

PROCEEDINGS

REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 PROJECT MIDTERM REVIEW

15 August 2022, Online via Zoom

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) met virtually on 15 August 2022 to review the findings and recommendations of the Project Midterm Review (MTR) as well as to review and adopt the proposed management response to the MTR.

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 Bangkok Regional Hub 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. Members of the National Coordination Units (NCUs) from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste were also present during the meeting. The ATSEA-2 Project Midterm Review (MTR) consultants at the international level as well as national consultants for Indonesia and Timor-Leste were present as key resource persons. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

Overall, the meeting received and clarified some aspects of the MTR review, including the key project progress from 2019 to mid-2022, gaps and challenges, and key findings, assessment and recommendations. Based on the recommendations, the meeting reviewed and agreed in principle on the proposed management response or actions on the 17 MTR recommendations.

The meeting agreed for all RSC members to undertake a final review of the MTR reports and management response to ensure that recommendations made by the MTR Team were based on factual and accurate information, and to provide feedback to the Regional Project Management Unit one week following the RSC meeting.

**REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2
PROJECT MIDTERM REVIEW
15 August 2022, 2 -4:30PM (UTC+8) via Zoom**

PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

- i. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting on GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project Midterm Review was held virtually through a zoom video conference on 15 August 2022. 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 Bangkok Regional Hub 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. Members of the National Coordination Units (NCUs) from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste were also present during the meeting
- ii. The ATSEA-2 Project Midterm Review (MTR) consultants at the international level as well as national consultants for Indonesia and Timor-Leste were present as key resource persons. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) served as the Secretariat of the meeting.
- iii. The full list of participants is found in Annex 1.

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of PEMSEA Resource Facility, served as Chair of the meeting. She opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the RSC and other participants. Ms. Gonzales emphasized that ATSEA-2 is now at a critical point of project implementation and underscored the importance of the Project MTR in identifying the status, gaps, and possible actions needed to guide the remaining years of the project, as well as the start of post-COVID recovery in line with the project targets and objectives.
- 1.2 Ms. Aretha Aprilia, Head of the Environment Unit of UNDP Indonesia, delivered the opening message on behalf of UNDP Indonesia as Permanent Project Representative (PPR). She began by underlining the importance of capture fisheries in the communities of the ATS region. ATSEA-2 as a regional project focusing on the implementation of a common objective towards a sustainable Arafura-Timor Seas is therefore a crucial undertaking for the ATS countries. As the project is about to enter its next term of implementation, she highlighted the value of the MTR process as an independent assessment of the project's progress towards the target objectives, a means to identify challenges, and to outline corrective actions to help ensure that the project is on track. Recognizing that the project's key mandate is to support the initial implementation of the regional ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programmes (NAPs) and to facilitate the establishment of key mechanisms to support long-term collaboration in the region for the implementation of the next SAP and NAPs, she believes that the MTR will provide the RSC with a better understanding of the crucial actions needed to steer the project towards its

end goals. In closing, she urged all the RSC members to actively participate in the discussion and wished the meeting a full success.

- 1.3 Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager of ATSEA-2, presented the objectives and agenda for the meeting. In particular, the following objectives were highlighted:
 - To inform the members of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the main findings and recommendations of the Project Midterm Review; and
 - To discuss and secure the concurrence or approval of the RSC on the proposed management response/key actions in response to the MTR recommendations.
- 1.4 The meeting adopted the agenda as presented. The agenda is found in Annex 2.
- 1.5 Dr. Susanto then proceeded to introduce the MTR consultants by providing a short background on their expertise and work experience. Mr. Dalibor Kysela, served as the International Consultant and MTR Team Lead who managed the overall MTR process including the review of the PNG component. Mr. Kysela was supported by Mr. Achmad Solikhin and Mr. Amorim Vieira, who served as national consultants for the review of the Indonesia and Timor-Leste components respectively.

2.0 Presentation of MTR Overall Findings and Recommendations

Presentation Highlights

- 2.1 Mr. Dalibor Kysela presented the MTR findings and recommendations of the Implementation of the ATSEA-2 project. In accordance with the UNDP/GEF guidelines, he explained that the approach and methodology applied by the MTR Team used both qualitative and quantitative methods with the following tools: review of available project-related documentation, individual interviews (physical and virtual), focus group discussions, and field visits to selected project sites in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- 2.2 The MTR Team provided findings on the following aspects: (a) Project Design; (b) Project Relevance; (c) Implementation; (d) Management Arrangements; (e) Work Planning; (f) Finance and Co-Finance; (g) Stakeholder Engagement; (h) Social and Environmental Standards; (i) Communication and Knowledge Management; (j) Crosscutting Issues; and (k) Sustainability.
- 2.3 With regard to project design and relevance, the Strategic Results Framework (SRF) was found to be well-structured with a mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators and End of Project (EOP) targets. Majority of indicators and targets are in line with Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timebound (SMART) criteria. The project was also deemed relevant and aligned with Objectives 1 (Biodiversity) and 3 (Sustainable Fisheries, Prevent Loss of Coastal Habitats, and Pollution Reduction) of the GEF 6 International Waters Focal Area, as well as with UNDP country programme documents of Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 14 on Life Below Water and SDG 13 on Climate Action .
- 2.4 In terms of implementation, the MTR Team noted the following progress or accomplishments:

