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6-8 NOVEMBER
CONGRESS2024

WON 19th
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World Ocean Week in Xiamen

Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean

6-8 NOVEMBER 2024 • XIAMEN CITY, CHINA



SUBTHEME 2.1
GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Strategic Collaboration in Tackling the Triple Planetary Crises in the East Asian Seas Region - Climate Change Impacts; Nature and Marine Biodiversity Loss; Marine Pollution

PROCEEDINGS

CONVENERS:



中华人民共和国自然资源部
Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China

厦门市人民政府
Xiamen Municipal People's Government



Strategic collaboration in tackling the Triple Planetary Crises in the East Asian Seas Region - Climate Change and Marine Impacts; Nature and Marine Biodiversity Loss; and Marine Pollution

7 November 2024, 14:30-17:30
Xiamen, China

Convening Organizations:

- UNEP – Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
- UNEP/GEF/UNOPS South China Seas Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project

Partner Organization:

- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- North-East Asian Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)
- ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)

Session Coordinator and Contact Details

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1. INTRODUCTION

The world is facing multiple planetary crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – often referred to as the “Triple Planetary Crises” (TPC). Addressing these challenges requires integrated and comprehensive solutions, as solving the challenges separately in a “one-by-one” approach is not sufficient given the urgency of the situation. Furthermore, some solutions to one of the crises may negatively impact others. And some solutions can – if designed and implemented well – contribute to several crises all at once. Such trade-offs and synergies must be identified and coordinated.

The countries around the East Asian Seas have joined the global community and committed to solving climate change and biodiversity challenges as well as the complex issue of marine pollution. These include addressing global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions, as well as regional and sub-regional commitments, such through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

One of the essential approaches to solving these challenges will be building partnerships amongst different stakeholders. Many organizations and projects are working on various aspects of marine and coastal management in the East Asian Seas. Far too many activities and projects are implemented in isolation; with comprehensive coordination of initiatives across organizations, projects, and thematic areas being the exception rather than the norm. It is critical that these efforts are coordinated amongst stakeholders to eliminate duplications and explore synergies with the aim to optimize the use of limited financial and human resources. This coordination is often challenged by different governance modalities across existing mechanisms – there is a need to discuss and identify clear synergies and opportunities for embarking on coordinated approaches in addressing marine challenges in the East Asian Seas region.

This session will focus on the efforts of regional marine environmental institutions in promoting coordination and collaboration for the sustainable governance of the East

Asian Seas region. The session will bring together strategic partners and stakeholders, including PEMSEA, IUCN, IOC-WESTPAC, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, amongst others, to move towards a future where coordination and integration is standard.

Objective:

The overall aim of the session is to encourage collaborative efforts amongst regional marine organizations in the East Asian Seas to address the triple planetary crises.

Outputs:

- Roadmap towards a potential collaborative effort for regional marine organizations to address the triple planetary crises.
- Working paper on this collaborative effort, including timeline, objectives, and activities.

2. OPENING MESSAGE

In his opening remarks, Dr. Vann Momyneath, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia and Chair of the EAS Partnership Council provided the Opening Remarks recognized the importance of the session in fostering partnerships and collaboration in the Asia Pacific region towards the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and linking these efforts towards the achievement of global targets, including the biodiversity framework and the ongoing plastics negotiations.

3. PART 1: Setting the Scene

Margarita Victoria Caballa of the SCS-SAP Project and COBSEA presented the Triple-Planetary Crises (TPC) in the Context of the East Asian Seas (EAS) and moving towards integrated approaches in realizing climate stability, living in harmony with nature, and towards a pollution free planet. She presented the different challenges in marine pollution, biodiversity and ecosystems, and climate that exists in the region, with efforts being made by COBSEA/ UNEP in implementing the COBSEA Strategic Direction 2024-2027, and UNEP/ GEF SCS SAP covering 3 components in coastal habitats and ecosystem, knowledge management for a sustainable blue economy, and regional collaboration.

Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinator of COBSEA, presented COBSEA Strategic Direction 2023-2027 in addressing the TPC with the focus on 3 areas; marine pollution prevention, reduction and control, marine & coastal biodiversity ecosystems conservation and management, and climate action. He stressed Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) and linked watersheds, and the slow progress in realizing SDG 14 “Life Below Water”, which receives the lowest funding in the SDGs. He also presented the recent effort made in the Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Litter, Second Meeting on the Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, and Twenty-sixth Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA in October 2024, in Cambodia.

Anders Poulsen, Programme Manager of the SCS-SAP Project, addressed that in order to tackle the TPC, we need to acknowledge complexity and inter-connectedness of the ecosystem, ensure holistic thinking, explore synergies amongst different stakeholders, across multiple scales, and build partnerships. It is important to explore synergies in these areas at national and regional levels, and across different sectors. Synergies should also be explored at local levels, for instance in the way that ecosystems such as seagrass, coral reef, and mangroves can be managed in an integrated manner mutually re-enforcing impacts.

To conclude Part I, Anders Poulsen and Mahesh Pradhan exchanged views on the vision for the future on how to explore partnerships and opportunity in bringing in stakeholders together with the concrete roadmap, and use strength/ expertise from key partners.

4. PART 2: Panel Discussions

Margarita Victoria Caballa served as the moderator of the panel session.

Elements towards Regional Collaboration:

Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA, mentioned that PEMSEA had worked in Integrated Coastal Management for over 20 years, with cross sectoral collaboration, at both vertical and horizontal levels. She highlighted three essential elements for the establishment of a regional partnership:

- An agreed regional strategy like a guiding framework

- A unique operating modality at regional, national, and local levels. A network across local governments, learning centers, resources including people with a diverse range of skills and expertise countries to be able to reach and provide necessary services
- A diverse funding source to avoid reliance on one area.

Financing Facility and Grants:

Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Program Officer, IUCN mentioned that IUCN had a number of financial grants around the world, such as the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF), and the Global EbA Fund facilitated in partnership with UNEP. She mentioned that the added value of funding mechanism was in being able to incubate ideas and scale these ideas that work. Financing facilities bring partners and their models that can be implemented directly on the ground e.g., MPA, blue carbon. However, this is built on a business lens and therefore requires a return of investment, performance monitoring, and ensuring standards in a reasonable way.

Challenges of Transboundary Network:

Ms. Mi-Jin Lee, Research Associate, NEAMPAN referred to the member-driven NEAMPAN MPA network that gets strong support from partner governments. It finds common challenges and areas for collaboration amongst its members. It acknowledges diversity and differences in each country and adapts solutions that are relevant. It involves the networks through open dialogue, seminars, workshops, governments, and local communities.

Science, Data, and Knowledge:

Dr. Vo Si Tuan, IOC-WESTPAC mentioned that IOC/WETPAC had developed the Strategic Action Programme focused on 4 priorities: science-policy-society interface; advancing knowledge on climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem; ocean observation & services; and capacity development. Many projects/initiatives have been done across the 3 themes of ocean and climate change, marine biodiversity and seafood security, and ocean ecosystems and human health. IOC/WESTPAC also captured global and regional efforts on these themes through several platforms, including the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science, Research and training Center Network that improve linkages between training and research, Working Groups, Global Ocean

Observing System (GOOS), Ocean Forecasting System, and others. It was recommended to improve national integration and linkages by establishment of the national partner networks to enable regional partnership operational.

Types of Networks:

Dr. Sheila Vergara, Programme Manager of the UNDP/GEF ENMAPS Project, ACB mentioned the MPA Network within the ENMAPS Project looks at connectivity, biometric, and water flow studies of Large Marine Ecosystems at a higher resolution and less jurisdictional issues since focus will be on coastal areas. The social aspect of the MPA network will be networking of local governments and community livelihoods between the ecologically connected MPAs. Margarita highlighted the recurring patterns of several subregional networks, such as with ATSEA, the ENMAPS, and NEAMPAN. Perhaps there is also space to look at collaboration between these subregional MPA Networks.

