



MID-TERM PROGRESS REVIEW

**Sustainable Development
Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
Implementation Plan
2023-2027**

A N N E X 1

ANNEX 1: SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 Progress Towards Target Outcomes



Component 1: Effective Governance

Component Objective: To continually strengthen ocean and coastal governance and management at regional, national and local levels; raise public awareness; strengthen capacities, and incorporate scientific information and input to planning, managing and sustaining healthy and resilient ocean, coasts and communities, and facilitating gender mainstreaming in governance and management programs.

Priority Program: 5	Regional Mechanism			Policies		Capacity Development		Knowledge Management		GESI	
Target Outcome: 10	I.A.1	I.A.2	I.A.3	I.B.1	I.B.2	I.C.1	I.C.2	I.D.1	I.D.2	I.E.1	I.E.2

■ Achieved
 ■ On track
 ■ In progress (w/ challenges)
 ■ Delayed

Priority Program I.A: Regional Mechanism

Target Outcome	Status
I.A.1: A self-sustaining and strengthened regional partnership coordinated by PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) with improved capacity of accessing funds from diverse sources to support the implementation of the regional strategy.	
I.A.2: A Regional and National State of Ocean and Coasts (SOC) reporting system to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress, impacts and benefits and continually guide the SDS-SEA to achieve blue economy growth and maintain ocean health.	
I.A.3: A platform for connecting people for a healthy ocean: science-policy-economy-society interface.	(for 2024 targets)

Over the past two years, notable progress has been achieved, particularly with the following: approval and implementation of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027; an increase in voluntary agreements and/or contributions from Country Partners (CPs); continued collaboration with Non-Country Partners (NCPs); demonstrated ability by the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) in accessing project grants; application of various area-based monitoring and reporting tools apart from the SOC; and sustained support to the East Asian Seas Congress (EASC) and EAS Ministerial Forum (MF) as key platforms for fostering partnerships and advancing SDS-SEA objectives.

However, several challenges remain, including ensuring long-term financial sustainability, maintaining periodic SOC reporting, and fostering consistent engagement of partners, among others. The table below summarizes key areas of progress and aspects for further strengthening. Based on the understanding of current progress, an analysis of several challenges is presented, followed by insights and strategic recommendations for consideration.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress <i>Note: Comprehensive details are provided in the table below.</i>	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 formally adopted (2023) and implementation is ongoing • 9 out of 11 CPs contribute financially and/or in-kind, demonstrating ownership of PEMSEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Financial support: China, Japan, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Viet Nam began contributing in 2024, while targeted financing support for EASC came from Cambodia. ◦ In-kind support: The Philippines through the hosting of the PRF Office and some EC and PC meetings; China on the hosting of EAS Congress, MF and PNLG Forum 2024, PNLG Secretariat and China-PEMSEA Center; Indonesia on the hosting of PNLC Secretariat since 2024; RO Korea on hosting of EAS Youth Forum 2024, and 33rd EC Meeting (with KIOST support); and Viet Nam on hosting of 15th EAS Partnership Council Meeting • Increase in number of NCPs to 22, with the National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS) admitted in 2024 • Several joint initiatives/projects conducted with NCP support • Increased external funding through multilateral and bilateral-funded projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 5 Completed: ASEANO Project (completed in 2022); UNDP/GEF/IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project (completed in March 2025); GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project 2019-2024 (completed in Dec. 2024); MOU under East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans (EASICO) for 2022-2024; Ecological Solid Waste Management Project (completed in March 2023) ◦ 6 Ongoing: ATSEA-2 Program; GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project (2023-2027); (ROK) MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project (2023-2028); WB/UNOPS SEA-MaP Project (2022-2027); GEF/UNDP ASEAN ENMAPS Project (2024-2029); Agreement with DCCEEW Australia on ALDFG of ATS SAP (funding for 2024-2026) • Several projects or initiatives in the pipeline with NCPs and other Collaborators: Blue Carbon Capacity Building Workshop with NMHMS; ATSEA-3 Project; IKI/IMO/PEMSEA Blue Solutions Project; AI for Ocean Health Prediction: Democratizing Climate Change Adaptation; Philippine Rise Integrated Conservation for Enduring Legacies through Ecosystem Support Services (PRICELESS); and Follow-on Project on Biofouling Management in the East Asian Seas Region • On SOC: established foundation on SOC system through the First Regional and National SOC (2018, updated RSOC in 2021) and its additional regional update in 2021 with a COVID-19 impact analysis on coastal and ocean health and blue economy served as key reference for the current SDS-SEA IP; Development of 2nd NSOC in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While it was noted that 17 out of 22 NCPs continue to engage in various PEMSEA meetings/activities, their level of participation has been inconsistent or fluctuating over time. In terms of agreements, only 7 out of 22 NCP long-term agreements remain valid up to 2025 and some are not actively implemented, while other NCPs engage on an ad-hoc basis through LOCs with short-term financial or technical commitments. • Delay in the target initiation of the 2nd National SOC Reports, including development of Guidelines for incorporating GESI indicators into R/NSOCs, originally scheduled to commence in 2024. • Limited updated SOC reports from PNLG members with some cited

<p>Philippines (for final approval); and Updated SOC of Bataan, Philippines (published in 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of other area and thematic-based monitoring tools, such as the State of River Basin (SORB) reporting (under the IRBM Project), Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS) and standardized beach monitoring for marine plastics and litter (under the Marine Plastics ODA Project); Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) (under ATSEA); and Enhanced Baseline Assessment tool developed for ASEAN ENMAPS MPA/MPAN project sites, considering various MPA management effectiveness and capacity assessment tools. • EAS Congress (EASC) 2024 successfully conducted with 44 Session conveners • Adoption of Xiamen Ministerial Declaration during the 8th EAS MF. In relation to ocean governance, the Declaration adopted 3 actions: Action 1-Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration and policy coherence; Action 2- Science-based data and information to support planning, policy development, investment decision-making, and monitoring; Action 3- Synergistic approaches, joint research, training and capacity development programs. • More targeted GESI mainstreaming efforts, including gender-responsive project monitoring, initiated and evident particularly in some PRF-managed projects (e.g., ATSEA-2; IRBM) • On engagement of other non-member countries, some opportunities are underway particularly involving Malaysia under the IRBM Project (national-level project implementation yet to commence), and Thailand under the ENMAPS Project (implementation has just been initiated), and University of Burapha and Prince of Songkla University for hosting of regional trainings and/or participation in PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) activities. • Support to ATSEA-2 project in developing assessments and concept papers which helped facilitate ATSEA-2 Project's transition to an ATSEA program with a long-term Regional Governance Mechanism. 	<p>data challenges, budget and personnel constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate planning and securing of host for EASC, MF, and Youth Forum 2027
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Insights and Recommendations

(NOTE: These are intended to provide guidance in identifying key priorities for the updating of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2030 and bigger PEMSEA sustainability initiative, along with key results from a separate review on Status and Trends on Coastal and Ocean Governance. Some of these may also be referenced for subsequent IP development post 2030)

While PEMSEA has sustained progress in securing financial and/or in-kind contributions from CPs and NCPs, as well as funding from various projects (in varying scales), long-term financial sustainability remains uncertain. Noting that contributions from some partners are inconsistent, with some provided on an ad-hoc basis, and multi-year funding commitments or agreements remain limited, PEMSEA remains vulnerable to shifts in donor priorities. Changes in government or ministry structures and officials, due to elections and government efforts to streamline governance and enhance operational efficiency, in some cases have also affected the timely delivery of financial and in-kind commitments from CPs. Similar challenges exist in NCPs, where changes in leadership, organizational mandates, or contact persons have affected continuity of engagements with PEMSEA.

Insights and Recommendations

(NOTE: These are intended to provide guidance in identifying key priorities for the updating of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2030 and bigger PEMSEA sustainability initiative, along with key results from a separate review on Status and Trends on Coastal and Ocean Governance. Some of these may also be referenced for subsequent IP development post 2030)

Recommendations:

- Enhancing PEMSEA's financial sustainability and funding diversification would benefit from revisiting and reinforcing PEMSEA's existing Financial Sustainability Plan. This may include developing a long-term engagement strategy to guide multi-year funding agreements, integrating targeted joint initiatives, and establishing a dedicated expert or team within the PRF to support donor engagement, fundraising, and project development. Additional support to identify projects and fund sources may be provided by additional officers (e.g., secondment from CPs/NCPs). These efforts are already aligned with the ongoing Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and upcoming Financial Sustainability Assessment to be undertaken as part of the PEMSEA Sustainability Planning to 2030.
- Regularize the assessment or review of NCP engagement and identify areas for action or improvement, with the aim of ensuring continuity and strengthened partnerships with NCPs. To further strengthen coordination with both CPs and NCPs, as well as other collaborators, it may be good to consider identifying dedicated positions within the PRF responsible for specific coordination (e.g., Secretariat Coordinator for CPs, and Policy/Planning and Partnerships Officer for NCPs)
- Proactive outreach to existing and new NCPs to expand technical, financial, and capacity-building support for SDS-SEA implementation. Engagement efforts particularly with NCPs may be expanded beyond the annual EAS Partnership Council (PC) Technical Sessions and triennial EASC, through quarterly digital coordination meetings, regional or country-based learning activities centered on specific thematic areas during intersessional periods, to help long-term partnerships and deeper engagements.
- As part of strategic planning, annual PEMSEA Work Planning sessions or consultations may be institutionalized and organized ahead of annual EASPC meeting to identify and confirm targeted joint initiatives with CPs, NCPs, as well as with PEMSEA networks and collaborators.
- Create a formal onboarding process for new focal points when government transitions occur to ensure continuity of engagement.
- Establish a dedicated capacity development program for National Focal Points to strengthen their ability to champion PEMSEA within their respective governments. Training/briefing/orientation materials for onboarding of key Partners (e.g., NFPs, new NCP heads, local leaders, etc) and personnel (e.g., seminar, webinar, videos, etc.) will be helpful to establish better understanding and appreciation of PEMSEA's work.
- Through coordination with PEMSEA National Focal Points/Agencies, expand engagement with other key ministries—including finance, planning, foreign affairs and economic development—to build broader government support; organize annual country-specific briefings involving multiple agencies to foster whole-of-government awareness of PEMSEA initiatives; and conduct regular needs assessments to ensure that PEMSEA's services and programs remain responsive to the evolving priorities of Country Partners.

Since the completion of the final phase of the GEF/UNDP SDS-SEA Project in 2021, discussions and dedicated support for ICM and local SOC reporting have been limited, and recently mostly confined to annual PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) or PNLG-PNLC forums and select regional and project-based ICM-related forums.

Insights and Recommendations

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Recommendations:

- Develop a roadmap, in collaboration with PNLG, PNLC and CPs, to identify technical assistance and sources of funding needs, and to establish clear timelines for updating R/NSOC and local SOC reports. The regular updating of the RSOC, in particular, is considered crucial as it serves as an important benchmark for marine and coastal conditions in the region.
- Building on PEMSEA's and project-based Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessments and plans, and with support from a GESI expert, pursue the development of Guidelines on GESI integration in SOC reporting.

High-level engagement or representation remains inconsistent particularly at the triennial EAS Ministerial Forum. Building high-level support through intersessional activities will be beneficial in strengthening government support and long-term partnership. The 16th EAS Partnership Council (2024) also recommended engaging non-member countries - Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand but progress remains limited, though some targeted initiatives have started through PRF-managed and supported projects.

Recommendations:

- Initiate early planning and consultations for the EASC, MF and Youth Forum 2027, as well as PNLG and PNLC General Assemblies in 2027, to ensure early engagement and high-impact events. In particular, follow up with Lao PDR to serve as host for EASC, MF and other Congress-related events for 2027; A PEMSEA forum or some EASC technical sessions may be convened as part of PEMSEA events to be proposed for UNDOS Conference in Manila in 2027.
- Reinvigorate leadership forums (in between triennial EASC and MF) with support from CPs, NCPs and other collaborators, as a platform to reinforce high-level understanding and ownership from governments/government leaders. Non-member countries may also be invited in some activities as part of partnership-building efforts.
- The MF 2027 may build on the result of assessments on the impacts and benefits of regional cooperation under PEMSEA (proposed governance and thematic assessments proposed in other Components and Priority Programs below), promote acceleration of national and regional ocean governance goals, and reinforcing/advancing commitments towards and beyond 2030.

Strengthening PEMSEA partnership and governance mechanisms also require continuing efforts to build the PEMSEA brand (linked to I.D.2).

Insights and Recommendations

(NOTE: These are intended to provide guidance in identifying key priorities for the updating of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2030 and bigger PEMSEA sustainability initiative, along with key results from a separate review on Status and Trends on Coastal and Ocean Governance. Some of these may also be referenced for subsequent IP development post 2030)

Recommendations:

- Assign or engage a dedicated Communications Officer for overall PEMSEA communications and branding, who can collaborate with various PRF-managed projects and PEMSEA partners.
- Strategically plan PEMSEA events and engagements in various knowledge sharing events by ensuring alignment with the following:
 - PEMSEA Communication and KM Strategy
 - PEMSEA Training and Capacity Development Plan
 - PNLG Strategic Action Plan (2022-2030)
 - PNLC Operational Plan 2023-2027
 - Knowledge sharing initiatives outlined under specific PRF-managed and supported projects
 - Knowledge sharing initiatives with NCPs
 - Program to be developed for EASC 2027
- Strategically plan PEMSEA participation and contributions to key international and regional events (i.e., IW Conference, Ocean Conference, WOW in Xiamen, etc.) as part of annual work planning

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
I.A.1: A self-sustaining and strengthened regional partnership coordinated by PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) with improved capacity of accessing funds from diverse sources to support the implementation of the regional strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Agreements signed between PRF and Country Partners 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 approved and adopted by the EASPC. • Voluntary Agreements developed, agreed to and signed between PRF and PEMSEA Country Partners, confirming country ownership of PEMSEA and providing funding to 	2024-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Agreements with Country Partners fully operationalized. 	SDS-SEA IP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 approved and adopted by the EASPC at the 29th Expanded EC Meeting (2023); Implementation of the SDS-SEA IP ongoing in collaboration with various partners, networks, and collaborators. Voluntary Agreements with Country Partners (CPs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, 9 out of 11 Country Partners have contributed either financially and/or in-kind to support PEMSEA and PRF operations. (See Appendix A, Table 1) • In terms of financial contribution, China, Japan, RO Korea, Singapore, and Timor-Leste have consistently contributed annual financial support under Cost-Sharing Agreements (CSAs) or similar agreement. In 2024, Indonesia and Viet Nam have committed and started to provide annual financial support. While Cambodia provided financial contribution specific to the East Asian Seas 	Voluntary Agreements with CPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue annual implementation and renewal of existing CSAs • Expand efforts to secure additional support from other PEMSEA CPs.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
		sustain the core operation of the PRF Secretariat.		<p>Congress (EASC) 2024. In the case of Japan, 8% of the contribution goes to UNDP for fund management, while >90% primarily supports core Secretariat operations and conduct of PEMSEA governance meetings. For Timor-Leste, 90% of their contribution supports operations of the PEMSEA office in the country as well as participation of TL delegates to the annual PNLG Forum. All other financial contributions are distributed to support various PEMSEA/SDS-SEA activities and PRF services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of in-kind contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China continues to host & support the operations of the PNLG Secretariat in Xiamen and the China-PEMSEA Center. In 2023 and 2024, China hosted the PNLG Forum as well as the EASC 2024 in Xiamen Indonesia has been hosting the PNLC Secretariat at the IPB University since its official designation as PNLC Secretariat in 2024 RO Korea hosted the 2024 EAS Youth Forum in Ulsan, as well as the 33rd EC Meeting in Busan (with KIOST support) Viet Nam hosted the 15th EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting in Hanoi The Philippines continues to provide annual in-kind contributions by hosting the PEMSEA Office/PRF, and various PC and EC meetings, enabling the sustained operation of the Secretariat. Related to the Cost-Sharing Agreements (CSAs), annual progress and financial reports are in place to ensure effective monitoring and implementation. The increase in number of Country Partners providing financial and/or in-kind contributions is a strong demonstration of ownership of PEMSEA and recognition of the PRF in facilitating the SDS-SEA implementation. Some challenges were also noted and worthy of consideration. While commitments for voluntary contribution are in place, changes in government structure and officials mainly due to elections or organizational restructuring, as well as changes in PEMSEA National Focal Points can sometimes affect timely delivery of commitments. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements signed between PRF and Non-Country Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements signed between PRF and Non-Country Partners confirming resource and capacity development and technical support for joint implementation of collaborative projects that contribute to the targeted outcomes of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. 	2024-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements with Non-Country Partners fully operationalized. 	Agreements with Non-Country Partners (NCPs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEMSEA has a total of 22 Non-Country Partners (NCPs) to date. During the 16th EAS PC Meeting in 2024, the National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS), a non-profit research and academic institution under China's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), was officially admitted as the 22nd Non-Country Partner of PEMSEA. In line with the objective to ensure continued engagement of NCPs, the PRF conducted an internal review to track the status of engagement with NCPs and to identify areas or ways to reinvigorate partnerships. The review indicated the following key results (See Appendix A, Table 2 for details) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 out of 22 formal agreements (MOUs/LOC/Joint Communiqué) between NCPs and PEMSEA are still valid up to 2025 (IOI, MABIK, NOWPAP, NMHMS), up to 2029 (ACB), and some have no termination period (EMECS, SGP). However, some of these are not actively being implemented due to changes in leadership or contact persons, as well as organizational changes (i.e., decentralization of SGP) Other NCPs opted to engage through Letters of Cooperation (LOCs) with shorter or specific timeframes. Majority of these are LOCs which have been completed in support of the EAS Congress in 2024. Despite the absence of formal agreements with other NCPs, the review showed that 17 out of 22 NCPs continue to engage in various PEMSEA activities/initiatives at varying levels. The NCP Engagement Review serves as a useful reference to track NCP engagement and to inform development of management/partnership strategies to strengthen and ensure continuity of engagement of NCPs. 	Agreements with NCPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation and monitoring of existing agreements. Pursue discussions and confirmation of targeted agreements/ initiatives with NCPs in support of SDS-SEA Collaborative Projects with Other Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efficient implementation and monitoring of ongoing national, bilateral, and multilateral-funded collaborative projects. Strengthen partnerships with regional and international organizations and donors to enhance project outcomes. Continue development of new initiatives/fund raising proposals in the pipeline, expanding PRF's portfolio of products and services. Impact Study on PEMSEA's Value Add <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted as one of the outcomes of the ongoing assessment of PEMSEA's progress and strategic direction/planning towards 2030.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects developed, approved and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF develop collaborative projects with global (IMO) and other regional organizations (ASEAN) and 	2024-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF managing and coordinating a full suite of products and services, including national, bilateral and 	Collaborative Projects with Other Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2023, PRF has developed, operationalized or continued to implement a number of national, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects, while integrating GESI-based methodologies under key components of specific projects for inclusive implementation and monitoring. These projects include: 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
		<p>partners with the utilization of GESI-based methodologies and tools to guide GESI mainstreaming, implementation and monitoring of project activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF implement national, bilateral and multilateral-funded projects. 	<p>multilateral-funded projects in support of the implementation of the agreements with Partners and the SDS-SEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact study of PEMSEA value added in sub-national, national and regional ocean governance conducted. Business spin-off for revenue generating services explored by innovating new approaches for self-sufficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024; completed in Dec. 2024) Ecological Solid Waste Management Project (completed in March 2023) UNDP/GEF/IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project (with KIOST on the development and publication of the Regional Action Plan on BioFouling in the Seas of East Asia) (project completed in early 2025). PEMSEA is also a key partner of the East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans (EASICO) together with Indonesian Waste Platform, Greenhub, and ICC Philippines (MOU coverage 2022-2024) ATSEA Program (PEMSEA designated as interim fund manager for 2025-2026) Agreement with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) of Australia in Support of the ALDFG Component of the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) SAP 2024-2033 (project funding is currently for 2024-2026) GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project (2023-2027) (ROK) MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project (2023-2028) WB/UNOPS SEA-MaP Project (2022-2027) (PEMSEA serves as Technical Advisory Organization to the project) GEF/UNDP ASEAN ENMAPS Project (2024-2029) (PRF leads the capacity building initiatives of the project with ACB) It should be underscored that some of these projects are supported by PEMSEA Country Partners or Non-Country Partners, such as the MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project funded through RO Korea's ODA, the GEF/UNDP ASEAN ENMAPS Project which is linked to PEMSEA's Cooperative Agreement with ACB, and the development of the RAP on Biofouling which also involved KIOST. It is also worth noting that during the East Asian Seas Congress (EASC) 2024, a total of 44 co-conveners joined PEMSEA in the conduct of various knowledge sharing sessions in line with the objectives of the SDS-SEA (more details under I.A.3) 	<p>Business Spin-Offs for Revenue-Generating Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted as one of the outcomes of the planned assessment of PEMSEA's Financial Sustainability towards 2030, with specific outputs (i.e., business models, project concepts and draft proposals) to support PEMSEA's self-sufficiency and long-term viability.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Projects in the Pipeline with various collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the above projects, the PRF continues to coordinate with various partners in the development, approval or operationalization of the following projects in the pipeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "IKI/IMO/PEMSEA Blue Solutions Project: Reducing Maritime Transport Emissions in East and Southeast Asian countries". The approval of the project has been delayed for several years due to German elections and frequent turnover of IKI finance team. "Supporting Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Blue Economy Development in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATSEA-3) Project". The submission of the PIF to GEF Council is pending, awaiting Timor-Leste's formal approval of the ATS SAP 2024-2033 which is a GEF pre-condition to the ATSEA-3 project. Supporting Ecologically Representative Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the ATS in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Submission of the proposal did not meet the deadline due to incomplete supporting letters from some target participating countries. Nevertheless, the project concept is ready and can be repackaged for submission to other funders focusing on biodiversity. "AI for Ocean Health Prediction: Democratizing Climate Change Adaptation". An initial concept for grant submission to Bezos Earth Fund has been developed and spearheaded by the University of Exeter (UoE) and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML- a PEMSEA NCP). PEMSEA has been initially identified as possible contributing entity. "Philippine Rise Integrated Conservation for Enduring Legacies through Ecosystem Support Services (PRICELESS)". Led by Conservation International (CI- a PEMSEA NCP), with GEF grant for 5 years. PEMSEA/PRF is being eyed as Third-Party service provider. Originally set to begin in 2022, implementation has been delayed pending MOA approval by DENR following the recent issuance of Special Authority approval from the Office of the Philippine President, required to facilitate project implementation in the Philippines. "Blue Carbon Program". This is a PEMSEA-led initiative with support from the Executive Committee, various Partnership Council members, as well as the PNLC as members of a Technical Working Group (TWG). Efforts are guided by the 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Biofouling Management in the East Asian Seas Region". Building on the foundational work of the UNDP/GEF/IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project, a follow-on project proposal to implement the adopted Regional Strategy and Action on Biofouling Management in the EAS Region has been developed. This global project is targeted to run from 2025-2028 for 5Mln USD. - "MOA on PRICELESS project". Discussion ongoing with CI-GEF - "GEF MSP on Biodiversity" under the ATSEA Program. 	
<p>I.A.2: A Regional and National State of Ocean and Coasts reporting system to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress, impacts and benefits and continually guide the planning and implementation of the SDS-SEA to achieve blue economy growth and maintain ocean health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second RSOC and NSOC Reports and other related reports on ocean health assessment with GESI component developed, published and disseminated by PEMSEA Country Partners, collaborating organizations, LMEs and sub-regional sea areas programmes. • R/NSOC Reports linked to other regional and global reporting systems on coasts and ocean and synergy with local SOC 	<p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy of R/NSOC with regional and global reporting systems established through collaboration with the World Ocean Assessment and other global and regional reporting systems on coasts and ocean. • GESI components of the existing R/NSOC indicators identified and guidelines for incorporating GESI indicators into the R/NSOC developed. <p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the second R/NSOC Reports initiated with agreed theme and methodology for measuring changes and trends in blue economy development and ocean health. 	<p>2025-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second R/NSOC Report prepared, published and disseminated to PEMSEA Partner Countries, LMEs/sub-regional sea areas programmes and collaborating organizations using agreed and standardized methodologies, objectives and theme. 	<p>Regional SOC Reports (RSOCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first RSOC (Volume 1), launched in 2018 (from 9 CPs and 2 non-member countries) was updated in 2021, covering the period of 2016-2020. This was followed by the 2nd RSOC (Volume 2 released in 2021) focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy, ocean health, and human well-being. These reports have been shared with UN DOALOS and ASEAN to contribute to the development of key international assessments, including the World Ocean Assessment report, ASEAN State of Environment report, Our Ocean Conference, OECD, Global Ocean Forum, and other relevant fora and organizations. • The initiation of the updated NSOCs, originally targeted for 2024 under the SDS-SEA IP, has been delayed. The updated NSOCs will serve as basis for the development of the 3rd RSOC. The updated reports will cover the period 2021-2025 and is expected to highlight post-pandemic status of ocean and coasts in the region. <p>National SOC Reports (NSOCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the launch of the first NSOCs in 2018, to date only the Philippines has developed its second NSOC in 2024, highlighting blue economy developments, biodiversity protection, pollution reduction, circular economy, and climate transition initiatives. The report is currently for final approval by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with official launching targeted in September 2025. • While second NSOCs have yet to be developed by other Country Partners (CPs), individual countries continue to produce and release environmental status reports. For example, China published its State of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Report in 2023, providing insights into its coastal and marine environmental 	<p>Updated Regional and National SOC Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating of the RSOC and NSOCs part of SDS-SEA review presentation and discussion during the 17th PC Meeting (July 2025). China in particular underscored the value of the SOC report. Following the PC, initiate planning and consultation with Country Partners. This may include securing EASPC's inputs and approval of the theme, objectives, and standardized methodology for the second NSOC and 3rd RSOC report, with integration of GESI indicators. <p>Updated Local SOC Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of local SOC, continue efforts through the PNLG to support the development of updated SOC reports at ICM sites. As targeted in the SDS-SEA IP, results from local SOC will also be considered in the development of the 2nd NSOCs and updated RSOC to ensure synergy.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme, objectives and standardized methodology submitted to the EASPC for review and approval. GESI indicators incorporated into the R/NSOC reports. 		<p>conditionsⁱ.</p> <p>GESI consideration in R/NSOCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with the recommendations of the GESI Assessment and Action Plan for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, GESI indicators will be incorporated in the development of the 2nd NSOCs and updated RSOC. Guidelines for GESI integration in the R/NSOCs are yet to be developed but will be based on the existing PEMSEA GESI framework and action plan, as well as from specific GESI Action Plans of PRF-managed and supported projects. <p>Local SOC (ICM sites):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PNLG Strategic Action Plan (2022-2030) Component 3 on Enhancing Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting include SOC reporting as one of its key targets. By 2021 (Conclusion of final SDS-SEA Project), a total of 34 local SOC have been developed. However, since then updating of local SOC have been limited. Based on PNLG SAP progress reports submitted by 20 out of 53 PNLG members in 2023, the most recent update came from Bataan Province in the Philippines with its second SOC published in 2024ⁱⁱ, covering the period 2017-2022. Majority of the other sites have not yet developed updated SOC reports, while some ICM sites indicated that they have been submitting separate annual environmental reports to their respective local governments. Some PNLG members also indicated that SOC report development is in progress although availability of data was noted as a challenge (i.e., Jakarta of IDN and Koh Kong of CAM), while some noted lack of M&E budget or M&E personnel to support the SOC report development or updating (i.e., Manatuto of TL, and Sihanoukville of CAM). <p>Relevant Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from SOC reporting, the expansion of ICM application through other area-based management approaches have resulted to application of various environmental management monitoring tools and systems. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of River Basin (SORB) reporting- promoted under the GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project (cross-reference to II.D.2) Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS), and standardized data collection for beach monitoring of marine 	<p>Synergy with regional and global reporting systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish synergies with other regional and global reporting systems.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>plastics and litter, with data housed in SEAKB's Marine Plastics Data Center- promoted under the MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project (cross-reference to II.D.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)- promoted under the MPA initiatives of ATSEA, and the GEF/UNDP ASEAN ENMAPS Project (cross-reference to II.B.2) It is also worth noting that majority of PRF-managed projects are also incorporating Gender-responsive M&E tools in project monitoring. 	
I.A.3: A platform for connecting people for a healthy ocean: science-policy-economy-society interface.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Asian Seas Congress convened in 2024 and 2027 in coordination with host governments, partners and collaborators. 	<p>2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAS Congress 2024 planned and conducted in collaboration with the host national and local governments and partners for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange on progress, challenges, constraints and achievements in implementing initiatives that contribute to SDS-SEA implementation and the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030. 	<p>2026-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAS Congress 2027 planned and conducted 	<p>EAS Congress 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAS Congress 2024 convened on November 6-8, 2024, in Xiamen, China, in conjunction with World Ocean Week (WOW) in Xiamen. The EASC was organized in partnership with China's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Xiamen Municipal People's Government. A total of 855 delegates from 20 countries, including high-level government officials, international organizations, regional secretariats, national agencies, local governments, academia, private sector, foundations, youth leaders, NGOs, and grassroots organizations participated in the event. The EASC 2024 was supported by 44 conveners, composed of PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners (25%), PEMSEA Networks, including PNLC and PNLC Members (9%), PEMSEA collaborators (11%), PRF-managed projects (8%), and other organizations (47%). Under the theme, "Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean", the EASC fostered dialogue and knowledge exchange through 3 plenary sessions, 30 sessions/workshops, special events, exhibit, and field visits. These resulted to renewal of partnerships and expansion of PEMSEA network, validation of innovative best practices for ocean sustainability, and strengthening of cross-border collaboration to accelerate innovative solutions. Linked to the EASC 2024 is the EAS Youth Forum. The event was organized by PEMSEA and the National Ocean Science Museum of RO Korea in Uljin. A total of 19 youth from PEMSEA Country Partners benefited from the forum. The Forum culminated with a Youth Call to Action covering 8 recommendations which were considered in the final Xiamen Ministerial Declaration. 	<p>EAS Congress 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue consultation with Lao PDR to secure formal confirmation on the hosting of the EAS Congress, MF 2027, and related Congress events, ensuring early engagement and commitment.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				EAS Congress 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the preparations for the EAS Congress 2027, the PRF sent a letter to Lao PDR on November 26, 2024, to inquire about their interest in hosting the event. Lao PDR's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has agreed in principle to host the EAS Congress 2027, subject to identifying a suitable host local government, with Vientiane under consideration, as shared during the 17th PC Meeting. Further discussions will be undertaken to secure confirmation. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Forum conducted in 2024 and 2027 in conjunction with the EAS Congress. 	2023-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Forum 2024 conducted facilitating the evaluation of the contributions, including the impacts and benefits of the partnership arrangement to SDS-SEA implementation, in accelerating national goals as well as reconfirmation of Country Partners' commitments to regional and national targets and program objectives. 	2026-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Forum 2027 conducted 	Ministerial Forum 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th EAS Ministerial Forum convened on November 6, 2024 and ensured alignment between the Ministerial Forum and the thematic discussions of the EASC 2024. Senior officials from 10 PEMSEA Country Partners (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) convened for a focused Ministerial dialogue on catalyzing synergies for ocean health, resilient communities, and sustainable economies. The culminating commitment document –Xiamen Ministerial Declaration was signed by 9 CPs (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam), with other two countries (DPRK and Philippines) to endorse post-internal approvals. <p>The Declaration reinforced over 30 years of PEMSEA collaboration by reaffirming commitments to sustainable development, aligning with global Blue Economy objectives, and outlining 10 synergistic actions to advance the SDS-SEA vision. In support of enhancing ocean governance, the Declaration adopted 3 actions: Action 1- Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration and policy coherence; Action 2- Science-based data and information to support planning, policy development, investment decision-making, and monitoring; Action 3- Synergistic approaches, joint research, training and capacity development programs.</p>	Ministerial Forum 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue coordination with Lao PDR to secure formal confirmation on the hosting of the 9th Ministerial Forum in 2027, as part of the EASC. Initiate planning in 2026, including structured consultations, program development, and country engagement to facilitate preparation for high-level participation and buy-in from CPs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other knowledge sharing events conducted/co-organized to promote achievements and 	2023-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GESI-focused forums, workshops, seminars, roundtables, study 	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global, regional, national and local coastal and ocean governance forums, 	GESI-focused events and learning events at EASC 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EASC 2024 advanced GESI objectives by achieving a 60:40 male-to-female participant ratio and fostering diverse, inclusive dialogue across various participants. Key sessions, including the Ministerial Dialogue highlighted synergy on multi-stakeholder 	Knowledge sharing events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue conduct of and participation to various knowledge sharing platforms

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	good practices in SDS-SEA implementation and facilitate networking and partnership building.	tours and joint learning events convened at the 2024 EAS Congress.	seminars, workshops, roundtables, study tours and joint learning events participated in by national and local leaders and women, indigenous people and other disadvantaged groups from PEMSEA Partner Countries, including participation in PNLC and PNLC Forums, World Ocean Week in Xiamen and EAS Congresses.	<p>engagement and science-policy interface. One of the Congress plenary sessions focused on community-driven ocean solutions and impacts, while targeted discussions conducted at various sessions/workshops integrated GESI principles (e.g., Session on Engaging Stakeholders in River basin Planning and Risk Management).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that other GESI learning events were conducted under various PRF-managed projects (cross reference to I.E. GESI) <p>Other knowledge sharing events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from the EASC 2024 described in earlier section, PEMSEA continue to organize/co-organize various events to promote and share good practices from the SDS-SEA implementation. Notable events particularly at the regional level from 2023-2024 include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual PNLC and PNLC forums (2023 and 2024) participation in the annual World Ocean Week (WOW) in Xiamen (2023 and 2024) Asia Regional Forum for the Pre-Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee 2 (INC-2) co-organized with WWF in line with discussions and the UNEA 5.2 Resolution 5/14 to End Plastic Pollution Capacity Development Workshop (Enhancing Scientific Capacity for Accelerating Actions Toward a Circular Economy) with PEMSEA as member of EASICO The Rise of Blue Carbon Credits: A learning exchange on blue carbon initiatives in East Asia Roundtable Discussion on Blue Carbon Accounting in the EAS Region ICM Lecture Series 4th International Conference on ICM and Marine Biotechnology with PEMSEA/ATSEA-2 as co-organizer together with IPB University, AIS Forum and DAAD Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Workshop (2023) co-organized by Viet Nam's Ministry of Environment with UNDP and PEMSEA to facilitate exchanges in line with the UNEA Resolution to End Plastic Pollution 6th GEO Blue Planet Symposium (2023) co-organized by PEMSEA with KMI, KOEM and Korea Blue Carbon Research Center, with key participation from PNLC members 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Year Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PEMSEA and representatives from PRF-managed projects were also given opportunities to share information in the following key international events in 2023 and 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Dialogue of the International Platform of Blue Carbon (2023) - 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) (2023) - Blue Carbon Regional Symposium of BlueCARES Project (2023) - 3rd Regional Ocean Policy Dialogue on Marine Plastic Pollution (2023) - 10th GEF International Waters Conference (2024) - Global Nature Positive Summit (2024) - 8th South-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on the SDGs (2024) ○ PEMSEA Exhibitions were also organized during DENR DRR and INC-5 Korea events ○ PEMSEA-led side event organized in partnership with COBSEA and SCS-SAP Project with high level representatives of regional organizations at the 10th Our Ocean Conference in Busan, RO Korea (2025) ○ PEMSEA along with other regional organizations from the region (ATSEA, ACB, COBSEA, CTI-CFF, IOC-WESTPAC, IUCN Asia-Pacific, NEAMPAN, and the SCS-SAP Project) conducted a session at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France (June 2025), wherein they agreed on a framework for a Regional Collaborative Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the East Asian Seas ○ Based on PRF's record, PRF-managed projects have organized/co-organized more than 200 learning events/activities: ~200 events under the ATSEA-2 project from 2019-2024 covering local to regional activities; 19 events under the IRBM project (2023-June 2025); 19 events under the Marine Plastics ODA Project (2023-2024); 1 event under the ENMAPS project (2024); 5 events related to the PEMSEA Blue Carbon program (2024-June 2025) 	

Priority Program I.B: National Ocean and Coastal Policies, Legislations and Institutional Arrangements

Target Outcome	Status
I.B.1: National ocean and coastal policies, supporting legislations and institutional arrangements set up and functional in PEMSEA Partner Countries.	
I.B.2: ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas further scaled up from the 2020 coverage across the region's coastline and contiguous watersheds.	

