



**ATSEA-2**



Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action

Proceedings of the  
2nd Regional Steering  
Committee Meeting of  
the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA  
Project on Arafura-  
Timor Seas Ecosystem  
Action Program Phase 2  
(ATSEA-2)



**ATSEA-2/WP/2020/04**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA PROJECT ON ARAFURA-TIMOR SEAS ECOSYSTEM ACTION  
PROGRAM PHASE 2 (ATSEA-2)**

**25 November 2020**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA 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 conducted virtually via zoom video conference call on 25 November 2020, from 9:00 – 15:30 (Bali Time). The Meeting was hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Representatives from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste participated in the meeting. Representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Offices of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, as well as the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok were present on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP. PEMSEA was also present as executing agency for the Regional and Papua New Guinea components of the project. The Regional Project Management Unit served as Secretariat for the Meeting.

The Regional Steering Committee Meeting made the following key decisions:

- Approval of the 2020 reduced budget in view of the adjustment on project execution strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approval of the proposed 2021 AWP and Budget for the Regional and Papua New Guinea components, and for onward submission to UNDP Indonesia as PPRR.
- Approval of the indicative 2021 AWP and Budget of Timor-Leste subject to further review and approval of Timor-Leste's National Project Board (NPB).
- Noted the 2021 AWP and Budget of Indonesia as approved by its NPB and for onward submission to UNDP Indonesia.
- Endorsement of the proposed work plans to facilitate the completion of the different regional thematic assessments on regional governance mechanism, climate change, marine pollution, IUU fishing, MPA Network, Regional Plan of Action for Marine Turtles, and EAFM on Red Snapper.
- Allocation of more time for RSC members to review the Framework document on the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System and the Draft Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) MEETING OF THE  
GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA PROJECT ON ARAFURA-TIMOR SEAS ECOSYSTEM ACTION  
PROGRAM PHASE 2 (ATSEA-2)  
Virtual Meeting  
25 November 2020**

**INTRODUCTION**

- i. The GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project Regional Steering Committee (RSC) serves as the ultimate decision-making body with regard to issues affecting the achievement of the Arafura-Timor Seas Project Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) overall objectives, its main components and target outputs. It provides the necessary guidance and direction to steer the project towards achieving target outcomes on time and of required quality.
- ii. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA of the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATSEA) Project Phase 2 was held virtually through a zoom video conference on 25 November 2020. The Government of Timor-Leste hosted the meeting through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).
- iii. The main objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSC Meeting are: to review progress of regional and national components in line with the implementation of AWP 2020; to discuss and address challenges in project implementation, including impacts and possible opportunities brought about by COVID-19; to provide inputs on the initial reports from each regional thematic assessment, as well as review and approve proposed work plans for the completion of regional thematic assessment reports; and to agree on ways forward, including review and approval of proposed Work Plan and Budget for 2021 for regional and national components.
- iv. The meeting was attended by representatives from the four member countries: Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste. Representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Offices of Indonesia and Timor-Leste and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok also participated on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNDP. Representatives from PEMSEA were present as the executing agency of the Project's Regional and Papua New Guinea components.
- v. International consultants of the Project were present as resource persons on key agenda items. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) served as the Secretariat of the Meeting.
- vi. The full list of participants is found in Annex 1.

## 1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 On behalf of UNDP, Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel, Resident Representative of UNDP Timor-Leste welcomed all the participants to the meeting. Ms. Altangerel underscored the importance of the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) in providing ecosystem services and livelihood for local coastal communities in the region. Thus, the ATSEA-2 Project is integral as it provides a common platform for bringing the ATS neighboring countries and various partners together to work towards the achievement of sustainable development of coastal and marine resources in the region. Ms. Altangerel commended the ATSEA-2 project for gaining momentum despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19. On the part of Timor-Leste, Ms. Altangerel highlighted some of the key achievements at the country level through the strong support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and other project partners. She expressed hope that a strong partnership with local communities will be further established through the ATSEA-2 Project to strengthen resilience and livelihoods. Ms. Altangerel urged the Project to further stimulate integration and peer to peer coordination among the beneficiary countries. Ms. Altangerel expressed confidence that the ATSEA-2 project, particularly the ongoing thematic assessments and studies in the region, would serve as significant contributions to the UN Decade for Ocean Sciences 2021-2030.
- 1.2 On behalf of the host country and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste, Mr. Ilidio Araujo, Secretary of State of Fisheries of MAF delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Araujo acknowledged the valuable support of the UNDP Country Office to the Government of Timor-Leste for the realization of the ATSEA-2 project in the country through MAF. Mr. Araujo indicated that MAF will ensure alignment of the ATSEA-2 project activities with MAF's Five-Year Strategic Program for Fisheries and Coastal Resources Management which is embedded in the country's National Strategic Development Programme. He encouraged the ATSEA member countries to remain steadfast with their commitment in the 2014 Ministerial Declaration. Timor-Leste, in particular, has developed two strategic policy documents—the National Oceans Policies and National Fishery Strategic Plan to align the priority action of the SAP with their National Strategic Development Plan. Major steps have also been initiated to reduce marine pollution and promote sustainable fisheries in the country. MAF also intends to focus on more local initiatives that would result to more meaningful impact on the ground. In closing, Mr. Araujo, reaffirmed the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to ensure the successful delivery of the Timor-Leste component of the project and to provide support and cooperation to the regional component to help achieve the region's vision.

## **2.0 ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 Mr. Acacio Guterres, Director General of Fisheries, MAF of Timor-Leste, and Ms. Lazima Onta Bhatta, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Timor-Leste, served as Meeting Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.
- 2.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> RSC Meeting agenda was adopted based on pre-meeting consultations undertaken with RSC members.

## **3.0 SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> RSC MEETING AND INTERSESSIONAL RSC MEETING AND ACTIONS TAKEN ([LINK TO PPT](#)).**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 3.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin, Consultant for ATSEA-2 Project Monitoring and Evaluation, presented a summary of key actions undertaken by the RPMU in collaboration with the National Coordinating Units (NCUs) and project partners, in line with the recommendations and decisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> RSC meeting (November 2019, Denpasar, Indonesia) and intersessional RSC meeting (August 2020, virtual).
- 3.2 In addition to the previous RSC meeting's recommendations and decisions, key suggestions from the Project Inception Workshop (November 2019) on the development of Theory of Change (ToC) for the Project and alignment of project targets with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were also highlighted. Both suggestions have been factored in the succeeding project target activities and are in line with the implementation and further updating of the ATSEA Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 3.3 Dr. Andrew Chek from Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment underscored the value of having a ToC for the Project, particularly, for government partners, the TOC could facilitate a better articulation and understanding of the connection between the different activities and targets, vis-a-vis the project's envisioned outcomes, impacts, and goals. Dr. Chek further offered his support, by way of technical inputs, should assistance be needed in the development of the ToC.

### **Conclusion**

- 3.4 The RSC Meeting accepted that the RPMU has addressed the key recommendations and decisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> RSC Meeting. Further, the meeting noted the importance of developing a project ToC. Considering that the implementation of the SAP (2014-2024) is ongoing, the ToC will be established as part of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) update.