- Component 1 on Regional and National Governance Mechanisms is deemed to be very important for sustainability. At the national level, NIMC has been established in PNG while formalization for Indonesia and Timor-Leste are ongoing. Full operationalization of NIMCs were deemed crucial to address the current limited intersectoral coordination at the country level. The ongoing process on Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) establishment and corresponding work on financial landscape assessment will be crucial in the envisioned long-term collaboration in the ATS region. Four local regulations were in place (3 in Indonesia and 1 in Timor-Leste) and one pending in support of the draft Artisanal Fishery Management Plan for PNG. In support of increasing understanding on climate change, the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Report and Guidance Toolkit for Facilitators have been completed and applied through a local case study in Indonesia.
 - Component 2 on Improving Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Carrying Capacity has completed 11 thematic assessment studies and reports, which provide updated data on the status, key initiatives and challenges in the region related to fisheries, land-based and marine-based pollution, habitats, biodiversity and key marine species. The completed assessments supported the development or completion of corresponding management/action plans (e.g., Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAFM) Plans, Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Plans, Regional MPA Network Design and Roadmap, RPOA for Sea Turtle Protection in ATS region, etc.). The MTR also noted the support to establishment of two new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and two existing MPAs in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, as well support to ICM plan implementation in two sites in Indonesia and Timor-Leste in support of climate change adaptation, and sustainable alternative livelihoods.
 - Component 3 on Knowledge Management has produced a Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, a Theory of Change document in support of the development of an ATS SAP monitoring system, various online communication platforms (website and social media), 10 issues of quarterly newsletter, and engagement with more than 30 thematic events.
- 2.5 On management arrangements, despite the complicated structure and additional limitations due to travel and mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, the MTR Team noted that coordination between and among the different project entities have been effective. The project boards at the national and regional level through the National Project Boards (NPBs) and the RSC have provided senior-level guidance to the project teams (NCUs and RPMU) and facilitated essential interactions with key stakeholders. Presence of field or site mobilisers also served as a good bridge between the central or national project teams with local communities.
- 2.6 As for work planning, the MTR highlighted the long gap between the first and second phase of ATSEA projects, the varying signature and start dates of project implementation at the countries, and the delay encountered in the start of implementation in PNG. Despite these, there were no major changes in the SRF.
- 2.7 On project finance, as there were delays and limitations due to COVID-19, the project performed below the optimal level of 50 percent. The MTR Team expects implementation to further improve with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Co-financing delivery data secured from countries and other partners have shown high mobilization of both in-kind and cash support, showing high ownership of the project.

- 2.8 On M&E systems, the project met all M&E items such as the conduct of Inception Workshop and corresponding report, annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), semi-annual UNDP Project Assurance Reports (PARs), and the MTR (with the Terminal Evaluation expected to be conducted towards end of the project in accordance with the Project's M&E plan). In assessing the progress in project implementation, the MTR team focused on the review of completed PIRs and UNDP PARs. The M&E system is deemed to be in-line with the GEF and UNDP standards with the M&E plan sufficiently budgeted and funded. The MTR Team, however, highlighted the need to further align reporting at the country level with national M&E systems.
- 2.9 Stakeholder engagement was deemed to be satisfactory with the completion of several consultations showing transparency and building of country ownership. Involvement of local communities are more visible in Indonesia, but still less in Timor-Leste and PNG. In terms of identification and involvement of NGOs and private sector, especially at grass root level as a bridge between centralized national structure and the communities, was still deemed less satisfactory.
- 2.10 For Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the Project has been compliant with UNDP's SES. In particular, it was noted that the Project has updated its Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) form, and developed corresponding SES Management Plan with more comprehensive identification of risks and consolidation of the regional SESP and country SESP.
- 2.11 On Communication and Knowledge Management, the MTR Team deemed the regular and effective internal and external communications adequate and contributed to increase in project visibility. The MTR Team however noted that current efforts have been more beneficial or geared towards national and international communities and therefore urged the project to further strengthen communications efforts at the local level.
- 2.12 In terms of crosscutting issues, the project is categorized with gender marker 2 (gender equality as a significant objective). The MTR team noted that the project has already initiated the mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles in various aspects of project implementation.
- 2.13 On likelihood of sustainability (financial, socio-political, institutional/governance, and environmental aspects), the MTR Team provided an overall rating of 'moderately likely' taking into consideration that efforts on RGM and other commitments for long-term support are still in process.
- 2.14 Overall, the MTR Team concluded that full achievement of several planned results could exceed ATSEA-2's lifetime, particularly for Component 1 wherein securing of financial and institutional sustainability is targeted. Expectations for secured contributions in support of the RGM and next SAP implementation is not realistic in the short-term and may require further donor funding support such as a possible ATSEA-3. Increasing the functionality of the NIMCs as well as more local stakeholders will be crucial to mainstreaming of efforts at the country level programs. The MTR Team also recommended that some project indicators and targets may need to be revisited or revised as some were no longer deemed relevant or attainable.
- 2.15 At the national level, the MTR Team highlighted the frequency of NPB meetings in Indonesia may need to be increased to facilitate more effective project management,

