



PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Conducted in hybrid mode (face-to-face
component in Quezon City, Philippines, and
online component through Zoom)**

28 March 2023



30th PEMSEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

28 March 2023, 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM (UTC+8) via Zoom

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

- I. The 30th EC Meeting was conducted virtually on 28 March 2023 via Zoom. Participants of the meeting included the EC, particularly the Chair, Intergovernmental Session Chair and Co-Chair, and the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair of the EAS Partnership Council (PC) and the Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF). Observers from the China PEMSEA Center and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines also attended the meeting. PRF served as the secretariat of the meeting.

- II. Supporting documents may be found in the Annexes:
 - a. Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting;
 - b. Annex 2: Links to the meeting documents, presentation, and group photo; and
 - c. Annex 3: List of Participants

1.0 Opening of the meeting and approval of the meeting agenda (EC/30/DOC/01b)

- 1.1. The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm (UTC+8). The EAS PC Chair, Dr. Vann Monyneath, welcomed the participants and thanked the PRF for organizing the event.

- 1.2. He opened the meeting by stating that 2022 was a critical year for PEMSEA as the EAS region dealt with multiple crises such as the climate emergency, rising inflation and inequalities and unprecedented biodiversity as well as the lingering effects of COVID 19. Nevertheless, PEMSEA continued to work on key opportunities that would highlight and address the interconnected crises. Key accomplishments of the year included:

- a. The completion of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia Implementation Plan 2023-2027;
- b. The election of a new set of EAS PC Officers and PNLC for 2022-2025;
- c. The redesignation of the State Key Laboratory on Marine Pollution (SKLMP) in the City University of Hong Kong as a Regional Center of Excellence in Marine Pollution;
- d. The designation of the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) and the De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) of the Philippines as PEMSEA Learning Centers;
- e. The endorsement of the Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management;
- f. Participation in UNFCCC COP 27, CBD COP 15 and roundtable dialogues on blue economy; and
- g. Increased collaboration among PEMSEA Country Partners and Non-Country Partners in specific initiatives

1.3. The Chair likewise acknowledged and extended his gratitude for the continued engagement of the EC Members, PRF and the PEMSEA partners and networks.

1.4. He emphasized that as PEMSEA begins the first year of executing the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, the EC should focus on assisting the PRF to scale up its operations and further enhance engagement with PEMSEA Country and non-Country Partners in order to achieve the targets and goals of the Plan.

1.5. The Chair then requested the EC to actively participate and provide sound feedback and suggestions to concerns that will be raised in the agenda and wished everyone a pleasant afternoon.

1.6. Upon the request of the Chair, items 6.0 and 9.0 in the original agenda were discussed first as item 3.0 and 4.0 respectively, as they required decisions from the EC. Other agenda items were moved down, accordingly. She then emphasized that the meeting document numbers will remain the same as the original agenda for easier reference. Afterwards, the Chair requested the EC to review/approve the agenda.

1.7. **Decision:** The agenda was approved

2.0 Development of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 (EC/30/DOC/02)

2.1. Mr. Benigno Balgos, M&E Consultant of the PRF, discussed the Inception Report on the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) System for the SDS-SEA Implementation plan 2023-2027.

2.2. PEMSEA formulated the 2023-2027 Implementation Plan through a ten-month consultative and participatory process. The document was adopted during the Extend EC Meeting on 29 November 2022.

2.3. One of the immediate next steps identified was to develop an M&E Plan to institutionalize feedback and reporting mechanisms and track progress vis-à-vis the identified targets. The M&E Plan aims to:

- a. Track implementation progress and planned outputs and outcomes;
- b. Promote accountability and transparency;
- c. Ensure timely achievement of set targets;
- d. Demonstrate results; and
- e. Promote consistent M&E culture towards evidence-based planning and decision-making.

2.4. Mr. Balgos discussed the scope of the work as well as the process for developing the M&E process and system. The roadmap for the M&E plan includes an initial stock take and assessment of the current mechanisms for M&E in PEMSEA to determine the gaps that need to be addressed by the M&E plan. This will be followed by the development of the M&E framework which will be expanded from the existing indicators identified in the Implementation Plan. The M&E Plan will contain the following major outputs:

- a. Metrics and outputs to track current activities and their progress, in line with verifying the Plan's outcomes and impacts;
- b. A logical framework for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;

- c. An M&E framework which includes the corresponding roles and responsibilities of each party to the SDS-SEA IP;
- 2.5. Upon the completion of the outputs, a validation and vetting will be conducted with the EAS PC and PRF to determine the suitability and responsiveness of the M&E Plan. The methodology for the development of the M&E Plan will include consultations with relevant stakeholders through survey or key informant interviews (KII). The consultant also aims to ensure that the M&E Plan is coherent and harmonized with existing program/ project indicator systems to reduce the burden on PRF and PEMSEA Partners when monitoring the progress.
- 2.6. The Chair thanked Mr. Balgos for his presentation and requested the EC to provide comments on the Inception Report and recommend ways to improve the methodology for the development of the M&E Plan.
- 2.7. Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Chair presented no objections to the methodology presented, but raised the need to determine how to incubate the ownership of the implementation plan by the Country and Non-country partners. He mentioned that it was not explicitly shown in the methodology how the Country and Non-Country Partners would contribute to the development of the M&E Plan. As such, he suggested that an Ad Hoc Body working through Zoom meetings be organized to brief the members on the milestones happening in the plan.
- 2.8. Ms. Chen Danhong, Intergovernmental Session Chair, recognized the essential role that M&E plays in assessing the progress of implementing the SDS-SEA 2023-2027 Implementation Plan targets. She expressed her appreciation for the PRF's initiative to organize a Technical Committee that would review the outcomes and results submitted by the consultant.
- 2.9. Building on Dr. Furukawa's comment, Ms. Chen added that it is important that the views of all parties concerned are taken into account to ensure that the evaluation process and reporting reflect the views of all stakeholders and are conducive to improving the quality of the M&E plan and its delivery and results.

- 2.10. She liked that the indicator system will be designed to ensure the alignment with existing projects and/or agreed targets and indicators such as those developed by UNSDGs, biodiversity and climate change targets to reduce the burden of reporting and promote efficiency in reporting and access to data and developing robust monitoring and evaluation results.
- 2.11. The Chair thanked the members for their comments and asked Mr. Balgos if he had any questions or clarifications on the recommendations posed.
- 2.12. Mr. Balgos noted and agreed to all the recommendations given and mentioned that he would adjust the methodology accordingly and discuss with PRF on
- 2.13. **Conclusion:** The Committee posed no objections to the proposed methodology presented and expressed their appreciation for the development of an M&E Plan that is aligned with existing projects and/or agreed targets and indicator systems as it eases the burden of monitoring by PRF and the Country Partners and will be relevant in tracking the progress of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 2.14. **Recommendations:** The PRF to create an M&E ad hoc working group, similar to the SDS-SEA IP WG that can meet online to discuss the various milestones in the development of the plan and ensure support and secure buy-in M&E Plan.

3.0 PEMSEA Governance Meetings (EC/30/DOC/06a; EC/30/DOC/06b)

- 3.1. Ms. Cruzada updated the Committee on the preparations of the 15th EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting and the 2024 EAS Congress.
- 3.2. The 15th EAS Partnership Council Meeting will be held on July 26-27, 2023 in Hanoi, Vietnam. It is co-organized with the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) under the Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and UNDP Viet Nam as a back-to-back activity with the UNDP Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Project Workshop.

- 3.3. The EPPIC Project is spearheaded by UNDP with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The Project's implementation period is from 2020-2024 and its objective is to contribute to the reduction of plastic pollution in ASEAN coastal cities through the creation of a portfolio of innovative solutions supported and scaled up through the EPPIC Competition. The Project has completed its implementation in four countries, namely: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, and is beginning implementation in Cambodia and Lao PDR and wants to present and discuss its results to PEMSEA as a regional body.
- 3.4. Viet Nam, who agreed to host the 15th PC Meeting in lieu of a financial contribution for 2023, had raised the proposal of a back-to-back activity with the said project as it is aligned with PEMSEA's initiative in reducing marine plastic pollution and is participated by several PEMSEA Country Partners. However, this workshop is a separate activity from the 15th EAS PC Meeting and will not affect the governance aspects of the sessions.
- 3.5. The EPPIC workshop will be conducted on the morning of 26 July 2027, and will include a sharing of experiences and lessons learned in nurturing ecosystems (financial, technical, and governance) to foster plastic innovation in participating states; and a knowledge sharing discussion on the INC of the Global Plastic Treaty for PEMSEA Country Partners.
- 3.6. Ms. Cruzada presented the provisional program of the 15th EAS PC Meeting for the EC's comments and approval (Table 1).

Table 1. Provisional Agenda for the 15th EAS PC Meeting

AGENDA for the EPPIC workshop/meeting			
Day	Time	No.	Item
25 July 2023			Arrival of Participants
26 July 2023)	8:00 - 8:30 AM		Registration
	8:30 -8:50 AM		Opening Messages from Project Partners and EAS PC Chair
	8:50 - 10:20 AM		Session 1: Experiences and Lessons Learned from the EPPIC Project
	10:20 - 10:30 AM		Coffee Break
	10:30 - 11:30 AM		Session 2: Discussion of Key Policies and Measures in INC Plastic Treaty
	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM		Lunch
PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 15 TH EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING			
Council Session			
Day	Time	No.	Item
26 July 2023	1:00 - 1:10 PM	1.0	Opening of the 15th EAS Partnership Council Meeting The Council Chair will open the 15 th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and provide a short recap of the major recommendations and decisions of the 14th EAS PC, the 28th and 29th EC Meeting and Status of Actions taken.
	1:10 - 1:15 PM	2.0	Adoption of the Meeting Agenda The Council will be requested to review and adopt the Council Session Agenda.