- 3.5 The meeting also recognized the ongoing activities (i.e., regional and national thematic assessments), subsequently covered under specific agenda items of the 2nd RSC meeting.

#### **4.0 PROJECT PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT 2020 AND PROPOSED AWP AND BUDGET 2021**

##### **INDONESIA ([Link to PPT](#))**

###### **Presentation Highlights**

- 4.1 Dr. Duto Nugroho from the Fisheries Research Center (Pusrisikan), Agency for Research and Human Resource, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, on behalf of Ms. Yayan Hikmayani (Head of Pusrisikan and National Project Director of ATSEA-2), delivered a presentation on the progress of project implementation, planned activities for the fourth quarter of 2020, challenges during the 2020 project implementation, and the annual work plan (AWP) and budget for 2021.
- 4.2 Under Component 2, three strategic activities have been conducted in 2020, including:
- (1) supporting the governance of Fisheries Management Area (WPP) 718 by taking part in the development of Fisheries Management Plan and the launching of the Fisheries Management Body (LPP); supporting the development of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for Fisheries Management Body 718; and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) assessment for three fisheries commodities;
  - (2) strengthening the MPA effectiveness and the process of developing new MPA, including increasing by 64% the EKP3K (MPA effectiveness) score in Southeast Aru Marine Protected Area (MPA), and supporting the establishment of a new MPA in Kolepom Island covering 353,286Ha through the issuance of the Governor of Papua Decree No.188.4/295/2019); and
  - (3) supporting the initiation of Marine Pollution Task Force in Nusa Tenggara Timur by facilitating the Provincial government commitment to initiate task force establishment related to land-based and marine pollution in Timor Seas.
- 4.3 The Project will work on five activities in the fourth quarter of 2020, including: (1) field assessment in Rote Ndao, Aru Archipelago and Merauke in November 2020; (2) follow up of two activities to reduce Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing in Aru and ICM implementation in Rote Ndao; (3) facilitate the establishment of Marine Pollution Task Force in NTT Province; (4) facilitate field assessment to support MPA Kolepom zonation plan in Merauke; and (5) data analysis training to support fisheries data surveillance in Directorate General of Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance (PSDKP).



- 4.4 Project implementation in 2020 was constrained by travel limitations due to the pandemic situation, while most of the budget was allocated for field activities. Financial delivery as of October 2020 was US\$307,007.00, representing 46% of the total budget of US\$668,801.00 for 2020.
- 4.5 In 2021, the Project will support the establishment of a National Inter-ministerial Committee (NIMC); operationalization of LPP WPP 718; establishment of the Marine Pollution Task Force; development of a marine pollution modeling platform to support quick response efforts; training on data analysis for marine and fisheries surveillance; EAFM certification for local stakeholders and seaweed farmers, and capture fisheries capacity building; strengthening of science laboratory facilities to centralize fisheries research data and machine learning to support the stock assessment; development of Biodiversity ATLAS; and implementation of the Gender Strategic Plan.
- 4.6 Indonesia proposed a budget adjustment due to COVID -19 of USD 550,956 for 2021 to cover Components 1, 2, and project management. Most of the proposed budget is allocated for Component 2 activities of USD 472,772. More than half of the overall budget (53%) will be used for contracting services company, and training cost is estimated to take around 15% of the budget.

#### **Discussion Highlights**

- 4.7 Timor-Leste proposed that next year Indonesia and Timor-Leste can collaborate to work on an early warning system for oil spills. Mr. Dwi Ariyoga Gautama, ATSEA-2 Indonesia National Project Coordinator, agreed that project activities can be interconnected since both countries share proximate working areas. Collaboration among Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore on oil spill accident management can be used as a reference. Collaboration should also consider budget availability in the future.

#### **Decisions**

- 4.8 The RSC Meeting accepted the progress of project implementation for Indonesia component.
- 4.9 Noting that the AWP and Budget Plan for 2021 of Indonesia had been approved by the National Project Board (NPB) on 12 November 2020, the RSC meeting adopted the national work plan and budget amounting to USD 550,956 for onward submission to UNDP Indonesia.

## TIMOR-LESTE ([Link to PPT](#))

### Presentation Highlights

- 4.10 Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Baretto, National Director for Fisheries and Fisheries Resources Management of MAF, delivered a presentation on project implementation progress, planned activities for the fourth quarter of 2020, challenges during the 2020 project implementation, and the AWP and budget for 2021.
- 4.11 Mr. Baretto reported that five key activities had been made under Component 1, including: 1) initiation of NIMC establishment with key government stakeholders; 2) agreement among former ATSEF members on Timor-Leste's interim representation to the SPF; 3) introductory meetings to initiate the project in five local government administrations; 4) participation in a stakeholders' workshop to harmonize and improve inter-sectoral coordination on program implementing at national and local levels among development partners and the Secretary of State for Fisheries; and 4) working with other regional projects such as the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) and the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME) Project for information sharing.
- 4.12 Under Component 2, a consulting company had been engaged to support the development of an EAFM plan for red snapper fisheries, while pollution hot spot analysis had been completed in the municipalities of Viqueque, Manatuto, Manufahi and Covalima. A coordination and management mechanism for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) planning and implementation at the Barique Posto Administrativo had been set up with the establishment of an ICM sub task team composed of key stakeholders through an official order by the Administrator of Barique with endorsement from the Administrator of Manatuto Municipality. The ICM sub task team of Barique will work in coordination with the ICM Task Team of Manatuto Municipality. Hiring of consultants to support the preparation of updated coastal/marine ecosystem profile and identification of priority conservation areas; development of new MPA in Manufahi and improvement of MPA management effectiveness in the existing Nino Konis Santana MPA in Lautem; and conduct of baseline assessment and preparation of ICM plan for Barique are in process.
- 4.13 As of October 2020, 35% of the planned budget for 2020 had been utilized and committed, amounting to USD 165,068. For the fourth quarter of 2020, they are aiming to: finalize the tender processes for the abovementioned activities; conduct a national validation workshop on the results of the pollution studies; finalize arrangements with the National Directorate of Aquaculture and National Institute of Aquaculture to support capacity building on local production and/or sourcing of affordable fish in Barique; and support the National Directorate of Fisheries Inspection to carry out training on community based surveillance in Covalima, Manatuto and Viqueque.