Leveraging on the Competencies in the Region:

Aimee highlighted the need for creating sustainable development partnerships, eg. with PEMSEA, non-country partners include ACB, IUCN, and the Arfura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA). MPA could be the unifying thread of work for example. PEMSEA can focus on building and working on capacity and skills whereas IOC-WESTPAC has the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) training and guidebooks which can be reviewed for what would be relevant for MPA pilot sites. MSP is another area where organizations in the area can work together.

Initial Collaborative Activity:

Maeve mentioned that in addition to the triple planetary crises, equality and equity benefit sharing was also an important consideration, looking at the social dimension in conservation, how the playing field for the communities can be leveled so that everyone benefits and can access the environment. MPA Networking is an opportunity to connect national, provincial, and local governments and officials to learn from each other, how to design networks on both ecological and socioeconomic interest and value chain.

Engaging with different levels of society:

Mi-Jin highlighted that NEAMPAN engages all levels of society and recognizes the importance of a vertical line from central government, government research institutes, businesses, and local communities. It is essential to be able to interpret these global nomenclature and terminologies to local/community language to ensure a common understanding with the constituents.

Engaging beyond environmental agencies:

Tuan mentioned that in the case of MPAs, knowledge is not limited to conservation knowledge; it also requires engagement with economic knowledge or social knowledge. Knowledge-bearers from other agencies need to participate in MPAs. To evaluate the effectiveness of MPAs, we need to consider a cost-benefit analysis, such as how much you invest for a certain component and what is the benefit of that investment. In most countries, we are mostly looking at investment in tourism and fisheries and we understand the benefit of these in MPAs, but we should also look at investment in science and governance amongst others. When looking at MPAs, we should not only look at the MPA itself, but everything else around it too.

Governance Mechanisms:

Ms. Claudia Binondo, Division Director, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity mentioned that the ASEAN structure provides a solid platform for collaboration and cooperation due to the mutual agreement by member states. With the existing structure, it is a question of how to make it effective and reinforce the commitment and synergies with this established structure. ASEAN is guided by different frameworks, plans, and action that were agreed upon by consensus, including the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan which was developed based on the Global Biodiversity Plan.

5. PART 3: Engagement with the Audience

In response to a question on capacity efforts for stakeholders such as fisherfolks who have direct involvement on these issues, the challenge of commercial fishing, which undermines conservation efforts was mentioned. Additionally, elite capture by those with financial and political power can limit the benefits reaching local stakeholders. With the prevalence of large-scale fishing, there was an opportunity to bring in new aquaculture solutions that prioritize sustainability and incentivize better

practices. The situation for small-scale fishers has changed, with integrated coastal management (ICM) initiatives involving municipalities fostering vibrant local movements. An ecosystem-based approach, including Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), ensures that conservation efforts do not threaten local livelihoods. Private sector involvement, such as on islands with house reefs for tourists, also plays a role in protected areas. Ultimately, various sectors, including fisheries and tourism, contribute to biodiversity, and their agendas do not necessarily need to be altered as long as sustainability is prioritized.

Another example of sea ranching development, involving large-area artificial reefs, contributes to the recovery of marine ecosystems by providing protected areas where trawling is not allowed. These efforts support biodiversity and also have cultural significance. The importance of ecologically friendly aquaculture practices, such as oyster culture using sustainable methods like bow and line, is emphasized. Additionally, the implementation of OECM should involve coordination between various ministries, with a clear mechanism for enforcement and collaboration. National support is also crucial to ensure effective coordination and implementation at the national level.

On the issue of oil spills, PEMSEA's sustainable development strategy has partners that convenes on oil spill sessions, with support for the Gulf of Thailand for the cooperation for a strategic plan. For implementation, we provide technical assistance and connect with partners.

