



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS



Charting a New Decade of Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

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13th EAS Partnership Council Meeting

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29 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (GMT+7)
Online via Zoom

ORGANIZERS:



Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of
East Asia (PEMSEA)

13th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting

PROCEEDINGS

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Council Session	3
Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions	3
Council Chair's report	4
Technical Session	5
Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the 2023-2027 Implementation Plan of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia	5
East Asian Seas Congress 2021	
Draft 7 th East Asian Seas Ministerial Declaration	18
Council Session	21
Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions	25
Intergovernmental Session	25
Adoption of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session	25
Updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on the operations and finances of PEMSEA Resource Facility	25
Proposed membership of the Committees on Ethics, Discipline, and Audit of the PEMSEA Resource Facility	26
Closing remarks	28
Annexes	30
1. Provisional agenda of the meeting	32
2. List of participants	34
3. Links to reference materials	42
4. Instructions for the breakout groups and plenary	43
5. Detailed notes of the plenary	46
6. Amended PEMSEA Rules of Governance	51

INTRODUCTION

- i. The 13th East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council (PC) Meeting was held virtually on 28-29 July 2021 through a Zoom conference call. Representatives from 10 PEMSEA country partners (CPs)—namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam—attended the meeting. Also in attendance were representatives from PEMSEA non-country partners (NCPs), namely the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) Center, IPIECA, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Ocean Policy Research Institute – The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG). Representatives from the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC), and Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk (SHV) Cambodia) participated as guests. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the meeting.
- ii. The provisional annotated agenda, list of participants, and links to other reference materials (i.e, meeting documents; presented materials; photos; and video recording) can be found in Annexes 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

A. COUNCIL SESSION

1.0 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions (PC/13/DOC/01c)

- 1.1 The PC Chair, Mr. Arief Yuwono, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am (GMT+8) and welcomed the participants to the 13th PC Meeting.
- 1.2 In his opening remarks, Mr. Yuwono emphasized that the meeting will focus on reviewing the first draft of the 7th EAS Ministerial Declaration and other forward-looking aspects of PEMSEA's operations. To help inform the development of the Ministerial Declaration, the meeting shall assess the results and recommendations of the midterm review (MTR) of the 2018-2022 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and discuss the proposed framework for the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, which is an integral component of the 7th Ministerial Declaration. The roadmap aims to serve as the decadal blueprint for the sustainable development of the coastal and marine sector in the EAS region, taking into account the global pandemic and other current/emerging developments such as the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science and Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), besides the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global commitments such as the Paris Agreement.

- 1.3 The Chair's hope is that the EAS Partnership can produce a robust Declaration that Country Ministers can adopt to send a strong signal to the rest of the world that the partnership is committed to take action based on its abilities, experiences, and resources to fulfil its global commitments for managing the coastal and marine sector.
- 1.4 He also underscored the importance of taking into consideration the operational aspect of PEMSEA's plans and operations in the formulation of the PEMSEA Roadmap. The PRF's ability to generate and allocate resources will arise as a make-or-break issue for PEMSEA as it sharpens its focus and enhance its visibility in areas that are highly impactful as implementation catalyst and thought leader.
- 1.5 The Secretariat Coordinator of the PRF, Ms. Karen See, then presented the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions for review/approval of the meeting. She informed the meeting that agenda item no. 3 (on the provisional agenda of the 27th EC Meeting in October 2021) shall no longer be discussed to allocate more time to more pressing agenda items. The draft was sent as part of the meeting documents shared to Council members ahead of the meeting and shall be resent with changes, if any, by the PRF to the Council one month before the meeting.
- 1.6 **Decision:** The agenda was approved as presented.

2.0 Council Chair's report (PC/13/DOC/02)

- 2.1 For reference of the Council, Mr. Yuwono presented the actions taken with regards to the major conclusions, recommendations, and decisions made by the Council at the 12th PC Meeting and the 25th-26th EC Meetings, which were held respectively on July 2020, October 2020, and March 2021.
- 2.2 To start with, Mr. Yuwono congratulated everyone for staying healthy and safe while managing their work remotely, connecting with each other, and helping keep PEMSEA financially stable through the country contributions amid the global pandemic.
- 2.3 **On the EAS Congress 2021:**
- 2.4 He shared that the Council approved during the 27th EC Meeting the conduct of a virtual EAS Congress 2021 with the theme "*Charting a New Decade of HOPE (Healthy Oceans, People, and Economies)*" and pre-Congress activities initiated from April to November 2021 whereas the Main Conference and Ministerial Forum will be on December 1-2, 2021. He also noted that during the intersessional period between EC and PC, PRF conducted bilateral consultations with several CPs on the first draft of the 7th Ministerial Declaration.
- 2.5 **On SDS-SEA implementation:**
- 2.6 The following accomplishments in the past year were shared:
 - Successful conclusion of the UNDP/GEF Project on Scaling up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, which is part of the four-cycle grant from the

Global Environment Facility (GEF), aimed at transforming PEMSEA into a fully evolved regional mechanism.

- Finalization of the MTR of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 in 2020. The MTR was conducted to ensure that the plan remains relevant and fit for purpose amidst the global developments on sustainable development, including national and local governments' response, recovery, and resilience measures under the new normal. The findings from the review will inform the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030.
- Ongoing pilot testing of the methodology to evaluate ICM effectiveness as part of improving standards, guidelines, techniques, tools, pathways, demonstration areas, and evaluation system for ICM to scale up the approach regionally and worldwide. CPC is currently doing the pilot testing in China. Results are expected in November 2021 and will be shared accordingly to the Council.
- Approval of Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) and Xiamen University's Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI) as an NCP and Regional Center of Excellence (RCOE) of PEMSEA, respectively.
- Signing of agreement between PRF and the Incheon Port Authority (IPA) on the conduct of a maritime transport related research. The research paper, which assessed the current situation and projected future pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the EAS region and their implications on Incheon Port in RO Korea, was presented and discussed at the Incheon International Ocean Forum held in July 2021.
- Approved extension of term of Ms. Aimee Gonzales as the PRF's Executive Director (ED) from January 2021 to December 2023.

2.7 **Conclusion:** Overall, the Council Chair's report was noted by the participants. Specifically, the Philippine Head of Delegation, Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta-Teh of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) thanked the Council Chair for his leadership and noted the developments on SDS-SEA implementation and the preparations for the 2021 Congress.

B. TECHNICAL SESSION

3.0 Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 (PC/13/DOC/04)

3.1 Ms. Nancy Bermas, PRF Senior Programme Manager, shared the results and recommendations of the MTR of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and the proposed next steps in light of the findings, focusing on:

- The proposed framework and principles for formulating the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030; and

- The proposed focus areas for SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to draft this particular plan for presentation and discussion at the 28th EC Meeting in March 2022.

4.0 Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027: On the findings of the MTR of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022

4.1 The 12th PC Meeting in July 2020 approved the conduct of the MTR in 2020 in consideration of the latest notable developments in the coastal and marine sector.

4.2 The MTR consolidated and assessed the accomplishments of and challenges faced by PEMSEA partners in implementing the priority governance and management programs of the SDS-SEA from 2018 to 2020 and reviewed the relevance of priorities and proposed actions, indicators of progress, and opportunities for cooperation under the global plans of actions with the end goal of proposing practical recommendations for developing the PEMSEA Roadmap and SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. The MTR utilized a combination of desktop review, online surveys, and remote interviews with select partners and members of the PNLG and PNLC.

4.3 Main findings include the following:

- PEMSEA partners continue to recognize the relevance of the SDS-SEA and confirm their support for its implementation in the next decade.
- Majority of the programs are still in progress and some may not be fully achieved/completed in 2022, partly due to the travel and work restrictions imposed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Several PRF projects such as the UNDP/GEF Project on Scaling up the Implementation of SDS-SEA have contributed significantly in improving coastal and marine governance and scaling up ICM.
- There is a need to reevaluate and update some of the proposed activities and targets, especially on blue economy development and investments. While PEMSEA did an initial scoping of investment needs and opportunities through the Scaling up SDS-SEA project, more work needs to be done to realize these opportunities.
- There is a need to consider the UN decadal plans of action on ocean science and ecosystem restoration, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and PEMSEA's Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy.
- It is important to strengthen the secretariat and technical services of the PRF.

4.4 Notable outputs include:

- Significant progress in terms of the passage of legislations, formulation of policies, and adoption of institutional mechanisms in support of coastal and ocean governance in PEMSEA countries;
- Localized implementation of select SDGs through ICM;

- Facilitation of regional knowledge sharing through the creation of the online platform entitled [“Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank \(SEAKB\),”](#) a regional knowledge hub for the coasts and ocean and blue economy;
- Established utility of the National State of the Ocean and Coasts reporting to consolidate and analyze data on blue economy performance at the national level and improvements/benefits from the implementation of priority management and governance programs at the local level; and
- Opportunities for replicating or scaling up good practices under the priority management programs found in the policy agenda of countries in response to their commitments and obligations to various regional and international agreements.