including the need to review of some indicators and targets that may no longer be relevant. In Timor-Leste, the MTR Team saw the need to further strengthen documentation and reporting of on-the-ground impacts and to further increase local stakeholder engagement particularly in one identified village. In PNG, the MTR Team concluded that project budget allocation was underestimated which would require further review so as not to affect delivery of key targets, as well as the need to identify specific target activities which were not detailed in the Project Document in support of some key end of project targets (i.e., reduction of dried fish maw production).

- 2.16 Building on the findings and conclusions, the MTR Team offered a total of 17 key recommendations for the Regional or overall, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and PNG components.
- Overall project: (1) 12-18 months project extension to achieve and to ensure sustainability especially by ensuring securing of financial support; (2) use ATSEA-2 Theory of Change for progress monitoring and prioritization of activities; (3) Revise some indicators and targets that are deemed not relevant or unclear (Outcome 1.1 on Governance, Outcome 2.1 on Fisheries); (4) prepare an exit strategy to support sustainability of efforts; (5) potential preparation for an ATSEA-3; (6) ensure full functionality of NIMCs and mainstreaming of the SAP/NAP; (7) increase frequency of RSC and NPB meetings; and (8) popularization of SAP/NAPs.
 - Indonesia component: (9) revise and reassess some elements of the project SRF; (10) review procurement and other administrative assistance to the project to avoid delays; and (11) improve frequency of NPB meetings.
 - Timor-Leste component: (12) better inclusion of additional stakeholders especially for local communities to increase ownership; and (13) strengthen M&E to link with government M&E systems; and (14) conduct comprehensive planning for alternative livelihood support.
 - PNG component: (15) more capacity building in support of the South Fly Artisanal Fishery Management Plan (SFAFMP); (16) revision of the EOP targets for fish maw and improved use of fishing gears; and (17) assess budget re-allocation of the project funds to PNG component and consider reaching out to additional budget/fund sources.

- 2.17 A copy of the presentation on MTR Findings and Recommendations is accessible via this [link](#).

Discussion Highlights

- 2.18 Mr. Iwan Kurniawan, Programme Manager for NRM Cluster, UNDP Indonesia, noted that the midterm targets were not explicitly stated in the Project Document and that the focus is more on the end of project (EOP) targets. In line with the MTR findings and recommendations. Mr. Kurniawan sought further clarification on the project assessment, particularly on whether there is sufficient resource to justify or support project extension and requested for possible suggestions to future regional collaborations to avoid delays in start of project implementation. In response, Mr. Dalibor indicated that current overall expenditure is still below 50 percent, and with careful planning and delivery of more co-financing the MTR Team believes that there would be enough resource to support a project extension. He further indicated the possibility for the three project components to have varying completion period with Component 1 possibly to take longer time than the other two components. As for future regional or cross-country collaboration or projects, Mr.

Dalibor believes that the MTR Team is not in a position to provide recommendations particularly on preferred structure as well as processes in the governments. However, for ATSEA-2, he believes that based on their review, it is crucial for the project to provide more effort to support Component 1 targets on regional mechanism with corresponding financial commitments to ensure sustainability of efforts. The MTR Team noted that current support is more voluntary in nature, which can be driven to become more legally binding in the future.