- 4.14 The project has encountered several challenges during 2020, including travel restrictions due to COVID-19 and limited bidders received for both international and local tenders for some project activities. Strategies for addressing these challenges were presented.
- 4.15 The AWP for 2021 will focus on establishing and operationalizing the NIMC; engaging national SPF members in SPF operations; assessing financing needs for implementing the NAP; assessing national policies and regulations with a view to strengthening provisions on integrated approaches in support of SAP/NAP implementation; development and implementation of a capacity building program on integrated approaches for marine and coastal management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation; preparation of an EAFM Plan for red snapper fisheries for Viqueque; capacity building to support fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; development of an oil spill response plan for the south coast and conduct of training for communities; and preparation of an ICM plan including a pollution prevention and control plan for Barique.
- 4.16 In view of the challenges encountered in project implementation and the need to adjust the country's project execution strategy, Timor-Leste requested for revision of its 2020 budget from USD 477,301 to USD 284,275. In order to support the proposed 2021 activities, Timor-Leste proposed an estimated total budget of USD 729,735 for 2021, composed of the carried-over budget from 2020 amounting to USD 142,233 and budget for 2021 amounting to USD 587,503. However, the estimation of 2020 budget balance will still depend on the completion of planned activities for December 2020 including the completion of two key procurement process, which is undergoing. Hence, the total budget proposal for 2021 is still indicative and would require further review and approval by Timor-Leste's NPB.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 4.17 Dr. Nugroho proposed a regional collaboration under Component 2 activities to provide a more comprehensive study on a specific topic, for example, on red snapper. If possible, a small workshop can be organized between Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Mr. Baretto (Timor-Leste) welcomed the idea.
- 4.18 Ms. Casandra Tania, Regional Biodiversity Specialist of the ATSEA-2 Project, informed that RPMU has not planned for a workshop on red snapper EAFM. However, a ToT for the national fisheries managers will be conducted in 2021.

### **Decisions**

- 4.19 The RSC Meeting accepted the progress in project implementation for Timor-Leste component.
- 4.20 The RSC Meeting approved the reduction of Timor-Leste's 2020 budget from USD 477,301 to USD 284,275 due to adjustment in project execution strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 4.21 The RSC Meeting endorsed the indicative 2021 AWP and budget plan for Timor-Leste, amounting to USD 729,735 comprising of carried-over budget from 2020 (USD 142,233) and approved budget for 2021 (USD 587,503). It is subject to further review and approval of the NPB of Timor-Leste in its December 2020 meeting.

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 4.22 Mr. Rickson Lis delivered a presentation on behalf of Mr. Brian Kumasi of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) of Papua New Guinea (PNG). He updated the RSC that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on project implementation arrangements has been signed between PEMSEA and NFA in November. Project introduction to related stakeholders, recruitment process for National Project Coordinator, Admin and Finance Assistant and Consultant for baseline assessment, and the process for opening of project trust account have been initiated. Ground activities are also underway to collect data on species of interest.
- 4.23 PNG has encountered several challenges that affected project implementation, including reduced operational capacity for NFA and travel restrictions due to COVID-19 since February 2020, delay in establishing a project management unit, and complexity of integrating project activities and monitoring into ongoing PNG programs.
- 4.24 In collaboration with RPMU and PEMSEA, NFA will target to complete the necessary recruitment processes by the end of December 2020 and/or first quarter 2021, which will enable project implementation as early as the 1st quarter or 2nd quarter of 2021.
- 4.25 In view of the challenges and delays encountered in the signing of the MOA on project implementation arrangements, PNG requested to move the entire 2020 budget allocation to 2021, amounting to USD 181,069, thereby rendering the 2020 budget as zero.
- 4.26 Planned activities for 2021 include conduct of stakeholder analysis; conduct of institutional assessment for NIMC establishment; capacity assessment and development of capacity development program; compilation of available biophysical and socio-economic characteristics of PNG areas located in ATS ecosystem; assessment of current legal and institutional frameworks in PNG related to governance and management of coastal and marine resources and climate change adaptation; training on EAFM; and initiating development of artisanal fisheries management plan for South Fly District.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 4.27 Mr. Lis confirmed that Mr. Brian Kumasi would act as the designated person for this Project, with several people supporting him. Since the Project has just started to move forward in PNG,

Dr. Jose Padilla of UNDP- Bangkok Regional Hub advised PNG to communicate the composition of the project team to UNDP and PEMSEA to facilitate better coordination.

- 4.28 Mr. Iwan Kurniawan of UNDP-Indonesia suggested that due to a delay in PNG project implementation, RPMU can circulate lessons from other country beneficiaries' early activities. Some potential collaborations can be done, for example, on IUU fishing, flagship species, marine turtles, and marine pollution.

### **Decisions**

- 4.29 The RSC Meeting noted the progress in initiating the project implementation for Papua New Guinea component.
- 4.30 The RSC Meeting approved to move the entire Papua New Guinea 2020 budget to 2021 amounting to USD 181,069, for execution by the PEMSEA Resource Facility. Thus, the 2020 budget will now be reflected as zero.

## **AUSTRALIA ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 4.31 Dr. Andrew Chek of the Department Agriculture, Water, and the Environment delivered a presentation on potential linkages between ATSEA-2 Project and Australia Program. He recognized the importance of connecting the ATSEA2 Project and Australia; however, he informed that Australia does not have specific activities under the project interest, but there are a lot of Australian activities in the region, although much of it seems unrelated to fisheries and the environment.
- 4.32 Dr. Chek shared the challenge in identifying relevant government activities with various contacts who had difficulty in knowing what was relevant considering the information available especially from the Project Document. This may be mitigated by some of the regional consultancies coming more into focus with their findings and preliminary recommendations, which may also uncover connections that the Australian Government can help to further facilitate. The Stakeholder Partnership Forum, once operational, may also help to cast the net wide in identifying relevant connections.
- 4.33 Dr. Chek shared some notable activities of Australia with regard to IUU fishing particularly under the Southeast Asian RPOA-IUU; marine protected areas management; marine pollution (ghostnets and marine plastic and oil pollution); marine turtles protection and habitat restoration; various ecosystem level research in the ATS region; and some key complementary regional engagements on environment.

- 4.34 Dr. Chek reiterated their willingness to facilitate specific introductions to Australian Government initiatives or access to specific information or data in Australia. He suggested to develop one- or two-page summaries of the work – its purpose, outcomes and outputs, any data or information required together with RPMU. This summary would give a more specific, succinct basis for the request and help people determine if they can help or if there are other relevant works. Lastly, Dr Chek also expected to hold an Inter-Departmental Meeting to help build linkages with ATSEA after the 2020 RSC Meeting.
- 4.35 Dr. Chek suggested further discussion in the future to look at potential collaborations with Australia. It is hard to see where collaboration can be done due to limited information available now.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 4.36 Mr. Kurniawan called on the RPMU and all countries to reach out to Dr. Chek and tap on his network's experience and expertise to help accelerate ATSEA-2 activities. Dr. Chek welcomed the suggestion and acknowledged that the RPMU has been in intensive communication with him.
- 4.37 Dr. Nugroho supported the statements from Mr. Kurniawan and Dr. Padilla and suggested that management of offshore Marine Protected Areas will be an interesting topic for further discussion
- 4.38 Ms. Lyriss Lyssens, Communications Specialist of the RPMU, informed the meeting that information sheets on the project are already available at the ATSEA-2 website.

### **Decision**

- 4.39 The RSC meeting noted the updates from Australia.