What Ministries involved in environment, forest, and fisheries often do not talk with the Ministries in finance, planning, and development. It is important to bridge these gaps and to make the other Ministries aware on the value of these natural assets, especially in their GDP.

The existing expertise and experiences in the region was also highlighted, with the recommendation to focus on two areas: capacity building and knowledge exchange, such as creating a (or improving an existing) platform on information sharing mechanisms, making use of existing regional platform to monitor, report, and share.

Each organization requires effort and time to maintain their knowledge management platform. PEMSEA has the SEA Knowledge Bank where ATSEA is incorporated; there is the CTI Atlas knowledge platform as well. It is useful to some extent, but some countries also encounter language difficulty. With the upcoming UN Ocean Conference next year, it is recommended that we submit as one as EAS to show a collective effort in the region. We should also take the time to look at the individual implementation plans of the different entities in the region, explore possible linkages of similar or duplicating activities, and map out these activities to make better use of limited funds and resources.

It was recommended we document and create a report on this session, and later on collectively develop a roadmap outlining the actions to be taken. To begin, we must determine how to approach this initiative, focusing on key areas that align with our collective mandates, while also exploring ways to go beyond those mandates and view the work as a broader service to the community. As secretariats, it's essential to lead the process by identifying concrete approaches, such as those outlined in the ASEAN ENMAPS, and refining tools like the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) training manual. This manual needs to be updated to reflect contemporary issues, including gender equality, social inclusion, and climate change. After extensive discussions, it's important to move forward with a concrete project that incorporates expertise on finance and local community perspectives. The recommendation is to start small with one project that is already underway, allowing for a focused, practical application. A report will be generated to assess regional organizations under their mandates, while also taking a forward-looking approach. Ultimately, all efforts should culminate in one consolidated framework, supported by a strategic map to guide implementation.

6. KEY OUTCOMES

Anders Poulsen highlighted several recommendations including

1. Establishing a regional sharing platform – to develop knowledge management platform which is one of the components in the project and to move towards for a joint platform for best practices and knowledge
2. Sharing and utilizing existing MSP & ICM tools to build on past experiences and best practices instead of reinventing new tools

3. Mapping regional initiatives and organizations' mandates
4. Exploring possible partnership collaboration with universities
5. Representing EAS as one in the upcoming UN Ocean Conference in 2025 in resonating the impact being achieved in the region

In addition, Mahesh Pradhan addressed that it is important to raise the profile of EAS at the global level, and to increase the visibility of what is happening in our region.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAYS FORWARD

The session resulted in Collaborative Action Points, as follows:

- **Establish a Shared Knowledge Platform:** Create a central platform for sharing best practices and key knowledge products, allowing stakeholders to easily access and exchange valuable information.
- **Enhance Communication of Success Stories:** Effectively communicate and package stories, experiences, best practices and results in a way that resonates with local stakeholders.
- **Utilize/Enhance Existing Tools:** Avoid redundant efforts by coordinating the use of existing tools, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) manuals to enhance collaboration and resource sharing.
- **Map Regional Initiatives:** Identify overlapping and complementary initiatives by mapping the mandates and focus areas of different regional initiatives, including a map as visual reference of various Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks in the EAS for example.
- **Increase Joint Capacity Building:** Foster increased opportunities for joint capacity-building initiatives and knowledge exchanges among stakeholders.
- **Building country partner network:** Engage collaboration of regional initiatives / organizations at the national level.
- **Elevate the EAS Profile Globally:** Boost the visibility of the East Asian Seas on a global level, especially at the Our Ocean Conference in the Republic of Korea (April 2025) and the third UN Ocean Conference in France (June 2025), by convening a regional session that showcases the impactful work being done in the EAS region.

