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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF THE
GEF/UNDP PROJECT ON
ARAFURA-TIMOR SEAS ECOSYSTEM
ACTION PROGRAM PHASE 2
(ATSEA2)

**Swiss-Belresort Watu Jimbar,
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia**

18 November 2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inception Workshop of the GEF/UNDP Project on Implementation of Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Programs: Second Phase of the Arafura-Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program (ATSEA 2) was held at the Swiss-Belresort Watu Jimbar, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on 18 November 2019.

The Workshop was attended by representatives from Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Offices of Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok were also present on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNDP. Stakeholder partner organizations from the Coral Triangle Center (CTC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia, Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME), and Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN) were also represented during the Workshop. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as Secretariat for the Workshop, with local support from UNDP Indonesia.

The Inception Workshop include the following key outcomes:

- Facilitated common understanding about the project among the country and regional teams and other stakeholders.
- Confirmed the Project framework including its vision, objectives, outcomes, management structure and results matrix.
- Recognized that a narrative write up of the Theory of Change (not required by the project document template for ATSEA), would help to facilitate:
 - Better articulation of the result logic between the various components;
 - Effective communications about the project and its results;
 - Clear identification of roles of all related partners/stakeholders;
- Acknowledged the value of establishing a Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF) to strengthen and widen stakeholder engagement in support of the Regional Steering Committee/Regional Coordinating Committee (RSC/RCC);
- Further exploration needed to learn from the experience of existing multistakeholder platforms to guide the development of SPF mechanism.
- Highlighted that partnership building is key to the project's success and acknowledged the need to map what partners are doing and identify potential areas for collaboration.
- Underscored the value of building on and drawing from the experiences and results of ATSEA-1 but taking into account the time lapse and the changes that have happened in the meantime.
- Emphasized the importance of effective monitoring, communication, and visibility of project results, best practices, and achievements.

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INTRODUCTION

- i. The Inception Workshop of the GEF/UNDP Arafura-Timor Seas (ATSEA) Project Phase 2 was held at the Swiss-Belresort Watu Jimbar, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on 18 November 2019.
- ii. The Workshop was attended by representatives from the four country partners, namely: Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and Australia.
- iii. Representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Offices of Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok were also present on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNDP.
- iv. Stakeholder partner organizations were also represented during the Workshop, namely: The Coral Triangle Center (CTC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia, Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME), and Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN).
- v. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as Secretariat for the Workshop, with local support from UNDP Indonesia.
- vi. The full list of participants is given in Annex 1.

OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES

- i. Representing the ATSEA2 Project's Principal Project Representative (PPR) and on behalf of UNDP, the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Indonesia, Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze welcomed all the participants to the Workshop and expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Inception Workshop of ATSEA2 Project. Ms. Kemkhadze highlighted the crucial ecological and economic role of the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) particularly to its surrounding countries: Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Being adjacent to the Coral Triangle, the ATS is home to rich marine biodiversity and habitat of migratory, rare, threatened, and endangered marine species. She emphasized that building on the key results of ATSEA1 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme (TDA/SAP), the ATSEA2 Project is a response to address the serious decline of the ATS region's marine environment, coupled with the increasing challenges of climate change. The ATSEA2 Project is expected to help bring about an enabling policy environment for ocean restoration and protection; implement regional and national governance reforms and facilitate investments. She further

underscored the strong country component of the ATSEA2 Project that aims to better engage the participating countries, and effect more meaningful impact on the ground. In line with this, she emphasized the special focus given by the project on women in fisheries communities, whose contribution in fisheries and coastal resource management are significant but largely undervalued. Thus, the value of the project is further enhanced through proposed gender-specific measures and activities, and very specific gender disaggregated targets. The actions and expected outcomes of the ATSEA 2 Project will not only benefit the ATS region but contribute to achieving key global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly to SDG14 Life below water, covering sustainable fisheries, Marine Protected Area management, combatting IUU fishing, and capacity building for small scale fisheries. The project will also produce potential outcomes to address SDG1 Poverty reduction, SDG5 Gender equality, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals.

- ii. Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) delivered opening remarks as ATSEA 2 Project's Regional Implementing Partner. Ms. Gonzales provided a short overview about PEMSEA and its governance mechanisms (country and non-country partners, a shared regional strategy, three levels of operating modality, a network of learning centers and local governments) as well as its transformation from a UNDP/GEF/IMO regional marine pollution project into a full-fledged independent organization with its own legal personality. Based on the East Asian Seas region's shared strategy- the Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), Ms. Gonzales outlined PEMSEA's key programs that are aligned with UN SDGs covering: marine biodiversity management and habitat restoration, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management, pollution reduction, ocean governance, knowledge management, capacity building, sustainable financing and blue economy. In particular, she emphasized the value of sharing and learning from PEMSEA's experience which can serve as an example in developing ATSEA's governance mechanism aligned with ATS region's needs, priorities and specificities.
- iii. On behalf of the Host Country, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, Mr. Nilanto Perbowo, welcomed all the delegates to the Inception Workshop. Mr. Perbowo underscored the importance of cooperation both at the regional and national level to ensure the sustainability of the ATS region and address issues pertaining to IUU fishing, habitat degradation, marine pollution and factors related to anthropogenic pressure and global climate change that have direct and indirect impacts to the ATS region. Mr. Perbowo cited key initiatives by the Indonesian government in support of ocean sustainability. In particular, the President of Indonesia envisions the seas of Indonesia as a global maritime fulcrum in the near future. In support of the Indonesian Government's focus on sustainable oceans, the MMAF has established the following key policies: strengthening of human development resources and marine and fisheries research innovation; strengthening of the management of sea, coastal area, small island and enhancing surveillance of marine and fisheries resources and fish quarantine; strengthening communication with stakeholders, simplifying licensing procedures, developing fishing port, protecting and enhancing fishers welfare, optimizing aquaculture sectors to enhance employment absorption; and developing marine and fisheries industries. In closing, Mr. Perbowo reiterated Indonesia's continued commitment to improving the management and governance of the ATS region

through the ATSEA2 Project and ultimately contribute to better welfare of the people in the region.