AGENDA for the EPPIC workshop/meeting			
Day	Time	No.	Item
	1:15 - 1:20 PM	3.0	Report of the Executive Director The Executive Director will present the key accomplishments of PRF as secretariat in 2022.
	1:20 - 1:25 PM	4.0	Report of the Council Chair The Council Chair will provide the EC's perspectives and key policy recommendations pertaining to major PEMSEA issues tackled by the Executive Committee in 2022.
Technical Session			
	1:25 - 1:30 PM	5.0	Opening of the Technical Session and Adoption of the Technical Session Agenda
	1:30 - 3:00 PM	6.0	Operationalizing Year 1 of SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023- 2027 Presentation and discussion on Country and Non-Country Partners programs and plans on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Governance • Healthy Ocean • Healthy Peoples • Healthy Economies <p>Ex. Presentation of country plans to develop National SDS-SEA Implementation Plan and/or specific programs that contribute to the various components of the plan</p>
	3:00 - 3:15 PM		Coffee Break
	3:15 - 3:45 PM	7.0	Continuation of Operationalizing Year 1 SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023- 2027 Presentation of Non-Country Partners
	3:45 - 4:45 PM	7.0	Continuation of Operationalizing Year 1 SDS-SEA

AGENDA for the EPPIC workshop/meeting			
Day	Time	No.	Item
			<p>Implementation Plan 2023- 2027: Project Updates</p> <p>The Secretariat will provide an update on the following projects being undertaken by PEMSEA: IRBM, GHG emission reduction in the maritime transport sector, Marine Litter project, ASEANo project, GloFouling Partnerships Project, PNLC plans</p> <p>The Secretariat will then present the M&E Reporting Format for review and approval</p>
	4:45 - 4:55 PM	9.0	Highlights of the EPPIC Workshop
	4:55 - 5:00 PM	10.0	<p>East Asian Seas Congress 2024</p> <p>The PRF Secretariat will report the current status of preparations for the organization of the East Asian Seas Congress 2024</p>
	5:00 - 5:05 PM	11.0	Any other business
	5:05 - 5:20 PM	12.0	Summary of Agreements and Discussions
	5:20 - 5:30 PM	13.0	Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions
	6:30 - 8:30 PM		Networking Dinner
Intergovernmental Session (Country Partners only)			
27 July 2023	9:00 - 9:10 AM	1.0	<p>Opening of the Intergovernmental Session and Adoption of the Meeting Agenda</p> <p>The Intergovernmental Session Chair will preside over the meeting and will be assisted by the Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair. The Session will be requested to review and adopt the Intergovernmental Session agenda.</p>

AGENDA for the EPPIC workshop/meeting			
Day	Time	No.	Item
	9:10 - 9:40 AM	2.0	PEMSEA Sustainability Plan
	9:40 - 10:10 AM	3.0	Selection and Appointment of PRF Executive Director 2024-2026 The Council Chair as head of the Selection Panel will provide updates on the status of the current ED's term and seek the Intergovernmental Session's further guidance on the follow-on steps, i.e., extension of current term and/or recruitment for 2024-2026.
	10:10 - 10:40 AM	4.0	Annual Work Plan and Budget 2024 – 2025 The PEMSEA work plan and budget for 2024 and 2025 will be presented to the Intergovernmental session for review and adoption.
	10:40 - 11:50 AM	5.0	Other Business The Intergovernmental Session will be requested to raise other matters, if any.
	11:50 - 11:55 AM	6.0	PRF Secretariat Announcements
	11:55 - 12:00 AM	7.0	Closing of Intergovernmental Session
	12:00 - 1:00 PM		Lunch
Field Trip to EPPIC shop¹			
	1:00 - TBD		Field Trip
4 (28 July 2023)			Departure of Participants

¹ Tentative as of 28 March 2023

- 3.7. The Chair thanked Ms. Cruzada for the presentation and said that he agreed with the proposed agenda. He asked the EC members for their comments or suggestions.
- 3.8. Ms. Chen thanked the Secretariat for the updates on the 15th EAS PC meeting and principally agreed with the provisional agenda presented. However, she asked for clarification on whether attendance of Country partners not participating in the EPPIC project to the EPPIC workshop is on a voluntary basis, given that the workshop is not part of the agenda of the PC Meeting.
- 3.9. Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PRF Executive Director (ED) responded that the workshop will be open to all members of the Partnership Council and not limited to the project participants; however, funding support of VASI/UNDP will only be provided to the participating countries of the EPPIC project. Other Country Partners have the option whether to participate or not in the workshop, but the PRF is encouraging all Partners to participate, if possible. She further assured that Country Partners will not be required to make a position, especially with regards to the global treaty on plastic pollution; rather, the workshop will be a platform for dialogue amongst the EAS countries. She also noted the report on China's potential for hosting the EAS Congress.
- 3.10. Dr. Furukawa raised a concern on the time allotment for the Technical Session of the PC Meeting, stating the session's relevance as a platform for Partners to share their concerns, especially in regards to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. He welcomed the inclusion of the discussion on the highlights of the EPPIC workshop in the agenda, but stated that the time allotment is a bit confusing and needs to be optimized to enhance the discussion amongst Country and Non-Country partners.
- 3.11. The Chair agreed with the points raised by the members on the PC Meeting agenda and requested the Secretariat to make the necessary changes, to which the Secretariat agreed.
- 3.12. Ms. Cruzada then presented the updates on the 2024 EAS Congress.
- 3.13. The EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum is a triennial event conducted by PEMSEA which aims to provide policy directions and commitments for improving and strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA and to help achieve SDG commitments and other ocean related international

commitments. It is expected to be held during the fourth quarter of 2024, but to date, no host has been identified.

- 3.14. There are currently three potential host countries – Timor-Leste, Philippines and China. Timor-Leste was first invited by the PRF to host the Congress in January and had initially expressed their interest in hosting. However, due to the upcoming national elections and infrastructure concerns due to the renovation of the international airport in Dili in 2024, Timor-Leste prefer to defer the country's hosting of the Congress to 2027.
- 3.15. The Philippines, as the host country to the PEMSEA Resource Facility, is the default host of the EAS Congress if no other Country Partner is willing to host. However, the country has raised a potential schedule conflict as they are already hosting the 2024 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) during the same quarter that the Congress is expected to be conducted. Given that the Conference is also a regional event, the DENR of the Philippines has expressed that it might not be logistically feasible to host and prepare two regional events in the same year. Currently, the PRF and DENR are discussing the possibility to postpone the Congress to the first or second quarter of 2025 in case the Philippines will be the default host.
- 3.16. During a bilateral meeting on 14 March 2023, PRF discussed the possibility of China hosting the 2024 EAS Congress with DG Chen. Ms. Chen considered the request and said that she would discuss the matter with the MNR.
- 3.17. In a similar bilateral meeting between PRF and Dr. Furukawa on 20 March 2023, Dr. Furukawa raised the alternative of conducting the EAS Congress as a collaboration with the one of the PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, the International Center for Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS), as they will be holding their 14th International Conference in Australia in 2024. This option was raised given the overlapping initiatives of EMECS and PEMSEA and similarity in target participants. However, given that the EAS Congress usually has a Ministerial Forum and that the host country of the EMECS Conference is not a PEMSEA Partner, PRF raised that this option still needs to be reviewed.

- 3.18. On the 2024 EAS Congress, Ms. Chen mentioned that they are currently studying the possibility of hosting the event and that given the stringent regulations in China, large scale events such as the EAS Congress need to be reported to the State Council for approval. Ms. Chen assured the PRF that MNR will provide updates as soon as the internal procedures for these are completed. In the event the China undertakes the responsibility of hosting the Congress, the size and arrangement of the event will be streamlined and optimized.
- 3.19. The Chair thanked the members for their responses and requested that the EC be apprised on any updates on the hosting and preparations of the EAS Congress, once China has given its feedback.
- 3.20. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted with appreciation the information provided on the 15th EAS PC Meeting and recognized that the common and intersecting goals of the EPPIC project and PEMSEA’s initiatives on combatting marine pollution in the EAS region forms a good basis for conducting the back-to-back activity.. The Committee showed no objections for the content of the provisional program of the meeting, and welcomed the inclusion of a discussion of the results of the EPPIC Workshop in the technical session agenda.
- 3.21. The Committee expressed their thanks for the Secretariat’s efforts in identifying a host country for the Congress. On the point raised by the Secretariat of the possibility of China hosting the Congress, Chinese regulations require large-scale events such as the EAS Congress to be reported and approved by the country’s State Council. PRF will be apprised in due time of China’s capability to host once internal procedures are completed. It was also noted that should China host the EAS Congress in 2024, the scale of the event will need to be streamlined and optimized.
- 3.22. **Recommendations:**
- a. *On the 15th EAS PC Meeting*
- The Committee expressed the necessity to notify the EAS PC members as soon as possible of the 15th EAS PC Meeting to give the latter enough time to prepare the necessary procedures for clearance to travel and participate in the meeting. The Committee urged PRF to finalize and formalize the hosting agreement with Vie Nam and UNDP.

On the Provisional Program, the Committee commented that there should be an adequate allotment of time in the agenda for Country and Non-Country partners to discuss their respective programs and experiences, especially in relation to operationalizing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. Additionally, the time allotment for agenda items in the Technical session should be optimized.

b. *On the 2024 EAS Congress*

The Committee noted the need for internal consultations in China on the possibility of hosting the 2024 EAS Congress. They instructed the PRF to inform the EC once a host has been identified.

- 3.23. Decision: The EC approved the agenda for the 15th EAS PC Meeting, subject to improvements based on recommendations.

4.0 Selection and Appointment of PRF Executive Director (EC/30/DOC/09)

- 4.1. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. Cruzada discussed the need to convene the Selection Committee, composed of the Executive Committee Chairs, and begin the process for the selection and appointment of the PRF Executive Director for 2024-2026.

- 4.2. Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the current Executive Director, is completing her second term on December 2023. She was first appointed as ED for the period of 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 during the 9th Partnership council meeting, and was subsequently reappointed for another term from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023.

- 4.3. Given that the ED has a fixed term of three years renewable, but not exceeding 10 years, Ms. Gonzales has expressed her interest to run again for her third and final term through a letter to the EC dated 20 February 2023, highlighting her proven track record in ensuring the sustainability and financial capability of the PRF.

- 4.4. This provides the Selection Committee with two options on the selection of the ED:

a. Renew the contract of the current Executive Director

1. Annex 4, Section 1.3 states that, *“The PRF Executive Director will have a fixed term of three years renewable but not exceeding ten years.”*

2. Annex 11, Section 6.c states that, *“The appointment of the PRF Executive Director by the Executive Agency will be undertaken in consultation with the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Council.”*
 3. Annex 11, Section 6.d states that, *“The performance of the Executive Director will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Council, on an annual basis.”*
- b. Start the search and recruitment for a new Executive Director
1. Annex 4 Sections 4-6 provide the process for the recruitment, selection and appointment
 2. Annex 4 Section 4 outlines the recruitment process as follows:
 - The Selection Committee will commence the procedure for recruitment of the Executive Director at least three months prior to the date at which the position is expected to become vacant;
 - The Selection Committee will direct the PRF to prepare the terms of reference of the Executive Director and review and approve of the same for posting;
 - The PRF will cause the international publication of the vacant post for three consecutive weeks through:
 - Advertisement in the PEMSEA website and at least one published magazine
 - Cross-posting on the website of Country and Non-Country Partners and relevant stakeholders, if possible;
 - Publication in any available publication of PEMSEA, and Country and Non-Country Partners; and
 - Publication in any print media of general circulation
- 4.5. In line with the second option, Ms. Cruzada presented the highlights of the draft Terms of Reference to the EC, which enumerated the minimum qualifications of the ED:
- a. At least a Master’s degree, or its equivalent, in natural or social sciences or other field related to the management of coastal and marine environment or natural resources;
 - b. At least 10 years of relevant experience in a senior managerial level at an international/regional, or national level, with specialized training and experience in knowledge management, good management capacity, interpersonal skills, and proven leadership qualities; and
 - c. Established national, regional and international relations.