Policy and legislative development across PEMSEA Country Partners (CPs) continues to advance, with recent years seeing the adoption and implementation of more framework strategies, plans, and programs focused on Green Growth, Marine Spatial Planning, the Blue Economy, and ocean management. Legislative progress includes amendments to key environmental laws in some countries. Institutional changes or developments were also noted, particularly within PEMSEA's National Focal Agencies in Indonesia and Viet Nam, largely due to elections and efforts to streamline government processes. While in the Philippines, an Ocean Environments Task Force was recently established and will be providing guidance in the formation of a dedicated Ocean Environments Bureau under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Regional and national policy forums have facilitated dialogue on important and emerging issues, including blue carbon, ocean-climate linkages, and the High Seas Treaty. ICM implementation and mainstreaming into national and local plans continue, guided by various coastal and ocean policies that promote integrated, whole-of-government, and cross-sectoral approaches to coastal, water resource, and ocean management. ICM implementation is also supported through the works of PNLC and PNLC, as well as under PRF-managed and supported projects, such as ATSEA-2, which has established ICM sites in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

The application of the ICM Code and ICM System Recognition remains active, with four sites achieving Level 2 certification and two sites achieving Level 1 certification in 2022 and 2023. Efforts to expand and mainstream ICM with GESI considerations are ongoing, primarily through PRF-managed and supported projects focused on thematic areas and specific sites in the region. Additionally, several regional and national ICM-related forums were conducted to further strengthen knowledge-sharing and policy integration.

Key remaining actions under this program include incorporating recent policy and legislative developments into the second Regional and National SOC reports, with a focus on highlighting key policies and legislations that support ICM mainstreaming. Additionally, the use of the ICM Performance Index in PEMSEA CPs was also targeted to assess the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of ICM at various sites, however, it was only pilot tested in China and has not been replicated in other countries due to budget constraints. Expanding demonstrations of GESI mainstreaming in ICM implementation is also a priority.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress <i>Note: Comprehensive details are provided in the table below.</i>	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA CPs continue to make progress on national coastal and ocean policies and legislations. Some of the key recent developments include: <i>(NOTE: More comprehensive listing of recent coastal and ocean policies and legislation is provided in I.B.1, while thematic or issue-based policies and legislation are outlined in Component 2 programs)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Continuing implementation of various policies and plans related to green growth. ◦ Some examples of recent policies, plans, strategies, programs: Cambodia's Environmental Protection Strategic Plan (2024-2028); Indonesia's Blue Economy Roadmap 2023-2045 and Regulation No.34 of 2022 concerning Marine Policy and Action Plan 2021-2025; Japan's 4th Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (2023); Philippines's Guidelines on Eligible Blue Projects and Activities for the Issuance of Blue Bonds (2023), DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2022-02 mainstreaming ICM into the Comprehensive Land Use Planning of local governments, and passage of House Bill 7767 (ICM Act) by the House of Representatives; Timor-Leste's Government Resolution No 27/2023 approving its National Ocean Policy; and Viet Nam's approval of the following in 2023, 2024 and 2025- Decision 376/QD-TTg, adopting the Master Plan for the North Central and Central Coast Region for 2021-2030, Resolution No. 139/2024/QH15 on the National Marine Spatial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050 (June 28, 2024), Resolution No.37/NQ-CP to implement the National Marine Spatial Plan for 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050 approved in Feb 27, 2025; Decision No. 1117/QD-TTg on approval of the Master Plan for sustainable extraction and use of coastal resources for 2021-2030 period with a vision to 2050 (Oct. 7, 2024), Resolution No. 48/NQ-CP approving the Strategy for sustainable exploitation and use of resources and protection of the marine and island environment until 2030, with a vision to 2050 (April 3, 2023), Decision No. 792/QD-TTg approving the Communication Program on seas and oceans until 2030 (June 16, 2023), Decision No. 236/QD-TTg promulgating the Plan to implement the Master Plan Exploitation and sustainable use of coastal resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050 (January 25, 2025). ◦ Legislation: Ongoing review of Cambodia's Environment and Natural Resource Code; China's revised Marine Environmental Protection Law in 2023 (implemented from 2024); Indonesia's Law No.59 of 2024 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan for 2025-2045; RA 12065 Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act approved in 2024, and R.A. No. 11995 Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act approved in 2024; and Viet Nam's Revised Law on Environmental Protection in May 2021 (in effect from 2022). • Recent institutional changes/developments (PEMSEA Focal Agencies): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Indonesia: Former Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) split into the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of updated list of national ocean policy, institutional arrangements and legislation in the 2nd NSOCs (development pending, except in the Philippines) and updated RSOC • Specific demonstration/document ation of ICM mainstreaming in national plans and legislative agenda lacking • Utilization of ICM performance index by the Country Partners to determine level of ICM implementation, effectiveness and impacts. • Development, approval and implementation of Guidelines on mainstreaming ICM with GESI components into the local government planning processes • Plan for scaling up ICM coverage (from 2020 status) (link to II.A)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Viet Nam: Former Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) merged under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) ○ Philippines: Special Order No. 2025-98 of DENR established the Ocean Environments Task Force (OETF) to guide the formation of an Ocean Environments Bureau and oversee the establishment of eight new marine research stations across the country. • Various regional policy forums conducted by PEMSEA • Expansion of ICM application and reach through the different PRF-managed and supported projects or programs and various national ICM initiatives • On ICM Code and ICMS: ICM Effectiveness Assessment to be undertaken by the China-PEMSEA Center with assistance from the Chinese ICM System Certification Audit Team. The Assessment can later be used as reference or model for other ICM sites. In terms of certification, 6 ICM sites certified for ICMS Levels 1 and 2 in 2022 and 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level 2 certified: Da Nang (Viet Nam), Guimaras (Philippines), Preah Sihanouk (Cambodia), Quanzhou (China) ○ Level 1 certified: Tangerang (Indonesia); Changyi (China) • Mainstreaming of GESI in ICM or ICM-related initiatives ongoing through various PRF-managed and supported projects and program. 	
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Insights and Recommendations

While key developments on coastal and ocean policies have been noted, there is limited in-depth analysis on their impacts and lessons, making it difficult to assess their effectiveness.

Recommendation:

- Although not a specific target under the current SDS-SEA IP, conducting an updated and in-depth study and policy analysis on ocean governance initiatives in the EAS region would provide valuable insights into lessons learned, opportunities for synergy and collaboration, as well as in assessing the extent of ICM mainstreaming in various government policies and plans. The PRF is already planning to update the 2016 publication on “Ocean Governance Initiatives in the East Asian Seas: Lessons and Recommendations”. This proposed initiative would also present an opportunity for collaboration with CPs and relevant NCPs in developing a comprehensive, updated report.

ICM performance indexes are currently embedded within the ICM Code, ICMS and SOC reporting indicators, aligned with regional and international targets at the time of their development. However recent developments in various global and regional sustainable development frameworks may require updates or refinement to the ICM performance indexes to ensure continued relevance.

Insights and Recommendations

Recommendations:

- Revisiting the ICM Code and ICMS, with support from PNLG, PNLC and relevant partners, would help ensure that performance indicators remain aligned with evolving regional and global targets. Through PNLC, PhD/Masters students may also be tapped to develop thesis on ICM implementation and progress assessment.
- Consider developing an ICM Code and ICMS Audit Team or Process with PNLC
- Follow up results from CPC's ICM System Certification and Effectiveness Assessment, which can serve as reference/guide for other ICM sites.

The current PNLG SAP 2022-2030 does not explicitly reference GESI mainstreaming in ICM, though it should be noted that GESI principles are inherently built into the ICM framework. At present, GESI mainstreaming efforts are primarily implemented at specific sites under PRF-managed and supported projects and program, but the process is not yet systematically applied in all ICM sites.

Recommendation:

- The PEMSEA GESI Assessment and Framework Action Plan, along with GESI assessments and action plans from some PRF-managed and supported projects and program, can serve as useful references for promoting and strengthening GESI mainstreaming in ICM implementation. Developing the Guidelines on GESI mainstreaming in ICM as targeted by the SDS-SEA IP, would help provide clearer guidance on gender-responsive planning and implementation, particularly to PNLG members and sites implementing ICM. Such effort may be linked to the work of PNLG and PNLC.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
I.B.1: National ocean and coastal policies, supporting legislations and institutional arrangements set up and functional in PEMSEA Partner Countries.	Ocean policy and other ocean and sectoral-related policies, legal instruments and institutional improvements for the sustainable management of priority coastal and marine areas, surrounding watershed and blue economy development under respective national context and governance structures	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and national policy forums and consultations organized and convened in conjunction with the EAS Congress and other regional and national events to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increase awareness and understanding and consensus on the need for national ocean policy and supporting legislation in accordance with the national policies and strategies; and ○ share and discuss innovations and experiences in policy, regulatory, environmental, economic and financial instruments among policymakers and legislators. 		Policies (including Plans, Strategies, Programs, Guidelines, Directives): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries continue to make progress in developing and implementing national policies, strategies, action plans and programs for sustainable coastal, water resource, and ocean development. <u>Sector-specific policies are reflected under relevant Priority Programs of Component 2 on Healthy Oceans.</u> Notably, some policies from 2021 or earlier are included as they serve as foundational frameworks for more recent policies. Significant developments particularly in coastal, ocean and blue economy policies, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambodia: Environmental Protection Strategic Plan (2024-2028); National Policy on Green Growth (2013-2030)ⁱⁱⁱ ○ China: 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025); National Outline of Territorial Spatial Planning (2021-2035); Master Plan of Major Projects for the Protection and Restoration of National Important Ecosystems (2021-2035); Blue Bay Remediation Project; Marine Functional Zoning (3rd 	Policies and Legislations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously monitor, document and share updates on policy, institutional and legislation advancements among PEMSEA CPs related to coastal and ocean governance and management, and blue economy development. • Identify or coordinate with CPs on upcoming regional and national policy forums related to coasts and oceans

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	initiated, adopted and implemented.			<p>round of planning and implementation completed as of 2022)^{iv}; Technical Guidelines for investigation and assessment of coastal ecosystems, and Technical Guidelines on coastal ecological rehabilitation for hazard mitigation launched in 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o DPRK: National Environmental Protection Strategy for 2019-2030 (still in effect) o Indonesia: Indonesia's Blue Economic Development Framework 2021; Indonesia Blue Economy Index (developed in 2022); Indonesia Blue Economy Roadmap 2023-2045^v; Regulation of the President of the Republic of Indonesia no. 34 of 2022 concerning the Marine Policy Action Plan 2021-2025^{vi}; Marine Spatial Planning developed across all provinces building on MSP regulations in 2021 (i.e., Government Regulation Number 21 of 2021 on Implementation of Control of Spatial Utilization and Supervision Spatial planning^{vii}) o Japan: 4th Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (2023)^{viii} o Lao PDR: National Green Growth Strategy till 2030; 10-Year National Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2016-2025 o Philippines: Philippine Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts and the Roadmap to Institutionalise Natural Capital Accounting (2022–2040); Guidelines on Eligible Blue Projects and Activities for the Issuance of Blue Bonds in the Philippines issued in September 2023; Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program pursuant to DENR Administrative Order 2016-26^{ix}; DENR Special Order 2025- 98 Creation of Ocean Environment Task Force; DENR-BMB has adopted a Technical Bulletin (TB) (No. 2022-02) mainstreaming ICM into the Comprehensive Land Use Planning (CLUPs) and Development Planning (CDPs) of local governments to expand National ICM program and support ICM Bill implementation; passage of House Bill 7767 (ICM Act) by the House of Representatives; Interagency coordination is being strengthened through a planned Joint Administrative Order and the reactivation of the ICM Inter-Agency Council to clarify agency roles in blue economy development. o RO Korea: Green New Deal and K-SDGs; Third Basic Plan for Sustainable Development 2016-2035; Master Plan for Ocean and Fisheries Development (2021-2030) o Singapore: Singapore Green Plan to 2030 (still in effect) o Timor-Leste: Government Resolution No 27/2023 approving the National Ocean Policy in Timor-Leste^x o Viet Nam: Decision 376/QĐ-TTg, adopting the Master Plan for the North Central and Central Coast Region for 2021-2030 approved in 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>2024; Resolution No. 139/2024/QH15 on the National Marine Spatial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050 (June 28, 2024); Resolution No.37/NQ-CP to implement the National Marine Spatial Plan for 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050 approved in Feb 27, 2025; Decision No. 1117/QD-TTg on approval of the Master Plan for sustainable extraction and use of coastal resources for 2021-2030 period with a vision to 2050 (Oct. 7, 2024)^{xi}; Resolution No. 48/NQ-CP approving the Strategy for sustainable exploitation and use of resources and protection of the marine and island environment until 2030, with a vision to 2050 (April 3, 2023); Decision No. 792/QD-TTg approving the Communication Program on seas and oceans until 2030. (June 16, 2023); Decision No. 236/QD-TTg promulgating the Plan to implement the Master Plan Exploitation and sustainable use of coastal resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050 (January 25, 2025). The following are also in effect: Resolution No. 26-NQ/CP in 2020, outlining a five-year plan to implement Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Ocean Economy by 2030, with a vision toward 2045; and Master Plan for the Sustainable Exploitation and Use of Coastal Resources (2021-2030, vision to 2045)^{xii}. National Green Growth Strategy for 2021-2030 with a vision by 2050^{xiii}; Decision No. 28/QD-TTg on Key Program for Basic Investigation of Marine and Island Resources and Environment to 2030 (January 7, 2020); Decision No. 647/QD-TTg on the Project on International Cooperation on Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Marine Economy to 2030 (May 18, 2020); Decision No. 896/QD-TTg Program on Capacity Building and Modernization of Technical Facilities for Management of Marine and Island Resources and Environment to 2030 (June 26, 2020). Amendment of the Law on Marine and Coastal Resources and the Environment is ongoing and expected to continue through 2026.</p> <p>Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2022 to 2024, countries have adopted or revised key legislations in support of coastal, and ocean governance and management. <u>Sector-specific legislations are reflected under relevant Priority Programs of Component 2 on Healthy Oceans.</u> Notable legislative developments on coastal and ocean management include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Environment and Natural Resource Code of Cambodia is under review by government authorities as of December 2021^{xiv} China: revised Marine Environmental Protection Law in 2023 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>(implemented from 2024)^{xv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia: Law of the Republic of Indonesia No.59 of 2024 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan for 2025-2045^{xvi} Philippines: RA 12065 Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act approved in 2024^{xvii}; Senate Bill No. 2450 Blue Economy Act^{xviii} with a policy refinement underway with ADB support; R.A. No. 11995 Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act approved in 2024; Senate Bill No. 2397 on ICM Act (pending approval)^{xix} Viet Nam: Revised Law on Environmental Protection in May 2021 (in effect from 2022)^{xx} <p>Institutional Changes/Developments in CPs (National Focal Agencies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2023 to 2025, several institutional changes or developments were noted in several PEMSEA CPs. Key developments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines: Under Special Order No. 2025-98 of DENR, the Ocean Environments Task Force (OETF) was established in February 2025 to streamline ocean-related policies and programs through scientific collaboration and stakeholder consultations. Supported by leading marine scientists, the task force will also guide the formation of an Ocean Environments Bureau and oversee the establishment of eight new marine research stations across the Philippines. Indonesia: Presidential Regulations No. 175, 182, and 183, signed in November 2024, guided the restructuring of Indonesia's environmental governance. These regulations split the former Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) into: the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment. This separation is designed to optimize and allow for more efficient management of Indonesia's natural resources and environmental challenges. The restructuring is still ongoing. Viet Nam: The country's National Assembly approved in February 2025 a restructuring of its ministries and agencies. The former Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) have been merged into one under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) to streamline operations and reduce functional overlaps across national and local levels. From 2023 to 2025, changes in ministers and ministry officials 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>were also observed across various PEMSEA CPs.</p> <p>Policy Forums and Consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2022, PEMSEA has organized and conducted key policy forums and consultations to advance ocean governance, climate resilience, and sustainable blue economy initiatives. Notable regional forums include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue (June 2022, Zoom) Roundtable Discussion on Blue Carbon Accounting in East Asia (June 2023, Zoom) EASC 2024 Plenary Session on Ocean Science, Policy and Practice (Nov 2024, China) EASC 2024 Seminar on Blue Carbon Policy, Regulation and Technology (Nov 2024, China) EASC 2024 Session on From Ratification to Implementation: Asia High-Level Dialogue on the High Seas Treaty (Nov 2024, China) 8th EAS Ministerial Forum (Nov 2024, China) PNLG Forums 2023 and 2024 (Xiamen, China) <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMI: Advanced marine jurisdiction law and ocean use impact assessment legislation to strengthen marine governance systems; Participated in UN Plastic Treaty negotiations (INC-4, INC-5) and COP16 as government delegation member. KIOST: Co-hosted forum with experts from Korea, China, and Indonesia on effective Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation, featuring a session on big data-driven policy simulation (EAS Congress 2024 in Xiamen, China); Development of national MSP policy and integrated ocean observing system in ROK; Other collaborative initiatives include MSP technical support, establishment of bilateral joint centers (e.g., Indonesia, ETC), and participation in intergovernmental organization working groups. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of national ocean policy, institutional arrangements and legislation completed as part of the Second R/NSOC reporting with the following considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts and benefits with regard to achieving national and regional targets for sustainable development and blue economy; and Development and adoption of gender policies, 		<p>Policy, Institutional and Legislation Review for 2nd NSOC and updated RSOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of 2nd NSOCs has not yet started (except in the Philippines) 	<p>Policy, Institutional and Legislation Review for 2nd NSOCs and updated RSOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of national ocean policy, institutional arrangements and legislation compiled and reflected in this report may serve as reference for the Second NSOC and

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
		institutional arrangements and legislations and how these are mainstreamed into the strategies and plans on ocean and coastal management and sustainable development, including their contribution to international and national commitments on GESI			updated RSOC reporting (linked to Component I.A.2)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and advocacy campaigns developed and implemented in support of proposed policies/laws targeting policy makers at national and local levels, including women, indigenous people and other marginalized groups to promote better awareness and understanding of the importance of GESI in policy formulation and in designing GESI-based policy solutions (cross-reference to D.2). 		Communications and Advocacy Campaigns related to GESI policy and solutions: (cross-reference to Components/Priority programs I.D on Knowledge Management and I.E on GESI)	
I.B.2. ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas further scaled up from the 2020 coverage across the region's coastline and contiguous watersheds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICM mainstreamed into national and local long- and medium-term development plans and legislative agenda of national and local governments. 	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National ICM or ICM-related strategic (long-term) and operational plans (medium-term) developed, approved and implemented by PEMSEA Country Partners identifying national priority coastlines for ICM demonstration and implementation and upscaling. 		ICM Strategic and Operational Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As highlighted in previous PEMSEA progress reports, 40.48% of the region's coastline has been covered by ICM since 2020. The implementation and mainstreaming of these ICM programs continue in PEMSEA Country Partners, primarily through local governments- many of which are PNLG members. These efforts are guided by and form part of national and local policies, plans, programs and legislation, with emphasis on integrated, whole-of-government, and cross-sectoral approaches to coastal, water resource, and ocean management. Expansion of ICM application in other sector-specific or thematic areas (biodiversity, fisheries, climate change, DRR, pollution, and water use management) is also increasing and evident in key developments noted under Component 2 on Healthy Oceans, particularly through the different PRF-managed and supported projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to the target outcome to scale up ICM from the 2020 coverage, there's currently no updated data on ICM coverage. Further planning and consultations will be needed with CPs and PNLG. Scaling up of ICM coverage will also need to take note of the expanding application of ICM with other area-based integrated approaches.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of coastline covered by ICM and related programs supporting national priorities and commitments under the UN 	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of coastline covered by ICM, including ICM effectiveness and impacts determined using standardized and/or harmonized methodology (e.g., ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index incorporating relevant SDG indicators to measure level of implementation) in 		ICM Coastline Coverage: (cross-reference to Component II.A.1 and II.A.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2020, ICM coverage has expanded across approximately 86,285 kilometers, covering 40.48% of the EAS region's coastline. ICM application has also expanded through other area-based management approaches, through a thematic, geographical, and functional focus, showing complementarity with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and Integrated River Basin and Watershed management IRBWM) (details 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD's GBF, UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk reduction, GPA and other relevant environmental and sustainable development targets subscribed to by PEMSEA Partner Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaboration with the PNLG and PNLC Guidelines on mainstreaming ICM with GESI components into the local government planning processes developed, approved, piloted and implemented. ICM with GESI attributes mainstreamed into national development plans and included in the legislative agenda of the national government. National ICM Forum convened as venue for knowledge and experience sharing and fine tuning of strategic actions for scaling up. 		<p>linked to PRF-managed and supported projects reflected under II.A.2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on PEMSEA's ICM initiatives, under the ATSEA-2 program, 2 sites (Rote Ndao, Indonesia and PA Barique in Manatuto, Timor-Leste) have adopted ICM programs with linkage to climate change adaptation, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and sustainable livelihoods. Combined coastline coverage of both sites is at 347km. <p>Application of ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM Performance Index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICM Code (recognized as an international standard in 2015) and the ICM System (ICMS) certification continue to serve as key components of national ICM programs, providing structured approach for monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, and effective implementation of ICM. However, this review notes that after the ICMS Level 1 certification of 15 ICM sites in 2014 and 2015, and following the closure of the SDS-SEA Project in 2021, requests and efforts on ICM certification have slowed down. Within the scope of this progress review, notable development in 2023 is the initiative from the China-PEMSEA Center (CPC). The CPC continued efforts in expanding ICM through certification training and audits for potential demonstration sites. With support from China's MNR and PEMSEA, CPC established a Chinese ICM System Certification Audit Team, composed of experts from the First Institute of Oceanography and the National Center of Ocean Standards and Metrology to undertake ICM Effectiveness Assessment which can be used as model in other sites, following applications in China. In 2022 and 2023, the following sites have also been assessed and recognized on ICMS Levels 1 and 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 certified in 2022 and 2023: Da Nang (Viet Nam), Guimaras (Philippines), Preah Sihanouk (Cambodia), Quanzhou (China) Level 1 certified in 2022 and 2023: Tangerang (Indonesia); Changyi (China) Embedded within the ICM Code and ICMS, as well as in the local SOC Reporting are performance indexes that help assess implementation progress and effectiveness of ICM programs. There is no standalone document on ICM Performance Index. The PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022–2030 Component 1 identifies the implementation of the ICM Code and Recognition System as a key target. Similarly, the PNLC Action Plan 2022–2027 includes a 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICM performance index utilized by the Country Partners to determine level of ICM implementation, including effectiveness and impacts. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilization of ICM performance index by the Country Partners to determine level of ICM implementation, effectiveness and impacts.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>specific target for engaging in ICMS certification at select sites, based on identified needs.</p> <p>GESI Mainstreaming in ICM (local government) (cross reference to Component/Priority Program I.E: GESI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GESI Assessment and Action Plan, published in May 2024, outlined key recommendations to strengthen GESI in ICM implementation: Recommendation 7- Inclusion of the SDG 5 in the PNLG Tracking Tool indicator of the ICM Scaling up priority program; and Recommendation 8- Inclusion of the GESI in the ICM effectiveness assessment framework and methodology. The current PNLG SAP 2022-2030 does not explicitly reference GESI mainstreaming in ICM. However, it is important to highlight that the ICM program and process are inherently built on the principles and practice of participatory, integrated, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement, which aligns with GESI principles. Efforts to expand and mainstream ICM with GESI considerations are ongoing and mainly undertaken through the different PRF-managed and supported projects and program that focus on specific thematic areas and project sites in the region (see more details under I.E.2 on GESI). <p>ICM with GESI Mainstreaming in national plans/legislative agenda (cross reference to Component/Priority Program I.E: GESI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GESI Assessment and Action Plan includes a review of National Legal Frameworks and Policies in EAS countries. In particular, it was noted that all PEMSEA Country Partners are party to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW). <p>Other GESI-related policies and legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the country legal documents outlined in the GESI Assessment and Action Plan, the following more recent policies and legislation with GESI considerations are worth noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women (promulgated in 2022)^{xxi}; Outline of Women's Development in China (2021-2030)^{xxii} Indonesia: Law No. 6 Year 2023 on Job Creation (Omnibus Law on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider inclusion in EASPC, PNLG and PNLC agenda the discussion on development of specific Guidelines on Mainstreaming ICM with GESI, and mainstreaming of the same to relevant national and local plans. (link to I.E) Promote or coordinate with CPs, NCPs, PNLG and PNLC members the conduct of more National (or Regional) ICM Forums.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Job Creation)^{xxiii}; Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Decree No. 34 Year 2021 on the Establishment of Working Group P3AKS^{xxiv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RO Korea: Third basic plan for gender equality policy (2023~2027)^{xxv}; Act on Promotion of Economic Activities and Prevention of Career Interruption of Women (promulgated in 2021, enforced from June 2022)^{xxvi}; Equal Employment Opportunity and Work-Family Balance Assistance Act (amended in 2021, enforced in 2022)^{xxvii} • PRF also noted key GESI-related initiatives in other multilateral initiatives in the region, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GESI Policy under CTI-CFF (2021), provides direction in GESI mainstreaming in all of CTI-CFF activities^{xxviii} - ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDGs (adopted in 2017)^{xxix}; ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development (adopted in 2023)^{xxx} <p>ICM Forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the regional level, the following forums were conducted in 2023 and 2024 in line with continuing efforts to promote and share experiences on ICM and its linkages with other integrated environmental management approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ICM Lecture series as part of PEMSEA's 30th Anniversary: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Inaugural lecture and perspectives on ICM development and adaptive and iterative application in the region (Aug 2023; Philippines); (2) ICM presentation at the 4th International Conference on ICM and Marine Biotechnology (ICMMBT) (Sept 2023; Indonesia); (3) Presentation of ICM as a connector to various approaches at the PNLC learning exchange during the 6th GEO Blue Planet Symposium (Nov 2023; RO Korea) o The PNLC Forum 2023 in conjunction with WOW 2023 focused on sharing of ICM best practices and blue economy opportunities and collaboration o EAS Congress and WOW 2024 featured keynote presentations and various sessions on ICM and its applications: Keynote Address on ICM in Xiamen; and 2024 PNLC-PNLC Joint Learning Forum on Local Practices on Marine Ecological Protection and Restoration under the ICM Framework 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Training on Marine Spatial Planning Application in the Scaling up of Integrated Coastal Management held in Xiamen, PR China (April 21-25, 2025) • At the national level, the following key ICM or ICM-related forums were convened in 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ICM and IRBM Orientation for Kampong Bay River Basin (Dec 2023; Kampot, Cambodia) ○ Introduction of ICM methodology as part of plastics and solid waste management (related to ODA Marine Plastics Project (2023; Philippines and Timor-Leste) ○ 2023 World Coastal Forum (Sept 2023; Yancheng, China)^{xxxi} ○ National Policy Forum on the Ridge-to-Reef Approach to Sustainable Development Planning (June 2023; Manila, Philippines)^{xxxii} ○ Pronouncement of Cambodia Prime Minister in 2022 on establishing May 26 (annual) as a National Coastal Forum Day^{xxxiii} 	

Priority Program I.C: Capacity Development

Target Outcome	Status
I.C.1: ICM and specialized skills training programs, targeted research, joint learning events promoting science-policy interface, materials, case studies, advisory and mentoring services supporting scaling up of ICM programs and SDS-SEA implementation	
I.C.2: Global and regional capacity development programs provide opportunities for country participation facilitating partnership building and networking.	

Since 2023, significant progress has been made in capacity development. Following an internal review of the Capacity Development Plan (2021-2025), an interim Capacity Development Framework was put in place to provide a more structured plan to PEMSEA's capacity-building initiatives, including the training programs under various PRF-managed and supported projects and program. To enhance coordination and knowledge consolidation, a CapDev database has been established within the SEAKnowledge Bank platform, serving as an internal repository for training sessions, workshops, and learning events.

Over 100 targeted trainings have been conducted under different PRF-managed and supported projects and program, including PRF-led e-learning or webinars, benefiting close to 5,000 participants. The PNLC remains instrumental in providing technical assistance and expert advice to national and local governments, ICM sites, and local communities. By 2024, the PNLC membership has reached 25 with 8 new members admitted since 2023. Apart from the regional and national training programs, the PNLC-PNLG forums, EAS Congress International Conference, and regular PEMSEA participation to World Ocean Week (WOW) of Xiamen, have served as important platforms for capacity building and knowledge exchange. All these capacity and awareness building efforts are contributing to the capacity development objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (UNDOS). PEMSEA also collaborated with the Global Ocean Forum and the High Seas Alliance through the conduct of their respective sessions during the EASC 2024.