- iv. Representing the Government of Timor Leste, Mr. Acacio Guterres, Director General of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Inception Workshop and the first Regional Steering Committee of the ATSEA2 Project, as well as to UNDP and PEMSEA for taking the leadership in convening the meetings. Mr. Guterres emphasized Timor Leste's commitment and support to achieve the project's goals as reflected in the ATSEA Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP). In support of the SAP, MAF has developed two strategic policy documents that will align the SAP priority actions with Timor Leste's Strategic Development Plan. These documents are the National Oceans Policy and the National Fishery Strategy Plan, which are currently under review by the Council of Ministers for final approval. Substantive amount of in-kind contribution have also been committed in support of the ATSEA2 Project. Complementary to the ATSEA project, Timor Leste has also been implementing integrated coastal management (ICM) and marine protected area (MPA) management in collaboration with various agencies. In support of the Regional Plan of Action for Responsible Fishing Practices (RPoA) including Combating IUU Fishing, the government has taken major steps in identifying and registering fishing vessels operating in the south coast. To promote better coordination and cooperation among stakeholders, MAF will continue to conduct consultative processes to encourage public participation and to link local needs with national policies, priorities and actions. Mr. Guterres emphasized that with stronger partnerships, the ATS region would be able to achieve more.
- v. On behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Joseph Posu, Fisheries Management Officer of National Fisheries Authority (NFA), expressed support as a new and official country partner in the ATSEA2 Project. Mr. Posu acknowledged the good work that has been done by countries under the ATSEA1 Project, and expressed support for stronger collaboration in the ATSEA2 Project, which will be beneficial to PNG mainly in addressing fisheries challenges in the South Fly District. The Government of PNG acknowledges the need for regional cooperation in order to address the cross-cutting issues in the ATS region. He is hopeful that the ATSEA2 Project would be able to bring in more technical and financial support that would help address challenges in the South Fly District, and more importantly empower the local communities therein. The Government of PNG believes that the ATSEA2 Project would be a great opportunity for PNG. Mr. Posu expressed his country's commitment to fast track the initiation of the project in PNG so as to enable implementation of on-the-ground activities beginning in 2020.
- vi. Representing the Department of Environment and Energy of Australia, Dr. Andrew Chek, expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the workshop. Dr. Chek highlighted Australia's participation in the ATSEA1 project and expressed support to help achieve the target objectives of the project's 2nd phase in collaboration with Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, as well as with UNDP and PEMSEA. He believes that the Inception Workshop and Regional Steering Committee Meeting would be helpful in building relationships, identifying common challenges and agree on steps to move the project forward.

- vii. On behalf of the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME), Mr. Chavakat Manghat Muralidharan, Regional Coordinator of ISLME, highlighted that while ISLME's ecosystem coverage is different, the objectives of the ISLME are complementary with the ATSEA2 Project. In particular, Mr. Muralidharan indicated that the ATSEA1 Project Document, TDA and SAP served as guidance documents in the development of the ISLME Project. He is hopeful that closer collaboration between the two projects, particularly in the implementation and/or updating of TDAs and SAPs of both projects would further strengthen the knowledge base in the ATSEA region.
- viii. Mr. Yusuf from the Fisheries Conservation Monitoring of WWF Indonesia highlighted some of the key work of WWF Indonesia, which could serve as good areas of collaboration. This includes WWF programs on marine protected area management, sea turtle conservation, and sustainable fisheries.
- ix. Representing the Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (affiliate of The Nature Conservancy), Ms. Yadranka Farita, indicated that for the past ten years, YKAN has been working with the Indonesian Government mainly in promoting development of new MPAs, increasing effectiveness of MPAs, and strengthening resilience of coastal communities. YKAN is also currently undertaking stock assessment and developing fisheries management plans in 11 fisheries management areas in Indonesia. Work is also ongoing with the private sector to secure MSC certification for red snapper in five to seven years. YKAN's work is not only focusing on environmental protection but as well as in providing livelihood opportunities to communities.
- x. Ms. Rili Djohani, Executive Director of Coral Triangle Center (CTC), cited some of the major initiatives that CTC is undertaking particularly in selected areas in Indonesia and Timor Leste. Under its MPA program, CTC covers sites in Bali and Maluku of Indonesia, and Atauro and Liquica of Timor Leste. One of the key priorities of CTC include the strong engagement of women's groups through capacity building activities and various livelihood opportunities (i.e., trainings on post harvest techniques, business planning, marketing, etc.). Ms. Djohani hopes that the ATSEA2 Project would also give emphasis on capacity building particularly to youth, women and local governments.
- xi. Full Opening Ceremony speeches are found in Annex 2.

1.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- 1.1 Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Indonesia, served as Chair of the Workshop's morning session, while Dr. Jose Erez Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor from UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub served as Chair in the Workshop's afternoon session.
- 1.2 Ms. Kemkhadze presented the key objectives of the Inception Workshop. In particular, the workshop serves as a preparatory meeting for the Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the ATSEA2 project, with the aim of facilitating shared understanding, joint work and ownership of the project's goals, objectives and project results. As the project document was developed in 2015, it is important to revalidate the project framework

through the Inception Workshop. More importantly, Ms. Kemkhadze emphasized the value of the Inception Workshop as a platform to discuss areas of cooperation between and among the government partners as well as with stakeholder partners.

- 1.3 Ms. Kemkhadze proceeded to present the Workshop Agenda. The Workshop adopted the agenda as provided in Annex 3.

2.0 BACKGROUND PRESENTATION: BUILDING ON ATSEA 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LESSONS

- 2.1 Mr. Iwan Kurniawan, Program Manager for NRM Cluster of UNDP Indonesia, provided a short background on ATSEA1 Project's rationale, accomplishments and lessons to which the ATSEA2 Project was built upon.
- 2.2 The main goal of ATSEA1 Project was to have a sustainable use of the living coastal and marine resources, including fisheries and biodiversity, and improved sustainable socio-economic conditions and opportunities for coastal peoples.
- 2.3 ATSEA1 Project served as a foundational phase, which focused on the development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and formulation of a Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) adopted by a Ministerial Declaration.
- 2.4 Apart from the completion of TDA and SAP, the ATSEA1 Project was able to bring about several achievements, including: country ownership through the convening of Ministers and signing of a Ministerial Declaration in 2014 that served as a building block in transboundary collaboration and management in the ATS region; development of corresponding National Action Programmes (NAPs) in Indonesia and Timor Leste, and operationalization of some of the SAP actions at national level; promotion of effective coastal zone resources management through the regional pilot of ecosystem-based management in indigenous community in Northern Australia, and participation of multi-stakeholders.
- 2.5 However, several shortcomings were also identified, including: unavailability of some data affected achievability of some targets; lack of focus on financial resourcing arrangement; little added value in the initial implementation at demonstration sites; and the lack of alignment of SAP/NAP priorities with local spatial planning and socio-economic development objectives.
- 2.6 In line with these achievements and lessons, some proposals were put forward, including: expand stakeholder involvement and partnership arrangements; emphasize collaborative management arrangements for demonstration activities; link sustainable land management with coastal zone management; enhance sustainability of alternative livelihood; and expand capacity building targets and coverage.
- 2.7 Further details on ATSEA1 achievements and lessons are found in ([Link to PPT](#)).