- 2.19 Mr. Kurniawan also noted the efforts related to GESI which is seen as a good opportunity to ensure that GESI design is included or considered in SAP and NAPs implementation.
- 2.20 Dr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Adviser, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, suggested that considering the limited time for the MTR and the RSC meeting, it would be good to request all RSC members to go over the full draft MTR reports to ensure that there are no factual errors and that the basis of the consultants' findings is accurate. The Chair requested all RSC members to review both the MTR reports and the management response one last time and provide feedback in one week.
- 2.21 Mr. Zaki Mubarak of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, sought further clarification concerning the type of local regulations adopted or to be adopted under Component 1. For Indonesia, Mr. Dwi Ariyoga Gautama, ATSEA-2's National Project Coordinator, clarified that the three local regulations are provincial regulations and not national regulations and they refer to the establishment of marine pollution task force in NTT, establishment of fisheries crime forum in Papua Province, and designation of Kolepom as new MPA by Papua Province. For Timor-Leste, Mr. Almerindo Oliveira da Silva, ATSEA-2's National Project Coordinator, indicated that one local regulation has been adopted in support of establishment of ICM Sub Task Team and ICM implementation in Barique, Manatuto, while one local regulation is expected to be developed and adopted once process for establishment of new MPA in Betano-Klakuk is confirmed. Mr. Kysela further clarified that based on the SRF, the EOP target particularly in Indonesia refers only to development of 'draft' regulations as adoption and implementation often takes time and often out of the project's control.

3.0 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSE ON MTR RECOMMENDATIONS

Presentation highlights (Set 1)

- 3.1 Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto presented the Management Response on the MTR Recommendations. As there are a total of 17 MTR recommendations (8 for the Overall Project and 3 each for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and PNG), Dr. Susanto informed the meeting that for ease of presentation, these have been grouped into seven categories. He stopped after each set of recommendations and management response to give the RSC time to provide feedback and allowed for a more focused discussion per set of items. A copy of the presentation is accessible via this [link](#), while a full copy of the Management Response document is accessible via this [link](#).
- 3.2 Set 1 pertains to ensuring the attainability of key end of project targets and sustainability of efforts under ATSEA-2. It covered the following MTR recommendations:

- Submit request for a **no-cost extension** of 12-18 months in order to recover the time lost due to the slow project start and COVID-19 restrictions;
 - Prepare an **exit strategy** for the project with emphasis on formalisation of financial commitments of the countries to RGM functionality and SAP/NAPs implementation; and
 - Initiate consultations with the GEF OFPs from the ATS beneficiary countries regarding the potential preparation of **ATSEA-3 project** concept.
- 3.3 On the no-cost extension, Dr. Susanto explained that the assessment of work plans and budgets has been initiated, and the RPMU and NCUs have prepared proposed Work Plans and Budget for 2023 and 2024, considering the most feasible no-cost extension period, which is until the end of 2024 (i.e., 6 months extension for the regional, PNG and Timor-Leste components, and 1 year for Indonesia). After further refinements of the assessment and consideration, the request for project extension will be submitted to UNDP, PEMSEA, the NPBs and RSC; and UNDP Indonesia Country Office, as Permanent Project Representative (PPR), will submit it to GEF.
- 3.4 With regard to the exit strategy, Dr. Susanto highlighted the importance of delivering the project targets on securing RSC approval on the Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) model and transition plan in the upcoming RSC Meeting in November, rolling out the transition plan, completing the updated SAP and NAPs and 5-year cost estimate and financial plan, and facilitating their adoption through a new Ministerial Declaration.
- 3.5 As for the proposed ATSEA-3 project concept, Dr. Susanto underscored the need to first secure country support and commitment to pursue the development of ATSEA-3, before facilitating next steps in project concept/proposal submission in line with GEF/UNDP requirements.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.6 Dr. Tonny Wagey, Executive Director of Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF) and Regional Project Manager of ATSEA-1, confirmed that a no cost extension is logical considering that some countries may not be able to meet some of the deliverable within the project timeframe and given the varying capacities in the countries. He also emphasized the importance of operationalizing the RGM model as the project moves to the next term (after mid-term) and having the support of all countries including Australia, including on possible interest for an ATSEA-3. He underscored that without an RGM there will be no mechanism to support long-term cooperation. Should the RSC members agree to pursue a 3rd phase, formalization of initiatives and involvement of key ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, would also be important.
- 3.7 Mr. Rickson Lis, Manager of Coastal Fisheries, National Fisheries Authority (NFA) of PNG, representing the National Project Director, confirmed a point from Mr. Dalibor's presentation that the budget for PNG was underestimated as the cost of doing business in PNG is more expensive relative to Indonesia and Timor-Leste. He also acknowledged the delay in delivering the Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan for South Fly, which is still in draft form, but reaffirmed NFA's support for the initiative. Considering the delays in ATSEA-2 due to COVID-19 and the limited budget for PNG, he also expressed support to the proposed ATSEA-3.
- 3.8 Mrs. Yayan Hikmayani, National Project Director for Indonesia, expressed that Indonesia has no objection on the MTR report and the proposed management response from the

Regional Project Manager. Considering that the project in Indonesia will end relatively soon (December 2023), she emphasized that the no cost extension needs to be finalized as soon as possible. With regard to the exit strategy, Indonesia needs the Ministerial Declaration to facilitate their continued support and participation in the project. Mrs. Hikmayani urged the RPMU to prepare the Ministerial Declaration as soon as possible, as this will also provide a strong basis for the next ATSEA project. She also recognized the importance of ATSEA-3 and the need to explore other sources of funding apart from country contributions for the sustainability of the ATSEA program. Indonesia also supports having inter-sessional RSC and more frequent NPB meetings to facilitate more timely decision-making.