The Session Conveners will continue to move the discussion across these areas through the following opportunities:

Event	Date & Location	Organizations Present
Our Ocean Conference	27 – 30 April 2025	All Stakeholder Groups

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>1-day pre-event workshop</i> ● <i>1 collaborative side-event</i> 	Busan, Republic of Korea	
United Nations Ocean Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Launch of the collaborative effort</i> 	16 – 20 June 2025 Nice, France	All Stakeholder Groups

The Session Conveners will collaborate with the different organizations in co-designing this process, with the initial design found in **Annex 5**.

ANNEXES

1. Session Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker / Facilitator
EMCEE: Reynaldo Molina		
1430-1445 15 mins	Welcome Remarks and Introduction Group Photo	Dr. Vann Monyneath, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia and Chair of the EAS Partnership Council
PART ONE (40mins) – Setting the Scene		
1445-1455 10 mins	The Triple Planetary Crises (TPC) in the context of the East Asian Seas region – moving towards integrated approaches	Ms. Margarita Victoria Caballa Project Management Specialist and COBSEA lead on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems
1455-1505 10 mins	The UNEP Regional Seas Programme, COBSEA Strategic Directions and the TPC	Mr. Mahesh Pradhan Coordinator, COBSEA
1505-1515 10 mins	SCS-SAP Project and the TPC	Mr. Anders Poulsen Senior Project Manager, SCS-SAP Project
1515-1525 10 mins	A vision for the future – The COBSEA-SCS-SAP Partnership	Mr. Anders Poulsen and Mr. Mahesh Pradhan
1525-1540 15mins	Break	
PART TWO (60mins) – Panel Discussion and Workshop		
1540-1640 60 mins	Establishing a collaborative Partnership on addressing the Triple Planetary Crises in the East Asian Seas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) • International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • North-East Asian Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN) • Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC) • ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) 	Facilitator: Ms. Margarita Victoria Caballa Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA • Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Program Officer, IUCN • Ms. Mi-Jin Lee, Research Associate, NEAMPAN • Dr. Vo Si Tuan, IOC-WESTPAC • Ms. Claudia Binondo, Division Director, ACB • Dr. Sheila Vergara, ENMAPS Project Manager, ACB
PART THREE (40mins) – Engaging with Audience and Next Steps		
1640-1720 40 mins	Discussion and Q&A with the panelists	Ms. Margarita Victoria Caballa
1720-1730 10 mins	Conclusions and way forward	Mr. Anders Poulsen and Mr. Mahesh Pradhan
	End	

2. Participant Information

- Total number of participants (30)
- Breakdown by country
 - Thailand
 - Philippines
 - Indonesia
 - Republic of Korea
 - Vietnam
 - Cambodia
- List of participating organizations
 - UNEP – Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
 - UNEP/GEF/UNOPS South China Seas Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project
 - Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - North-East Asian Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN)
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)
 - ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)
 - Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)
 - Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
 - UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II Project (ATSEA-2)
 - Mindanao State University-Naawan

3. Presentation Materials

- PDF copies of all presentations

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T-MoKDVFED8YxPBsUqHsPgbE57G1XeeV/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xrLeaf2ddFe60uJjYhK6e7mO3sXrb63q/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19EozEK9hQG9IDoz9fUzbGYcF4r3rpMNt/view?usp=drive_link

4. Documentation

- Session photos



Open remarks by Vann Monyneath
Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Environmental, Cambodia
Chief of the EAS Partnership Council



Panel discussion with partner
organizations in East Asian Seas in
addressing the triple planetary crises



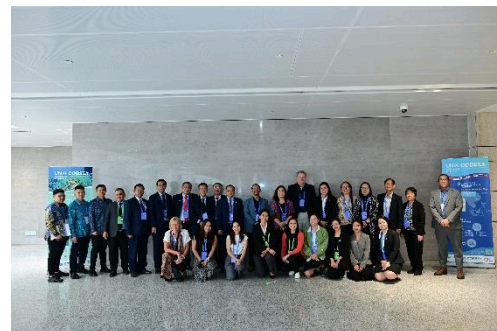
Participants attending the session on
the Triple Planetary Crises at the EAS
Congress



