



PEMSEA/WP/2017/39

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA
PROJECT ON SCALING UP
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA

Makati Diamond Residences
Makati City, Philippines
24 July 2017



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling up Implementation of the SDS-SEA was held at Makati Diamond Residences Hotel, Makati City, Philippines on July 24, 2017. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines co-hosted the Meeting. The Meeting was attended by representatives from eight project participating countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Representatives from Japan and RO Korea were also present as observers and co-financing countries to PEMSEA. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok were present on behalf of the Global Environment Facility and UNDP. The PEMSEA Resources Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.

The PSC Meeting focused on the status of the project implementation, challenges, opportunities, the regional and national work plans and budget for 2017-2018, and actions to be taken to address gaps.

The PSC made the following major decisions:

- The PRF will coordinate closely with countries, particularly with Thailand, to fast track project implementation as well as to address challenges identified and to ensure delivery of target outputs;
- The Terms of Reference for the Project Mid-Term Review (MTR) were adopted as presented;
- The Project MTR will commence in the first quarter of 2018;
- UNDP Philippines will facilitate the recruitment of consultants for the MTR and circulate the Call for MTR consultants to all PEMSEA member countries; and
- The Project Work Plan and Budget for 2017-2018 was adopted, as presented.

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INTRODUCTION

- i. The Project Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling up Implementation of the SDS-SEA was held at Makati Diamond Residences Hotel, Makati City, Philippines on July 24, 2017. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines co-hosted the Meeting.
- ii. The Meeting was attended by representatives from eight project participating countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Two PEMSEA partner countries were present as observers and as co-financing countries to PEMSEA: Japan and RO Korea.
- iii. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok were present on behalf of the Global Environment Facility and UNDP. The PEMSEA Resources Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.
- iv. The full list of participants is found in Annex 1. The Meeting Agenda is found in Annex 2.

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- i. Mr. Titon Mitra, Country Director of UNDP Philippines, served as Chair of the Meeting. Dr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor for Marine, Coastal and Island Ecosystems of UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub served as Co-Chair.
- ii. On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mr. Mitra welcomed the participants to the meeting. He informed the meeting that the PSC coincided with the Philippine President's State of the Nation Address, and highlighted the remarkable transformation of the Philippine economy as it continues to grow in the region. Furthermore, he spoke of the expanding budget allocations of the government on environment particularly on biodiversity.
- iii. Mr. Mitra also congratulated the Government of Thailand for signing the Project Document and Memorandum of Agreement of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling Up SDS-SEA Implementation. In view of the delay in Thailand's signature, it is

crucial to fast track efforts especially at this stage when the project is nearing its mid-term.

- iv. Mr. Mitra commended PEMSEA for the results of the Third-Party Assessment Report which confirmed its self-sustainability as an organization. He hopes that the recommendations and findings from the assessment will be considered in the development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan for 2017-2022. Mr. Mitra announced that UNDP Philippines will embark on its new programme for the Philippines which will include the Scaling up of the SDS-SEA Implementation as a mainstay project in the country.
- v. In closing, Mr. Mitra emphasized that with the forthcoming mid-term review of the project more solid progress are expected both at the regional and national implementation of the project.

2.0 PROJECT PROGRESS

ANNUAL REGIONAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Discussion Highlights:

- 2.1 Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, PEMSEA's Executive Director and GEF/UNDP Project Manager, provided a summary report of the project's regional progress focusing on the three main project components as well as the challenges and opportunities, financial delivery and risks associated with project implementation.
- 2.2 Under Component 1 on Partnerships in Coastal and Ocean Governance, the following major accomplishments were highlighted:
 - Thailand approved and signed the Project Document
 - Country consultations/collaborative planning were conducted in 7 countries on project progress, 2017 - 2018 work plan and medium-term initiatives
 - SDS-SEA IP Focus identified:
 - Priority Management Programs:
 1. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management;
 2. Biodiversity conservation and management, and
 3. Pollution reduction and waste management.
 - Governance Programs:
 1. Blue Economy Investments and Sustainable Financing of the SDS-SEA;
 2. Knowledge Management and Capacity Building; and
 3. Ocean Governance and Strategic Partnerships
 - Regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Report development ongoing with inputs coming from various regional organizations and PEMSEA Countries
 - Regional Blue Economy Forum being organized to review the Regional and National SOC's
 - Partnership/collaborative agreements signed (i.e., World Ocean Council, R20 Regions of Climate Action; WPEA; KMI; CI Philippines; IPIECA, SOA, MOF, etc)
 - Third-Party Assessment Report on PEMSEA's sustainability completed

