



PEMSEA

# PEMSEA and the Sustainable Development Goals



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



GOALS



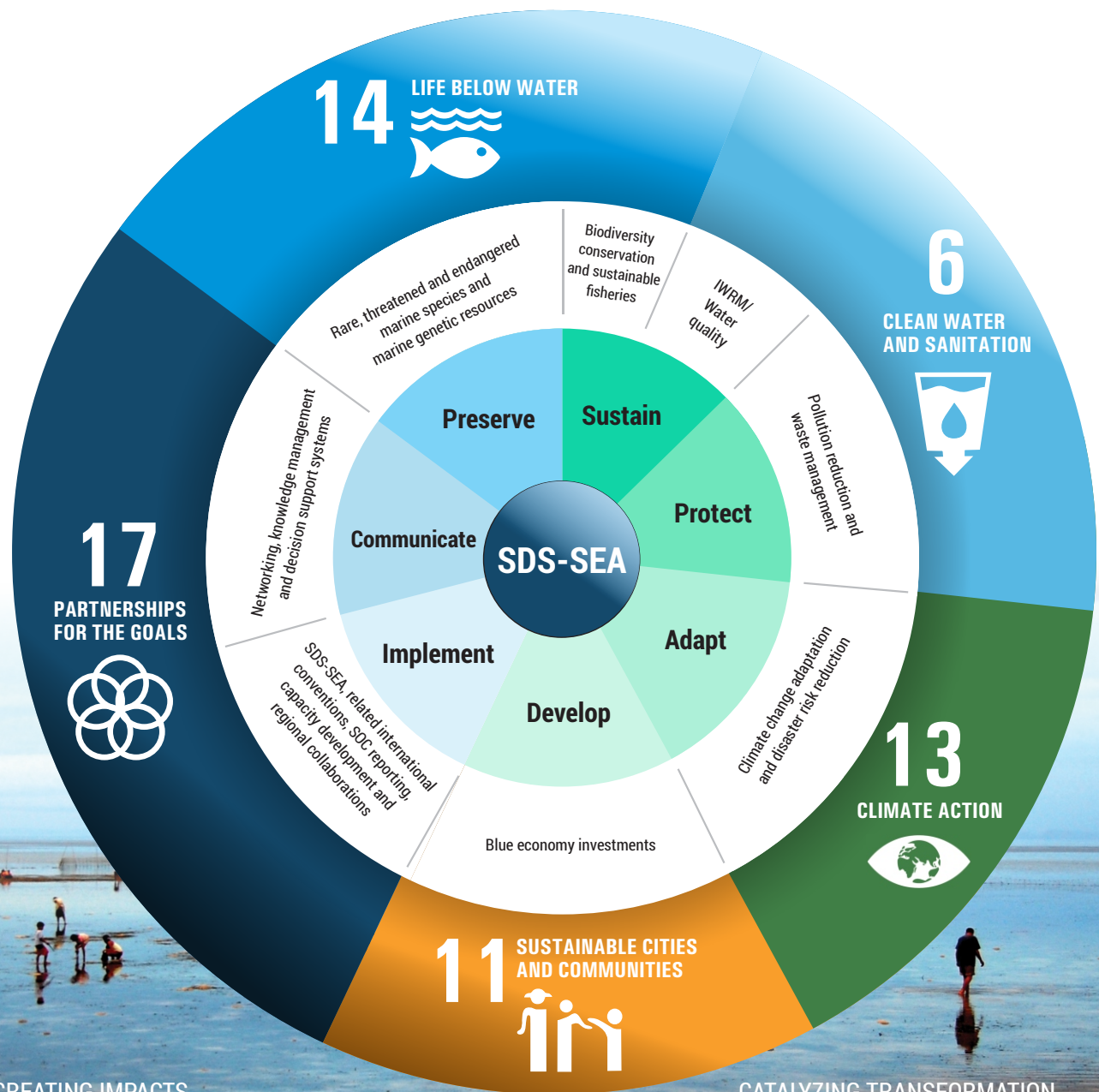
# How does PEMSEA contribute to the SDGs?