4.5 On the priority management programs:

- The implementation of the 3 priority management programs (i.e., biodiversity conservation, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and pollution reduction and waste management) are currently in progress and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water).
- Their execution has been facilitated through the national and local programs on scaling up ICM in 12 countries (i.e., Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) and the UNDP/GEF Scaling up SDS-SEA project. Collectively, these initiatives have resulted to an estimated ICM coverage of 40 percent of the region’s coastline in 2020, thereby surpassing the 2021 ICM coverage target of 25 per as espoused in the Da Nang Compact. With these initiatives, PEMSEA has been operationalizing the slogan, *“local is global and global is local.”*
- **On biodiversity conservation:**
 - The execution of this program is highly important given that the EAS region is widely known as the global center of marine biodiversity, home to 31 percent of the world’s mangroves and a third of the world’s coral reefs and seagrass beds. It also accounts for 83 percent of global aquaculture production by volume and 60 percent of the world’s capture fisheries production by volume.
 - Efforts to conserve biodiversity in the partner countries are evident at the national level as manifested in the adoption of National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and submission of national reports to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
 - One significant accomplishment is the wide implementation of marine protected area (MPA) establishment and networking as a tool for conservation planning in the region, particularly in China, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Six countries collectively covered an estimated 30

percent of their territorial waters under protection through the designation of MPAs.

- However, while this may be the case, the application of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and other similar tools as well as the conduct of blue carbon measures (e.g., mangrove restoration) remain limited to ICM sites that are covered by donor projects. Similarly, the implementation of marine spatial planning (MSP) or coastal use zoning is largely project based except for China and Indonesia where national laws require all coastal provinces and cities to implement this scheme.

- **On climate change (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR):**

- The targets under this priority management program are also integral in the implementation of the biodiversity conservation program given the threats of climate change to natural resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems. It may be noted that the East Asian Region is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world, plagued by frequent occurrence of earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical storms, flooding, landslides, and volcanic eruptions, among others.
- Examples of accomplishments in the implementation of this program include:
 - At the national level, the passage/adoption of CC/DRR-relevant laws, policies, and institutional arrangements and the acquisition of funding mechanisms in compliance with the countries' commitments under the UNFCCC and Sendai Framework on DRR. All CPs are signatory to the Sendai Declaration and have submitted/updated their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
 - At the local level, climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR plans and programs are developed and implemented in accordance with their national counterparts. In some cases, CCA and DRRM action plans are mainstreamed into the spatial development and investment plans of local governments.
 - Significant funding and technical assistance from multilateral and bilateral sources have been channeled to the region benefiting a number of countries and local governments in the form of capacity building, application of tools and methodologies, and conduct of targeted research.
 - Numerous knowledge products have also been generated that capture the lessons learned and best management practices in CCA/DRR for replication in other areas to aid resilience planning.

- As part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the maritime transport industry, PEMSEA has developed the Port Safety, Health, and Environmental Management (PSHEM) Code and System to provide port authorities and operators with a tool to assess and improve their operational procedures and performance consistent with relevant international and national regulations, guidelines, and standards. This has been adopted so far in two international ports in Thailand (Bangkok and Laem Chabang) and four in the Philippines (Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, and General Santos). The implementation of this tool in these ports have generated environmental and economic benefits in terms of compliance to regulatory requirements, reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission, and increase in green cover inside the port premises.
- **On pollution reduction and waste management:**
 - Marine pollution in the region mainly comes from land-based sources in the form of untreated sewage, agriculture, and aquaculture runoffs, discharges from industry, and habitat modification. Among the different types of marine pollution, marine plastic debris is one of the most prominent issues where four countries in the region (i.e., China, Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam) have been identified as leading sources of mismanaged plastic waste into the ocean worldwide resulting in a growing momentum to search for solutions. While these measures are captured in national plans of action for marine debris (i.e., in Indonesia and Viet Nam), more work is needed to implement the plans on the ground.
 - Progress in the implementation of pollution reduction and waste management program showed a positive trend in relation to the CPs' accession or ratification of marine pollution related international conventions and agreements, particularly the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions. There is one activity that has yet to commence, however; this is the development of a source-to-sea regional strategy and roadmap given the delays in the approval of the UNDP/GEF Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries (IRBM Project).

4.6 On the priority governance programs:

- These programs—namely ocean governance and partnerships, knowledge management and capacity building, and blue economy investments and sustainable financing—contribute to SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). These are designed to further strengthen PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation, including the establishment of necessary enabling mechanisms for SDS-SEA execution in terms of capacity

development; knowledge management; monitoring, evaluation, and monitoring; and sustainable investments and financing. MTR findings show that significant progress has been made on the part of ocean governance and partnerships.

- **On ocean governance and strategic partnerships:**

- Significant achievements have been made in this regard. For instance:
 - Ten CPs have passed ocean and coastal policies and have enacted supporting legislations. Efforts are also underway to sustain the PRF with Indonesia recently joining the list of CPs that provide voluntary contributions to support the PRF's operations.
 - A number of local governments have also implemented the ICM Code and ICM system certification, which incorporate the requirements of two internationally recognized standards—International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 and 14001.
 - A monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system has also been established through the State of the Coasts reporting, which was initiated at three levels of governance: a Regional State of the Coasts report has been drafted at the large marine environment (LME) level; National State of Ocean and Coasts Reports with a blue economy theme have been initiated; and local indicator-based reports for local governments have been developed.
 - Additionally, PEMSEA has expanded its roster of NCPs and PNLC members as mentioned by the Council Chair in his report.

- **On knowledge management and capacity:**

- As one of the leading knowledge providers in the region, PEMSEA:
 - Has established the Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) (www.seaknowledgebank.net) as a platform to enhance access to knowledge products and services for relevant stakeholders to facilitate the scaling up of ICM and investments for sustainable development of the coasts and ocean in the region. The PRF continues to further enhance the functionalities of the SEAKB and update the content regularly to maximize its potential as a knowledge hub on the EAS region.
 - Continues to develop and disseminate relevant publications and knowledge products.
 - Has organized more than 200 training and other-related activities, benefiting more than 7,000 participants.

- **On blue economy investments and sustainable financing:**

- Based on the actions identified in the Changwon Declaration 2012, PEMSEA has taken steps in conducting the assessment of ocean economy, coastal and marine ecosystem services, and investment opportunities for blue economy development. The experience has generated various insights such as business model and site assessment, types of potential investments, challenges, and lessons for local engagement. These were encapsulated in the report entitled, [“Enabling Blue Economy Investment for Sustainable Development in the Seas of East Asia: Lessons on Engaging the Private Sector for Partnership and Investment.”](#) The report provides an overview of PEMSEA’s role in advancing blue economy and impact investment in the EAS region. More work is required however to channel private sector investments into bankable projects and establish the Ocean Investment Facility in support of SDS-SEA implementation.

4.7 Notwithstanding these accomplishments, findings from the 2021 Sustainable Development Report, one of the SDG assessment reports which tracks the performance of UN member states in terms of the 17 SDGs on an annual basis, indicate a decline in the global average, which may be attributed to increased poverty and unemployment rates as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing this problem would require a whole-of-government approach, which PEMSEA countries use to craft their post-pandemic recovery response. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the coastal and marine sector of the EAS region were discussed thoroughly in the [Ocean Roundtable Dialogue: Towards a Blue Economy Pathway for the East Asian Seas](#) held last June 8 as part of the line-up of activities of EAS Congress 2021.

4.8 Ms. Bermas also shared the list of ongoing PRF projects as well as those in the pipeline that can contribute to the implementation of SDS-SEA (Table 11 of PC/13/DOC/04).

5.0 **Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027: On the preparation process**

5.1 The MTR revealed a number of key principles and strategies in prioritizing and enhancing the focus for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, which will operationalize the PEMSEA Roadmap:

- **Principle 1 (transforming PEMSEA from policy advocate to implementation catalyst).** PEMSEA has been considered a driving force for policy development in the region in the last decade in support of healthy oceans and coasts. It is now recommended that PEMSEA leverage its role as an implementation catalyst for policies and innovations on the ground by harnessing its expertise and networks. In this role, it is critical that PEMSEA monitor the intended outcomes and impacts of various programs and projects to determine improvements in ecological and socioeconomic indicators to

better inform the policy and planning processes of the government and relevant partners.

- **Principle 2 (PEMSEA as a thought leader on frontier issues and new ocean-related developments).** The MTR validated PEMSEA’s critical role in capturing insights and new developments that are pertinent to the future of the EAS through regular publication and dissemination of knowledge products, organization of workshops and training, and expansion of the PNLG and PNLC. For the succeeding years, PEMSEA has the opportunity to position itself as a thought leader on topics that are identified in PEMSEA’s Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy such as carbon neutrality, marine plastics management, post-pandemic recovery, and the implementation plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science.
- **Principle 3 (prioritizing the PRF’s sustainability).** To ensure the smooth implementation of PRF’s role as implementation catalyst and thought leader, the sustainability of the PRF should be the driving principle for how the roadmap is crafted, mindful that considerations need to be made to optimize its current structure and capacity to monitor and report on the progress and achievements of the partnership in SDS-SEA implementation.
- **Principle 4 (adopting the General Electric [GE] matrix as a prioritization framework).** PEMSEA must expend its efforts where it can magnify its impact while maintaining its position in promoting excellence across key outcomes in the SDS-SEA. The use of the GE matrix, a portfolio analysis tool used by corporations to determine where they should invest hold their position, and harvest/divest, becomes useful. In the case of the PEMSEA Roadmap, the strategies have been reformulated as follows:
 - “*Grow*” shall apply to activities that need scaling up in terms of additional investments as these have been proven as highly impactful in advancing PEMSEA’s vision.
 - “*Hold*” shall apply to activities that should be maintained at the same level of effort and investments.
 - “*Harvest*” shall apply to activities that should be rationalized, revisited, or turned over to other stakeholders (possibly because they were demonstrated to be out of PEMSEA’s scope or unnecessary drain in resources).

5.2 With the four principles and the GE matrix in mind, several activities have been proposed and classified, as detailed in Tables 9 and 10 of PC/13/DOC/04.

