



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH EXPANDED MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

**29 November 2022**



Partnerships in  
Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia

## 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded Meeting of PEMSEA's Executive Committee (EC)

29 November 2022, 2 PM – 5 PM (UTC+8)

### **PROCEEDINGS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- i. The 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded PEMSEA EC Meeting was held in hybrid mode on 29 November 2022. The face-to-face component was held at the DENR-BMB Training Center in Quezon City, Philippines whereas the online component was organized through Zoom. It was participated by the members of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council (PC), to wit:
  - Members of the EC, specifically the Council Chair and Council Co-Chair, Intergovernmental Session Chair and Co-Chair, and Technical Session Chair of the EAS PC and the Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF);
  - 10 PEMSEA country partners, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam;
  - Five PEMSEA non-country partners, the International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas Center (EMECS), Ipieca, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG); and
  - Representatives from the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC).
- ii. PRF served as the secretariat of the meeting.
- iii. The supporting documents can be found in the Annexes:
  - Annex 1: agenda of the meeting;
  - Annex 2: links to the meeting documents, presentation material, recording, and photos; and
  - Annex 3: list of participants.

#### **COUNCIL SESSION**

##### **1.0 Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions (EC/29/DOC/01d)**

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 9:05 AM (UTC+8). The Council Chair of the EAS PC, Dr. Vann Monyneath, welcomed the participants and thanked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines for hosting the PRF for the past 29 years and for lending one of their training centers to PEMSEA as the venue for the EC Meeting.

- 1.2 The meeting was an opportune time to fulfill the commitments of the EAS region through the adoption of the 2023-2027 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in support of the Ocean Decade of Action, following the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) moving towards the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- 1.3 He apprised the meeting about the approval of the UNDP/GEF Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Project<sup>1</sup> by the Governing Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This 5-year, six-country project will start in January 2023 with the objective of applying the *source-to-sea* approach in select river basins in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam to reduce pollution and protect ecosystem services. This will be the first regional initiative in Southeast Asia to address common water resource issues at the basin and sub-basin levels based on the successes and lessons of implementing the integrated coastal management (ICM) approach. This will also be the first major project after several years where Malaysia will be engaged as a project partner of PEMSEA and create IRBM learning centers in the region that complement the existing ICM learning centers. This project will also be one of the key programs that will be implemented under the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 1.4 Ms. Karen See, the Secretariat Coordinator of PRF, presented the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions.
- 1.5 **Action requested from the Council Session:** To review/approve the agenda.
- 1.6 **Agreement:** The agenda was approved as presented.

## **2.0 Membership in the PNLC (EC/29/DOC/02a)**

- 2.1 Ms. See of PRF presented an overview of the newly designated PEMSEA Learning Centers in 2022, namely Catanduanes State University (CatSU) and De La Salle University – Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) of the Philippines.
- 2.2 She shared that the applications of these two universities were assessed based on the following criteria:
- Number of staff with relevant knowledge and skills;
  - Presence of degree programs on coastal and marine science/management;
  - Presence of relevant programs and projects at the local and national levels such as provision of training and technical support; and
  - Availability of facilities and equipment for training.

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<sup>1</sup> Full project title is “Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the EAS through the Implementation of IRBM in ASEAN Countries.”

- 2.3 CatSU is a higher education institute based in Catanduanes Province. They have extensive experience on natural resource assessment, ecosystem restoration (particularly coral reefs and mangroves), indigenous resource knowledge, fisheries, aquaculture, climate change and disaster risk reduction and management from the perspective of a vulnerable island province.
- 2.4 They offer two degree programs, namely Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Bachelor of Science in Fisheries.
- 2.5 Their faculty members have been involved in several projects of national and local governments such as the Philippine National Aquasilviculture Program (PNAP), Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Program (SCREMP), and other coastal wetland-related research and aquaculture initiatives and have published numerous papers on coastal and resource management in local, national, and regional symposiums/journals. Their staff are also members in various associations/councils on biology, fisheries, education, and research at the national and regional levels.
- 2.6 Furthermore, the university has established the Catanduanes Marine Multispecies Fish Hatchery Research and Production Center and Center for Island Climate Change Solutions.
- 2.7 DLSU-D is a higher education institute based in Cavite Province. The university has an established track record in the fields of biology; chemistry; biotechnology; environmental planning, modeling, and monitoring; environmental impact assessment; pollution control; circular economy; climate change; and development communication.
- 2.8 They offer three degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an Environmental Science track, a Master of Science in Environmental Science, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biology.
- 2.9 Their faculty members have developed textbooks and workbooks on environmental science and served as resource speakers on environmental education, climate change, blue carbon, waste management, sustainable lifestyle, biodiversity, and biotechnology. They have been engaged in several projects in the Philippines and abroad, to wit: the recently concluded project of PEMSEA entitled “ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO),” Solid Waste Collection Efficiency of Local Government Units near Manila Bay (a USAID-funded research), and Green Philippines Islands of Sustainability (GPIoS) Project of the European Union.
- 2.10 Their experts have also assumed leadership positions in the Philippines Network of Educators on Environment, Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines, and Pollution Control Association of the Philippines. They are also members in local, national, and global associations on environmental planning, wildlife conservation, pollution, science, and education.

- 2.11 Furthermore, the university has established an Environmental Resources Management Center.
- 2.12 To facilitate the induction of these universities as members of the PNLC, Dr. Ramon Felipe Sarmiento, the Vice President for Research, Extension and Production Affairs of CatSU and Dr. Cristina Salibay, the Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research of DLSU-D, signed the PNLC Charter on behalf of their respective institutions.
- 2.13 On behalf of CatSU, Dr. Sarmiento greeted the participants and conveyed their gratitude towards PEMSEA for the opportunity. Their membership in the PNLC will further build their capacity in supporting the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and environment in Catanduanes where the seas are a major source of livelihood. He mentioned that CatSU has the capacity and resources to assist PEMSEA in implementing the SDS-SEA and that the university is pleased to contribute to the building of a roster of ICM trainers at the local, national, and global scales and provide technical support to the national and local governments in the Philippines in their endeavors to advance the implementation of ICM.

On behalf of DLSU-D, Dr. Salibay greeted the participants and expressed their appreciation towards PEMSEA for their induction as a member of the PNLC. The university accepts the designation with full commitment to support the objectives of the network. She apprised the meeting about the existing long-term research roadmap of DLSU-D where one of the targets concerns the management of coastal and marine areas where many marginalized groups and fisherfolk reside. DLSU-D is committed to reach out to these communities through education, research, and extension with the view of molding them as stewards of the environment. She remarked that the university's involvement with PEMSEA has given them additional opportunities to contribute towards existing research on water resource management. The joint research on plastic pollution in Imus River in Cavite under the ASEANO project provided the local government with baseline information. In the near future, the university plans to pursue further collaboration on plastic waste management, including studies on unnecessary single use plastics and their impacts on the waters of Cavite Province. She emphasized the need for programs to regulate the use and disposal of plastic waste, given that plastic manufacturing is a large industry in the Philippines.

### **3.0 PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027 (EC/29/DOC/03)**

- 3.1 Dr. Yonvitner, the President of the PNLC and Director of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of IPB University, Indonesia, presented the 5-year operational plan of the network that was approved by the members of the PNLC in November 2022.
- 3.2 He apprised the meeting first about the PNLC, a consortium of higher education and research institutes that provide academic training, extension services, policy advice, and other forms of technical assistance and capacity-building to help facilitate the implementation of the SDS-SEA at the regional, national, and local levels. The network consists of 17 Learning Centers and 4 Regional Centers of Excellence, each with their own

thematic areas of expertise such as coral reef research, marine protected area management, climate change adaptation, and sustainable coastal development. The PNLC is represented in 9 countries in the EAS region, namely Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