- National and local governments adopt and initiate ocean policy and institutional arrangements such as Timor Leste (National Ocean Policy developed), Lao PDR (Water Law approved by National Assembly), Indonesia (National Sea Policy adopted through Presidential Regulation), China (National Marine Eco-Civilization Implementation Plan and 13th Five-Year Development Plan 2016 - 2020 adopted; Framework Plan for SDS-SEA Implementation 2017 - 2020 first draft submitted), Philippines (ICM Bill refiled at 17th Congress), and Vietnam (Draft ICM circular finalized)
- Investible blue economy projects identified through surveys with Country and Non-Country Partners and ICM Sites features in the Sea Knowledge Bank
- Regional Workshop on Catalyzing Blue Economy Investment in East Asia conducted at Xiamen World Ocean Week 2016
- Side event at the UN Oceans Conference (June 2017) co-organized by PEMSEA with GEF and UNDP and others on Establishing a Sustainable Ocean Investment Ecosystem in East Asia.

2.3 Under Component 2 on Healthy and Resilient Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, the following major accomplishments were highlighted:

- Increased ICM coverage covering up to 20.4% of the region's coastline.
- Establishment of a Coordinating Committee for the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC); Support from PNLC members to various ICM sites pertaining to baseline and data gathering as well as various trainings/work related to ICM, SOC, IIMS, monitoring, CS/CSIP, etc.
- Conduct of various regional Trainings and Workshops in collaboration with partners such as Nutrient Load Model and Development of Pollution Reduction Opportunity Analysis, Regional Ocean Health Index, Marxan Z Training for the Verde Island Passage.
- Successful conduct of PNLG Forum 2016 in Ansan City, RO Korea which resulted to adoption of the Ansan Declaration which signifies the commitment of the PNLG members to implement the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2016 – 2021 in line with relevant UN SDGs. 5 new PNLG members in 2016 (Sanya, China; Kampot, Kep, Koh Kong, Cambodia; and Tangerang, Indonesia) and 3 new members in 2017 (Dili, Manatuto, Liquica of Timor Leste).
- Convening of the Manila Bay Governors' Forum in March 2017 and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Manila Bay Network of Local Governments by Local Chief Executives of eight provinces (Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Rizal, and Tarlac) surrounding the Manila Bay.
- On Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management, some notable achievements include: PSHEMS Recognition Surveillance Audit conducted at Laem Chabang Port and Bangkok Port, Thailand; Recognition Certificate issued to the Port of Batangas and General Santos, Philippines; Stage 1 audit and preparation of audit reports complemented in Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh ports, Cambodia; and series of meetings with training network for Sustainable Port Development conducted.
- On ICM Code, notable developments include: ICM Code Certification system and advocacy plan approved by the 8th PC, Training on ICM Code Level 2 conducted in Batangas, Philippines, Guimaras ICM Code Level 2 strategic planning workshop conducted, National ICM Code (First draft in Chinese) developed to serve as standard to facilitate ICM replication in China.