Since 2003, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) has served as a platform for cooperation and coordinated action among country and non-country partners and collaborators within the framework of PEMSEA, or Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia. PEMSEA is an international organization specializing in integrated coastal and ocean governance of the Seas of East Asia. It is a partnership arrangement comprised of 11 country and 20 non-country partners with a collective commitment to implement the SDS-SEA.

PEMSEA's main goal is the pursuit of the sustainable development of coasts and oceans through integrated management solutions. The solutions PEMSEA adopts recognize ecosystem health and resiliency and social well-being as integral parts of economic progress. Our vision is HOPE—Healthy Oceans, People, and Economies. The Partner Countries strive to attain the SDS-SEA objectives and targets by improving coastal and ocean governance at the local, national and regional levels, scaling up ICM program coverage of the region's coastline, and boosting investments in blue economy.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN in September 2015, provide 17 Goals and 169 targets to guide actions globally in key areas where government, the private sector and citizens will have to invest in order to transform economies and prosper within the social and ecological boundaries of the planet. There are a number of obvious synergies between the SDGs and the implementation of the SDS-SEA, in particular SDG 14: Life Below Water, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG13: Climate Actions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

There are many challenges to overcome in achieving the SDGs and the implementation of the SDS-SEA. PEMSEA Partners are determined to overcome these challenges and ultimately to contribute to targets set forth by the SDGs through individual and combined actions aligned with the SDS-SEA.



## CREATING IMPACTS



## CATALYZING TRANSFORMATION

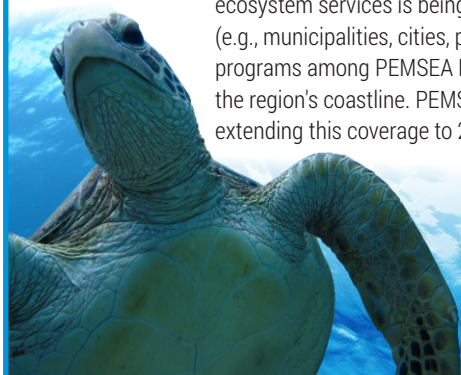


## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The SDG 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for future generations. This Goal is immense, recognizing that the oceans provide ecosystem services that are vital to the very existence of human beings. The East Asian region relies heavily on resources derived from its seas for trade, transportation, economic development, livelihoods and food security, to name a few.

PEMSEA is responding to SDG 14, particularly through the "Sustain" and "Preserve" strategies of the SDS-SEA. PEMSEA countries have put in place national ocean policy and legislation as well as policy and legislation for the conservation and management of biological diversity, sustainable fisheries, conservation and management of habitats and protected areas, and safeguarding rare, threatened and endangered species. In addition, a bottom-up approach to rehabilitating and maintaining ecosystem services is being implemented at local planning scales (e.g., municipalities, cities, provinces) using ICM. At present, ICM programs among PEMSEA Partner Countries cover 17 percent of the region's coastline. PEMSEA Partners are committed to extending this coverage to 25 percent by 2021.



## OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Region's coastline covered by ICM as of June 2016 **17%** → **25%** ICM coverage by 2021

## FISHERIES



**41.8%** of global fish catch comes from EAS region



**82.7%** of global fish aquaculture comes from EAS region

## MARINE BIODIVERSITY



**90%** of the habitable space on the planet is the ocean



**50-80%** of life on earth is found under the ocean surface

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



More than half of humanity lives in urban areas now. By 2050, more than 2 billion additional people will be living in cities, a 50 percent increase from today. With this growing burden, SDG 11 stresses the importance of creating sustainable cities and communities which can provide its residents access to safe water and sanitation services, affordable and sustainable energy, climate-smart housing and transportation, and more, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty.

The "Develop" strategy of the SDS-SEA addresses this Goal and engages Partners in three areas, namely: a) developing national policies, programs and practices that encourage and facilitate blue economy development and investments; b) empowering local governments with capacities and services to plan, develop and integrate environmental investments into their core development and investment programs; and c) strengthening private sector engagement in blue economy investments through a regional business network (East Asia Seas Sustainable Business Network) and promoting financing mechanisms including public-private partnerships and impact investments.