To fully achieve the capacity development targets of the SDS-SEA IP, there is a need to have a comprehensive PEMSEA CapDev program as current efforts are largely project-driven. Moreover, the following actions remain to be addressed: further strengthening of PNLC and expert engagement in ICM seminars, forums, and publications to promote knowledge-sharing and best practices, and exploring the development of a regional action plan on ocean science or opportunities for collaboration on UNDOS-related trainings, including facilitating active participation of women scientists and experts.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Development and Training Plan/Capacity Development Framework carried out and linked to various training programs under the PRF-managed and supported projects and program CapDev database or repository of training information in place and updated regularly. Based on the database, there are several PEMSEA training courses available. Since 2023 to date, 11 E-Learning/Webinars have been offered, 111 thematic trainings conducted (3 PRF-led; 1 through PNLC; 6 under the Marine Plastics Project; 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Capacity Development Plan Explore opportunities to develop a Regional Plan of Action in support of

<p>under the IRBM Project; 96 under the ATSEA-2 Project (regional and country components from 2019-2024), benefiting close to 5,000 participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNLC Secretariat formally established and hosted by IPB University in Indonesia in 2023. • PNLC membership has increased to 25, with 8 new members admitted since 2023: Ocean College, Zhejiang University, China (2023), Prince of Songkla University, Thailand (2023), Diponegoro University, Indonesia (2023), Center for Sustainable Development, Udayana University, Indonesia (2023), Mindanao State University at Naawan, Philippines (2024), National University of Laos (2024), Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO), Xiamen University, China, and Guangdong Ocean University, China (2024) • PNLC continues to serve as an important capacity building arm/network of PEMSEA. In particular, PNLC has supported the development of the PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025, enhancement of the SEAKB, development of Joint Proposal on Single Use Plastics to SEA-Map, and expert support during the EAS Congress 2024 technical sessions. The PNLC also serves as a working group member of the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program and participated in its training, and some PNLC members from Timor-Leste serve as Beach Litter Monitoring Institutes for the MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project. • PNLC Training conducted in Burapha University (BUU) in 2025 with support from the University of Hawaii and BUU • Since 2021, three PNLC-PNLC Science Policy/Joint Learning Sessions have been carried out. • While there has been no direct training conducted under the UNDOS capacity-building program, the different PEMSEA trainings are all aligned and contributing to the UNDOS goals. • A session from the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme under the UNDOS program delivered a Capacity Building Workshop on GEM Programme during the EAS Congress 2024 with support from the SKLMP, City University of Hong Kong. • With regard to Global Ocean Forum and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the following workshops were co-organized during the EASC 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ From EEZs to the High Seas: Leveraging the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in accelerating the implementation of ocean-climate action (co-convened by Global Ocean Forum and PML) ◦ From Ratification to Implementation: Asia High-Level Dialogue on the High Seas Treaty (co-convened by High Seas Alliance) ◦ From Ratification to Implementation: A Deep Dive on the High Seas Treaty (co-convened by High Seas, Part V Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology (co-convened by High Seas Alliance) 	<p>UNDOS and identify possible UNDOS trainings with IOC UNESCO and other programs, with consideration of participation of women scientists and expert, noting possible collaboration with IOC/WESTPAC on the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference and the 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference, scheduled to be held in the Philippines in 2027.</p>
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Insights and Recommendations

The PRF noted that with the transition from the last SDS-SEA Project to multiple projects, capacity/training activities are currently project-driven. Establishing a consolidated/comprehensive Capacity Development Program would also require further assessment, planning, budget as well as personnel support. The ongoing update of the SDS-SEA IP to 2030 and the plan to assess PEMSEA's organizational capacity present an opportunity to align with the SDS-SEA IP target to update the Capacity Development Plan. Optimizing PNLC support on capacity development would also require identification and road mapping of key technical assistance and capacity building support for various PEMSEA initiatives

Recommendations:

- Instead of updating the Capacity Development Plan to 2027 as originally targeted in the SDS-SEA IP, consider extending the scope to 2030 to align with the updated SDS-SEA IP. This updating process would also provide an opportunity to include an assessment of budgetary and personnel requirements (including a dedicated Communications Officer for overall PEMSEA communications) to enhance the management, coordination and monitoring of PEMSEA's capacity development programs.
- The separate organizational capacity and effectiveness assessment to be undertaken as part of this initiative on PEMSEA Sustainability to 2030 is also targeted to develop a Capacity Development Plan for PRF. This resulting plan will also need to be considered in updating the overall Capacity Development Plan.
- Building on the PNLC Operational Plan (2022-2027), specific technical support requirements from PNLC may be designed and mapped for better planning and alignment with PEMSEA's capacity development needs.
- Explore online certification programs for ICM practitioners, creating a professional development pathway
- Consider in annual CapDev/training plan conduct of Annual PEMSEA ICM trainings (with various themes or applications including SOC updating, Blue Carbon, BE, GESI integration, etc.) which can be offered to national and local governments for a fee (registration), as well as study tour packages with PNLC members which other interested local governments can avail of using their own resources
- Integrate PEMSEA's ICM training modules into the existing training activities of CPs.

Despite alignment of various PEMSEA activities with UNDOS objectives, there has been no direct training conducted under PEMSEA's framework.

Recommendation:

- Consider engaging with IOC WESTPAC (as a PEMSEA NCP) to co-organize PEMSEA session(s) at the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference and the 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference, scheduled to be held in the Philippines in 2027. Planning for this session could also be aligned with the preparations for EASC 2027 Technical Conference to maximize regional engagement and collaboration.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
I.C.1: ICM and specialized skills training programs, targeted research, joint learning events promoting science-policy interface, materials, case studies, advisory and mentoring services supporting scaling up of ICM programs and SDS-SEA implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Development Plan 2021-2025 updated to 2027 and approved by the EASPC. Capacity Development Plan implemented in collaboration with governments and other partners. 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Development Plan updated to 2027 incorporating the identified needs of countries for capacity building, tools, methodologies and services, including GESI, that are standardized to allow cross-comparison across countries in support of the development, implementation and replication of ICM programs and SDS-SEA. 	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Development Plan implemented at regional, national and local levels with the following strategic initiatives as part of ongoing and planned programs and projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Courses in ICM and Specialized Skills Training of Trainers Conduct of Study Tours Leadership Training Internship/Traineeship Program Fellowship Program for PNLC scientists and scholarships for young PNLC scientists in Ris/other PNLC member universities Establishing and engaging ICM Learning Centers Recognizing and engaging Regional Centers of Excellence Joint PNLC-PNLC Learning Events Conduct of e-learning course offerings through MOOCs and webinars, online conferences, information dissemination, virtual meetings, e-working meetings, scientific and popular webinars, e-publications and dissemination of reports. 	Capacity Development Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PEMSEA Capacity Development Training Plan 2021–2025 has undergone an internal PRF review and has been considered in the development of the PNLC Workplan. Pending further deliberation on the plan, in the interim, a Capacity Development (CapDev) Framework has been developed to serve as a basis for a more structured and purposive CapDev Plan. This framework has been presented to the PRF Management Committee (ManCom) but requires further deliberation to finalize its scope, funding sources, and implementation strategy. PEMSEA's transition from the SDS-SEA Project to multiple projects in 2020 also required alignment of training programs with various PRF-managed and supported projects. Currently, capacity development efforts remain largely project-driven, with training activities being integrated into the initiatives of ongoing PRF projects and partner-led opportunities. To enhance coordination and knowledge consolidation, a training database has been established as an internal repository for documenting training sessions, workshops, and learning events conducted since 2023. Based on the CapDev database, the following developments were noted since 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training courses under PEMSEA (Understanding ICM; ICM ToT; IIMS; CUZ Development; Risk and Vulnerability Assessment; Financing Sustainable Environmental Projects through PPP; Water Quality Monitoring and Analysis: IEMP; Marxan Z and Marine Assessment & Planning Support System- Marine Suitability Assessment) 11 E-Learning/Webinars (related to Blue Economy, Valuation of Ecosystem Services; Youth Program; Blue Carbon; Biodiversity; Electronic Cath Documentation and Traceability) Trainings conducted: 3 PRF-led; 1 through PNLC; 6 under the Marine Plastics ODA Project; 6 under the IRBM Project; 96 under the ATSEA-2 Project from 2019-2024 Close to 5,000 beneficiaries from the above-mentioned trainings/capacity building efforts (Note: a big part of this is from trainings conducted by ATSEA-2 project from 2019-2024) 2 PNLC-PNLC learning events conducted (2021 & 2024) Apart from the trainings and learning events noted above, PRF continues to facilitate awareness and knowledge sharing on ICM and 	Capacity Development Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating of the Capacity Development and Training Plan to include concrete training plans and capacity needs (including GESI) from various PEMSEA-managed projects and trainings identified with partners, PNLC and PNLC.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building awareness and sharing experiences on sustainable development and integrated coastal and ocean management through knowledge platforms and various media and forums. 	sustainable development through the triennial EAS Congress, SEA KnowledgeBank (SEAKB), PEMSEA website, project microsites and social media platforms (cross-reference to Component/Priority Program I.D. on Knowledge Management and specific knowledge initiatives under different priority programs/outcomes of the SDS-SEA IP).	
			<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNLC engaged as trainers, resource persons and facilitators, including women leaders and experts and other marginalized individuals with subject matter expertise in the implementation of the Capacity Development Plan, including the conduct of scientific seminars and forums on ICM and in the preparation of ICM solutions and ICM-related publications capturing the lessons learned and good practices in ICM implementation. 	<p>PNLC and Experts engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PEMSEA Learning Centers and Regional Centers of Excellence (RCOE), or PNLC, have consistently provided technical assistance and expert advice to national and local governments, ICM sites, and local communities, among others, in support of the SDS-SEA implementation across the region. By 2024, the PNLC membership has reached 25 with 8 new members added since 2023: Ocean College, Zhejiang University, China (2023), Prince of Songkla University, Thailand (2023), Diponegoro University, Indonesia (2023), Center for Sustainable Development, Udayana University, Indonesia (2023), Mindanao State University at Naawan, Philippines (2024), National University of Laos (2024), Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO), Xiamen University, China, and Guangdong Ocean University, China (2024) The List of PNLC members is provided in Appendix A, Table 4. The signing of the PNLG Charter in 2021, adoption of PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027, and the formal turnover of the PNLC Secretariat from PRF to CCMRS, IPB University of Indonesia through a MOA in 2024 further formalized and strengthened the PNLC as a key PEMSEA Network to provide education, research and technical assistance in support of the SDS-SEA implementation. Within the PEMSEA SEAKnowledgeBank, a dedicated platform was allocated to the PNLC. The PNLC platform is still being populated, but already includes directories of regional experts and members, and key PNLC reports. This platform is envisioned to serve as an important hub for regional capacity building for connecting learning institutions and experts, and EAS stakeholders. In terms of concrete engagement, the following are some of the key engagements of PNLC in various PEMSEA initiatives or PRF-managed projects since 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the development of the PEMSEA Capacity Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided by the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027, PNLC is expected to continue providing support on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate certification of Integrated Coastal Management systems at designated locations. Execute the IGES-PRF climate adaptation project in Guimaras, Philippines. Develop and implement projects/activities to reinforce ICM and advance the SDS-SEA Organize and participate in activities aimed at enhancing capacity and disseminating knowledge among PEMSEA partners and stakeholders.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>and Training Plan 2021-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inputs to further enhance the PEMSEA SEAKnowledgeBank (SEAKB) ○ Support to the development and submission of Joint Proposal on Single Use Plastics to SEA-MAP ○ PNLC EC as members of the core technical working group on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon program participated in the Blue Carbon Training (March 2025) and 2nd Blue Carbon Meeting (June 2025) ○ PNLC members (UNTL and UNITAL) serve as Beach Litter Monitoring Institutes for the conduct of quarterly beach monitoring in Timor-Leste sites under the MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project ○ 3 PNLC-PNLC Science Policy/Joint Learning Forums have been conducted since 2021 as part of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EAS Congress 2021 (hybrid event, Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia) - PNLC Forum 2022 (Tangerang, Indonesia) - EAS Congress 2024 (Xiamen, China) ○ Members of the PNLC served as resource persons/panelists and conveners in some of the sessions during the EAS Congress 2024. Key sessions convened by PNLC/RCOE members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity Building Workshop on the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme during the EASC 2024 with support from the SKLMP, City University of Hong Kong; - Training Session on Pollution Assessment and Management with support from the SKLMP, City University of Hong Kong. ○ IGES (one of PEMSEA's RCOE) with PRF launched a Pilot Project in Guimaras, Philippines focusing on Achieving Coastal Resilience through Local Knowledge-based Adaptation Planning in 2022 ○ CCMRS-IPB (RCOE member) continues to organize the ICM and Marine Biotechnology (ICMMBT) Conferences. Most recent is the 4th ICMMBT which was co-organized by the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project (September 2023), and 5th ICMMBT (July 2025) ○ PNLC supported the Training of Trainers (ToT) on MSP Application in ICM held in China in April 2025. 	
			<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the UNDOS, explore opportunities for developing a regional plan of action on advancing ocean science to support SDS-SEA implementation, including the 	<p>Contribution to UNDOS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is worth noting that the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, adopted in Nov 2024, reaffirmed PEMSEA CPs commitment to key relevant global instruments and initiatives, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030). • The SDS-SEA IP and supporting PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan/Framework Document, along with specific PRF- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for development of regional plan of action on advancing ocean science (PRF noted the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference and the 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
			identification of conditions that are adapted to women scientists and experts to facilitate their contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science	<p>managed and supported project CapDev and training plans (i.e., ATSEA-2 and ATSEA program, IRBM, Marine Plastics, ENMAPS), functionally serve as the basis for carrying out and integrating UNDOS capacity building objectives within PEMSEA and in actualizing ocean science-policy-actions interface.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In particular, advancing ocean science are evident in the: ICM and specialized trainings at regional, national and local levels; thematic sessions organized with NCPs and by PRF-managed and supported projects on sustainable fisheries, integrated river basin and water resources management, habitat and biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation, blue carbon, pollution reduction; the EAS Congress International Conference; and PNLC and PNLC technical forums/sessions. During the 6th GEO Blue Planet Symposium and PEMSEA Learning Exchange on Biodiversity Conservation-Focused Ecosystem and Area-based Management Approaches (Nov 2023; RO Korea), further recommendations were raised to deepen involvement in UNDOS, GBF 30x30 targets, and the efforts on MSP2.0 as part of the Joint Roadmap to Accelerate MSP processes globally. In support of GBF, relevant sessions were organized at the EASC 2024 (details reflected under Priority program II.B on Biodiversity and Fisheries) The Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme under the UNDOS program delivered a Capacity Building Workshop on the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme during the EASC 2024 with support from the SKLMP, City University of Hong Kong. 	Conference, scheduled to be held in the Philippines in 2027, as an opportunity to collaborate and conduct sessions. Planning for this session could also be aligned with the preparations for EASC 2027 Technical Conference).
I.C.2. Global and regional capacity development programs provide opportunities for country participation facilitating partnership building and networking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the purview of the updated Capacity Development Plan, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration to facilitate country participation in regional and international capacity building activities 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Ocean Science through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction through the Global Ocean Forum) and other programs/projects identified. Working relationships and partnership arrangements established with institutions, organizations, programs and projects to support country participation and capacity building. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted in the above section (I.C.1), to date, there has been no direct training conducted/provided by UNDOS through IOC UNESCO with PEMSEA. Various PEMSEA capacity development initiatives noted above are however aligned and contributing to the objectives of UNDOS to advance ocean science and sustainable management to support global efforts in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. With regard to Global Ocean Forum and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the following workshops were co-organized during the EASC 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From EEZs to the High Seas: Leveraging the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in accelerating the implementation of ocean-climate action (co-convened by Global Ocean Forum and PML) From Ratification to Implementation: Asia High-Level Dialogue on the High Seas Treaty (co-convened by High Seas Alliance) 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	identified.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o From Ratification to Implementation: A Deep Dive on the High Seas Treaty (co-convened by High Seas, Part V Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology (co-convened by High Seas Alliance) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional training events and targeted research activities conducted in collaboration with PEMSEA Non-Country Partners and other partners. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cross-reference to I.C.1 and Annexes on capacity building) 	

Priority Program I.D: Knowledge Management

Target Outcome	Status
I.D.1: The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) strengthened and operationalized.	
I.D.2: Increased knowledge and widespread stakeholder participation in SDS-SEA implementation enhanced through communication planning and information-education and communication campaign.	

Considerable progress has been made in optimizing knowledge management and fostering stakeholder collaboration to support SDS-SEA implementation. The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) has been further enhanced with improved functionalities, including improved access to various knowledge products. Project-specific portals have also been integrated, linking various PRF-managed and supported projects and programs. While content updates are ongoing, designated pages for key PEMSEA Networks (PNLG and PNLC) and key knowledge products (i.e., SOC reports and ICMS Certification database) are already accessible. Additionally, digital tools such as GIS mapping, data visualization, and real-time collaboration platforms have been utilized to improve data collection and knowledge sharing.

On stakeholder engagement, PEMSEA launched its Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy in 2023, providing a framework for outreach, media engagement, and knowledge dissemination. In collaboration with host countries, major PEMSEA events (e.g., EAS Congress, PNLG-PNLC Forums, and the EAS Youth Forum) have been covered by various media channels, increasing public awareness and stakeholder participation. PEMSEA's strong collaboration with GEF IW:LEARN has also strengthened knowledge exchange on PRF-led and other PRF-managed or supported projects, as well as expanded PEMSEA's visibility to a global audience.

As SAP IP implementation progresses, key areas for further development include revisiting of PEMSEA's Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy and supporting mechanisms within the PRF for its strengthened implementation, expanding strategic media engagement, strengthening SEAKB linkages with other regional and global knowledge sharing platforms, and integrating Knowledge-Attitude-Practices (KAP) surveys more systematically into PEMSEA initiatives, beyond the existing pre- and post-training surveys.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved functionalities of SEAKB, providing easier access to knowledge products posted in PEMSEA website, project microsites and affiliated organizations. Integration of specific PRF-managed and supported project and program portals to SEAKB, including ATSEA, ASEANO, MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project, and GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project. Dedicated pages for SOC reports, Capacity Development database, ICM System Certification, Ocean Investment, Ocean Knowledge Partners, and directory of Ocean Experts developed. Utilization and integration of digital tools to optimize PEMSEA operations, such as websites and microsites, cloud-based technologies, virtual collaboration platforms and knowledge hubs. In support of data analytics and visualization various tools such as GIS mapping has been utilized in development of ATLAS reports (i.e, Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS Atlas), conduct of biophysical assessment and site profiling reports, among others. Apart from the SOC reports, application of new tools and methodologies for data collection and monitoring through PEMSEA projects, including IRBM State of the River Basin (SORB) Reporting, Monitoring Tool for Marine Plastics and Litter, Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS), and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). Ongoing implementation of PEMSEA's Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy linked with communication and KM plans for various PRF projects, guiding outreach and engagement Media engagement undertaken through support of host countries during key PEMSEA events, such as the EASC, PNLC and PNLC forums, and other key PEMSEA activities Some pre- and post-training assessments conducted to help track progress in knowledge/ awareness and behavior change to some degree Active collaboration with platforms/entities such as GEF IW:LEARN, UNDP in Asia and the Pacific, etc., expanding PEMSEA's audience and platform for knowledge-sharing. GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project recognized as a standout case study at the 10th GEF International Waters Conference (IWC10), selected from over 100 GEF-supported projects worldwide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of SEAKB's linkages with other national, regional and global KM platforms to improve data sharing and accessibility (e.g., International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IWLEARN), Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, National Clearinghouse Mechanisms, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity Dashboard, etc.) Expanding PEMSEA's strategic media engagement efforts to further increase visibility, reach and impact Conduct of full-scale KAP surveys as part of monitoring and targeted communication strategies or efforts

Insights and Recommendations

While SEAKB continues to be improved, more effort and coordination is needed to expand its integration with other major KM platforms. In terms of GESI mainstreaming in SEAKB, gender-sensitive data collection and reporting mechanisms within SEAKB is currently dependent on GESI-related reports from key projects. Further assessment is still lacking on how GESI can be further mainstreamed in SEAKB.

Recommendations:

- Establish formal partnerships with other national, regional and global KM platforms to enhance data exchange and resource-sharing
- Continue and expand use of digital technologies for enhanced knowledge-sharing with support from non-country partners
- As initially targeted in the SDS-SEA IP, consider establishing Community of Practice for GESI within SEAKB to ensure inclusivity in knowledge-sharing initiatives.
- Strengthen SEAKB's data visualization capabilities to make complex scientific data more accessible to policy-makers

Currently, majority of PEMSEA's media engagement is still event-driven and requires more sustained strategy for continuous and wider visibility in the EAS countries

Recommendation:

- Revisit PEMSEA's Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy and supporting mechanisms within the PRF to facilitate enhanced implementation. This may include developing a media (including social media) engagement strategy and roadmap, in collaboration with other PRF-managed and supported projects and programs with its own communications plans, to ensure sustained coverage of PEMSEA's initiatives beyond major events, and tailoring information for targeted audiences.

Most PEMSEA activity surveys are primarily geared towards training evaluations, with limited focus on broader stakeholder perceptions and behavioral trends

Recommendation:

- Implement structured KAP surveys, as part of Capacity Development and Training Plans, to assess knowledge gaps, inform communication planning, and inform outreach strategies.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/ targets
I.D.1. The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB), a regional knowledge-sharing, education and capacity building platform, strengthened and operationalized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functionalities and contents of SEAKB enhanced, including GESI considerations. Linkages of SEAKB to other relevant KM platforms on coasts and oceans, selected dashboards, databases and clearinghouses at national, regional and international levels established. Digital technologies including tools and strategies for knowledge management in light of COVID-19 pandemic identified and utilized. 	<p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility of SEAKB enhanced through linkages with other national, regional and global knowledge hubs [International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IWLEARN), Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, National Clearinghouse Mechanisms, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity Dashboard, others). PRF project's knowledge products (e.g., ASEAN Project, ATSEA 2 Project, IRBM Project, Blue Solutions Project, etc.), including GESI-related knowledge products made available to a broader user group, including women, youth, IPs 	<p>2024-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAKB fully operational and utilized by PEMSEA Partner Countries and interested stakeholders as the preferred platform for knowledge products, services and networking opportunities across the Seas of East Asia region. Performance of SEAKB regularly reviewed for finetuning of its functionalities. 	<p>Functionalities of SEAKB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, the SEA Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) was enhanced with additional features to improve data gathering and navigation of information. In particular, it provided easier access to all the publications (studies, reports, updates) posted in PEMSEA website, project microsites and affiliated organizations. Project e-portals linked to SEAKB include: ATSEA, ASEANO, MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project, and GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project. Designated pages for PNLG and PNLC are also active and will be further populated. The platform also includes pages/links to the SOC reports, Capacity Development database, ICM System Certification, Ocean Investment, Ocean Knowledge Partners, and directory of Ocean Experts. <p>Linkages of SEAKB to other KM platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As enhancement of SEAKB is still ongoing, linkages with national, regional and global knowledge hubs [International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IWLEARN), Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, National Clearinghouse Mechanisms, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity Dashboard, others) are still pending. <p>Digital technologies for KM, data collection and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2020, the PRF has intensified the use of the following tools to further optimize PEMSEA's operations/ business processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website (with microsites) and social media platforms for overall PEMSEA and projects managed by PRF Cloud-based technologies such as Google drive and Dropbox (to streamline knowledge sharing, secure file storage, support real-time document collaboration). Also purchasing Staff Portal on premise to minimize cost of google drive. Virtual collaboration platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft teams (for online meetings, workshops, sessions, e-learning) Digital knowledge hub (SEAKB; under the ATSEA-2 project apart from SEAKB linkage was also established with Coral Triangle ATLAS) 	<p>SEAKB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the enhancement of SEAKB Establish linkages with other knowledge hubs and strengthen overall visibility Schedule regular reviews of SEAKB <p>GESI considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in SEAKB planning and enhancements how to strengthen GESI aspects.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/ targets
		<p>and PWDs, including PNLG and PNLC newsletters, through the SEAKB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism created for the increased production of, and improved access to, gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data on women and men's participation in resource use, management and decision making to fill in key data gaps and inform gender equality strategies and action plans. • Available and applicable technologies and tools and strategies for knowledge management in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and global and regional trends reviewed to optimize the utilization of digital technologies in PEMSEA's 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data analytics and visualization (use of GIS for various assessments, e.g., Arafura and Timor Seas ATLAS, interactive maps utilized for SEAKB, inputs to site profiling, biophysical assessments, etc.) ○ Development and application of new tools and methodologies for data collection and monitoring through PRF-managed projects: IRBM State of the River Basin Reporting, Monitoring tool for marine plastics and litter, Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS), and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). Results from application of these tools are also reflected in reports available at the SEAKB platform. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/ targets
		business and work processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functionalities of SEAKB e.g., PNLG Tracking Tool, SOC reporting, Communities of Practices, Enabling ICM Investment) reviewed and improved, including considerations to create a Communities of Practice for GESI to facilitate and enhance capacity and gender participation in SDS-SEA implementation. 			
I.D.2. Increased knowledge and widespread stakeholder participation in SDS-SEA implementation enhanced through communication planning and information-education and communication campaign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge products on ICM, blue economy and sustainable development consolidated and disseminated through the SEAKB and other platforms/fora for greater visibility and reach. 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Strategy/Plan developed to facilitate better understanding, awareness and participation of stakeholders in SDS-SEA implementation in a culturally appropriate, gender sensitive and timely manner. 	2024-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Strategy/Plan implemented through sustained IEC, marketing and advocacy on the benefits of ICM and SDS-SEA in achieving blue economy and sustainable development to foster behavior change and mindsets. KAP surveys conducted to identify gaps, beliefs, women, youth, IPs and 	Communication Strategy/Plan & Knowledge Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEMSEA Communications and Knowledge Management Framework and Strategy was launched in 2023, with implementation currently underway. This strategy provides a framework that complements with specific Communications and Knowledge Management Plans developed for individual PRF-managed projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan IRBM Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan Knowledge products developed under PEMSEA and various PRF projects are linked to SEAKB e-portals/microsites. Media engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF, with support from national and local host countries/governments, engaged various media in covering key PEMSEA events, including the EAS Youth Forum 2024, EASC 2024, MF 2024, PNLG and PNLC Forums 2023 and 2024, and key events of 	Communication Strategy/Plan & Knowledge Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the implementation of PEMSEA Communications and Knowledge Management Framework and Strategy A review of the Communication and KM strategy may also be considered as part of the assessment on Organizational Capacity and Development (PEMSEA sustainability assessments) Knowledge-Attitude-Practices Surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and coordinate conduct of Knowledge-Attitude-Practices

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining actions/ targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media engaged in environmental communication. Knowledge-Attitude-Practices Surveys conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned, good practices, case studies, policy briefs and toolkits on ICM and sustainable development consolidated for uploading into the SEAKB for wider dissemination (cross-reference to II.D.1). 	<p>PWDs participation and behavioral patterns on issues related to ocean and coastal governance and implementation of sectoral policies to better inform communication planning and processes and management programming, including gender equality.</p> <p>2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Strategy/Plan updated based on the results of KAP surveys and new developments on blue economy and sustainable development to achieve the 2030 Roadmap targets. 	<p>PRF-managed and supported projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the ATSEA-2 project, media engagement was strengthened through conduct of Journalist Fellowship Program and media visits to various ATSEA-2 sites and activities. This facilitated development and dissemination of more information on the results, lessons and impacts of the project to a wider audience. <p>Linkage with GEF IW LEARN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The collaboration between PRF and GEF IW:LEARN has proven to be crucial for enhancing knowledge sharing, capacity building, and effective implementation of the integrated management strategies/approaches in line with the SDS-SEA. Through this partnership, PEMSEA gained access to IW LEARN's knowledge management tools and networks, and conduct of joint events/participation to IW events. The platform provided by the IW LEARN Portfolio Bulletin enables PRF to regularly share information and insights and raise awareness on various PEMSEA initiatives and results from its various projects. It is worth noting that the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project during the 10th GEF International Water Conference (IWC10) was recognized as a standout example to be featured in GEF IW's new interactive story map tool. Selected from over 100 GEF-supported projects worldwide, ATSEA-2 stood out among the top 30 based on its sustained longevity, consistent implementation, and comprehensive approach across diverse regions, agencies, and thematic areas. Notably, ATSEA-2 has also contributed the most content to the IW website during the project's timeframe (2019-2024). The GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project was also represented during IWC10, which enabled the project to share its objectives, plans and initial progress. <p>Knowledge-Attitude-Practices Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF conducts pre- and post- workshop or training surveys to measure baseline knowledge, understanding or perception, and practice toward a certain topic and improvement/changes on these aspects. However, in some cases, the surveys are more of a training evaluation survey rather than a full KAP survey. The various GESI surveys, assessments and consultations undertaken by PRF as well as specific PRF-managed projects have been instrumental in the development of specific GESI plans and strategy for GESI mainstreaming in various PEMSEA initiatives. 	<p>(KAP) Surveys through PRF-led and PRF-managed and supported projects /activities. Compile results from KAPs to inform the updating of the Communication Strategy/Plan.</p>

Priority Program I.E: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Target Outcome	Status
I.E.1: Evidence-based gender policies and interventions facilitate mainstreaming of gender perspective in SDS-SEA implementation.	
I.E.2: Gender equality mainstreamed throughout the relevant policy and planning cycle for governance and management programs in support of SDS-SEA.	

Under the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, proactive approach and efforts to mainstream GESI across PEMSEA initiatives have been significantly strengthened. A comprehensive GESI assessment was completed in 2023 to inform the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, providing important insights into gender dynamics, the role and contributions of women and marginalized groups, and various country policies and programs related to GESI. Based on the findings, a GESI Action Plan was developed and published along with the Assessment, outlining a framework for integrating GESI principles into PEMSEA initiatives, along with recommendations for gender-responsive policies, disaggregated indicators, inclusive financing, and capacity-building programs. In addition, various PRF-managed projects, including ATSEA-2 and the IRBM project, have developed and implemented their own GESI assessments and action plans. Practical implementation efforts have also been undertaken, such as updating PEMSEA's Sexual Harassment Policy and conduct of PRF Sexual Harassment/GESI Seminar, as well as organizing awareness campaigns and conducting livelihood programs targeting women and marginalized groups in coastal communities through the PEMSEA projects.

While progress has been achieved, further efforts are needed to fully integrate GESI considerations across all PEMSEA initiatives. This includes further planning to incorporate GESI elements into the updated Regional and National State of the Ocean and Coasts (R/NSOC) reports, expanding GESI-focused livelihood and training programs, and strengthening policy dialogues on gender-sensitive ocean governance. Additionally, enhancing systematic data collection and monitoring of GESI implementation, as well as improving collaboration with multilateral and regional organizations on gender-responsive ocean and coastal management, remain critical areas for further development.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance in place to mainstream GESI in PEMSEA initiatives through the GESI Assessment and Action Plan, along with specific GESI assessments and action plans under various PRF-managed and supported projects and programs Thousands of women benefited from GESI initiatives under specific projects, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 project: From 2019-2024, Guided by the ATSEA-2 GESI Action Plan, ATSEA-2 has engaged more than 52,000 women in various regional and country initiatives, wherein more than 4,000 women benefited from trainings, and more than 2,300 benefited from alternative livelihoods and others through various project consultations and awareness building activities. Under the new ATSEA program (ATS SAP 2024-2033), GESI has been highlighted as a key cross-cutting objective and action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of GESI components in the development of the Second NSOC reports and updated RSOC. In collaboration with PEMSEA CPs, promote more national policy reforms incorporating GESI considerations into ocean governance strategies. Identification of other collaborative projects on use of gender-based

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ IRBM project: Focus Group Discussions on GESI conducted in target watershed and basin sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines in 2023 and 2024. Various workshops conducted to mainstream GESI in IRBM implementation, including: Regional GESI and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop; Stakeholder Analysis Workshop: Regional Workshop on Engaging Stakeholders on River Basin Planning and Risk Management. ◦ Biofouling project: Asia-Pacific Women in Maritime Workshop and Biofouling Management Workshop was conducted in March 2025, as part of GESI efforts in maritime industries. • Strengthening of internal GESI policies within PRF, through the conduct of Sexual Harassment/GESI seminar, updating of PEMSEA's Sexual Harassment Policy, and inclusion of features on Women as part of PEMSEA communications efforts. 	<p>methodologies and tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of systematic tracking of GESI mainstreaming across PEMSEA initiatives and projects.
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Insights and Recommendations

Current progress showed varying levels of GESI integration across PEMSEA partners and projects. Moreover, existing national policies, plans and legislation mostly have broad GESI coverage spanning from promoting equality in labor, education, and healthcare, among others, while more specific GESI-policies and plans pertaining to coastal, water and environmental management remain limited. Linked to priority targets on mainstreaming GESI to various data collection and monitoring tools, identification of standardized indicators and methodologies will be needed. Support from GESI expert to undertake some of the key GESI initiatives under the SDS-SEA IP will also be needed to ensure more gender-focused plans, data collection, and analysis.

