of integrated river basin and coastal and marine area management programs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to mainstream the objectives and priorities of GPA on pollution reduction (e.g., sewage, POPs, heavy metals, etc.) and waste management (marine litter/marine plastics) under the framework of integrated coastal area and river basin management into NAPs on GPA<sup>9</sup> or its equivalent National Action Plan, as recommended in the GPA and in response to SDG 6, which includes integrated water resources management, and SDGs 11, 12 and 14.</li> <li>Consultations conducted to identify priority coastal and marine areas and river basins based on national and local priorities and context for the development and implementation of integrated river basin and coastal and marine area management programs addressing land-based sources of pollution (nutrients and wastewater, marine litter, etc.) and sea-based sources of pollution (oil spill, ballast water, alien and invasive species, marine litter, etc.), including water availability and use and conservation with considerations on interventions with gender implications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners (UNEP GPA; IPIECA; Korea Environment Institute; Korea Maritime Institute; Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation; Plymouth Marine Laboratory; Norwegian Institute for Water Research; Northwest Pacific Action Plan; Oil Spill Response Limited)</li> </ul>
<b>III.D.2. NAPs implementation and reporting.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between government and non-government sectors to support the implementation of NAPs on GPA and Marine Litter.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors to support the implementation of NAPs on GPA and Marine Litter and strengthening cooperation under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and Global Partnership on Marine Litter and their regional and national counterparts and programs.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>	

<sup>9</sup> GPA NAP development is voluntary.

<sup>10</sup> Global initiatives: UN Environment Assembly Resolutions on nutrient pollution and marine litter, Global Partnership on Marine Litter; Global Partnership in Nutrient Management and Regional Programs: COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, Source-to-Sea, Integrated River Basin Management, ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation on Capacity Building on Plastic Pollution, German Agency for International Cooperation, Gulf of Thailand Framework Programme on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, others.



2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Framework Programme for Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response implemented in collaboration with Country and Non-Country Partners and other collaborators.</li> <li>• Environmental monitoring programs enhanced to measure improvements in water quality and/ or reduction of major pollutants and marine litter, etc.</li> <li>• Progress in NAP implementation reported through existing monitoring platforms, knowledge sharing and learning events by consolidating outputs from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GOT Annual Contact Points Meeting and Technical Workshops/Trainings conducted in collaboration with Country (Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam) and Non-Country Partners (IPIECA, OSRL) and other collaborators to support the implementation of the GOT Framework Programme for Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response and pursuing the following measures to sustain the cooperation at regional, national and levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Accomplishments in the implementation of the GOT Strategic Action Plan 2017-2022 consolidated and disseminated.</li> <li>◦ Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the GOT 2022-2027 formulated, adopted and implemented by Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pilot program on selected estuary/coastal waters implemented to monitor land-based sources of pollution.</li> <li>• Environmental monitoring programs enhanced and implemented to measure improvements in water quality using Water Quality Index, which cover fresh and marine waters and/or reduction of major pollutants and marine litter, etc. as a result of NAP implementation and the application of innovative policy, technologies and practices in the priority coastal areas/river basins.</li> <li>• Progress in NAP implementation reported through existing monitoring platforms, knowledge sharing and learning events by consolidating outputs from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded programs.</li> <li>• Documentation and consolidation of progress in NAP implementation generated from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects reported/ communicated in various knowledge sharing and learning events.</li> </ul>	



## IV. Healthy People

The East Asian Seas are vital to the lives of more than 2.1 billion people, 60 percent of whom are living within 100 km of the region's coasts. The EAS is a center of economic growth accounting for 80 percent of global aquaculture; around 60 percent of the world's capture fisheries; attracts 26 percent of the world's tourists and serves as an important conduit of 90 percent of the world trade through shipping. Moreover, the EAS is widely known as the global center of marine biodiversity. It is home to 31 percent of the world's mangroves and a third of the world's coral reefs and seagrass beds which provide ecosystem goods and services that support economic development and livelihood of the people in the region.

Growing populations and their migration to coastal areas, dynamic economic growth, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and rapidly increasing shipping traffic collectively exerted tremendous pressure on the region's marine environment and coastal resources. Changes in the coastal and marine areas have a range of impacts on the people, particularly the coastal communities. Thus, the engagement of local stakeholders in every step of the coastal planning, policy and decision-making processes, including identifying complementarities among groups of stakeholders is vital to the effective implementation of governance and management interventions.