- 2.4 Under Component 3 on Knowledge Platform for Building a Sustainable Ocean-based Blue Economy, the following major accomplishments were highlighted:
- On Capacity Development, new PEMSEA traineeship/internship programme developed and 29 trainings and workshops conducted with 991 individuals trained from 2016 – 2017, wherein more than 50% were female.
 - Targeted Research Collaborations undertaken with various partner organizations (i.e., PML, KMI, SNU, Burapha University, MERIT, MABIK).
 - Beta version of the SEA Knowledge Bank e-library/knowledge portal fully operational, with PNLC micro-site and online PNLC SAP Tracking System developed
 - Key Publications published including PEMSEA's Annual Report for 2016.
 - Projects developed in collaboration with UNDP wherein PEMSEA was identified as Implementing Partner: (a) ATSEA 2 Project on the Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Plans, and (b) GEF/UNDP Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management.
 - Participation in various international and regional forums/meetings including the 8th International Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology, NOWPAP 21st Intergovernmental Meeting, Preparatory Meeting of the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14, Inception Ceremony of YSLME Phase II Project, and the conduct of a PEMSEA side event on Catalyzing Investments in SDG 14: Establishment of a Strategic Ocean Investment Ecosystem during the UN Oceans Conference.
- 2.5 An emphasis was given on the importance of the UN Ocean Conference in creating new focus to globally taking action for the ocean, and how PEMSEA and its partner countries should build upon the momentum it created and take the opportunity to show leadership in the achievement of UN SDG 14.
- 2.6 Mr. Mitra congratulated PEMSEA for the progress made, underscoring the challenge of harmonizing regional, national, and local efforts. In particular, he underscored the importance of the work on blue economy, and the challenge of engaging the private/business sector. It is evident that governments cannot do the work alone and would need support coming from the business sector, as well as various partners/agencies. He also highlighted the value of engaging the local government units for the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 2.7 Mr. Cesar Jose da Cruz, Secretary General from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste, announced that the country's National Ocean Policy is due for approval in August 2017. Further to Mr. Mitra's comment, he mentioned that capacity building in sectors such as fisheries and environmental monitoring will be needed, and thus partnerships, including private sector engagement, will be vital.
- 2.8 Dr. Jose Padilla, is looking forward at the evolving role of PEMSEA as a UNDP implementing partner for a number of UNDP/GEF projects such as the ATSEA 2 and ASEAN IRBM.

ANNUAL COUNTRY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

- 2.9 The eight participating countries delivered their respective country reports. The individual country reports are found in Annex 3 (E-link).

Cambodia

- 2.10 The representative of Cambodia, Mr. Long Rithirak, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environment, presented Cambodia's SDS-SEA Scaling Up project progress report.
- 2.11 The major achievements and outputs for the SDS-SEA project implementation both at the national and local levels were presented. The meeting noted the high-level meeting conducted in May 2017 between MOE and PEMSEA to discuss the overall implementation of the SDS-SEA in Cambodia, the Gulf of Thailand Framework Programme on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response and how collaboration between PEMSEA and the Government of Cambodia can be further strengthened for the sustainable development of the marine and coastal areas in the country. For the implementation of the Port Safety Health Environment Management System, the meeting noted the ongoing audits of Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville Ports currently being undertaken by IMO representatives.
- 2.12 Among the challenges identified for SDS-SEA/ICM scaling up implementation in the country included the limited technical and management capacity of local staff in scaling up sites, the limited coordination among different sectors and the difficulty of engaging the other departments. The meeting also noted the importance of building the capacity and understanding of local staff on ICM framework and processes, and the need to establish the governance mechanisms at the early stages of implementation to ensure that the program gets implemented.
- 2.13 The implementation of the ICM program in Preah Sihanouk Province has resulted to socioeconomic and environmental benefits thus gaining more recognition and support from the national level, private sectors and other partners. This has also promoted stronger cooperation among the four coastal provinces, including the sharing of experiences.

China

- 2.14 The representative of China, Dr. Xhang Zhouhui, Deputy Director, China-PEMSEA Centre, The First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (SOA), reported on China's progress in project implementation, as well as constraints/gaps encountered during project implementation.
- 2.15 In 2016, the China-PEMSEA Center (CPC) has drafted and signed the first batch of contracts for the implementation of the SDS-SEA in China with PEMSEA. Concrete implementation plan, work schedule, and budget arrangement were made for the projects led by CPC, China Institute for Marine Affairs (CIMA), and demonstration sites (Quanzhou, Fangchenggang, Yangjiang, Nanji, Dongying, Xiamen, Lianyungang, Sanya, Changyi, Jinzhou).
- 2.16 The Chinese final draft of National SOC Report has been finished. Guided by the Department of International Cooperation, SOA, a Technical Working Group was established in 2016, including experts from 9 related institutes, to provide technical

support. CPC held three Workshops on the compilation of the report (August, October, and December 2016).