- 3.3 PEMSEA has been engaging many of these institutes as Learning Centers or RCOEs since 2008 through individual Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs). To maximize the potential and create synergies from the linkages between these institutes, PEMSEA established a consortium of these institutions in 2015 during the EAS Congress in Da Nang, Viet Nam and formalized this network in 2021 through the signing of the PNLC Charter at the EAS Congress hosted by the Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia. The Charter specified the ground rules on membership and operations of the Network.
- 3.4 One of the stipulations of the Charter is the development of a 5-year operational plan for the consortium within a year of the signing of the PNLC Charter. The operational plan aims to identify the strategic areas of interest in terms of education, training, research, and project-related pursuits of the PNLC as well as the initial funding requirements, resource mobilization initiatives, and cost-effective measures for supporting the operations of the consortium. This will be reviewed and refined on an annual basis by the General Assembly of the PNLC starting in 2023.
- 3.5 The three target outcomes under this operational plan include:
1. **Maximized engagement of the regional knowledge hubs for ocean and coasts** such as the Seas of East Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) and communities of practice. While these hubs are already in existence, their use as online, interactive learning platforms need active participation from PNLC members as users and contributors.
  2. **Implementation of integrated management approaches and review of the management effectiveness of ICM.**
  3. **Implementation of targeted empirical research that provide scientific data, tools, and methodologies to aid decision-making processes in support of SDS-SEA implementation.** Examples include establishing a reporting system on the state of river basin management in East Asia, applying ICM tools in transboundary marine protected areas in the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and developing a harmonized template for greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the maritime sector in East and Southeast Asia through the upcoming projects of PEMSEA and other initiatives in the pipeline.
- 3.6 This operational plan builds upon and contributes to key international and regional commitments for capacity-building and knowledge management such as the:
- SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;
  - UN Sustainable Development Goals;
  - Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
  - Paris Agreement;
  - Glasgow Climate Pact; and
  - UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

3.7 The operational plan has three components, each with their own target activities.

1. The **governance component** focuses on the development of relevant management structures and policies, conduct of regular organizational meetings, and the evaluation and reporting of progress made by the PNLC in relevant platforms such as the annual EAS PC Meetings. Several of the activities under this component are recurring. Most have already been completed or initiated as of today. For the year 2022, the PNLC has:

- Elected its new set of officers, who will lead the network for a 3-year term;
- Conducted the first two General Assemblies;
- Developed the PNLC Code of Conduct and the operational plan for 2022-2027;
- Drafted the annual work plan for 2023;
- Provided technical inputs in the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027; and
- Reported its plans, programs, and accomplishments to the EAS PC.

Dr. Yonvitner also relayed the decision of his home institution, IPB University, to host the PNLC Secretariat from the year 2024 onward to the meeting. His university is currently working with PRF, as the Interim PNLC Secretariat, on the transition process to facilitate the turnover of secretariat role. He looks forward to working with PEMSEA in a greater capacity for the benefit of coastal communities and environment in the EAS region.

2. The **programs component** of the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027 has the following target and regularly-occurring activities:

- Provision of technical support in the certification of ICM systems based on the ICM Code of PEMSEA and global standards for quality and environmental management systems where needed;
- Initiation/implementation of projects that support ICM/SDS-SEA; and
- Organization of or participation in capacity development and knowledge sharing initiatives such as the Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Events and the triennial EAS Congresses in accordance with the PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025. For this particular activity, emphasis will be given in co-designing, sharing, and translating scientific and traditional forms of knowledge on sustainable coastal and marine management towards more informed laws, policies, and practices.

For the year 2022, the network has made significant progress for the last two target activities under this component.

During this year, the PNLC, PNLG, PRF, and PEMSEA partners have several projects that involve capacity development or knowledge management, particularly on matters concerning fisheries, biofouling, climate change adaptation, ocean acidification, solid waste management, plastic pollution,

chemical contamination, oil spill preparedness and response, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental journalism in East Asia and beyond. Three of these projects are part of the 47 endorsed programs of the UN Decade of Ocean Science. PEMSEA also has an upcoming project and other initiatives in the pipeline that involve capacity development or knowledge management, particularly on matters concerning IRBM, maritime transport, marine litter, and transboundary resource management.

Outside the scope of its projects, PEMSEA has also conducted other training in the past year such as the recently concluded 2022 PNLC Forum.

3. Under the **communications component**, PEMSEA has activated the SEAKB communities of practice and the PNLC subsite under the pemsea.org website.
4. The **partnerships and resource mobilization component** which will be implemented starting 2023 involves:
  - Reviewing/renewing the individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and signing new MOAs where needed during the 5-year period; and
  - Conducting a financial landscape assessment that will serve as the PNLC's guide in mobilizing other potential funding sources for sustaining the operations of the network.

3.8 Dr. Vann thanked Dr. Yonvitner for the updates and noted the decision of IPB University to host the PNLC Secretariat from the year 2024 onward. He looks forward to future discussions to assist the PNLC's role in implementing the SDS-SEA and congratulated CatSU and DLSU-D on their induction as new members of the consortium.

3.9 He then transferred the chairmanship of the meeting to Dr. Keita Furukawa, the Technical Session Chair of the EAS PC.

## TECHNICAL SESSION

### **6.0 SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 (EC/29/DOC/04a, EC/29/DOC/04c)**

6.1 Ms. Nancy Bermas, Senior Programme Manager of PRF, shared the updates on the formulation process of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and an overview of the revised third draft of the plan.

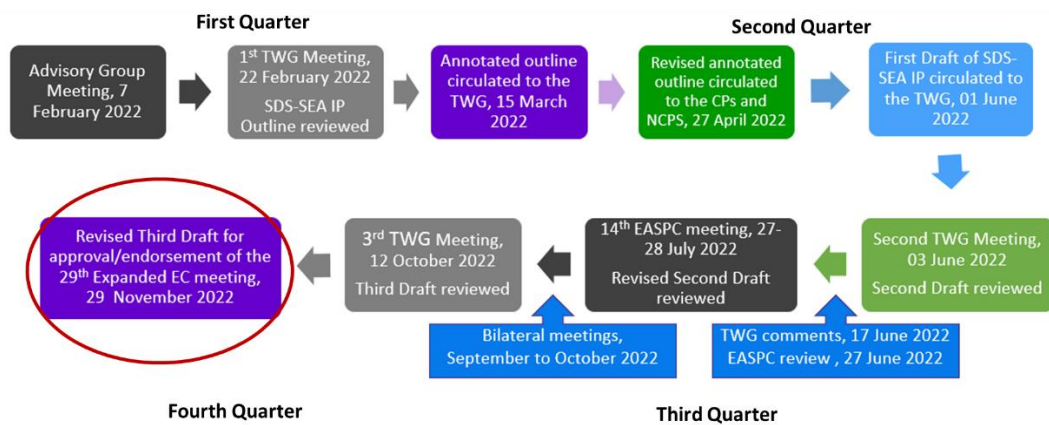
6.2 For context, she shared the evolution of the SDS-SEA since it was first adopted in 2003. The regional framework was supported by an IP covering the period 2012-2016 and was later updated in 2015 in consideration of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and other global and regional commitments. The updated regional strategy was supported by the 2018-2022 IP. The current (draft) IP aims to encapsulate the accomplishments from executing the



previous IPs, the actions needed from 2023 to 2030 (the target year for achieving the SDGs), and other developments relevant to the EAS region.

6.3 The new IP builds on the commitments of PEMSEA partners to these global and regional agreements and their plans of action and serves as a platform for consolidating the achievements and contributions of the EAS Region towards achieving the SDGs. In lieu of forming new obligations, it builds on the existing national plans and commitments and upcoming multilateral and bilateral projects of PEMSEA and outlines actions to pursue PEMSEA’s institutional transformation as a regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation. PRF, as the technical and secretariat arm of PEMSEA, shall monitor and report the progress made in executing this new IP.

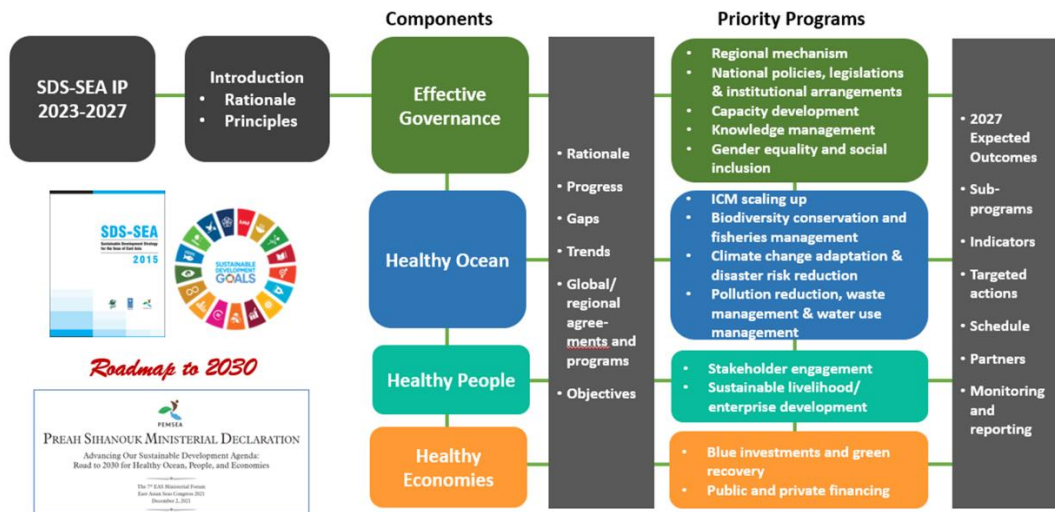
6.4 Ms. Bermas then presented the timeline for preparing the plan since it began in February 2022:



6.5 The development of the plan was guided by the consultations with PEMSEA partners and a technical working group (TWG), headed by an Advisory Group (composed of the EAS PC Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair) and comprised of representatives from select country and non-country partners.