For many coastal communities who depend on the coastal and marine resources for livelihood, changes in the coastal and marine areas have exposed them to financial insecurity and increased marginalization and displacement from the coastal resources on which they depend. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a "sustainable development crisis" which resulted to increased poverty rates and unemployment, as elaborated in the 2021 Sustainable Development Report. The Supplement Report of the 2021 Regional State of Ocean and Coasts Report has examined the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy and health of the people and the ocean and key recommendations are offered to foster resiliency among affected sectors, including women and the marginalized sector towards the road to recovery.

This component looks at possible responses under two major priority programs in widely engaging the stakeholders and the communities in the relevant aspects of the SDS-SEA IP and assist the coastal communities in coping with changes on the coastal and marine areas by finding viable sustainable livelihood options in response to SDG 3 targets and the COVID-19 social and economic recovery and response plans of governments.

**Objectives:** To enhance the participation of stakeholders and communities in the protection and sustainable use and management of coastal, ocean and water resources and improve their understanding of the benefits of healthy ocean in ensuring food security and nutrition and providing livelihood opportunities.

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<p><b>IV.1. Inclusivity and stakeholder/ community engagement in SDS-SEA implementation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder Analysis focusing on the engagement of communities in SDS-SEA implementation.</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement plan identifying mechanisms and processes for stakeholders' inclusion and participation in SDS-SEA implementation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder analysis conducted focusing on the engagement of communities including women, IPs, civil society, youth and marginalized sector in the implementation of SDS-SEA IP governance and management programs, where appropriate.</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement plan developed identifying the level of involvement and range of mechanisms, forums, platforms, networks and opportunities for inclusion and participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Partners</li> <li>Non-Country Partners</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Local Governments</li> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers</li> <li>Selected civil society organizations, People's and Community-based Organizations</li> </ul>
<p><b>IV.2. Sustainable livelihood and enterprise development built and sustained.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livelihood management strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification.</li> <li>Livelihood development programs and startup of new income generating opportunities, technologies and practices, including biodiversity-friendly enterprises.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate livelihood-based, ecosystem-based and participatory approaches (e.g., Sustainable Livelihoods Approach) identified and applied to determine appropriate, context-specific and GESI-responsive livelihood management strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification.</li> <li>Based on the recommended strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification, conduct consultations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify livelihood development programs.</li> <li>Startup of new income generating opportunities, technologies and practices, including biodiversity-friendly and GESI-responsive enterprises.</li> <li>Facilitate the engagement of industries and business sector in the development and implementation of livelihood improvement programs for local communities within their areas of operation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experiences in the development and implementation of sustainable livelihood programs shared in various knowledge sharing events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal sustainable livelihood index developed in ICM sites.</li> <li>Lessons learned and experiences generated in the development and implementation of sustainable livelihood programs documented and consolidated and shared in various knowledge sharing and learning events.</li> </ul>	



## V. Healthy Economies

In 2012, the Changwon Declaration was adopted by the Ministers and Senior Government Officials of PEMSEA Partner Countries, which recognized the SDS-SEA as an appropriate platform and framework for overcoming the challenges to sustainable development and for building an ocean-based blue economy in the region. Guided by the actions identified in the Changwon Declaration, PEMSEA has taken steps in conducting the assessment of ocean economy, coastal and marine ecosystem services, and investment opportunities for sustainable blue economy development. The experience has generated learnings on business model assessment, site assessment, types of potential investments, challenges, lessons for local engagement, etc. as well as PEMSEA's role in advancing blue economy and impact investment in the EAS region.

The Mid-Term Review of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 indicated the need to re-evaluate and update programs on blue economy development and investments in consideration of the lessons learned and in view of the decadal plans of action on ocean science, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation as well as the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean and coasts. The National State of Ocean and Coasts Reports and the recently published 2021 Regional State of Ocean and Coasts and the Supplement Report that examined the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy, and health of the people and the ocean provide the necessary background and context to identify actions in moving forward with blue economy to achieve sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery.

This component with two major priority programs will build on the recommendations from the Mid-Term Review and capitalize on the opportunities identified in the NSOCs/RSOC reports on responding to the COVID-19 crisis from the blue economy perspective. The RSOC report in particular shows how blue economy offers an alternative path to ensure the responsible and regenerative use of the ocean and coasts for sustainable and inclusive economic prosperity, food, water, and energy security, jobs and livelihood, resiliency and wellbeing, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystems.