3.0 ATSEA2 PROJECT STRUCTURE: OVERALL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES

- 3.1 Ms. Aimee Gonzales presented the overall vision, goals, objectives and outcomes of the ATSEA2 Project.
- 3.2 Building upon the foundation results of the ATSEA1 Project, the ATSEA2 Project is focused on the implementation of the Regional and National SAPs. Particularly, it aims to sustain the flow of ecosystem goods and services from the Arafura and Timor Seas through a transboundary governance strategy that is rooted in national development priorities.
- 3.3 To achieve this objective, the ATSEA2 Project will focus on strengthening regional governance structure, implement the priority actions from the SAP and NAPs, and address 5 transboundary environmental problems identified in the TDA: unsustainable fisheries and decline and loss of living coastal and marine resources, degradation of marine and coastal habitats, marine and land-based pollution, decline and loss of threatened and migratory species, and impacts of climate change.
- 3.4 The total project fund (combined GEF grant and co-financing) amounted to USD 43,564,074, whereby 22 percent comes from GEF grant, and 78 percent from co-financing.
- 3.5 The Project management and implementation structure is composed of the:
- Regional Steering Committee (RSC)- serves as the overall project board and ultimate decision-making body of the project
 - Principal Project Representative (PPR)- represented by UNDP Indonesia and responsible to GEF for channeling resources to executing agencies and in-charge of overall project monitoring
 - Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) – currently being constituted and will serve as interim Secretariat managing day-to-day aspects of the project
 - National Project Boards (NPBs) – to be established in the three countries (Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea) and will support the national implementation of activities by overseeing the National Coordination Units
 - National Coordination Units (NCUs) - main task is to coordinate implementation of on-the-ground project activities and preparation of national technical and financial reports
 - Implementing Partners- For Regional and PNG Component, PEMSEA will serve as implementing partner of UNDP. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of Timor Leste will be the implementing partner for Timor Leste national component, and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia will be the implementing partner for Indonesia national component.
 - Project Partners- stakeholder organizations supporting or collaborating with ATSEA2 projects or activities.
- 3.6 More details on the project structure, goals, objectives and outcomes are found in ([Link to PPT](#)).

4.0 ATSEA 2 PROJECT STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilang, PEMSEA Consultant, presented the key elements of the Project Strategic Results Framework (SRF).
- 4.2 In order to achieve the project goals and objectives, the 5-Year ATSEA2 Project was divided into three (3) major components, supported by nine (9) outcomes, 23 target outputs, and various activities. The SRF as detailed in pages 118-128 of the Project Document also outlined the corresponding performance and impact indicators, means of verification, and possible risks.
- 4.3 Component 1 is composed of 4 expected outcomes and 11 target outputs. Its key objective is to strengthen regional, national and local governance structures to facilitate implementation of the SAP and NAPs. By end of project, the target is to have an established regional and national governance mechanisms for ATSEA region, an updated TDA and SAP adopted by a new Ministerial Declaration, strengthened capacity on integrated approaches, and better understanding of climate change impacts in the ATSEA region. In support of SAP and NAP implementation and the ATSEA governance mechanism, a 5-year financing strategy and financing plan will also be developed.
- 4.4 Component 2 is the heaviest component with more national components/national activities that is aimed at improving LME carrying capacity to sustain the ecosystem services of ATSEA. In response to the priority environmental objectives identified in the TDA/SAP, the 4 expected outcomes and 10 target outputs under this component are expected to result to the following at the national level (covering specific sites per country): implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP), strengthening and creating new MPAs, conduct of oil spill preparedness and response trainings. While at the regional level, the target is to develop EAFM Plan, conduct profiling and stock assessment of red snapper fishery, support implementation of RPoA-IUU, design a Regional MPA Network, and formulate RPoA in support of endangered marine turtles.
- 4.5 Component 3 activities on knowledge management will be implemented more at the regional level with the objective of supporting the replication and scaling up of experiences and best practices. This will entail establishment of an ATS SAP monitoring system, development and implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan, development of information and knowledge materials, establishment of ATSEA2 website and social media accounts, participation in key international and regional meetings/events (i.e., CTI, GEF, IWLearn, PEMSEA, etc.), and organization of facilitated workshops, meetings and networking events.
- 4.6 The detailed presentation on the SRF is found in ([Link to PPT](#)).

Discussion Highlights (Agenda 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0)

- 4.7 **Promote Good Coordination and Synergies.** Given the existence of various projects under different donor agencies in each country, a representative from Timor Leste emphasized the need for good coordination among project partners for the ATSEA2 project as well as with other complementary projects in order to avoid duplication of efforts (i.e., between ATSEA and ISLME). He also expressed hope for ATSEA2 to bring

in more benefits to local communities, as very little impact was achieved in the initial mudcrab project that was implemented in Timor Leste during ATSEA1.

- 4.8 In response to Timor Leste's concern on possible duplication of TDA initiatives particularly between the ATSEA2 and ISLME Project, Dr. Padilla clarified that the TDAs are defined by LMEs where the projects are operating. In the case of ATSEA, the focus is on the southern part, while ISLME project is focusing on the northern part. As such, there are no duplication in terms of project coverage, however it was noted that there are opportunities to synergize, for example in examining the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks and socio-economic contexts which both projects operate in Indonesia and Timor Leste. Dr. Padilla also explained that ATSEA1 was a foundational phase as such very little activity was implemented on the ground, however, it is expected that more intensified activities will be undertaken in the coastal communities within countries under the ATSEA2 Project.
- 4.9 This was further supported by Mr. Muralidharan of ISLME and emphasized that the two projects are working on two different ecological and geographical systems, but both sides will benefit from working with each other. An example of which is on marine pollution where a lot of good information and data can be shared between ATSEA2 and ISLME Project.
- 4.10 Ms. Kemkhadze also emphasized the opportunity that the Project provides in terms of engaging more partner stakeholders. Given the strong national component of the project, she sees good opportunities to take into consideration the local knowledge and wisdom of people on the ground and to creating more impacts at the local and national level.
- 4.11 A representative from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) of Indonesia shared a number of initiatives undertaken by the Indonesian government in support of sustainable coastal and marine development and management. Some of these initiatives include: development of waste management plan for fishery sector, sea-based pollution management, sea-litter monitoring, control of land-based pollution from agricultural sector, managing dumping of waste at sea, mapping and monitoring of sea litter, among others.
- 4.12 Ms. Gonzales informed the Workshop that MOEF serves as PEMSEA's National Focal Agency in Indonesia and that their support and participation, together with other relevant agencies would provide good synergy not only between PEMSEA and ATSEA projects, but also with other related projects.
- 4.13 Ms. Rili of CTC highlighted some potential areas of collaboration between ATSEA2 Project and CTI initiatives, including:
- Governance – CTI conducts its annual Senior Officials Meeting as well as Regional Business Forum. These are good opportunities and platforms wherein ATSEA2 Project may be linked and possibly participate.
 - Fisheries – Some possible overlaps with CTI initiatives
 - MPA network – Linkage between ATSEA2 MPA initiatives and CTI MPA system would be beneficial to both.
 - Knowledge management and Learning Networks- In CTI context, learning networks provide good opportunities to engage women. The CTI-CFF has a

Women Leaders Forum, which perhaps can be expanded to ATSEA. It may also be good to have a women engagement strategy for the project.