Recommendations:

- Building on the experience in implementing GESI action plans, work with CPs and PNLG- guided by a GESI expert- to integrate gender considerations into relevant policies and plans on coastal, water and ocean management, including through the development of sector-specific GESI toolkits (e.g., for fisheries, coastal tourism, port management) that address unique challenges within various blue economy sectors
- Linked to PEMSEA Capacity and Training Program as well as the PEMSEA Communications and KM Plan, expand GESI-focused training programs and awareness-raising campaigns
- Consider inclusion of GESI programs as part of the development of Financial Sustainability Plan and funding opportunities for PEMSEA.
- Establish quantitative targets for women's leadership in ICM programs to drive more intentional inclusion

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining Actions/ Targets
I.E.1. Evidence-based gender policies and interventions facilitate mainstreaming of gender perspective in SDS-SEA implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender analysis conducted to understand gender dynamics and relations in support of SDS-SEA implementation, including the application of context-specific Gender Inequality Index. 	<p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender analysis conducted using gender-focused baseline studies, stakeholder mapping and participatory consultations, including gathering of evidence and gender disaggregated data focusing on intersectionality and the differentiated impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution to women and men's health, well-being and employment opportunities, including the application of Gender Inequality Index, where appropriate, thus allowing better understanding of gender dynamics in ocean governance and coastal resources management. 		<p>GESI Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment was conducted and completed in 2023 to support the integration of GESI in the design and priorities of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. The assessment highlighted the distinct roles, knowledge, and contributions of women, informal workers, and indigenous groups, which have been historically overlooked in coastal and marine resource management and policy. <p>GESI Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the findings on the assessment, a GESI Action Plan was developed (and published together with the Assessment) to provide a framework for mainstreaming GESI in the SDS-SEA IP and other PRF-managed projects. It also included recommendations on gender-responsive activities, disaggregated indicators, inclusive finance mobilization, and targeted policy and capacity development initiatives. Complementary to the PEMSEA GESI Action Plan, individual GESI assessments and plans were also developed to support project-specific initiatives under the different PRF-managed projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2: GESI Analysis for ATS Region; Report on Gender Assessment in Aru Islands, Indonesia; Gender Assessment in Rote Ndao, Indonesia; ATSEA-2 GESI Action Plan IRBM Project: GESI Analysis Report; Framework for Mainstreaming GESI in IRBM <p>GESI Implementation Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF efforts: GESI mainstreaming within PRF internal operations were undertaken through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PRF Sexual Harassment Policy reviewed and updated in 2023 Sexual Harassment Seminar for PRF Staff (including members of PRF-managed projects) conducted in 2023 PRF Communications efforts: Development of Feature Stories on Women in the ocean sector for Women's Month posted in PEMSEA's social media sites ATSEA-2 Project efforts: Alternative livelihood initiatives under ATSEA-2 were integrated into EAFM, ICM, and GESI Plans, providing awareness building, skills training, material support, and private sector financing to empower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF, in collaboration with various PRF-managed projects, to continue implementation and mainstreaming of GESI in key project activities, supported by systematic and regular monitoring of progress (including in R/NSOC). PRF, with guidance or in cooperation with its Partners and Networks, to explore other collaborative projects on use of gender-based methodologies and tools.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining Actions/ Targets
I.E.2. Gender equality mainstreamed throughout the relevant policy and planning cycle for governance and management programs in support of SDS-SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Mainstreaming Plan developed and implemented. 	<p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the results of the gender analysis, Gender Mainstreaming Plan and results chain developed, which outlines examples and initiatives, as well as impacts in promoting gender equality throughout the relevant policy and planning cycle for governance and management programs (e.g., climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihood, pollution management), and linked to relevant SDG targets in addition to SDG 5, in support of the SDS-SEA. Collaborative projects developed with international and regional organizations and partners with the utilization of 	<p>2024-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Mainstreaming Plan implemented and monitored based on agreed quantitative and qualitative indicators as part of the R/NSOC reporting for advancing gender equality in ocean and coastal management and in support of the SDS-SEA. <p>2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Mainstreaming Plan updated in consideration of the results of implementation and to capture new gender-sensitive initiatives in response to new developments on blue economy and sustainable development to achieve the 2030 Roadmap targets. 	<p>women in fishing communities while enhancing climate resilience. From 2019-2024, ATSEA-2 has engaged more than 52,000 women in various initiatives, and from which more than 4,000 women benefited from trainings, and more than 2,300 benefited from alternative livelihoods. Under the new ATSEA program (ATS SAP 2024-2033), GESI has been highlighted as a key cross-cutting objective and action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRBM Project efforts: Focus Group Discussions on GESI conducted in Imus-Ylang Ylang-Rio Grande Rivers (2023), Kampong Bay River Basin (2024), Nam Tha River Basin (2024), and Pasac-Guagua Watershed (2024); Regional Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop conducted in 2024 to mainstream GESI in IRBM implementation; Stakeholder Analysis Workshop: Regional Workshop on Engaging Stakeholders on River Basin Planning and Risk Management conducted in 2024 ensure strategies are aligned with unique context of countries/river basins; Following the recent completion of GESI Analysis and Framework for Mainstreaming for IRBM, the project will roll out the GESI plan as part of the national and local activities in IRBM sites from 2025 to 2027. Biofouling project efforts: In line with the objective to promote gender equality in the maritime industry, the Asia-Pacific Women in Maritime Workshop and Biofouling Management Workshop was conducted in March 2025, wherein PEMSEA was also represented as part of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Glofouling Partnerships. <p>GESI in R/NSOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For further discussion as part of target development of 2nd NSOCs and updated RSOC (cross-reference to I.A.2) 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress from 2023 to June 2025	Remaining Actions/ Targets
		gender-based methodologies and tools to guide gender mainstreaming, implementation and monitoring of project activities (cross-reference to II.A.1).			



Component II: Healthy Ocean

Component Objective: To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of coastal and ocean governance at regional, national and local levels to achieve healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in priority coastal and marine and watershed areas.

Priority Program: 4	ICM Scaling Up		Biodiversity and Fisheries		Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction			Pollution, Waste, and Water Use	
Target Outcome: 9	II.A.1	II.A.2	II.B.1	II.B.2	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.C.3	II.D.1	II.D.2

■ Achieved
 ■ On track
 ■ In progress (w/ challenges)
 ■ Delayed

Priority Program II.A: ICM Scaling Up

Target Outcome	Status
II.A.1. Local governments across the EAS Region facilitate ICM scaling up covering priority coastlines and watersheds that support critical habitats and ecosystems.	
II.A.2. Areal extent of healthy and resilient habitats increased resulting in ecological, social and economic benefits to coastal communities	

The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) continues to expand, welcoming its 54th and 55th local government members (Yancheng City, China and Java Province, Indonesia) and its 5th associate member (Dongying Huanhai Institute of Marine Conservation and Development) in 2024 and 2025, bringing the total to 60 members. With guidance from the PNLG Executive Committee and General Assembly, the PNLG has adopted and is currently implementing its Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2022-2030. To further strengthen the network's operations, PNLG signed a Letter of Cooperation with the PNLC in 2024 as well as Letter of Intent between PNLC and PNLG member Tangerang Regency of Indonesia in 2023. As part of its continuing support to ICM, the China-PEMSEA Center (CPC) has piloted ICM Effectiveness Assessment, supporting the expansion of ICM certification training and audits in China, which is envisioned to have broader regional applications in the coming years. Additionally, in 2022 and 2023, four level 2 ICM certifications and two level 1 ICM certifications were awarded, reflecting continued progress in local ICM implementation.

Since the conclusion of the final phase of GEF/UNDP SDS-SEA Project in 2021, ICM application has expanded across the EAS region through other integrated area-based and thematic management approaches under various PRF-managed and supported projects and programs. This expansion facilitated increased aerial coverage or efforts for healthy and resilient habitats, for instance ATSEA-2 MPA efforts included improving management effectiveness in existing MPAs and establishment of new MPAs in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, which resulted to overall coverage of 764,565ha with pending 51,000ha from Timor-Leste. In the case of ASEAN ENMAPS 2,659,459 ha targeted for improved management effectiveness or METT ratings of existing MPAs in targeted sites and establishment of MPAs and associated marine corridors in the project sites covering 13,313,181 ha. Further contributions were also noted on EAFM and ICM under ATSEA-2,

as well as river basin/watershed initiatives in specific sites under the IRBM project. Several regional events or knowledge-sharing forums have also been carried out to further promote ICM good practices and facilitate discussions on GESI mainstreaming in various PEMSEA projects.

Key remaining actions include the need to improve ICM implementation monitoring and reporting of impacts using the ICM Code and ICM Effectiveness Assessment, as well as integration of GESI-related indicators to enhance SOC reporting. Reinforcing ICM certification and recognition is also crucial, along with improving knowledge-sharing mechanisms in order to sustain ICM implementation and scaling up. Monitoring and reporting of PNLG members on the implementation of the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 will also serve as useful reference in tracking on the ground initiatives, challenges, gaps, and progress.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of PNLG membership, with 60 members (55 local governments and 5 associate members) as of 2024. • Implementation of the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 and reporting of progress at the annual PNLG Forum (General Assembly) • Letter of Cooperation signed between PNLG and PNLC in 2024 to enhance capacity-building, promote ICM implementation, and establish a knowledge-sharing platform. • Letter of Intent signed between Tangerang Regency, Indonesia (PNLG member) and PNLC, leveraging the Tangerang Mangrove Research Center for joint capacity-building initiatives. • Certification of the following sites in 2022 and 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level 2 certified: Da Nang (Viet Nam); Guimaras (Philippines); Preah Sihanouk (Cambodia); and Quanzhou (China) ○ Level 1 certified: Tangerang, (Indonesia); and Changyi (China) • China-PEMSEA Center's efforts on ICM Effectiveness Assessment in line with ICM certification training and audits • Continuing knowledge-exchange efforts through PNLG Forum, the EAS Congress and other ICM forums • Expansion of ICM application through various PRF-managed and supported projects and programs to support healthy and resilient habitats and ecosystems • Initial efforts showcasing practical GESI mainstreaming through various PEMSEA capacity and awareness building initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation of PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB on PNLG SAP implementation by PNLG members • Promotion of ICM Code and Recognition System • Initiation of PNLG sister-city programs • Continue implementation, monitoring, and documentation of progress and results of ICM alignment with area-based management approaches in targeted project sites. • ICM effectiveness assessments with support from PNLG and PNLC • Review of SOC indicators with PNLG and PNLC and possible enhancement to enhance GESI-related indicators • Publication of (updated) local SOC reports • Continue/strengthen documentation, packaging and dissemination of good practices on ICM and GESI mainstreaming

Insights and Recommendations

Based on 2023 submissions, there has been limited reporting from PNLG members in line with the PNLG SAP implementation, noting that only 20 out of 53 members (38%) submitted reports, while no reports were submitted in 2024 due to different program focus as part of the EASC 2024. Also, the PNLG Tracking Tool in SEAKB has not been fully operationalized, primarily due to the complexity and volume of information required from PNLG members. Although several workshops were conducted to introduce the online system, to date, only Guimaras has completed the tool in full.

Recommendation:

- Through the PNLG EC and GA, identify steps to improve reporting for the PNLG SAP and its integration or conversion into a functional and accessible PNLG Tracking Tool within the SEAKB platform. This may include conducting workshops for PNLG member focal points/technical staff focusing on a modified and user-friendly PNLG SAP reporting.

There seems to be a reduced engagement in ICM certifications with limited applications or requests for ICM audit and recognition since 2021.

Recommendations:

- Through PNLG and PNLC support, reinvigorate efforts to expand ICM certification through targeted technical support and targeted promotions. Additionally, leverage on the ongoing ICM Effectiveness Assessment by CPC to further promote ICM certification trainings and audits.
- Leverage on the LOC between PNLG and PNLC to promote capacity-building initiatives, including peer learning among PNLG and PNLC members, and training programs and leadership development for ICM practitioners.
- Establish incentive mechanisms to encourage greater participation in ICM certification, particularly through collaboration with PNLG.

Since the completion of the SDS-SEA Scaling up project, there has been limited local SOC reporting or updates. GESI integration in the PNLG SAP is also not explicitly defined, with current efforts primarily embedded in site-specific PRF project implementations. Additionally, the SAP IP target to include GESI-related indicators will also need to be linked to target action under I.B.2 on development of Guidelines on ICM mainstreaming with GESI and under I.A.2 on development of Guidelines for integration of GESI indicators in R/NSOC.

Recommendation:

- Linked with regional effort on the updating of R/NSOCs, collaborate with partners, networks and collaborators to secure inputs in the development of guidelines for integrating GESI indicators. This initiative may also be considered as an option for a joint project with other regional organizations.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress 2023-June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
II. A.1. Local governments across the EAS Region facilitate ICM scaling up covering priority coastlines and watersheds that support critical habitats and ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB captures progress in SAP 2022- 2030 implementation demonstrating the benefits and impacts of ICM program implementation and local government contributions to SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.4 Progress in SAP implementation reported at the Annual PNLG Forum. PNLG members' ICM Systems certified under the ICM Code and Recognition System. 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNLG SAP 2022-2030 covering local governance strengthening, management programs implementation and enhancing local M & E mechanisms implemented by PNLG members (53 local governments and 4 associate members in 10 countries as of 2022). Progress in SAP implementation reported by PNLG members by populating the PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB highlighting the achievements in SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and mainstreaming of gender into the management programs related to these SDG targets. Progress made in SAP implementation consolidated by the PNLG Secretariat and PRF for reporting at the PNLG Annual Forum. ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index that serve as standard for measuring ICM effectiveness implemented by PNLG members, in coordination with PNLC (cross-reference to II.B.2). PNLG members that are compliant to the requirements of the ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM performance index recognized during the PNLG Annual Forum. PNLG sister-city programs initiated. <p>2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNLG SAP updated in consideration of the progress and challenges in SAP 2022-2030 implementation, including new development directions of local governments in ocean and coastal governance. 		<p>PNLG SAP 2022-2030 Implementation and Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2030 is ongoing, guided by the PNLG Executive Committee and General Assembly. The annual PNLG Forums continues to serve as key platforms for reporting, monitoring, and planning, ensuring alignment of PNLG SAP with the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) and strengthening local governance in coastal and marine management. These forums facilitate experience-sharing, assess SAP progress, and planning. Under the 3 components of the PNLG SAP, the following have been achieved/undertaken since 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 1: Strengthening Regional Network and Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th and 15th Executive Committee Meeting, and PNLG Forums 2023 and 2024 conducted Review and approval of new members. By 2025, PNLG membership has grown to 60 (from 18 founding members in 2006). The latest additions include Yancheng City, China, as the 54th local government member (in 2024), Java Province, Indonesia as 55th local government member (in 2025), and the Dongying Huanhai Institute of Marine Conservation and Development, as the 5th associate member. (List of PNLG Members- Appendix A, Table 3) Strengthened collaboration between PNLG and PNLC through the signing of Letter of Cooperation by their respective Secretariats in 2024 to enhance capacity-building, promote ICM implementation, and establish a knowledge-sharing platform. Letter of Intent signed between Tangerang Regency, Indonesia (PNLG member) and PNLC, leveraging the Tangerang Mangrove Research Center for joint capacity-building initiatives. Component 2: Implementation of Priority Management Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports submitted by some PNLG members indicated ongoing implementation of local programs on integrated coastal and water resources management, climate change adaptation and disaster resilience, habitat protection, and marine debris and solid waste management. It was noted, however, that while PNLG members have relevant plans and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNLG Tracking Tool in the SEAKB on PNLG SAP implementation by PNLG members Enhance promotion of ICM Code and Recognition System PNLG sister-city programs

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress 2023- June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>activities, the extent of implementation varies, highlighting the need for targeted support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Component 3: Strengthening M&E Capacity and Knowledge Exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PNLG members continue to benefit from tools and support provided by PNLC as well as through PEMSEA initiatives with NCPs, various projects and collaborators - Local SOC reports have long been established but not widely implemented by PNLG members. Apart from the SOC, additional mechanisms such as the State of River Basin (SORB) Reporting are being piloted for local sites (some are PNLG members) under the PRF-managed UNDP/GEF/ASEAN IRBM Project which was launched in 2023. As of June 2025, 4 SORB reports have been developed and undergoing final review (Kampong Bay River Basin, Cambodia; Nam Tha River Basin, Lao PDR; Imus-Ylang Ylang-Rio Grande Rivers, and Pasac-Guagua Watershed, Philippines) - ICM Effectiveness Assessment has been piloted in China, with plans for broader application after the refinement of the framework based on China's experience - In terms of progress reporting, the PNLG General Assembly in 2023 called for a simplified reporting system/simplified PNLG Tracking Tool to consolidate PNLG achievements and highlight impacts <p>PNLG Tracking Tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, it was reported that a PNLG Tracking Tool is being developed, however progress reporting in recent years were done using a word template; integration to an online tracking tool (A Tracking System and Regional Dashboard) within the SEAKB platform has not been fully operationalized, primarily due to the complexity and volume of information required from PNLG members. Although several workshops were conducted to introduce the online system, to date, only Guimaras has completed the tool in full. Review of efficient way to get reports from members will be discussed at the PNLG EC on 22 April 2025. • PNLG members were requested to submit annual progress reports, but in 2023, only 38% or 20 out of 53 members submitted accomplished reporting template. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress 2023- June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Application of ICM Code and Recognition System and ICM Performance Index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023, the China-PEMSEA Center (CPC) continued efforts to expand Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) through certification training and audits for potential demonstration sites, with support from the established Chinese ICM System Certification Audit Team, which includes experts from the First Institute of Oceanography and the National Center of Ocean Standards and Metrology. To date, the following are the assessment results for ICMS Levels 1 and 2. Recognition of these sites was carried out through the PNLC Forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 certified: Da Nang (Viet Nam); Guimaras (Philippines); Preah Sihanouk (Cambodia); and Quanzhou (China) Level 1 certified: Tangerang, (Indonesia); and Changyi (China) As of March 2025, CPC will be auditing Qingdao West Coast New Area for Level 1 Certification of ICMS <p>PNLG Sister-City Programs: Information not available/pending action</p>	
II.A.2. Areal extent of healthy and resilient habitats increased resulting in ecological, social and economic benefits to coastal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local (national) governments with ICM or related action plans implementing programs to protect, restore and conserve coastal and marine habitats, including the watersheds. In line with ICM mainstreaming (cross-reference to I.B.2), gaps and support needed to strengthen 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal and marine areas and contiguous watersheds covered by area-based management approaches (e.g., coastal use zoning, marine spatial planning, source-to-sea, integrated river basin management, integrated water resources management, other effective area-based conservation measures, etc.) that delineate conservation areas for significant coastal and marine sites, habitats and resources, including watersheds. ICM effectiveness assessment in coordination with local governments and PNLC conducted using agreed framework and methodology with considerations on gender participation in the leadership and decision-making processes for ICM SOC indicators reviewed/expanded based on data availability and reports prepared in coordination with local governments and PNLC showcasing progress in governance and ecological and socioeconomic 		<p>Expansion of ICM through mainstreaming in other Area-Based Management Approaches & Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRF continues to promote the expansion of ICM coverage. ICM is also being mainstreamed with other area-based management approaches, through a thematic, geographical, and functional focus, showing complementarity with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management, Integrated River Basin and Watershed management (IRBWM), and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. This is demonstrated through the following PRF-managed and supported projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPA Management Plans assessed/updated and implemented. A total of 764,564.9 ha of MPAs covered (support to existing MPAs in SE Aru, Indonesia and Nino-Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste, and new MPA in Kolepom, Indonesia). An additional 51,000ha is anticipated with the formal establishment of a new MPA in Manufahi-Manatuto in Timor-Leste. ICM plans and programs in place. A total of 347 km covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation, monitoring, and documentation of progress and results of ICM alignment with area-based management approaches in targeted project sites. Coordinate with CPC on their ICM effectiveness assessments, and share updates/results through PNLC and PNLC Review of SOC indicators with PNLC and PNLC and possible enhancement to enhance GESI-related indicators Publication of (updated) local SOC reports Continue/strengthen documentation, packaging and dissemination of good practices on ICM and GESI mainstreaming

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress 2023- June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	<p>capacity to implement the ICM national strategies and action plans identified and captured in the updated Capacity Development Plan (cross-reference to I.C.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOC reports published with data/information on socio-economic and ecological benefits and impacts to coastal communities ICM effectiveness assessment report detailing the methodology, indicators and results in support of ICM scaling up (cross-reference to II.A.1) Good practices in ICM implementation, including practical 	<p>indicators, including GESI-related indicators compared to baseline conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical examples in mainstreaming GESI in integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems and context specific GESI interventions documented to guide the implementation of GESI-sensitive and GESI-responsive actions and research. Good practices in ICM implementation documented and shared at the EAS Congress, EASPC meetings and various international, regional and national for and utilized as learning materials in training workshops and training of trainers. 		<p>by ICM linked to EAFM, CCA and alternative livelihoods (Rote Ndao, Indonesia and PA Barique, Timor-Leste)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAFM Plans developed and implemented. A total of 25,097 km² covered by EAFM (Indonesia, PNG, and Timor-Leste) ENMAPS Project (for implementation with PRF from 2023 to 2027. PRF to provide strategic and capacity building support and connections with ongoing ICM and MSP initiatives in EAS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project started in late 2024 and will be implemented in 11 MPA sites in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand with 2,659,459 ha targeted for improved management effectiveness or METT ratings of existing MPAs in targeted sites and establishment of MPAs and associated marine corridors in the project sites covering 13,313,181 ha IRBM Project (2023-2027): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRBM initiatives also contributing to the target outcome. Efforts already initiated starting with capacity support and assessments for State of River Basin (SORB) reporting in Kampong Bay River Basin (Cambodia) covering 3,018km², Nam Tha River Basin (Lao PDR) covering 8,918km², Pasac-Guagua Watershed (Philippines) covering 425.71km², and Imus-Ylang Ylang Rio Grande Rivers covering 284. 40km² By 2025, the following are expected to initiate IRBM initiatives: Ciliwung River Basin (Indonesia) covering 421.47km², Kedah River Basin (Malaysia) covering 2,972km², and Vu Gia Thu Bon River Basin (Viet Nam) covering 10,350km² <p>ICM Effectiveness Assessment: (cross-reference to II.A.1 related to application of ICM Code and ICM Recognition System)</p> <p>SOC Review and Expansion: (cross-reference to I.A.2)</p> <p>Practical examples of GESI mainstreaming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided by the PEMSEA GESI Assessment and Action Plan (or Framework), practical examples of GESI mainstreaming are evident/demonstrated through the different PRF-managed projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building awareness and guidance on GESI through GESI assessments (e.g., GESI Assessments conducted under ATSEA-2 and IRBM) Documentation or case studies publications (e.g., Article on 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress 2023- June 2025	Remaining actions/targets
	examples in GESI mainstreaming			<p>Women in the Marine and Fisheries Sector in ATS; Climate Change and GESI (from ATSEA Stories)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings/Capacity Building (e.g., IRBM Workshop on Regional GESI and Stakeholder Engagement; Capacity Building for Women's Customary Law in Nata Lutur Indonesia under ATSEA) ○ Livelihood initiatives (more detailed information provided under III.2 Healthy People) (e.g., Women's Cooperatives Driving Economic Development in Timor-Leste under ATSEA-2; Building economic resilience in Nata Lutur under ATSEA-2) <p>Documentation and Sharing of ICM Good Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ICM sharing sessions at EAS Congress 2024 (e.g., PNLG-PNLC Joint Learning Forum: Local Practices on Marine Ecological Protection and Restoration under the ICM Framework) ○ Lecture series on ICM application and continued relevance (2023) ○ PNLC Technical Sessions in 2023 and 2024 as part of the Annual PNLC Forums ○ The 4th International Conference on ICM and Marine Biotechnology (ICMMBT) in Sept 2023 (co-organized by GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project) <p>Other events noted in countries (not directly involving PEMSEA/PRF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2023 World Coastal Forum in Sept. 2023 hosted by Yancheng, China ○ National Policy Forum on the Ridge-to-Reef Approach to Sustainable Development Planning in June 2023 in Manila, Philippines 	

Priority Program II.B: Biodiversity Conservation and Fisheries Management

Target Outcome	Status
II.B.1: National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) incorporate post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets on ocean and coastal and marine management. Fisheries management enhancement programs incorporate policies and priorities in ecosystem approach to fisheries management.	
II.B.2: NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting scaled up across the EAS region enhancing the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and threatened migratory marine species, alien and invasive species and fishery resources.	

Several PEMSEA Country Partners (CPs), including China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and RO Korea, have updated their NBSAPs, while draft updated NBSAP for Lao PDR is undergoing final completion to incorporate ocean and coastal conservation targets, aligning with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and SDG targets. Other CPs are still undergoing consultations and revisions. At the same time, notable developments in national and regional fisheries management policies have been noted, focusing primarily on combating IUU fishing, advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), promoting fisheries and aquaculture innovations, and improving food security and livelihoods, among others. Subregional initiatives, including the ATSEA-2 Project, ASEAN ENMAPS, as well as the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) RPOA 2.0, are also advancing efforts to protect and sustainably manage coastal and marine ecosystems.

Progress has also been made on MPA expansion and EAFM implementation through the ATSEA-2 project, managed by PEMSEA. The ongoing ASEAN ENMAPS Project is expected to further strengthen and expand MPA networks and marine corridors particularly in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. PEMSEA has also played an active role in regional dialogues and forums in support of the High Seas Treaty, 30x30 Global Biodiversity targets, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and Marine Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. Related to addressing invasive aquatic species, PEMSEA has been a key partner in the GEF/UNDP/IMO Glofouling Partnerships Project, leading to the endorsement of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Biofouling Management at the EAS Partnership Council and adoption at ASEAN levels.

To further support country initiatives on biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, it is important to further identify specific areas whereby PEMSEA platform and partnerships can play stronger role in supporting EAS countries' efforts in updating their respective NBSAPs, consolidating existing fisheries plans and programs, and enhancing monitoring frameworks. There is also a need to link these monitoring efforts with the updating of Regional and National SOC reports, ensuring a more cohesive approach to tracking biodiversity and fisheries management progress.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five PEMSEA CPs submitted/completed updated NBSAPs, aligning with the 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets and SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China NBSAP 2023-2030 (submitted in 2024) Indonesia IBSAP 2025-2045 (launched in 2024) Japan NBSAP 2023-2030 (adopted in 2023) RO Korea NBSAP 2024-2028 (Cabinet-approved in 2023) Philippines NBSAP 2024-2040 (adopted through DENR Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2025-23 which took effect on 27 July 2025) Lao PDR updated NBSAP (2026-2030) developed; completed version to be provided by Lao once available Implementation of existing and parallel consultations to update/develop new NBSAPs ongoing in other PEMSEA CPs Recent developments on fisheries policies and legislation in PEMSEA CPs include revision of fisheries laws (i.e., Cambodia; China; RO Korea), updating and development of NPOA on IUU fishing (i.e., Indonesia; Timor-Leste; Viet Nam's Directive No. 32-CT/TW of April 10, 2024 enhancing leadership to combat IUUF), adoption of fisheries-related plans (i.e., Japan Basic Plan for Fisheries; Singapore Aquaculture Plan; Lao PDR's Strategic Implementation Plan for the Fisheries sector; RO Korea 5th Master Plan to Support Female Fishers), adoption of EAFM Plans (i.e., Indonesia and Timor-Leste under ATSEA-2). among others. Through PRF-managed and supported projects and programs, priority locations have already begun or are preparing to implement programs for biodiversity and habitat management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening MPA management: MPAs in SE Aru, Indonesia and Nino-Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste; Establishment of new MPAs: Kolepom, Indonesia; Manufahi-Manatuto, Timor-Leste ATSEA Program (SAP 2024-2033): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to cover 70,000km² of new MPAs, and to create 10,000km² of Other Effective (area-based) Conservation Measures (OECM) in ATS ASEAN ENMAPS Project (2025-2029): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to have 9 MPA networks and associated marine corridors endorsed and incorporated in national fisheries management plans and national 30x30 roadmaps by 2029 (2 in Indonesia, 5 in Philippines, and 2 in Thailand). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of consultations and updating of NBSAPs in Cambodia, DPRK, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam Conduct of consultations to consolidate existing and planned initiatives at regional (e.g., CTI RPOA, ATSEA2), national (CTI NPOA, etc.) and bay-wide level with EAFM plans and fisheries management programs. Identification of more priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management for convergence with sub-national ICM programs. CPs continue implementation, monitoring and reporting of NBSAPs Establishment of standardized monitoring programs or enhancement of existing monitoring programs to track changes and improvements, including linking to updating of R/NSOC and local SOC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through PRF-managed or supported projects, priority locations have already begun or are preparing to implement programs for fisheries management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024): EAFM implementation: Aru and Merauke, Indonesia; South Coast municipalities, Timor-Leste; and South Fly, PNG ◦ ATSEA Program (SAP 2024-2033): Aims to secure at least 3 new transboundary agreements (Fisheries Improvement projects) or sites for small-scale fisheries; 25-50% reduction in IUU fishing in these sites. ◦ ASEAN ENMAPS Project (2025-2029): Aims to involve 1,750 people on conduct of community Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to reduce the threat of IUU and destructive fishing by 2029 in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. • Relevant PEMSEA partnership or project contributing/linked to NBSAP implementation: MOA between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and PEMSEA for the implementation of the ASEAN ENMAPS project; and development and endorsement of the ATS MPA Network design under the ATSEA-2 Project, with some areas incorporated in Indonesia's national MPA network plan and one is in a new MPA currently being developed in Timor-Leste. • Various knowledge-sharing sessions convened during the EASC 2024 related to the High Seas Treaty, MPA management and 30x30 actions, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and Marine Ecosystem Protection and Restoration (with support from various partners and collaborators); Following the EASC workshop with COBSEA, PEMSEA participated in: A pre-OOC workshop co-organized with COBSEA and others to consolidate 30x30 initiatives; An OOC side event on establishing a Regional Collaborative Network of MPAs in the East Asian Seas organized by PEMSEA, COBSEA, and SCS-SAP Project; and A UNOC3 side event on scaling collective action for 30x30, led by COBSEA and supported by 8 other regional organizations from the EAS including PEMSEA. • Key accomplishments made under the GEF/UNDP/IMO Biofouling Partnership Project wherein PEMSEA served as Regional Coordinating Organization for the Southeast Asian region. Major accomplishment is the completion and adoption of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan in Biofouling Management in the EAS Region in 2024 by the 58th Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) of ASEAN in November 2024. 	
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Insights and Recommendations

Several challenges were identified during the Subregional Dialogue on NBSAPs for member states of ASEAN and Timor-Leste in 2023 in relation to updating of NBSAPs, including funding constraints, data collection and management, weak institutional coordination, capacity gaps, policy and regulatory gaps, lack of awareness and technology.

Discussions under the PEMSEA platform on the establishment of standardized monitoring programs or enhancement of existing monitoring programs to track changes and improvements on biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, (including linking to updating of R/NSOC and local SOC) are still limited. Moreover, consultations to consolidate existing and planned initiatives at regional, national and bay-wide level with EAFM plans and fisheries management programs under the PEMSEA platform is still limited.