## **REGIONAL ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 4.40 Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager (RPM) of the ATSEA-2 Project, presented an update of regional project activities in 2020. Overall, despite obstacles encountered during the year, most of the project targets were on track with minor issues. Financial delivery as of Oct/Nov 2020 was approximately 37% of the approved budget, with implementation rates of 54% in Indonesia, 0% in PNG, 35% in Timor-Leste, and 32% for the regional component.
- 4.41 All project outcomes under Component 1 are on track. In support of the development of a governance mechanism for the ATS region, the RSC and the RPMU are in place and fully operational as the interim governance mechanism; an intersessional RSC meeting was

conducted at mid-year to guide project implementation amidst the COVID-19; an assessment of existing regional mechanisms is in progress with a view of proposing options on appropriate mechanisms for the ATS region; preparation of draft TOR and Guidelines for a Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF) is underway; and a SPF Consultative Webinar Series covering key thematic concerns in the region was organized with more than 100 participants from various sectors. RPMU also organized/participated in various meetings to strengthen collaborations with countries and other regional initiatives. A regional climate change vulnerability assessment is also well underway.

- 4.42 Under Component 2, regional assessments on thematic issues are in progress, in support of the development of an EAFM plan for red snapper fisheries, efforts to combat IUU fishing, addressing land-based and marine sources of pollution, and conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. A 2-day Technical Workshop was conducted to share initial results of the assessments and gather inputs from external reviewers and various stakeholders.
- 4.43 Under Component 3, a framework document and roadmap for the development of a holistic and SMART (simple, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) ATS SAP Monitoring System has been prepared. To support wider dissemination of information on the ATS and the ATSEA-2 Project, a draft Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan has been developed; the ATSEA-2 website has been launched (in English, Bahasa and Tetun); various information materials have been developed and released through the website and social media; and the ATSEA-2 RPMU has engaged in collaborative meetings with various regional programs/ mechanisms and participated in various online forums/events.
- 4.44 The RPMU is targeting 59% financial delivery by the end of December 2020. Project implementation was affected by travel and activity restrictions due to COVID-19 and the delay in initiating the project in PNG. Use of virtual platforms and strengthening of local support and coordination were among the key strategies applied to ensure smooth project implementation.
- 4.45 In view of the challenges encountered and the need to adjust project execution strategy during COVID-19 pandemic, the RPMU requested for approval of reduced 2020 budget from USD 1,068,546 to USD 702,186. For 2021, the RPMU proposed USD 1.1 million for project activities, with almost 95% to be used to cover components (1-3) activities, and 5% to be allocated for project management. Component 2 is estimated to use almost 55% of the total project allocation for 2021.
- 4.46 Under Component 1, RPMU will work on several targets next year, including: (1) building regional governance mechanism and establishment of SPF; (2) developing regional action plan for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI); (3) conducting financial gap analysis; (4) organizing climate change workshop; and (5) updating of the TDA. Under Component 2, the RPMU will also be working on: (1) finalization of the thematic assessments; (2) fishery survey for EAFM plan; (3) regional exchanges and training; (4) roadmap towards MPAN development;

(5) and strengthening of IMS. Under Component 3, the project will work on the: (1) dissemination of assessment results; (2) development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System; (3) improvement of Information, Communication, and Technology; and (4) participation in regional and international events.

### Discussion Highlights

- 4.47 Mr. Kurniawan congratulated the RPMU for the project achievements in 2020 despite challenges during project implementation. Mr. Kurniawan advised considering potential collaborations with Australia if any expertise can be utilized for the Project. Mr. Kurniawan also supported the importance of financial analysis to revisit cost activities in order to have a realistic budget arrangement. UNDP's innovative financial action platform can be contacted to gain necessary resource and information in support of the planned analysis.
- 4.48 Dr. Susanto stated that a consultant will be hired to conduct a financial gap analysis which will be initiated in 2021.
- 4.49 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), noted that good progress had been made despite the delay of some deliverables and the COVID-19 impact. With regard to the planned financial analysis, Ms. Gonzales clarified that the initiative was not originally planned to commence in 2021 as the intended development of a 5-year cost estimate and financing plan is targeted to support the implementation of the updated SAP. However, recognizing the complex process and consultations that need to be undertaken as part of the target to establish a financial mechanism, PEMSEA and the RPMU deemed it important to initiate the process in the soonest time possible.
- 4.50 Ms. Tania informed that initial coordination had been conducted with Australia to see potential areas of collaboration, for example, for Red Snapper in the northern territory. RPMU will continue to consider potential collaborations with Australia.
- 4.51 Dr. Padilla suggested conducting face-to-face meetings once travel restriction is over, particularly to PNG and Timor-Leste. He also underscored RPMU's role to ensure ATSEA-2 as one coherent project.
- 4.52 Dr. Susanto noted the suggestion and briefed about internal communication within the project partners, including monthly calls, zoom meetings, and WhatsApp group. The project has also used ASANA management tools to track project progress.
- 4.53 Mr. Kurniawan also reminded the meeting on the need to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the ATS SAP in order to determine if the targets are still relevant. He also noted that no written reports on the implementation of the SAP have been available to date.
- 4.54 Ms. Aguilung explained that the development of a monitoring system for the ATS SAP has been initiated and will be presented in the meeting. Once completed, the monitoring system will



support the mid-term review of the SAP. She further informed the meeting that the Indonesia NCU has already prepared a draft progress report on the implementation of their NAP.

## **Decisions**

- 4.55 The RSC Meeting accepted the project progress under the regional component for 2020.
- 4.56 The RSC Meeting approved the reduction of the regional 2020 budget from USD 1,068,546 to USD 702,186, due to adjustment on project execution strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.57 The RSC meeting approved the proposed regional work plan and budget for 2021, amounting to USD 1,100,000 (1.1 Million).

## **5.0 INDIVIDUAL THEMATIC SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **OPTIONS FOR REGIONAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AND SPF TOR AND GUIDELINES ([Link to PPT](#))**

#### **Presentation Highlights**

- 5.1 Dr. Lida Pet-Soede of PT Hatfield Indonesia delivered a presentation on the Development of Regional Governance Mechanisms to Support Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Resources in the Arafura and Timor Seas Region.
- 5.2 To serve as a preliminary reference to guide the ATS countries in the process of determining the best option for the best governance mechanism in the ATS region, Dr. Pet-Soede conducted a review of 12 regional seas initiatives or mechanisms. The review recognized that each of the 12 regional initiatives have its own strengths and challenges and vary considerably in scope, size, purpose, structure and processes. The rapid review highlighted initial useful observations for ATSEA and offered three possible options or model for the region:
  - (1) Hybrid with few formal partners led by the ATS countries, an SPF would just include National Focal Points and members to the ATS Local Leaders Network (local government, local community leaders (men, women and youth leaders). A regional secretariat or PSU can provide reporting, TA, and fundraising support.
  - (2) Hybrid with formal and informal partners to support capacity building and shared implementation with the National Focal Points and Local Leaders Network, an SPF will include informal partners through colleges that can be grouped for each target or following their category. A regional secretariat or PSU can provide reporting, TA, and fundraising support.
  - (3) A hybrid model with many informal partners in support of capacity building and shared implementation, investment, and with the National Focal Points and Local Leaders Network. An SPF – led by the Local Leader Council - will include many formal and

informal partners through Center of Excellence (CoE), colleges, and other groupings that can be grouped for each target or following their category. The role of a secretariat or PSU is reduced to provide TA and fundraising support.