5.3 Sustainability measures for the PRF have also been identified in consideration of the fourth principle as explained in Table 11 of PC/13/DOC/04.

5.4 In formulating the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, volunteers from the Council members are being invited to support the Core TWG in reviewing specific aspects of the IP based on their area of interest and specialization. The Core TWG shall be composed of the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair as the overall lead and advisers as well as the PRF as technical and secretariat support. The target is to present the draft SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 at the 28th EC Meeting in March 2022.

6.0 Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027: On supporting plans/initiatives

6.1 On the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2030 (PC/13/DOC/05):

6.2 Ms. Bermas presented the concept note for developing the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 as one of the supplements to the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the next SDS-SEA IP in consideration of the PNLG's role as a key player in scaling up the implementation of ICM and SDS-SEA.

6.3 The current PNLG SAP (2016-2021) is aligned to the 2015 SDS-SEA and contributes to the achievement of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water).

6.4 Note that an online tracking system for reporting the progress of the PNLG was developed as part of the SEAKB (<http://seaknowledgebank.net/pnlg-tracking-system/>). However, challenges were encountered in populating and updating the tracking system, which is highly dependent on available data.

6.5 The SAP for 2022-2030 will take the following into consideration:

- At the regional level:
 - PEMSEA Post-2020 Operational Plan;
 - SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;
 - PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025;
 - Availability of projects that provide opportunities for knowledge management, capacity building, networking, and site-specific targeted research;
 - Sustained support from Xiamen Municipal Government to the PNLG Secretariat;
 - PNLG fund management;
 - Support from other NCPs for PNLG activities; and
 - Other ongoing/emerging developments such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science; and
- At the national and local levels:
 - Development plans at the national and local scales; and
 - Inclusion of PNLG activities in the annual budgets of local governments.

6.6 The framework of the new SAP mirrors its counterpart in the SDS-SEA IP. It has three components as listed below:

- Governance and partnerships;
- Management programs addressing SDG 6, 11, 13, and 14; and
- Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

6.7 Ms. Bermas also presented the timeline for the ongoing development of the PNLG SAP for adoption on 1 December 2021 during the 2021 Annual PNLG Forum.

6.8 **On the draft PNLC Charter (PC/13/DOC/06):**

6.9 PNLC President, Dr. Wansuk Senanan from Burapha University (BUU) Thailand, apprised the meeting that the Charter aims to specify the network's ground rules on membership; identify joint activities and outputs amongst its members; and explore options for sustainability and funding support. Its vision is to build a committed network of nationally recognized academic and research institutions that can contribute to the achievement of SDS-SEA and other relevant commitments and policies; its mission, to serve as a network of PEMSEA Learning Centers and RCOEs to provide exceptional services in the line of technical advisories and capacity-building for the sustainable development of coasts and ocean.

6.10 In particular, the draft Charter:

- Lays out the goals and objectives of the network;
- Indicates the incentives and responsibilities of members;
- Specifies that the founding members shall be composed of the current members;
- Provides eligibility criteria, documentary requirements, and process for the application and screening of new applicants and the terms for cancellation of membership;
- Provides the roles, selection process/composition, and other terms related to the officers, managing/governing bodies, and secretariat;
- Mandates the creation of a Code of Conduct as well as an operational plan and financial sustainability plan for the network (both with a duration of 5 years);
- Provides the rules for engaging non-PNLC members in the network's activities; and
- Lists the possible sources of funding of the network.

6.11 The draft Charter shall be developed further in the coming months with the intent of having this signed and launched on 1 December 2021 during the EAS Congress.

6.12 **On the PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 (PC/13/DOC/07):**

6.13 The PNLC President also presented the subject plan and shared its purpose of serving as a midterm blueprint on strengthening the capacity of PEMSEA's partner countries in achieving sustainable coastal development.

6.14 The development of this plan took into consideration the following key points:

- First, the importance of knowledge transfer and capacity building at large seeing that these are not one-off commitments but rather initiatives that follow an iterative approach;
- Second, the plan builds on similar initiatives that PEMSEA has initiated since its early days as a regional marine pollution project, producing more than 7,000 beneficiaries across the region as of 2020 year-end;

- Third, the plan takes into consideration the ten most pressing challenges identified by the 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for the coastal and marine sector, some of which include:
 - The need to institute behavioral change in improving mankind's relationship with the ocean across a sustainable development path; and
 - The need to digitize and innovate available technologies in monitoring the environment to ensure a more responsive and agile approach to coastal and marine resource protection and community preparedness and resilience in times of disasters and climate change;
- Fourth, the plan integrates into its core the commitment of PEMSEA to implement the SDS-SEA and relevant SDGs; and
- And finally, the fifth, the plan considers the resources that PEMSEA has at its disposal considering the conclusion of four cycles of a GEF supported project that financed a major portion of the PRF's operations in the last 28 years.

6.15 The plan has five outputs:

- First is to build and strengthen intellectual capital and human resources in individual, organizational, and institutional levels. This involves activities such as workshops, courses, study tours, and on-the-job training.
- Second is to provide access to data and information, technology, and innovative investment mechanisms. For example, the State of the Coast reporting system facilitates an integrated and standardized approach for the monitoring and evaluation of ICM programs and as such needs to be adopted in more sites across the EAS region.
- Third is to share and exchange knowledge among communities of practice. Crucial to this is the SEAKB, which offers a collection of case studies, manuals, technical reports, and other resources, along with opportunities for engaging and collaborating with peers and experts. The platform also has the capacity to enable local governments and other stakeholders to identify and develop projects that could attract investment.
- Fourth is to develop research and promote policy dialogue with the goal of producing more targeted research that provide scientific data, tools, and methodologies and in the process, improve the institutional capacity of PEMSEA partners, PNLC, PNLG, and other stakeholders to further scale up and mainstream the implementation of SDS-SEA.
- Fifth is to reinforce strategic initiatives and synergies. Having alliances and partnerships help avoid duplication of efforts and bring about economies of scale from pooled resources and synergy.

6.16 This brings the discussion back to the PNLC. As Learning Centers and RCOEs serve as PEMSEA's frontliners on the ground in capacity building, there is a strong impetus to formalize the network and pursue joint areas for cooperation, not only within the PNLC but also with other facets of the PEMSEA circle of stakeholders such as the PNLG and NCPs.

6.17 The PEMSEA Capacity Development and Training Plan provides an initial listing of possible areas of collaboration and prospective partners, which can be considered in formulating the operational plan of the PNLC once formalized.

7.0 Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027: On the Council's inputs

7.1 Following the presentations of Ms. Bermas and Dr. Senanan, Ms. See reported the list of actions for consideration by the Council with respect to the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap and the next SDS-SEA IP, namely:

- To review and comment on the:
 - Results and recommendations from the MTR;
 - Proposed framework for the PEMSEA Roadmap; and
 - Proposed focus areas for SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027; and
- To share their views on the creation of a TWG on developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.

7.2 Undersecretary Teh of the Philippines thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation on the MTR of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and the proposed direction for the EAS Partnership in the next few years and supporting plans therefor. She acknowledged the notable developments from the execution of the current SDS-SEA IP and noted that the MTR affirmed the relevance of PEMSEA's approach and strategies for the region as seen in the partnership's significant contributions in localizing ICM. She suggested:

- That PRF identify the assistance needed from CPs, if any, to address the delays in meeting deliverables due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- That partners should sustain the gains made from implementing SDS-SEA by mainstreaming the principles, strategies, tools, etc. in national and local development plans and by providing continuous technical/financial assistance to PEMSEA to ensure that the latter will evolve as envisioned into a self-sustaining regional coordination mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation;
- That spatial planning should be adopted in order to identify specific areas where ICM can be effectively implemented for greater impact; and
- That the PEMSEA Roadmap should highlight the direction for blue economy in consideration of climate resiliency, COVID-19 pandemic and green recovery, carbon neutrality, and circular economy.

7.3 Ms. Valerie Chia, Senior Executive at the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) of Singapore, inquired whether Council members who are not a part of the TWG will be included in the consultation process for developing the next SDS-SEA IP, to which Ms. See responded in the affirmative.

- 7.4 Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh, as the Technical Session Chair, together with Ms. See, presented the instructions for the breakout groups and plenary—both of which will serve as the platform for discussing the Council’s inputs on the actions requested. A copy of these instructions is provided in Annex 4.
- 7.5 **Plenary: On the Council’s inputs on the prioritization framework used to classify future activities**
- 7.6 **General recommendations:** While the Technical Session finds the prioritization framework appropriate, it was recommended to:
- Rephrase the term “*hold*” to frame it more positively like “*grow*” and “*harvest*,”
 - Monitor the activities recommended to be “*harvested*” to avoid losing the gains/work that have been initiated by PEMSEA; and
 - Optimize the prioritization framework to guide PEMSEA in zooming in on initiatives and core competencies that would yield the greatest impacts and better allocation of resources while considering country/organization-specific nuances.
- 7.7 **Plenary: On the Council’s inputs on identified future management and governance programs and their corresponding activities**
- 7.8 **General recommendations:** Overall, the draft priorities in terms of programs and activities are aligned with the development agenda and plans and programs of both country- and non-country partners. The following recommendations were made for consideration in developing and substantiating these priorities:
- Climate change, particularly adaptation and disaster risk reduction, should be captured as a priority management program;
 - Continue mainstreaming ICM, including the certification process and SOC reporting, by building on existing ICM sites and replicating/scaling up the approach elsewhere;
 - Strengthen linkages with other regional mechanisms (e.g., CTI-CFF, COBSEA) and avoid duplicating efforts of other organizations beyond PEMSEA working in the region;
 - Pursue activities to further capacitate the Secretariat and PEMSEA’s networks and partners and strengthen the support provided to PEMSEA countries in ensuring that governance-related fundamentals such as institutional capacity/arrangements are in place (e.g., with regards to advancing blue economy; and engaging with and benefiting from new global and regional commitments, programs, and initiatives, which include assessing and helping them enhance their readiness to engage in these new commitments, programs, and initiatives, especially under the COVID-19 situation);
 - PNLG and PNLC can contribute to the execution of other identified activities aside from those related to knowledge management and capacity building such

as targeted research and actions on prompting blue economy and biodiversity conservation;

- Refine/update PEMSEA's stakeholder engagement and communication plan;
- Consider country/organization-specific context such as the landlocked state of Lao PDR and the need to scale up ICM implementation in Timor-Leste to cover more sites;
- Ensure that the interlinkages between the management programs are clear and synergized; and
- Several PEMSEA projects (both ongoing and in the pipeline) will provide more concrete areas for cooperation and synergies in the next 5 years.