Recommendations:

- Building on efforts under the ongoing ASEAN ENMAPS Project as well as ATSEA program, and with possible support from relevant NCPs and the PNLC:
 - Explore/foster learning forums and studies to further assist PEMSEA CPs in addressing NBSAP updating challenges.
 - Support assessment and development of standardized monitoring programs or enhancement of existing monitoring programs for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, while ensuring alignment with R/NSOC and local SOC.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
II.B.1. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) incorporate post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets on ocean and coastal and marine management. Fisheries management enhancement programs incorporate policies and priorities in ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAPs updated in line with the relevant Post-2020 GBF targets on oceans and coasts and SDG 14, including ensuring food security and sustainable management of marine resources. • Fisheries management 	2023-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country consultations conducted to identify priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management based on national context and priorities highlighting the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contribution to relevant targets of SDG 14 and the post 2020 GBF, including the 30x30 target (Target 3) in 		Status of NBSAP Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following EAS countries have completed their updated NBSAPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ China: NBSAP 2023-2030 submitted in May 2024, aligning it with the global 30x30 target. ^{xxxiv} ◦ Indonesia: IBSAP 2025-2045 launched in 2024 and is aligned with the vision and goals of the new National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2025-2045 and the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025-2029, as well as with KMGBF and the SDGs ^{xxxv}; policies on expansion of Marine Protected Areas by 30% in 2045 and the Sustainable Management of Coastal and Small Islands were also issued in 2024 ◦ Japan: NBSAP 2023-2030 adopted in March 2023 based on the National Basic Act on Biological Diversity and built around the GBF targets and linked to the five drivers of biodiversity loss identified by IPBES Global Assessment Report. ^{xxxvi} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of consultations and updating of NBSAPs in Cambodia, DPRK, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam • Conduct of consultations to consolidate existing and planned initiatives at regional (e.g., CTI RPOA, ATSEA2), national (CTI NPOA, etc.) and bay-wide level with EAFM plans and fisheries management programs. • Identification of more priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management for convergence with sub-national ICM programs.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
approach to fisheries management.	<p>enhancement programs in line with international standards (FAO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority locations for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management for convergence with sub-national ICM programs identified. 	<p>accordance with the Country Partner's commitment by increasing the areal coverage of coastal and watershed areas with coastal use zoning plans, marine spatial plans, MPAs and MPA networks and/or networking and other area-based management processes and approaches (cross-reference to III.A.2) to enhance the productivity and sustainable use of the coastal and marine ecosystems and translating the benefits in terms of food provision and livelihood improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensuring food security and sustainable management of marine resources (Targets 9 & 10) and protecting and conserving threatened 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RO Korea: NBSAP 2024-2028 approved by the Cabinet in December 2023^{xxxvii}; Relevant policy- Master Plan on Management and Ecological Restoration of Tidal flat and Adjacent Areas, first edition (2021-2025) o Philippines: PBSAP 2024-2040 adopted through DENR Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2025-23 which took effect on 27 July 2025, amending DAO 2016-12 series of 2016, and the PBSAP 2015-2028, and establishing mechanism for its implementation.^{xxxviii} o Lao PDR: updated NBSAP (2026-2030) developed; completed version to be provided by Lao once available. Lao PDR also adopted Version to 2040 and Wetland Management Plan 2026-2030 No. 487 on June 30, 2025 • Implementation of the following existing NBSAPs in other EAS countries continues in parallel with in-country consultations and efforts to revise or develop new NBSAPs to align with the KMGBF's goals and targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cambodia (NBSAP 2016-2025) o DPRK (NBSAP 2015-2020) o Singapore (NBSAP 2009 updated in 2019) o Timor-Leste (NBSAP 2011-2020) o Viet Nam (NBSAP 2021-2030) • The inputs and recommendations from the Subregional Dialogue on NBSAPs for member states of ASEAN and Timor-Leste in December 2023, highlighted the importance of considering whole of society approach, capacity building, forging of strategic partnerships, enhancing biodiversity financing, and integrating protocols/MEAs to NBSAPs. The Dialogue also highlighted the following challenges in updating the NBSAPs: funding constraints, data collection and management, weak institutional coordination, capacity gaps, policy and regulatory gaps, lack of awareness and technology.^{xxxix} <p>Fisheries Management Enhancement Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notable developments in EAS countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cambodia: Draft Revised Fisheries Law (2024)^{xl}; Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management (2020-2029) under MAFF FiA, which promotes adaptive fisheries management, development of a National Fishing Plan, 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
		<p>migratory species and addressing invasive alien species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fisheries management enhancement programs in capture fisheries and mariculture in line with national policy. o Solutions to habitat loss and ecosystem destruction and degradation due to changes in ocean and land use, unsustainable use, pollution and climate change. 		<p>establishment of conservation areas, and community-based co-management with local authorities.^{xii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o China: Draft revision to Fisheries Law submitted to the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress in 2024 and undergoing review. It's focusing on green development in aquaculture, fishing regulations, resource conservation and oversight measures.^{xiii} o Indonesia: Review and updating of Indonesia's NPOA to combat IUU Fishing started in 2024; EAFM Plan for Red Snapper and Shrimp in Aru and EAFM Plan for Barramundi in Merauke established under ATSEA-2 since 2022; o Japan: Updated Roadmap to 2030 in support of the Fishery Reform Act released in 2024^{xiii}, new Basic Plan for Fisheries formulated in March 2022 sets goals for self-sufficiency rate in FY2032; Plan for Creating Dynamism through Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Industries and Local Communities revised in June 2022; Guidelines for Policies to Enhance Food Security formulated in December 2022; and Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas revised in 2024. ^{xiv} o Lao PDR: Strategic Implementation Plan for the fisheries sector in Lao PDR. o Philippines: Comprehensive National Fisheries Development Plan 2021-2025 still in effect^{xiv} From 2023, consultations have been ongoing on proposed amendments to the Philippine Fisheries Code as a Presidential Directive. o RO Korea: Revised Distant Water Fisheries Development Act adopted in 2024 which includes improvement on Catch Documentation scheme to help curb IUUF^{xvi}. Master Plan for Ocean and Fisheries Development (2021-2030); Fisheries Innovation 2030; 5th Masterplan to Support Female Fishers (2022-2026) o Singapore: Singapore Aquaculture Plan adopted in 2023^{xvii}; o Timor-Leste: NPOA to combat IUU fishing developed; National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS) 2012–2030 implementation ongoing; EAFM Plan for Timor-Leste South Coast under ATSEA-2^{xviii}; Draft Aquaculture Law and Fisheries Policy o Viet Nam: Decision No. 389/QD-TTg signed in 2024 approving the Plan for the Protection and Exploitation of Aquatic Resources for the period 2021-2030 with a vision to 	
		<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations conducted to update the NBSAPs in consideration of the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the commitments made by the PEMSEA Partners in the Post- 2020 GBF pertaining to oceans and coasts and SDG 14, including ensuring food security and sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources and considerations on equitable access, gender, youth, IP's and local communities participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity conservation programs in line with the GBF's Gender Plan of Action post 2020. • Consultations conducted to consolidate existing and planned initiatives at regional (e.g., CTI RPOA, ATSEA2), national (CTI NPOA, etc.) and bay-wide level with EAFM plans and fisheries management 			

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
		<p>programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries implemented through ecosystem approach to fisheries management with the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem and fisheries standard and threshold on each EAFM indicator for sustainable use and fisheries management. Adoption and implementation of EAFM indicator on fisheries management practice. EAFM monitoring program. 		<p>2050^{xlix}; Directive No. 32-CT/TW of April 10, 2024 on enhancing the Party's leadership over the combat against IUU fishing and sustainable development of the fisheries sector^l;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notable developments at the subregional/regional level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTI-CFF: CTI's RPOA 2.0 launched in June 2023 and supported by the CT6 (<i>including Indonesia, Philippines and Timor-Leste</i>) countries, with five-year goal (by 2025) to enable coastal communities and ecosystems to cope with climate change and other threats through increased regional collaboration, and ten-year goal (by 2030) focusing on improving food security, sustainable fisheries, and coastal livelihoods.^{li} ASEAN: Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025 implementation ongoing^{lii} ATSEA-2 Project: Regional EAFM Plan for Red Snapper in the ATS Region adopted in 2023 (including Indonesia and Timor-Leste); EAFM Plans for Red Snapper and Shrimp in Aru, and EAFM Plan for Barramundi in Merauke, Indonesia adopted in 2022; EAFM Plan for Red Snapper in South Coast of Timor-Leste adopted in 2022. <p>Priority Locations for Biodiversity and Fisheries Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the following PRF-managed and supported projects and program, the following locations/sites have begun or are preparing to implement biodiversity and MPA-related initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024): Strengthening MPA management: MPAs in SE Aru, Indonesia and Nino-Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste; Establishment of new MPAs: Kolepom, Indonesia; Manufahi-Manatuto, Timor-Leste ATSEA Program (SAP 2024-2033): Aims to cover 70,000km² of new MPAs, and to create 10,000km² of Other Effective (area-based) Conservation Measures (OECM) in ATS ENMAPS Project: Aims to have 9 MPA networks and associated marine corridors endorsed and incorporated in national fisheries management plans and national 30x30 roadmaps by 2029 (2 in Indonesia, 5 in Philippines, and 2 in Thailand). 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the following PRF-managed and supported projects and program, the following locations/sites have begun or are preparing to implement fisheries management programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024): EAFM implementation: Aru and Merauke, Indonesia; South Coast municipalities, Timor-Leste; and South Fly, PNG ATSEA Program (SAP 2024-2033): Aims to secure at least 3 new transboundary agreements (Fisheries Improvement projects) or sites for small-scale fisheries; 25-50% reduction in IUU fishing in these sites.) ENMAPS Project: Aims to involve 1,750 people on conduct of community Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to reduce the threat of IUU and destructive fishing by 2029 in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. 	
II.B.2. NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting scaled up across the EAS region enhancing the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and threatened migratory marine species, alien and invasive species and fishery resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed between and among government and non-government sectors in support of NBSAP implementation. Monitoring programs established to measure improvements in the areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas including biodiversity 	2023– 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors including various regional mechanisms, organizations and donor-funded projects⁵ with priority locations (corridors, hotspots and threatened fishing grounds) and activities (MPA establishment, management and MPA networking and EAFM) for protection of habitats and ecosystem services, fishery resources and/or rare and endangered species in support of NBSAP implementation and fisheries management. Design of standardized monitoring programs discussed and developed, or enhancement of existing monitoring programs conducted to track changes in areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas, biodiversity hotspots and priority fishing grounds, including assessing the management effectiveness of protected areas that demonstrate improved governance and ecological and socioeconomic benefits and impacts. Communities engaged in biodiversity conservation activities/programs. Documentation and consolidation of progress in 		Relevant Partnerships (with direct link to PEMSEA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOA between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and PEMSEA for the implementation of the ASEAN ENMAPS project signed in October 2024 and will be implemented up to 2027. Key initiative is aimed at enhancing marine biodiversity conservation across Southeast Asia. This GEF/UNDP/ASEAN Project focuses on strengthening MPAs and marine corridors within four Large Marine Ecosystems: the Bay of Bengal, Indonesian Sea, South China Sea, and Sulu-Celebes Sea. It includes 11 pilot sites in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The project is aligned with the priorities in NBSAPs in the three countries. Under the ATSEA-2 Project, the ATS MPA Network design (301,055 km²) has been endorsed by all four countries and includes all 93 existing (265,405 km²) and proposed (6,264 km²) MPAs, and several Areas of Interest (AOIs). Of the new AOIs, three have been incorporated in Indonesia's national MPA network plan, one is in a new MPA currently being developed in Timor-Leste, and Australia is considering two as potential areas for new MPAs.ⁱⁱⁱ NBSAP Implementation Reporting by countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the CBD website clearing-house mechanism, the 6th National Reports (NRs) were the latest submission from countries in 2023 and 2024. The reports focused on monitoring the effectiveness of national strategies and actions in achieving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPs continue implementation, monitoring and reporting of NBSAPs Establishment of standardized monitoring programs or enhancement of existing monitoring programs to track changes and improvements, including linking to updating of R/NSOC and local SOC

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
	<p>hotspots and priority fishing grounds [cross-reference to I.A.2 (R/NSOC) II.A.2 (Local SOC)].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in NBSAP implementation reported through the National Reports, knowledge sharing and learning events. 	NBSAP (or site-specific management plans) implementation from government programs, regional programmes with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects into the National Reports undertaken and shared in various learning events and international, regional and national fora.		<p>National and Aichi Biodiversity targets. The 7th NRs are due by February 2026.</p> <p>Engagement of communities in biodiversity conservation programs/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia: Annual coral reef restoration projects at multiple sites, with active participation from local communities and stakeholders; Promotion of recreational areas that integrate reef restoration, combining tourism with conservation. Timor-Leste: Ministerial Diploma drafted for Samba Sembilan as new MPA site Viet Nam: 12 established marine protected areas with a total area of 206,224.93 hectares, of which 185,000 hectares are sea-based, including: Cat Ba Island Marine Protected Area, Bai Tu Long Island Marine Protected Area, Bach Long Vy Marine Protected Area, Con Co Marine Protected Area, Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area, Ly Son Marine Protected Area, Nha Trang Bay Marine Protected Area, Nui Chua Marine Protected Area, Hon Cau Marine Protected Area, Con Dao Marine Protected Area, Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area, Tran Island Marine Protected Area and Co To Marine Protected Area. <p>(Note also details under II.B.1 on priority locations for biodiversity and fisheries management)</p> <p>Other relevant knowledge sharing initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EASC 2024 Sessions (Nov 2024, China): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>From Ratification to Implementation: Asia High-Level Dialogue on the High Seas Treaty</i> with High Seas Alliance <i>Session on Achieving Sustainability through Connectivity for Resilient ASEAN Seas</i> with ACB <i>Workshop on Sharing Experiences and Best Practice in Sustainable Management of MPAs</i> with CPC and FIO <i>Mobilizing Action beyond 30x30 Commitment through Institutional Partnership</i> with Blue Nature Alliance <i>Area-based marine ecosystem management to cope with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i> with KOEM China-ASEAN Marine Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Symposium with FIO, NMHS, TIO of MNR, China 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
				<p>PEMSEA initiative related to invasive alien species and biofouling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the GEF/UNDP/IMO Glofouling Partnerships Project (GFP) (2021-2025), PEMSEA served as the Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO) for Southeast Asia. Its key aim is to minimize the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) via biofouling in the EAS region, aligning with the IMO's Biofouling Guidelines. The project which is scheduled to end in May 2025 has achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment of Regional Task Force (RTF) for drafting the Regional Strategy and Action Plan in Biofouling Management. -Conduct of regional seminars to raise awareness on biofouling and its impacts -Completion and adoption of The Regional Strategy and Action Plan in Biofouling Management in the EAS Region. The Plan was endorsed by the 15th EAS Partnership Council and adopted by the 47th ASEAN Working Group on Maritime Transport and was approved by the 58th Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) in November 2024. A proposal for second phase (medium-sized grant of USD5m for 3 years) of GFP has been developed building on achievements of the GFP as well as the TEST Biofouling Project of IMO and NORAD. PEMSEA expressed its interest, along with Indonesia and Philippines to participate in the 2nd phase. <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives of PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACB: Launched the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan (ABP) in 2024, committing to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030, with a focus on inclusive conservation involving indigenous peoples, women, youth, and marginalized groups; Strengthens MPA management and transboundary cooperation through ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) and the ASEAN Flyway Network; Implements the ASEAN ENMAPS Project (2024–2028) to enhance ocean governance, blue economy integration, and climate resilience in large marine ecosystems; Promotes capacity building, policy advocacy, and knowledge sharing via the ASEAN Biodiversity Dashboard and SEAKB. CI Philippines: Promotes MPA expansion under CTI, pilots biodiversity credits in Tubbataha Reef (Philippines), and implements ridge-to-reef initiatives through the IKI-funded TRANSCEND Project. KMI: Research on ecosystem-based management and marine biodiversity conservation through MPA network development 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions /targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KOEM: Enhancing MPA Management and Governance to Achieve the 30x30 Target (2011–ongoing), focusing on designation and management, effectiveness assessments, and institutional improvements to strengthen marine protection. • KIOST: Supported the development and regional consultation of the Biofouling Strategy & Action Plan in collaboration with IMO GloFouling and PEMSEA through technical input, funding, and stakeholder coordination; In relation to MPA, key initiatives include support to ROK on achievement of 30% of MPA by 2030, and satellite/eDNA MPA monitoring • NMHMS: A series of ecosystem restoration handbooks for coastal salt marshes, sandy coasts, oyster reefs, and seagrass beds compiled and released as a result of collaboration between MNR China and IUCN. 	

Priority Program II.C: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Target Outcome	Status
II.C.1: Climate Change National Action Plans (NAPs) incorporate the Country Partner commitments to COP 21 Paris Agreement towards net-zero emissions and the decisions from COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact and COP 27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan in relation to oceans.	
II.C.2: NAPs implementation and reporting, including regional programs with CCA/DRR components.	
II.C.3: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans incorporate the targets in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.	

In alignment with the Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan, recent policies, frameworks, strategies and plans on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) were noted in the EAS countries. Under the PEMSEA framework and projects, significant efforts have been undertaken in support of CCA, including: (a) the inclusion of the development, implementation and tracking of local CCA/DRR plans by ICM sites as one of the priority programs in the PNLG SAP 2022-2023 in support of SDG 13; (b) the establishment of ICM programs under the ATSEA-2 Project in Rote Ndao, Indonesia, and PA Barique, Timor-Leste, incorporating CCA, EbA, and alternative livelihood initiatives to enhance community resilience; (c) Publication of Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for the Arafura and Timor Seas and endorsement of Guidance Toolkit for Decisionmakers and Facilitators on local CCA under the ATSEA-2 Project; and (d) the launching of PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program, which supported the completion of several studies, such as the “Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other local sites in the EAS Region” and “Harmonizing Blue Carbon Accounting Protocols for Coastal Ecosystems in the EAS Region”. Key discussions on blue carbon were also held during regional dialogues, the EAS Congress 2024, and the Blue Carbon Regional Forum to promote harmonized accounting protocols and policy frameworks. Additionally, the ASEAN ENMAPS project, recently initiated, aims to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems through MPA and fisheries management, while the ongoing IRBM Project considers the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction indicators into the development of State of River Basin, including introducing nature-based solutions in selected river basins.

Building on these advancements, further efforts are needed to strengthen the integration of CCA and DRR at the local level, particularly within ICM programs, and to enhance monitoring and reporting mechanisms to effectively track progress and assess impacts, as targeted in the SDS-SEA IP.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent climate change-related plans and strategies in EAS countries (some examples, note that more detailed list is provided in the table below): Cambodia’s Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024-2033; China’s National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to 2035; Japan’s revised Plan for Global Warming Prevention; Lao PDR’s National Strategy on Climate Change Vision to the year 2050 and Strategy and Programs of Actions to the year 2030; Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050 and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan 2023-2030; RO Korea: Third NAP (for 2021–2025); Timor-Leste’s First National Adaptation Plan (NAP); Viet Nam’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050. Other recent policy developments in EAS countries related to CCA: Cambodia’s Code on Environment and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of convergence between CCA, DRR, and ICM initiatives, particularly at the subnational level, including conduct of consultations to identify priority locations for convergence Establish national platform for

<p>Natural Resources adopted in 2023 through Royal Kram no. 0623/007, which includes Section 6 on climate change; Japan's GX (green transformation) Promotion Act enacted and GX Promotion Strategy adopted in 2023; RO Korea's First Basic Plan for Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth established in 2023; and Timor-Leste's Government Resolution No. 8/2022 National Climate Change Policy approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of reporting on NDCs, the following submissions were noted: Cambodia report (2020); China's 2024 Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1), and Fourth National Communication on Climate Change (2023); Indonesia report (2022); Japan's 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report (2022); Singapore's 2035 NDC report (2025). • On DRR, recent policies, plans and strategies noted in the countries, include: Cambodia's National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2028); DPR Korea's National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 – 2030 for implementation in three stages every four years; Japan's revised Basic Disaster Management Plan; Lao PDR's National Strategy on DRR (NSDRR) 2021-2030; Philippines' National DRR and Management Plan 2020-2030; RO Korea's revised National Safety Management Plan; and Viet Nam's National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2030, with vision to 2050. • Blue Carbon assessments, guidelines and accounting protocols/frameworks for measuring and reporting, noted in majority of the EAS countries • PEMSEA Blue Carbon (BC) Program approved by 15th EAS PC Meeting in 2024. • Studies completed in line with the BC Program: Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other local sites in the EAS Region, and Harmonizing Blue Carbon Accounting Protocols for Coastal Ecosystems in the EAS Region. • BC Forums conducted by PEMSEA in collaboration with Partners: Blue Carbon Regional Forum (June 2023); Seminar on Blue Carbon Policy, Regulation and Technology (during EASC 2024); Blue Carbon Training (March 2025); and 2nd Blue Carbon Meeting (June 2025) • Initiatives from PRF-managed and supported projects contributing to CCA: ICM integrated with CCA, EbA and alternative livelihoods in Rote Ndao, Indonesia, and PA Barique, Timor-Leste under the ATSEA-2 Project; Publication of Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for the Arafura and Timor Seas and endorsement of Guidance Toolkit for Decisionmakers and Facilitators on local CCA under the ATSEA-2 Project; Emphasis on climate change as a cross-cutting issue area under the ATS SAP 2024-2033; integration of climate change hazards in various assessments under the IRBM project; and improving marine ecosystem resilience through management of ecological networks of MPAs and fisheries to be pursued under the newly-launched ASEAN ENMAPS Project. • Inclusion of the development/implementation of local CCA/DRR plans by ICM sites as one of the priority programs/targeted actions the Under the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 (covering 54 PNLG local government members) in support of SDG 13. 	<p>assessment utilizing standardized protocols for sampling and analyzing blue carbon stocks and fluxes in other EAS countries that have yet to develop national systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate engagement of communities in the conservation and rehabilitation of blue carbon ecosystems. • Monitoring and reporting of progress in NAP implementation in connection with Climate Change NAP reporting in the countries
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Insights and Recommendations

While progress has been made at the policy level, demonstration of actual integration of CCA and DRR within ICM remains fragmented, with limited documentation and reporting within PEMSEA. The PNLG and PNLC can serve as integral platforms to strengthen the convergence of CCA and DRR into ICM implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Recommendation:

- Consider organizing knowledge-sharing events on ICM, CCA, DRR convergence as part of PNLG and PNLC forums.

EAS countries have shown strong interest in Blue Carbon (BC) initiatives, including PEMSEA's Blue Carbon program. However, more support will be needed to facilitate and advance the BC roadmap, including the development of harmonized accounting system, enhancing community engagement in BC efforts, as well as promotion of climate-smart policies, legislation, and GESI considerations into comprehensive development plans to help reduce vulnerability and strengthening coastal and marine resilience to climate change.

Recommendations:

- Complementing the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program and the PRF-managed projects in marine plastics pollution, consider conducting review on CCA and DRR policies, plans, programs, and monitoring mechanisms to help identify best practices, gaps, and recommendations to enhance policy integration and improve monitoring and evaluation systems, and develop a concept proposal for GCF and other funding considerations.
- Develop case studies and knowledge products on CCA and DRR integration with ICM (and possibly impacts on/ connectivity with marine pollution and biodiversity loss).

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
II.C.1. Climate Change National Action Plans (NAPs) incorporate the Country Partner commitments to COP 21 Paris Agreement towards net-zero emissions and the decisions from COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact and COP 27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan in relation to oceans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy and Action Plans on Climate Change updated in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact, Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan and SDG 13. Priority locations for convergence with subnational ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming of climate smart policy and legislation into comprehensive development plans. Blue carbon assessment. 	<p>2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to update the National Strategy and Action Plans on Climate Change in consideration of SDG 13 and the provisions of the Glasgow Climate Pact and Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan on integration and strengthening of ocean-based actions and solutions where parties are also urged to implement the Glasgow Work Programme of Action for Climate Empowerment with due consideration on gender equality and women empowerment and equal participation of women in climate action (cross-reference to II.C.2). Consultations conducted to identify priority locations for climate change adaptation based on national priorities and context for convergence with subnational ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming of climate smart policy 		<p>Status of Updated Climate Change NAPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2024-2033 validation workshop, alongside a stakeholders' consultative meeting on Cambodia's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) conducted in 2024^{liv}; China: National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to 2035 launched in 2022^{lv}; Indonesia: National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (RAN-API)^{lvi} established in 2014 and still in effect Japan: Plan for Global Warming Prevention revised in 2025^{lvii} Lao PDR: National Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR Vision to the year 2050, Strategy and Programs of Actions to the year 2030 released in 2023; Philippines: National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of the Philippines 2023-2050^{lviii} and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan 2023-2030 RO Korea: Third NAP (for 2021–2025) still in effect^{lix}; Singapore: Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) still in effect Timor-Leste: First National Adaptation Plan (NAP) submitted to UNFCCC in March 2021^{lx}; TL is also developing a National Mitigation Plan^{lxi}; Viet Nam: National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050. This NAP is grounded on the provisions on climate change in the Law on Environmental Protection (LEP), the National Strategy on Climate Change to 2050 and current policies on climate change^{lxii} <p>Identifying Priority Locations for CCA and ICM convergence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the ATSEA-2 Project, ICM programs were established in Rote Ndao, Indonesia and PA Barique, Timor-Leste. The ICM programs were combined with CCA and Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA), as well as alternative livelihood initiatives. Under the PNLG SAP 2022-2030, one of the priority programs/targeted actions refer to the development/implementation of local CCA/DRR plans by ICM sites in support of SDG 13 focusing on reducing the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change and other natural and manmade hazards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct consultations to identify priority locations for convergence with subnational ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming of climate smart policy and legislation into comprehensive development plans. Establish national platform for assessment utilizing standardized protocols for sampling and analyzing blue carbon stocks and fluxes in other EAS countries. (potential linkage with ongoing PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program) Demonstrate engagement of communities in the conservation and rehabilitation of blue carbon ecosystems. (potential linkage with ongoing PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program and PNLG initiatives)

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
		and legislation and GESI into comprehensive development plans to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities and enhance the resilience of coastal and marine resources to the impacts of climate change.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, PEMSEA published a study on Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other local sites in the EAS Region. The report assessed the status and management of Blue Carbon Ecosystems (BCEs) in the region, highlighting their ecological and economic value while addressing threats like coastal development and pollution. A survey across 20 sites in six countries reveals strong interest in BCE restoration and conservation but underscores the need for better data collection. Apart from the above, there were no information or PEMSEA reports related to conduct of consultations to identify priority locations for CCA based on national priorities for convergence with sub-national ICM programs. 	
		2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National platform for assessment established utilizing standardized protocols for sampling and analyzing blue carbon stocks and fluxes. Communities engaged in the conservation and rehabilitation of blue carbon ecosystems. 		Blue Carbon Assessments in EAS countries: Based on a study conducted by PEMSEA on "Harmonizing Blue Carbon Accounting Protocols for Coastal Ecosystems in the EAS Region", the following were noted in China, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea and the Philippines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: MNR developed a comprehensive blue carbon accounting protocol for quantifying and monitoring blue carbon sinks across various coastal and marine ecosystems. A methodology for the Mangrove Forest Restoration Carbon Sink Project in Fujian Province (V01) was also noted employing a stock-difference approach, stratified sampling and independent verification of carbon sequestration; Management Rules on Trading of Carbon Emission Credits issued by the State Council in 2024; Development of Technical standards on survey, restoration and monitor carbon sink and stocks of coastal and marine ecosystems Indonesia: In alignment with the country's NDCs, a standardized framework for measuring and reporting carbon sequestration in mangroves and seagrasses was established, integrating field sampling, remote sensing, and laboratory analysis.; Indonesian Blue Carbon Strategy Framework (IBCSF)^{lxiii} Japan: The J Blue Credit standards establish guidelines for measuring, verifying, and certifying CO₂ absorption in Japan's marine ecosystems, to support carbon neutrality by 2050; Calculation and reporting of CO₂ absorption of seagrass beds and seaweed beds to UNFCCC, the first in the world (2022) Philippines: Philippine Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts and the Roadmap to Institutionalise Natural Capital Accounting (2022–2040); Launch of 2023 National Mangrove Map^{lxiv}; Development of 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>satellite-based methodology for nationwide seagrass mapping using citizen science^{lxv}; Establishment of National Blue Carbon Action Partnership in February 2025 to scale up development of high-quality blue carbon initiatives^{lxvi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RO Korea: Korea's Blue Carbon Accounting Protocols provide a standardized framework for measuring, reporting, and verifying (MRV) carbon sequestration in tidal marshes, seagrass meadows, and coastal wetlands, incorporating stock difference and gain-loss methods, sediment sampling, modeling, and third-party verification <p>In the case of other countries, the following developments were noted through supplementary research and information shared by CPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Carbon assessments conducted in Koh Kresna Lok Community Fishery (CFI) and Prek Kampong Smach Marine Fishery Management Area (MFMA) through the Landesa Coastal Livelihoods and Mangroves Project^{lxvii} China: Blue carbon integrated into China's NDC, with actions to restore key coastal ecosystems, establish technical standards for carbon sink assessment, conduct surveys in 16 pilot areas, and explore marine carbon sink trading. 35 Projects have been implemented covering nearly 40% of coastal prefecture-level cities. Nearly 40 assessment pilot sites have been monitored on carbon stock and 3 BE ecosystems with estimated baseline of carbon stocks. Philippines: Establishment of National Blue Carbon Action Partnership (NBCAP); ongoing development of a Blue Carbon Roadmap whereby a Nationwide Mangrove Map 2023 was also produced by DENR in partnership with the Philippine Space Agency^{lxviii}, this effort has been expanded to cover corals and seagrasses in collaboration with various stakeholders; and piloting of blue carbon quantification in select NIPAS areas. Singapore: A Blue Carbon Framework for Singapore's National Climate Change Policy (BlueCarbonSG) was initiated in 2023 and is targeted to be completed in 2026. It aims to promote blue carbon to contribute towards Singapore's national greenhouse gas reporting and climate targets, and to develop a Singapore Blue Carbon Accounting Framework^{lxix}. The Marine Climate Change Science (MCCS) programme under NParks launched its 2nd and 3rd grant calls in 2024 on various research areas including Blue Carbon Science, Marine Climate Impact, and Community Driven Climate Resilience 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Planning^{lxx}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timor-Leste: Under the IKI and Blue Ventures Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project, a study on seagrass was developed which includes maps on blue carbon assessments.^{lxxi} Viet Nam: As a side event to COP28, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and UNDP convened a workshop on "Enhancing Blue Carbon Sequestration from Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Natural Resources". Several assessments on Viet Nam's blue carbon market potential are also undertaken with various groups; Decision No. 232/QĐ-TTg on developing a roadmap for implementing a domestic carbon market was adopted in January 2025, with the development of a legal framework underway. The Second phase of the roadmap will include setting of emission quotas and identifying pilot projects for carbon credit^{lxxii} <p>Blue Carbon Initiatives under PEMSEA^{lxxiii}:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Platform of Blue Carbon (IPBC) Annual Dialogue (Feb 2023, Paris, France): PEMSEA participated in the IPBC Dialogue, which gathered global stakeholders to discuss blue carbon conservation, policy improvements, and on-the-ground implementation. Key discussions included international commitments to protect blue carbon ecosystems, gaps in seagrass mapping and social science research, and the integration of blue carbon into international mechanisms such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Ramsar sites. The economic potential of blue carbon through carbon markets was also explored. Blue Carbon Regional Symposium (March 2023, Manila, Philippines): Organized under the BlueCARES Project by the University of the Philippines Diliman and JICA, the symposium focused on the Blue Carbon Strategy for the Philippines and Indonesia. PEMSEA contributed by sharing its initiatives on awareness-raising, capacity-building, and promoting practical blue carbon actions, and plan to update its regional publication, <i>Understanding Strategic Coastal Blue Carbon Opportunities in the East Asian Seas Region</i>. PEMSEA hosted the Blue Carbon Regional Forum, coinciding with World Ocean Day (June 2023). It facilitated discussions on ongoing blue carbon initiatives across East Asia, highlighting the importance of standardized accounting methods for blue carbon. In 2024, the 15th EAS Partnership Council approved the development of a PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program, managed by the PRF with 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>guidance from the Technical Session Chair (Dr. Keita Furukawa) and the PNLC. PEMSEA country partners agreed to explore Blue Carbon's market and non-market benefits, and supported a regional certification scheme based on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap. This was formalized under Action 6 of Healthy and Resilient Ocean synergistic actions of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other Local Sites in the EAS Region was completed in 2024^{lxxiv}. During the EAS Congress 2024, a Seminar on Blue Carbon Policy, Regulation and Technology was conducted by PRF with support from CIMA, OPRI-SPF, NMHMS-MNR, and CODF.^{lxxv,lxxvi} PEMSEA released in Jan 2025, the publication on "Harmonizing Blue Carbon Accounting Protocols for Coastal Ecosystems in the East Asian Seas Region". This foundational document aims to establish a harmonized accounting protocol across various countries in East Asia, reviewing existing standards from China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and RO Korea^{lxxvii}. PEMSEA established a regional Technical Working Group for the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program in February 2025, who will provide technical guidance in implementing the BC program roadmap and developing a harmonized accounting protocol for blue carbon in the EAS region. Conduct of the Blue Carbon Training Workshop for PNLC in Chonburi, Thailand in March 2025, where early career ocean professionals were capacitated on blue carbon concepts and a baseline assessment of capacity needs for blue carbon was conducted. Conduct of 2nd Blue Carbon Meeting in haikou, Hainan, China in June 2025. <p>Communities on conservation and rehabilitation of blue carbon ecosystems (links to ICM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other Local Sites in the EAS Region was completed in 2024^{lxxviii}. 	
II.C.2. NAPs implementation and reporting, including regional programs with CCA/DRR components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between 	2023-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors, including regional and international organizations and institutions (e.g., ADPC; UNISDR, universities) and projects⁶ to 		<p>National Policy Developments on CCA and Reporting on NDCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Code on Environment and Natural Resources adopted in 2023 through Royal Kram no. 0623/007, which includes Section 6 on climate change to strengthen and improve capacity for climate change adaptation and resilience and greenhouse gas emission reduction^{lxxix}; NDC report submitted in 2020; Cambodia Climate 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
	<p>government and non-government sectors to support post-2020 climate change mitigation measures as called for in the Paris Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between government and non-government sectors to support ocean-based adaptation measures as called for in the Glasgow Climate Pact and Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan. Monitoring programs established to measure the impacts of committed climate change mitigation actions. 	<p>support post-2020 climate change mitigation measures including improved access to capacity development opportunities among Partner Countries and local governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors including regional and international organizations and institutions to support ocean-based adaptation measures as called for in the Glasgow Climate Pact, including habitat protection and restoration of critical habitats (coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and mangroves and island ecosystems), and established MPAs and MPA networks based on scientifically sound information, to improve the resilience of watershed areas and coastal and marine ecosystems to the impacts of climate change and to enhance the carbon sequestration capacities of relevant habitats. Design of standardized monitoring programs discussed and developed or enhancement of existing monitoring programs conducted to measure the impacts of committed climate change mitigation actions and improvements in the areal extent, health and resiliency of coastal habitats and watershed areas including areas-at-risk to climate change (cross-reference to II.B.2). Documentation and consolidation of progress in NAP implementation generated from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects reported/communicated through the National Communication⁷ and Nationally Determined Contribution⁸ in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, as well as in knowledge sharing and learning events. 		<p>Change Alliance (CCCA) has been the country's flagship climate initiative to establish climate policies and advance implementation, and it has recently completed its third phase (2019-2024)^{lxxx}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: Application of the "1+N" policy framework on carbon dioxide peaking and carbon neutrality continues^{lxxxi} in line with the 14th Five-Year Plan and 2035 Long-Term Objectives which includes climate direction for 2021-2025^{lxxxii}; China's 2024 Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) submitted to UNFCCC in 2024^{lxxxiii}. Fourth National Communication on Climate Change submitted in 2023^{lxxxiv} DPRK: represented in COP meetings; First and Second National Communications submitted in 2004 and 2012, but subsequent reports cannot be located Indonesia: National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (RAN-API) RAN-GRK on GHG emission inventory (Presidential Regulation No. 71/2011) still being implemented^{lxxxv}; Updated NDC Report submitted in 2022^{lxxxvi} Japan: GX (green transformation) Promotion Act enacted and GX Promotion Strategy adopted in 2023^{lxxxvii, lxxxviii}; Japan's 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report submitted to UNFCCC in 2022^{lxxxix}; Annual Report on the Environment, the Sound Material-Cycle Society and Biodiversity in Japan 2023^{xc} Lao PDR: In 2022, a readiness and preparatory support proposal to Advance Lao PDR's NAP through Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Disaster Risk Management in Human Settlements was submitted to GCF. This is intended to further strengthen the NAPA (2009) and NSCC (2010) policy frameworks^{xci} Philippines: Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan 2020-2030^{xcii} RO Korea: First Basic Plan for Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth established in 2023 (covers 20 years)^{xciii}; 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy Singapore: 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC submitted in Feb 2025^{xciv}; Singapore Green Plan to 2030 still in effect Timor-Leste: Government Resolution No. 8/2022 National Climate Change Policy approved^{xcv} Other regional policies adopted by some PEMSEA country partners: 2024-27 Asia Pacific Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework^{xcvi}(2024); ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience (2023)^{xcvii} 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in NAP implementation reported and/or communicated through the National Communication and Nationally Determined Contribution in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. 			<p>Initiatives on CCA under the ATSEA-2 Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for the Arafura and Timor Seas region was completed in 2022 and served as a foundational reference for developing the Climate Change Guidance Toolkit for Decisionmakers and Facilitators. To further raise awareness, a Regional Training Workshop on climate change was conducted, and the CCVA and Toolkit were featured in a special publication in the Climatic Change journal. In Rote Ndao, Indonesia, ATSEA-2 facilitated the development and implementation of ICM plans, including pilot testing of the CC Guidance Toolkit which resulted to a local climate change study and community adaptation plan in Oeseli village. An ICM Policy Framework and Action Plan were endorsed by the local government. As part of an Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA), coral reef and mangrove habitat restoration was carried out in Oeseli, Boa, Landu Tii, and Daiama through mangrove planting, fish domes, and spiderweb installations, with monitoring showing positive ecosystem growth. In PA Barique, Manatuto, Timor-Leste, ATSEA-2 supported climate change vulnerability assessments and the development of an ICM Strategic Plan and Action Plan which was adopted through a Declaration of Commitment in January 2022. A sub-Task Team was established to oversee implementation, including resilient home gardens promoting alternative livelihoods (vanilla, vegetables, poultry, and aquaculture) to promote community resiliency. A women's cooperative was also formed for post-harvest fish handling and cooperative management, while vegetation restoration efforts were aligned with MPA initiatives. <p>Initiatives on CCA under the IRBM Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with the project's objective to reduce climate vulnerability through demonstrations and replications of integrated river basin management in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam, key assessments such as the State of River Basin (SORB) reporting (reports drafted in some countries) and updating of various biophysical and socioeconomic and demographic profiles include climate-related issues. Project implementation is still at early stages and further progress is expected from 2025-2027. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Initiatives on CC under the ENMAPS Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has just been initiated. Climate change impacts will be addressed by the project by improving the resilience of marine ecosystems through management of ecological networks of MPAs and fisheries. <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMHMS: Efforts to conserve and restore blue carbon ecosystems as a means to support climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and other co-benefits ongoing. Key initiatives include large-scale restoration projects, development of technical standards for carbon stock assessment to standardise the methodology, parameters, and technical criteria for carbon sink accounting and monitoring, and the hosting of the 2nd BC-TWG meeting (Haikou, June 5–6) wherein a voluntary Blue Carbon Monitoring Network for the EAS region was proposed. Key plans for 2025-2026 include: International blue carbon event at the World Coastal Forum 2025 (Sept 24–25) with private sector and research partners; and a 2026 training with BlueSeeds and AFD on blue carbon assessment using satellite and remote sensing technologies. CI Philippines: Advances blue carbon restoration and policy reform through the Blue Carbon Plus initiative and collaboration with the International Blue Carbon Institute. KIOST: Advances marine spatial planning, ocean forecasting systems, and regional cooperation to drive evidence-based policy and foster blue economy growth in the EAS region. Blue Carbon & MSP Seminar (May 2025, Busan in South Korea) with KMI; Carrying out Blue Carbon Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) projects KMI: Conducted International seminar on Blue Carbon & MSP (May 2025, Busan in South Korea) with KIOST focusing on blue carbon strategies and sustainable fisheries management KOEM: Developing a National GHG Inventory and Statistical System for Blue Carbon (2022–ongoing), including ecosystem monitoring, a national information system, and improved statistical methods to support international recognition of blue carbon sequestration. PML: Two key research publications released recently. Recent research indicates that planetary boundary limits for ocean acidification have been breached and that around 20% of the ocean is now darker than at the start of satellite records, driven by climate 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				change, nutrient enrichment, and sedimentation, with significant potential impacts on marine ecosystems, as well as on food via fisheries and aquaculture. Other key ongoing work is the climate smart MPAs using a combination of knowledge of the environment and numerical models in support of future proofing, among others.	
II.C.3. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans incorporate the targets in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy and Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management updated in line with the 2030 targets of the Sendai Framework of Action for DRR. Priority locations identified for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming DRR measures into comprehensive development plans. Monitoring and reporting of progress in NAP implementation enhanced in connection with Climate Change NAP reporting 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to update the National Strategy and Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in line with the 2030 targets of the Sendai Framework of Action for DRR where women and their participation in DRR are recognized as key to designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive DRR policies, plans and programs. Consultations conducted to identify priority locations based on national priorities and context for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming DRR measures into comprehensive development plans to ensure reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood, properties and health of individuals, businesses, communities, women, IPs and the marginalized sector including strengthening capacities to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-induced hazards and disasters, particularly for the most vulnerable to be able to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations. In connection with Climate Change NAP reporting, design of monitoring program developed or enhanced, including reporting and communicating the progress in NAP implementation. 		<p>Status of National Strategy and Action Plans on DRR in line with the Sendai Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2028) launched in 2024^{xviii}. China: National Emergency Management System plan under the 14th five-year plan for 2021-2025^{xix} still in effect; Technical Guidelines for investigation and assessment of coastal ecosystems, and Technical Guidelines on coastal ecological rehabilitation for hazard mitigation launched in 2020^c. DPR Korea: National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 – 2030 approved in 2019 and to be implemented in three stages every four years, 2022, 2026, and 2030, with annual assessment in relation with national economic plan^{ci}. Japan: Basic Disaster Management Plan reviewed/revised annually as per practice^{cii} Lao PDR: National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (NSDRR) 2021-2030^{ciii} Philippines: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020-2030^{civ} RO Korea: National Safety Management Plan revised in 2024 incorporating advancements in science and technology to address climate crises and enhance safety management for vulnerable groups^{cv}; National Blue Carbon Promotion Strategy (2023), aiming for increasing marine carbon sequestration capacity from 11,000 tons in 2022 to 1,362,000 tons in 2050 Singapore: continues to implement Whole-of-Government Integrated Risk Management (WOGIRM) Policy Framework^{cv}; 'Climate Impact Science Research Programme (CISR)(2022^{cvi}) Timor-Leste: Decree-Law n.º 11 /2022, March 9: The Approval of Civil Protection Authority (CPA) Organic Structure to help facilitate integrated DRM activities, Ministerial Diploma n.º 1 /2023, January 9: Organic-Functional Structure of the CPA. There were also plans to establish Integrated Protection and Relief Operations System (SIOPs) and develop National Emergency Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of priority locations for convergence with sub-national ICM programs that will contribute to mainstreaming DRR measures into comprehensive development plans. Monitoring and reporting of progress in NAP implementation in connection with Climate Change NAP reporting