- 5.3 Dr. Pet-Soede highlighted several challenges in the conduct of the study, including: (1) conduct of country consultations in Papua New Guinea; (2) conduct of technical consultations with some key individuals; (3) building on the past but identifying current needs; and (4) securing clarity on national priorities.
- 5.4 To facilitate the process of determining the most viable governance option for the region, Dr. Pet-Soede provided a work plan and requested for further support from the member countries to address some of the challenges in securing country consultations by engaging in the proposed 'decision tree' exercise. Dr. Pet-Soede also indicated the possibility of additional review of other regional mechanisms to further enhance the assessment.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 5.5 Dr. Chek recognized the challenges in establishing and undertaking regional coordination and suggested gauging possible strategic alliance of ATSEA with CTI, given the large overlaps in the objectives and issue areas covered in ATSEA and CTI.
- 5.6 Dr. Padilla concurred that additional review of related or similar regional collaboration on Large Marine Ecosystems would be useful in enhancing the assessment, e.g. Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion. Dr. Padilla further emphasized that regional cooperation can go beyond the project duration. Thus, it is important to look at a longer cooperative mechanism between countries.
- 5.7 Dr. Padilla also highlighted the value of using the 1<sup>st</sup> SPF Meeting in 2021, in time for the RSC Meeting 2021, as a good sounding board and to secure further insights on the possible and most appropriate option for the ATS governance mechanism.
- 5.8 In response to Dr. Chek, Dr. Padilla indicated that alignment with CTI would require further discussion since it would entail political considerations particularly since Australia is not part of CT-6.

### **Decisions**

- 5.9 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan to facilitate the completion of the country consultations and assessments on regional governance mechanism by 30 March 2021.
- 5.10 The RSC Meeting requested Dr. Pet-Soede to conduct additional review of other related regional seas governance mechanisms to further enhance the assessment.

## MARINE AND LAND-BASED POLLUTION ASSESSMENT ([Link to PPT](#))

### Presentation Highlights

- 5.11 Building on the findings under the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) from ATSEA-1, Dr. Won Tae-Shin conducted further study to assess pollution status and identify pollution hotspot areas in the ATS region. His initial key findings indicated that: (a) oil spills from offshore oil rig platforms and derelict fishing gears from fishing vessels are the most significant pollution sources in ATSEA Region; (b) pollution hotspot for an oil spill are the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) and Ashmore and Cartier Islands Adjacent Area (ACIAA) based on oil spill events modeling using General NOAA Modeling Environment (GNOME); and (c) the ATS region's fishing hotspot is the triangular zone of Trangan, Dolok, and Mamapare of Arafura Sea using fishing intensity data from Global Fishing Watch ([globalfishingwatch.org](http://globalfishingwatch.org)). The study also assumed that derelict fishing gears are correspondingly increasing with the increase of fishing intensity.
- 5.12 Several challenges were highlighted, including: (a) challenges in collecting outcomes of local studies particularly with the travel restrictions that impedes on conduct of survey research at Rote Ndao Regency; and (b) the regional assessment study is concluding earlier than local site study (i.e., Timor-Leste study).
- 5.13 Dr. Shin expressed confidence that despite the limitations posed by COVID-19, particularly in the conduct of on-site surveys, the assessment would still be completed on schedule with strong support from the RPMU, NCUs, and member countries. In particular, Dr. Shin requested for support in obtaining necessary data, particularly Oceanographic information in the ATS region in NetCDFfile format.

### Decision

- 5.14 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan on marine and land-based pollution assessment by 30 January 2021 and noted the requested support for obtaining additional data.

## CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT ([Link to PPT](#))

### Presentation Highlights

- 5.15 Dr. Johanna Johnson presented her study on Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in the Arafura and Timor Seas Region. Dr. Johnson highlighted the key progress made and the essential information that were considered in the assessment, including: (1) extensive lists of species that are exploited for fisheries or have key ecological roles; (2) local selection of species (Species of Conservation Interest, fisheries, ecological role); (3) selected habitats with critical ecological roles that support species and people – coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves,

deep reefs (>40 m), open ocean/pelagic; (4) climate change projections for ATS region including new projections generated by BMKG & NOAA for some variables (SST, pH, rainfall, air temp); and (5) species and habitat data for life histories, distribution, population status, catch rates, etc.

- 5.16 Dr. Johnson highlighted the following key challenges in the conduct and completion of the assessment: (1) standardising of outputs for the large ATS region to be consistent for all sub-regions/nations; (2) limited (and non-uniform) data for some species, habitats, and sub-regions; and (3) issues of scale - regional assessment versus local/community-based assessment.
- 5.17 In order to complete the assessment, Dr. Johnson requested for further support, including: (1) Additional expert elicitation through in-country support in Timor-Leste; (2) Timely review of preliminary results by ATSEA-2 team and experts to validate and review recommendations (due by 7 December); (3) Possible mapping of species results; and (4) Possible further consultation to enable consideration of local needs for using the regional assessment results and how best to deliver a Guide for community-based assessments.
- 5.18 The consultancy targets the completion of the climate change vulnerability assessment report by January 2021, while further testing of the guidance materials is expected to be undertaken and completed in February 2021.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 5.19 As the ATSEA-2 Project also targets to assist selected sites in developing climate adaptation plans as part of ICM planning and implementation, Dr. Padilla clarified if an analysis of Sea Level Rise (SLR) has been considered in the assessment in order to determine areas that will be vulnerable to SLR.
- 5.20 Dr. Johnson confirmed that SLR is already included as part of the valuables to be assessed, however, inundation mapping and impacts of SLR to communities in particular will not be covered by the assessment as this would require a separate study with different expertise. Dr. Johnson, however agreed that it would be beneficial for the region to conduct a separate community-based SLR or coastal inundation assessment.
- 5.21 Recognizing the need for further information from countries, MAF of Timor-Leste in particular expressed their support to the study and offered to undertake bilateral discussions with Dr. Johnson to help fill some of the data gaps.

### **Decisions**

- 5.22 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan to facilitate the completion of the climate change vulnerability assessment by 30 January 2021.

- 5.23 The RSC Meeting requested related stakeholders to support the effort to fill in data gaps through the conduct of bilateral discussion and completion of online survey particularly for Timor Sea (Timor-Leste) sub-regions.