Engaging discussion with audience



Session on the Triple Planetary Crises at the EAS Congress participated by key
regional organizations



5. Concept Note for the Regional Collaboration

SHAPING AN OCEAN COALITION

A ROADMAP TO TACKLING MARINE BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES THROUGH A REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE NETWORK IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS

Summary:

Building from the discussions during the East Asian Seas Congress 2024 held in Xiamen, China, this ambitious multi-agency, regional East Asian Seas Marine Collaborative Network aims to consolidate initiatives, create a platform for knowledge sharing, and collaboration across countries and agencies in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region that support the establishment and effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), Other-Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), Networking, and even Area-based Management Tools (ABMTs) in the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). This coalition will work across different levels of practitioners, from grassroots to regional agencies.

This coalition will effectively link and serve as the regional EAS node of the Global MPA Network of MPA Networks in addition to being the regional system to undertake the Scaling Up Marine Management Capacity Think Tank.

Goal:

A collective of regional marine management practitioners (encompassing MPAs, OECMs, etc), with representation from the national governments, regional agencies, and organizations.

Collaborative Action Points (from EAS Congress):

- **Establish a Shared Knowledge Platform:** Create a central platform for sharing best practices and key knowledge products, allowing stakeholders to easily access and exchange valuable information.
- **Enhance Communication of Success Stories:** Effectively communicate and package stories, experiences, best practices and results in a way that resonates with local stakeholders.
- **Utilize/Enhance Existing Tools:** Avoid redundant efforts by coordinating the use of existing tools, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) manuals to enhance collaboration and resource sharing.
- **Map Regional Initiatives:** Identify overlapping and complementary initiatives by mapping the mandates and focus areas of different regional initiatives, including a map as visual reference of various Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks in the EAS for example.
- **Increase Joint Capacity Building:** Foster increased opportunities for joint capacity-building initiatives and knowledge exchanges among stakeholders.
- **Building country partner network:** Engage collaboration of regional initiatives / organizations at the national level.
- **Elevate the EAS Profile Globally:** Boost the visibility of the East Asian Seas on a global level, especially at the Our Ocean Conference in the Republic of Korea (April 2025) and the third UN Ocean Conference in France (June 2025), by convening a regional session that showcases the impactful work being done in the EAS region.

Stakeholder Groups:

Countries

- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Republic of Korea
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

Agencies:

- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
- Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- South China Seas – Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project
- Global MPA Network / Scaling MPA Capacity Think Tank

Timeline:

Event	Date & Location	Organizations Present
Global MPA Manager Network Meeting	27 – 30 Aug Washington DC, USA	COBSEA, Blue Nature Alliance, Global MPA Network
10 th GEF Biennial International Water Conference ● Collective meeting with EAS and global network	23 – 26 Sep Punta del Este, Uruguay	COBSEA, SCS-SAP, Blue Nature Alliance/Global MPA Network, PEMSEA
2nd Meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems	21 – 22 Oct Siem Reap, Cambodia	COBSEA, SCS-SAP, IUCN, PEMSEA, IOC-WESTPAC
East Asian Seas Congress: Side-Event Workshop on the 30x30 target for the region ● Initiate conversations between the regional ocean governance bodies present at the EAS Congress	06 – 08 Nov Xiamen, China	COBSEA, SCS-SAP, PEMSEA, IUCN, NEAMPAN, ACB, IOC-WESTPAC
Our Ocean Conference ● 1-day pre-event workshop ● 1 collaborative side-event	27 – 30 April 2025 Busan, Republic of Korea	All Stakeholder Groups
United Nations Ocean Conference ● Launch of the collaborative effort	16 – 20 June 2025 Nice, France	All Stakeholder Groups

Our Ocean Conference

Pre-Conference 1-Day Workshop

Objectives:

- Cultivate a systems thinking to effectively diagnose the challenges in marine and coastal management in the region;
- Make sense of the **Collaborative Action Points** from the East Asian Seas Congress towards concrete activities and initiatives;
- Strengthen collaboration and partnership through the development of an initial roadmap.