- 3.9 Dr. Andrew Chek, ATSEA-2 National Focal Point at Australia’s Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEE), confirmed that he has no objections to the proposed management response. Considering the limited time allocated for the RSC meeting, Dr. Chek also proposed the meeting to proceed if there are no objections raised on specific items.
- 3.10 Dr. Jose Padilla reminded the meeting that the proposed ‘no-cost extension’ is actually not ‘no-cost’ as this will have costs to UNDP in terms of oversight, and it has budget implications in terms of reallocating funds for some technical activities to support staff for the extension period. Dr. Padilla encouraged the RPMU to look at the most cost-efficient way to accommodate the proposed extension, to coordinate closely with the RTA as policies concerning extensions may change, and to submit a request for extension to UNDP Indonesia as PPR at least one year before the end of the project to ensure that the request for project extension is approved six months before the original end date. Dr. Padilla also welcomed the support for an ATSEA-3, and advised that there are two ways to get a 3rd phase project – (1) following the completion of the 2nd phase, i.e., after terminal the evaluation; or (2) complete the SAP and obtain a Ministerial Declaration earlier, and use this as basis for ATSEA-3. The GEF-8 investment period will cover 2022 to 2026, and he advised the project to assess timelines moving forward.
- 3.11 Mr. Pedro Rodrigues of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Timor-Leste, further emphasized and supported the MTR recommendation to engage a separate Monitoring and Evaluation officer for NCU Timor-Leste to help provide more efficient monitoring and reporting. Considering budget limitations, he also proposed a 6-month project extension period for Timor-Leste.

Presentation Highlights (Set 2)

- 3.12 The second set of MTR recommendations were focused on some project targets that may require further amendments to make them more clear or specific and aligned with updated assessments, which include some targets under Outcomes 1.1 (Regional and national mechanisms for cooperation in place and operational) and 2.1 (Improved management of fisheries and other coastal resources).
- 3.13 Under Outcome 1.1, one of the end-of-project targets is ‘Regional governance mechanism established and functioning with at least 2 of 4 countries contributing dues’. Dr. Susanto explained that considering the ongoing RGM consultation process, securing the financial contribution of 2 out of the 4 countries would require more time considering the policies,

priorities, and legal and administrative processes and requirements in each country. The RPMU will develop an alternative target for submission to the 4th RSC Meeting.

- 3.14 For Outcome 2.1 on fisheries, several end of project targets and indicators need to be modified to better suit current conditions and interventions conducted so far. In particular, the project agreed on the need to clarify the parameters for the Objective level target to 'move 25% of globally exploited fisheries to more sustainable levels', such that the assessment will focus on Red Snapper as key regional commodity and ATSEA-2 target. Additional data from primary data gathering in Probolinggo and Merauke (Indonesia) and from the TDA updating will be used to update the baseline estimate on Red Snapper at the regional level.
- 3.15 Still on Outcome 2.1, the MTR provided the following recommendations for sites in Indonesia and PNG:
- 3.15.1 For Indonesia:
- **Modify Activity 2.1.3-8 on IUU fishing** through conducting a study to establish a baseline on IUU fishing in FMA 718 in Aru and Merauke areas as project sites
 - **Modify Activity 2.1.3-10 on improved provincial registration of vessel systems** for a more specific definition of the target vessel systems in Maluku and Papua covering three commodities (red snapper, shrimp, and barramundi)
- 3.15.2 For PNG:
- **Reset the target for Indicator 13 on more sustainable production of dried fish maw** to also cover production and use of fish carcass
 - **Redefine the target for Indicator 14 on improved use of fishing gears** by artisanal fisheries in line with the South Fly Fore-coast AFMP
- 3.16 Dr. Susanto shared that Indonesia agreed to provide baseline for IUUF in FMA 718, with specific focus in Aru and Merauke. NCU Indonesia will also continue to work with MMAF and the Provincial Government of Maluku and Papua to escalate initiatives on fishing vessel registration for red snapper, shrimp and barramundi.
- 3.17 For PNG, Dr. Susanto informed the meeting that the NFA confirmed the need to adjust the end of project target to reflect more sustainable use of fish maw and fish carcass. The NFA will conduct a survey on fish maw harvest and fish carcass and set a more updated baseline. On improved gears and techniques, the proposed recommendation from NFA is to align the activities with the South Fly Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan.
- 3.18 Dr. Susanto also informed the RSC that apart from Outcomes 1.1 and 2.1 cited above, the Project would like to provide further information on ongoing discussions in Indonesia and Timor-Leste that was not yet included in the final recommendations from the MTR. The Objective level indicator on 'landscapes and seascapes under improved biodiversity management' has an end of project target of 800,000 ha covering both existing and new MPAs. However, based on the final Marine Spatial Planning completed for the newly established Kolepom MPA in Indonesia, the coverage is only up to 353,287 hectares (lower than the 555,000 original target), whereas in the case of Betano-Klakuk in Timor-Leste, the assessment and boundary mapping recently completed and currently undergoing stakeholder consultation indicated that the coverage is only 20,906 hectares (lower than the 90,000 original target). The assessment in Betano covers only up to 2 nautical miles outer boundary as the maximum allowed in MPAs in Timor-Leste as confirmed by MAF.