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
	(cross-reference to III.C.2).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viet Nam: National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2030, with vision to 2050^{cviii} As for DRR initiatives through PEMSEA, most efforts are linked to CCA initiatives through various PEMSEA-managed projects (cross-reference to II.C.2) <p>Relevant initiatives from other regional entities in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025) <p>Identifying Priority Locations for DRR and ICM convergence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific PEMSEA reports found on DRR and ICM convergence during this review. <p>M&E of NAPs (linked to CCA) (cross-reference to II.C.2)</p> <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMHMS: Engages in international Ecosystem-based DRR (Eco-DRR) collaboration and advances capacity building through blue carbon monitoring events and training (i.e., Joint launching of International Applications of Eco-DRR in Coastal Areas by MNR China and IUCN; the second collection of the International Applications of Eco-DRR is currently underway. 	

Priority Program II.D: Pollution Reduction, Waste Management and Use Management

Target Outcome	Status
II.D.1: NAPs on Global Programme of Action from Land-based Sources of Pollution (GPA) and NAPs on marine litter/marine plastics lay out actions to combat pollution from land-based sources, including marine plastics in support of SDS-SEA.	
II.D.2: NAPs implementation and reporting.	

PEMSEA Countries continue to advance policies, plans and programs to address marine litter, plastic pollution, waste management and water use management. In terms of marine litter and marine plastics, Nine EAS countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, and Viet Nam) have developed specific national policies, strategies and plans specific to marine litter and plastic pollution. In DPRK, information was not available/accessible, while in Timor-Leste a dedicated policy or plan on marine litter has yet to be established, though pollution reduction is integrated in existing environmental policies, including the Zero Plastics Campaign. In terms of water use management, most recent policies were noted in Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Key PRF-managed projects have been instrumental in supporting the countries and specific local governments/sites to improve governance, monitoring and reporting, and capacity and awareness building on marine litter/plastics and water use management. The assessments developed by the ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution (ASEANO) have served as useful reference to other pollution reduction initiatives. The MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project with 10 target sites across the Philippines and Timor-Leste, has initiated baseline assessments, Plastic Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS), Marine Environment Protector (MEP) program, community engagement initiatives, and development of pilot project proposals for reducing marine plastics. The GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project is assisting 7 target river basin and watershed sites in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Malaysia and Viet Nam in updating biophysical, socioeconomic, and demographic profiles; reviewing governance and management systems; assessing pollutant loadings and conducting a study of the water-energy-food ecosystem (WEFE) nexus as part of the preparation of the State of River Basin (SORB) baseline reports. The recently concluded ATSEA-2 Project has enhanced oil spill preparedness and response in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia and Covalima, Timor-Leste through trainings and support in developing Early Warning Systems and Oil Spill Response System and Guidelines. OSPR has been highlighted as one of the priority issues/core components in the ATSEA SAP for 2024-2033. Marine plastic pollution including ALDFG, another core component of the ATSEA SAP, is being addressed through the ALDFG project funded by Australia and managed by PRF. Further, the Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand (2022-2027) has been adopted, advancing regional cooperation between Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Moving forward, the PEMSEA platform will play a crucial role in consolidating outputs, lessons learned, and best practices from government programs and regional donor-funded initiatives. Strengthening knowledge-sharing, documentation, and dissemination will be essential in enhancing understanding and advancing pollution reduction, waste management, and sustainable water use across the region.

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPs or equivalent plans on marine litter and plastics management in effect in 9 EAS countries: Cambodia's No Plastic Bag Campaign; China's Plastic Pollution Control Action Plan (2021-2025); Indonesia's NAP on Marine Debris Management (2018); Japan's National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Litter (2019); Lao PDR's National Plastics Action Plan for 2022–2030; Philippines' National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (2021); RO Korea's National Marine Debris Management Plan (2021-2030); Singapore's National Action Strategy on Marine Litter (2022); Viet Nam's National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030 (2019). Apart from dedicated plans on marine litter and plastics reduction, several recent policies supporting pollution reduction and waste management were also noted in EAS countries, except DPRK (see the table below for a detailed list). Priority areas identified and supported through PRF-managed projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution Reduction/Plastics Reduction: 2 sites under ATSEA-2 Project: East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia and Covalima, Timor-Leste; 2 sites under ASEANO Project: Imus River, Philippines, and Citarum River, Indonesia; and 10 sites under the Marine Plastics ODA Project: Philippines Bulan, Sorsogon; Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; Calbayog City, Samar; Daanbantayan, Cebu; Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte; Tandag City, Surigao del Sur; and Timor-Leste: Dili, Manatuto, Liquica, Atauro Integrated River Basin and Watershed Management: 7 sites under the IRBM Project: Kampong Bay River Basin, Cambodia; Ciliwung River Basin, Indonesia; Nam Tha River Basin, Lao PDR; Imus-Ylang Ylang-Rio Grande Rivers and Pasac-Guagua Watershed, Philippines; Kedah River Basin, Malaysia; and Vu Gia Thu Bon River Basin, Viet Nam Under the completed ASEANO Project, mapping studies, LGU toolkit, policy best practices handbook, and monitoring tools for plastic management have been completed. Under the completed ATSEA-2 Project, the following have been accomplished: Regional Pollution Hotspot Analysis and National Pollution Assessments for Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Pollution Task Force established in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia along with the development of an Oil Spill Response System & Guidelines with Early Warning System (EWS). Oil Spill Response Guidelines published and oil spill preparedness trainings conducted in Betanu and Suai, Timor-Leste. ATS SAP 2024-2033 adopted in December 2024 which includes a new focus on marine and coastal plastic pollution and Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG), and oil spill preparedness and response. DCCEEW of Australia partnered with PEMSEA to fund and support the SAP's ALDFG component from 2024 to July 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of target actions as planned, particularly through the relevant PEMSEA projects. Support PEMSEA CPs in documenting, consolidating outputs, and disseminating knowledge from government programs, regional programs with national/ sub-national components and other donor-funded programs.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the ongoing MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project: Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS) completed in six sites in the Philippines and ongoing in Timor-Leste. National Baseline Assessment Report completed in the Philippines and ongoing in Timor-Leste. Nine local universities and an NGO have been identified and engaged to conduct quarterly beach monitoring of marine plastics and litter. Development of pilot projects initiated. Marine Plastic Data Center under the SEAKnowledge Bank has been in operation since 2024 to house data collected from quarterly beach monitoring. Marine Environment Protector (MEP) program initiated in 2024 followed by several MEP consultation workshops. • Under the GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project: River Basin Coordinating Committees established in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. Draft State of River Basin (SORB) Reports developed for sites in Cambodia, Lao, and two sites in the Philippines. Regional assessments and guidelines, including the (a) Review of Governance and Management Indicators for SORB Reporting in ASEAN countries, (b) Guidebook for SORB reporting developed, and (c) WEFE nexus assessment and WEFE toolkit undergoing development. Various consultations and learning events conducted related to SORB reporting and stakeholder engagement. The Project was also represented in key global events such as the 6th Geo Blue Planet Symposium on Digital Solution (2023), 16th Regional Action on Climate Change Symposium and 21st Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum in Japan (2024), and 10th GEF IW Conference. • Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand 2022-2027 adopted. In line with the Strategic Action Plan, the Guidelines for the use of Chemical Dispersants in Responding to Oil Spills was also finalized in 2024. 	
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Insights and Recommendations

While policies, plans, strategies and legislation continue to be developed in the EAS countries in support of pollution reduction, waste management, and water use management, review/document of the extent of their impacts and best practices remains limited. It would be beneficial to have a regional picture of progress. In the same manner, key results coming from relevant PRF projects are often reported individually.

Recommendation:

- Consider conducting an in-depth regional review of country-led initiatives and results from PRF-managed projects to provide a clearer picture of lessons learned, best practices, and their overall impact on pollution reduction, waste management, and water use management. The regional review can leverage from the different assessments, studies and reports generated from the relevant PRF-managed projects, and may be linked/may feed into the development of the updated RSOC for 2027. This review would help identify strategic actions to further enhance regional efforts and contribute valuable insights and data to evidence-based policymaking and improved program implementation. This could also serve as an opportunity for collaboration with PEMSEA partners and other key stakeholders.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
II.D.1. NAPs on Global Programme of Action from Land-based Sources of Pollution (GPA) and NAPs on marine litter/marine plastics lay out actions to combat pollution from land-based sources, including marine plastics in support of SDS-SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPs on GPA or its equivalent incorporate the objectives and priorities of GPA on pollution reduction. Priority coastal and marine areas and river basins identified for the development and implementation of integrated river basin and coastal and marine area management programs. 	<p>2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to mainstream the objectives and priorities of GPA on pollution reduction (e.g., sewage, POPs, heavy metals, etc.) and waste management (marine litter/marine plastics) under the framework of integrated coastal area and river basin management into NAPs on GPA9 or its equivalent National Action Plan, as recommended in the GPA and in response to SDG 6, which includes integrated water resources management, and SDGs 11, 12 and 14. Consultations conducted to identify priority coastal and marine areas and river basins based on national and local priorities and context for the development and implementation of integrated river basin and coastal and marine area management programs addressing land-based sources of pollution (nutrients and wastewater, marine litter, etc.) and sea-based sources of pollution (oil spill, ballast water, alien and invasive species, marine litter, etc.), including water availability and use and conservation with 		<p>NAPs on GPA or Equivalent Programs/Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following NAPs or equivalent plans on marine litter and plastics management are still in effect: Cambodia's "No Plastic Bag" campaign, and "No Plastic Zones" in select resorts; China's Plastic Pollution Control Action Plan (2021-2025); Indonesia NAP on Marine Debris Management (2018); Japan's National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Litter (2019) and Osaka Blue Ocean Vision (up to 2050); Lao PDR's National Plastics Action Plan for 2022–2030; Philippines' National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (2021); RO Korea's Third National Marine Litter Management Plan (2019-2023), Act on Management of Marine Waste and Contaminated Marine Sediment (2020) with National Marine Debris Management Plan (2021-2030), Singapore's National Action Strategy on Marine Litter (2022); Viet Nam's National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030 (2019). In the case of DPRK and Timor-Leste, national plans specific to marine litter were not available, though several relevant policies are currently in place (as noted in the details below) The following EAS countries are members to the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP): Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Philippines^{cix} The GPAP is a multistakeholder initiative established by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2018, which aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and to establish NPAPs in various countries, focusing on creating investable solutions that can be adapted and implemented globally. <p>IRBM programs and priority river basin or watershed areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project (2023-2027) is a key initiative managed by PRF which aims to improve integrated water resources management, reduce pollution loads from nutrients and other land-based activities, sustain freshwater environmental flows, and reduce climate vulnerability through demonstrations and replications, planning and strengthening of integrated river basin management in selected countries in the EAS region. In particular, the project is covering the following 7 sites: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of target actions as planned, particularly through the relevant PEMSEA projects. Support PEMSEA CPs in consolidating outputs from government programs, regional programs with national/ sub-national components and other donor-funded programs, as well as in documentation and knowledge dissemination.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
		considerations on interventions with gender implications.		<p>Kampong Bay River Basin, Cambodia; Ciliwung River Basin, Indonesia; Nam Tha River Basin, Lao PDR; Imus-Ylang Ylang Rio Grande Rivers and Pasac-Guagua Watershed, Philippines; Kedah River Basin, Malaysia; and Vu Gia Thua Bon River Basin, Viet Nam. The project is also updating the biophysical, socioeconomic and demographic profiles; reviewing governance and management systems; assessing pollutant loadings and conducting a study of the water-energy-food ecosystem (WEFE) nexus as part of the preparation of the State of River Basin (SORB) baseline reports, as well as establishment of River Basin Coordinating Committees.</p> <p>Marine Plastics/pollution reduction programs and priority coastal and marine areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO) Project (2020-2023)^{ca}, led by NIVA and the CSEAS Indonesia in collaboration with the PRF and AWGCME focused the following sites: Imus River, Philippines, and Citarum River, Indonesia. • The MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project in the EAS region (2023-2028) which aims to reduce ocean-bound plastics is focusing in 10 sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippines (6 sites): Bulan, Sorsogon; Puerto Princesa City; Calbayog City, Samar; Daanbantay, Cebu; Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte; Tandag City, Surigao del Sur - Timor-Leste (4 sites): Dili, Manatuto, Liquica, Atauro • The GEF/UNDP ATSEA-2 Project (2019-2024) initiatives on pollution reduction focused on oil spill prepared and response. Initiatives focused on the following sites: East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia and Covalima, Timor-Leste. Marine plastic pollution including ALDFG is also one of the four key components of the ATS SAP 2024-2030. Efforts related to ALDFG is ongoing under the ATSEA program with support from DCCEEW of Australia. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
II.D.2. NAPs implementation and reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships forged and collaborative agreements signed among and between government and non-government sectors to support the implementation of NAPs on GPA and Marine Litter. Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Framework Programme for Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response implemented in collaboration with Country and Non-Country Partners and other collaborators. Environmental monitoring programs enhanced to measure improvements in water quality and/ or reduction of major pollutants and marine litter, etc. Progress in NAP implementation reported through existing monitoring platforms, knowledge sharing and learning events by consolidating outputs from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations conducted to forge partnerships and collaboration among and between government and non-government sectors to support the implementation of NAPs on GPA and Marine Litter and strengthening cooperation under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and Global Partnership on Marine Litter and their regional and national counterparts and programs.¹⁰ GOT Annual Contact Points Meeting and Technical Workshops/Trainings conducted in collaboration with Country (Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam) and Non-Country Partners (IPIECA, OSRL) and other collaborators to support the implementation of the GOT Framework Programme for Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response and pursuing the following measures to sustain the cooperation at regional, national and levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplishments in the implementation of the GOT Strategic Action Plan 2017-2022 consolidated and disseminated. Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the GOT 2022-2027 formulated, adopted and implemented by Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Pilot program on selected estuary/coastal waters implemented to monitor land-based sources of pollution. Environmental monitoring programs enhanced and implemented to measure improvements in water quality using Water Quality Index, which cover fresh and marine waters and/or reduction of major pollutants and marine litter, etc. as a result of NAP implementation and the application of innovative policy, technologies and practices in the priority coastal areas/river basins. Progress in NAP implementation reported through existing monitoring platforms, knowledge sharing and learning events by consolidating outputs from government programs, regional programs with national/ sub-national components and other donor-funded programs. Documentation and consolidation of progress in NAP implementation generated from government programs, regional programs with national/sub-national components and other donor-funded projects reported/ communicated in various knowledge sharing and learning events. 		<p>Country plans/policies on pollution reduction and waste management</p> <p>In support of country objectives and efforts on pollution reduction and waste management, the following recent policies and plans were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Environmental Protection Strategic Plan (EPSP) 2024-2028 launched with a focus on waste management, ecosystem degradation, and climate change, promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship^{cxii}; Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 in force^{cxii} China: Revised Marine Environmental Protection Law (MEPL 2023), came into effect in January 2024, includes stricter regulations on pollution control, biodiversity preservation, and increased accountability for violations as part of the 14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection issued in 2022.^{cxiii}; China's Circular Economy (CE) Plan (2021-2025) and Plastic Pollution Control Action Plan (2021-2025) being implemented; Guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation of Marine Litter (Trial), 2024.^{cxiv} Indonesia: Presidential Regulation No 83 of 2018 on marine debris handling and A National Action Plan (NAP) for marine debris handling in 2018-2025 supports Indonesia's target of reducing marine plastic debris by 70% by 2025^{cxv}; EUR 200 million Policy-Based Loan from AFD signed in 2024 to support the policy reform program for Indonesia's National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris (2017-2025)^{cxvi} Japan: Plastic Resource Circulation Act enforced in 2022; The 5th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society approved in 2024; Roadmap for Bioplastics Introduction (2021); Japan is taking the lead in promoting compiling and sharing ocean microplastics monitoring data through the Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI), a global database launched in 2024.^{cxvii}; Japan is also implementing various measures to understand the actual situation of marine plastic litter, collect and reduce its generation, and cooperate with international organizations in order to realize the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" as reported in the Annual Ocean Report . 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
	components and other donor-funded projects.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lao PDR: National Plastics Action Plan for Lao PDR 2022–2030 (NPAP); Plastic Recycling Factory Decree (No. 682/MOIC, 2020) governs the operation of plastic waste processing plants.^{cxxix} Philippines: Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) (2023) supports proper waste management and circular economy; Republic Act No.11898 on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) signed in 2022 to enhance product stewardship and minimize pollution at source^{xxx} with supporting Implementing Rules and Regulations issued by DENR via DAO 2023-02 in January 2023^{cxix}. The EPR Act and NPOA-ML target 50% reduction in plastic waste by 2025 and “Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040”. RO Korea: First Basic Plan for Marine Waste and Contaminated Marine Sediment Management (2021-2030) in effect and aims to reduce marine plastic waste by 60% by 2030 and achieve zero waste by 2050.^{cxixii} ; Comprehensive Strategy for Marine Plastic Reduction (2019-2030) Singapore: National Action Strategy on Marine Litter launched in June 2022; As part of the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and Zero Waste Masterplan, the Mandatory Packaging Reporting (MPR) Scheme was introduced in 2021.^{cxixiii} Timor-Leste: National Adaptation Plan (2021) highlights the importance of pollution control and waste management, including the implementation of a Zero-Plastic Policy Viet Nam: Revised Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) 2020 came into effect in January 2022 which calls for circular economy integration in development plans and waste management plans; National development plan on a Circular Economy approved in June, 2022 (Decision 687 No. 687/QD-TTg); Decree 45/2022/ND-CP (Decree 45) on sanctions of administrative violations against environmental protection (including waste management)^{cxixiv}; Decision No. 687/QD-BNN-TCTS (in 2021) on approving Action plan for management of marine plastic waste in fishery sector, period of 2020 - 2030^{cxixv} 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>Recent Policies and Plans on Water Use Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR: Vision to 2040 and National Water Resources Management Strategy to 2030, No. 96, July 18, 2023 • Timor-Leste: Ministerial Order No. 29/2023 on the expansion of Mechanism for Sustainable Management of Community-Based Natural Resources in River Basins^{cxvii} • Viet Nam: Revised Law on Water Resources No. 28/2023/QH15^{cxviii} <p>Other relevant initiatives in EAS countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia reported a drop of 30% in plastic bag importation after only a year of implementation of the “No Plastic Bag” campaign, which involved 3 million students and 14 million people; Three sewage treatment plants constructed and operationalized in Sihanoukville, serving households and SMEs; Landfill management improved with 80% of waste now being properly collected and disposed of; and follow up clean up and waste management campaigns launched in coastal communities. • Indonesia: Conduct of annual monitoring of seawater quality and marine debris in support of pollution control and ecosystem health. <p>Contributions from PRF-managed projects to Pollution Reduction, Waste Management and Water Use Management:</p> <p>A. Results from the ASEANO Project 2020-2023^{cxviii}:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of knowledge products which served as useful reference to subsequent PEMSEA initiatives on pollution/plastics management. Key results include: mapping studies, LGU toolkit, policy best practices handbook, and monitoring tools for plastic management. <p>B. MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA Project: Notable developments since 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives are focusing on improving governance, implementing best practices, monitoring marine plastics and litter, and raising community awareness, targeting plastics within 50 km of shorelines, river inflows, and fishing activities. • Key developments since 2023 include: 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastics Analysis and Characterization Study (PACS) completed in six sites in the Philippines, and ongoing in Timor-Leste Framework for beach monitoring on marine plastics and litter established. Cooperative network of local NGOs formed to lead marine environment protection campaigns against plastic pollution. National Baseline Assessment Report completed in the Philippines in November 2024 and ongoing in Timor-Leste with a target completion in May 2025. Findings from the assessments will guide pilot projects and policy development to improve marine plastics management. Development of pilot projects also initiated with six Philippine Local government Units (LGUs) developing proposals through local consultations and expert guidance. Key milestones included case studies on global best practices (June-Dec 2024), and stakeholder consultations in Puerto Princesa (July 2024) and Xiamen (EASC, Nov 2024) to refine and enhance pilot project concepts. A Small Grant Program (SGP) was designed by PEMSEA in 2024 to support local initiatives in marine plastic recycling, upcycling, and circular economy promotion. Implementation is targeted for launch in quarter four of 2025. Nine local universities and an NGO were identified to conduct quarterly beach litter monitoring in Philippines (12 sites) and Timor-Leste (6 sites) through MOUs with Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU). They were supplied with guidelines, data collection tools, and equipment (e.g., scales, GPS devices, first-aid kits) for standardized data collection. Marine Plastics Data Center was opened in August 2024 under the SEAKnowledge Bank to house data collected from quarterly beach litter monitoring conducted under the project: (https://easmarineplastics.seaknowledgebank.net/) In terms of capacity, awareness and communication, 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>the project carried out the following: Marine Environment Protector (MEP) program initiated in 2024 in the Philippine sites with support from four selected NGOs. A National Consultation Workshop on MEP was conducted in March 2024; MEPs carried out monthly river and coastal area clean ups; 1st Learning Exchange Program on Marine Plastic Waste Management in Seoul, RO Korea (20-27 April 2024); Workshop on "Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asian Seas Region: Innovative Solutions and Good Practices at the Local Level" conducted during the EAS Congress 2024 in Xiamen, China; and 2025 Marine Environment Protector (MEP) Program Workshop to evaluate progress, exchange community-based practices, and set targets for 2025.</p> <p>C. IRBM Project^{cxix}.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key developments since 2023 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of River Basin Coordinating Committees (RBCC) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. RBCC in Viet Nam undergoing restructuring ○ Draft State of River Basin (SORB) Reports developed for sites in Cambodia, Lao, and two sites in the Philippines. The development of SORB reports were also guided by regional assessments and guidelines, including the (a) Review of Governance and Management Indicators for SORB Reporting in ASEAN countries, and (b) Guidebook for SORB reporting. The SORB reports once fully developed will serve as vital reference to monitor status and trends in the river basin sites and inform decision-making to support enhanced river basin and watershed management and their environmental/water quality. ○ Also in support of SORB reports, the project is assessing total pollutant loadings or TPL (completed in Cambodia and for replication in Lao PDR), and conducting a study of the water-energy-food ecosystem (WEFE) nexus as well as refinement of the Rapid Evaluation of WEFE (REWEFe) toolkit. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Field visits have also been conducted in sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines resulting to a long list of issues, general solutions and opportunities which that will guide the development of solutions templates in preparation for pilot projects in the 7 target river basins. o In terms of knowledge management and communications, the project has published key project brief and site profile stories, along with several technical reports arising from the assessments related to SORB development. The project has also conducted several consultations and learning events, including (a) SORB Reporting Workshop and Stakeholder Analysis Workshop during the EAS Congress 2024 in Xiamen, China; (b) Participation and project presentation at the 10th GEF International Waters Conference in Uruguay in September 2024; (c) Participation at the 6th Geo Blue Planet Symposium on Digital Solution for Sustainable Ocean Community and PEMSEA Learning Exchange on Good Practices in Implementing Biodiversity Conservation-Focused and Area-Based Management Approaches held in October 2023; (d) SORB shared during the 16th Regional Action on Climate Change Symposium and 21st Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum, October 2024 in Kyoto, Japan; (e) 2nd Mekong-Japan SDGs forum, March 13, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand; (f) Regional Training on Marine Spatial Planning Application in the Scaling up of ICM, April 21-25, 2025 in Xiamen, PR China; (g) Open Session of the 25th AWGWRM Meeting, June 4, 2025, in Bali, Indonesia; (h) Second Southeast Asian Environmental Systems (SEAES) Workshop, June 17-20, 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. <p>D. ATSEA-2 Project results related to marine pollution management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the key priorities of the ATSEA-2 Project which was implemented from 2019 to 2024 was on marine and land-based pollution management with specific focus on oil spill preparedness and response. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notable results include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Regional Pollution Hotspot Analysis, along with National Pollution Assessments in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. In Indonesia, the project supported the establishment of a Pollution Task Force to develop and implement the Oil Spill Response System and Guidelines. The Guidelines was developed together with the Early Warning System (EWS), which was integrated into the provincial disaster management framework for real-time monitoring. Training sessions were conducted for officials and stakeholders, while community surveillance groups (POKMASWAS) were engaged in monitoring and reporting. Oil spill response was also incorporated as a core component of the ICM plan, with clear roles, responsibilities, and procedures. In Timor-Leste, a study on Marine Pollution Gaps was completed and published, alongside the development of Oil Spill Response Guidelines. In 2022, oil spill preparedness trainings were conducted in Betanu and Suai with support from the Ministry of Petroleum and ANPM. In December 2024, the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2024-2033 was adopted through the Sydney Declaration. The updated SAP includes a key component on Reducing Marine and Coastal Plastic Pollution including ALDFG. In support of the new ATS SAP 2024-2033, DCCEEW of Australia entered into an agreement with PEMSEA as fund manager for Australia's support to the implementation of SAP's ALDFG component which covers 2024 to July 2026. Assessments related to ALDFG have been undertaken as part of the plan to develop a Regional Action Plan for ALDFG in the ATS region. <p>Technical Advisory Services to the World Bank/UNOPs/ASEAN South East Asia Regional Program in Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP) (2023-2027)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PRF is providing technical advice in developing the regional baseline assessment guides, toolkits and 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>innovation and investment platforms on marine plastics in ASEAN for the SEA-MaP project.</p> <p>Implementation of the Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Framework Programme for Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on previous efforts, Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam have formulated and adopted the Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand 2022-2027. In line with the Strategic Action Plan, the Guidelines for the use of Chemical Dispersants in Responding to Oil Spills was finalized in November 2024 through a Workshop organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), together with the GOT countries and industry partners.^{xxxx} <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from NCPs/Collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPIECA and GISEA: Participated in key regional and international forums, including the Oil Spill Workshop hosted by the Petroleum Association of Japan (February), Interspill 2025 on Regional Frameworks (March), and the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting in Brunei (May), where updates on regional oil spill preparedness were shared, focal points in ASEAN were updated, and engagement with Southeast Asian maritime authorities was strengthened. Upcoming activities include participation in an oil spill response and dispersant aircraft mobilisation exercise in Thailand (August 2025), the ASEAN Spill Response Forum hosted by the Korea Coast Guard (November 2025), the Gulf of Thailand Cooperation Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City (November), and organising a national workshop on sensitivity mapping in Cambodia. OSRL: Global and regional initiatives on oil spill preparedness and response, supporting national contingency planning, academic research, and knowledge exchange; Through its <i>Bridging Research to Response</i> program, key industry-driven research initiatives were undertaken to enhance oil spill preparedness and response and other threats like alternative fuels, as well as MSc and PhD sponsorship opportunities, establishment of Industry Research Advisory Committee to support oil spill 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining actions/targets
				<p>research globally, and various knowledge sharing initiatives including organization of ITAC workshop. Support to development of National Oil Spill Contingency Plans were undertaken (e.g. in PNG), as well as the development Dispersant Usage Guidance in the Gulf of Thailand. New priorities include offshore wind decommissioning and responses to non-hydrocarbon pollutants, fostering collaboration with research institutions and regional stakeholders (e.g., Global Centre of Maritime Decarbonisation and offshore wind operators in the region).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMI: Co-hosted the Marine Litter Fund Forum (2024 EAS Congress, Xiamen in China) addressing marine plastic pollution governance in East Asia, featuring World Bank, IUCN, and regional partners; Advanced special management area systems and implemented marine plastic waste recycling frameworks • KIOST: Supports ROK's Marine Plastic Action Plan; and Conduct of marine litter AI tracking 	



Component III: Healthy People

Component Objective: To enhance the participation of stakeholders and communities in the protection and sustainable use and management of coastal, ocean and water resources and improve their understanding of the benefits of healthy ocean in ensuring food security and nutrition and providing livelihood opportunities.