- 4.14 **Develop a Narrative on Theory of Change for the Project.** Dr. Chek noted that the ATSEA2 Project Document did not include a narrative on Theory of Change (ToC). Dr. Chek suggested that it may be good to unpack the framework of the project and provide a more explicit program of logic on the project components, target results, and the different actors that will be involved to have clear identification of roles, as well as provide better articulation of project activities toward target outputs and outcomes.
- 4.15 Dr. Padilla explained that the ToC was not yet prescribed at the time of Project design. He, however, concurred with the suggestion of Dr. Chek that better articulation of the project can be undertaken as the project is being implemented.
- 4.16 Dr. Padilla further clarified that the adopted SAP from ATSEA1 is already being implemented. It is envisioned that the experience gained in SAP implementation, will be helpful in the updating of TDA and SAP towards the 4th quarter of the ATSEA2 Project.
- 4.17 **Align ATSEA2 Goals with UN SDGs.** As the Project Document was developed prior to the adoption of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, Ms. Gonzales further suggested to align the project goals with relevant UN SDGs. This will enable the project to clearly identify linkages and contributions to achieving the SDG targets.

5.0 DISCUSSION ON STAKEHOLDERS PARTNERSHIP FORUM AND PARTNERSHIPS

- 5.1 Dr. Padilla presented an initial concept on the proposed Stakeholders Partnership Forum (SPF), and facilitated the open discussion on the SPF and areas for partnerships in support of the ATSEA2 Project.
- 5.2 Dr. Padilla explained that the proposed SPF builds on the Arafura-Timor Seas Experts Forum (ATSEF) that was established in 2001, earlier than the ATSEA1 Project. He emphasized that the ATSEA2 project's governance mechanism- the Regional Steering Committee (which is envisioned to evolve into a formal Regional Coordination Committee or RCC), is purely intergovernmental with UNDP and PEMSEA. As such, wider stakeholder participation is missing. The SPF aims to address this gap by providing a forum that would enable stakeholders from national government, subnational government, civil society, women and local people, academia and private sector, to bring in their inputs.
- 5.3 While ATSEF's current status is yet to be determined, Dr. Padilla suggested the possibility of reinvigorating and building on ATSEF to establish a stronger and more inclusive SPF. Its key role would be to provide technical advice to the RSC/RCC. Thus, annual SPF meetings would precede RSC/RCC meetings. An SPF representative may also be invited to the RSC/RCC meetings to share SPF suggestions and proposals.
- 5.4 The initial concept as described in the project document states that participation to the SPF will be voluntary and available to a wide audience, should stakeholders be able to fund their own participation. Five representatives from Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea may be funded under their respective national project budgets, and

Australia representatives will be self-funded and will invite and/or advice interested stakeholders from Australia to participate.

Discussion Highlights

- 5.5 **Funding on Participation to SPF.** Ms. Rili raised a possible concern from stakeholders regarding funding on participation to SPF meetings, as some stakeholders may not have the capacity to fund their own participation.
- 5.6 Dr. Padilla indicated that the Project encourages the establishment of SPF both at the regional and national levels. Convening of SPF meetings at national level may be relatively easier for local and national civil society organizations to attend rather than participate in the regional meetings.
- 5.7 **Building on/Collaboration with Existing Entities.** Ms. Yadranka of YKNA stated that there are existing national and regional structures for stakeholder participation whereby ATSEA Project can collaborate with. In particular, she cited the Fisheries Management Council in Indonesia, which was recently legalized through a decree. The Fisheries Management Area 71A covers ATSEA.
- 5.8 Mr. Yusuf of WWF Indonesia suggested the need to map all existing forums, including details on their goals, functions, and membership to serve as reference in developing a more detailed guidance for the SPF.
- 5.9 **Sustainability of SPF.** Mr. Muralidharan believes that it is important to engage and convince the governments on the importance of SPF as they can provide the necessary mandate that would facilitate budget provision and support SPF's sustainability.
- 5.10 Mr. Bolton Towok from the Industry and Provincial Support Division of the National Fisheries Authority of PNG, further suggested to link with the economic sector and develop livelihood opportunities in order to get more buy in from the people.
- 5.11 Dr. Padilla proposed to also look into how ATSEF was structured and how funds were made available to support its operations.
- 5.12 **Position or Concept Paper on SPF.** Building on what is in the Project Document, Dr. Chek suggested preparing a more detailed position or concept paper on SPF. Dr. Chek also agreed to consult with a former colleague who was previously active in ATSEF to get more details on its current status and how ATSEF operates.
- 5.13 In line with the Project Document requirements, a Terms of Reference for SPF covering its nature, role and responsibilities will be developed as part of the identified activities for the year 2020 under the regional component and will consider the above suggestions.

Presentation from Stakeholder Partners

- 5.14 Ms. Yadranka Farita of Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN) introduced the Indonesia Oceans Program of YKAN. YKAN is a local entity of The Nature Conservancy. The program's goal is that by 2024, 15 million ha of Indonesia's coastal habitats are sustainably managed to support coastal livelihoods, sustainable fisheries, and Indonesia's biodiversity with potential emission reduction of 271 million tCO₂/year. This