6.6 Similar to its predecessor, the plan is based on the principles of sustainable development, integration, coordination, adaptive management, and ecosystem-based management and incorporates relevant activities from national plans and priorities for the next five years (Annex 4).

6.7 The SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 has various elements as illustrated in the framework on page 10:



6.8 The first component, “**Effective Governance,**” serves as the main anchor of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 due to its crosscutting nature. For context in introducing this component, Ms. Bermas explained the governance mechanism or operating modality of PEMSEA. As the governing body of PEMSEA, the EAS PC is composed of the EC and country and non-country partners and is supported by the PRF, PNLG, PNLC, collaborators, regional and national task forces in implementing the SDS-SEA IP. The plan operationalizes the commitments and targets made by country partners in the EAS Ministerial Declarations and other relevant agreements at the regional and global scales. The triennial EAS Congress and the SOC reporting system serve as the monitoring, evaluation, and monitoring mechanisms to gauge the progress made in implementing the IP.

6.9 The effective governance component has the following objectives:

- To continually strengthen ocean and coastal governance at the regional, national, and local levels;
- To raise public awareness;
- To strengthen capacities;
- To incorporate scientific information and inputs into planning, managing, and sustaining healthy and resilient ocean, coasts, and communities; and
- Facilitate gender mainstreaming in governance and management programs.

6.10 This component will support the achievement of SDGs 1 (no poverty), 5 (gender equality), and 17 (partnerships for the SDGs).

6.11 Under this component, the five priority programs and their corresponding subprograms are:

- a. **Regional mechanism:**
  - i. Continued establishment and strengthening of PEMSEA as a self-sustaining organization (e.g., through voluntary contributions from country partners)
  - ii. Preparation/updating of the State of the Ocean and Coasts at the regional and national levels

- iii. Connecting people towards achieving a healthy ocean through various knowledge-sharing platforms such as the EAS Congresses and other ocean-related fora
- b. **National policies, legislations, and institutional arrangements**
  - i. Formulation, adoption and implementation of national ocean policies, legislations, and institutional arrangements
  - ii. Continued mainstreaming of ICM in the legislative agenda and medium-term development plans of national governments
- c. **Capacity development**
  - i. Implementation and updating of the PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025
  - ii. Facilitating the participation of PEMSEA country partners in global and regional initiatives for capacity development - e.g., under the UN Decade of Ocean Science, International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), and IOC/UNESCO Global Training Network on Marine Spatial Planning
- d. **Knowledge management**
  - i. Improved functionality of the SEAKB and linking this platform with other global, regional, and local knowledge hubs such as the IW:LEARN, Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), and Clearing-House Mechanisms in support of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity
  - ii. Development and implementation of a communications and marketing plan and preparation and dissemination of knowledge products in support of this new IP
- e. **Gender equality and social inclusion**

6.12 The second component of the new IP, **“Healthy Ocean,”** aims to reevaluate the management programs by determining areas for improvement in the current initiatives of PEMSEA partners and consider the various recent/ongoing developments at the global level.<sup>2</sup> Its objective is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of coastal and ocean governance at the regional, national, and local levels to achieve healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in priority coastal and marine areas and associated watersheds. This component will support the achievement of SDGs 1 (no poverty), 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water).

6.13 The programs and subprograms of this particular component focus on the implementation and/or updating of existing national action plans in support of **ICM scaling up**;<sup>3</sup> **biodiversity**

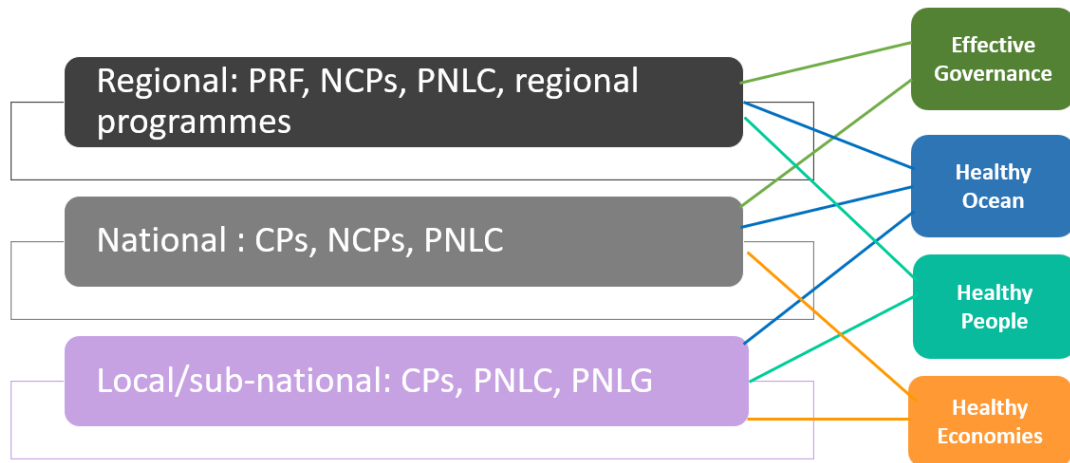
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<sup>2</sup> These include the pending approval of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, updating of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans of country governments, signing of the Glasgow Climate Pact, and ongoing discourse on the development of a global treaty on marine plastic pollution to cite a few examples.

<sup>3</sup> As of December 2020, the EAS region has implemented ICM in 40.4 percent of the region’s coastline, which exceeded the target of Da Nang Compact of 2015 (i.e., 25 percent by 2021).

**conservation and fisheries management; pollution reduction, waste management, and water use management; and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.** They also involve monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the status of execution of these plans as well as promoting partnerships and collaboration as enabling mechanisms for the implementation of these plans. Supporting the proposed targeted actions under ICM scaling up are the implementation of the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 and the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027, certification of ICM systems at the local level, and assessment of the management effectiveness of implementing ICM.

- 6.14 The third component of the new IP, “**Healthy People,**” has two objectives:
- To enhance the participation of stakeholders and communities in the protection, sustainable use, and management of coastal, ocean, and water resources; and
  - To improve their understanding of the benefits of a healthy ocean in providing food security, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities.
- 6.15 This component will support the achievement of SDGs 1 (no poverty) and 8 (decent work and economic growth). Its priority programs include **inclusivity and engagement of the communities and various stakeholders**, particularly the indigenous peoples, civil society, youth, and other marginalized sectors; and **sustainable livelihood and enterprise development**. In relation to this, PEMSEA has developed a supplemental report to the 2021 Regional State of the Ocean and Coasts report, looking at the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy and the health of the people and the ocean and providing a number of recommended strategic actions from the blue economy perspective to respond to the economic crisis brought by this pandemic.
- 6.16 The fourth component of the new IP, “**Healthy Economies,**” has two objectives:
- To accelerate blue investments to ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems and their resources; and
  - To support the green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs, livelihood, and enterprises within ecological limits towards sustainable economic development.
- 6.17 It is guided by the [Changwon Declaration](#) where members agreed on the definition for *blue economy* for the EAS region and builds on the steps that PEMSEA has taken in the assessment of ocean economy and identification of investment opportunities for blue economy development as manifested in the development of the Regional and National State of the Ocean and Coasts reports. This component will support the achievement of SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), and 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and has two priority programs, namely: **resilient economic recovery policies that facilitate blue investments and green recovery; and public and private financing.**
- 6.18 All four components of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 will be implemented and monitored at various levels of governance as depicted in the figure on page 13.