7.9 Plenary: On the Council's inputs on the proposed timeline of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027

7.10 General recommendation: The timeline should consider country- or organization-specific context as well as the possible delays in implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, there should be an explanation on whether the unmarked years for the remaining timeline of each activity indicate that the activity has been stopped or will continue for the remaining years.

7.11 Plenary: On the Council's inputs on creating a TWG for developing the next SDS-SEA IP

7.12 General recommendation: While the Technical Session agreed on the need to create the TWG, some participants expressed interest to join in principle but requested for a Terms of Reference (TOR), which should contain, among others, the functions of the group; number and composition of members; level of representation needed from CPs and NCPs; and the extent and frequency of participation.

7.13 The detailed notes on the findings of the breakout sessions as presented during the plenary can be accessed in Annex 5.

8.0 EAS Congress 2021 (PC/13/DOC/08)

8.1 Dr. Vann Monyneath, as PC Co-Chair and Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Cambodia, apprised the meeting that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between PRF and Cambodia on the hosting of the EAS Congress 2021 shall be signed within early August. The MOU aims to formalize the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure the smooth preparations and conduct of the EAS Congress despite the current challenges brought by the pandemic.

8.2 In line with this commitment, the MOE and Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk (SHV) have already identified their National and Local Organizing Committee

(NOC/LOC) members who will be coordinating closely with the PRF on various Congress arrangements.

- 8.3 The MoE is also identifying collabs where it can showcase Cambodia’s initiatives and good practices on sustainable coastal and marine development. It is their hope that other PEMSEA partners will actively participate in the collabs.
- 8.4 As everyone’s safety takes precedence, the MOE, along with PRF and SHV as co-organizers of the Congress, will endeavor to maximize the use of virtual platforms to continue fostering the spirit of knowledge sharing and partnership building, for which the EAS Congress has been known.
- 8.5 Ms. See then presented the updates on other aspects of the Congress, particularly on the line-up of events and that as of last July 26, the website (<https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/>) is now expanded to include a detailed calendar of events and event-specific pages to guide participants interested in joining the Congress. A snapshot of the line-up of events was shared at the meeting and reproduced below:

Date	Event
Pre-Congress events	Virtual Training Workshop on Claims and Compensation for Oil Pollution from Ships <i>(April 20-22)</i>
	<hr/> <p data-bbox="517 1048 817 1075"><i>Collabs (June – November)</i></p> <p data-bbox="517 1151 766 1178">Subthemes and topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="517 1205 1149 1232">• Transitioning towards blue economy in the EAS region <li data-bbox="517 1258 836 1339">• Fostering social inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="612 1308 836 1335">○ Gender equality <li data-bbox="517 1366 979 1496">• Managing and restoring natural capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="612 1420 916 1447">○ Nature-based solutions <li data-bbox="612 1473 1043 1500">○ MPAs and MPA networks (MPANs) <li data-bbox="517 1523 1101 1765">• Reducing pollution and solid waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="612 1576 756 1603">○ Oil spills <li data-bbox="612 1630 1101 1657">○ Toxins and emerging chemical pollutants <li data-bbox="612 1684 916 1711">○ Marine plastic pollution <li data-bbox="612 1738 772 1765">○ Biofouling <li data-bbox="517 1792 1165 1921">• Averting climate change and promoting social resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="612 1845 954 1872">○ Climate change adaptation <li data-bbox="612 1899 948 1926">○ Climate change mitigation <li data-bbox="517 1948 778 1975">• Crosscutting issues

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ICM ○ Marine spatial planning (MSP)
	13 th PC Meeting (<i>July 28-29</i>)
	27 th EC Meeting (<i>October</i>)
	Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) (<i>November 25/26</i>)
	Inauguration of PNLC
	2021 Annual PNLG Forum
December 1	<p>Main Conference whose main components are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and Closing Ceremonies • Plenary featuring TEDx style presentations on other crosscutting topics (i.e., promoting sustainable coastal and ocean governance in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; harnessing blue finance through public and private investment; and promoting innovation under the UN Decade of Ocean Science) • Recap, including the summary of recommendations, from the collabs and plenary • Turnover of flag to the next country host for the Congress • Partnership Night (e-networking)
December 2	7 th EAS Ministerial Forum and Press Conference

- 8.6 She also provided a preview of some of the collabs before presenting the draft program outline for the Main Conference and directed the Council to the EAS Congress 2021 website (<https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/>).
- 8.7 Ms. See then requested the Council to provide comments and suggestions on the line-up of events on December 1-2 and the draft program outline for the Main Conference (e.g., if the events need to be decongested given the number of proposed activities on December 1).
- 8.8 The Technical Session Co-chair, Dr. Keita Furukawa, noted with appreciation the PRF's presentation on the Congress-related updates. Pertaining to his suggestion to include the individual voices of PEMSEA partners in the Main Conference, the ED clarified that the PRF is currently considering its inclusion in the Partnership Night of the Main Conference.
- 8.9 **Recommendations:**
- 8.10 Director Dida Migfar Ridha of Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) suggested to consider the application of ecosystems-based approach in the design of collabs regarding MPAs and nature-based solutions given its relevance to the context of many developing countries in the region. The Technical Session Co-chair then added

the nature-based solutions are cross-cutting and therefore not limited to MPA discussions.

9.0 Draft 7th EAS Ministerial Declaration (PC/13/DOC/09)

9.1 The Council Co-Chair notified the meeting that the MoE Minister, H.E. Say Samal, as Chair of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum, is personally taking the lead on Cambodia's preparations for the event, and that a dedicated sub-committee has been established under the NOC to coordinate the organization of the Ministerial Forum together with the PRF.

9.2 Recognizing the different country processes to secure high-level representation at the Forum, H.E. Minister Say Samal is set to release his invitation to counterpart PEMSEA Ministers in August 2021.

9.3 The impacts brought upon by the pandemic on the coastal and marine sector calls for a stronger regional partnership as well as transformative solutions to build back better. In this regard, the role of the EAS Congress, including the 7th Ministerial Forum, as a premier platform for stakeholder gathering, becomes even more important.

9.4 The goal is to adopt a new Declaration endorsing the PEMSEA Roadmap. The MoE fully supports the Declaration and thanked the PRF for facilitating the review and consultation process for developing the Declaration.

9.5 The PRF Executive Director then presented other updates on the preparations for the Forum, namely:

- Ministerial Forum Working Committee in the PRF fully operational and coordination with MoE initiated;
- Initial inputs received from EC and 8 CPs (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, and Viet Nam) on the draft Declaration; and
- Draft programs for the SGOM and the Ministerial Forum and Press Conference developed and initially presented to Cambodia and CPs.

9.6 She then provided an overview of the draft Declaration, the proposed process and timeline for the review and finalization of the Declaration, and the initial comments received from EC and CPs.

9.7 Overview of the draft 7th EAS Ministerial Declaration:

9.8 Bearing the working theme of "Charting a Blue Development Agenda: Healthy Ocean Ecosystems and Shared Prosperity," the Declaration:

- Highlights regional accomplishments in line with SDS-SEA implementation;
- Recognizes the persistent and emerging challenges for the region's coastal and marine sector;

- Endorses the PEMSEA Roadmap, which is anchored on the SDS-SEA and previous Ministerial Declaration commitments, supportive of the blue/green recovery plans and programs of PEMSEA countries, and aligned with relevant international commitments for the sustainable development of ocean and coasts; and
- Indicates the role of the PRF in executing the intent of the Ministerial Declaration and provides reaffirmation of support for helping ensure the organizational and financial sustainability of the PRF.

9.9 Proposed process and timeline for the review and finalization of the Declaration:

Process	Schedule
1 st round of consultations (combined with bilateral discussions)	July
Discussion at 13 th PC Meeting, which involves a paragraph per paragraph review of the Declaration	July 29
2 nd round of consultations	August
3 rd round of consultations	September
Review and discussion at 27 th EC Meeting, which will be expanded to include CPs and NCPs	October
Final review and endorsement during SGOM	November 25/26
Signing of Declaration at 7 th Ministerial Forum	December 2

9.10 Initial inputs of EC and CPs on the draft Declaration:

9.11 Overall, while positive feedback was received on the key points and flow of the Declaration, the following comments were suggested for consideration in the enhancement of the text:

- The Declaration should be a regional long-term political commitment that is brief yet clear in terms of expected outcomes, indicators, targeted actions, and timeline.
- Replace the term “*blue development*” with “*sustainable development*” all throughout the text of the Declaration, considering that the latter is already internationally recognized and to avoid introduction of new terminologies that may not be clear to countries.
- PEMSEA countries use different terminologies, which may need to be considered in the Declaration to enable them to better align their ongoing and proposed plans and programs related to coastal and marine protection, management, and development (i.e., nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approach, and blue/green recovery).