- will be undertaken through three major strategies: (1) Resilient MPA Network; (2) Sustainable Fisheries Management; and (3) Integrated Coastal Management. To date, 5.6 million ha of MPA have been covered. MPA initiatives resulted to improving management effectiveness, developing example of blue carbon project and “green fee” mechanism, livelihoods improvements, among others. On sustainable fisheries management, the YKAN project sites cover 5 fisheries management areas and 6 priority fisheries management areas. Efforts on sustainable fisheries management have resulted to the completion of the most comprehensive Stock Assessment on snapper species, establishment of partnerships with private sector for comprehensive Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs), development of the e-BPRL, the first real-time fisheries database system in Indonesia for MMAF, development of sustainable fisheries management guideline for companies, etc.
- 5.15 Copy of full YKNA presentation is accessible via ([Link to PPT](#)).
- 5.16 Mr. Muralidharan of Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME) presented an overview of the ISLME Project and possible synergies between ISLME and ATSEA2 Project. The ISLME is a 4-year project that started in 2018 supported by GEF, FAO and MMAF Indonesia and MAF Timor Leste. Its objective is to develop and agree on a SAP based on a TDA for the ISLME, leading to reduced stress on the marine resources and ecosystem through improved understanding of LME processes and the development of sustainable ecosystem-based management actions, which also promote increased resilience to climate variability and change. The ISLME ProDoc had referred to ATSEA TDA and SAP documents. Referring to ATSEA TDA and SAP, the ISLME project found a number of common areas of interest in the adjacent ecosystems of ISLME and ATSEA. The ATSEA SAP, in particular, provided ISLME a scope to build on including in combatting IUU fishing, mainstreaming of EAFM, habitat management, and climate change related management plans. Under ATSEA2 Project, the experience and process that will be undertaken in establishing ATSEA’s governance mechanisms will be a useful reference for ISLME as well. ISLME, on the other hand, believes that its work on TDA, SAP and EAFM capacity needs would be useful to ATSEA, particularly in knowledge sharing and updating of some data. ISLME also offered some of its platforms (i.e., working group meetings, scientific advisory committee meetings) to serve as collaborative forums for both projects.
- 5.17 Copy of full ISLME presentation is accessible via ([Link to PPT](#)).
- 5.18 Ms. Rili Djohani of Coral Triangle Center (CTC) shared that the key mission of CTC is to inspire and train generations to care for coastal and marine ecosystems. Under its Sustainable Livelihood and Capacity Building for Fishing Communities in the Arafura Sea (SEANET) program, CTC have contributed in: improving livelihoods for local women, empowering fishing communities to adopt sustainable fisheries, and improving port waste management. Through the CTI-CFF Women Leaders Forum (WLF), over 300 women have been trained contributing to its goal of empowering women leaders to drive positive change in protecting and managing marine and coastal ecosystem in the Coral Triangle region. The recent CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting has already agreed and accepted WLF as a crucial component in the RPOA 2.0 and shall be included in CTI-CFF TWG activities. The WLF Competency Model will also be piloted in 2020 as a training activity in all CT6 member parties. The Maritime Local Government Network (LGN) also played a key role in the implementation of CTI-CFF on the ground. Recognizing the LGN as a crucial actor in implementing the RPOA 2.0, the CTI-CFF

SOM have recommended Maritime LGN to be a CTI-CFF Partner. Another key platform under CTI-CFF is the Regional Business Forum, which aims to facilitate sustainable and responsible business in Coral Triangle region, and support CTI-CFF and its goals. Since 2010, the CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum has convened four times, paving the way for increased “green/blue” investments. In 2020, a high-level roundtable meeting with heads of states, business owners/CEOs of multinational companies will be organized as part of the CTI Summit. Ms. Rili believes that these platforms and activities would also serve as good areas wherein ATSEA2 Project may participate in to facilitate knowledge sharing and possibly identification of more concrete areas of collaboration.

5.19 Copy of full CTC presentation is accessible via ([Link to PPT](#)).

5.20 Mr. Yusuf of WWF Indonesia cited their five focus programs:

- Support MPA management in Aru
- Research program (collection of data and preparation of research papers)
- Sea turtle conservation program
- Marine mammals (focusing mainly on data collection)
- Mangrove protection and conservation in Papua

5.21 Dr. Chek informed the Workshop that the Australian Government have also been actively financing the work of CTI. He believes that the updated National Action Programmes (NAPs) of ATSEA countries will serve as useful reference for Australia to identify specific areas of support and collaboration.

6.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Ms. Daranee Tattakorn of UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, presented the Monitoring and Evaluation requirements and process for the Project in accordance with UNDP and GEF procedures.

6.2 The GEF reporting requirements follow the fiscal year. It includes annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), GEF results measurement tool, GEF Midterm Reporting (MTR), and Terminal Evaluation (TE). The UNDP reporting requirements, on the other hand, follow the calendar year. It includes the quarterly progress reports, Quality Assurance (QA) system, and Result Oriented Annual Report (ROAR).

6.3 The ATSEA2 Project Reporting Milestones and Deadlines are as follows:

Reporting Requirement	Due Date
1 st PIR	July 2020
2 nd PIR	July 2021
MTR	October 2021
3 rd PIR	July 2022
4 th PIR	July 2023
TE (3 months prior to operational closure)	February 2024
Operational closure (3 months after posting of TE)	June 2024
Financial closure (6 months after operational closure)	December 2024

- 6.4 These monitoring requirements together with the annual conduct of the Regional Steering Committee Meetings, quarterly and annual work planning, impact assessments and results framework serve as adaptive management tools and approaches that can help the project to reduce uncertainties, inform decision-making, and make adjustments. Adjustments or changes, however, are permitted only at the level of outcome and output indicators, and corrections on baseline errors. Major changes to any target, as well as objectives and outcome-level indicators are not allowed.
- 6.5 The full Inception Report is also a key reporting requirement as part of the project cycle. The Inception Report will cover changes in the project environment since the project was submitted, including possibly revised results framework, project activities and timeframe.
- 6.6 The detailed presentation of Monitoring and Evaluation is found in ([Link to PPT](#)).

Discussion Highlights:

- 6.7 It was clarified that the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) was not undertaken during PPG for the Project, as it was not required during Project design. However, it can still be done on a case-to-case basis. Based on the work plans, should there be significant social and environmental impacts, an SESP can be commissioned primarily for national components where more hard targets are identified.
- 6.8 Monitoring at country level will be undertaken by the National Coordination Units (NCUs), and reported by the National Project Coordinator at the National Project Board. At the regional level, PEMSEA, through the RPMU, will prepare the report on the regional component and coordinate the review and finalization of the project report for submission to UNDP Indonesia as PPR.
- 6.9 In preparation and submission of annual PIRs, for instance, the project is considered as one project. As such, reports from the national and regional components will be consolidated and submitted as one report by the RPMU to UNDP PRR in compliance with GEF requirements.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 No other business/agenda were put forward.

CLOSING OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP

- i. Ms. Lazima Onta Bhatta, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Timor Leste provided a summary of the key takeaways from the Inception Workshop. In particular, she highlighted the following:
- The discussion and sharing of initiatives by stakeholder partners opened up a good start in identifying areas of possible collaboration;
 - The workshop helped in establishing a common understanding of the project or at least some level of understanding of what the project is about, what it aims to do, and how project activities and results will be monitored;
 - More discussion is needed on how SPF can function more effectively, including the need to learn from other existing platforms;

- There is recognition that the ATSEA1 project provide significant lessons and foundation for the ATSEA2 Project; and
 - The ATSEA2 Project has strong national components that lends itself as a vehicle to better engage more people on-the-ground.
- ii. On behalf of the Workshop Chairs, Ms. Bhatta closed the Inception Workshop on 18 November 2019 at 5:00PM.