- 2.17 Local achievements include: the completion of the Report on Coastal Vulnerability/Risk Assessment of Dongying; the ecological restoration of Shangdong Changyi Special Marine Ecological Protected Area in Changyi, an ICM priority site, and of the estuarine areas of Daling River in Jinzhou, an ICM demonstration site; the congress approval of the “Lianyungang Marine ranch management regulations”; and the METT assessments of the 6 MPAs in Dongying.
- 2.18 Priority activities to effectively implement the project include the acceleration of funds to each demonstration sites and encourage efficient work and timely submission of final reports; finalization and translation to English of the National SOC report; regularization of the ICM/MPA management training workshops; signing of the second group of contracts between PEMSEA and demonstration sites; and assisting the National Program Management Office in the mid-term assessment of implementation of the fourth phase of SDS-SEA in China.

Indonesia

- 2.19 The representative of Indonesia, Mr. Heru Waluyo, Director, Marine and Coastal Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) presented Indonesia’s progress report.
- 2.20 A National Ocean Policy for Indonesia was enacted early this year through Presidential Regulation No. 16/2017. A draft national action plan on the reduction of marine plastic waste and a ministerial decree on solid waste management including in water bodies are currently being prepared. A second draft of the national SOC report has also been completed.
- 2.21 Implementation of the SDS-SEA project in the six ICM Learning Sites has been initiated including: strengthening of ICM governance mechanisms; conduct of baseline and risk and vulnerability assessments; and preparation of SOC reports. Capacity building and technical support were provided by MOEF and relevant agencies, and the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of Bogor Agricultural University (current coordinator of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers), the Center for Sustainable Development of Udayana University (a newly-designated ICM Learning Center), and local universities in the ICM sites. The first PEMSEA Youth Small Grants Project, which focused on mangrove restoration and youth education, was also completed.
- 2.22 There has been recognition in Indonesia that there is no single agency responsible for or capable of implementing programs for sustainable development of marine and coastal areas on its own. At the national level, inter-agency and multi-sectoral efforts have contributed to the development of the national policies, decrees and plans. At the local level, with the support of PEMSEA, ICM program management offices and coordinating committees have been established to coordinate and harmonize relevant programs of concerned agencies and institutions. Communities are also involved in habitat protection and restoration, and vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation planning.

- 2.23 Considering Indonesia's long coastline, ICM scaling up efforts in Indonesia will need coordination between the MOEF and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to consolidate their respective ICM initiatives. A National ICM Forum could also bring together priority sites under different projects and agency focal points, such as PEMSEA and ATSEA.

Lao PDR

- 2.24 The representative of Lao PDR, Ms. Chindavanh Souriyaphack, Technical Officer, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, presented Lao PDR's progress report.
- 2.25 The meeting noted the major achievements at the national level, including the approval of the Water Law by the National Assembly in May 2017. A National Guideline for Water Use Fee is currently being drafted as part of the implementation of the Water Law. At the local level, the Project Steering Committee in the 3 provinces in Sedone River Basin has been established and some on-the-ground activities have been implemented, including the establishment of 3 protected areas, establishment of 3 village water resources funds, completed baseline assessment and conducted value chain analysis of agricultural products to support livelihood projects in Champasack Province.
- 2.26 The meeting also noted the delays in project implementation due to the long approval process of the government, the changes in national and local level personnel working on the SDS-SEA Scaling up project, and the limitations of personnel in English communication.
- 2.27 Some of the important lessons learned from project implementation included the need to combine on-the-ground activities with capacity and institution building, and the significance of bottom-up approach and public participation in river basin planning, management and implementation.