- 4.6. Preference is given to qualified nationals from the region, given equal competencies and related requirements identified in the TOR.
- 4.7. The Committee was then requested to review and confirm the TOR of the ED and agree on a date to convene the Selection Committee to discuss whether to:
- a. Endorse the renewal of the contract of the current ED, subject to a performance evaluation by the EC on behalf of the Council.
 - b. Direct the PRF Recruitment Consultant to start the search and recruitment process for a new ED.
 - c. Provide other instructions to the PRF Secretariat and/or identify other options and recommendations for the EAS PC.
- 4.8. The Chair opined that he preferred the option to extend the contract of Ms. Gonzales for another 2024-2026. All other EC members agreed with the option to extend the contract of the Ms. Gonzales, citing that an experienced leader would be beneficial in continuing current efforts to streamline the organization and enhance discussions and engagement with partners.
- 4.9. The Chair thanked the members for their comments, congratulated the Ms. Gonzales and assured her of the leadership support of the EC. He added that the rules for the selection of the ED will be followed and a formal endorsement by the Selection Committee to the PC will be done.
- 4.10. Ms. Gonzales thanked the Committee for the support extended to her and pointed out that the Selection Committee will still convene either online or via email to formally conduct the selection process. The Committee will be supported by the PRF Secretariat. She assured everyone that she will work for the good of the PEMSEA Secretariat, the Council, and the region
- 4.11. **Conclusion:** The Committee recognized the need to begin the selection of the PRF Executive Director for 2024-2026 and thanked the Secretariat for the providing an overview of the options for selection. The Committee unanimously agreed to support the renewal of the contract of Ms. Aimee Gonzales as Executive Director for 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026, subject to the

final endorsement of the Selection Committee. The Committee emphasized that the PRF leadership should have proven qualifications and experience. Likewise, the operationalization of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 as well as the implementation of several new projects require a stable and continued leadership. These factors were the basis for the decision to support the renewal of the current ED's contract.

- 4.12. **Recommendations:** PRF to communicate with the Selection Committee in April to formalize their endorsement to renew the contract of the current ED for approval at the 15th EAS Partnership Council.

5.0 Status of Ongoing and Upcoming PEMSEA Projects (EC/30/DOC/03)

- 5.1. The Chair discussed that the PRF has three ongoing projects and one upcoming project in 2023 from multilateral and bilateral grants:
 - a. GEF/UNDP/ASEAN/PEMSEA Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries (IRBM Project);
 - b. MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project on Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asia Seas Region (Marine Plastics ODA Project);
 - c. GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Arafura-Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach Phase 2 (ATSEA-2); and
 - d. IKI/IMO/PEMSEA Blue Solutions: Reducing Maritime Transport Emission in East and Southeast Asian Countries that the PRF will discuss (Blue Solutions Project).
- 5.2. He called on the regional project managers of the to provide a brief overview and updates on the said projects.
- 5.3. Ms. Nancy Bermas, Regional Project Manager of the IRBM project, provided a short account of the current and upcoming activities related to the project.

- 5.4. The IRBM project has been presented to the EC since 2020 on the developments related to the approval process of the project. It was finally endorsed and approved by GEF in October 2022 and the project cooperation agreement was signed between PEMSEA PRF and the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub in December 2022. The signing of the project by the Regional Hub signaled the start of the project from the operational point of view.
- 5.5. The project is implemented by UNDP with UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub as the Principal Project Representative while PEMSEA PRF is the Executing Agency. There are 6 participating ASEAN member states: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. The project covers five years (2023 to 2027) with a GEF Project Grant of USD 8,47M and a project co-financing commitment of USD 106,9 M from the national and local governments, UNDP, JICA VN, and PEMSEA.
- 5.6. The long-term goal of the project is to establish a functional river basin management mechanism in priority river basins of 6 ASEAN countries to reduce pollution, sustain freshwater environmental flows, and adapt to climate change vulnerabilities.
- 5.7. The project aims to improve governance and management responsiveness and capacities in integrated water resources management, pollution load reduction from nutrients and other land-based activities, protection and conservation of freshwater environmental flows, and alleviation of climate vulnerability through demonstration, planning, and strengthening of integrated river basin management in selected countries in the East Asian Seas.
- 5.8. To achieve the goals and objectives of the project, four interlinked components are to be focused on:
- a. Baseline assessment of source-to-sea management continuum;
 - b. IRBM pilot projects for improved governance and management of river basins/sub-basins and associated coastal areas;
 - c. Knowledge management and capacity development; and
 - d. Monitoring and evaluation.
- 5.9. There are 6 priority river basins and coastal areas selected based on selection criteria set:

- a. Kampong Bay River and the coastal area of Kampot City in Cambodia;
- b. Ciliwung River and the Jakarta Bay coastal area in Indonesia;
- c. Nam Tha River in Lao PDR;
- d. Kedah River and the coastal area of Kedah in Malaysia;
- e. Imus-Ylang Ylang River and Pasac-Guagua River Basins and the coastal area of Manila Bay in the Philippines; and
- f. Vu Gia-Thu Bon River Basin and the coastal area of Quang Nam-Da Nang in Viet Nam.

5.10. The project will be governed at the Oversight level by the Regional Steering Committee chaired by the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management and co-chaired by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. The members of the committee are comprised of the beneficiaries represented by the 6 ASEAN member states and non-participating members in an observer status. The ASEAN Secretariat is also represented in the committee as well as the EAS Executive Committee and the development partner, UNDP. Providing the necessary platform is the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment to reach out to the wider community. At the Execution level, the PRF hosts the Regional Project Management Unit and UNDP will provide a three-tier Project Assurance function. The project will also coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat Environment Division as it serves as the Secretariat of the ASEAN Working Group. At the country and river basin level, there are six national implementing partners represented by the focal agencies that are expected to establish national project coordinating units. At the River basin level, the team will also coordinate with the different river basin coordinating committees and the project teams (see Figure 1).

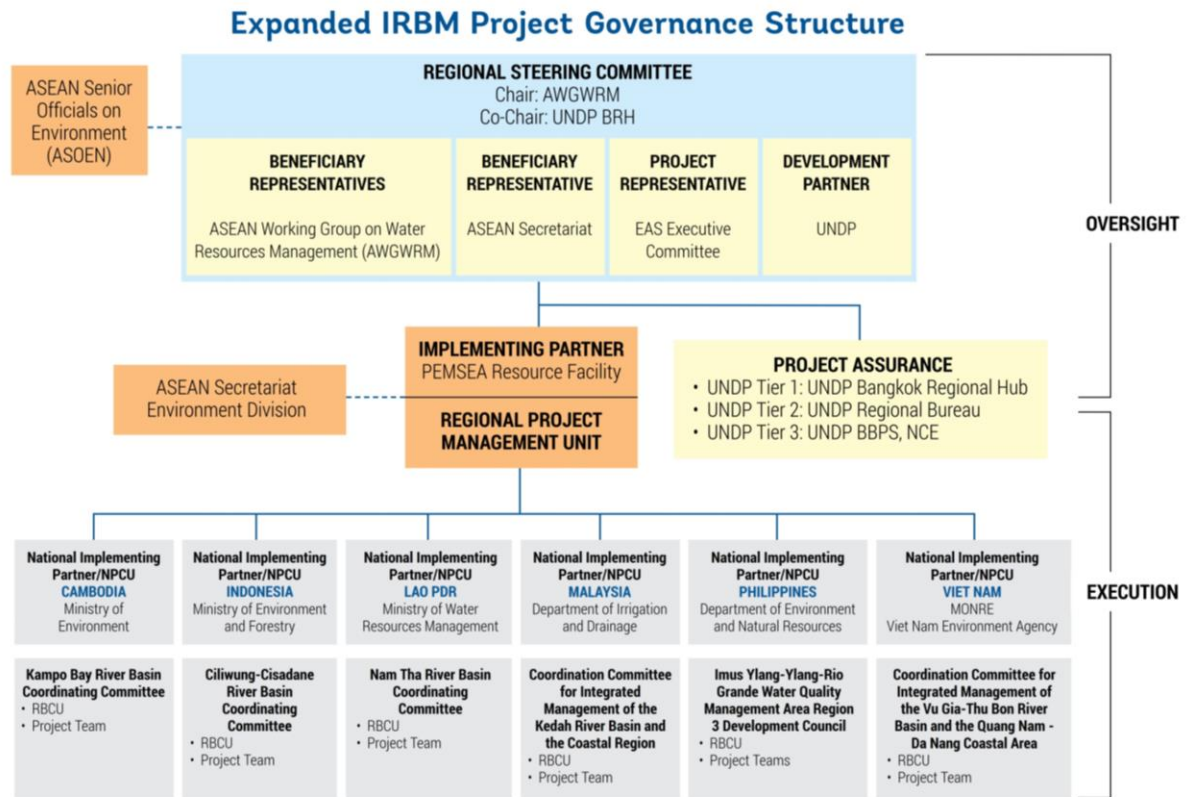


Figure 1. Expanded IRBM Project Governance Structure

5.11. 2023 First Quarter Accomplishments of the project include:

- a. Establishment of the RPM with the recruitment of a Regional Project Manager and the appointment of two interim core and one support staff with one other coming on board in May;
- b. Conduct of an Inception Workshop participated by the 5 member states, the chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Resources Management, UNDP, and the ASEAN secretariat back-to-back with the First Regional Steering Committee meeting held on 16-17 February 2023 where the approval of the 2023 work plan and budget, the governance and management arrangement, and results framework were reviewed and approved;
- c. Drafting of MOAs with 6 participating AMS which are now on review; and
- d. Drafting of TORs for regional- level activities such as SORB guide, template and IRBM indicators; prepared a socioeconomic survey, WEF guidance toolkit, gender action plan, and stakeholder engagement plan. A consultant will be hired to make the social safeguards.