ANNEX 1
List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2
Opening Ceremony Speeches

GEF/UNDP ATSEA 2 Project Inception Workshop

Welcome Remarks Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Indonesia

- Mr. Nilanto Perbowo, Secretary General of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia
- Mr. Waluyo Sejati Abutohir, Head of Fisheries Research Center, MMAF Indonesia
- Dr. Andrew Chek, Regional Engagement Section Department of the Environment and Energy, Australia
- Mr. Acacio Guterres, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste
- Mr. Joseph Posu, Fisheries Management Officer, National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea
- Mr. Jose Padilla, RTA for Water and Oceans, UNPD BKK
- Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA Resource Facility
- Ms. Lazima Onta-Bhatta, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Timor Leste
- NGOs/partners: Coral Triangle Center (CTC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF, and Indonesia Seas LME project manager.
- Colleagues from UNDP - COs in TL and PNG, my colleagues from UNDP Indonesia and ATSEA project teams

Selamat Pagi and very good morning to you all.

It is my pleasure and honor, to welcome you all here in Bali for the **INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF THE GEF/UNDP ATSEA 2 PROJECT**. Many thanks to all for your time and interest to join us here today.

I want to thank the Government of Indonesia and colleagues from PEMSEA and UNDP for organizing this meeting.

Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) is rich in terms of living and non-living marine resources in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. They play a crucial role in influencing the world climate system, and they are home of world's highest marine biodiversity and habitat of migratory, rare, threatened, and endangered marine species. The region is adjacent to the Coral Triangle, which hosts the world's highest marine biodiversity and contains some of the most pristine and highly threatened coastal and marine ecosystems.

At the regional scale, the ecosystems of the ATS play important economic and ecological roles for in the littoral nations bordering the Arafura and Timor Sea: Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Australia, and Papua New Guinea.

The fisheries commodities from the ATS region provide livelihoods for millions of people in the region, and make significant contributions to the food security for both regional communities and also, large populations in export market countries.

We all are well aware that the marine environment in the ATS region is in serious decline, primarily as a result of over-harvesting and other direct and indirect impacts of anthropogenic stresses and global climatic change. Fisheries in the ATS region represent an extremely complex productive, socio-economic sector, with multiple actors, target species sought, and technology used.

The main characteristics of depletion of shared ATS transboundary stocks by fishery were assessed as part of the ATS transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) in 2012. In addition to climate change, unsustainable harvesting, illegal unreported unregulated (IUU) fishing, and bycatch are having significant impacts on the populations of key marine species in the ATS region, particularly globally threatened coastal marine megafauna. Undoubtedly, marine and land based pollution in the ATS region, such as marine debris, marine based pollution from oil and gas activities, waste from fishing and shipping vessels, and sediments all actively threaten the biodiversity in the ATS region.

It was few years back when UNDP, GEF, PEMSEA and National governments came together and designed the ATSEA programme, with the aim to respond to these very challenges in the ATS region. Many of you sitting in this room bring institutional memory of ATSEA 1 – the first phase of the ATSEA programme. ATSEA1 program applied the tried and tested GEF International Waters focal area approach, starting with a participatory transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and followed by development of a regional strategic action program (SAP) and national action programs (NAPs) with active participation of Government and non-government actors in Indonesia, TL, and PNG.

The second phase of the ATSEA2 which builds on the results of the ATSEA1 and responds to existing environmental and social concerns in ATS and support the initial implementation of the ATS Strategic Action Plan, which was endorsed through the Ministerial Declaration signed on 15 May 2015. ATS SAP is meant to enhance regional collaboration and coordination for improving the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems in the region.

As I said, the project builds upon the foundational results of the first phase of the ATSEA program, which applied the tried and tested GEF International Waters focal area approach, starting with a participatory transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and followed by development of a regional strategic action program (SAP) and national action programs (NAPs) with active participation of Government and non-government actors in Indonesia, TL, and PNG.

With generous funding from the GEF and in partnership with PEMSEA and national governments, this project is expected to create an enabling policy environment for ocean restoration and protection; implement regional and national governance reforms and facilitate investments aimed at:

1. addressing the root causes of ocean ecosystem degradation;
2. promote bottom-up approaches to maintaining aquatic ecosystem services at smaller planning scales;
3. create new Marine Protected Area;
4. and facilitate sound knowledge exchange mechanism to leverage good practices in management of transboundary waters.

And here we are today, at the project inception workshop. The objective of this workshop is to facilitate key stakeholders and project team to forge partnerships and better understand and take ownership of the project's goals, objective and strategic results framework.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While addressing ecosystems and biodiversity related risks, this project will have a significant social effect and impact on the livelihoods of people who derive their income from marine resources. And while project activities will be covering both men and women living in the region, I want to specifically emphasize special focus of this project in targeting women in fisheries communities, whose contribution in fisheries and coastal resource management are significant but largely invisible and undervalued.

You would know that gender equality is an integral part of GEF as well as UNDP work and thus the value of the project is further enhanced through proposed gender-specific measures and activities, and very specific gender disaggregated targets.

I also want to remind ourselves that we live in the era of sustainable development goals. Representing UNDP, a UN Agency for Development, with special mandate for integration of SDGs, and also being in the country which shows an example of commitment to SDGs and their proactive integration in national and sub-national plans and policies, I am happy to note that the ATSEA2 will contribute to the achievement of SDG 14 in the areas of ensuring sustainable fish stock, establishment of new marine protected areas (MPAs) in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (800,000 ha) and strengthening existing MPA approx. 140,000 ha, combating IUU Fishing and capacity building for small scale fisheries. In addition, the project will produce potential outcomes to address goal#1 on poverty reduction; goal#5 gender equality; goal#12 responsible consumption and production; and goal#17 partnership for the goals.

During the day today you will get a detailed information about the ATSEA2 Programme, and we want to invite you to share about your initiatives in the related areas, give us your feedback on the proposed plans and strategies of ATSEA 2 and also to chart the areas where we can cooperate and collaborate in the framework of this programme.

From UNDP's side, I want to reaffirm our commitment to supporting our partner governments in their efforts to strengthen capacities in better management of marine and fisheries resources by facilitating collaboration among different players on the ground.

Taking this opportunity I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the partner governments of ATSEA2 – Indonesia, TL, PNG for their commitment and efforts for their support and trust to UNDP and for our joint commitment to respond to existing environmental concerns and implement the ATS Strategic Action Plan.

I want to express my appreciation to PEMSEA for being a partner to UNDP in this important journey for strengthening local, national and regional capacities and governance mechanisms for marine biodiversity management;

Of course, appreciate the leadership of UNDP BRH in forging regional collaboration for ATS region, and thank UNDP COs in TL, PNG for the good collaboration.