## **MPA NETWORK DESIGN AND MARINE TURTLES ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 5.24 Ms. Rili Djohani of Coral Triangle Center (CTC) presented the initial results in support of the Design of a Resilient Network of Regional MPAs and Marine Turtle Action Plan in the Arafura and Timor Seas Region.
- 5.25 Out of the six-step scientific process in developing MPAs or MPA Network Design, the CTC is already in the fourth step, namely drafting of MPA network design. As for the development of an ATS Sea Turtle Action Plan, CTC has completed majority of the analysis of threatened charismatic and migratory species distribution around the ATS areas, and has initiated the analysis of the status, distribution, migration, reproduction, and nesting pattern of marine turtles in the ATS.
- 5.26 Ms. Djohani outlined the following challenges in the conduct of the assessments and development of MPA Network Design and ATS Sea Turtle Action Plan: (1) unavailable and/or low spatial resolution of data; (2) unresponsive experts and organizations; (3) short time frame; (4) COVID-19 Protocol; and (5) lack of data in PNG for valuation of ecosystem services.
- 5.27 A number of remaining deliverables are expected to be completed from December 2020 to April 2021. In order to achieve target deliverables, CTC requested for the following support: (1) access to data especially in data deficient countries such as PNG and Timor-Leste; (2) support ground-truthing activities by providing recommendations to country team members (2-3 persons) in anticipation of a continued travel ban for international consultants during the pandemic; (3) assist in linking research team with scientists and government institutions in each country who can review and provide inputs to the draft of MPA Network Design and Sea Turtle Action Plan document; and (4) attend the regional consultation workshops and recommend technical staff who can attend information and database management training by ATSEA-2 consultant as part of capacity building activities.

### **Decisions**

- 5.28 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan to facilitate the completion of the Regional MPA Network Design and Regional Plan of Action for the Protection of Marine Turtles in the ATS Region by 30 April 2021.

- 5.29 The RSC Meeting requested member countries, particularly PNG and Timor-Leste to support collection and provision of needed information to fill data gaps.
- 5.30 The RSC Meeting noted the support requested by CTC and requested for the engagement of member countries in the succeeding steps or activities for the completion of the targeted regional plans.

## **STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF COMBATting IUU FISHING ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 5.31 Dr. Arie Afriansyah presented an update on the assessments in support of Strengthening Regional and National Actions in Support of Combatting IUU Fishing in the Arafura and Timor Seas Region.
- 5.32 Three out of four target reports have already been drafted and submitted to the RPMU, including: (1) Baseline estimate of RPOA IUU member state; (2) A review of international and national policies and regulations in combating IUU fishing; and (3) Supporting efforts in developing tools for Global Record Initiative. The last report on Community-based surveillance best practices and lessons learned against IUU fishing is targeted for submission in January 2021.
- 5.33 Dr. Afriansyah indicated that current baseline estimates of IUU are limited, with only one study conducted to date (i.e., Agnew,2009). Based on his literature surveys and review, no regional studies have been completed, and a uniform overlay of data of suspected conducting IUU activities is difficult to obtain. Regulations and policies are rarely available in English. The diversity of the MSC method of each country also brings a further challenge to the study. In line with this, Dr. Afriansyah requested for further support in collection and sharing of data from member countries.
- 5.34 Upon securing of additional data from the planned Focus Group Discussions with various ministries and agencies in ATS countries, and field work in Indonesia, a recalculation of baseline estimates will be conducted and reports will be finalized by end of January 2021.

### **Decisions**

- 5.35 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan to facilitate the completion of the remaining deliverables on strengthening national and regional actions in support of combatting IUU fishing by 30 January 2021.
- 5.36 The RSC Meeting noted the additional support requested on data sharing for the purpose of the study.

## TOWARDS AN EAFM FOR RED SNAPPER ([Link to PPT](#))

### Presentation Highlights

- 5.37 Dr. Ian Knuckey of Fishwell Consulting presented the preliminary results in support of the development of a Regional EAFM for Red Snapper in the Arafura and Timor Seas Region.
- 5.38 He informed the Meeting that in response to the travel limitations posed by COVID-19, they have deployed their local research teams in Indonesia and Timor-Leste and arrangements are also being made to place a research team in PNG for the conduct of EAFM data collection.
- 5.39 Dr. Knuckey highlighted two significant challenges, including filling the data gaps and ensuring robust consultations. To address this, he requested for the following: (1) assistance in connecting to people in ATS countries that have access to relevant data (i.e., logbook catch and effort fishing data, fishery landings and export, fishery economic and social data, GIS layers of habitat, MPAs, fishery management areas, etc.); (2) give input on the proposed process for stakeholder engagement; (3) provide suggestions or nomination from ATS countries of around 20 participants for Training of Trainers ; and (4) approve the change in work plan and timetable in view of the delays encountered in the start of the consultancy due to some administrative processes.

### Discussion Highlights

- 5.40 RPMU confirmed that all the proposed changes in the work plan and timetable had been discussed and initially agreed upon with RPMU.
- 5.41 MAF of Timor-Leste committed to help with the data gaps, particularly on fish catch data. MAF will work with Mr. Gerson Lis to support the study.
- 5.42 In support of all the thematic assessments being undertaken, it was suggested for the RPMU to set up or share further information. RPMU had purchased a Dropbox storage that will be used as the main platform for data sharing.
- 5.43 The Meeting commended all the consultants for the work that has been completed thus far despite the limitations posed by COVID-19 and recognized the importance of the studies to further strengthen the understanding of the current status and challenges of the ATS region.

### Decisions

- 5.44 The RSC Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan and modified timetable to facilitate the completion of target deliverables on EAFM for Red Snapper in the ATS region by 31 October 2021.

- 5.45 The RSC Meeting requested the RPMU to share the Dropbox for data sharing and urged all member countries to provide support to all consultants to facilitate completion of the assessments, which are also targeted to serve as key information in the updating of the ATS TDA and SAP.

## **6.0 FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATS SAP MONITORING SYSTEM ([Link to PPT](#))**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- 6.1 Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise, ATSEA-2 Project's Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist, presented the Framework document on the development of the ATS SAP monitoring system. In accordance with the ATSEA-2 Project target (under Component 3) the framework document was prepared with the intention of initiating the process of establishing a holistic and SMART ATS SAP Monitoring System (MS) that would help improve monitoring of the ATS region's status and facilitate dissemination of SAP and NAP information.
- 6.2 The framework document was developed building on the existing objectives, targets and indicators of the adopted ATS regional SAP and NAPs of Indonesia and Timor-Leste. To further enhance the set of indicators, an initial comparative review of related indicators from GEF, UNDP, PEMSEA and other regional seas organizations were conducted. Based on the comparative analysis, an initial set of indicators were identified as essential or most relevant to assess progress in SAP and NAP implementation. The proposed indicators were categorized into process indicators, stress reduction indicators, and environmental status and socio-economic indicators. A basic or core set of indicators and a more detailed set of indicators were also proposed.
- 6.3 The document also provided suggestions on possible content or elements to be considered in putting together the detailed ATS SAP Monitoring System, a proposed reporting schedule based on initially agreed upon schedule from the SAP, and a roadmap for the development of the full ATS SAP MS starting from 2021.
- 6.4 To facilitate the development of ATS SAP MS, the framework document highlighted the need to establish and conduct Working Group discussions to agree on the best design/structure, indicators and reporting procedure for the ATS SAP MS. It is targeted that a full ATS SAP MS will be developed and initially tested in 2021, and eventually be converted into an online system to facilitate better data sharing and reporting.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 6.5 Dr. Chek expressed his appreciation to the RPMU for the comprehensive initial review that has been undertaken on various related indicators. While recognizing the constraints of the RPMU



with the inherited structure from the GEF, in line with his suggestion to develop an ATSEA project Theory of Change (ToC), Dr. Chek sees the value of developing the ATS SAP MS building on a ToC to help establish a results-chain analysis that would clearly show the causality attributes and linkages of target actions and corresponding monitoring indicators towards the target outcomes of the SAP. Dr. Chek also indicated the need to identify the short, medium and long-term targets to facilitate better monitoring.