Philippines

- 2.28 The representative of the Philippines, Ms. Carina Capistrano-Manlapaz, Ecosystem Management Specialist I of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, presented the Philippines progress report.
- 2.29 The GEF Project covers 12 ICM sites. With the Philippines' long coastline, these sites will only cover a small percentage of the country's coastline. While the Philippines has almost reached the 20% target based on 2017 estimates (including other sites that are implementing ICM aside from the 12 sites), DENR as the lead agency for implementing ICM, indicated that the following initiatives are anticipated to contribute to scaling up ICM in the country:
- a. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program – a 10-year national program (2017-2028), which covers all coastal and marine areas of the Philippines, including the NIPAS marine protected areas (MPAs), locally-managed MPAs, marine key biodiversity areas (MKBAs) and adjacent municipal waters. The implementation of CMEMP is guided by the ICM concept and framework.

- b. Coral Triangle Initiative National Plan of Action – also covers the whole country with ICM as framework for integrated management of coral reefs, fisheries and food security.
- 2.30 The rationalization process that DENR underwent over the past years has provided opportunities for strengthening coordination among and between the central and field offices of DENR. It also provided opportunities for capacity strengthening of the field office staff to ensure that they are able to perform their tasks in overseeing ICM implementation in general and coastal and marine management, in particular.
- 2.31 Collaborative arrangements with other projects such as UNDP's SmartSEAS Project is being pursued, particularly at the Verde Island Passage where Conservation International (CI) Philippines is serving as responsible partner for the project. Such arrangement facilitates resource sharing so that available resources can be channeled to sites with less funding to support ICM implementation. In addition to CIP, Oceana is also present in the VIP. Scaling up the networking of MPAs can be facilitated when key partners join hands to support the networking process under the broader framework of ICM.
- 2.32 Sustainable financing was identified as necessary based on the results of a review of the scope of work of other actors in 5 areas where the SmartSEAS Project is being implemented.

Thailand

- 2.33 The representative of Thailand, Ms. Tipwan Ma, Fishery Biologist, Office of the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), presented Thailand's progress report.
- 2.34 The Thai Government approval process requires that government agencies developing projects with international organizations obtain the agreement of all project participants then submit the project documents to the Cabinet for approval. After going through this process for two years, the DMCR eventually had the Project Document and MOA signed in the past two months. The project will be managed by the Office of Marine Conservation of DMCR, which just welcomed a new Director.
- 2.35 In the past year, DMCR continued implementing the National Act on Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management (BE 2558/2015); initiated the preparation of the national SOC report; and engaged in consultations with three provinces in the eastern seaboard of the Gulf of Thailand on their participation in the SDS-SEA project. Chonburi Province updated the ICM Action Plan for 26 coastal municipalities, with Saensuk Municipality further developing local capacity to respond to coastal erosion, oil spills and harmful algal blooms. Implementation of the framework programme for joint oil spill preparedness and response in the Gulf of Thailand continued, with the Marine Department hosting the annual contact points' meeting and the subregional workshop on developing the subregional oil spill contingency plan and guidelines on the use of chemical dispersants in the Gulf of Thailand. PSHEMS surveillance audits were also conducted in Bangkok Port and Laem Chabang Port for maintenance and continual improvement of the system.

- 2.36 Thailand also made the following voluntary commitments to SDG 14: (1) protection of marine environment from marine debris and land-based pollution; (2) action on combatting IUU fishing; and (3) sustainable management of marine and coastal habitats.
- 2.37 Burapha University and Prince of Songkla University, as ICM Learning Centers, have continued providing support to the implementation of SDS-SEA and ICM in Thailand through trainings, workshops and specific technical support to the sites. The Thailand Environment Institute Foundation was also engaged to coordinate the preparation of the National SOC report.
- 2.38 The contribution of the SDS-SEA project to the implementation of the National Act on Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management was acknowledged, and the need for further capacity development at the national and local levels for the implementation of the National Act was highlighted.
- 2.39 The meeting recognized the preparatory efforts and substantive project progress in Thailand. It recognized as well the need for Thailand to speed up project implementation considering the elapsed time.
- 2.40 The representative of Cambodia also requested confirmation on the retirement of the national contact point for the Gulf of Thailand cooperation on oil spill preparedness and response, and information on his replacement.