5.12. Planned activities for the 2nd-4th quarter 2023 targets were also presented (Table 2).

Table 2. IRBM Project Activities for 2nd to 4th Quarter 2023

Component	Details	Target Date
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of 6 MOAS; issuance of contracts • Recruitment of 6 IRBM National Coordinators and establishment of NPCUs and RBCUs • Conduct of 6 National Inception Workshops 	2 nd quarter
Component 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of SORB guide, template, IRBM indicators • Initiation of preparation of SORB reports 	2 nd -4 th quarters
Component 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of baseline assessment in 6 pilot sites 	4 th quarter
Component 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRBM/ICM orientation • Special skills training (SORB and information management; TPL; etc.) • Project newsletter and communications/knowledge products 	2 nd -4 th quarter
Component 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly progress report (Technical and Financial) • Annual Report • Gender action plan; stakeholder engagement; social and environmental safeguards 	2 nd -4 th quarter
Project Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc RSC to approve Revised Project Results Framework and Governance Arrangements 	3 rd quarter

5.13.

e Shin, Regional Project Manager of the MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project on Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asia Seas Region, presented a brief overview of the project and some developments.

5.14. The Marine Litter project is a 6 year project that started in January 2023 to December 2028. It has a budget of approximately US\$9M (KRW12B). The project will engage the Philippines at 6

sites and Timor Leste at 4 sites. It is funded by the overseas development assistance fund from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, RO Korea.

- 5.15. The project goal is to reduce marine plastics in selected sites in the Philippines and Timor-Leste and has three objectives: 1) Enhancing governance on marine plastics management in selected sites; 2) demonstrating marine plastics management technologies and monitoring at selected sites; and 3) Strengthening capacity and awareness of marine plastics management at the local level.
- 5.16. There are four project components:
- a. Improving local governance on marine plastics management
 - b. Demonstrating marine plastics management technologies
 - c. Establishing a marine litter monitoring program
 - d. Capacity development and awareness building on marine plastics
- 5.17. Project sites are being selected through consultations made by the participating governments. Timor Leste has already selected the 4 sites where the project will be done. The Philippines is still choosing the sites.

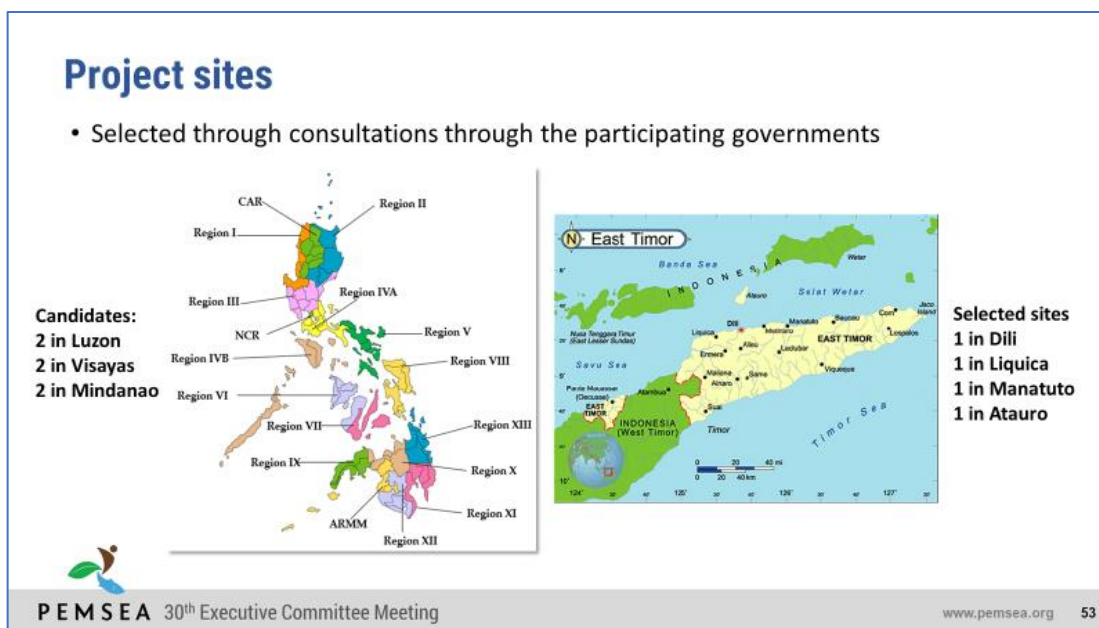


Figure 2. Proposed project sites for the Marine Plastics ODA Project

- 5.18. The project document is just a draft at the moment as the Philippines has not yet finished selecting the 6 sites and is expected to be completed by April. Country consultations have begun in March and will continue until April. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) will likewise be drafted in April, and hope to be signed with the MOF by August or September 2023.. More updates will be given during the EAS PC Meeting.
- 5.19. The ATSEA 2 Regional Project Manager, Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto then gave a brief update about the project which is a transboundary project engaging four Arafura member countries: Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste. The project which started in 2019 is extended to end in 2024, but will likely be extended for another year. It has three components: regional and national governance for LME management, improving LME carrying capacity to sustain ecosystem services, and knowledge management.
- 5.20. Several key targets have already been achieved to date (Figure 3):

Key Progress to Date

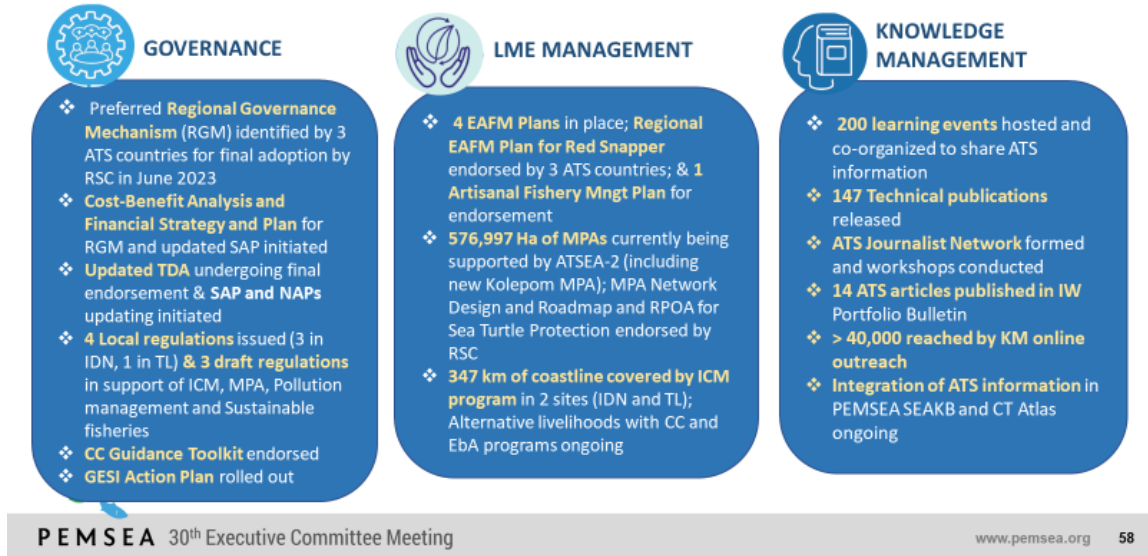


Figure 3. ATSEA 2 Progress vis-à-vis project components

a. On Governance

- The preferred Regional Governance Mechanism identified by 3 ATS countries are for final adoption by RSC in June 2023.
- Cost-Benefit analysis and Financial Strategy and Plan for RGM and updated Strategic Action Programme (SAP) have been initiated.
- Updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is undergoing final endorsement & the updating of SAP and National Action Programmes (NAP) have been initiated.
- Four local regulations (three in IND and one in TL), and three draft regulations in support of ICM, MPA, Pollution management, and Sustainable fisheries were issued.
- Climate Change Guidance Toolkit has been endorsed.
- GESI Action Plan was rolled out.

b. On LME Management

- 4 EAFM Plans are in place; Regional EAFM Plan for Red Snapper endorsed by 3 ATS countries; & 1 Artisanal fishery Management Plan is for endorsement.
- 576,997 Ha of MPAs are currently being supported by ATSEA-2 (including new Kolepom MPA); MPA Network Design and Roadmap, and RPOA for Sea Turtle Protection was endorsed by RSC.

- 347 kilometers of coastline are covered by ICM program in 2 sites (IDN and TL); alternative livelihoods with CC and EbA programs are ongoing.
- c. On Knowledge Management
- 200 learning events were hosted and co-organized to share ATS information.
 - 147 technical publications were released.
 - An ATS Journalist Network was formed and workshops were conducted.
 - 14 ATS articles were published in the IW Portfolio Bulletin.
 - More than 40,000 individuals were reached by the online outreach.
 - Integration of ATS information in PEMSEA SEA Knowledge Bank and CT Atlas is ongoing.

5.21. To date, the project has reached out to and supported more than 54,000 individuals through various engagements (Figure 4). With less than two years left of the project, it is nearing achieving its major targets by the end of 2023. Some of these are the adoption of and transition to the Regional Governance Mechanism; endorsement of the updated TDA, SAP and NAPs, among others. The project will organize the ICM BT Conference and the AIS Forum. By the end of the year, the project aims to increase its engagement with stakeholders in the local communities (especially women and men) for them to get more benefits from the ATSEA-2 initiative. Lastly, Mr. Susanto thanked the members for supporting the project.