While the support to existing MPAs in Southeast Aru in Indonesia (covering 114,000 hectares) and Nino Konis Santana in Timor-Leste (covering 55,660 hectares) remains the same. In line with this, the new overall total coverage would amount only to 543,853 hectares (lower than the 800,000 hectares target). Taking into consideration the results of country assessments, the Project Team requested further guidance from UNDP and further feedback from the RSC on the revision of the end of project target.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.19 Ms. Sitti Hamdiah, Coordinator for Regional and Multilateral Cooperation, MMAF, Indonesia informed the meeting that there is a need to discuss the recommendations internally in the upcoming NPB meeting in September before they could decide on the proposed revisions to the indicators and end of project targets.
- 3.20 Mr. Rickson Lis confirmed the recommendations and added that they will proceed with the specified survey.
- 3.21 Mr. Almerindo Oliveira da Silva explained that as per advice of MAF's Director General Acacio Guterres (National Project Director of Timor-Leste), a letter explaining about the reduced MPA coverage will be prepared for discussion and approval in the next NPB meeting in October. Alternatively, the DG can also discuss the matter with the Minister of MAF to determine if it would be possible to increase the coverage of the new MPA from 2 nautical miles to 12 nautical miles from the shore.
- 3.22 Dr. Jose Padilla requested clarification on the basis of the 2 nautical mile outward boundary for the MPA in Timor-Leste (instead of 12 nautical miles as originally targeted in the Project Document), if it relates to what the local government can declare. Mr. da Silva explained that based on local regulation and for all the MPAs established by MAF, they have only covered up to 2 nautical miles. The concerns are if it is above 2 nautical miles, the government does not have enough operational and financing capacity to manage the MPA. It is not based on a formal regulation or decree law.
- 3.23 Dr. Padilla requested the RPMU to involve UNDP throughout the discussion, particularly the UNDP Country Office and Regional Technical Advisor in the revision of the indicators and end of project targets. Dr. Susanto noted the advice, and added that there have been a series of consultations with the government (MAF) and UNDP TL, and further meetings will be organized. MAF will prepare a formal letter on the MPA hectare coverage that will result from these meetings. Mr. Domingos Lequi Siga Maria, Team Leader for Climate Change and Environment Unit of UNDP Timor-Leste confirmed that UNDP TL will have more discussions with MAF. He emphasized that while there is no legal basis for the 2 nautical mile MPA outward boundary, it has been a standard practice in Timor-Leste and that careful discussion and consideration will be made to assess possible implications to future MPA establishment in the country.
- 3.24 Mr. Iwan Kurniawan reminded the meeting that it will be helpful to first agree on the timeline of the project extension and determine if the proposed actions will need additional resources, or if existing resources based on the work plan can be used. He also sought to clarify (with UNDP-BRH) the guidelines for project extension, if submission of the request for extension six months before the end of the project refers to the submission to the GEF Secretariat, in such case there is a need to consider more time for some preparatory steps and getting approval from the governments. Ms. Aimee Gonzales

replied that with regard to the first point, a review of timeline and resources has been undertaken and the document will be prepared accordingly. Dr. Jose Padilla, on the other hand, encouraged the team to prepare for project extension a year before the end of the project as a lot of work will need to be done by UNDP Indonesia before the request for extension goes to UNDP-BRH. All pertinent documents should be ready and submitted 6 months before the scheduled operational closure of the project.