- 6.6 Given the complexity of the initiative, Dr. Chek further requested the Meeting for more time to enable RSC members to digest and review the proposed framework. The same suggestion was supported by Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- 6.7 Ms. Narcise further explained that the ATS SAP MS is envisioned to serve as a long-term monitoring system which can be periodically updated to support monitoring and reporting of the current and future SAP and NAPs. In relation to Dr. Chek's suggestions, Ms. Narcise welcomed the idea on ToC for further discussion by the RPMU with Dr. Chek, as well as recognized that stakeholders would appreciate having indicators to monitor short-term changes.
- 6.8 Dr. Susanto highlighted that given the importance and time needed to develop a full ATS SAP MS, the RPMU will continue to coordinate with the RSC to enable the process to move forward.
- 6.9 For clarity, Dr. Nugroho suggested to incorporate a legend on slides 11 to 13 of the PPT to indicate the indicators from the existing SAP and NAPs, and the proposed additional indicators.

### **Decisions**

- 6.10 The RSC Meeting agreed to give more time to the members to review and provide inputs to the framework document and roadmap for the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System.

### **7.0 COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN OF ATSEA-2 PROJECT ([Link to PPT](#))**

#### **Presentation Highlights**

- 7.1 Ms. Dita Ramadhani, ATSEA-2 Project's Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Consultant, delivered a presentation on the communication and stakeholder engagement plan of the ATSEA-2 Project.
- 7.2 Building on the initial communication and stakeholder engagement plan of the Project Document, the proposed plan provided a more detailed assessment of the different stakeholders of the ATSEA-2 project and proposed detailed strategies to enhance communication and dissemination of ATSEA-2 information, as well as a step-wise strategy to

build awareness and involvement of various stakeholders on the different objectives and targets of the project.

- 7.3 In line with the proposed Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Ms. Ramadhani further indicated several supporting activities, including: (1) establishment of a data portal; (2) finalization of the public web-page; (3) development of a Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan; and (4) Gender Equality confirmation of the plan with a gender specialist.
- 7.4 In support of the establishment of the SPF, Ms. Ramadhani further informed the meeting that a questionnaire or survey has been conducted in November which received 111 expressions of interest from various stakeholders. Building on this, a second Questionnaire for potential SPF members will be released.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 7.5 In view of the bulk of the proposed Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Dr. Chek and Dr. Nugroho requested the meeting for more time to better review the document.
- 7.6 Mr. Kurniawan highlighted the importance of both the ATS SAP Monitoring System and the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and encouraged the RSC to provide directions for their further development.

### **Decisions**

- 7.7 The RSC Meeting decided to extend the review of the draft Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan to give RSC members enough time to go through the different components and strategies proposed in the document.

## **8.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Discussion highlights**

- 8.1 To facilitate efficient preparation for the RSC Meeting and SPF 2021, the ATSEA-2 member countries were invited to indicate initial expressions of interest for hosting the 2021 RSC and SPF meetings, taking note that Indonesia and Timor-Leste have hosted the first and second meeting of the RSC.

### **Decisions**

- 8.2 The RSC Meeting agreed to nominate Australia to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> RSC and SPF Meeting in 2021, subject to further consultation by Dr. Chek with the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment of Australia. There is a possibility that the final decision of the host country will be made three months prior to the scheduled meeting.

8.3 The RPMU will continue to communicate with countries to secure confirmation on hosting of 2021 RSC and SPF meetings.

## **9.0 CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

9.1 The members of the RSC expressed their congratulations to the entire RPMU and NCU teams for the significant delivery of 2020 project targets through adaptive management measures in response to the limitations posed by COVID-19. The RSC members further expressed their appreciation to the Government of Timor-Leste through MAF and UNDP Timor-Leste for hosting and chairing the RSC Meeting 2020.

9.2 The Co-Chair expressed her appreciation to the members of the RSC for their active participation and to the RPMU for ensuring the successful preparation and conduct of the meeting despite the technical difficulties in conducting virtual meetings. Ms. Bhatta reiterated UNDP Timor-Leste's continued support to the ATSEA-2 project particularly in the delivery of target project activities in Timor-Leste. In closing, she wished for everyone's safety and for more positive developments in the coming year.

9.3 The Chair expressed his gratitude to Ms. Bhatta for co-chairing the meeting, and to the members of the RSC and RPMU for the successful conduct and completion of the RSC Meeting 2020. Despite the continuing challenges of COVID-19, the Chair expressed optimism that the region will continue to move forward building on strong collaboration and regular communication. He reaffirmed MAF's continued commitment and support to the project. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 15:30 (Bali time).

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## ANNEX I

### List of Participants

No.	Name	M/F	Institution	Mobile	Email
<b>Australia</b>					
1	Andrew Chek	Male	Dept Agriculture Water and the Environment - Australia		andrew.chek@awe.gov.au
2	Ian Knuckey	Male	Fishwell Consulting		ian@fishwell.com.au
3	Johanna Johnson	Female	C2O Pacific	+61418760225	j.johnson@c2o.net.au
4	Mark Quinnell	Male	Parks Australia		mark.quinnell@awe.gov.au
5	Matthew Fox	Male	Fishwell Consulting		earthsmoltencore@gmail.com
<b>Indonesia</b>					
6	Aditya Sudirman	Male	Ministry of marine affairs and fisheries	+6281808663642	aditya.sudirman@gmail.com
7	Arie Afriansyah	Male	Center for Sustainable Ocean Policy, UI		arieafriansyah@gmail.com
8	Casandra Tania	Female	PEMSEA/RPMU	+6285280300678	ctania@pemsea.org
9	Deti Triani	Female	ATSEA 2 RPMU	+6281284997180	dtriani@pemsea.org
10	Dita Ramadhani	Female	ATSEA-2	+6282110079992	dits.ramadhani@gmail.com
11	Duto Nugroho	Male	Center for Fisheries Research - MMAF	+6281310352149	dutonugroho@gmail.com
12	Dwi Ariyoga Gautama	Male	UNDP	+628112331213	dwi.gautama@undp.org
13	Erma Normasari	Female	UNDP	+6282147490972	erma.normasari@undp.org
14	Ferdyani Atikaputri	Female	ATSEA-2 RPMU	+6285701045255	ferdyani.atikaputri@undp.org
15	Handoko Adi Susanto	Male	ATSEA-2	+628121163960	hasusanto@pemsea.org
16	Hasbi	Male	UNDP Indoensis/ATSEA-2 Project	+6281111144807	hasbi@undp.org
17	Hilda Lionata	Female	YKAN/TNC Indonesia	+62816617376	hilda.lionata@ykan.or.id
18	Iwan Kurniawan	Male	UNDP Indonesia	+628129008050	iwan.kurniawan@undp.org
19	Johanis Valentino Fofied	Male	UNDP Indonesia - NCU ATSEA-2	+6282144940674	johanis.fofied@undp.org
20	Kiestiko Sri Saptasari	Female	Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resource	+6285718101810	kiestiko.sari@gmail.com
21	Kusdiantoro	Male	Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources	+62 812-1977-7765	ksbrsdm@gmail.com