- 6.19 The current and upcoming collaborative projects of PRF will contribute to the implementation of this plan.
- 6.20 Following the presentation of Ms. Bermas, Mr. Renato Cardinal, the GESI Consultant of PRF, introduced the draft GESI assessment and action plan of PEMSEA. The GESI assessment analyzed how PEMSEA partners, the PNLG, and the PNLC integrate women and other socially excluded groups in their internal structure and project programming. In particular, it determined which aspects of their operations promoted or hindered social diversity, equity, empowerment, and meaningful participation in the work place. This was based on the survey and desk review done by PRF in consultation with PEMSEA partners and networks. The resulting findings and recommendations from this assessment will be reflected in all components of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 6.21 For the purpose of this IP, PEMSEA defines GESI as the state or condition that affords all individuals with the equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities, and resources regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, religion, nationality, disability, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.
- 6.22 Based on the review of relevant literature, mainstreaming GESI in the sustainable development agenda was reported to have the following benefits:
- Women’s economic empowerment increases productivity, economic diversification, and income equality.
  - Farm yield can increase by 20-30 percent if women had the same access to productive resources as men, which could in turn reduce the number of hunger-stricken individuals in the world by 12-17 percent.
  - The output per worker is higher by 7-18 percent if female entrepreneurs and workers were involved.
  - Increasing employment and leadership opportunities for women increases effectiveness and growth in organizations. Businesses with at least 30 percent women in leadership positions are more profitable by 15 percent.
  - Social inclusion increases productivity in the workplace; diversity can be a source of creativity and innovation.

- People are less likely to face discrimination, thereby increasing their capacity to gain livelihood and contribute to the economy.
- Women elected to local government positions positively affected the provision of services for both men and women.

6.23 The findings also reveal that PEMSEA country partners have already established, amended, and supplemented their respective legal systems in line with the principles of GESI in areas such as politics, economics, labor, education, physical education, health, and family through the passage of laws that provide socioeconomic benefits to senior citizens and persons with disabilities, protect the rights of children, and suppress gender-based violence. The principles of GESI are also embedded in numerous development- and environment-related plans at the national level. In some countries, particularly Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Singapore, ministries have been established to embed gender equality or gender equity in the sustainable development agenda as their primary mandate.

6.24 Mr. Cardinal also shared other good GESI practices in the region:

- **In China:** A gender action plan for a wetland conservation project was developed, focusing on capacity development and economic empowerment to provide women with equal access to the key ecosystems services of wetlands.
- **In Indonesia:**
  - The implementation of the Skills to Succeed (S2S) project helps build the social-emotional skills, growth mindset, and skills related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics of in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly those aged 8-14 years old.
  - In several parts of Indonesia, many women are involved in the business of recycling plastic waste into marketable products such as bags, umbrellas, and decorative flowers.
- **In the Philippines:**
  - The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has been using the Fisheries Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines in the development of its plans and programs.
  - As part of its regular programming, the Philippine Statistics Authority has been issuing a Factsheet on Women and Men in the Philippines, which includes the updated Philippine Core Gender and Development (GAD) Indicators and other statistics relevant to gender equality/equity in the country.
  - To encourage women participation in the project management structure, the Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project has set a target of 30 percent of all recruited staff to be female.
  - The United States Agency for International Development supported a gender-responsive value chain analysis to understand the roles and contributions of women in the fisheries sector of General Santos City.
  - The Saavedra Fisherfolk Association shows an equal number of men and women in their roster of members. This association also has outstanding performance in their coastal management activities such as coastal law

enforcement and enterprise development due to the balanced interests and participation of its male and female members.

- **In Thailand:** The Department of Fisheries formulates plans, projects, and activities on gender equity and conducts extension programs for women involved in the fisheries sector.
- **In Viet Nam:** The Directorate of Fisheries proposed the inclusion of Gender Sensitive Indicators in the long-term plan for their operations.
- **In various countries:**
  - **Cambodia, Philippines, and Thailand:** The Disability and Disasters Project of the University of Sydney, Australia, developed training modules that apprise government officials about the risks of persons with disabilities in the face of disasters.
  - **Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam:** One of the planned interventions of the upcoming UNDP/GEF IRBM Project is the promotion of women participation in business activities across the waste value chain.

6.25 Listed below are some of the key results of the GESI survey involving PEMSEA partners and members of the PNLG and PNLC as respondents:

- 17.4 percent have conducted a GESI assessment in the last three years.
- 21.7 percent collect sex-disaggregated data and have developed a database on marginalized groups.
- 52.2 percent have considered GESI issues in the formulation of their organization's strategic plan.
- 82.6 percent allocate budget for GESI-related activities.
- 43.5 percent have organized GESI-related training or courses in the last three years.
- 57.1 percent have conducted awareness campaigns directed towards women in the waste management sector.
- 90.5 percent replied that their ICM programs promote all-gender participation, leadership, and visibility in the decision-making process.
- 50 percent have implemented community-based adaptation activities that strengthen women's access to resources for sustainable food production, renewable energy, and clean water sources.

6.26 Mr. Cardinal then presented the GESI-related recommendations from the assessment, to wit:

- Integration of GESI in:
  - Development and implementation of national ocean and coastal legislation, policies, institutional arrangements, and programs
  - Guidelines and indicators for conducting the Regional and National State of the Ocean and Coasts reports
  - Methodology for assessing the effectiveness of implementing ICM
  - PNLG Tracking Tool
  - Capacity-building activities (e.g., EAS Congresses)

- Improvement of the SEAKB to include GESI-related knowledge products and services

6.27 The Technical Session was invited to:

- Review/approve the revised third draft of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and the Draft GESI Assessment and Action Plan; and
- Provide relevant documents on GESI-related plans and programs, especially in the coastal and marine sector, that can be incorporated into the GESI Action Plan.

6.28 **Discussion highlights:**

- Dr. Keita Furukawa, the Technical Session Chair, Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, and Ms. Xu Heyun, a Division Director at the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, expressed appreciation towards the members of the EAS PC, the TWG on the SDS-SEA IP, and the EC for their active participation and inputs in refining the draft SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. They also thanked the PRF for drafting the plan and facilitating the discussions and revisions of the draft.
- Dr. Furukawa underscored the importance of the plan in bridging the global agenda and local actions on coastal and marine resource governance.
- On behalf of the Philippine Government, Undersecretary Teh approved the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. She emphasized that the approval is a testament of commitment of the participants as country and non-country partners of PEMSEA. She also expressed the Philippines' long-term commitment to PEMSEA in supporting the operationalization of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 towards achieving a blue economy and that the plan can help facilitate the efforts of the EAS region in offsetting carbon footprint based on the discussions made on blue carbon trading during the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. The plan can also help facilitate long-term partnerships towards achieving a sustainable ocean and coastal environment. As a crucial component of this IP, the implementation of the ICM approach, State of the Coasts reporting system, gender mainstreaming, and knowledge management contributes to PEMSEA's holistic approach in achieving a healthy ocean, people, and economies for the region. In support of the current and upcoming SDS-SEA IPs, PRF and DENR have undertaken several supporting initiatives in the Philippines, to wit:
  - Assessment of Coastal and Marine Initiatives in the Philippines, covering foreign-assisted projects that were implemented in 2008-2020;
  - Development of recommendations to support the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter at the national level and select sites in Metro Manila;
  - EU/GIZ Ship Waste Management in Philippine Ports; and
  - IGES-PRF climate adaptation project in Guimaras Province.

Undersecretary Teh inquired how PEMSEA aims to translate the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 into national-level actions to support the implementation of this IP.



Dr. Furukawa thanked the Philippine Government for their question, comments, and strong commitment in relation to the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and was pleased to hear the cited areas of collaboration.

Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the Executive Director of PRF, in response to Undersecretary Teh's question, stated that the PRF will develop an operational plan in 2023 as a guide for countries in translating the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 to national-level policies and actions. The governments of Indonesia, through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, have expressed interest in translating the SDS-SEA IP into a national counterpart with ICM as the foundation. In addition, PRF has current and upcoming projects that will support the execution of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 on the ground. Similar to Indonesia and Timor-Leste, PRF offers its support to other country partners that need assistance in translating this IP at the national level.

On behalf of the Government of China, Ms. Xu approved the new IP. She added that the plan considers the current state of the region and the realities of different countries and is expected to guide the future actions of the EAS region in terms of ocean and coastal management, including inter-country cooperation. They are confident to see the outcomes resulting from the plan's execution.