Timor-Leste

- 2.41 On behalf of the Timor Leste delegation, which included Mr. Cesar Jose da Cruz, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto, Director for Fisheries Resources Management of MAF, Mr. Mario Cabral, Project Coordinator for the SDS-SEA Scaling up in Timor Leste, presented Timor Leste's progress report.
- 2.42 With the support of PEMSEA, Timor Leste was able to develop a National Oceans Policy, which has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for review, and a draft national SOC report. Adoption of the policy is expected despite the forthcoming change in Government in August as it has been specified as one of Timor Leste's voluntary commitments to SDG 14. Implementation of the policy would be overseen by the Council of Ministers and facilitated by a senior level National Oceans Steering Committee which will guide the preparation of an implementation plan by Technical Working Groups in consultation with a Stakeholders Advisory Committee. Various stakeholders and development partners in Timor Leste including UNESCO have expressed interest to participate in the process of developing an implementation plan for the National Oceans Policy.
- 2.43 The three ICM sites in Timor Leste have completed baseline and vulnerability assessments and prepared draft SOC report through the facilitation of inter-agency ICM task teams and with the support of the two ICM Learning Centers, the National University of Timor Leste (UNTL) and Oriental University of Timor Leste (UNITAL). Pilot projects to support fisheries and livelihood development and habitat protection and restoration have been initiated in Liquica Municipality with support from the Coordinating

Ministry for Economic Affairs and UNITAL, and the GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme.

- 2.44 The preparation of the National Oceans Policy involved inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation, which enhanced ownership for the process and the resulting policy. The need for a 'whole-of-government approach' for sustainable ocean and coastal development and the need to invest in blue economy development were also recognized. Preparation and adoption of the implementation plan for the policy would be a priority for 2017-2018, consistent with Timor Leste's voluntary commitments to SDG14 with 7 specific targets including zero plastic policy, ocean policy, addressing IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries management, coastal and marine resources mapping, tourism policy, and CITES ratification.
- 2.45 At the local level, the process of ICM development and implementation has enhanced local capacity and cooperation among key stakeholders in the priority sites although the need for sustained capacity building and technical support was highlighted, along with the need to make use of traditional customary laws to support environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. The recent government decentralization provides local governments with the authority to manage their local areas, including develop ICM plans and allocate budget for implementation.
- 2.46 The country's existing partnerships in conservation such as CTI, ATSEA, PEMSEA, CI, WorldFish, FAO, etc. will also be optimized to support implementation of the National Oceans Policy and ICM, achievement of SDG14 targets, and promotion of blue economy development.

Vietnam

- 2.47 The representative of Vietnam, Dr. Vu Thanh Ca, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Science-Technology, Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands presented Vietnam's progress report.
- 2.48 Vietnam's ICM Circular has been promulgated by the Government. The development of the legal system for ICM implementation in Vietnam benefited from the knowledge generated from PEMSEA's support in ICM implementation in the central region since 2000. Areas for improvement remain. These include implementation of capacity development measures to support ICM implementation particularly at the local level, including leveling up the communication and advocacy campaign to raise awareness and better understanding on the how-to's and benefits of ICM.
- 2.49 Collaboration with other projects such as IUCN's Mangroves for the Future facilitates sharing of tools and methodologies and their application in habitat conservation and management, including fisheries management.
- 2.50 There is a need for clear guidelines of the various provisions of the ICM legislation to ensure that the local governments are properly guided on the implementation requirements and processes.

- 2.51 It is anticipated that project implementation will fully take off by the 3rd quarter of 2017. The Internal Project Document will be forwarded by MONRE to the Government of Vietnam for final approval in August 2017.

Discussion Highlights

- 2.52 Dr. Padilla commended the wide scope of activities accomplished by the countries. However, harmonizing the various efforts such that more sustainable impact is attained remains a challenge. Thus, he emphasized the need for a sustained capacity development program.
- 2.53 The Secretariat concurred with UNDP. It was clarified that the country reporting for the PSC meeting currently focuses on processes and activities related to the project. However, the regional, national and local SOC reports that are being developed are targeting impacts and changes. With the completion of these reports in the next 12 months, reporting at the next PSC meeting can be more impact-focused.
- 2.54 The Secretariat noted that while the target on areal percentage of ICM sites in the region has been achieved (20.4%) halfway through the project implementation, the target for 2021 will still be 25% as committed by the countries under the Da Nang Compact in 2015. For the next two years, the focus would be on the scaling up of new ICM learning sites, showcasing that ICM is an effective management system that local governments should adopt in addressing various important issues, particularly CCA/DRR, pollution reduction and waste management, and biodiversity conservation, protection, and management.