- Consider further strengthening the overall design of the Declaration with emphasis on two main elements: rationality (preambular paragraphs) and recommendations (strategic and operational paragraphs)
 - On the rationale, it is important to: highlight PEMSEA's evolution/history; recognize the current and future situation of the EAS region, including key issues and drivers (i.e., COVID-19; climate change; biodiversity loss; coastal and marine pollution, including micro-plastics; and unsustainable fisheries); and underscore PEMSEA's competencies and value to the region.
 - On the strategic and operational paragraphs:
 - Highlight countries' support to PEMSEA to serve as a leading example of a regional and even a global partnership mechanism.
 - Put emphasis on continued commitment on mainstreaming, integration, and promotion of ICM as an effective tool for scaling up SDS-SEA implementation into national and local policies and programs, supported by capacity building, technology transfer, financial mechanisms, and collaborations among stakeholders.
 - Recognize and encourage more active engagement of NCPs, PNLG, PNLC, private sector, media, and local communities in various PEMSEA initiatives.
 - Ensure alignment and affirmation of PEMSEA commitments with key international and regional instruments related to sustainable development. For instance, aligning the Declaration's climate change commitments to the Paris Agreement (to 2030) would be best at this time given that the UN climate talks in the run up to the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is still ongoing. This will also complement the proposed PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030.
 - In line with previous EAS Ministerial Declarations, emphasize the importance of retaining the section or paragraph on the sustainability of the PRF as it would serve as an expression of the countries' continued support to PRF in delivering technical and secretariat services for SDS-SEA implementation.

9.12 The presentation was then followed by a detailed (paragraph per paragraph) review of the draft Declaration where the Technical Session Co-Chair presented his proposal in response to each textual change and other suggestions collated by the PRF.

9.13 The Council expressed its appreciation towards the efforts of Cambodia MoE and the PRF in line with the preparations for the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum as well as the inputs provided by EC, CPs, and the Technical Session Co-Chair.

9.14 The following additional points were raised during the PC Meeting:

- Ensure that the Declaration has enough flexibility to enable CPs to mainstream and integrate commitments within their respective national interests, plans, and priorities; and
- Promote ICM literacy through strengthened communications and knowledge management initiatives as a means to foster behavioral change towards sustainable use and development of coastal and marine resources.

9.15 PEMSEA countries indicated their need to conduct additional in-country consultations on the draft Declaration in view of the initial inputs received from EC and various countries as well as the proposed revisions from the Technical Session Co-Chair and the additional feedback raised during the 13th PC Meeting (all reflected in a matrix in Annex 3). The matrix will serve as the PRF's reference in the preparation of the 2nd draft of the Declaration.

9.16 NCPs, on the other hand, expressed their appreciation to the Council for highlighting and recognizing their support in PEMSEA's initiatives in line with the SDS-SEA and for engaging them in the review of the Ministerial Declaration.

9.17 **Conclusions:** Technical Session concluded that:

- Given the varying government or country processes in securing clearance on the adoption of Ministerial Declarations, it is important to actively engage the PEMSEA countries on the review of the draft Declaration and agree on a close to final version by October 2021.
- The 7th Ministerial Declaration would serve as a meaningful document for the region to promote the advancement of initiatives in relation to SDS-SEA through the endorsement of the PEMSEA Roadmap.
- Securing high-level representation at the 7th Ministerial Forum, particularly confirmation of the attendance of Ministers, would necessitate early preparations. In this regard, MoE Cambodia shall facilitate the issuance of invitations from H.E. Minister Say Samal to his counterpart ministers in the EAS region. The PRF shall provide additional information to assist countries on this matter.

9.18 **Recommendations:**

- The Technical Session noted and recommended the following actions requested by the PRF during the meeting:
 - Adoption of the proposed process and schedule for the finalization of the 7th Ministerial Declaration as presented;

- PRF to refine the draft Declaration based on country inputs and suggestions from the 13th PC Meeting and proceed with the 2nd round of e-consultations with CPs and NCPs in August and September;
 - PRF, in collaboration with MoE Cambodia, to provide regular updates and guidance to Council members, particularly to CPs, on preparations for the Ministerial Forum;
 - CPs to provide PRF with a list of key contact persons for Ministerial Forum preparations as well as media coordination in preparation for the post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference; and
 - CPs, through the national focal points (NFPs), to secure early confirmation regarding the participation of their respective Ministers and other delegates in the Ministerial Forum.
- The Council Chair also underscored the need to ensure that the Ministerial Declaration is influential yet concise.

C. COUNCIL SESSION

10.0 Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions

10.1 The PC Chair provided a summary of the accomplishments of the Council and Technical Sessions and thanked everyone for the productive discussion.

D. INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

11.0 Adoption of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session (PC/13/DOC/11)

11.1 Ms. See presented the provisional agenda for the Intergovernmental Session. Dr. Vu Thanh Ca, as the Intergovernmental Session Chair, requested the meeting to review/approve the agenda.

11.2 **Decision:** The provisional agenda was approved as presented.

12.0 Updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on the PRF's operations and finances (PC/13/DOC/12)

12.1 The ED shared the subject updates in line with the EC's instruction for the PRF to monitor and provide regular progress reports on the measures undertaken to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19 on PEMSEA's programs and finances. This is also in recognition of the recent conclusion of four cycles of GEF support for SDS-SEA implementation, which necessitates the PRF to look for additional sources of funding for its operations.

12.2 On staff safety measures and work adjustment:

12.3 The PRF staff have been working from home since March 2020 and have instituted a number of measures to ensure the safety and good health of personnel such as the adoption of virtual meeting routines, limited physical access to office premises, ban on international travel, controlled domestic travel, increased office sanitation and hygiene measures, enlistment to vaccination programs, and regular discussions to review these measures and manage risk.

12.4 On the implications of COVID-19 on PRF's operations:

12.5 There has been a reduction in work pace and PRF revenue. Pre-COVID, almost 30 percent of the budget of PRF projects is allocated for travel and capacity-building training and workshops, in which case reallocation of the said budget is required, given restrictions in travel and mass gathering.

12.6 A recent internal audit, covering the period from March 2020 to April 2021, revealed the qualitative and quantitative impacts of the global pandemic on PRF operations. In terms of qualitative impacts, internal control procedures have been fairly updated and continuously observed by PRF and there were no material deviations on the internal control as of 2020 year-end. On quantitative impacts, particularly project deliverables and financial flows, the following observations were noted in the audit:

- The shift of the recently concluded UNDP/GEF Project on Scaling up SDS-SEA Implementation to online platforms and their recalibration of plans and reallocation of budget resulted in 99 percent budget expenditure and a clean external audit opinion.
- In some PRF projects, PRF receives grants on a reimbursement basis in line with the actual cost incurred. As a result, no excess or income will be reported with these types of projects. A different scenario present itself in the UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach Phase II (ATSEA-2) where PRF is entitled to receive a management fee on top of project costs made based on actual spending. In 2020, the slow budget spending due to COVID-19 restrictions yielded a lower management fee than what was initially projected as revenue.
- Certain indirect and general expenditures have been charged to the PRF's general fund instead of project funds due to inability to undertake project work in light of the global pandemic.

- 12.7 Notwithstanding the work and travel restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic, the PRF continues to deliver its services in line with the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 through various projects.
- 12.8 **On measures to ensure the organizational and financial sustainability of the PRF during and after the pandemic:**
- 12.9 The PRF is currently developing the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and hopes to secure high level representation during the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum on 1 December 2021 to send a strong signal to the rest of the world, including potential funders and partners, on the strength and cohesion of PEMSEA as a partnership.
- 12.10 The PRF has a sustainability plan in the form of a living document and is currently exploring the feasibility of implementing individual membership-based contributions as an additional source of funding for PRF operations. The PRF conducts monthly review of its sustainability measures and implements activities in new, innovative, and diverse ways to avoid/minimize losses.
- 12.11 The PRF is awaiting the feedback of UNDP on its request to adopt fixed management costs for applicable projects during the pandemic given that the services rendered by PRF are basic functions (i.e., finance, administrative, and project oversight services).
- 12.12 Bilateral discussions with CPs and other funders were conducted by the PRF to ensure support and sustained funding for the Secretariat's operations.
- 12.13 **On expected sources of revenue for the PRF for 2021-2023:**
- 12.14 On the government side, the 2021 voluntary contributions of China to PEMSEA have been cut in half due to the pandemic. No changes were observed in the expected amount in terms of cash or in-kind contributions from other countries for 2021-2023 (i.e., Japan, RO Korea, Singapore, Philippines, and Timor-Leste). PRF welcomed the voluntary contributions from Indonesia from 2021 onwards. Cambodia has provided to help finance the organization of the EAS Congress 2021.
- 12.15 Other sources of funding (e.g., multilateral sources, private sector) are explained in Tables 1-2 of PC/13/DOC/12, along with the status of projects in the pipeline.
- 12.16 **On the impacts of COVID-19 on the coastal and marine sector of the EAS region:**
- 12.17 The Ocean Roundtable Dialogue, held last June 8 and which served as the first collab of the EAS Congress 2021, convened high level officials from PEMSEA countries to discuss the challenges and opportunities with case studies of best practices in accelerating the region's transformation into a blue economy against the backdrop of post-pandemic recovery. The PRF is currently developing a paper on the implications of COVID-19 on the coastal and marine sector as well as CPs' initiatives to put blue economy at the core of their respective economic recovery programs.
- 12.18 Dr. Nguyen My Hang, Deputy Director at Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), requested clarification on the support needed from Viet Nam on the GEF/UNDP/ACB/PEMSEA Project on effectively managing an ecological network of marine protected areas in the large marine ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS). The ED responded stating that endorsement from the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment (MONRE) through the Viet Nam Environment Administration (VEA) is needed and that the details can be discussed in a bilateral meeting between the PRF and VASI as the national focal agency of PEMSEA in Viet Nam.