**6.29 Conclusion:**

- The Technical Session Chair expressed appreciation towards the members of the EAS PC, the technical working group on the SDS-SEA IP, and the EC for their active participation and inputs in refining the draft SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. They also thanked the PRF for drafting the plan and facilitating the discussions and revisions of the draft.
- The SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 is comprehensive and practical in approach. The plan takes the current state of the region and the individual countries into consideration and can help facilitate inter-country cooperation in the region. It is important to bridge the global agenda and local actions on coastal and marine resource governance.
- The approval of the plan is a testament of commitment of the participants as country and non-country partners of PEMSEA. The SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 can help facilitate long-term partnerships towards achieving a sustainable ocean and coastal environment.
- As a crucial component of this IP, the implementation of the ICM approach, State of the Coasts reporting system, gender mainstreaming, and knowledge management contributes to PEMSEA's holistic approach in achieving a healthy people, ocean, and economy for the region.

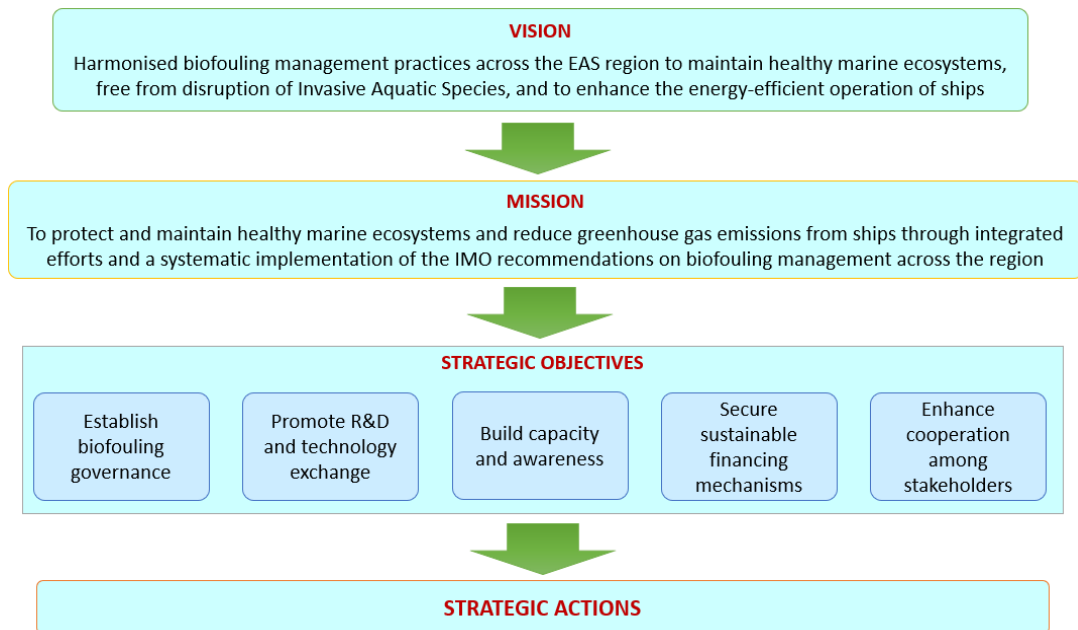
**6.30 Agreements:**

- The revised third draft of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, including the draft recommendations on mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in the sustainable development of the coasts and ocean of the EAS region, was approved for implementation.

- PRF will develop an operational plan as a guide for countries in translating the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 to national-level policies and actions.

## **7.0 Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management in the EAS Region (EC/29/DOC/05)**

- 7.1 Dr. Won-Tae Shin, the Biofouling Consultant of PRF, presented the Draft Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management in the EAS Region, including the rationale and process in formulating the draft strategy.
- 7.2 Biofouling refers to the gradual accumulation of water-borne species on submerged structures. It can contribute to corrosion and increased weight of these structures or decreased speed of moving parts, resulting in increased operational costs and carbon emissions within the maritime sector. Furthermore, many of these water-borne species, otherwise known as invasive aquatic species, can threaten the health of the world's ocean as they can attach themselves to shipping hulls and other mobile infrastructure. This process allows them to enter new environments and threaten the ecosystem dynamics of local marine biodiversity by competing with native organisms for limited resources. Ballast water from ships, biofouling in submerged mobile marine structures, and aquaculture are the main sources of unintentional transfer of these non-indigenous species.
- 7.3 To date, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has two conventions to help address biofouling: the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships and the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. To improve the management of biofouling further, IMO developed the GloFouling Partnerships Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GEF in 2019. This six-year global project focuses on the implementation of the IMO's guidelines on the control and management of ship biofouling and engages PEMSEA as the regional coordinating organization (RCO) for East Asia. As RCO, PEMSEA has established a Regional Task Force (RTF) consisting of experts from the research and academe sector in the region to help draft and review a Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management in the EAS Region and organized awareness raising seminars on biofouling considering the lack of knowledge on this transboundary issue.
- 7.4 The regional strategy aims to provide guidance to the countries in East Asia in establishing their respective national strategies and facilitate concerted efforts on biofouling management and has the following elements as presented in the diagram on page 19:



#### 7.5 Strategic actions include:

- **On establishing biofouling governance**
  - Support the establishment of national legal and institutional arrangements
  - Develop a management strategy at the national level
  - Establish a national inter-agency coordinating committee in each country
- **On promoting R&D and technology exchange**
  - Conduct national and regional studies on baseline assessment of invasive aquatic species
  - Exchange information and knowledge on preventing the transfer of invasive aquatic species
  - Develop technologies for biofouling management
  - Exchange and transfer biofouling management technologies within the EAS region
- **On building capacity and awareness**
  - Conduct capacity- and awareness-building activities
  - Establish a regional data hub linked to IMO’s knowledge platform and other similar regional platforms such as the SEAKB
- **On securing sustainable finance mechanisms**
  - Mainstream biofouling management into the national budget
  - Identify opportunities for funding assistance from the multilateral development banks and official development assistance
  - Explore the possibility of developing a regional program for biofouling management within PEMSEA in coordination with other maritime programs
- **On enhancing cooperation among stakeholders**
  - Establish a regional coordinating mechanism for biofouling management through the EAS PC and/or linked to the ASEAN Working Group on Maritime Transport
  - Collaborate with other regional and international organizations

- Monitor and report the progress of implementing the Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management in the EAS Region
- 7.6 Each strategic action is accompanied by indicators, targets, timeframe of implementation, and responsibility centers.
- 7.7 The 2<sup>nd</sup> RTF Meeting held on 23-25 November 2022 reviewed the first draft of the regional strategy. The strategy will also be reviewed by the ASEAN Working Group on Maritime Transport.
- 7.8 **Actions requested from the Technical Session:**
- Review the draft regional strategy and make comments, if any, with a view to endorse the said strategy
  - Recommend experts to consult on the draft in their respective countries, especially if they have not submitted any representatives to the RTF
- 7.9 **Discussion highlights**
- The Technical Session Chair and Undersecretary Teh of the Philippines thanked the PRF for shepherding the discussions, direction, and content of the draft regional strategy that were discussed by a regional task force participated by PEMSEA country partners and/or ASEAN members.
  - Undersecretary Teh underscored the importance of harmonizing actions on biofouling management through the adoption of this strategy considering the transboundary effects of invasive aquatic species. She commended PEMSEA's role as an RCO for the Glofouling Partnerships Project. She also acknowledged the efforts of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines as the lead partner country of the project in issuing policy instruments and establishing an inter-agency committee to help improve the response of the national government in addressing this shared regional issue. She added that the Government of the Philippines supports the draft regional strategy.
- 7.10 **Conclusion:**
- The Technical Session thanked the PRF for shepherding the discussions, direction, and content of the draft regional strategy.
  - It is crucial to harmonize actions on biofouling management through the adoption of this regional strategy considering the transboundary effects of invasive aquatic species. The Philippine Government commended PEMSEA's role as an RCO for the Glofouling Partnerships Project and acknowledged the efforts of MARINA as the lead partner country of the project in issuing policy instruments and establishing an inter-agency committee to help improve the response of the national government in addressing this shared regional issue.
- 7.11 **Agreement:** The draft regional strategy was noted by the Technical Session as presented. As agreed with the Technical Session Chair, please note that the secretariat will pursue

feedback on the actions requested from the members of the Technical Session by 14 December 2022.

- 7.12 Dr. Furukawa then transferred the chairmanship of the meeting to Dr. Vann for the continuation of the Council Session.