Presentation Highlights (Set 3)

- 3.25 Dr. Susanto proceeded to present the 3rd set of MTR recommendations and proposed management response/actions, which relates to site level activities and targets:
- 3.25.1 **For Indonesia: Revise the EOP target for Indicator 16** through utilization of new **MPA management effectiveness scoring** of EVIKA and potentially adopt a new indicator for the Kolepom MPA to comply with Indonesian government requirements.
- NCU Indonesia and the NPB, with guidance from UNDP, will: 1) Align EVIKA and METT tracking tools to support management effectiveness in Southeast Aru; and 2) Report both EVIKA and METT scores (at mid-term or within 2022 and end of project).
- 3.25.2 **For Indonesia: Reconsider relevance of Activity 2.3.2-16 on the feasibility study for ecotourism development in the Kolepom MPA**
- NCU Indonesia to modify the feasibility for tourism assessment to feasibility for fisheries processing product or another relevant alternative livelihood.
- 3.25.3 **For Indonesia: Modify Activities 2.3.3-6 and 2.3.3-7 on conducting a feasibility study on alternate livelihood tourism opportunities for the communities in Aru Islands, Rote, and Merauke** and possibly other sites through education for local communities on turtles' conservation while providing alternative nature-based livelihoods or capacity building options.
- NCU Indonesia to conduct a feasibility study on fisheries processing product or another relevant alternative livelihood.
- 3.25.4 **For Indonesia: Reconsider relevance of Activity 2.4.3-4 on technical training for maintenance and repair of the solar-powered water desalination units** and eventually replace with activities related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects, for access to safe and affordable drinking water
- NCU Indonesia, in consultation with MMAF, local government and other partners, will propose changing of location for WASH project from Nusa Manuk to Landu Tii, and manage gap assessment on WASH.
- 3.25.5 **For Timor-Leste: Local authorities at Suco level need to be more involved in the decision-making** on implementation of projects in their areas for **reinforcing their ownership** of project interventions for community development, coastal management, and environmental protection, in particular with respect to IUU fishing in the Timor Sea
- NCU TL, with guidance from UNDP Country Office and with the support of the site mobilizer, will identify and engage relevant stakeholders at the site level in various project activities
- 3.25.6 **For Timor-Leste: Strengthen the M&E system to reflect the activities more comprehensively as a 'bridge' between UNDP ATSEA 2 project and the Government of Timor-Leste**, and to gather evidence on the impact of the community livelihoods support projects in the country

- NCU TL in cooperation with the RPMU will implement and monitor the impacts of the ICM Plan implementation for Posto Administrative Barique in Manatuto Municipality; and recruit M&E expert for NCU and conduct M&E refresher with results or impact-based M&E.
- 3.25.7 **For PNG:** Ensure provision of **capacity building on Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan (AFMP)** management and enforcement to the local governments in the SFD communities.
- NCU PNG, with RPMU inputs and support, will develop training and awareness materials on the South Fly Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan (SFAFMP); and conduct EAFM training(s) on the SFAFMP and on artisanal fishery data collection.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.26 Dr. Jose Padilla advised that the above are considered minor adjustments and would only require confirmation or endorsement by the NPBs.

Presentation Highlights (Set 4)

- 3.27 The 4th set of MTR recommendations discussed by Dr. Susanto pertains to the project boards and NIMCs:
- 3.27.1 Use options for holding **ad-hoc intersessional meetings of the RSC** to ensure timely approval of important documents, effective management of project risks and endorsement of critical decisions
 - 3.27.2 Ensure that all three **NIMCs are fully functional** through ensuring permanent representation of stakeholder institutions on the NIMCs. Map existing national and regional sustainable development planning processes and identify short- and medium-term opportunities for mainstreaming the SAP/NAPs priority actions into the national development policy and planning frameworks
 - 3.27.3 Intensify consultations with the NPB and UNDP Indonesia for focusing more on **performance and achieving results** through arrangement of the **NPB meetings at least semi-annually** (at the middle and the end/beginning of the year)
- 3.28 Related to the first point, PEMSEA and RPMU, in cooperation with the implementing and executing agencies, will secure RSC approval on the inclusion of mid-year/intersessional RSC meeting in its annual activities/meetings.
- 3.29 On the second point, the NCUs will conduct regular NIMC meetings to undertake collaborative planning, discussion, and reporting, and engage the NIMCs in SAP & NAP updating to identify areas of alignment and support. The NCUs and RPMU will also secure country commitments to submit key priorities in respective country or relevant Ministries development programs or plans based on endorsed SAP & NAPs. The RPMU will also include country commitments to mainstream updated SAP and NAP priorities in national development planning and programmes as part of the 2nd ATS Ministerial Declaration.
- 3.30 Regarding the third point, NCU Indonesia will coordinate and facilitate periodic meetings with NIMCs or MMAF related to technical issues based on thematic issues; and arrange at least 2 (two) NPB meetings in a year focusing more on performance and results-based agenda.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.31 The RSC members had no objections to the proposed management responses/actions, which were considered procedural activities.