Target Outcome: 2	III.1 Inclusivity and stakeholder/ Community engagement in SDS-SEA implementation	III.2 Sustainable livelihood and Enterprise development built and sustained
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■ Achieved
 ■ On track
 ■ In progress (w/ challenges)
 ■ Delayed

Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed by a Stakeholder consultations and inputs, the GESI Assessment and Action Plan for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 has been developed, serving both as a stakeholder analysis and engagement plan. The PEMSEA Communications and Knowledge Management Framework and Strategy also categorizes key stakeholders relevant to the SDS-SEA. PRF-managed and supported projects also carried out/developed specific Stakeholder Assessments and Plans to support gender-responsive and inclusive implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan; ATSEA GESI Analysis and Action Plan IRBM Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan; IRBM GESI Analysis Report; Framework for Mainstreaming GESI in IRBM Efforts on sustainable livelihood and enterprise development are primarily linked or undertaken through project-specific initiatives to ensure that they are context specific. Key examples noted are from the ATSEA-2 Project, with the following key achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted skills training and material support were provided to women in fishing communities in Rote Ndao, Indonesia, and PA Barique, Timor-Leste. In Rote Ndao, four women's groups were engaged and trained on women-led livelihood initiatives on: Seaweed soap production, Massage oil production, Mangrove-based drinks and syrups, and Ready-to-eat seaweed products. Zero-interest loans were also provided by Bank NTT to support the initiatives. In Southeast Aru Conservation Area, Indonesia, alternative livelihoods have generated additional income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plans (PEMSEA-wide and per project) Possible updating of Stakeholder Engagement plan needed (for consideration in the identification of potential partners and stakeholders for the updated SDS-SEA IP 2030) Identification of livelihood management strategies Development of coastal sustainable livelihood index

<p>ranging from IDR 2,816,000 – 13,060,000 net/month per group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In PA Barique, Timor-Leste, diversified livelihoods were introduced through resilient home gardens, agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock rearing. A women's cooperative and center was also established. - Alternative livelihood initiatives under the ATSEA-2 project were well-documented and distributed through various media channels. 	
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Insights and Recommendations

While progress has been made in stakeholder engagement and localized livelihood programs, current efforts are limited and remain project-specific. There is a need for a more structured approach or guide(s) to sustainable livelihood development within the SDS-SEA IP framework to further expand efforts under this component and help guide ICM sites or coastal communities. A clear approach or process is also needed to systematically share country-level initiatives, such as key programs led by focal and relevant national agencies, across the region to enhance visibility, foster learning, and support more coordinated implementation and reporting under the SDS-SEA. Moreover, the SDS-SEA IP's target to develop a coastal sustainable livelihood index for ICM sites is still pending.

Recommendations:

- A number of Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) guides or handbooks are available and may serve as useful reference for PEMSEA. Key results from the alternative livelihood initiatives under the ATSEA-2 Project may also serve as examples or case studies for other ICM sites or local governments.
- Establish a coastal sustainable livelihood index to help improve monitoring and evaluation of livelihood outcomes within ICM implementation. Support from PNLC, PNLG and relevant NCPs may be tapped for this purpose.

The continued implementation and potential updating of stakeholder engagement and communication plans will be necessary to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation and integrate new partners and priority groups into ongoing efforts to strengthen PEMSEA's sustainability and extend the SDS-SEA IP to 2030.

Recommendation:

- This may be considered in the separate assessment to be undertaken related to PEMSEA's organizational effectiveness and capacity.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining Actions/Targets
III.1. Inclusivity and stakeholder/ community engagement in SDS-SEA implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Analysis focusing on the engagement of communities in SDS-SEA implementation. Stakeholder engagement plan identifying mechanisms and processes for stakeholders' inclusion and participation in SDS-SEA implementation. 	<p>2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder analysis conducted focusing on the engagement of communities including women, IPs, civil society, youth and marginalized sector in the implementation of SDS-SEA IP governance and management programs, where appropriate. Stakeholder engagement plan developed identifying the level of involvement and range of mechanisms, forums, platforms, networks and opportunities for inclusion and participation. 		<p>Stakeholder Analysis and Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GESI Assessment and Action Plan for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 serves as both a stakeholder analysis and engagement plan. Its development was informed by a Stakeholder Consultation, gathering insights from PEMSEA partners and stakeholders. Overall, the GESI Assessment and Action Plan provides a guidance on inclusive and equitable participation of diverse stakeholders in the implementation of the SDS-SEA IP. The Communications and Knowledge Management Framework and Strategy also categorizes key stakeholders relevant to the SDS-SEA. In support of more targeted implementation of key priority programs of the SDS-SEA IP, the various PEMSEA-managed projects carried out/developed specific Stakeholder Assessments and Plans to support gender-responsive and inclusive implementation. Key examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSEA-2 Project Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan; ATSEA GESI Analysis and Action Plan IRBM Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan; IRBM GESI Analysis Report; Framework for Mainstreaming GESI in IRBM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plans (PEMSEA-wide and per project) Possible updating of Stakeholder Engagement plan needed (for consideration in the identification of potential partners and stakeholders for the updated SDS-SEA IP 2030)
III.2. Sustainable livelihood and enterprise development built and sustained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihood management strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification. Livelihood development programs and startup of new income generating opportunities, technologies and practices, including biodiversity-friendly enterprises. 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate livelihood-based, ecosystem-based and participatory approaches (e.g., Sustainable Livelihoods Approach) identified and applied to determine appropriate, context-specific and GESI-responsive livelihood management strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification. Based on the recommended strategies for poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement and diversification, conduct consultations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify livelihood development programs. Startup of new income generating opportunities, technologies and practices, including biodiversity- 		<p>Livelihood Management Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, there is no overall guide or strategy in PEMSEA on Sustainable Livelihood. Efforts are primarily linked or undertaken through country initiatives and project-specific initiatives to ensure that they are context specific, as cited below. China: Sustainable income- generating opportunities for the villagers affected by farmland-to-wetland restoration program; Development of emerging marine industries (i.e., sea water desalinization, ocean energy, marine information service)^{cxviii} Japan is promoting a "marine business" initiative to diversify coastal economies, with a target of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of livelihood management strategies Development of coastal sustainable livelihood index

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining Actions/Targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences in the development and implementation of sustainable livelihood programs shared in various knowledge sharing events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> friendly and GESI-responsive enterprises. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the engagement of industries and business sector in the development and implementation of livelihood improvement programs for local communities within their areas of operation. Coastal sustainable livelihood index developed in ICM sites. Lessons learned and experiences generated in the development and implementation of sustainable livelihood programs documented and consolidated and shared in various knowledge sharing and learning events. 		<p>establishing 500 new marine business ventures in fishing ports by FY2026 including: Revitalizing fishing communities through the "Revitalization of Coastal Communities Plan"; Supporting sustainable fisheries through the "Green Food System Strategy"; Working to restore fishery resources to 444 million tons (the same level as 2010) by 2030 ; Implementing quota-based fisheries management (TAC) and vessel-specific quota allocation (IQ) and Enhancing opportunities for women in the fisheries industry^{xxxxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines is supporting Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) in protected and conservation areas, promoting inclusive, sustainable livelihoods and local stewardship of ecosystems in line with the continuing implementation of DENR DAO 2021-13. <p>Initiatives related to sustainable livelihood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the completed ATSEA-2 Project, the following were achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative livelihoods were mainstreamed in the implementation of EAFM, ICM Plans, and the GESI Plan to reduce dependency on marine resources and enhance resilience to climate change. Targeted skills training and material support were provided to women in fishing communities in Rote Ndao, Indonesia, and PA Barique, Timor-Leste. In Rote Ndao, four women's groups were engaged and trained on women-led livelihood initiatives: Seaweed soap production, Massage oil production, Mangrove-based drinks and syrups, and Ready-to-eat seaweed products. These initiatives were also supported financially through zero-interest loan from Bank NTT. These initiatives continue to support household economies and community resilience in Rote Ndao. In Southeast Aru Conservation Area, Indonesia, alternative livelihoods supported by ATSEA-2 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining Actions/Targets
				<p>have generated additional income ranging from IDR 2,816,000 – 13,060,000 net/month per group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In PA Barique, Timor-Leste, diversified livelihoods were introduced through resilient home gardens, agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock rearing. Establishment of women's cooperatives, such as the Tok Derek Cooperative, to improve financial management skills. Various trainings were conducted. Support was also provided on infrastructure development and logistical support, including water tanks, desks, chairs, water pumps, freezers. <p>NOTE: Apart from initiatives under ATSEA-2, there were no other PEMSEA reports found specific to sustainable livelihood and enterprise development within the coverage of this report.</p> <p>Coastal sustainable livelihood index for ICM sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This target or initiative has not yet been initiated/developed <p>Documentation of lessons learned on sustainable livelihood programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative livelihood initiatives under the ATSEA-2 project were well-documented and distributed through various media channels, including to IW:LEARN Portfolio Bulletin and featured in various national journals in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The same were featured in PEMSEA newsletters/annual reports. <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMECS: Implements the Satoumi Creation Project with Japan's Ministry of the Environment, promoting sustainable coastal management through traditional knowledge, community stewardship, seaweed farming, and tidal flat restoration; Supports environmental education and research via high school conservation presentations and grants for young and 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining Actions/Targets
				<p>community-based researchers; Organizing the Hyogo Satoyama-Satoumi Forum in September 2025 to showcase best practices and strengthen stakeholder engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMI: Developed behavior-based/citizen-centered coastal planning methods considering health, daily life, environment, and community participation; Created coastal disaster prevention and waterfront park projects benefiting 26.6% of Korea's coastal population (13.6 million people); Established marine ecosystem services payment schemes for coastal community income diversification • KIOST: Conducted operational training with regional stakeholders to enhance marine health education and local technical capacity related to biofouling awareness; Developed community-based training and vulnerability assessment tools through KIOST overseas centers; Implementation of the Fishing Village New Deal in ROK; Other initiatives include: coastal climate risk mapping, citizen science shoreline kits, and early warning systems. 	



Component IV: Healthy Economies

Component Objective: To accelerate blue investments and ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and related resources, to support green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs, livelihood and enterprises within ecological limits, towards contributing to sustainable economic development.

Target Outcome: 2	IV.1 Resilient economic recovery policies that trigger blue investments and green recovery	IV.2 Public and private financing
<div> Achieved On track In progress (w/ challenges) Delayed </div>		
Summary of Key Areas of Progress	Targets Needing Strategic Reinforcement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xiamen Declaration adopted in 2024 included three strategic actions in support of sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy: Action 7- Apply Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Blue Financing Frameworks; Action 8- Refine and update R/NSOCs every 5 years to demonstrate value add of BE; Action 9- Strengthen ICM by incorporating ridge-to-reef framework, climate-smart and inclusive planning approach. • Regional PEMSEA BE initiatives: Blue Carbon Program; BE Forums/Knowledge Sharing Events linked to BE (EASC 2024 Blue Financing and Investment sessions, MF 2024, PNLG Blue Partnership Forum 2023, 4th Integrated Coastal Management and Marine Biotechnology Conference); PNLG SAP 2022-2030; ATS SAP 2024-2033 supports BE in the ATS region. • BE-related policies, plans and programs in EAS countries: A. BE-specific: China's 14th Five Year Plan for Ecological and Environmental Protection with BE section; Indonesia's Blue Economy Development Framework, Blue Economy Roadmap, Blue Economy Index, and Blue Finance Accelerator Program; Philippines' Blue Economy Bill currently under bicameral discussions; Timor-Leste's "My Sea, My Timor" Blue Economy Program and ongoing development of BE Policy and Action Plan; and Viet Nam's Strategy for Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Ocean Economy by 2030 with Vision towards 2045. B. BE-related/integrated: Cambodia's National Policy and Strategic Plan for Green Growth; Japan's Fourth Master Plan on Ocean Policy; Lao's policies on water resources management; RO Korea's Ocean Korea 21 and Master Plan for Ocean and Fisheries Development; Singapore Green Plan 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring emerging sustainable blue economy through instruments such as Blue Economy Development Index • Continue strengthening of GESI integration in BE sectors • Conduct of awareness raising activities and BE Business Forums/ BE investment promotion engaging public and private sector • Development and implementation of Recognition System for the corporate sector/ business community to support ICM and BE investments 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines' 2nd SOC Report (ongoing finalization) promotes ocean industries for the 21st century and aligned with ESG goals Nature-based job programs and solutions for carbon sequestration noted in the EAS countries; mostly country-led with support from various agencies and donors PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program: Site survey tool developed and applied; Study Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other Local Sites in the EAS Region completed with initial list of potential BE projects identified; Harmonized protocol for blue carbon accounting being developed for the EAS region, with the aim to establish a regional certification system for blue carbon initiatives Marine biotechnology and digitalization initiatives and advancements noted in various countries, with increasing use of cutting-edge technologies, as well as AI, IoT, etc. Blue financing/investment and PPP initiatives in EAS countries (some examples): Cambodia's Investment Support Facility, Master Plan in Maritime Projects; China Bank's Blue Bonds and China's first Gross Ecosystem Product insurance programme; Indonesia's BE financing instruments being developed such as debt-based finance, Sharia financing, debt-for-nature swaps, etc.; Japan's Hakata Blue Bay Carbon Offset Programme; Philippine Guidelines on Eligible Blue Projects and Activities for the issuance of Blue Bonds; RO Korea's Green Marine Fuel Infrastructure Fund; Viet Nam's Law on Public-Private Partnership PRF projects promoting PPP: IRBM project will facilitate pro-active participation of the private sector, the government and the community in the financing, ownership and operation of the pilot projects in target river basins; ASEAN ENMAPS project will leverage on other regional conservation investments including PPP programs, as well as develop and pilot test blue economy/blue carbon investment plans in collaboration with private sector, NGOs and other potential partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue BE partnership opportunities with PNLG and PNLC
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Insights and Recommendations

Noting the remaining targets or actions under Component IV and the strategic BE actions outlined in the Xiamen Declaration, the following insights and recommendations are proposed:

While several EAS countries have made progress in areas such as nature-based solutions, decarbonization, marine biotechnology and digitalization, there's currently limited documentation of their linkage with ICM, as well as limited consolidation of these initiatives and innovations at the regional level. Similarly, although there's growing interest on BE investments/financing and PPPs across the region, a consolidated and updated regional study on these mechanisms and initiatives is lacking.

Recommendations:

- Building on previous PEMSEA assessments/studies including the SOC, consider undertaking an updated in-depth regional studies to consolidate emerging initiatives and innovations, as well as lessons learned in blue economy financing and partnerships in the EAS region. These studies could

Insights and Recommendations

support the identification of new opportunities and inform the development of blue business models, investment pipelines and collaborative initiatives with PEMSEA Partners and Networks.

- In collaboration with PNLG and CPs, pursue the updating of the local, national and regional SOC's, taking into consideration instruments like the Blue Economy Development Index, as well as GESI framework. Updating of the SOC's will support Action 8 of the Xiamen Declaration to track progress in reducing pollution, GHG emissions and biodiversity loss while strengthening inclusive growth.
- Convene more forums that link BE with ICM implementation to further reinforce ICM as a platform for implementing ridge-to-reef, inclusive and climate-smart planning approaches in line with Action 9 of the Xiamen Declaration. These efforts could build on existing key initiatives such as the PNLG SAP 2022-2030, and the ongoing GEF/UNDP IRBM project, among others.

The varying BE investment/financing initiatives and plans in the countries highlighted the importance of pursuing innovative financial instruments, blended platforms and multistakeholder collaboration to scale up investments. At the same time, several country policies and plans have also emphasized the need to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in BE sectors, which often face challenges in accessing capital due to limited financial connections and tailored financial products. The Xiamen Declaration reinforced this by calling for a "systematic review of the pathways, taxonomy and criteria for ocean-based economic activities that contribute to sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy".

Recommendations:

- For PEMSEA, this presents a strategic opportunity to work with relevant partners or collaborators to undertake an updated review of the ocean-based and financing mechanisms in the region. Findings from this review can be considered for consideration in the development of PEMSEA's Sustainable Financing Plan and Strategy for the next five years. These initiatives can provide further guidance or reference to PEMSEA partners and networks in embedding BE objectives into development planning, ICM implementation, and in identifying and developing investment pipelines across the region. Doing so would support the achievement of Action 7 of the Xiamen Declaration, supporting countries in developing or applying sustainable blue financing frameworks.
- One of PEMSEA's key values lie in its strong regional networks and grounded implementation experience particularly on ICM. By leveraging its ongoing projects and initiatives, PEMSEA can support identification and packaging of business models and best practices into knowledge products for other ICM sites. Some areas of opportunities are already available, including: (a) promoting and building on PPP-related initiatives under PRF-managed and supported projects such as the IRBM and ENMAPS project; (b) assessing and developing blue-carbon based project pipelines at ICM sites based on the project opportunities identified as part of PEMSEA's Blue Carbon Program; (c) building on initial experience and success from the ICM with alternative livelihood projects established from the ATSEA-2 project.
- Apart from designing more regular BE forums involving public and private sectors, pursue the development of guidance and establishment of a system for the corporate/business sector engagement in ICM and BE investments, in line with the targets of the current SDS-SEA IP.

Detailed Progress

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023-June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
IV.1. Resilient economic recovery policies that trigger blue investments and green recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Economy governance (awareness and understanding, ocean monitoring and accounting, policy formulation and harmonization, incentives and financing) strengthened. Nature-based job programs and sustainability upgrades for key industries. Low carbon footprint industries tapped. Nature-based solutions identified to enhance carbon sequestration potential of coastal habitats. Innovations in marine biotechnology and digitalization of the fisheries and ports and shipping sectors. 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue economy governance strengthened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting common understanding of blue economy; highlighting the importance of ocean monitoring and ocean accounting; adopting and implementing national ocean policies that advocate blue economy development; harmonizing existing policies, procedures, incentives and financing modalities; adopting the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance principles into decision making; measuring emerging sustainable blue economy through instruments such as Blue Economy Development Index, and ensuring GESI integration and increased participation of women, IPs and marginalized groups in the different sectors of blue economy such as fisheries and aquaculture, ports and shipping, coastal and marine tourism, renewable energy, etc. Nature-based job programs (e.g., coastal ecosystem restoration, MPA establishment and management) identified including sustainability upgrades for key industries (e.g., fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, ports and shipping) to promote sustainable and inclusive blue growth. Low carbon footprint industries such as marine renewable energy, emission reductions from fisheries and aquaculture activities, decarbonization in the marine transport sector promoted. Nature-based solutions promoted to enhance the carbon sequestration potential of coastal habitats. Innovations in marine biotechnology and digitalization of the fisheries and ports and shipping sectors promoted. 		<p>Strengthening Blue Economy Governance: PEMSEA initiatives</p> <p>NOTE: This section covers progress and initiatives more specific to Blue Economy (BE) governance, green recovery, financing, investments, and livelihoods. Other BE-related efforts contributing to biodiversity and habitat conservation, fisheries management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, pollution reduction, waste management and water use management are covered under specific/thematic action programs of Component 2 of the SDS-SEA IP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 8th EAS Ministerial Forum (2024) adopted the Xiamen Declaration which includes a commitment to strengthen blue synergies through a whole of society approach and adopted 10 strategic actions which include three strategic actions in support of sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy: Action 7- Apply Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Blue Financing Frameworks; Action 8- Refine and update R/NSOCs every 5 years to demonstrate value add of BE; Action 9- Strengthen ICM by incorporating ridge-to-reef framework, climate-smart and inclusive planning approach. Building on the Changwon Ministerial Declaration Toward an Ocean-Based Blue Economy (2012), and the PNLG Dongying Declaration on Building a Blue Economy through ICM (2011), and subsequent EAS Ministerial Declarations with BE commitments including the Xiamen Declaration, PEMSEA continued to facilitate technical assistance, exchange of information and best practices, and promotion of innovative solutions for blue economy development. Key regional initiatives since 2023 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Carbon Program (cross link to II.C. 1) PNLG Blue Partnership covered by the PNLG Forum 2023 wherein experiences and opportunities that would contribute to Blue Partnerships at local level were shared. This includes growing prospect for Cooperation on Marine Spatial Planning, China-ASEAN Seaweed Cooperation Network, Strengthening linkage of ICM and IRBM, and Blue Carbon Capacity Building Program. The 4th Integrated Coastal Management and Marine Biotechnology (ICMMBT) Conference in 2023, co-organized by PEMSEA through the ATSEA-2 Project with PKSPL-IPB of Indonesia, AIS Forum, and DAAD. The Conference provided a forum for sharing good practices and innovations on ICM and marine biotechnology and their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of Blue Economy Development Index (possibly in the development of the 3rd Regional SOC Report and Second NSOC Reports)

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>application towards BE development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ocean innovations and Blue financing and investments were featured as one of the key themes of the EAS Congress 2024 International Conference and the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum (MF) Dialogue. ○ The PNLG SAP 2022-2030, through its focus on integrated coastal management, the achievement of specific SDGs (6,11, 13, 14), and the strengthening of governance and partnerships, actively contributes to fostering blue economy. ○ Under the ATSEA-2 Project, the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) Strategic Action Programme 2024-2033 was adopted through the Sydney Declaration in December 2024, and is specifically aimed to support regional blue economy in the ATS through coordinated transboundary action. <p>Blue Economy Policies, Plans, Programs, Investments at Country level</p> <p>While support to BE principles and related initiatives have grown in the region in the past decade, the adoption of BE-specific policies, plans and programs still vary in the EAS countries. Majority of the EAS countries have embedded BE aspects in several of their national policies, plans and programs particularly on Green Growth and Recovery and broader Climate programs and policies (as also noted under Components 1 and 2 above), while countries with BE-specific policies and plans remain limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia: No BE-specific policies, but BE aspects mentioned under the National Policy on Green Growth, 2013–2030 and National Strategic Plan for Green Growth, 2013–2030. Integrated pollution and plastic reduction are also integrated into national economic strategies, promoting sustainable tourism and clean coastal communities. Other initiatives supporting circular economy principles and local livelihoods include zoning, waste management and eco-tourism initiatives • China: 14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection issued in 2022 has explicit section on Blue Economy; Marine Environmental Protection Law (2023) • Indonesia: Indonesia's Blue Economic Development Framework 2021; Indonesia Blue Economy Roadmap 2023-2045; Indonesia Blue Economy Index (developed in 2022); Blue Finance Accelerator program which aims to support BE development by accelerating startups and SMEs in blue sectors and enhancing institutional capacity (joint initiative of UNDP, ADB, Interstellar Indonesia, and Ministry of Maritime and Investment Affairs)^{cxviii}; Private sector collaboration (from large 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>corporations to small local enterprises) being promoted as part of marine protection, restoration and BE initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan: Emphasis on Sustainable Ocean is underscored in the Fourth Master Plan on Ocean Policy, which was adopted in 2023. The Plan covers contribution to carbon neutrality through offshore wind power, promotion of development and use of seabed resources, and securing maritime transportation and development of next-generation marine mobility^{xxxxiv}; Japan's Climate Transition Bonds released in 2024 as part of Japan's broader Green Transformation (GX) strategy, aiming to mobilize significant investments for decarbonization efforts, including for renewable energy, clean transport, R&D. ^{xxxxv} Lao PDR- Lao has no BE-specific policy but it's approach to and policies on water resources management aligns with BE principles. Philippines: Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 with BE as part of overall strategy; Blue Economy Bill passed third reading in both houses of Congress in 2024 and is currently under bicameral discussions; Guidelines on Eligible Blue Projects and Activities for the Issuance of Blue Bonds in the Philippines issued in September 2023; R.A. No. 11995- The Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act; Executive Order No. 55: Adopting the Ten-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028^{xxxxvi} RO Korea: BE is being advanced through various policies anchored on Ocean Korea 21 (OK 21), more recent one include the Master Plan for Ocean and Fisheries Development (2021-2030) which covers safety, livable fishing villages, digital transition, decarbonization, R&D and creation of new industries^{xxxxvii} Singapore: The country has no specific BE policy, but promotes a whole-of-nation approach through the Singapore Green Plan 2030. ^{xxxxviii} Timor-Leste: The National Oceans Policy adopted in 2023 includes diversified BE as part of its 6 core objectives. As part of the 'My Sea, My Timor' program on Blue Economy, efforts are ongoing to develop a Blue Economy Policy and Action Plan^{xxxxix} under the framework of Timor-Leste's Sustainable Development; a planned national flagship program linked to Blue Economy, including MPA expansion, is the target creation of National Marine Park, Marine Research and Education Center in Atauro island^{cxl}. In 2022, a Blue Financing Roadmap was also developed however supporting policy measure is not yet in place^{cxli}. Viet Nam: Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2021-2030 emphasized the need to promote marine economic development; Resolution Promulgating Government's Master Plan and 5-Year Plan for 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>Implementation of Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW dated October 22, 2018 on Strategy for Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Ocean Economy by 2030, with Visions towards 2045 (still in effect), with key priorities including marine tourism and services, maritime economy, oil and gas, marine minerals, aquaculture and seafood production, coastal industries, and renewable energy ; Decision No. 647/QĐ-TTg dated May 18, 2020 of the Prime Minister approving the Project on International Cooperation on Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Marine Economy to 2030 (still in effect).</p> <p>Guiding BE Action through Insights from SOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component IV of the SDS-SEA IP highlights the 2021 Regional SOC and Supplemental Report on Impacts of COVID-19 as key references to capitalize on, noting the opportunities identified in the reports which highlights BE as a strategic pathway toward a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for the region. • This Progress Review notes that since the release of the 2021 SOC reports, only the Philippines has initiated the development of its 2nd SOC Report. The Philippine report shows how blue economy framework can reorient planning and policymaking process with archipelagic, sustainability, and human security lenses, and foster multi-stakeholder participation and integrated highlands-to-ocean (H2O) or ridge-to-reef management approach. It also promotes ocean industries that are fit for the 21st century and aligned with environmental, social, and governance goals. • Other EAS countries have yet to begin the development of their 2nd National SOC Reports. Findings from these updated NSOCs will serve as basis for the next iteration (3rd) Regional SOC Report. • In terms of utilization of the 2021 SOC Reports, the following PRF-managed projects have referred to the SOC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Under the ATSEA-2 Project, the PEMSEA SOC was referenced in the Country Synthesis and Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) 2023 which guided the ATS SAP 2024-2033 ◦ The IRBM project highlighted that the State of River Basin (SORB) reports will be patterned after PEMSEA's SOC reporting system or similar framework planned in the ASEAN region. ◦ The ENMAPS Project, particularly in the Philippines, highlighted support for the publication of the SOC, documenting best practices and lessons learned from MPAs and MPA networks as a tool for local governments to assess the progress and benefits of ICM. 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>Development/applications of Blue Economy Development Index</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While PEMSEA's SOC reporting on the Blue Economy does not explicitly reference/ indicate Blue Economy Development Index (BEDI/IPEB) or Blue Economy Index (BEI), it reflects many of their key elements, including their objectives, purpose, and application. These include benchmarking regional and national blue economy policies and initiatives, monitoring progress, supporting or informing evidence-based policy and program development, and offering a comprehensive view of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of coastal and marine sectors. Supplementary research on BEDI/IPEB/BEI development or application in the region revealed some studies undertaken by other entities or scholars using these approaches at country (e.g., study on Japan^{cxliii}) and provincial levels (e.g., study in Indonesia^{cxliii}), providing assessment on BE development and providing a tool to further inform BE planning and strategies. <p>Initiatives related to Nature-based Job Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the ATSEA-2 Project nature-based job programs were promoted through (a) mangrove and coral reef restoration programs in the villages of Rote Ndao, Indonesia as part of ICM and Ecosystem-based Approach implementation, (b) establishment of resilient home gardens and cooperative management in Barique, Timor-Leste as alternative livelihood to fisheries, (c) integrated community-based sea turtle protection with ecotourism and alternative livelihoods in Lautem, Timor-Leste, and (d) women-led livelihood initiatives in Rote Ndao on seaweed soapmaking, mangrove-based drinks and syrups, ready-to-eat seaweed products, and massage oils. The ENMAPS Project has one of its key target outputs capacity strengthening on marine ecosystem management through the use of tools and methodologies particularly nature-based solutions (NbS), ICM, and MSP. A number of country-led programs promoting NbS are also in place in collaboration with different agencies/donors. Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia: In line with the National Mangrove Rehabilitation Program, the Mangroves for Coastal Resilience (M4CR) project was launched in 2024 with The World Bank support to protect and restore critical mangrove ecosystems, enhance global public goods (ecosystem services, carbon storage, habitat for species), 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>reduce disaster risk, and improve livelihood opportunities of coastal communities in four provinces^{cxliv}. The SMART Fisheries Village (SFV) program by MMAF and BPPSDM launched in 2022 to support f Indonesia's BE vision, has reached 16 villages across Indonesia by 2024. Through trainings, entrepreneur certification, technology and digitalization, has created 1,500 jobs each year and increased output and income.^{cxlv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lao PDR: GCF-funded project on "Building resilience of urban populations with ecosystem-based solutions" 2020-2025, which aims to implement integrated approach to flood management to reduce the impacts of urban flooding and to manage climate change induced floods in a long-term through technical capacity and knowledge management.^{cxlvi} o Viet Nam: GEF-funded project "Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature-based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam" approved in 2023, aiming to safeguard the environment while building jobs/economic resilience.^{cxlvii} <p>Initiatives related to Industry Sustainability Upgrades</p> <p>A number of country-led programs promoting sustainability upgrades in key industries have been noted. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of sustainable fisheries (linked to II.B.1): China released in Dec 2024 the Revised Draft Fisheries Law with the aim of regulating fish farming, implement stricter fishing management, strengthen protection of fishery resources^{cxlviii}, Japan began to implement the Domestic Trade of Specific Marine Animals and Plants Act in 2022 to prevent seafood sourced from by IUU fishing from entering its domestic market^{cxlix}; Indonesia is set to expand its Smart Fisheries Village (SFV) Program to boost productivity, achieve sustainability standards, and contribute to socioeconomic development^{cl}; Philippines continues to implement its National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP) 2021-2030^{cli}; RO Korea is implementing Prosperous Fishing Communities, Vibrant Ocean (MOF)^{clii} and 2nd Master Plan on Fisheries & Fishing Community Development (2021~2025)^{cliii}; Viet Nam is implementing its Strategy for Development of Viet Nam's Fisheries by 2030 with Vision towards 2045 which includes modernization of fishery sector in a an environmentally sustainable manner. • In support of green ports and shipping: China has issued a number of port-specific policies in recent years such as the Shanghai Green Transportation 14th Five Year Plan (2023), Guangdong Province Green 	