## **COUNCIL SESSION**

### **8.0 Other business**

- 8.1 Mr. Thomas Bell, a Programme Manager of the PRF, presented the ASEANO component of the SEAKB <http://aseano.seaknowledgebank.org/>. The SEAKB is an interactive online repository of data and information on various coastal and marine issues and initiatives in the EAS region for the benefit of a wide range of users from technical experts to policy-makers and the public. This was recently expanded to include the communication and knowledge products resulting from the recently concluded ASEANO Project.
- 8.2 Ms. Gonzales of PRF introduced the incoming staff of the secretariat.
- 8.3 Beginning in January 2023, Ms. Shinji Kim will serve as the new Head of Planning and Partnership Development of the PRF, replacing Mr. Won-Bae Kim. She held various leadership roles concerning strategy and data planning, marine development and ecology, and ports management at the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of RO Korea. Previously, she worked with the Ministry of Land Transport and Maritime Affairs of RO Korea specializing in intelligent transport systems, road environment, spatial information, and housing funds. Ms. Kim has a Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield of the United Kingdom, a Bachelor of Law degree from Korea National Open University, and a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Korea University. She will pursue her new position in PRF as a seconded officer from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of RO Korea, one of the country partners of PEMSEA.
- 8.4 Ms. Abigail Fiona Cruzada will serve as the new Secretariat Coordinator, replacing Ms. Karen See in January 2023. Ms. Cruzada was a former Executive Assistant II and Development Management Officer III at the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, Learning Manager at the Development Academy of the Philippines, and University Research Associate II at the Institute of Biology of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from UP Diliman and is currently in the process of completing her Master of Arts degree in Development Studies at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.
- 8.5 On behalf of PEMSEA, Ms. Gonzales thanked Mr. Kim for his contributions, particularly in the development of partnerships and projects to help finance PEMSEA's transition and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ms. See for improving the professional

services of the PRF as the secretariat of PEMSEA and heading the organization of the EAS Congress 2021.

- 8.6 As outgoing Secretariat Coordinator, Ms. See thanked Ms. Gonzales and PEMSEA for the opportunity to contribute to PEMSEA’s objectives. She then presented the schedule for developing and circulating the proceedings of the 29<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting as follows:

Date	Next steps
December 1	PRF to send the draft conclusions and recommendations from the meeting to the EAS PC for their review
December 5	Deadline for PC to submit their feedback on the draft conclusions and recommendations and their evaluation of the meeting ( <a href="https://www.tinyurl.com/EC29-Feedback">https://www.tinyurl.com/EC29-Feedback</a> ) <sup>4</sup> to PRF
December 7	PRF to send the draft proceedings to PC for their review
December 14	Deadline for PC to submit their feedback on the draft proceedings and feedback or comments on the actions requested on the draft Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management for the EAS Region
December 15	PRF to circulate the final proceedings to PC

*Schedule revised as of 1 December 2022*

## 9.0 **Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions**

- 9.1 Dr. Vann congratulated the members of the EAS PC on the outputs and decisions that were accomplished during the course of the Council and Technical Sessions, notably the approval of the SDS-SEA 2023-2027. He thanked the members for their actively participation in the deliberations and preparation of the plan.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION**

### 10.0 **Adoption of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session (EC/29/DOC/08)**

- 10.1 As the Intergovernmental Session Chair, Ms. Chen Danhong presented the agenda of the session.

- 10.2 **Action requested from the Intergovernmental Session:** To review/approve the agenda.

- 10.3 **Agreement:** The agenda was approved as presented.

<sup>4</sup> This evaluation is being undertaken as part of PRF's Quality Management System and was instituted as a regular process for EC Meetings for the purpose of improving the services of PRF as the secretariat of these meetings.

## 11.0 **2022-2023 work plan and budget of the PRF (EC/29/DOC/09)**

11.1 On behalf of the PRF, Ms. Gonzales presented the updates on the implementation of the secretariat's work plan and budget for 2022-2023 as approved by the EAS PC during its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting on July 2022.

11.2 PRF has three objectives for this two-year period, to wit:

1. Secure PEMSEA's financial and operational sustainability between USD 1-2 million annually;<sup>5</sup>
2. Ensure the complete delivery of the 2022 component of the adjusted SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and operationalize the first year of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027; and
3. Secure strategic partnerships and other high profile collaborative activities.

11.3 Regarding the **first objective**, PRF managed to secure a total revenue of USD 1.96 million in 2022 and is expecting to receive an estimated total of USD 5.73 million in 2023. Fund sources during this two-year timeframe include country contributions and multilateral and bilateral grants. For 2023, these grants include projects in the pipeline, specifically:

- **The official development assistance from RO Korea on combatting marine litter in the Philippines and Timor-Leste.** PRF is currently waiting for the approval of the National Assembly of RO Korea for this project. The project is envisioned to start next year.
- **ASEANO Phase 2.** The project was approved by the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment; however, the funder, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, plans to conduct first a terminal evaluation of ASEANO Phase 1 to further refine the goals and activities of Phase 2.
- **ATSEA Phase 3.** The concept proposal is under development for review and approval of UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub who has offered to continue as the project's implementing agency. The project will be tabled at the 8<sup>th</sup> replenishment cycle of GEF.
- **Ocean Investment Facility.** PRF will conduct bilateral discussions with country partners to resume the exploratory discussions on the establishment of this funding facility.

11.4 Positive movement is expected in terms of country contributions. PRF is currently developing a multi-year cost-sharing agreement (CSA) with Cambodia. Viet Nam is currently conducting internal review and consultations on facilitating a CSA with PEMSEA.

11.5 Regarding the **second objective**, particularly the completion of targets under the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022, Ms. Gonzales reported that majority of the targets were met as indicated in the matrix on page 24.

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<sup>5</sup> Normally, the annual target is USD 2-3 million. This was scaled down to USD 1-2 million considering the budget priorities of PEMSEA country partners during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS		
Biodiversity Conservation	Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	Pollution Reduction and Waste Management
MPA/MPA networking Migratory marine species Blue carbon/green infrastructure	Vulnerable/hazard risks to coastal communities and economies Sustainable Cities Green ports/green shipping	Pollution/nutrient management Integrated waste management, plastics management, circular economy Integrated river basin management (source-to-sea approach)
PRIORITY GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS		
Ocean Governance and Strategic Partnerships	Knowledge Management and Capacity building	Blue Economy Investments and Sustainable Financing
National ocean policies, institutional arrangements, and legislation State of the Coasts reporting system Enhanced access to financing for SDS-SEA IP Enabling partnerships and networks	Regional knowledge hub for ocean and coasts Regional training and technical support/services Targeted research projects	Ocean Investment Facility and Fund Pipeline of investable blue economy projects (IKI project preparation) Public-private partnerships/business sector working examples/templates

**Green:** Programs where targets were met

**Orange:** In-progress

**Red:** Initiatives that were put on hold

11.6 Ms. Gonzales reported the following accomplishments in line with the third objective of the 2022-2023 work plan:

- The State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP) of City University of Hong Kong was redesignated as an RCOE in Marine Pollution and inducted as a member of the PNLC.
- CatSU and DLSU-D were designated as PEMSEA Learning Centers and inducted as additional members of the PNLC.
- The province of Gorontalo in Indonesia and the National Ocean Technology Center of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China joined the PNLC as its 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> member, respectively.