This component will also take into consideration insights from key studies and discourses (e.g., Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, ADBs Healthy Ocean Tech and Finance Forum, UNEP Finance Initiative) that would help sharpen the focus of the targeted actions in the next 5 years.



**Objectives:** To accelerate blue investments and ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and related resources, to support green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs, livelihood and enterprises within ecological limits, towards contributing to sustainable economic development.

2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
<b>V.1. Resilient economic recovery policies that trigger blue investments and green recovery.<sup>11</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature-based job programs and sustainability upgrades for key industries.</li> <li>Low carbon footprint industries tapped.</li> <li>Nature-based solutions identified to enhance carbon sequestration potential of coastal habitats.</li> <li>Innovations in marine biotechnology and digitalization of the fisheries and ports and shipping sectors.</li> <li>Blue Economy governance (awareness and understanding, ocean monitoring and accounting, policy formulation and harmonization, incentives and financing) strengthened.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature-based job programs (e.g., coastal ecosystem restoration, MPA establishment and management) identified including sustainability upgrades for key industries (e.g., fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, ports and shipping) to promote sustainable and inclusive blue growth.</li> <li>Low carbon footprint industries such as marine renewable energy, emission reductions from fisheries and aquaculture activities, decarbonization in the marine transport sector promoted.</li> <li>Nature-based solutions promoted to enhance the carbon sequestration potential of coastal habitats.</li> <li>Innovations in marine biotechnology and digitalization of the fisheries and ports and shipping sectors promoted.</li> <li>Blue economy governance strengthened by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promoting common understanding of blue economy;</li> <li>highlighting the importance of ocean monitoring and ocean accounting;</li> <li>adopting and implementing national ocean policies that advocate blue economy development;</li> <li>harmonizing existing policies, procedures, incentives and financing modalities;</li> <li>adopting the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance principles into decision making;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers</li> <li>International Financial Institutions</li> <li>Private sector, others)</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> Source: 2021 Regional State of Ocean and Coasts and the Supplement Report which incorporate the strategies and plans in accelerating COVID-19 recovery process of selected countries in the region, as presented at the Ocean Roundtable Dialogue on 8 June 2021.



2027 Expected Outcomes	Indicators	Targeted Actions and Schedule	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ measuring emerging sustainable blue economy through instruments such as Blue Economy Development Index<sup>12</sup>, and</li> <li>○ ensuring GESI integration and increased participation of women, IPs and marginalized groups in the different sectors of blue economy such as fisheries and aquaculture, ports and shipping, coastal and marine tourism, renewable energy, etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>V.2. Public and Private financing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and private sector awareness increased and investments in enterprises, technologies, practices and services promoted.</li> <li>• Blue Economy Business Forums organized and conducted to serve as a marketplace for blue economy projects through PPP.</li> <li>• Recognition system for the corporate sector/ business community developed and implemented.</li> <li>• Projects implemented with component activities on blue economy policy and private sector engagement and networking.</li> <li>• Sustainable blue financing established.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the implementation of the Communication Plan (cross-reference to II.D.2), awareness raising activities for public and private sector pursued, including the promotion of investments in enterprises, technologies, practices and services that contribute to a sustainable ocean-based blue economy.</li> <li>• Blue economy projects through PPP promoted at the Blue Economy Business Forums that serve as a thought leadership event involving leaders and policymakers and industry representatives to discuss investments and partnerships required to deliver sustainable growth to the various blue economy sectors leading to green recovery.</li> <li>• Recognition system for the corporate sector/ business community developed and implemented as an incentive mechanism for the public and private sectors to support ICM and blue economy investments.</li> <li>• Blue economy policy and private sector engagement and networking facilitated through the implementation of the projects with blue economy components<sup>13</sup> including partnership opportunities with the PNLG and PNLG.</li> </ul>	

<sup>12</sup> Adopted at the Archipelagic and Islands States Forum (Adrianto, et.al, 2021).

<sup>13</sup> GEF/UNDP/ASEAN Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the EAS through IRBM; IKI/IMO Project on Reducing Marine Transport GHG Emissions in East and Southeast Asian Countries and GEF/UNDP/ASEAN MPA effectiveness in LMEs in the ASEAN.

# Annex

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