Key Progress to Date

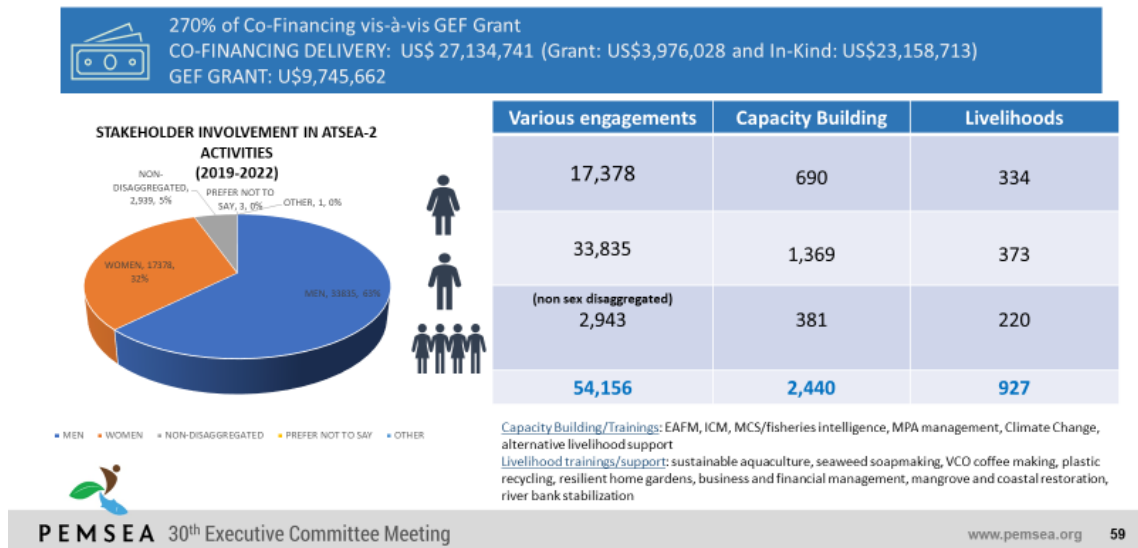


Figure 4. Stakeholder involvement in ATSEA-2 Activities

- 5.21. On the status of the upcoming project titled 'Blue Solutions: Reducing Maritime Transport Emission in East and Southeast Asian Countries', Ms. Nadine Bresemann, Head of Maritime Transport of PEMSEA, shared some developments.
- 5.22. There are 6 partner countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Cambodia joins as participating country. Knowledge support is given by R.O. Korea, Japan, Singapore, and China. The project expects a budget of EUR 15,000,000 over a period of 5 years (2023 to 2028).
- 5.23. The project aims to decarbonize the transport sector using instruments, strategies, and action plans to transform maritime transport towards a low-carbon future. There will be four work packages in the project:
- a. Determining the status of GHG emissions in the current maritime sector in the country to find out where the biggest emission sources in the maritime sector are to develop future scenarios;
 - b. Joint strategy development and roadmap planning;
 - c. The conduct of demonstration pilots, the core of the project, which will showcase innovative technologies for ships, ports, and transports; and
 - d. All measures are supported by capacity building and knowledge creation.
- 5.24. Currently, seven technology pilots are planned in five countries (Figure 5). Malaysia has already identified a pilot site and reported interest in pilot/tugboats powered by synthetic fuels. A study on this is in progress. All pilot projects are innovations in the respective country. Approximately EUR 12 million is planned for the purchase of technologies, the largest share coming from the national partners.

Demonstration Pilot Projects



- Currently, **seven technology pilots** are planned in **five countries**
- **Malaysia** has already identified a pilot site and reported interest in pilot/tugboats powered by synthetic fuels, study in progress
- All pilot projects are innovations in the respective country
- Approximately **EUR 12 million** is planned for the purchase of technologies, the largest share coming from the national partners (> 8 Mio EUR)

Figure 5. Blue Solutions technology pilots

- 5.25. The Chair thanked the project managers for some sharing updates about their respective projects. He suggested a different kind of collaboration is needed for these big international projects. He also urged that information shared on the IRBM project with the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resource Management be also shared with EAS Partnership Council.
- 5.26. Ms. Gonzales assured the Chair that all information about the projects will be regularly shared with the EC and PC members.
- 5.27. Dr. Furukawa recommended to look at these projects through the lens of science-based decision-making. He pointed out that PEMSEA has very strong partners for this kind of scientific discussion and that PEMSEA could be a very good coordinator to introduce science to these projects, especially in the inception workshop of the state of the river basin report of the IRBM project. The IRBM project's training and capacity development activities in the 6 river basin sites, could capitalize on the experience and skills of good practitioners doing well in other countries to share what they have been doing in other countries. He offered to communicate with scientists that may be asked to be involved in big projects such as the ones presented. He further suggests that

the results of the projects not only be communicated to the national focal points, but also to the scientific community.

5.28. Ms. Gonzales took note of Dr. Furukawa's suggestion and informed the body that PRF will be engaging with the best available science through competitive tender but will make sure that PEMSEA's RCOEs and Learning Centers will be engaged either as trainers or as trainees.

5.29. **Conclusion:** The Committee thanked the Secretariat for sharing information on the status of the ongoing projects, namely the GEF/UNDP/ASEAN/PEMSEA Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries, MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project on Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asia Seas Region, the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Arafura-Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) and the IKI/IMO/PEMSEA Blue Solutions: Reducing Maritime Transport Emission in East and Southeast Asian Countries. The Committee likewise emphasized that information on the projects be shared regularly with the EC as well as the EAS Partnership Council. Given the scale of the projects and the number of participating countries, particularly in the IRBM project, the Committee highlighted the need for a harmonized collaboration by engaging national focal points of participating countries, other regional/international organizations such as COBSEA, and PEMSEA's own network of learning centers and other relevant academe/science organizations to effectively implement regional projects.

5.30. **Recommendations:**

- a. PRF to regularly inform the EC, the EAS PC, PNLC and national focal points of project participating countries on project updates.
- b. PRF to discuss with COBSEA during their meeting in 24 April 2023 regarding opportunities for collaboration, particularly on marine plastics pollution.
- c. PRF to engage with the scientific community, for example in developing state of the river basin methodology, GHG baseline assessments etc. such as relevant think tanks, the PEMSEA network of Learning Centers, which includes ICM learning centers and the regional centers of excellence.

6.0 Financial Sustainability of PEMSEA (EC/30/DOC/04)

- 6.1. The need to ensure PEMSEA's financial sustainability was emphasized in the presentation by Ms. Gonzales .
- 6.2. She highlighted the post-2015 target of the Danang Compact, adopted during the Fifth Ministerial Forum when country partners committed to having 'a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) managing and coordinating a suite of products, services and financing mechanisms for advancing SDS-SEA Implementation at the regional, national and local levels by 2017'. Country partners committed to support PRF's operations through voluntary contributions through the 2018 Iloilo Ministerial Declaration and the 2021 Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.
- 6.3. The PEMSEA Post-2020 Operational Plan was presented in 2019 and is currently being updated and will be renamed as the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan 2023-2030. The Plan is still a work in progress using diagnostic reports on transforming PEMSEA into a fully self-sustaining international organization. The operational plan consists of a review of delivery services, some proposals for new business development, using mechanisms for financial stability, and the establishment of PRF as a regional/global hub for coastal and ocean governance and blue economy development.
- 6.4. The key aspects of the plan not only include the operationalization of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, but also the PNLG SAP 2022-2030. There is now a signed charter of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers which also needs to be funded and sustained partly through the multi-year country projects and partly from other sources.
- 6.5. Partnership and resource mobilization is key to PEMSEA's financial sustainability. It has partnership with the ASEAN and IMO and hopes to attract more global and strategic organizations. PRF is also reviewing PEMSEA's governance, QMS, and training and career development plans to make sure that PRF's financial base is sound and secure. It will also look

into global priorities with impacts and opportunities for PEMSEA’s work in the short and medium terms. Blue carbon and climate resilience activities, for example was identified as one of the key opportunities for funding PEMSEA’s work.

- 6.6. The key recommendation from previous plans on PEMSEA’s Operational Plan for financial sustainability is to enhance the implementation of current self-sufficiency approaches. While there has been difficulty in seeking consensus on countrymate-year commitments on their planned voluntary contributions, the PRF noted that Timor-Leste and Viet Nam have committed to the multi-year commitment voluntary contributions through their recently signed cost-sharing arrangements.

- 6.7. Country partners can also consider providing in-kind contributions to support the sustainability of the organization., officers from partner countries can be seconded to the PR, partners could host the EAS Congress and other PEMSEA governance events, and do joint fundraising and pay for specific services could be done. ATSEA-2 will soon become a regional governance mechanism and is another opportunity to be tapped. .

- 6.8. The annual contributions to PEMSEA as of 17 March 2023 were presented (Table 3).

Table 3. Annual Voluntary Contributions of PEMSEA Partners

PEMSEA Country Partner	Annual/Year	Cash Contribution (in USD)	Host of Meetings	Secondment/ Other Technical Services
Cambodia	2019	10,000	EASC 2021	
	2021	10,000		
	2023	Under review		
China	2006 to date	75,000-150,000	EASC 2006 host of PNLG Secretariat (Xiamen) China PEMSEA Center	Secondment of officer to PRF Payment of technical/M&E services

Indonesia	2021 2023	40,000 Being processed	EAS PC 2019 (Surabaya) PNLG 2022 (Tangerang) Future host of PNLC secretariat (2024)
Japan	2006 date	to 125,000	EC meeting
Philippines	1997*	215,000	EASC 2009 EASC 2018 EC/PC meetings Secondment of officer
RO Korea	2006 date	to 156,000	EASC (Changwon) 2012 PNLG (Ansan) 2017 Secondment of officer Payment of technical services
Singapore	2008-to date	20,000	EC meeting 2017
Timor Leste	2009-2023	50,000-100,000	ATSEA-2 Ministerial Forum 2024 Payment of technical services
Viet Nam	2024 onwards	12,000	EASC 2015 PC 2023

6.9. Projects in the pipeline were also presented (Table 4)

Table 4. PEMSEA Pipeline Projects as of 2023

Title of Project	Partners	Country Partners	Fund Source	Amount/Duration	Status
Blue solutions for reducing maritime transport GHG emissions through	IMO	Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar,	IKI Climate Fund	15MEuros for project (5 years)	Project proposal under review

Title of Project	Partners	Country Partners	Fund Source	Amount/Duration	Status
increased energy efficiency of ship and port activities in East Asia”		Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam			
Effectiveness of Marine Protected Area Management in Large Marine Ecoregions (ENMAPS)	ACB		GEF-7 replenishment fund	12 M USD (5-6 years)	Full proposal for submission in June 2023
ASEANo 2	NIVA CSEAS ASEAN Sec	Regional project	NORAD		Waiting for approval from donor
MPA Implementation		Regional project	Blue Action Fund	5 years 5MIn USD	In discussion with partners
ATSEA 3		Regional Project	098778GEF 8 replenishment cycle		Concept proposal under development
SeaMAP	ASEAN UNOPs	Regional Project	WB		Waiting for tender info

