



VA/PRF/MPA/2025-001

Title	REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA (EAS)
Position/Type	Writer / Regional Level
Duration	June – December 2025
Closing Date	30 May 2025

BACKGROUND

Building on the discussions during the East Asian Seas Congress 2024 held in Xiamen, China and around the 10th Our Ocean Conference in Busan, Korea, (secretariats to) regional organizations agreed to work together through a Regional Collaborative Network for MPAs with the view to developing concerted efforts to support country partners achieve their commitments towards the 30x30 targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

These regional organizations, which will now be called as ‘the network’ include, the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program (ATSEA); 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); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia-Pacific and North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN), and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the South China Seas – Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project

Among areas of potential collaboration are: building a common understanding of MPA and MPA Network initiatives in the region through mapping regional initiatives, sharing of existing tools and resources, linking existing knowledge platforms, enhancing communication of good practices and success stories, organizing joint capacity building and training, building country partner networks and elevating the profile of the East Asian Seas globally in a concerted manner.

As an initiative step, PEMSEA coordinates the group work to conduct a mapping exercise with some analysis to share information and knowledge on existing MPA and MPA related initiatives, tools and resources, partnership modalities and practices with key stakeholders that bring mutual benefits, social inclusion and transparency and lessons learned in tackling MPA issues in order to and build a deeper understanding of initiatives to strengthen MPA effectiveness in the EAS region and in support of respective regional strategic action programs or strategies.

The target for the exercise includes all practitioners, managers, planners and designers involved in global ocean governance from local to regional scales in the EAS and elsewhere.

Proposed Table of Contents

1. Introduction

- Introduction to the East Asian Seas
- Geography of the EAS and countries
- Brief introduction to the key marine and coastal issues of concern to countries of the EAS
- Regional ocean governance initiatives and strategic action programs/strategies operating in the EAS (Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program (ATSEA); 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); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia-Pacific and North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN), and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the South China Seas – Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project)

Boxes/ figures : thematic, spatial, country, geographic extent; KB GBF targets

Table on focal points (Ministries/ Agencies);

Illustrations on governing boards; means of operation & funding

2. MPA initiatives in each of the organizations

- Objectives of project/ initiatives
- Components
- Participating countries/sub national
- Partners
- Budget
- Duration of Project

Illustration:

- MPA sites (broken down into LMEs, countries, scope and area in terms of hectares)

3. Annotated list of MPA Tools and resources and platforms

- List of MPA experts and specialities in the EAS region
- List of training materials, MOOC tools etc
- List of tools (IUCN Green List, MEAT, METT, ASEAN ENMAPs baseline assessment tools for MPAs)
- List of references/documents

4. Analysis

- How do the regional organizations function and how are they linked in general? How are they distinct?
- What are their MPA initiatives?
- What works in these MPA initiatives and what are the current challenges and gaps?
- What are the good practices and lessons learned by MPA practices?
- What are the common grounds among regional organizations' MPA initiatives in helping countries implement NBSAPs, train and build capacity, monitor progress of implementation?

5. Suggestions and recommendations on how to further strengthen coordination and synergies

- What partnerships can be further forged to address the challenges and gaps?
- What could be potential areas for joint fundraising?
- How can M&E mechanisms be strengthened, individually and collectively, to measure and report on progress towards KMGBF targets
- What opportunities can be tapped individually and/or collectively by the regional organizations and why are they important?

6. Conclusions and summary of key opportunities to improve collaboration on MPA governance and management

Background documents

Annex 1: Literature and documents cited or referenced

Annex 2: Primary contacts and respondents in the regional organizations/programs under review

Timeline: June- December 2025

Date	Activity	Lead
May 2025	Review and approval of draft TOR Comments from the rest of the group Hiring of writer	PEMSEA & COBSEA All PEMSEA
June 2025	Collation of documents/references in a shared google drive to be shared by PEMSEA	All
July 2025	Zero draft with sections 1 & 2	Writer
August 2025	Online presentation to the group and discussion of sessions 3-5	Facilitated discussion
September 2025	First draft	Writer
	Online review	Writer
October 2025	Second draft	Writer
	Online review	All
November-December 2025	Finalization, edit, Approval process	All

Duty Station

The Consultants/Consulting Firms will be home-based with regular coordination with PRF.

Travel Plan

In the event that the Consultant/Writer is required to travel to render services, as required under the TOR, associated travel costs will be covered by the Project.

Qualifications of the Consultants/Consulting Firms

- Post Graduate Degree in relevant discipline.
- Relevant work experience and good working knowledge of international, regional, national best practices in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs).
- Sound understanding of sustainable development, environmental management issues, monitoring and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional agreements and instruments.
- Relevant experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and dialoguing with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Fluency in written and spoken English is an advantage.

Financial Proposal

Applicants should detail the budget plan based on expected outputs, clearly showing logical framework or activity plan to achieve the outputs.

Submission of Tender/Application

Applicants are requested to submit:

1. Duly accomplished **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability**;
2. **Detailed Curriculum Vitae**, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the team leader and members.
3. **Brief description** of why the consultant/writer is considered as the most suitable for the assignment.
4. A description of the **methodology**, on how he/she will approach and complete the assignment.
5. **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs.

Applicants are requested to submit the tender and requirements via email to recruitment@pemsea.org. Kindly indicate the vacancy reference number and title of requirement when applying (in the subject line) by email.

Additional Considerations

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only those candidates that are shortlisted will be notified.

For more information on PEMSEA, please visit www.pemsea.org