



ABOUT ATS

The Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region is unique in terms of its ecology, geography and socio-political structure. It is home to a vast array of natural wonders:

- 160 species of coral
- 350 species of reef fish
- 25% of the world's mangroves
- 45 mangrove tree species
- 15 species of seagrass beds
- Marine turtles, dugongs, sharks and rays
- Nesting colonies of shorebirds and seabirds
- Non-living natural resources, including oil and gas reserves.

UNDER THREAT

Much of the marine life in ATS is under threat from a combination of overfishing, loss of habitat and the impacts of climate change. This underlines the urgent need for collective regional action and transboundary management of economically important fish species, critical habitats and marine megafauna.

5 PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Through a series of national and regional consultations during the first phase of the ATSEA Programme (ATSEA-1), we have identified five primary environmental concerns:

1. Unsustainable Fisheries
2. Habitat Degradation
3. Marine- and Land-based Pollution
4. Loss of Biodiversity
5. Impacts of Climate Change

ATS Region Map





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ATSEA-2

The ATSEA-2 Project is the second phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA programme with PEMSEA as the executing agency for the Regional and Papua New Guinea components. The second iteration of the ATSEA Programme has been adapted to take regional collaboration and coordination in the ATS region a step further to reverse these destructive trends and ensure the sustainable management of all living and non-living resources in the ATS region. This will be achieved through the endorsement and implementation of a 10-year vision for the Arafura and Timor Seas, known as the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

ATSEA-2 sets out to achieve a variety of aims and objectives in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, oriented towards the conservation of ecosystem biodiversity and the integrated, sustainable management of resources.

These objectives can be divided according to their environmental and governmental scope:

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES:

- Support the recovery of sustainable fisheries and restore degraded habitats
- Create healthy and functioning natural ecosystems
- Protect key marine species
- Reduce land-based and marine pollution at source
- Mitigate the effects of climate change through adaptation

GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen ATS regional governance
- Sustain the flow of ecosystem goods and services from the Arafura and Timor Seas
- Support transboundary governance strategies rooted in national development priorities

Combined outcomes expected of the ATSEA Programme are:

- A functioning regional governance mechanism, supported by a Stakeholder Partnership Forum and National Inter-Ministerial Committees (NIMCs).
- Approximately 125 km of coastline under ICM (addressing climate change adaptation, livelihood opportunities and strengthening the resilience of local coastal communities).
- Up to 25% of over-exploited fisheries in the ATS region moved to a more sustainable level.
- Improved scientific knowledge regarding climate change impacts on ATS and strengthened adaptive capacity of local communities.
- Improved fisheries management of red snapper, barramundi, and shrimp fisheries.
- Establishment of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and strengthened MPA management effectiveness.
- A regional MPA network, and action plan on enhanced protection of marine turtles.
- Financial mechanisms in place to support the implementation.
- Inclusion of oil spill response systems and procedures in ICM plans.

COMPONENT 1:

REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



GOVERNANCE MECHANISM

Component 1 of ATSEA-2 has been designed to strengthen regional and national governance for the management of the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, and facilitate regional-level dialogue in relation to policies and programmes in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

The Governance mechanism will be predicated on a clearer understanding of how climate change impacts are affecting vulnerable local communities, fisheries and marine/coastal ecosystems in the ATS region. This will be achieved by working with leading experts using state-of-the-art scientific analysis and assessment techniques.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- Establishment of regional and national mechanism for cooperation
- Strengthened institutional and human resource capacities
- Better understanding of climate change impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems
- Updated Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and National Action Programmes (NAP)