6.10. The PRF could also explore new and innovative approaches for self-sufficiency (Table 5).

Table 5. Potential roles PRF may undertake for self-sufficiency

Role	Objective	Typical Activities	Best for organizations with...
Capital Provider	Provide the organization's own capital to a project or enterprise as either a grant or an investment to help achieve development outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide grants with no expectation of repayment ● Make investments with an expectation of financial return, at a minimum, preservation of invested capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legal structure allowing for disbursement of grants and investments ● Sufficient on-staff finance expertise ● Access to sufficient capital and willingness to risk it
Finance Catalyzer	Utilize blended finance to de-risk investments or fund project development and investment readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cultivate relationships and execute projects for donors (e.g., multilaterals, foundations) ● Develop project concepts and proposals blending public, donor and private capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationships with international funders ● Ability to access specific donor funding (e.g., as a GEF Implementing Agency) or close relationship with such partners ● Track record of developing project proposals and accessing grant capital ● Sufficient on-staff finance expertise
Pipeline Developer	Leverage local knowledge and relationships to identify and develop potentially investable projects and enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify potential pipeline investment opportunities ● Provide accelerator, incubator or technical assistance services to build investment-readiness of projects and enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local relationships and understanding of local context ● Track record of local capacity-building ● Sufficient on-staff or outsourced business / finance expertise ● Access to interested investors
Technical Advisor	Deliver technical expertise on conservation, sustainable development and impact investment aspects of projects and enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise to development projects and/or investors supporting environmental and social impact and investment-readiness ● Provide independent measurement and evaluation of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical expertise and experience delivering services ● Understanding of local context ● Ability to collect data and track record of measuring and evaluating development outcomes

Role	Objective	Typical Activities	Best for organizations with...
Ecosystem Builder	Coordinate and promote relationships and knowledge to advance blue economy investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop partnerships and establish linkages between organizations along the blue economy investment value chain ● Produce knowledge products ● Conduct local, national and regional convenings and dialogues to further knowledge sharing and relationship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research expertise and track record of knowledge management ● Experience designing and delivering successful workshops and conferences ● Relationships and ability to convene government, NGO, private sector, multilaterals, etc.

- 6.11. Country partners can also consider providing in-kind contributions to support the sustainability of the organization., officers from partner countries can be seconded to the PR, partners could host the EAS Congress and other PEMSEA governance events, and do joint fundraising and pay for specific services could be done. ATSEA-2 will soon become a regional governance mechanism and is another possibility to be looked into.
- 6.12. The Chair thanked Ms. Gonzales for the presentation and asked the EC to comment and recommend on the PEMSEA post-2020 sustainability plan. The Chair commented that aside from what was presented in the Sustainability Plan, maybe other options or a combination of options could be suggested by PRF.
- 6.13. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted the recommendations outlined by the PEMSEA operational plan for financial sustainability, highlighting the voluntary contributions of Country Partners and the grants for regional projects as the major sources that sustain PRF’s operations. The Chair likewise supported the proposed approaches to explore other avenues of mobilizing resources aside from the current funding sources to effectively deliver services and maintain the sustainability of the PRF.
- 6.14. **Recommendations:** PRF to explore approaches other than the voluntary contributions from Country Partners and multilateral/bilateral grants to maintain the sustainability of PEMSEA, and

to provide options on PRF/PEMSEA's potential roles in the region which can provide more sustainability in the long-term.

7.0 Review and Updating of the PEMSEA Quality Management System (EC/30/DOC/05)

- 7.1. Mr. Renato Cardinal, the QMS consultant of the PRF, discussed the review and updating of the PEMSEA Quality Management System, particularly the approach on updating the PEMSEA Rules of Governance.
- 7.2. He mentioned that the move to update the QMS stemmed from the updating of PEMSEA's post-2020 financial sustainability plan as the PRF saw the need to retrofit the Rules of Governance to adhere to new trends and requirements by international funding mechanisms.
- 7.3. The PEMSEA Rules of Governance was first issued during the 9th EC Meeting (24-25 October 2011, Manila Philippines) and contains the organization's overall governance, the composition and functions of the EAS Partnership Council, Executive Committee, PEMSEA Resource Facility. It also outlines the rules on the PEMSEA fund, financial control and management, project management and monitoring, code of ethics and the preparation and conduct of the EAS Congress.
- 7.4. Its Annexes include rules on the PEMSEA Partnership, election of PC officers, procedures for conducting governance meetings and the selection and appointment process of the PRF Executive Director. The Annexes also outline the guidelines for fund management, procurement and other PEMSEA actions and activities.
- 7.5. The Rules of Governance was last updated during the Intergovernmental Session of the 13th EAS PC Meeting on 29 July 2021, where Section D. 14 of Annex 10 on Monitoring and Reporting Rules of Procedures was changed to: "Rules on Reporting and Investigation of Violations of the Code of Ethics for PEMSEA Personnel" but majority of the sections were last reviewed in 2011.

- 7.6. New partners and funders for current and future projects pose new challenges and opportunities for PEMSEA. New collaborations require stringent financial management, procurement controls, and reporting and auditing, whilst international and national funding requirements now have stricter rules in accessing project funds. To better adhere to these new requirements, a review and refinement of the Rules of Governance is proposed.
- 7.7. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted the rationale on the need to update the PEMSEA Rules of Governance to align to new requirements of funding entities as well as a means to sustain and enhance the delivery of PRF management services. They note the need to review, provide guidance and/or endorse the updated Rules of Governance that will be available in May 2023 and will be presented for approval at the 15th EAS PC Meeting in July 26-27, 2023.

8.0 International Advocacies or Promotions of PEMSEA including 2023 PEMSEA Major Events (EC/30/DOC/07a and EC/30/DOC/7b)

- 8.1. Ms. Gonzales presented the PRF's Engagements in 2022 and 2023 in Global and Regional Policy Making fora.
- 8.2. During the CBD COP 15, the PRF drafted e a position statement on the importance of ICM as a tool to operationalize the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework which were used to inform country statements and positions of some country partners, notably, Cambodia, China, the Philippines and Vietnam.
- 8.3. During the Climate Change COP 27, the PRF participated in a Virtual Pavilion organized by the Global Ocean Forum, showcasing PEMSEA's work on climate change adaptation and mitigation from ATSEA-2 and the results of the local adaptation pathway work developed by IGES-PRG-Province of Guimaras.
- 8.4. As contribution to the ocean climate global roundtable mandated in the Glasgow Climate Pact, PEMSEA held the EAS roundtable on the ocean-climate nexus during World Ocean Day on June 8, 2022 where countries presented their CCA and/or net zero carbon targets as experts on ocean-

climate nexus, opportunities presented by blue carbon, fisheries and climate and nature based solutions exchanged and shared their most updated programs and initiatives.

- 8.5. Likewise, in preparation for the development of a global biofouling agreement to take place in the International Maritime Organization, the PRF facilitate the development the Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management through a regional task force on biofouling management with the help of UNDP/GEF/IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project.
- 8.6. Ms. Gonzales opined that the while the engagements were modest, the outputs were quite substantial as they highlighted local and national realities that could help inform global dialogues and policy making.
- 8.7. In 2023, the PRF will be presenting the Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management for endorsement of the ASEAN Working Group on Maritime Transport. Both the Philippines and Indonesia will present the draft regional strategy for discussion at the main meeting of the ASEAN WG on Maritime Transport.
- 8.8. ATSEA's work on marine protected areas (MPAs) was presented by Dr. Susanto at IMPAC5 in Canada early this year. The PRF also participated in the International Platform on Blue Carbon Annual Dialogue sharing knowledge on the status of blue carbon research and implementation in the EAS region.
- 8.9. As part of the preparations and information sessions for the Global Plastic Treaty, PRF is sponsoring the EPPIC workshop as a back-to-back activity with the 15th EAS PC Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- 8.10. PRF is also participating in the Geo Blue Planet Symposium on a workshop/training for ICM/MPA practitioners in Seoul, ROK previous in October now in November 2023. In addition, PEMSEA has also been asked by some organizations to clarify and possibly help and assist in the development of a global treaty on marine pollution.
- 8.11. Ms. Gonzales added that the PRF's projects are uniquely aligned with relevant regional and international fora that can serve as avenues for promoting PEMSEA's advocacies and initiatives (Table 6).

Table 6. PRF projects vis-à-vis relevant international and regional fora

Project	Topics	Fora
ATSEA 2	Fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, MPA effective management, marine pollution, CCA	IMPAC5, CBD, UNEA, APMFDRR
IRBM	Water resource management, marine pollution and SWM, application of 'source to sea' concept, development of State of the River Basin Reports	World Water Week, Source to Sea Platform, UNEA, IWLearn
ASEANo 2	Marine Plastics Monitoring, Engagement of SMEs in plastic management, Local government capacity building	ASEAN, UNEA
Biofouling	Biofouling management, Prevention of transfer of invasive aquatic species	IMO UNFCCC
Marine Plastics	Plastic pollution prevention	UNEA, ASEAN
Blue Solutions	Development of GHG emission baseline methodology, action plans and roadmaps for the maritime transport sector Demonstration of innovative solutions and technologies	IMO, UNFCCC
ENMAPs	Effective Management of Transboundary MPAs	CBD

8.12. Given that PEMSEA has a unique role as a regional organization in promoting the sustainable management and development of coastal and marine ecosystems vis-à-vis key international fora, Ms. Gonzales requested the EC to guide the PRF on how the discussion and reporting of PEMSEA’s advocacies can be done during the 15th EAS PC Meeting; how PEMSEA can strengthen and enhance regional and global engagements; whether PRF can assist country partners in engaging in key fora; and advice on how to capitalize and engage with non-country partners for engaging in key fora.

8.13. Ms. Chen noted with appreciation the active role of the PRF in regional or international events hosted by Country Partners, highlighting that their continued engagement could contribute in

enhancing PEMSEA's visibility and influence in the global policy arena. She mentioned some annual events conducted by China such as the Xiamen World Ocean week, World Coastal Forum East Asian Marine Cooperation Forum. She expressed her appreciation not only for the PRF, but also for other Country Partners that regularly participated in the said events and encouraged other Country Partners to also participate and share their own experiences and learnings on coastal and marine management.