PEMSEA is also promoting sustainable cities and communities through the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development or PNLG. The PNLG members are all implementing ICM, sharing experiences and challenges, and promoting sustainable coastal and ocean development and blue economy at the local level. The PNLG has grown to more than 40 members and is spearheading follow-through on SDG 11 within the region.



## 13 CLIMATE ACTION



It is obvious that climate change is affecting our daily lives with more frequent and severe typhoons, droughts and floods commonly taking place around the world. SDG 13 urges the global community to take actions against and

respond to climate change. As the majority of countries in the East Asian region are lesser developed, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management have been the primary focus of response actions. Managing risks from climate change and other hazards is central to sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and resources, coastal communities and economies across the region.

Through the "Adapt" strategy, PEMSEA Partner Countries have confirmed that climate change and forecasted disasters cannot be decoupled from development and management of coastal and marine areas. In addition to establishing institutional mechanisms, policies and programs focused on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, countries have initiated ICM projects in highly vulnerable coastal areas. The ICM projects are providing learning experiences at the local level, building capacities in hazard and vulnerability mapping and land and sea-use zoning, enhancing forecasting and early warning systems, natural and man-made defenses and emergency response and decreasing vulnerability, particularly of marginalized and impoverished coastal communities.





**6**

Access to clean water and sanitation is a key indicator of the development status of a country. SDG 6 stresses the importance of providing clean water and sanitation for all people in order to maintain health and meet the basic needs of daily lives. Many Asian countries now face the challenges of diminishing water resources and degradation of water quality due to increasing and conflicting demands for water usage and lack of holistic management approaches to water use and conservation, including sanitation and wastewater management.

Within the framework of the “Sustain” and “Protect” strategies and action programs, PEMSEA Country initiatives in ICM have paved the way for action programs and investments in safe water, sanitation and pollution prevention and management. For example, in the Philippines, through an ICM initiative, a road map for the recovery of Manila Bay was prepared which highlighted the urgency of pollution reduction and management in the watershed. To date, more than US\$84 million has been invested in sanitation and sewerage facilities in the bay area, and another US\$500 million is currently under development. On another scale, the ICM program in Preah Sihanouk (Cambodia) supported the reconstruction of a water reservoir in a coastal community and assisted the households to put in place a community-managed water system that is not only self-sustaining but also providing opportunities for alternative livelihoods. PEMSEA’s approach continuously demonstrates that success can be achieved in water management at various scales, involving both upstream (watershed) and downstream (coastal) stakeholders.

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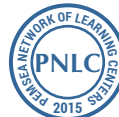
**17**

SDG 17 is set to focus on revitalizing global partnerships and requests urgent action to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Long-term investments in critical sectors, such as sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, as well as information and communications technologies are required.

The work of sustainable development requires a holistic approach with innovative partnerships of all the stakeholders involved. Over the past two decades, PEMSEA has demonstrated an effective and efficient collaboration modality of exactly that. With the “Communicate” and “Implement” strategies, PEMSEA continues to build and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and collaborators in forming a critical mass for change and build the capacity of the region. PEMSEA’s partnership approach shifts coastal and ocean governance in the region from being government-centered to a more inclusive approach involving government and non-government stakeholders; coordinates the efforts from various regional and subregional projects and programs in achieving common targets; mobilizes the human and financial resources of the public and private sectors through a recognized governance platform and management framework; and facilitates a dynamic knowledge management system to enable investments in blue economy and monitor and evaluate the impact and benefits derived from such investments through a State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system.



**A regional knowledge management platform featuring products and services for ICM and blue economy.**



**15 ICM Learning Centers and universities providing technical and scientific advice and support to ICM planning and implementation.**

**REGIONAL REPORTING ON BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT**

**Regional State of Oceans and Coasts reports on the social and economic contributions of the ocean sector and blue economy.**



**8 countries developing a national State of Oceans and Coasts and blue economy reports.**