3.0 PROJECT WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2017-2018

Discussion Highlights

- 3.1 Mr. Ross presented the project work plan and budget for 2017 and 2018.
- 3.2 He emphasized that coordinated planning was undertaken with the 8 country partners in the preparation of the consolidated work plan and budget for the project, including portions of regional activities.
- 3.3 The presentation highlighted the following major outlook and challenges for 2017 and 2018, which were validated by the 8 countries during the presentation of progress in the previous session:
- a. Delays in project development and implementation in a number of countries;
 - b. Coordinating/strengthening interactions and synergies with national programs, as well as bilateral and multi-lateral projects;
 - c. Training, educating, and sharing information, knowledge, tools and services to scale up ICM both geographically and functionally;
 - d. Developing new projects/initiatives to support SDS-SEA and bankable blue economy investments at the regional, national and local levels, and

- e. Co-organizing and conducting a highly relevant and highly successful East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress and Ministerial Forum in 2018.
- 3.5 Project activities and outputs for the 3 major components were discussed in detail, highlighting those that are behind schedule and the implications to the end of project targets and impacts.
- 3.6 Emphasis was made on the need to measure accomplishments at the outcome level, including the identification of available tools to monitor and measure progress, in addition to the SOC. Reporting of progress can be in the form of scorecards depicting country level accomplishments. The need to revisit and reassess the project indicators was discussed in consideration of the delay in project development and implementation in some countries. This is necessary in view of the forthcoming mid-term evaluation, where benefits and impacts from the project may be evaluated.
- 3.7 Expenditures from 2014 until June 2017 constitute 41% of the total budget while 59% remains until the end of the project in August 2019.
- 3.8 Total budget for 2017 and 2018, as reflected in the work plan, is USD 2.45 million and USD 2.69 million, respectively. The budget allocations will cover contractual services (35%), local consultancy (29%), international consultancy (15%), travel (13%), service contracts (4%), publications (3%) and miscellaneous (1%).
- 3.9 Details of the expenditures and fund allocations for the 3 components were provided. Budget for Component 1 will be completely expended by end on 2018 while an estimated USD 1.68 million will remain from Components 2 and 3 by end of 2018 that that can be utilized between January to August 2019.

Decision

- 3.10 The PSC meeting approved the project work plan and budget for 2017-2018, as presented.

4.0 PREPARATION FOR THE PROJECT MID-TERM EVALUATION

Discussion Highlights

- 4.1 The UNDP Philippines serving as the Principal Project Resident Representative (PPRR) for the project, presented the Terms of Reference for the GEF/UNDP Mid-Term Review (MTR).
- 4.2 The MTR process is taken from the guidance outlined in the “Guidance for Conducting Mid-Term Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects”. The total conduct of MTR is approximately 10 weeks, excluding the selection and recruitment of external evaluators/specialists. It will entail review of all relevant sources of

information/documents from the preparation phase up to the most recent project reports, as well as selected on-site visits and interviews.

- 4.3 It was clarified that the MTR is not meant as an evaluation per se (i.e., rating of project implementation) but more of a prescriptive exercise for the Project to:
- assess progress towards achievement of project objectives and outcomes;
 - assess early signs of success or failure and to help the Project identify necessary changes to be made; and
 - review project strategy and risks to sustainability
- 4.4 The findings and recommendations arising from the MTR will be submitted formally for discussion and consideration in the next PSC meeting in 2018. Following the MTR and PSC discussion in 2018, it is hoped that any deficiencies and remaining targets/deliverables will be addressed or undertaken in the second half of the project.
- 4.5 The principal responsibility on the MTR arrangements reside with UNDP Philippines, including contracting of consultants and timely provision of logistical support to the consultants (e.g. travel arrangements, provision of documents, etc.) in collaboration with the PRF. The TOR proposed 2 international consultants: (1) Institutional, Legal and Governance consultant; and (2) Coastal and Ocean Management consultant.
- 4.6 While the initially-proposed schedule for the actual MTE was September 2017, it was suggested to initiate the hiring of external evaluators at around October or November 2017, and to commence the actual conduct of the MTR in January 2018, given the numerous PEMSEA forums and events lined up in the last quarter of 2017.