SCOPE & STRUCTURE

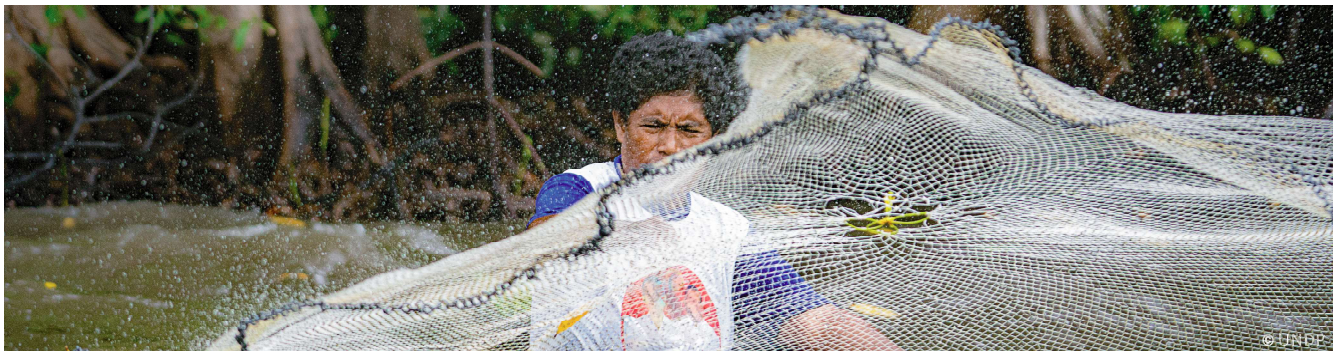
The ATSEA-2 Programme has been designed to have a wide-ranging and positive impact, by reaching out to a broad range of interested groups, including:

- Governmental ministries and agencies
- Academics from universities and research institutions
- Members of the civil society
- Community groups
- The private sector
- Local government administrations

In addition, a stakeholder partnership forum supports the ATS secretariat in ensuring representative stakeholder participation and coordinated governance of ATS ecosystems. Regional and national governance will be enabled by the creation of dedicated National Inter-Ministry Committees (NIMCs), established at the national level to support the implementation of ATS SAP and NAPs.

COMPONENT 2:

IMPROVING LME CARRYING CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN PROVISIONING, REGULATING AND SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Through the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plans, the ATSEA-2 Programme will contribute to the improved management of fisheries and other coastal resources for livelihoods, nutrition and ecosystem health.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

Fisheries management improvement

Marine pollution reduction

Habitat and species protection

ICM that incorporate climate change adaptation

ACTIONS & APPROACHES

ATSEA-2 supports local, regional and national efforts through a combination of analysis, training, support, information gathering and regional action plans. Activities scheduled for each of the four targeted outcomes are as follows:

1. Fisheries Management Improvement

- Adopt an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
- Support efforts to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)

2. Marine Pollution Reduction

- Complete a regional pollution hotspot analysis
- Strengthen local and regional oil spill early warning systems
- Provide on-the-ground training in selected local communities

3. Habitat and Species Protection

- Compile information on marine ecosystems in the ATS region
- Identify priority conservation areas
- Support existing- and designate new - MPAs
- Create a regional action plan to protect endangered marine turtles and dugongs

4. ICM that Incorporate Climate Change Adaptation

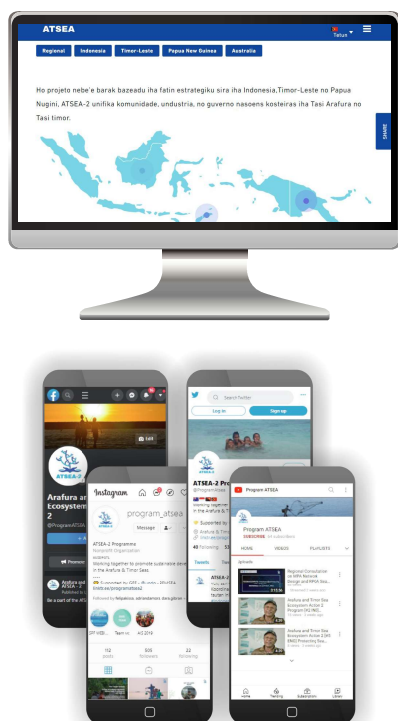
- Protect an estimated 125km of coastline in Indonesia and Timor-Leste
- Support implementation of the ICM plans
- Support climate change adaptation in at-risk coastal villages

COMPONENT 3: SUPPORTING REPLICATION AND SCALING UP BEST PRACTICES



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Component 3 of the ATSEA-2 Programme has been designed to support sharing networks for best practices and scale up the positive impacts of Strategic Action Plans (SAP) and National Action Plan (NAPs).



TARGETED OUTCOMES

- Improved monitoring of the ATS region
- Disseminate knowledge gained from the project

With the help of the GEF framework, ATSEA-2 will set up an SAP monitoring system to monitor ocean health in the context of climate change. The project will also establish a regional monitoring mechanism to strengthen governance activities that fall under Component 1.

In order to disseminate information and share best practices, the project will set up a regional information system that will address long-term needs in the management of the ATS region. In addition, a new communications strategy will include the following:

- An enhanced ATSEA website
- Newsletters, publications and videos in English and local languages
- Contribution to IW:Learn