12.19 Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto, National Director of Marine Spatial Planning, Capture Fisheries, and Aquatic Resources Management at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of Timor-Leste, raised that the voluntary contributions of the country to PEMSEA for the years 2022 and 2023 have not yet been approved and would thus like to seek PRF's support and guidance on making this possible. The ED noted this concern and shall hold a bilateral consultation soon with MAF.

12.20 Ms. Armida Andres, Division Chief at the Philippines' DENR, expressed that the Philippines shall continuously support the PRF and host the Secretariat in its office compound. She also looks forward to more project engagements with the PRF.

12.21 **Conclusions:**

- PEMSEA countries noted the actions requested by PRF as follows:
 - Continued commitment from country partners to support PRF operations from 2021 onwards;
 - Endorsement of country partners on the full project proposal on the IKI/IMO Blue Solutions project and other upcoming proposals with endorsement and co-financing;
 - Commitment from country partners in principle to support PRF proposals during the 8th cycle of GEF replenishment;
 - Support from CPs as the PRF identifies potential projects or donors/potential sources of revenues at the bilateral or regional levels;
 - EAS PC Chair to write a letter to UNDP and GEF seeking immediate approval of the UNDP/GEF IRBM project document; and
 - Support from CPs on the EAS Congress 2021 through high-level representation and agreement on a strong Ministerial Declaration.
- Further discussions with Timor-Leste and Viet Nam will be organized by the PRF's Executive Director to discuss respective country-PRF cost-sharing arrangements.

13.0 **Proposed membership of the PRF Committees on Ethics, Discipline, and Audit (PC/13/DOC/14)**

13.1 In view of the need for continued improvement and strengthening of PEMSEA's quality management standards and in adherence to good governance, transparency, and accountability, Ms. See relayed that the PRF reviewed the Code of Ethics and the Rules of Reporting and Investigation and proposed the appointment of members of the Ethics

Committee and the amendment of the composition of the Committee on Discipline. For the Audit Committee, which is already in existence, the PRF intends to appoint new members and extend the term of the remaining member.

13.2 On the Ethics Committee:

13.3 The Committee's purpose is to advise the EC and PRF ED on ethical standards as well as recommend policies, practices, and/or procedures to ensure that PEMSEA and the PRF are structured, governed, and functioning effectively and ethically.

13.4 To date however, the Committee has not yet been convened as there have been no cases reported on misconduct due to fraud or other unethical behavior. Nonetheless, the creation of this Committee remains as a requirement to uphold the quality management standards of PEMSEA. The ED therefore nominates the following individuals as members of the Ethics Committee for a period of three years from 31 July 2021 – 30 June 2023:

- Mr. Yinfeng Guo - Senior Specialist, International Affairs, National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China;
- Atty. Maria Teresita Lacerna - Legal adviser and climate change financing consultant; and
- Mr. Won Bae-Kim - Head of Planning and Partnership Development, PRF; and deputized officer from the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries (MOF), RO Korea.

13.5 On the Committee of Discipline:

13.6 The Committee shall be responsible for conducting investigations on allegations of ethical misconduct or violations of the Code.

13.7 While the stipulations of the Code are detailed and well-developed, the Committee has not been convened since the PEMSEA Rules of Governance (PC/13/DOC/13) were adopted in 2011. In light of the this, the ED proposes to amend Section D.14 of the Rules on Reporting and Investigation of Violations of the Code of Ethics as follows: *“The Executive Committee shall appoint a PEMSEA Resource Facility Committee of Discipline, composed of three permanent internal members, namely, the Executive Director, Senior Program Manager, and Human Resources Manager (outsourced) and upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approve the appointment of external experts on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the reported alleged unethical behavior/wrong doing.”*

13.8 On the Audit Committee:

13.9 The Committee was established to provide the Council, EC, and ED with external, objective, senior-level advise and oversight regarding PEMSEA's strategies, business objectives, and audit functions.

13.10 Currently, one of the existing members, Assistant Director Diane Gail Maharjan of the Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), expressed willingness to extend her term for another three years from 6 June 2021 to 4 June 2024; and Mr. Arief Yuwono, as an EC member, agreed to replace former Assistant Secretary

Corazon Davis of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the Audit Committee Chair and the EC's representative in the same body for her remaining term until July 2022. The extension and appointment have received the endorsement of the Chairs of the EAS PC and its Technical and Intergovernmental Sessions.

13.11 The other member, however, who was a former official of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), declined to extend her term. In this regard, the PRF would like to nominate Ms. Nerissa Quindara as the replacement for consideration of the Chairs of the Council and its Technical and Intergovernmental Sessions. Ms. Quindara has extensive experience on the financial management of UNDP projects.

13.12 Ms. See then proceeded to the actions needed from the meeting:

- Council approval of the nominees to the Ethics Committee;
- Council approval of the proposed amendment of Section D.14 of the Rules on Reporting and Investigation of Violations of the Code of Ethics for PEMSEA Personnel; and
- Approval of Ms. Quindara as a new member of the Audit Committee by the Chairs of the Council and its Technical and Intergovernmental Sessions for onward endorsement to the Council for final approval.

13.13 **Decisions:** The Intergovernmental Session approved the following:

- Nominees to the Ethics Committee;
- Proposed amendment of Section D.14 of the Rules on Reporting and Investigation of Violations of the Code of Ethics for PEMSEA Personnel; and
- Approval of Ms. Quindara as a new member of the Audit Committee.

13.14 The amended version of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance may be accessed through Annex 6.

14.0 Closing remarks

14.1 Dr. Monyneath expressed his appreciation to CPs and NCPs for their active participation during the meeting considering that this is part of the consultation process for developing the Ministerial Declaration. He reiterated the Council Chair's statement that the end goal for this consultation process is to create a robust Declaration that country Ministers can agree and adopt in the next three years. This will send a strong signal to the rest of the world that the partnership is committed to take action based on its abilities, experiences, and resources to fulfil its global commitments

14.2 He shared that additional rounds of consultation will be organized in the months leading to the 27th EC Meeting in October, where CPs and NCPs shall once again be convened discuss the draft Charter with the end of producing a final draft in time for the SGOM in November. More details on this shall be provided by the PRF soon, along with the necessary information and documents to facilitate the creation of the TWG on crafting the next SDS-SEA IP.

- 14.3 He also extended his thanks to his fellow EC members for the regular direction and guidance provided to PEMSEA partners and to the PRF for their dedication in making this meeting possible and for the accomplishments in terms of operationalizing SDS-SEA despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hoped that PEMSEA countries will endorse/approve the proposals for PRF's next big-ticket projects, notably the UNDP/GEF IRBM Project, IKO/IMO Blue Solutions, and ASEAN ENMAPS.
- 14.4 He looks forward to seeing everyone in the EAS Congress and hopefully face-to-face in the next Council meeting next year.
- 14.5 The 13th PC Meeting was formally adjourned at 2:06 PM (GMT+8).

ANNEX 1. Provisional program in Manila time.

July 28: Council Session (Chair: Mr. Arief Yuwono)

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions**

The PC Chair shall open the meeting and request the PRF to present the agenda (PC/13/DOC/01c) for review/approval of the meeting.

9:15 AM – 9:25 AM **Council Chair’s report**

The Council Chair shall present, for reference, the summary of conclusions, recommendations, and decisions of the 12th PC Meeting and 25th - 26th EC Meetings and the actions taken therefor (PC/13/DOC/02).

July 28: Technical Session (Chair: Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh)

9:25 AM – 10:50 AM **Crafting the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027**

The PRF shall present, for review/consideration of the meeting, the results and recommendation of the MTR of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022; the proposed framework for the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030; and focus areas and process for developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 that shall operationalize the Roadmap (PC/13/DOC/04).

As supplementary strategies/initiatives for the Roadmap and the next SDS-SEA IP, the following shall be presented for reference:

- Concept brief for the draft PNLC SAP 2022-2030 (PC/13/DOC/05) – PRF;
- Draft PNLC Charter (PC/13/DOC/06) – Dr. Wansuk Senanan, President, PNLC; and
- PEMSEA Training and Capacity Development Plan 2021-2025 (PC/13/DOC/07) – Dr. Senanan.

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM **Break**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Breakout style discussions for agenda item no. 4**

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Continuation of breakout sessions, followed by plenary**

3:00 PM **End of first day of the meeting**

July 29: Technical Session (Chair: Dr. Keita Furukawa)

10:00 AM **Opening of the second day of the meeting**

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM	EAS Congress 2021 The PRF shall present the updates on the Congress, including the full line-up of activities and the draft program for the Main Conference (PC/13/DOC/08), for consideration of the meeting.
10:20 AM – 11:50 AM	7th EAS Ministerial Declaration The PRF shall present the first draft of the 7 th Ministerial Declaration (PC/13/DOC/09) along with the initial inputs received from EC and CPs and the proposal of Dr. Furukawa in response to these inputs.
11:50 AM – 12:00 PM	Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch

July 29: Intergovernmental Session (Chair: Dr. Vu Thanh Ca)

1:00 PM – 1:10 PM	Approval of the agenda The Chair shall open the meeting and request the PRF to present the agenda (PC/13/DOC/11) for review/approval of the meeting.
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the PRF's operations and finances In view of EC's instruction to monitor and present periodic updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on the PRF's operations and finances, the Secretariat shall present the requested information (PC/13/DOC/12) for further action and guidance of the meeting.
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Membership of the Committees on Ethics, Discipline, and Audit As part of implementing the PEMSEA Rules of Governance (PC/13/DOC/13) and adhering to quality management standards, the Secretariat shall seek approval on the membership composition of the Committees on Ethics, Discipline, and Audit respectively (PC/13/DOC/14).
1:45 PM – 1:55 PM	Other business
1:55 PM – 2:00 PM	Closing of the meeting

ANNEX 2. List of participants.