22	Lestari Handayani	Female	NCU Indonesia	+6282341876656	lestari.handayani@undp.org
23	Lida Pet-Soede	Female	PT Hatfield Indonesia		lpetsoede@hatfieldgroup.com
24	Lyriss Lyssens	Female	RPMU	+6281282681167	llyssens@pemsea.org
25	Marthen Welly	Male	CTC	+628123877089	mwelly@coraltrianglecenter.org
26	Nathazha Bostanova Eunike Sipasulta	Female	UNDP - NCU ATSEA-2 Indonesia	+6281283832060	nathazha.sipasulta@undp.org
27	Niken Winarsih	Female	Center for Fisheries Research, MMAF	+622181286806910	nikensutardjo@yahoo.com
28	Nur Junaidi	Male	UNDP _ ATSEA 2 RPMU	+6281318924468	nur.junaidi@undp.org
29	Rili Djohani	Female	CTC		rdjohani@coraltrianglecenter.org
30	Sjarief Widjaja	Male	Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resource	+62 811-1991-920	ksbrsdm@gmail.com
31	Yusuf Fajariyanto	Male	Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara	+6281326219147	yfajariyanto@ykan.or.id
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>					
32	Rickson Lis	Male	National Fisheries Authority	+675 71374832	rlis@fisheries.gov.pg
<b>Philippines</b>					
33	Aimee Gonzales	Female	PEMSEA		agonzales@pemsea.org
34	Cristine Ingrid S. Narcise	Female	ATSEA2 RPMU/PEMSEA	+639228691822	cincarcise@pemsea.org
35	Kate Aguilung	Female	RPMU	+63 917 804 0658	krsgallardo@gmail.com
36	Mary Ann Dela Peña	Female	PEMSEA	+63 9175200288	madelapena@pemsea.org
37	Thea Bohol	Female	PEMSEA	+639178227355	tbohol@pemsea.org
38	Won-Tae Shin	Male	Global Ocean, Inc.	+821044504639	wtshin7@gmail.com
<b>Timor-Leste</b>					
39	Ilidio Araujo	Male	Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (MAF) Timor-Leste		
40	Acacio Guterres	Male	Directorate General (DG) of Fishery, MAF	+67077233280	guterres_acacio@yahoo.com
41	Celestino da Cunha Baretto	Male	DG of Fishery, MAF	+67077879337	tinocunha85@gmail.com
42	Antonio Freitas	Male	Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste		
43	Belarmino Neves	Male	Ministry of State Administration		
44	Joao Carlos Soares	Male	Directorate General for Environment		
45	Aquilino Amaral	Male	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
46	Lorenzo Amaral	Male	MAF, Timor-Leste		

47	Rui Pires	Male	Directorate General for Environment		
48	Nelson Madeira	Male	Directorate General for Environment		
49	Mukhtuya Altangerel	Female	UNDP Timor-Leste		
50	Lazima Onta Bhatta	Female	UNDP Timor-Leste		
51	Gerson Alves	Male	UNDP Timor-Leste		
52	Ines Da Costa Pereira	Female	UNDP Timor-Leste		
53	Agapito Da Silva	Male	UNDP Timor-Leste		
54	Ovaldo Reis	Male	UNDP Timor-Leste		
55	Ulderico Ze Machado	Male	UNDP Timor-Leste		
<b>Thailand</b>					
56	Jose Padilla	Male	UNDP BRH	+66806044435	jose.padilla@undp.org
57	Nittaya Saengow	Female	UNDP BRH	+66817123244	nittaya.saengow@undp.org



## ANNEX II

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**2<sup>nd</sup> RSC Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project**  
25 November 2020, 9:00 – 15:30 Bali Time (GMT+8)  
Virtual (via zoom)

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration and Reminder on Meeting Guidelines</b>
09:00 – 09:25	<b>1.0 Opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSC Meeting and Group Photo</b> Welcome Remarks Resident Representative UNDP Timor-Leste  Opening Remarks Secretary of State for Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Government of Timor-Leste
09:25 – 09:30	<b>Short Break</b>
09:30 – 09:40	<b>2.0 Organizational Arrangements</b> Introduction of RSC Chair and Co-Chair and Meeting Participants Chair: MAF Timor-Leste Co-Chair: UNDP Timor-Leste
09:40 – 09:50	<b>3.0 Summary of Major Recommendations and Decisions from the 1<sup>st</sup> RSC Meeting and Intersessional RSC Meeting, and Actions Taken</b>
09:50 – 11:00	<b>4.0 Project Progress and Financial Summary Report 2020 and Proposed AWP and Budget 2021</b>  4.1 Indonesia (20' presentation & 5' Q&A) 4.2 Timor-Leste (20' presentation & 5' Q&A) 4.3 Australia (10' & 5' Q&A)
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Break</b>
11:30 – 12:15	<b>Continuation of Agenda 4.0</b>  4.4 Regional (20' presentation & 5' Q&A) 4.5 Papua New Guinea (15' presentation & 5' Q&A)

12:15 – 14:00	<p><b>5.0 Individual Thematic Summary Progress Reports</b></p> <p>5.1 Options for Regional Governance Mechanism (10')</p> <p>5.2 Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF) TOR and Guidelines (10')</p> <p>Open Discussion (10' Q&amp;A)</p> <p>5.3 Marine and Land-based Pollution (10')</p> <p>5.4 Climate Change Assessment (10')</p> <p>Open Discussion (10' Q&amp;A)</p> <p>5.5 MPA Network and Marine Turtles Protection (10')</p> <p>5.6 Strengthening RPOA IUU Fishing (10')</p> <p>5.7 Development of EAFM Plan (10')</p> <p>Open Discussion (10' Q&amp;A)</p>
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Break</b>
14:30 – 14:50	<b>6.0 Framework Document on the Development of ATS SAP Monitoring Mechanism</b>
14:50 – 15:10	<b>7.0 Draft Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan</b>
15:10 – 15:20	<b>8.0 Other Business</b>
15:20 - 15:30	<b>9.0 Closing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSC Meeting</b>

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**ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit**

Jl. Mertasari No.140 Sidakarya,  
Denpasar 80224, Bali, Indonesia

P: +62 361 448 4147

E: [infoatsea2@pemsea.org](mailto:infoatsea2@pemsea.org)

W: [www.atsea-program.com](http://www.atsea-program.com)