Let me stop here and wish you a fruitful and interesting deliberations today, and express my hope that this meeting will help to successfully kick start and implement ATSEA2 in the spirit of partnership and collaboration towards a common objective.

GEF/UNDP ATSEA 2 Project Inception Workshop

Opening Remarks Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PEMSEA

Good morning everyone,

I am pleased to represent Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in today's significant meeting- which is the project's inception as ATSEA 2. I share the sentiments expressed by Sophie in her opening remarks on the significance of this project not only for the shared seas in Arafura Timor Seas, but also globally as part of the Large Marine Ecosystem network. Allow me to focus my remarks in introducing PEMSEA as a key partner in this project.

PEMSEA is a regional organization comprising of 11 country partners, namely: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao, Philippines, RoKorea, Singapore, Timor Leste and Vietnam. We also have 21 non- country partners coming from the academia, private sector, developmental organizations and civil society. Our mission is to foster healthy and resilient coasts, oceans, peoples and economies in the East Asian Region through integrated management solutions and partnerships.

I joined PEMSEA in 2018, but discussions for PEMSEA to become the regional implementing partner of ATSEA 2 started in 2014. I believe PEMSEA was chosen as the executing agency because it has experience and expertise in delivering similar regional vision and objectives. To cite a primary example...

A key target of the ATSEA 2 project is to develop a functional governance mechanism endorsed through a Ministerial Declaration by the four littoral countries of Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. It will be supported by representative stakeholder partnership forum and national inter-ministerial committees or national project boards.

PEMSEA developed a regional governance mechanism when it evolved from a UNDP/GEF project on marine pollution to become an independent regional mechanism to coordinate the implementation of a shared coastal and marine strategy called 'the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)'.

This shared regional strategy covers three priority programs of marine biodiversity management and habitat restoration, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management, and pollution reduction from both land- and sea-based sources. It has cross cutting programs on ocean governance, knowledge management and capacity building and promoting sustainable financing and blue economy, while aligning its actions to deliver on UN SDGs and other international commitments and agreements.

In particular, PEMSEA has a well- established governance mechanism through the East Asian Seas Partnership Council (which serves as its board and a PEMSEA Executive

Committee, which serves as its advisory committee. We also have a reporting platform for SDS-SEA (annual PNLG Forum, and triennial EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum).

I believe that our 25 years of experience in coastal and ocean governance could serve as an example or be considered as an option of governance mechanism that could be adapted to the ATSEA region needs, priorities and specificities.

We also have other services which we can offer, but we can discuss that for another time. Meanwhile, as a key implementing partner of ATSEA 2, PEMSEA looks forward to working with you all to secure our shared vision of promoting the sustainable development of the Arafura Timor Seas to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through the restoration, conservation and sustainable management of its coastal and marine ecosystems.

Thank you.



**Opening Remarks
Mr. Nilanto Perbowo
Secretary General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Indonesia**

***Project Inception Workshop & Regional Steering Committee ATSEA-2*
Denpasar, 18 November 2019**

Honorable

1. Delegates and Representatives of Australia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea
2. Delegates and Representatives of UNDP regional, UNDP Indonesia and PEMSEA
3. Officials of Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
4. All the Participants, Distinguish Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning to all of you

On behalf of Government of Republic of Indonesia, I am so pleased and delighted to welcome all of you and to be here in this event '***Project Inception Workshop & Regional Steering Committee ATSEA-2***'. Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) region is part of Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) or Large Marine Ecosystem of Northern Australia which is a tropical ocean and lies between Pacific and Indian Ocean.

The ATS region is very important for the countries directly connected to ATS, both economically and ecologically. That is because of its abundant biotic and abiotic marine resources where the fisheries resources, as well as gas and oil reserves are there. In addition, this ATS region also has a strong connectivity in oceanographic and ecological process, such as the pelagic species movement and other species that migrate frequently

Significantly, ATS region shows high productivity that can sustain fisheries. However, the fisheries within ATS region has been massively exploited, causing continued decline of marine environment. This is a result of over-harvesting and other factors related to anthropogenic pressure and global climate change that have direct and indirect impacts on ecosystems in the ATS region.

The rise of IUU Fishing practice within ATS region has been identified. Also, changes and damages to coastal and marine habitat, unsustainable fishing practice, climate change, pollution brought from land and ocean are serious issues that need to be addressed.

It needs a cooperation with all parties at the regional level and within each country to provide answers to these problems, to ensure the sustainability of marine and fisheries resources, and to be able to contribute to the livelihoods of people in the Arafura and Timor Seas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The commitment is needed at the regional level in order to tackle trans-boundaries marine and fisheries issues within ATS region. Thus, effort in maintaining the ecosystem sustainability and increasing sustainable development can be aligned and shaped among countries that make use of marine resources in LME

Indonesia, Timor Leste and Australia first have initiated a commitment in order to improve the management and governance of Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) ecosystem as form of regional response. It was stated in the Ministerial Declaration signed in 2014 aimed to formalizing the support of the goal and long-term vision of regional strategic action program that was supported in the Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) phase 1

Since the initiation took place, there have been numerous positive changes towards the fisheries, such as production capacity and type of fishing gears used and the number of foreign vessels fishing illegally in Indonesian waters reduces significantly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Apart of the exploitation of the marine resources, there is another concern that we also need to address, that is the protection towards habitat degradation. Ensuring that the habitat is critical for marine and fisheries sector such as mangrove ecosystem, seagrass and coral reefs. The protection towards those ecosystems can be done through the conservation area or initiation of local community-based management.

On the other hand, we also have to reduce the potential threat towards marine pollution, whether it comes from ocean itself or from fisheries, shipping, tourism, oil and gas and from the land. Those threats have affected various marine biota, especially important marine species that have a key role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystem such as sea turtles, sharks, marine mammals and seabirds.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The complexity in fisheries, habitat protection, marine pollution threat and climate change have their own challenges that needs to be addressed, especially within ATS region.