EC

Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
Mr. Arief Yuwono	Chair	ay.yuwono@gmail.com	✓	✓
Dr. Vann Monyneath	Co-Chair	monyneath0777@gmail.com	✓	✓
Dr. Oh Jae Ryoung	Chair, Technical Session	jaekordi@gmail.com, jroh@kiost.ac.kr	✓	✓
Dr. Vu Thanh Ca	Chair, Intergovernmental Session	cavuthanh@gmail.com	✓	✓
Dr. Keita Furukawa	Co-Chair, Technical Session	keita@meic.jp	✓	✓

CPs

Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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		Mr. Long Rithirak	Deputy Director General	longrithirak@yahoo.com	✓	✓
		Mr. Sith Roath	Deputy Director General	roathsith@gmail.com	✓	✓
		Mr. Srey Sunleang	Deputy Director General		✓	✓

Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
		Mr. Thaiy Chantha	Director, Coastal and Marine Resource Department	thaychantha@yahoo.com	✓	✓
		Mr. Lim Say	Deputy Director, Department of Water Quality Management	saylimmoec@yahoo.com	✓	✓
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		Ms. Ky Channimol	Official, Department of Science and Technology	kychannimol@gmail.com	✓	✓
		Ms. Vichika Svay	Vice Chair Cabinet		✓	✓
PR China	Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	Ms. Xu Heyun	Division Director, International Cooperation Department	heyunxu@sina.com	✓	✓
Indonesia	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)	Mr. Dida Migfar Ridha	Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution	dmigfar@gmail.com	✓	✓
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		Mr. Tedi Bagus Prasetyo Mulyo	Program and Cooperation Officer, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control	tediprstyo@gmail.com	✓	✓
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Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
			of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control			
Japan	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)	Mr. Hirashima Nobuhiro	Director for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau	hirashima-n2y7@mlit.go.jp	✓	✓
		Mr. Kobayashi Kensaku	Coordinator for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau	kobayashi-k2yb@mlit.go.jp	✓	✓
Lao PDR	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Mr. Kingkham Manivong	Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources	kingkham1974@gmail.com	✓	✓
		Dr. Inthavy Akkharath	Director-General, Department of Water Resources	inthavymrc@gmail.com	✓	✓
		Ms. Chindavanh Souriyapahck	Department of Water Resources	chindavanh.one@gmail.com	✓	✓
Philippines	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh	Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change	annateh86@yahoo.com	✓	✓
		Ms. Jeslina Gorospe	Division Chief, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service	bastian.lindy@yahoo.com	✓	✓
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		Ms. Armida Andres	Chief, Coastal and Marine Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau	nenengandres@yahoo.com.au	✓	✓

Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
		Ms. Nilda Baling	Chief, Integrated Coastal and Marine Partnership Section, Coastal and Marine Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau	nildasbaling@yahoo.com, nilda.baling@bmb.gov.ph	✓	✓
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Singapore	Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE)	Ms. Valerie Chia	Senior Executive, International Policy Division	valerie_chia@mse.gov.sg	✓	✓
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Timor-Leste	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)	Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto	National Director of Marine Spatial Planning, Capture Fisheries, and Aquatic Resources Management	tinocunha85@gmail.com	✓	✓
		Mr. Artur Maria Pereira		arturmaria0294@gmail.com	✓	✓

Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
		Mr. Timotio Alves		timotioalves998@gmail.com	✓	✓
Viet Nam	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Dr. Nguyen My Hang	Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands	nguyenmyhang255@gmail.com	✓	✓
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NCPs

Organization	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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	Ms. Marilyn Santiago	Technical Officer, Programme Development and Implementation	mpsantiago@aseanbiodiversity.org	✓	✓
	Ms. Claudia Binondo	Programme Officer, Programme Development and Implementation	cbbinondo@aseanbiodiversity.org	✓	
International Center for	Mr. Ishizu Masayuki	Director, Secretariat	ishizu@emecs.or.jp	✓	✓

Organization	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS)	Ms. Hosomi Chisato	Senior Staff, Planning and Research Department	hosomi@emecs.or.jp	✓	✓
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	Dr. Watanabe Atsushi	Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute	a-watanabe@spf.or.jp	✓	✓
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Observers

Organization	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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Organization	Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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	Ms. Zhu Xiaotong	Staff	zhuxtshirley@163.com	✓	✓
PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)	Dr. Wansuk Senanan	President	wansuk@go.buu.ac.th	✓	
Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk (SHV), Cambodia	Mr. Prak Visal	Director, Division of Public Relations and International Cooperation	visalpmo@yahoo.com	✓	✓
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PRF

Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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Ms. Nancy Bermas	Senior Programme Manager	nbermas@pemsea.org	✓	✓
Ms. Christine Ingrid Narcise	Policy and Result-Based Management Specialist	cinarcise@pemsea.org	✓	✓
Ms. Daisy Padayao	Country Programme Manager	dpadayao@pemsea.org	✓	✓
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Name	Position	Email	July 28	July 29
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Ms. Katherine Rose Aguilong	Consultant	krsgallardo@gmail.com	✓	✓
Ms. Reggie Olalia	Communications Specialist	rolalia@pemsea.org	✓	✓
Mr. Rodante Corpuz	IT Specialist	rcorpuz@pemsea.org	✓	✓
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Ms. Anonia Maceda	Intern	amaceda@pemsea.org	✓	✓
Ms. Gretta Lim	Intern	xklim@pemsea.org	✓	✓

ANNEX 3. Links to reference materials.

- Meeting documents
 - Council and Technical Sessions - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-Docs-CouncilAndTechnical>
 - Intergovernmental Session - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-Docs-Intergovernmental>
- Presented materials
 - Council and Technical Sessions - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-PPTs-CouncilAndTechnical>
 - Intergovernmental Session - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-PPTs-Intergovernmental>
- Group photos - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-Proceedings>
- Video recording
 - Day 1 - <https://tinyurl.com/PC-13-Recording-Day1>
 - Day 2 - <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-Recording-Day2>

ANNEX 4. Instructions for the breakout sessions and plenary.

In the form of breakout groups, review and discuss the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 focusing on the **relevance** and **timeliness** of the proposed priority activities identified in **Tables 9 and 10 of PC/13/DOC/04**, taking into consideration the regional or country-specific/non-country partner-specific context; priorities, goals, targets, and perceived challenges in implementing the priority activities.

Guide questions:

A. Overall prioritization strategy (grow, hold and harvest)

1. Do you find the strategy appropriate and adequate in prioritizing the activities to be undertaken until 2030? Is the prioritization process able to reflect the strategic goals of the SDS-SEA as well as the capacity of PRF and CPs/NCPs to achieve the targeted SDS-SEA outcomes?

B. Governance and management programs

1. Are the priority activities identified under the governance and management programs adequate and responsive to the needs of the region, countries, local communities, PNLG, PNLC, and PRF?
2. Are the programs able to capture the priorities of CPs and NCPs in strengthening ocean and coastal governance and the effective implementation of SDS-SEA management programs, global plans of action for sustainable development in the next decade, and blue/green recovery measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If not, please provide details of SDS-SEA related plans, programs, and projects that the CPs and NCPs are implementing in the next decade that can be included in the roadmap.

C. Timeline

1. Does the proposed timeline for the roadmap match the timeline of priority programs and projects for sustainable development and blue/green recovery measures of CPs and NCPs? If not, in relation to B.2, please provide additional information on project/program duration/timeline, if available.

D. Support to the Technical Working Group

1. A TWG will be established to lead the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 in alignment with the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, to be presented at the 28th EC meeting.
2. The core team will comprise of the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair as overall lead and advisers with PRF providing the necessary technical and secretariat support.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Facilitator	Dr. Keita Furukawa Technical Session Co-Chair, EAS PC	Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	Ms. Nancy Bermas Senior Programme Manager, PRF	Mr. Handoko Adi Susanto Regional Project Manager, ATSEA- 2
Documenters	Ms. Daisy Padayao Programme Manager, PRF	Ms. Kate Gallardo-Aguiling Consultant, PRF	Ms. Karen See Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	Ms. Ingrid Narcise Policy and Result-Based Management Specialist, ATSEA-2
	Ms. Toni Maceda Intern, PRF	Ms. Gretta Lim Intern, PRF	Ms. Isa Acosta Intern, PRF	Mr. Jan Valdez Intern, PRF
Rapporteur	Ms. Daisy Padayao Programme Manager, PRF	Mr. Masanori Kobayashi Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF	Ms. Karen See Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	Mr. Handoko Adi Susanto Regional Project Manager, ATSEA- 2
Zoom/IT support staff	Mr. Rod Corpuz IT System Specialist, PRF	Ms. Kate Gallardo-Aguiling Consultant, PRF	Ms. Karen See Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	Mr. Jun Dacaymat, Jr. IT Assistant, PRF
Participants	MSE (Singapore) MOF (RO Korea) MLIT (Japan) MNR (China) CPC (China)	All NCPs (ACB, EMECS, KOEM, NOWPAP, OPRI-SPF, OSRL) Mr. Won Bae Kim Head of Planning and Partnership Development, PRF	MOE (Cambodia) MoEF (Indonesia) DWR (Lao PDR) DENR (Philippines) MAF (Timor-Leste) VASI (Viet Nam)	PNLG PNLC ATSEA-2 SHV (Cambodia) Ms. Reggie Olalia Communications Specialist, PRF Ms. Mary Ann Dela Peña Finance Specialist

- Secretariat shall assist participants in transferring to their assigned groups. EC members, with the exception of the Technical Session Co-Chair, are free to roam around the groups.
- Groups shall be given until 1:30 PM (Manila time) for the breakout sessions with one hour lunch break at 12 PM.
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Plenary – Groups shall be given 10 minutes each for their presentation. Once presentations are done, open forum shall proceed.
- Chatham House Rules shall be followed in the breakout sessions and plenary.
- For Zoom-related concerns during the breakout, kindly approach your respective documenters.
- Do not leave the Zoom platform during lunch break.