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				<p>Port Action Plan 2023-2025, among others^{cliv}; Japan reported 50 ports with decarbonization plans in place^{clv}; Singapore updated the green initiatives and incentives under the Maritime Singapore Green Initiative (MSGI) in 2024, to encourage early adoption of zero and near-zero emission technologies and fuels, which includes several programmes such as the Green Ship Programme and Green Port Infrastructure Programme; RO Korea through MOF is implementing the 2030 Green ship-K Promotion Strategy covering 2021-2030^{clvi}. RO Korea also announced during COP27 a plan to establish by 2027 a Green Shipping Corridor^{clvii}.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In support of renewable energy: Japan is developing regulatory framework and designation of promotion areas to facilitate use of off-shore wind power^{clviii}; Technical development and demonstration of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS), and Bill to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Utilization of Sea Areas for Development of Marine Renewable Energy Power Generation Facilities (2025)^{clix}; RO Korea is implementing the 3rd Energy Master Plan established in 2019 with policy goals and plans of up to 20 years in support of the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth which includes objectives to further expand utilization of renewable power generation by 2036^{clx}; Viet Nam approved in 2024 its Hydrogen Energy Development Strategy to 2030 and Vision to 2050^{clxi}; Viet Nam is pursuing offshore wind development through research collaborations and proposals with development partners. <p>Promotion of low-carbon footprint industries Some examples of country-led programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Green Building Guidelines (2024); Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality to 2050 China: 1+N Policy Framework; Guidelines for preferential tax and fee policies for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality(2022); Implementation Plan for synergizing pollution reduction and carbon reduction for increased efficiency (2022), Implementation plan for strengthening and enhancing ecosystem carbon sink capacity (2023); local-level technology support plans for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality^{clxii}; Interim Regulation on the Administration of Carbon Emission Trading, implemented in 2024 as China's first carbon trading administrative regulation^{clxiii}; Relaunch of the China Certified Emission Reduction (CCER) with the first batch of four CCER project methodologies, including the methodology for mangrove restoration projects released in 	

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				<p>2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia: FOLU Net Sink 2030^{clxiv}, promoting low-carbon measures in forestry and land use, including coastal areas Japan: Carbon Neutral Port (CNP) initiative promoting port decarbonization, hydrogen fuel infrastructure, and low-carbon equipment. As of 2023, 25 ports with decarbonization plans, with carbon neutral ports identified as a key performance indicator in Japan's NDC; Maritime Supply Chain Decarbonization^{clxv}, Philippines: Philippine Energy Plan was released in 2024 with increased renewable energy targets^{clxvi}; The Low Carbon Economy Act (Bill) was introduced in 2022 which aims to support GHG emissions by establishing an emission trading system^{clxvii} RO Korea: 1st National Carbon-Neutral Green Growth Basic Plan (2023-2042) released in 2023 in support of the 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy of RO Korea. Singapore: In line with Singapore's Green Plan, several decarbonization programs are being pursued in various sectors including power generation covering solar, regional power grids, emerging low carbon alternatives, and natural gas^{clxviii} Viet Nam: A Roadmap for Implementing a Domestic Carbon Market to support Viet Nam's net zero emission targets was approved in Jan 2025 and is set for pilot launch in June 2025, which aims to establish a domestic carbon market that includes both an ETS and a carbon credit market, supported by sectoral decarbonization and allocation plans, with Certified Carbon Credits (CCCs) eligible for compliance and sourced from domestic and international mechanisms^{clxix}. Apart from country-specific initiatives, there is also an ongoing Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) <p>Nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with PEMSEA's efforts to establish a Blue Carbon Program, a Blue Carbon (BC) site survey tool was developed and surveys were conducted in early 2024. A study Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in ICM and other Local Sites in the EAS Region was completed in 2024^{clxx}. PEMSEA is also developing a harmonized protocol for blue carbon accounting for the EAS region, with the aim to establish a regional certification system for blue carbon initiatives The PEMSEA study on "Assessing the Supply Side of Blue Carbon in the EAS Region" noted the following Blue Carbon initiatives in 20 surveyed 	

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				<p>sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mangrove nurseries: Guimaras, Philippines and Jakarta, Indonesia o Mangrove planting and reforestation initiatives: Bataan Batangas, and Guimaras Philippines; Jakarta and Tangerang, Indonesia; Manatuto, Timor-Leste; and Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia o Seagrass protected areas: Batangas, Philippines; Manatuto, Timor-Leste o Tidal flat conservation: Changyi, China o Carbon storage monitoring: Dongying, China selected as national pilot site focusing on salt marsh ecosystem o Carbon market: Xiamen Property Rights Trading Center established the first Marine Carbon Sink Trading Service Platform in China and conducted the first-ever marine carbon sink transaction— 2,000 tons of marine carbon sink in Quanzhou Luoyang River mangrove ecological restoration. <p>The study also highlighted the interest from the surveyed sites to develop or implement blue carbon projects. An initial list of potential blue carbon projects is included in the report. The report also recommended to conduct a follow up survey to include more information from countries with advanced BC programs like Japan and RO Korea, expand ecosystem coverage beyond mangroves and seagrass meadows, complement supply side data with market demand studies, and build capacity in carbon crediting and trading.</p> <p>Advancements in Marine Biotechnology Some examples of country-led programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: A number of research institutes marine biotechnology centers, and industries were noted in China. Marine Biotechnology Market size was valued at USD 5.4 Billion in 2022 and is projected to reach USD 11.5 Billion by 2030. China's marine biotechnology leverages marine resources like algae, marine plants, microorganisms, and marine animals to develop products and solutions in areas such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fine chemicals, and nutritional supplements.^{clxxi} • Indonesia: Marine research expeditions launched in 2024 in several regions of Indonesia using cutting edge mapping technology and data analytics covering various aspects of marine biodiversity (including biotech), carbon potential, fish stocks assessment, and earthquake mapping^{clxxii} 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan: Advancements in biotechnology are particularly seen in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, functional foods, and bioactive compound applications. Efforts are being intensified through deep-sea exploration, synthetic biology, marine microbiome research^{clxxxiii} Philippines: The Department of Agriculture's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) is implementing initiatives to boost fishery and aquaculture biotechnology, including biotechnology and nanotechnology research, trainings on biosafety regulations and improvement of research facilities, technology commercialization, and fund generation with various institutions. RO Korea: The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries launched the Marine Biosector New Growth Strategy in 2022 with the aim of doubling the market size of the marine bio sector by 2027. Key initiatives include: Development of three core marine bio technologies; Creation of regional hubs specializing in areas like medicine, health, and integrated research; and Construction of a dedicated research vessel to identify marine bio materials^{clxxxiv}. MOF also announced in 2022 to earmark some 100 billion won (USD76.71 million) per year by 2027 for research and development in the marine biology sector^{clxxxv} Viet Nam: Resolution to implement the Action Programme on Biotech development and application issued in 2023^{clxxxvi} <p>Advancements in Digitalization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: During the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum (2024), China shared the following innovations in marine industries through digitalization: Development of first marine big data platform "Ocean Cloud" which was targeted for launch in 2024; Numerical Ocean Forecasting through the "Mazu" system; Initiation of digital and science-driven international projects under UNDOS such as the Negative Ocean Emission, Digitization of Deep-Sea Typical Habitat, and Seamless Ocean and Climate, and digital innovations in carbon monitoring, forecasting, habitat mapping. Japan: During the 8th MF, Japan highlighted its objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 through expansion of offshore wind energy, decarbonization of entire supply chain, better monitoring by leveraging data from earth observation satellites, and creation of blue carbon ecosystems and credits for carbon dioxide absorption. Moreover, Japan is also supporting education for AI applications in maritime industries through the "Marine Industry AI Professional Development" program^{clxxxvii}; Strategy for the development of autonomous underwater 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>vehicles (AUVs) for or maritime infrastructure installation/maintenance, ocean resource development, surveys, and disaster prevention (2023)^{clxxviii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RO Korea: During the 8th EAS MF, RO Korea shared the following innovative programs: Real-time marine environment monitoring using the Cheollian-2B satellite; Establishment of a smart aquaculture big data center to optimize operations and prevent issues using AI-powered analytics; Transition to digital aquaculture systems such as smart farms; and Introduction of a regulatory sandbox system to test and foster emerging technologies like autonomous ships. Efforts on innovations are supported by implementing a comprehensive Science and Technology Workforce Development Plan and educational programs. 	
IV.2. Public and Private financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and private sector awareness increased and investments in enterprises, technologies, practices and services promoted. Blue Economy Business Forums organized and conducted to serve as a marketplace for blue economy projects through PPP. Recognition system for the corporate sector/ business community developed and implemented. Projects implemented with component activities on blue economy policy and private sector engagement and networking. Sustainable blue financing established. 	<p>2023-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the implementation of the Communication Plan (cross-reference to II.D.2), awareness raising activities for public and private sector pursued, including the promotion of investments in enterprises, technologies, practices and services that contribute to a sustainable ocean-based blue economy. Blue economy projects through PPP promoted at the Blue Economy Business Forums that serve as a thought leadership event involving leaders and policymakers and industry representatives to discuss investments and partnerships required to deliver sustainable growth to the various blue economy sectors leading to green recovery. Recognition system for the corporate sector/ business community developed and implemented as an incentive mechanism for the public and private sectors to support ICM and blue economy investments. Blue economy policy and private sector engagement and networking facilitated through the implementation of the projects with blue economy components including partnership opportunities with the PNLG and PNLC. 		<p>BE-related financing or investment programs and PPP-related initiatives in EAS countries</p> <p>Examples of more recent country-led initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia: Investment in the fisheries sector under the Investment Support Facility (ISF) launched in 2025 by the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia (CGCC) and the EU-funded CAPFISH-Capture project, supporting 11 fish processing enterprises to advance financial inclusion and sustainable growth for post-harvest fisheries MSMEs through a blended financing scheme and tailored business support^{clxxix}; Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) expansion project began in 2023 with a target completion of phase one in 2027 and second phase in 2029 with the aim of making it as a critical regional node for shipping^{clxxx}; Comprehensive Master Plan on maritime infrastructure projects announced in 2023 encompassing construction of container ports, fuel storage stations, multipurpose port and seaport through a medium-term plan (2023-2027) and long-term plan (2028-2033)^{clxxxi} China: The Bank of China issued Asia's first blue bond in 2020 raising almost \$1 billion to develop marine-related projects such as offshore renewable energy and wastewater treatment. In partnership with Swiss Re, China's first Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) insurance programme was developed for wetland carbon sinks at Hangzhou Bay National Wetland Park^{clxxxii}. Moreover, in line with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the "Initiative to promote China-ASEAN Blue Economy Integration" was launched in 2023 with support from the China Institute for Reform and Development and think tanks in ASEAN member states for better marine economy connectivity, particularly in areas of port development, specialized tourism, fisheries investments, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize more regular BE forums through the PNLG and PNLC and Ocean Roundtables/Leadership Forums of PEMSEA to facilitate awareness building, identification of potential projects, and engagement of various sectors (including private sector) on blue technologies, services, and financing Promote and build on PPP-related initiatives under PRF-managed projects (e.g., IRBM project) to identify business models and best practices that may be packaged as knowledge products for other ICM sites As part of Financial Sustainability planning of PEMSEA and the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program, develop a strategy or

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>marine biomedicine, etc.^{clxxxiii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia: Indonesia has begun to develop instruments to support the development of the Blue Economy. There are at least 12 instruments that are being developed: debt-based finance, other bonds, Sharia financing, trust funds, capital markets, impact investment, philanthropy, development partners, blended finance, debt-for-nature swaps, insurance, and ecological fiscal transfers. Some of these instruments have been arranged through public-private partnerships^{clxxxiv} Japan- Japan is supporting the ASEAN Blue Economy Innovation project, along with UNDP, to empower entrepreneurs from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste to tackle challenges in marine and freshwater ecosystems through innovation, incubation, and investment matchmaking. By supporting 60 innovators with funding, mentorship, and exposure, the initiative strengthens ASEAN's commitment to sustainable blue economy development, climate resilience, and socio-economic inclusion under the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework^{clxxxv}. In relation to Japan's blue carbon initiatives one initiative Fukuoka City Hakata Bay Blue Carbon Offset Programme, the city in southern Japan converts the carbon dioxide (CO2) absorbed and fixed by eelgrass and other seaweed beds in Hakata Bay into credits. These credits, known as "Hakata Bay Blue Carbon Credits," are sold.^{clxxxvi} Philippines: Guidelines on Eligible Blue Projects and Activities for the Issuance of Blue Bonds in the Philippines issued in September 2023 RO Korea: The country is launching a 1 trillion won (\$680 million) green marine fuel infrastructure fund by 2030 to develop eco-friendly port storage facilities and bunkering vessels, aiming to meet rising demand for alternative fuels like LNG, methanol, and ammonia from both domestic and foreign ships. The initiative is jointly led by MOF and the Korea Ocean Business Corporation^{clxxxvii}. Viet Nam: Law on Public-Private Partnership Investment 2021 specifies five sectors in which PPP projects are allowed, namely: (i) transportation, (ii) power grids and power plants (except hydroelectric power plants and State monopolies stipulated in law), (iii) irrigation, clean water supply, water drainage sewerage and waste treatment, (iv) healthcare and education, and (v) IT infrastructure^{clxxxviii} <p>PEMSEA Projects Promoting PPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project: One of the target outcomes of the project is to facilitate the development and assessment of financing options (e.g., public, public-private, private) and partnership 	<p>roadmap to further assess and strategically develop projects based on project opportunities identified as part of PEMSEA's Blue Carbon Assessment in ICM sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of Financial Sustainability planning of PEMSEA, develop guidance to establish a recognition system for the corporate/business sector to support ICM and BE investments

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>arrangements. One innovative financing option to be explored is referred to as a "PPP Inclusive Growth Fund". This option will assess opportunities for an effective and equitable financing structure that facilitates pro-active participation of the private sector, the government and the community in the financing, ownership and operation of the pilot project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN ENMAPS Project: The project will leverage on other regional conservation investments to scale-up MPA management and sustainable fisheries in the region, as well as develop and pilot test blue economy/blue carbon investment plans in collaboration with private sector, NGOs and other potential partners. This includes PPP initiatives/programs (e.g., PPP for Coral Reef Insurance in Asia and the Pacific of ADB). <p>Blue Economy Business Forums organized/conducted in the EAS region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAS Congress 2024. The EAS Congress subtheme on Blue Financing and Investments featured the following sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Litter Fund Forum Seminar on Blue Carbon Policy, Regulation and Technology Start-up and Leadership Development for Sustainable Blue Economies <p>The different sessions generated the following key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While convention financial methods like grants and concessional loans can help establish enabling environment for larger sustainable efforts, innovative financing such as blended financing, sinking funds, blue bonds, species and ecosystem bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, impact investment, etc. should be explored for conservation efforts Diversified funding approach and sources for Marine Litter Fund must have long-term perspective, and may be sourced not only from developing countries but also from local governments and private sector, with support ranging from technological innovations, to research and capacity building. On blue carbon, there is a need to harmonize/standardize carbon accounting methods and enhance awareness on the significance of blue carbon in climate resilience Other initiatives in the region: Second ASEAN Blue Economy Forum (2024) emphasized the importance of harnessing cutting-edge technologies and fostering regional partnerships to protect marine and 	

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Mid-Term Target (2023-2024)	End of 5-Yr Target	Progress to date (2023- June 2025)	Remaining Actions or Targets
				<p>freshwater ecosystems and drive economic development.</p> <p>Recognition system for the corporate sector/ business community and Sustainable Blue Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While knowledge-sharing sessions on the Blue Economy (BE) have been conducted through the EAS Congress 2024 and select PNLG-PNLC forums, PEMSEA has yet to establish a formal recognition system for the corporate sector or broader business community. Beyond the PPP objectives/components of other PEMSEA-managed projects, only the ATSEA-2 alternative livelihood project in Rote Ndao in Indonesia, implemented in collaboration with NTT Bank, has been documented as a concrete example of private sector engagement. This review did not find additional documentation or specific reports on blue economy-related projects developed in partnership with the PNLC or PNLC. <p>Relevant Programs/Initiatives from PEMSEA NCPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMI: In support of BE development, projected marine information industry growth to 43.1 trillion KRW by 2032 with 499,000 jobs created; Developed fishing gear deposit system and marine waste recycling industry framework, contributing to sustainable fisheries; Advanced marine bioresources management plan targeting 1.3 trillion KRW industry scale by 2028. KIOST: Develops science-based marine spatial planning and ocean digital twin technologies to advance sustainable maritime industries, marine resource management, and eco-innovation, supported by Smart Maritime Logistics, MSP modeling platforms, marine biotech R&D, and ocean-climate startup incubation. PML: Research or studies on decommissioning of structures in the marine environment, looking at value of structures as potential hotspots for biodiversity and their connectivity which will be part of a project to be launched using models and digitals into a natural capital framework, and an initiative looking at the impacts of offshore particularly floating offshore wind and its environmental consequences using observational tools with models. 	

APPENDIX A:

TABLE 1: VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS/SUPPORT FROM COUNTRY PARTNERS (2023 – 2025)

No.	Country Partner	2023		2024		2025		Remarks (Challenges/ Delays)
		In-Kind Contribution	Financial Contribution (CSA) (in USD)	In-Kind Contribution	Financial Contribution (CSA) (in USD)	In-Kind Contribution	Financial Contribution (CSA) (in USD)	
1	Cambodia	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	Note: USD10k contribution in 2024 was allotted by Cambodia to support conduct of EASC 2024
2	China	<p>Hosting of PNLG Secretariat (Xiamen) and China PEMSEA Center</p> <p>Hosting of PNLG Annual Forum 2023 in Xiamen, China</p>	70,483	<p>Hosting of EAS Congress 2024 and PNLG Annual Forum 2024 (approx. USD 1.2M)</p> <p>Hosting of PNLG Secretariat (Xiamen) and China PEMSEA</p>	68,512	Hosting of PNLG Secretariat (Xiamen)	75,000	

				Center				
3	DPR Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4	Indonesia	-	-	Hosting of the PNLC Secretariat (IPB University)	20,000	Hosting of the PNLC Secretariat (IPB University)	20,000 ¹	<p>IPB University officially became the PNLC Secretariat in 2024.</p> <p>No CSA was received in 2023 due to change in national leadership</p> <p>Delays in receiving the CSA are due to organizational restructuring of the focal agency and/or frequent change of focal points</p>
5	Japan	-	125,000	-	125,000	-	125,000	Japan CSA primarily supports core Secretariat operations, and conduct of governance meetings (EC, PC, PNLC),

								including travel expenses of staff, EC members, and sponsored CP representatives Note: 8% or USD10,000 is paid to UNDP as fund management fee ^{clxxxix}
6	Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7	Philippines	Host of PEMSEA Resource Facility	-	Host of PEMSEA Resource Facility Host of the 16 th EAS PC Meeting (Palawan)	-	Host of PEMSEA Resource Facility Host of the 17 th EAS PC Meeting (TBC)	-	External auditors report from 2021 onwards indicate a value of USD 225K/ annum of Phil government's hosting based on appraised rental value in adjacent land, utilities, security and other costs
8	RO Korea	-	151,943	Host of the 2024 EAS Youth Forum (Uljin)	148,577		138,012	Discrepancies in amounts are due to fluxes in exchange rates (KRW to USD)

								Secondment of MOF officer to PEMSEA (in kind contribution since 2014)
9	Singapore	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	20,000	
10	Timor-Leste	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	Note: USD 40k is allotted for the operations of the PEMSEA TL Office and participation of TL PNLG members in the PNLG Annual Forum USD10k is allotted for PRF operations
11	Viet Nam	Host of 15 th EAS PC Meeting (Hanoi)	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	Note: VN officially committed to annual voluntary contribution to PEMSEA for 2024 onwards

TABLE 2: STATUS OF AGREEMENT WITH NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS (NCPs)

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
1	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)		Agreement valid until 2029	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)	Congress Sponsor, Session Convener, and Resource Person	Cooperative project implementation of UNDP/GEF ASEAN ENMAPS project 2024-2028	<p>ACB is currently in transition period as the search for ED is open. Reintroduction of PEMSEA with new ED is necessary.</p> <p>Consider discussing potential collaborative activities/ knowledge sharing to address Synergistic Action 3 (Build synergistic approaches in ICM application) and Action 4 (Adopt ocean-based climate solutions, particularly focused on biodiversity conservation) of XMD</p> <p>Topics/Activities for consideration may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under ENMAPS Project • Biodiversity conservation and 30x30 targets • Partnership building between ASEAN and PEMSEA • Recommending internships with CPs? • Joint Side event in

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							UNOC/other international forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing activities/Capbuilding activities on biodiversity conservation for youth
2	Coastal Management Center (CMC)		Agreement expired				CMC is SEC-registered but the staff already retired and meetings are no longer being conducted Informal discussions with ED Jacinto conducted in 2023. Revitalization of CMC through consultancy basis raised but decision still pending. Need to reconfirm CMC's decision. Potential avenues for collaboration, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean governance Inputs to PEMSEA sustainability assessments Collaboration with other

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							regional networks
3	Conservation International (CI)		LOC expired	Last participation in PC 10 (2018) in Manila	Participant and Resource Person	PRICELESS Project (Ongoing discussions) CI submitted a nominee for Blue Carbon (BC)TWG	CI PH has a new ED as of 2024. Need to conduct briefing on PEMSEA and CI partnership. MOA with CI-GEF for PRICELESS project will be finalized in 2025. Discuss with CI on establishing a new MOA/LOC for collaboration. Potential collaborative activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Carbon • Blue financing • Eco-DRR • Biodiversity Conservation
4	EMECS		Agreement still valid; no termination period	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)			Request dialogue on potential collaborative activities. Potential areas of collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-develop marine pollution webinars/ in-person workshops targeted to PNLC/PNLG/youth on marine pollution • Contribute to IRBM/ ICM

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							trainings
5	International Ocean Institute (IOI)		Agreement valid until 2025	PC 15 (2023)			<p>Request dialogue and updates on their current activities in the EAS region, and on their online ocean training courses.</p> <p>Confirm interest to renew LOC.</p> <p>Potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOI-hosted capacity building activities that can be shared to EAS PC, PNLC and PNLC through the PEMSEA e-bulletin or PEMSEA socmed channels • Request for writeups/op-eds that can be shared through the PEMSEA e-bulletin or PEMSEA socmed channels.
6	IUCN-ARO		LOC expired	PC 15 (Viet Nam) & PC 16 (Online)	Resource Person		<p>New ED of IUCN-ARO in place; need to conduct briefing on PEMSEA and IUCN-ARO partnership.</p> <p>Potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine plastics

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy • ICM
7	IOC/WESTPAC		LOC expired	Participated in PC 15 (Online)			<p>Request discussion through Mr. Wenxi Zhu and Dr. Gil Jacinto.</p> <p>Potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint initiatives linked to UNDOS • Joint organization or sponsor science-based training courses and other monitoring and information management projects • Joint knowledge sharing event/study tour on ICM application, in collaboration with PNLG/PNLC
8	IPIECA		LOC expired	Last PC Meeting participation was in PC 14 (2022)		IPIECA is regularly invited to serve as resource experts in PEMSEA events	<p>Request for discussion and information on IPIECA's capacity building initiatives that can be featured in PEMSEA socmed, particularly on the topics of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • UN SDG implementation • Oil spill preparedness

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							Potential areas of collaboration: (same points as above)
9	Korea Environment Institute (KEI)		Latest LOC expired in 2024 (related to EASC 2024)	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)	Sponsor and Session Convener		Request for discussion. Potential areas of collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building activities for PNLG/ other stakeholders under KEI's priority on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change IRBM Regional cooperation
10	Korea Institute for Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)		Latest LOC expired in 2024 (related to EAS Congress 2024 sponsorship and session convening) Funding agreement for Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)	Sponsor and Session Convener	KIOST to host EC 33 (2025) Awareness and drafting of Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management with UNDP/GEF/IMO Glofouling Partnerships Project	Continue engagement on operationalizing the Regional Strategy for Biofouling Management. Discuss potential collaborative activities during EC 33 with KIOST focal point on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean innovations such as big data Blue Carbon
11	Korea Marine		Latest LOC expired	PC 15 (2023) &	Sponsor and	Technical resource	Follow up on the results of initial

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
	Environment Management Corporation (KOEM)		in 2024 (related to EAS Congress session convening)	PC 16 (2024)	Session Convener	persons during EAS Youth Forum	<p>bilateral meeting with KOEM conducted during the EAS Congress related to potential collaborative activities in 2025.</p> <p>Potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> co-organize a learning event or capacity-building activity on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine spatial planning Climate change adaptation Blue economy MPAs Monitoring for Ocean Governance Encourage KOEM to nominate a representative for the BC TWG
12	Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)		Latest LOC expired in 2024 (related to convening of EAS Congress session)	PC 15 (2023) and PC 16 (2024)	Session convener EASC 2024	Hosted learning exchange workshop on good practices in biodiversity conservation at the GeoBlue Planet Symposium/PNLC	<p>Continue current engagements (BC TWG Member)</p> <p>Potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up on KMI's interest to conduct a coastal resilience index for the EAS region

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
						General Assembly SDS-SEA IP M&E TWG member BC TWG member Humans of EAS awardee: Dr. Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss possible collaborative activities at the OOC in Busan, ROK, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine policy Blue Carbon Marine pollution Blue economy
13	MABIK		Valid until 2025	PC 15 (2023) online	Last participation was in EASC 2021		<p>No active focal person as of the moment.</p> <p>Request dialogue in Busan to discuss potential partnership arrangements & opportunities.</p>
14	National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS, China)		MOU valid (need to check if there's termination date)	PC 16 (2024)	Session Convener	NMHMS to host Blue Carbon Workshop in 2Q 2025 BC TWG Member	<p>Continue fostering current engagements.</p> <p>Discuss other potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity-building initiatives, learning exchanges or potential projects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change Eco-DRR

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Blue Carbon o Blue Economy
15	Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)		Valid until January 2025	Not active in EAS PC Meetings in the past 2-3 years			Former focal point has moved to a different organization. Current Coordinator (Mr. Volovik) still responsive, but further discussions needed to clarify partnership arrangements and opportunities.
16	Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)		MOA expired				NIVA currently have activities related to plastic pollution in the EAS region, particularly in the PH, which can be an area of potential cooperation, or can be linked to ongoing MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project on Marine Plastics. Key area of potential collaboration is on capacity building and knowledge exchange.
17	Ocean Policy		Agreement expired	PC 15 (2023) &	Session	BC TWG Member	Continue fostering current

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
	Research Institute – Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF)			PC 16 (2024)	Convener		<p>engagements and build more concrete results, such as in the PEMSEA blue carbon program.</p> <p>Request to conduct briefing with SPF President on PEMSEA and OPRF and OPRI-SPF partnerships.</p> <p>Request for discussion on potential areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of technical expertise on blue economy, • Convening research networks and training centers, and • Development of a concept for an online training program, either on ICM, Ocean Policy, or blue carbon
18	Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)		MOU expired	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)	Sponsor and Session Convener	Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Technical Support	OSRL has expressed its willingness to support current and upcoming PEMSEA projects, where applicable. In particular, OSRL expressed interest to explore collaborations in:

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plastic pollution initiatives (i.e., Engage with MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics ODA project and IRBM project) Engagement of PEMSEA in OSRL seminars and workshops on oil spill preparedness and response Explore possible collaboration on GOT-related workshops with local governments
19	PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)		No current agreement with PEMSEA, but PNLG SAP 2022-2030 in place and aligned with SDS-SEA IP	PC 15 (2023) and PC 16 (2024)	Co-organizer through Xiamen Municipal People's Government	PNLG Forum 2023 and 2024 host PNLG Forum 2025 in Jakarta	<p>Explore PNLG's proposed strategic cooperation agreement with Xiamen.</p> <p>Review coordination arrangements with PNLG Secretariat, particularly on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring progress of PNLG SAP implementation Coordination with PNLG members Monitoring active/inactive PNLG members

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
							Discuss how to utilize the PNLG Funds to hold a capacity building activity for PNLG Members.
20	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)		Agreement expired	PC 15 (2023) & PC 16 (2024)	Sponsor and Session Convener	Project Proposal development with PEMSEA on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Ocean governance	Follow up on project proposal on AI for Ocean Governance. Potential areas of collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building or learning exchange collaborations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blue economy ○ Ocean monitoring ○ Climate change ○ Marine pollution
21	UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)		Agreement expired				Seek assistance from other contacts in UNEP to identify a focal person for GPA and request for discussion on partnership arrangements and opportunities.
22	UNDP/GEF Small		Joint				Due to SGP's decentralization,

		Year admitted as NCP	Status of Agreement with PEMSEA (MOU or LOCs)	Participation in EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meetings 2023, 2024	Participated in EAS Congress 2024	Other activities	Considerations and Potential areas for future cooperation
	Grants Programme (SGP)		Communiqué still valid, but no active engagement since decentralization				<p>any future SGP-PEMSEA collaboration should be country-specific.</p> <p>Need to identify contact person from SGP to re-establish communications and to request for discussion on partnership arrangements and opportunities.</p>

TABLE 3: PNLG MEMBERS (Local Governments and Associate Members)

	Country	Year Admitted to PNLG
Cambodia		
1	Kampot	2016
2	Kep	2016
3	Koh Kong	2016
4	Preah Sihanouk	2006
China		
5	Beihai	2014
6	Changyi	2013
7	Dongying	2007
8	Fangchenggang	2007
9	Haikou	2007
10	Haiyang	2012
11	Jinjiang	2018
12	Laoting	2011
13	Lianyungang	2011
14	Pingtian	2015
15	Qinzhou	2013
16	Quanzhou	2007
17	Sanya	2016
18	Xiamen	2006
19	Yancheng	2024
20	Wenzhou	2015
Indonesia		
21	Badung	2006
22	Bali	2006
23	Bontang	2018

	Country	Year Admitted to PNLG
24	Buleleng	2006
25	Denpasar	2006
26	Gianyar	2006
27	Gorontalo	2022
28	Jakarta	2010
29	Java	2025
30	Jembana	2012
31	Karangasem	2006
32	Klungkung	2006
33	South Bangka	2020
34	Sukabumi Regency	2006
35	Tabanan Regency	2006
36	Tangerang	2016
Japan		
37	Shima	2013
Malaysia		
38	Port Klang	2006/2007
39	Nothern Selangor	2013
40	Selangor	2014
Philippines		
41	Bataan	2006
42	Batangas	2006
43	Cavite	2006
44	Guimaras	2008
RO Korea		
45	Ansan	2015
46	Busan	2021

	Country	Year Admitted to PNLG
47	Changwon	2011
48	Shihwa	2006
Thailand		
49	Chonburi	2006
Timor-Leste		
50	Dili	2017
51	Liquica	2017
52	Manatuto	2017
Viet Nam		
53	Da Nang	2006
54	Quang Nam	2006
55	Thua Thien Hue	2009
Associate Members		
1	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute, Xiamen University, China	2011
2	First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China	2011
3	Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO), China	2020
4	National Ocean Technology Center, Ministry of Natural Resources, China	2022
5	Dongying Huanhai Institute of Marine Conservation and Development	2024

TABLE 4: PNLC MEMBERS (ICM Learning Centers and Regional Centers of Excellence)

		Year Admitted to PNLC	Charter Signing Year
Cambodia			
1	Royal University of Phnom Penh	2015	2021
China			
2	Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO), Xiamen University	2024	2024
3	Guangdong Ocean University	2024	2024
4	Ocean College, Zhejiang University	2023	2023
DPR Korea			
5	Kim Il Sung University	2015	2021
Indonesia			
6	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of IPB University	2015	2021
7	Diponegoro University	2023	2023
8	Center for Sustainable Development, Udayana University	2023	2023
Lao PDR			
9	National University of Laos	2024	2024
Philippines			
10	Catanduanes State University	2022	2024
11	Cavite State University	2021	2021
12	De La Salle Lipa	2015	2021
13	De La Salle University - Dasmariñas	2022	2024
14	Mindanao State University at Naawan	2024	2024
15	University of the Philippines Visayas	2015	2021
16	Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan	2015	2021
Thailand			
17	Burapha University	2021	2021
18	Prince of Songkla University, Thailand	2023	2023

		Year Admitted to PNLC	Charter Signing Year
Timor-Leste			
19	Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e	2021	2021
20	Oriental University of Timor-Leste	2021	2021
Viet Nam			
21	University of Da Nang	2015	2021
PEMSEA REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (RCoE)			
22	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute of Xiamen University (COMI), PR China	2015	2021
23	Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan	2021	2021
24	State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution of the City University of Hong Kong, PR China	2022	2023
25	University of the Philippines - Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), Philippines	2015	2021

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