11.7 The following milestones are expected in 2023:

- Anticipated start of several projects (i.e., IRBM, Blue Solutions, and ODA from RO Korea)
- More diverse funds considering the bilateral grants from Germany, Norway, and RO Korea assuming all projects in the pipeline are approved
- On the IRBM Project:
  - Signing of partnership cooperation agreement between PEMSEA and UNDP
  - Signing of MOA between PEMSEA and Malaysia as a project partner
  - Creation of IRBM Learning centers
  - Start of the development of the State of River Basin Reports, the first of such kind in the EAS region
- Renewal of partnership cooperation agreements between PEMSEA, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Indonesia, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), and ASEAN Secretariat for ASEAN Phase 2
- Signing of partnership cooperation agreement between PEMSEA and IMO for the Blue Solutions Project and a similar agreement between PEMSEA and MOF for the ODA from RO Korea once these projects are approved



- Preparation of a draft regional governance mechanism for Arafura and Timor Seas (target approval during a ministerial forum between Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste in 2024)
- Resumption of face-to-face training (e.g., on marine debris, citizen science, seawater quality analysis) with non-country partners from RO Korea
- Stronger collaboration with PEMSEA Learning Centers: IPB University (as future host of the PNLC Secretariat), SKLMP (through regional training programs on marine pollution), and other partners (e.g., Coastal and Ocean Management Institute of Xiamen University)
- Continuation of face-to-face learning exchange among members of the PNLG
- Possible grant from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on technology, trade, and environmental challenges in the coastal and marine sector
- Possible joint activity with the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) on marine pollution or nature-based solutions

11.8 Ms. Gonzales also presented the next steps with regard to the implementation of the 2022-2023 work plan of PRF:

- **For PRF:**
  - Initiate the recruitment process of new staff and rationalization of existing staff in consideration of the upcoming projects.
  - Review and finalize the revised procurement guidelines of PRF to accommodate the acquisition of necessary technologies and equipment for select projects.
  - Review existing MOAs and discuss potential arrangements with identified prospective partners and donors.
- **For country partners:**
  - Clarify the engagement and communication protocols between PRF, the national focal points of PEMSEA, and the project focal points in terms of regular PEMSEA operations and specific project activities to avoid confusion and duplication of roles and ensure active participation of country partners where needed.

11.9 **Actions requested from the Intergovernmental Session:**

- Provide feedback, comments, and/or questions on the shared status report.
- Country partners to respond to the clarificatory question.

11.10 **Discussion highlights:**

- The Intergovernmental Session Chair and Undersecretary Teh of the Philippines thanked Ms. Gonzales for the clear and comprehensive report.
- Ms. Xu of China inquired if the recruitment of project staff is open to participating countries only. On behalf of the Government of China, she expressed the country's interest in contributing towards the upcoming projects of PEMSEA. Ms. Chen thanked China for their offer. Ms. Gonzales welcomed the expression of interest and

responded that vacancies are open for international and national recruitment, depending on the requirements of the upcoming projects—the details of which are available on the website, social media accounts, e-bulletins of PEMSEA. PRF shall share the details of these vacancies to the members of the EAS PC and discuss potential areas of collaboration between PEMSEA and China in terms of the upcoming projects (e.g., development of the State of River Basin Reports under the IRBM Project as initially mentioned by the China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center). Mses. Chen and Xu thanked Ms. Gonzales for her response.

- Undersecretary Teh inquired if a training needs assessment will be done in 2023 to identify the priority areas in need of capacity-building support from the PNLC. Ms. Gonzales responded in the affirmative. She also encouraged PEMSEA to have a more active role in the discussions of the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and blue economy and to facilitate more face-to-face meetings of the EC and PC in the future to help ensure a more active engagement among EC members and partners in discussing, planning, and evaluating PEMSEA’s policies and programs, considering the increase in funds in 2023 due to the upcoming projects. She also recommended the designation of alternate focal points among technical staff in country partner agencies who can assist PEMSEA’s national focal points in their respective roles. Mses. Chen and Gonzales noted and welcomed the suggestions of Undersecretary Teh. Ms. Gonzales invited country partners to host the future meetings of the EC and PC. She added that the hybrid EC Meeting is a step towards this direction.

**11.11 Conclusion:**

- The Intergovernmental Session Chair thanked the PRF for the clear, comprehensive status report on their 2022-2023 work plan and budget.
- PRF will conduct a training needs assessment in 2023 to help gauge the areas that require capacity building support from the PNLC.
- PRF will send the details of job vacancies related to PEMSEA projects to the members of the EAS PC.

**11.12 Recommendations:**

- PEMSEA to take a more active role in the discussions of the UNFCCC, UN CBD, and blue economy.
- PEMSEA to facilitate more face-to-face meetings of the EC and PC in the future to help ensure a more active engagement among EC members and partners in discussing, planning, and evaluating PEMSEA’s policies and programs. Country partners are invited to host these future meetings.
- PEMSEA to establish a roster of alternate focal points among technical staff in country partner agencies who can assist PEMSEA’s national focal points in their respective roles.

**11.13 Agreements:**

- The Intergovernmental Session approved the status report as presented.

- The Ministry of Natural Resources of China and PRF shall conduct a bilateral discussion to determine possible areas where China can provide technical/financial assistance in the implementation of upcoming PEMSEA projects (e.g., development of river basin management plans under the IRBM Project).

## 12.0 **Closing of the 29<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting**

12.1 The Council Co-Chair of the EAS PC, Undersecretary Jonas Leones acknowledged the participants, thanked the PRF for responding to the questions, comments, and suggestions during the Intergovernmental Session, and thanked the officers (Dr. Vann, Dr. Furukawa, and Ms. Chen) for the excellent chairing of the 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded EC Meeting.

12.2 Undersecretary Leones was honored to co-lead PEMSEA in the years ahead. He has been exposed to PEMSEA's work since 2018 and has witnessed its evolution and contributions to the EAS region in implementing holistic management solutions and advancing the blue economy framework as one of the pathways to sustainable development.

12.3 During the 29<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting and in the past four months since the 14<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting, he was pleased to note that PEMSEA has made a number of important strides to support the work towards healthy ocean, people, and economies:

- PEMSEA achieved majority of the end-of-plan targets of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022;
- The PC approved the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;
- Gorontalo Province of Indonesia and the National Ocean Technology Center of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China were inducted as members of the PNLC, joining 55 others from 10 countries;
- The SKLMP, CatSU, DLSU-D, and Kim Il Sung University of DPR Korea became members of the PNLC, joining 11 others from 7 countries;
- The members of the PNLC approved their operational plan for 2022-2027, including their plans on achieving financial sustainability; and
- IPB University formally announced its decision to host the PNLC Secretariat from 2024 onward.

12.4 A number of additional milestones are expected in December 2022 and the year 2023, some of which include the:

- Commencement of major regional projects;
- Formal collaboration agreements with key countries, including Malaysia, to undertake major regional projects under the auspices of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;
- Joint activities with WIPO, UNCTAD, and COBSEA;
- Resumption of face-to-face training; and
- A more diverse roster of funding for joint activities and PRF secretariat operations.

12.5 Undersecretary Leones sought the continued support of the EC members and country partners in the implementation of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 towards healthy ocean, people, and economies in the EAS region. He is grateful for the active participation of the

partners, the guidance provided by his fellow EC members, and the technical and secretariat support of PRF in making the 29<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting possible.

12.6 The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM (UTC+8).

## Annex 1. Agenda of the 29<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting.

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter
<b>COUNCIL SESSION (Chair: Dr. Vann Monyneath)</b>		
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	<p><b>1.0 Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions</b></p> <p>The Chair of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council (PC) shall open the meeting and request the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), as the meeting secretariat, to present the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions for review/approval of the Council Session.</p>	<b>Chair</b>
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	<p><b>2.0 Membership in the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)</b></p> <p>PRF shall formally announce the designation of Catanduanes State University and De La Salle University – Dasmariñas as PEMSEA Learning Centers. The Council Session shall facilitate their inclusion into the PNLC through the signing of the PNLC Charter.</p>	<p><b>Ms. Karen See</b> Secretariat Coordinator, PRF</p> <p><b>With acceptance speeches from the universities' representatives</b></p>
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	<p><b>3.0 PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027</b></p> <p>The PNLC President shall present the operational plan of the PNLC for 2022-2027 and formally announce the decision of IPB University (Indonesia) to host the PNLC Secretariat from the year 2024 onward for reference of the Council Session.</p>	<b>Dr. Yonvitner</b> President, PNLC

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter
<b>TECHNICAL SESSION (Chair: Dr. Keita Furukawa)</b>		
3:00 PM – 3:40 PM	<p>4.0 <b>2023-2027 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)</b></p> <p>PRF shall present the revised third draft of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, including the recommendations for mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the sustainable development of the ocean and coasts in the EAS region, for approval of the Technical Session.</p>	<p><b>Ms. Nancy Bermas</b> Senior Programme Manager, PRF</p> <p><b>Mr. Renato Cardinal</b> GESI Consultant, PRF</p>
3:40 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>5.0 <b>Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management in the EAS Region</b></p> <p>PRF shall present the draft regional strategy for review/endorsement of the Technical Session.</p>	<p><b>Dr. Won-Tae Shin</b> Biofouling Consultant, PRF</p>
<b>COUNCIL SESSION (Chair: Dr. Vann Monyneath)</b>		
4:00 PM – 4:20 PM	6.0 <b>Other business</b>	
4:20 PM – 4:25 PM	7.0 <b>Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions</b>	<b>Chair</b>
4:25 PM – 4:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION (Chair: Ms. Chen Danhong)</b>		
4:30 PM – 4:35 PM	<p>8.0 <b>Adoption of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session</b></p> <p>PRF shall present the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session for review/approval.</p>	<p><b>Intergovernmental Session Chair</b></p>