ANNEX 5. Detailed notes of the plenary.

Questions	Consolidated feedback
<p>A. On the prioritization framework used to classify future activities</p> <p>1. Do you find the strategy appropriate and adequate in prioritizing the activities to be undertaken until 2030? Is the prioritization process able to reflect the strategic goals of the SDS-SEA as well as the capacity of PRF and CPs/NCPs to achieve the targeted SDS-SEA outcomes?</p>	<p>While the Technical Session finds the prioritization framework appropriate, there is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rephrase the term “<i>hold</i>” to frame it more positively like “<i>grow</i>” and “<i>harvest</i>.” • Monitor the activities recommended to be “<i>harvested</i>” to avoid losing the gains/work that have been initiated by PEMSEA. • Optimize the prioritization framework to guide PEMSEA in zooming in on initiatives and core competencies that would yield the greatest impacts and better allocation of resources while considering country/organization-specific nuances.
<p>B. On identified future management and governance programs and their corresponding activities</p> <p>1. Are the priority activities identified under the governance and management programs adequate and responsive to the needs of the region, countries, local communities, PNLG, PNLC, and PRF?</p> <p>2. Are the programs able to capture the priorities of CPs and NCPs in strengthening ocean and coastal governance and the effective implementation of SDS-SEA management programs, global plans of action for sustainable development in the next decade, and blue/green recovery measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If not, please provide details of SDS-SEA related plans, programs, and projects that the CPs</p>	<p>Overall, the draft priorities in terms of programs and activities are aligned with the development agenda of both country- and non-country partners. Nonetheless, the following recommendations were made for consideration in developing and substantiating these priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change, particularly adaptation and disaster risk reduction, should be captured as a management program. • Consider country/organization-specific context such as the landlocked state of Lao PDR (in which case, IRBM should be the focus) and the need to scale up ICM implementation in Timor-Leste to cover more sites (which will therefore require an assessment of current capacity and training needs). • Align the next SDS-SEA IP with other (emerging/current) developments such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science and Post-2020 GBF. • Several PEMSEA projects (both ongoing and in the pipeline) as well as initiatives from CPs and NCPs will provide more concrete areas for cooperation and synergies in the next 5 years. These can be discussed further in succeeding consultations or through email. Copies of relevant laws, policies, and information can also be provided to the PRF. • On management programs

Questions

Consolidated feedback

and NCPs are implementing in the next decade that can be included in the roadmap.

- The management programs should be interlinked—the dynamics should be clear and synergized.
- Fisheries can be made into a separate management program and strengthened as part of PEMSEA's core strengths.
- While marine pollution monitoring (as a core strength of PEMSEA) should “grow,” it is not enough to reduce pollution; this needs to be tied to the application of resource efficient business models and economic incentives, among others.
- These should also cover the following activities/initiatives:
 - Establishment of additional MPAs/MPA networks (e.g., through ASEAN Heritage Parks program or ASEAN ENMAPS)
 - Reduction of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUUF) (e.g., in Arafura and Timor Seas [ATS])
 - Reduction of marine litter in the form of plastic waste (as seen in PRF project for instance), ship by-products (e.g., Japan's work with the International Maritime Organization [IMO]), discarded fishing gear (80 percent of the total marine debris volume in Cambodia is composed of discarded fishing gear), etc.
 - Nature-based solutions (e.g., China has made considerable investments on the matter in terms of research and real-life application as part of their marine eco-civilization efforts)
 - Implementation of circular economy approaches (e.g., implementation of green building guidelines and development of sustainable coastal cities in Cambodia; conduct of PRF projects and research on reducing maritime transport related GHG emissions)
 - Blue carbon measures (e.g., China's relevant research on the matter; RO Korea's expansion of their tidal flats)
 - Development and use of renewable energy (e.g., in China; and work done by OSRL and IPIECA to transition to alternative fuels)
 - Measures to ensure food security and sustainable livelihood (e.g., in ATS)

- Reduction/management of biofouling
 - Oil spill preparedness and response measures (e.g., OSRL's continuing work in Sri Lanka despite the pandemic)
 - Need to strengthen institutional capacity for biodiversity/ecological monitoring
- On governance programs
 - Continue mainstreaming ICM, including the certification process and SOC reporting, by building on existing ICM sites and replicating/scaling up the approach elsewhere. ICM certification should not be classified under *"harvest"* but rather *"grow"* or *"hold."*¹
 - Strengthen linkages with other regional mechanisms (e.g., CTI-CFF, COBSEA) and avoid duplicating efforts of other organizations beyond PEMSEA working in the region.
 - PNLC and PNLG can contribute to the execution of other identified activities aside from those related to knowledge management and capacity building such as targeted research and actions on prompting blue economy and biodiversity conservation.
 - Refine/update the existing PEMSEA stakeholder engagement and communication plan and secure the support of PEMSEA countries in adopting the same in accordance with the proposed *"grow"* activity of developing regional communications and partnership campaigns
 - These should also cover the following activities/initiatives:
 - Synergistic activities to help countries accede to or meet key international and regional commitments
 - Application of ecosystems-based approach to coastal and marine development (e.g., in Indonesia)
 - Mainstreaming of gender (e.g., in Lao PDR)

¹ Current implementation of ICM certification has not been satisfactory. Considerations: 1) how to improve the conduct of ICM certification to be more effective and efficient; and 2) who can do the certification given that this requires significant documentation (local governments are interested but need support). ICM certification may be supported by PNLC members, who in this case, need capacity building to support the certification process.

Questions	Consolidated feedback
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- Continuation/building on of some outputs/outcomes of the past SDS-SEA project activities (e.g., in Lao PDR)
- Development of coastal and marine industries (In Viet Nam for instance, they have a long-term marine economic strategy that provides the ranking/order of industries to be developed)
- Implementation of payments for ecosystem services (PES) (e.g., in Cambodia) and “polluter pays” principle
- Pursue activities to further capacitate the Secretariat and PEMSEA networks and partners and strengthen the support provided to PEMSEA countries in ensuring that governance-related fundamentals such as institutional capacity/arrangements are in place (e.g., with regards to advancing blue economy; and engaging with and benefiting from new global and regional commitments, programs, and initiatives, which include assessing and helping them enhance their readiness to engage in these new commitments, programs, and initiatives, especially under the COVID-19 situation)
- Revisit the roster of benefits accorded to PNLG and PNLC members to ensure that these are value-adding services.

C. On the proposed timeline of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027

The timeline should consider country- or organization-specific context as well as the possible delays in implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example:

1. Does the proposed timeline for the roadmap match the timeline of priority programs and projects for sustainable development and blue/green recovery measures of CPs and NCPs? If not, in relation to B.2, please provide additional information on project/program duration/timeline, if available.

- In China, ICM certification of its coastal provinces can be achieved earlier (i.e., 2023 instead of 2024 as originally indicated in the timeline) in consideration of the current progress of implementation.
- Expansion of PNLG and PNLC membership can also be done earlier. On the part of PNLG, their expansion is in fact part of their annual work plans and programming.
- NCP representatives confirmed complementarities between the proposed timeline for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and their respective plans/programs. More concrete identification of synergies and timeframe can be covered in succeeding consultations.

Additionally, there should be an explanation on whether the unmarked years for the remaining timeline of each activity indicate that the activity has been stopped or will continue for the remaining years.

D. On creating a TWG for developing the next SDS-SEA IP

While the Technical Session agreed on the need to create the TWG, some participants expressed interest to join in principle but requested for a Terms of Reference (TOR), which should contain, among others, the functions of the group; number and composition of members; level of representation needed from CPs and NCPs; and the extent and frequency of participation.

1. A TWG will be established to lead the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 in

Questions	Consolidated feedback
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alignment with the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, to be presented at the 28th EC meeting.

2. The core team will comprise of the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair as overall lead and advisers with PRF providing the necessary technical and secretariat support.

Other comments:

- Cambodia – unlikely to volunteer due to limited manpower and heavy workload considering Congress-related preparations
- Lao PDR – will likely nominate the same individuals (PEMSEA focals) as volunteers
- Timor-Leste – can tap on existing TWGs to provide inputs on the development of the next SDS-SEA IP
- IPIECA, OSRL, and OPRI-SPF – their willingness to join is subject to their review of the TOR
- PNLG Secretariat: willing to volunteer
- PNLG (Dr. Wansuk Senanan, President): willing to provide inputs as needed

ANNEX 6. Amended PEMSEA Rules of Governance.

The file may be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/PC13-Proceedings-Annex5>.