Presentation Highlights (Set 5)

- 3.32 Dr. Susanto moved on to present the 5th set of MTR recommendation, which was to assess options for **re-allocation of the project funds to the PNG component** and consider reaching out to the private sector (e.g. Ok Tedi Development Foundation) for **joint activities and additional support** to implementation of community level activities, including linking with the GEF SGP and with the Australian High Commission in PNG.
- 3.33 The NCU PNG and RPMU will: 1) Develop the 2023 AWP and budget (including a work plan and budget estimation for 2024) and discuss with RPMU, PEMSEA and UNDP; 2) Discuss and establish formal arrangements with cross sectoral development partners (e.g. Small Grants Programme, Australian High Commission, etc.) for in cash or in-kind support on specific ATSEA-2 PNG activities; and 3) Discuss with NFA to mainstream National Secretariat role as part of a functional unit of NFA.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.34 The RSC acknowledged that this has been addressed by Mr. Rickson Lis in his earlier feedback where he highlighted the need to note the high cost of operations in PNG, pursue the proposed action to review and assess budget, and secure other co-financing/support.

Presentation Highlights (Set 6)

- 3.35 Dr. Susanto moved on with the 6th set of MTR recommendations, which proposed the preparation of **popular versions of the updated SAP/NAPs** for better information of the target communities, and use of the ATSEA-2 **ToC in monitoring** of the progress in the project implementation and to facilitate prioritization of activities.
- 3.36 The RPMU, together with the NCUs, will develop local communication plans to guide information dissemination and stakeholder activities, develop appropriate information materials, and tap the media network.
- 3.37 The RPMU will also: 1) Align the ToC with the AWP and SRF-based internal quarterly M&E reporting system; and 2) provide the ToC as a key reference in the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System, and for updating of TDA, SAP and NAPs.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.38 The RSC members did not raise any objections to the proposed management response.

Presentation Highlights (Set 7)

- 3.39 Dr. Susanto ended the presentation with the final set of MTR recommendations which proposed that the UNDP Country Office in Indonesia in cooperation with the NCU should conduct a critical review of the procurement and other administrative assistance and identify causes of delays.
- 3.40 NCU-Indonesia will: 1) Coordinate with UNDP to identify major issues or causes of delays in the administration and procurement processes; 2) Conduct vendor registration for potential stakeholders that are or will be involved in project implementation and promote potential vendors from hotel, car rentals and other third party particularly in project sites; and 3) Identify an additional team to support administration and procurement staffing to further support and facilitate more efficient administration process, and secure approval of the same in the NPB meeting.

Discussion Highlights

- 3.41 The RSC members did not raise any objections to the proposed management response.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSE BY RSC

- 4.1 The Chair proceeded to request the RSC as Project Board to adopt the Management Response on the MTR recommendations for the ATSEA-2 Project, taking into consideration additional suggestions provided by the RSC during the meeting.

Discussion Highlights

- 4.2 Dr. Andrew Chek thanked the RPMU and endorsed the management response.
- 4.3 Dr. Jose Padilla indicated that in principle, the management response is fine substance-wise, but to ensure conformity with GEF and UNDP requirements, he requested the RPMU to re-circulate the management response and for UNDP to undertake final review as well.
- 4.4 In addition, Mr. Domingos Lequi Siga Maria echoed what Dr. Padilla said on the no-cost extension and reiterated the need to ensure that it not only aligns with GEF/UNDP requirements but also with available project budget.
- 4.5 Mr. Pedro Rodrigues further brought up the long bureaucracy in proceeding with proposed activities. He proposed having a more flexible and effective procurement process to facilitate timely and efficient implementation.
- 4.6 The Chair, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, ensured that the RPMU will coordinate with the necessary parties to flesh out the proposed actions. She also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Agus Rusly, Secretary of the Directorate General of Climate Change Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, for joining the meeting.

Decision

- 4.7 In principle, the RSC Meeting endorsed the MTR management response taking into consideration the suggestion for UNDP to conduct a final review to ensure conformity with the GEF and UNDP requirements.

5.0 CLOSING OF THE MEETING

5.1 The Chair expressed appreciation to all the RSC members as well as to the MTR consultants, and proceeded to close the meeting.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM (Bali/Manila time).

ANNEX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 MEETING AGENDA

REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON
GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 PROJECT MIDTERM REVIEW
15 August 2022, via Zoom



AGENDA



- 2:00-2:15PM** **1.0 Opening of the Meeting**
- Short introduction of participants
 - Message from UNDP Indonesia
Ibu Aretha Aprilia, Head of Environment Unit, UNDP Indonesia
 - Presentation and Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Objectives , and Introduction of MTR consultants
Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager, RPMU
- Group Photo**
- 2:15-3:00PM** **2.0 Presentation of MTR Overall Findings and Recommendations**
Presenter: Mr. Dalibor Kysela, MTR Consultant
- 3:00- 4:00PM** **3.0 Presentation and Discussion of Management Response on MTR Recommendations**
Presenter: Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, RPM
- 4:00-4:25PM** **4.0 Adoption of Management Response by RSC**
- 4:25-4:30PM** **5.0 Closing of the Meeting**



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