Methodology:

The Blue Nature Alliance and the Global Network of MPA Networks launched the **Scaling Global MPA Capacity to Reach 30x30 Initiative** (the Initiative) at the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress in 2023. Early Initiative participants advocated for the establishment of a Community of Practice to leverage partnerships and, in 2024, these practitioners began using a systems approach. A systems approach equips diverse participants to discover and explore the current patterns across marine management systems that allow them to strategize together, build practical tools for communicating contextual conditions, and identify opportunities for outsized influence. The intent is to move beyond project-by-project capacity development to achieve sustained delivery that keeps pace with expanding area-based conservation and the growing need for effective management of existing protected areas.

In the Pre-Conference, the Blue Nature Alliance will support in regionalizing the experience and learning at the global level by facilitating a similar systems approach for the East Asian Seas region. This shall provide an opportunity for ground truthing the ideas developed at the global level with the region, at the same time, provide a methodological way for the region to move forward in concretizing the Collaborative Action Approach.

Participants	
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)	2
Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)	2
Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat	1
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)	1
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	1
North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)	1
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	2
South China Seas – Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project	2
SUB TOTAL	12
Facilitator	
Blue Nature Alliance	3

Resource Requirements:

- Flights for 12 Participants
- DSA for 12 participants for 5 days (1 day arrival; 1-day pre conference; 3 day OOC)
- Terminal Fee for 12 participants
- Meeting Venue and Package for 1-day pre conference
- Registration fee, if any

Our Ocean Conference

Side-Event Proposal

Deadline 10 December 2024

Event Title	Regional Collaborative Network of MPA Networks for the East Asian Seas
Implementing Organizations	COBSEA, PEMSEA, SCS-SAP, ACB
Lead Organization	Name Organization Email Address Phone Number
Alternative Contact	Name Organization Email Address Phone Number
Partner Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) ● Blue Nature Alliance ● Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) ● Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) ● Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC) ● International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ● North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) ● Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) ● South China Seas – Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project
Relevance to OOC Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MPAs ○ Sustainable Fisheries ○ Marine Pollution ○ Climate Change ○ Maritime Security ○ Blue Economy ○ Digital Oceans <p><i>Select all if two or more agendas overlap</i></p>
Main Theme	<p><i>Identify the primary theme of the even in alignment with the OOC's agenda</i></p> <p>Achieving the 30x30 global target through a collaborative network of regional Marine Protected Area Networks in the East Asian Seas</p>
Event Description	<p><i>Provide a detailed description, including the thematic focus, objectives, and expected outcomes of the event (Please keep under 300 characters)</i></p> <p>The East Asian Seas is home to the richest marine biodiversity in the world, leading to significant efforts towards marine protection in the region. This session will map regional initiatives in supporting the 30x30 target with</p>

	the aim of forging MPA and collaborative Networks for collective action.
Expected Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA ● Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Program Officer, IUCN ● Ms. Mi-Jin Lee, Research Associate, NEAMPAN ● Dr. Sheila Vergara, ENMAPS Project Manager, ACB ● Dr. Frank Griffin, Director, CTI-CFF ● Mr. Anders Poulsen, Programme Manager, SCS-SAP ● Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinator, COBSEA ● Dr Puri Canals, Global Network of MPA Manager Networks
VIP Invitation Plan	<i>Outline any plans to invite Ministers or other VIPs to the side event.</i>
Room Capacity	30-50 persons 50-100 persons 100-150 persons
Equipment Requirements	Projector and screen required Not required
Preferred Date and Time	29 April 2025, AM / PM 30 April 2025, AM / PM
Additional Supporting Information	<i>Provide any special requests or additional information relevant to the proposed event.</i>