The unique characteristics of the islands and its variety of customs and local wisdom have become a positive resource in supporting existing management. Governance at the regional, national and regional levels needs to be synergized in supporting the achievement of shared targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I previously mentioned, the management of marine and fisheries in ATS region has been very dynamic in the last 5 years. Through the ATSEA-2 Project, supported by GEF in collaboration with Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and UNDP is highly expected to catalyze the programs of Indonesian Government that have been planned within ATS region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The President of the Republic of Indonesia envisions making the ocean of the nation's future as the global maritime fulcrum. Recently, in the second phase of President Joko Widodo reign, he has announced five main and priorities programs for next five years:
 - Human resources development
 - Continuing development of infrastructure,
 - Simplify regulatory constraints
 - Simplify bureaucracy, and
 - Conducting Economics transformation
- To support this program, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries has established several policies such as:
 - Strengthened human development resources and marine and fisheries research innovation
 - Strengthened management of sea, coastal area, small island and enhance the surveillance of marine and fisheries resources and fish quarantine
 - Strengthened communication with stakeholders, simplify licenses, development of fisheries fishing port, protected and enhance fishers welfare,
 - Optimizing aquaculture sectors to enhance employment absorption
 - Develop marine and fisheries industries
- It is great hope that the developing extensive investment possibility in marine and fisheries sector could extend and create many job opportunities for people who rely on this sector and increase the welfare of the coastal communities. I really expect that this project could contribute to achieve our national program as well.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

- In line with the regional targets in maintaining the ecosystem service functions of the Arafura and Timor Sea through sustainable fisheries policies and cross-border governance strategies that are rooted in the development of national priorities. The Government of Indonesia through ATSEA-2 will remain committed to improving the management and governance of the Arafura and Timor Sea (ATS) ecosystems in ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and marine resources. Increase the communities' access as much as possible to the resources and the end of the day this could lead increasing the welfare of the people in the region.

- Nevertheless, these vision are only could achieve through a well-established fisheries management, increasing the effectiveness of conservation areas, increasing market access to fisheries in the ATS region, increasing the capacity of fisheries players and protecting our waters from Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) practices.

In the agenda for the next 5 years of ATSEA-2 Program, it is expected to increase the sustainable development in ATS region in order to protect the marine biodiversity and to increase the quality of life of the living creatures in that area through conservation and the sustainable management of coastal-marine ecosystem.

Last but not least, I do really hope that this workshop could provide valuable insight regarding effective and sustainable management in the ATS region.
I wish you a fruitful workshop

Thank you.

**Opening Country Statement – Government of Timor Leste
Ms. Acacio Guterres
Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**

**Inception Workshop of the GEF/UNDP
Arafura Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Program Phase 2
(ATSEA 2)
Denpasar, 18 November 2019**

Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Indonesia and Chair,

Mr. Waluyo Sejati Abutohir, Head of Fisheries Research Center of MMAF

Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA Executive Director,

Representatives from Governments of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Australia,

Representatives of INGOs, NGOs and other civil society organizations.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for the hospitality in hosting these two important events—the Inception Workshop and the Regional Steering Committee Meeting—here in Bali. Also, my sincere appreciation to UNDP Indonesia and PEMSEA for taking the leadership in convening these important events to launch this regional initiative. And, I would like to acknowledge the support from UNDP Timor Leste for its partnership with the Government of Timor Leste, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the implementation of this project under Country Office Support System modality whereby UNDP Timor Leste will provide implementation support to the Government of Timor Leste.

The Government of Timor Leste is committed to achieving the main goals of this project. It will contribute to establishing ecologically sustainable management and use of the living coastal and marine resources, including fisheries and biodiversity, as well as to improving sustainable socio-economic conditions and opportunities for coastal peoples of the Arafura-Timor Seas region. This commitment is reflected in our support through the formulation, inter-governmental adoption, and initial implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which was endorsed through ministerial declaration. This is an important foundational step towards effective, collaborative trans-boundary management of the Arafura Timor Seas (ATS) ecosystem and resources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has also taken further steps by developing two strategic policy documents—the National Oceans Policies and National Fishery Strategy Plan—both of which are now under review by the Council of Ministries for final approval in order to align the priority action of SAP with the National Strategic Development Plan. Moreover, the Government of Timor Leste has also committed substantive amount of in-kind contribution to implement the ATSEA 2 project.

The government of Timor Leste has been working with different agencies, including UNDP, to support the implementation of integrated coastal management and marine protected areas to ensure protection and sustainable use of our coastal and marine resources. On marine pollution, Timor Leste has taken major step in identification and registration of fishing vessels operating in the south coast part of the country. Approximately, more than 150 have been registered. Timor Leste is committed to support the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region to eliminate illegal, unregulated and uncontrolled fishing practices, which will contribute to increase the fish stock and improve the ecosystem in the ATS region.

We believe that the implementation of regional and national strategic action programmes for Arafura and Timor Seas will be effective with the participation of the Government of the three countries. However, we also require the participation of all key stakeholders including the private sector and the local Government. Therefore, we plan to continue to apply a consultative process to improve and better manage our coastal and marine resources. A more consultative process will encourage public participation in decision making and will make it possible to link local needs with national policies and priorities, and to promote capacity development to respond to local needs for sustainable development and conservation of marine and coastal resources.

In closing, I'd like to emphasize that the Government of Timor Leste is committed to ensure that the Timor Leste component of this regional project is successfully implemented and the results achieved. We will also provide our support and cooperation to the regional components to ensure that ATS region's marine ecosystem is protected, fishing stock is increased, and its coastal resources are use responsibly and sustainably. A huge thank you to UNDP and GEF for bringing all the concerned countries together. We value the partnership with our neighbouring countries for this critical transborder issue, and we strongly believe that we can achieve more together.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

ANNEX 3
Inception Workshop Agenda

GEF/UNDP ATSEA2 PROJECT INCEPTION WORKSHOP AGENDA

Date: 18 November 2019

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:30** **Opening of the Workshop and Brief Introduction of Delegates**
1.1 Welcome Remarks from UNDP Indonesia
1.2 Remarks from PEMSEA
1.3 Opening Remarks from Host Country
1.4 Statements from the Governments of Timor Leste,
 PNG and Australia
1.5 Statements from Partners and Stakeholders
- 09:30 – 09:40** **1.0 Objectives of the Inception Workshop and Organizational Matters**
Chair: Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze
 Deputy Resident Representative
 UNDP Indonesia
- 09:40 – 10:00** **2.0 Background Presentation: Building on ATSEA 1 Accomplishments and Lessons**
Presenter: Mr. Iwan Kurniawan
 Program Manager for NRM Cluster
 UNDP Indonesia
- 10:00 – 10:30** **3.0 Presentation of and Discussion on ATSEA 2 Project Structure: Overall Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes**
Presenter: Ms. Aimee Gonzales
 Executive Director
 PEMSEA
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 – 12:00** **4.0 Presentation of and Discussion on the Project Strategic Results Framework (SRF)**
Presenter: Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin
 Consultant
 PEMSEA
- 12:00 – 13:30** **Lunch Break**
- 13:30 – 15:00** **5.0 Discussion on Stakeholders Partnership Forum and Partnerships**
Moderator: Dr. Jose Padilla
- 15:00 – 15:15** **Coffee Break**

- 15:15 – 16:00** **6.0** **Presentation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements**
Presenter: Ms. Daranee Tattakorn
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
- 16:00 – 16:30** **7.0** **Other Business**
- 17:00** **Closing**
Ms. Lazima Onta Bhatta
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Timor Leste