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter
4:35 PM – 4:50 PM	9.0 <b>2022-2023 work plan and budget of PRF</b> PRF shall present the foregoing updates for review of the Intergovernmental Session.	<b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b> Executive Director, PRF
4:50 PM – 4:55 PM	10.0 <b>Other business</b>	
4:55 PM – 5:00 PM	11.0 <b>Closing of the 29<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting</b>	<b>Undersecretary Jonas Leones</b> Council Co-Chair, EAS PC

## Annex 2. Links to pertinent files.

Meeting documents:

<https://tinyurl.com/EC29-Docs-CouncilAndTechnical>

<https://tinyurl.com/EC29-Docs-Intergovernmental>

Presentation material:

<https://tinyurl.com/EC29-PPT>

Recording:

<https://youtu.be/nVbVM38e6qQ>

Photos:

<https://tinyurl.com/EC29-Photos>



## Annex 3. List of participants.

### Executive Committee

Name	Position
Dr. Vann Monyneath	Council Chair
Usec. Jonas Leones	Council Co-Chair
Ms. Chen Danhong	Intergovernmental Session Chair
Mr. Le Dai Thang	Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair
Dr. Keita Furukawa	Technical Session Chair

### Country Partners

	Country	Ministry	Name	Position
1	Cambodia	Ministry of Environment (MOE)	Mr. Sok Seyla	Chief of Coordination, Policy Office
2	China	Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	Ms. Xu Heyun	Division Director, International Cooperation Department
			Ms. Liu Xinyuan	Assistant Division Director, International Cooperation Department
		China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC)	Dr. Wang Shouqiang	Program Director

	Country	Ministry	Name	Position
3	Indonesia	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)	Ms. Novy Farhani	Deputy Director for Pollution and Degradation, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control
			Ms. Irene Aditya Yuniarti	Head, Environment Quality Standards Section, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control
			Ms. Zulfa Rohadatul Aisy	Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Manager, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control
4	Japan	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)	Mr. Kohshiro Dehara	Coordinator for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau
5	Lao PDR	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Mr. Somvang Bouttavong	Head Division, Department of Water Resources
			Ms. Chindavanh Souriyaphack	Senior Officer, Department of Water Resources
6	Philippines	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh	Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
			Dr. Al Orolfo	Director, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
			Ms. Jeslina Gorospe	Chief, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
			Ms. Hannah Louise Ritual	Project Evaluation Officer II, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
			Ms. Khasmer Marbella	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

	Country	Ministry	Name	Position
			Ms. Abegail Rivera	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
			Ms. Armida Andres	Chief, Coastal and Marine Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau
			Mr. John Erick Avelino	Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist, Coastal and Marine Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau
7	RO Korea	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)	Ms. Yang Jiyoung	Deputy Director, Marine Environment Policy Division, Marine Policy Office
8	Singapore	Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE)	Mr. Jason Tan	Assistant Director for International Arrangements
9	Timor-Leste	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)	Mr. Rafael Pereira Goncalves	National Coordinator of PEMSEA in Timor-Leste
10	Viet Nam	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Dr. Nguyen My Hang	Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands
			Vu Thi Minh Phuong	Officer, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands
			Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hoan	Official, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands

## Non-Country Partners

	Organization	Name	Position
1	International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas Center (EMECS)	Ms. Chisato Hosomi	Senior Staff
2	Ipieca	Mr. Nai Ming Lee	Project Manager, IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for Southeast Asia Project
3	Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM)	Ms. Haemin Jung	Deputy Manager, International Affairs Department
4	Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)	Dr. Yegor Volovik	Coordinator
5	Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)	Mr. James Tan	Industry Engagement Lead for the Asia Pacific Region
6	PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)	Dr. Fang Qinhu	Deputy Secretary General, PNLG Secretariat; Vice President, PNLC; and Deputy Director, Coastal and Ocean Management Institute, Xiamen University, China
		Ms. Lin Yueye	Staff, PNLG Secretariat
		Ms. Hong Baozhen	Staff, PNLG Secretariat
		Ms. Zeng Haiyu	Staff, PNLG Secretariat

**PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers**

Organization	Name	Position
Catanduanes State University (CatSU), Philippines	Dr. Patrick Alain Azanza	President
	Prof. Zyra Mae Tumala	Director, Center for International Relations and Continuing Professional Development Services
	Dr. Kristian Aldea	Assistant Professor III
	Prof. Christian Cabiles	Assistant Professor
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas (DLSU-D), Philippines	Dr. Cristina Salibay	Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research
	Dr. Johnny Ching	Director, University Research Office
	Dr. Geraldine Zamora	Research Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Coordinator, University Research Office
	Mr. Jaime Zeus Agustin	Research Publications Coordinator, University Research Office
	Dr. Jose Aims Rocina	Professor II
	Dr. Jemerson Dominguez	Associate Professor
Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University, Indonesia	Dr. Yonvitner	President, PNLC; and Director, CCMRS
	Ms. Isdahartatie	Researcher

**PEMSEA Resource Facility**

Name	Position
Ms. Aimee Gonzales	Executive Director
Mr. Won-Bae Kim	Head of Planning and Partnerships Development
Ms. Nadine Bresemann	Head of Maritime Transport
Ms. Nancy Bermas	Senior Programme Manager
Ms. Daisy Padayao	Country Programme Manager
Mr. Thomas Bell	Programme Manager
Ms. Karen See	Incumbent Secretariat Coordinator
Ms. Abigail Fiona Cruzada	Incoming Secretariat Coordinator
Ms. Mary Ann Dela Peña	Finance Specialist
Ms. Diwata Cayaban	Programme Assistant
Mr. Rodante Corpuz	IT Specialist
Mr. Arsenio Dacaymat, Jr.	IT System Administrator
Mr. Renato Cardinal	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Consultant
Dr. Won-Tae Shin	Biofouling Consultant

#### Annex 4. List of national plans that were considered in the formulation of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.

Country	Sustainable Development	Biodiversity	Climate Change	Pollution
<b>Cambodia</b>	National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023	Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2016)	Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023  NDC (12/31/2020; active)	National Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan (launched in 2021)
<b>China</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan 2021-2025	NBSAP 2011-2030	National Strategy for Climate Adaptation 2022-2035  NDC (10/28/2021; active)	14 <sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan for the Development of Circular Economy
<b>DPR Korea</b>	5-Year National Economic Development Plan 2021-2025	NBSAP (2007)	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy  NDC (9/19/2019; active)	National Environmental Protection Strategy
<b>Indonesia</b>	National Development Plan 2020-2024	NBSAP 2015-2020	National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation  NDC (9/23/2022; active)	Plan of Action on Marine Plastic Debris 2017-2025
<b>Japan</b>	Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy	NBSAP 2012-2020	Green Growth Strategy through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050  NDC (10/22/2021; active)	National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Litter
<b>Lao PDR</b>	National Green Growth Strategy till 2030	NBSAP 2016-2025	National Strategy for Climate Change: Vision to the Year 2050, Strategy and Programs of Actions to the Year 2030	National Plastics Action Plan (under development)

Country	Sustainable Development	Biodiversity	Climate Change	Pollution
	10-year National Socioeconomic Development Strategy 2016-2025		NDC (5/11/2021; active)	
<b>Philippines</b>	Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 (under development)	Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028	National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 NDC (4/15/2021; active)	National Action Plan for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter
<b>RO Korea</b>	Third Basic Plan for Sustainable Development 2016-2035	NBSAP 2019-2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2025 NDC (12/23/2021; active)	National Action Plan on Marine Litter and Contaminated Sediment 2021-2030
<b>Singapore</b>	Singapore Green Plan 2030	NBSAP	Singapore's Climate Action Plan NDC (3/31/2020; active)	National Action Strategy on Marine Litter
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030	NBSAP 2011-2020	National Adaptation Plan NDC (8/16/2017; active)	
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Strategy on Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Marine Economy to 2030, Vision to 2045 Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030, Vision to 2050	NBSAP 2020-2030	National Strategy for Climate Change by 2050 NDC (9/11/2020; active)	National Action Plan for the Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030 National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2021-2030