- 8.14. Dr. Furukawa shared his thoughts on considering cultural differences between the Global North and South in order to effectively disseminate information in the global negotiations such as the CBD or Climate Change COPs. He opined that Europeans and Americans have different ways of looking at nature and as opposed to Asians and those from island countries who see nature and human beings as part of one natural system. American and European countries on the other hand believe that humans can manage the ecosystem outside of the natural system.
- 8.15. PEMSEA, therefore should contribute to developing a good consensus on sustainable marine and coastal management in the region, so that its efforts can provide more impactful positions at the global level. He suggested that PEMSEA participate in more regional activities such as the Asian Economic Forum, and World Ocean Week, among others, to make more individuals and organizations more aware of PEMSEA, the SDS-SEA and its targets.
- 8.16. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted with appreciation the engagements that PEMSEA, through the PRF, have made in the international arena in 2022. In particular, the active participation of PRF in COP activities (i.e., CBD COP 15 and Climate Change COP 27) was commended as this contributes to enhancing the visibility of PEMSEA. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the PRF and Country Partners who are active in participating in regional and international events where PEMSEA's advocacies can be promoted.
- 8.17. **Recommendations:** To further increase PEMSEA's visibility in the global arena, the following recommendations were made:

- a. PEMSEA should participate more in regional activities that could help enhance its visibility and influence and inform more stakeholders of its advocacies, particularly the SDS-SEA.
- b. Country and Non-Country partners are encouraged to share their respective activities to each other as well as the PRF.
- c. PEMSEA can focus on its role as a convenor in the EAS region to bring Country partners together to discuss important issues such as plastic pollution or climate change, among others, to help countries have more informed and robust decisions or stances in global conventions.

9.0 Status of Non-Country Partners (EC/30/DOC/08)

- 9.1. Ms. Gonzales presented the status of PEMSEA non-Country partners as part of the sustainability efforts to mobilize coordinated, collaborative and coherent technical and financial resources for PEMSEA.
- 9.2. Currently, there are 21 NCPs, classified as Founding and Additional Partners. Founding NCPs are those who have signed the HPOA in 2006, while Additional Partners are those who have established formal agreements or cooperation with PEMSEA post-HPOA. Both categories are subsequently classified as “active” or “needs engagement discussion (NED)”. NCPs who are considered active meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. Has a valid/working letter of cooperation/agreement (LOA/LOC) or memorandum of agreement/understanding (MOA/MOU) with PRF to specify areas of collaboration;
 - b. Is an Implementing Partner of a PEMSEA-led project;
 - c. Organized PEMSEA-related workshops, trainings, or other events from 2021-2022;
 - d. Participated in more than 1 meeting of the EAS Partnership Council (PC) and the expanded meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) from 2021 to 2022.
- 9.3. NCP Activity Status and their respective engagements with PEMSEA were discussed (Table 7).

Table 7. Status of PEMSEA Non-Country Partners as of March 2023

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
Founding Partners				
1	Conservation International (CI)	NED	No expression of interest for collaborations as of February 2023	Apprise new ED of CI on PEMSEA and its advocacies, achievements and current projects Consider possible collaborations to support Blue Carbon Initiative of CI
2	Coastal Management Center (CMC)	NED	none	CMC officers have retired. Propose discussion with Dr. Gil Jacinto and Dr. Chua on status.
3	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)	Active	2020: Proposed collaboration on the development of a joint program under UN DOS on coastal management/hotspot issues identified	Engagement of IOC-WESTPAC is limited to participation in PC Meeting and PEMSEA’s participation in IOC/WESTPAC sessions Explore potential points of collaboration with IOC/WESTPAC vis-à-vis operationalization of SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, participation in EAS Congress 2024, etc.
4	UNDP-GEF Small Grants Program	Active	Possible point of collaboration: PEMSEA to provide capacity development for communities in developing blue economy projects to be	With SGP work being decentralized, future SGP-PEMSEA collaborations must be country-specific.

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
			applied for SGP grant	PRF to discuss with global manager and national coordinators (NC) of SGP on potential points of collaboration (i.e., knowledge exchange, joint workshops/meetings. Etc.)
5	Korea Environment Institute	Active	KEI is considering participating in the 15 th PC Meeting in Vietnam to introduce the KOICA project on the “Improvement for Countermeasures against Marine Pollution caused by oil spills”	<p>In 2020, KEI was in the process of organizational restructuring and had yet to identify a focal for coordination with PEMSEA.</p> <p>The 15th PC meeting may be a good platform to explore more collaborations with KEI in terms of capacity building, webinars/seminars, knowledge exchange and coordination between and among other NCPs and CPs</p>
6	Korea Maritime Institute	Active	2020: Identified Potential collaboration on development of a Coastal Resilience Index for the EAS region and conduct of a corresponding seminar	<p>In 2020, both PEMSEA and KMI agreed to advance cooperation with each other.</p> <p>KMI is preparing the GEO BP Annual symposium in 2023 in Seoul. The symposium will include the use of marine data and</p>

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
				<p>marine spatial management.</p> <p>PRF and KMI are currently exploring possibilities to hold a seminar cum training (CSA project 3) and symposium together.</p>
7	Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI)/Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)	Active	2021 and 2022: assistance to PRF in regional awareness raising and development of Regional Biofouling Management Strategy	Follow up work on operationalizing the Regional Biofouling Strategy
8	Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)/Ocean Policy Research Institute – Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Active	PEMSEA is exploring the possibility to provide support to the OPRI-SPF's International Workshop on Eelgrass and Blue Carbon 2023	<p>Given that a merger was made between OPRF and SPF, OPRI-SPF is not considered an NCP as it is considered a different entity from OPRF, which originally signed the MOU.</p> <p>Scale up collaborative activities between OPRI-SPF and PEMSEA prior to entering into a new LOA</p>
9	Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response, Limited (OSR/EARL)	Active	<p>2022: OSRL provided support to ATSEA-2 on capacity building in oil spill preparedness and response, including conduct of quarterly webinars and a regional exchange (study) visit to OSRL facilities in Singapore</p> <p>Potential areas of</p>	<p>Continued collaboration in capacity building initiatives on oil spill response and preparedness.</p> <p>OSRL has expressed its willingness to support current and upcoming PEMSEA projects,</p>

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
			<p>collaboration for 2023 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of OSRL in ATSEA-2's Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG), ATS Symposium and potential extended collaboration in oil spill preparedness and response initiatives for ATSEA-3 • OSRL to provide slots for PEMSEA in their seminars/workshops • Support to the Marine Plastics Project as OSRL has organized a working group on Plastic Pollution • Support to dissemination and promotion of PEMSEA activities and projects 	<p>where applicable.</p> <p>Explore collaborations in plastic pollution initiatives</p> <p>Increase networking among NCPs and CPs</p>
10	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)	Active	Possible areas of collaboration on water quality monitoring, remote sensing, deoxygenation, and disaster risk reduction and management, and blue carbon through joint meetings, workshops, and shared training resources, among others.	Regular updating between PRF and PML on areas for collaboration (at least once every six months)
11	UNEP- GPA Coordination Office	NED		As of February 2023, UNEP-GPA has yet to identify a focal point for PEMSEA.
12	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)	NED		As of February 2023, YSLME concluded without establishing a regional mechanism.

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
				Per Yinfeng Guo, then Chief Technical Advisor and Project Manager, informed the ED that for follow-on activities, PRF may contact Dr. Chaode Ma, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP China on follow-on activities, cc Andrew Hudson (UNDP HQ) and Joe Padilla (UNDP BRH)
New Partners				
13	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)	Active	<p>Previous collaborations: EAS Congress 2021</p> <p>Upcoming collaborations: ENMAPs (upcoming GEF-funded project with PEMSEA, prodoc being finalized)</p>	<p>Discuss renewal of LOC for the next five years (2023-2027) as the current LOC has expired on December 2021.</p> <p>Discuss more detailed collaborative activities once ENMAPs is approved for funding.</p>
14	International Center for Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS)	Active		<p>Discuss possible collaborations on marine management</p> <p>Engage in discussions on potential collaborations with PEMSEA's new projects or other activities in line with the operationalization of the SDS-SEA IP</p>

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
				2023-2027
15	International Ocean Institute (IOI)	Active	Potential area of collaboration on training and capacity building in contemporary approaches to coastal and ocean management and governance	Discuss potential joint activities or measures for collaboration, i.e., trainings on coastal and ocean management and governance
16	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – Asia Regional Office (IUCN-ARO)	Active	<p>Possible areas of collaboration: Marine Plastics – both IUCN-ARO and PEMSEA have similar activities on marine plastic assessment, particularly hotspot assessment</p> <p>Circular economy – both IUCN-ARO and PEMSEA have similar initiatives on municipal waste management</p> <p>Knowledge exchange – potential interlinkage of existing knowledge platform of IUCN-ARO and the SEA Knowledge Bank of PEMSEA</p> <p>IUCN-ARO was chosen as executing agency of the BOBLME Implementing Phase. It has 5 components: (1) fisheries, EAFM, and IUUF; (2) protected areas and OECM; (3) marine pollution; (4) resilience building, gender, and livelihood development; and (5) governance. In relation to this, ATSEA -2 has similar components and could be an avenue for collaboration/knowledge exchange</p>	<p>Discuss possible entry points for collaboration based on the identified areas.</p> <p>Engage IUCN-ARO in capacity-building initiatives related to SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 as well as PEMSEA projects on Marine Plastics and IRBM</p>

No.	NCP	Category	Areas of Collaboration	Way Forward
17	IPIECA	Active	Training and Capacity Building on oil spilled preparedness or climate change in relation to coastal management	As LOC with IPIECA is only valid until 2021, consider renewing LOC
18	Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)	Active	No specific activities outlined	Discuss with NOWPAP possible areas of collaboration vis-à-vis current PEMSEA projects and operationalization of SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027
19	PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)	Active	PNLG Forum Capacity building on ICM, IRBM, Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Plastics, etc.	Discuss further details on points of collaboration for the year.
20	Korean Maritime Environment Management (KOEM)	Active	Secondment of staff to PRF Capacity building on ICM, IRBM, Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Plastics, etc.	Discuss further details on points of collaboration 2023-2027
21	National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK)	Active	Capacity building on ICM, IRBM, Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Plastics, etc.	Discuss further details on points of collaboration 2023-2027

9.4. Ms. Gonzales highlighted some of the factors affecting engagement, such as changes in leadership, absence of focal persons for PEMSEA-related events, structural reorganization and quick turnover of focal persons, among others.

9.5. She also highlighted the limitations to the engagement of active NCPs, such as lack of regular collaboration during the past three years due to the pandemic.

- 9.6. Proposed measures to increase NCP engagement with PEMSEA include:
- a. Conducting one-on-one meetings with NCPs to reintroduce PEMSEA, its objectives, advocacies and current projects and to discuss entry points for collaboration, especially for NCPs that have new focal persons or changes in leadership;
 - b. Discussing alternative options for collaboration such as consultancy engagement or revenue generating projects for NED NCPs;
 - c. Renewing or development of updated written agreements outlining areas for collaboration;
 - d. Promoting participation in PEMSEA governance events and project-related activities;
- 9.7. She requested guidance from the EC on additional measures to increase the engagement of NCPs, and to decide on the status of NED NCPs.
- 9.8. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted the discussion on the status of non-Country Partners, particularly those who needs to be revisited ad/or re-engaged.