Decisions

- 4.7 The PSC Meeting decided that:
- The Terms of Reference be adopted as presented.
 - Actual Mid-Term Review to commence in January 2018.
 - UNDP Philippines adjust the timing for recruitment of consultants accordingly, or around October or November 2017.
 - UNDP Philippines circulate the announcement or Call for Consultants to all member countries.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 Mr. Heru of Indonesia informed the PSC of the Fourth Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), which is scheduled to take place on October 23-27, 2017, in Bali, Indonesia. UNEP is expected to release invitations soon.
- 5.2 Mr. Long of Cambodia requested an update on PRF's efforts in re-engaging other East Asian countries to PEMSEA (i.e., Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia). The Secretariat informed the Council that invitations to the council meetings are regularly sent to Malaysia and Brunei. Relationship is currently being built through activities such as the

agreement to develop an SOC Report and the conduct of ICM-related workshops. In addition, Malaysia is included in the ASEAN IRBM project. These indicators of positive participation renders hope that Malaysia will see value in becoming a member of PEMSEA in the future. Dr. Padilla further mentioned that the ASEAN IRBM project is a venue and opportunity in which other ASEAN countries can be invited as PEMSEA Country Partner.

6.0 CLOSING

- 6.1 Mr. Ross, thanked the participating countries for their participation and contribution in the country reporting and other work behind the scenes. He also thanked the colleagues from UNDP for their role in presiding over the PSC meeting. The Secretariat looks forward to the MTR, and indicated an interest in further discussions on how PEMSEA and its partners can strengthen the project's outputs and impacts.
- 6.2 Dr. Floradema Eleazar, Programme Head for Environment and Energy, UNDP Philippines, commended PEMSEA and its partners for achieving encouraging results through its implementation of a number of projects. On behalf of UNDP Philippines, she looks forward to stronger partnership with PEMSEA in working on various issues in international waters.
- 6.3 The Chair closed the meeting on 24 July 2017 at 3:30PM.

ANNEX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2
MEETING AGENDA

**AGENDA OF THE PSC MEETING OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA PROJECT ON SCALING
UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA**

Makati Diamond Residences Hotel, Makati City, Philippines
July 24, 2017

July 24, 2017 (Monday)

- 0900 – 0910 **1.0 Opening of the Project Steering Committee Meeting**
The Technical Session Chair will open the meeting and call on the UNDP representative to deliver opening remarks as the Principal Project Resident Representative (PPRR) and Co-Chair of the Meeting.
- 0910 – 1030 **2.0 Project Progress**
The Project Manager will introduce the overall/regional Project Progress Report vis-à-vis the attainment of project outputs and outcomes, as well as the challenges and constraints of the project.

Representatives from each participating country will be invited to report on the specific progress in project implementation, as well as constraints/gaps encountered during project implementation.
- 1030 – 1045 **Coffee Break**
- 1045 – 1200 **Continuation of Agenda Item 2.0**
- 1200 – 1330 **Lunch Break**
- 1330 – 1400 **3.0 Project Work Plan and Budget 2017-2018**
The Secretariat will present the regional work plan and budget for the project for 2017-2018, for review and approval by the PSC.
The country representatives will present their respective country work plans and budget for 2017-2018.
- 1400 – 1430 **4.0 Preparation for the Project Mid-Term Evaluation**
UNDP will present the proposed Terms of Reference and schedule for the conduct of the Project Mid-Term Evaluation, for review and approval by the PSC.
- 1430 - 1445 **5.0 Other Business**
- 1445 – 1500 **Closing of the PSC Meeting**
- 1500 – 1515 **Coffee Break**

ANNEX 3

**REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS
(E-LINK)**

ANNEX 4

**PROJECT WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2017 – 2018
(AS APPROVED BY THE MEETING E-LINK)**