10.0 Other business

- 10.1. Given that the 30th EC meeting was the first governance meeting of the year, the Chair opened the floor for a catch up with his fellow officers on their or their country's respective endeavors related to PEMSEA's advocacies.
- 10.2. The Chair shared the following updates:
- a. Cambodia is finalizing their environmental code which they hope to finish by mid-year.
 - b. They are also developing policy papers on environment and sustainable development that cover strategic directions on the management of the environment and natural resources.
 - c. A Policy document on knowledge materials on climate change, biodiversity, and education is being finalized and will be incorporated in the education system.
 - d. Cambodia has also crafted a position paper on the global treaty on plastic pollution and are in the midst of preparations for their participation in international negotiation conferences.
- 10.3. Dr. Furukawa shared policy and science related updates from Japan:
- a. The Fifth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy 2023-2027 based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy is being finalized and is open for comments until the second week of April. Some scientists have proposed a policy for marine spatial planning as a national strategy.

- b. The Action Plan for Tokyo Bay restoration is being updated for the period of 2023- 2032. While voluntary, the Action Plan serves as an engine for public-private partnership in Tokyo Bay.
 - c. The International research project titled BlueCARES: Comprehensive assessment of the Restoration and Ecosystem Services in the Coral Triangle is ending in March. The project illustrated the green and blue ecosystem link and network system implementation for monitoring in Philippines and Indonesia. National and local blue strategies will be composed as an outcome of the project.
 - d. The project titled Coastal Ocean Assessment for Sustainability and Transformation has been initiated since 2020. The first international workshop was conducted in the Philippines in February and the second international workshop will be conducted in November in Japan. This project aims to engage social sectors and scientific systems dynamic modelling for the development of a comprehensive report card system for targeted bays and oceans.
- 10.4. On behalf of the co-Chair, Undersecretary Jonas Leones, Director Al Orolfo of the Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) of DENR presented updates on the Philippines:
- a. The Executive Order establishing the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) in March 2023 was approved. The EO enables the various water management agencies of the DENR to have a collaborative mechanism under the WRMO to implement water programs that will address critical water-related issues. The Office serves as a transitory body under the DENR pending the creation of the Water Resources Department and its main function is to formulate and ensure the effective implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP), which integrates various plans of the different water agencies.
 - b. DENR is closely collaborating with the PRF in the implementation of the IRBM and Marine Plastics ODA Projects.
- 10.5. Dr. Suk-jae Kwon, the Technical Session Co-chair, shared that his position has changed in KIOST from the International Cooperation Center to the Ocean Policy Department. He has also started lectures on environmental fishery economics in Pukyong National University.
- 10.6. Ms. Chen shared some updates on China’s efforts related to PEMSEA:
- a. China’s 14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Issues began implementation in 2021 and upholds the new development philosophy of innovation, coordination, and green development openness and sharing was put into practice to facilitate the international community and promote the peaceful use of the seas and oceans.
 - b. Some progress has been achieved in attaining equitable and efficient utilization of resources, the conservation of living resources and the studied protection and preservation of the marine environment which advocate ecological civilization promoting marine sustainable development.

- c. China has moved further in improving the marine resource exploitation and protection system. Marine spatial planning based on coordinated land and marine development has gradually taken shape.
- d. Eco-based Integrated Coastal Management is continuously improved and marine space use is increasingly refined in travelling waters, islands, coastal lines to match the approaches of their use in specific industries.
- e. Scale and quality of MPAs are both rising, with the mechanism being promoted to combine strict marine protection and efficient utilization of marine resources.
- f. Ecological and Early Warning Monitoring systems are gradually being perfected.
- g. The Blue Carbon program is used to meet the carbon peaking and neutrality goals. These include actions such as the Blue Bay Conservation and restoration, Integrated Management of Coastal lines and mangrove protection and restoration.
- h. China is also making notable progress in marine pollution prevention and treatment. Greater efforts have been accumulated.
- i. Marine technology innovation and public service has been uplifted.
- j. Marine economy has been making high quality progress given its key role in rising people's standards of living
- k. China is also increasing its participation in global ocean governance and international cooperation.

10.7. The Chair thanked the members for their updates.

10.8. With no other business raised, Ms. Cruzada then presented the schedule for the development and circulation of the 30th EC meeting proceedings as well as the review and approval of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement of the PRF.

10.9. In line with the circulation of the proceedings, Dr. Furukawa suggested that the PRF can gauge the interest of inactive NCPs through the 15th EAS PC Meeting. A compilation of the EC and PC meetings could be sent to these inactive NCPs to inform them about updates and current efforts of PEMSEA.

10.10. The Chair thanked Dr. Furukawa for his suggestion, and the PRF ED appreciated the suggestion. The Chair then thanked the EC members for a productive discussion and participation in the meeting.

11.0 Closing Remarks

11.1. Dir. Orolfo delivered the closing remarks was on behalf of the Co-chair who was unable to attend the meeting.

- 11.2. The Co-Chair expressed his appreciation for the significant progress in the discussions that the EC raised during the meeting, particularly in proposing feasible solutions to improving the PRF operations as well as PEMSEA as a network.
- 11.3. Many important issues were tackled, such as improving the tracking and transparency in monitoring the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 through the development of an M&E Plan and enhancing PRF operations by identifying financial sustainability strategies, improving quality management systems, and promoting enhanced engagement with non-Country Partners, among others.
- 11.4. He commended the successful launch of the IRBM project and the developments in the Marine ODA Plastics Project.
- 11.5. With coastal marine management being emphasized as a critical aspect in sustainable development and addressing the climate crisis in internal conventions, he emphasized the importance of PEMSEA's role in supporting its Country Partners in the international arena.
- 11.6. On Ms. Gonzales' bid to run for another term as Executive Director, The Co-Chair expressed his support to extend her contract, given her extended experience and leadership in implementing several multi grant projects.
- 11.7. Lastly, he commended the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the meeting and expressed his hope that the active participation of the EC will continue in future meetings. He looked forward to seeing the EC members in Hanoi during the 15th EAS PC Meeting.
- 11.8. The Chair thanked Dir. Orolfo for sharing the Co-Chairs remarks and adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm (UTC+8).
- 11.9. **Conclusion:** The Committee noted the schedules for the review and circulation of the 30th EC Meeting Proceedings as well as the review and approval of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement.

ANNEX 1. Agenda of the meeting

Item	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document
1	Opening of the meeting and approval of the meeting agenda Group photo Updates/Catch up with EC members	Dr. Vann Monyneath Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EAS PC)	EC/30/DOC/01b
2	Development of the M&E System for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027	Mr. Benigno Balgos M&E Consultant	EC/30/DOC/02
3	PEMSEA Governance Meetings <i>(Originally Agenda Item 6.0)</i>	Ms. Abi Cruzada Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	EC/30/DOC/06a EC/30/DOC/06b
4	Selection and Appointment of the PRF Executive Director <i>(Originally Agenda Item 9.0)</i>	Ms. Abi Cruzada Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	EC/30/DOC/09
5	Status of Ongoing and Upcoming PEMSEA Projects <i>(Originally Agenda Item 3.0)</i>	Ms. Nancy Bermas Regional Project Manager, IRBM Dr. Won-tae Shin Regional Project Manager, Marine Plastics Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto Regional Project Manager, ATSEA-2 Ms. Nadine Bresemann Regional Project Manager, IKI Blue Solutions	EC/30/DOC/03
6	Financial Sustainability of PEMSEA <i>(Originally Agenda Item 4.0)</i>	Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	EC/30/DOC/04
7	Review and Updating of the PEMSEA Quality Management System <i>(Originally Agenda Item 5.0)</i>	Renato Cardinal QMS consultant	EC/30/DOC/05
8	International Advocacies or Promotions of PEMSEA including 2023 PEMSEA Major Events <i>(Originally Agenda Item 7.0)</i>	Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	EC/30/DOC/07

Item	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document
9	Status of Non-Country Partners <i>(Originally Agenda Item 8.0)</i>	Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	EC/30/DOC/08
10	Other business	Ms. Abi Cruzada Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	
11	Closing Remarks	Usec. Jonas Leones Co-Chair, EAS Partnership Council	

Annex 2. Meeting documents, presentation and group photo

Meeting Documents: <https://tinyurl.com/EC-30-Meeting-Docs>

Presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/EC-30-Presentation-File>

Group Photo: <https://tinyurl.com/EC-30-Meeting-Photos>

ANNEX 3. List of Participants

Name	Designation
EAS PC Officers and Co-Chairs	
<i>Dr. Vann Momyneath</i>	EAS PC Chair
<i>Ms. Chen Danhong</i>	Intergovernmental Session Chair
<i>Dr. Keita Furukawa</i>	Technical Session Chair
<i>Mr. Le Dai Thang</i>	Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair
<i>Dr. Suk-jae Kwon</i>	Technical Session Co-Chair
PEMSEA Resource Facility	
<i>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</i>	Executive Director
<i>Ms. Shinji Kim</i>	Head of Planning and Partnership Development
<i>Ms. Nadine Bresemann</i>	Head of Maritime Transport
<i>Ms. Nancy Bermas</i>	Regional Project Manager, IRBM
<i>Dr. Won-tae Shin</i>	Regional Project Manager, Marine Plastics ODA
<i>Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto</i>	Regional Project Manager, ATSEA-2
<i>Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise</i>	Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist, ATSEA-2
<i>Ms. Abi Cruzada</i>	Secretariat Coordinator
<i>Ms. Maida Aguinaldo</i>	Training and Capacity Development Officer
<i>Ms. Mary Anne dela Peña</i>	Finance Specialist
<i>Mr. Renato Cardinal</i>	QMS Consultant
<i>Mr. Benigno Balgos</i>	M&E Consultant
<i>Mr. Arsenio Dacaymat, Jr.</i>	IT Assistant
<i>Ms. Adi Cayaban</i>	Executive Assistant
<i>Ms. Elsie Merina</i>	Program and Admin Associate
Observers	
<i>Mr. Seyla Sok</i>	Chief of Coordination, Policy Office, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
<i>Dir. Al Orolfo (EAS PC Co-Chair's representative)</i>	Director, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS), DENR

Name	Designation
<i>Ms. Jeslina Gorospe</i>	Chief, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS), DENR
<i>Dr. Wang Shouqiang</i>	Program Director, China PEMSEA Center
<i>Ms. Zhu Xiaotong</i>	Project Assistant, China PEMSEA Center