

PROCEEDINGS

THE 4th REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 PROJECT

2-3 November 2022, Port Moresby

MINUTES OF MEETING
4th REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE/PROJECT BOARD MEETING
Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and
National Strategic Action Programs (ATSEA-2)
PROJECT ID: (PIMS) 5439
DATE: November 2-3, 2022

Zoom Link including zoom recordings (hybrid)
Meeting Day 1. Wednesday, 02 November 2022

https://bit.ly/RSC2022_ATSEA

Meeting ID: 834 2601 8756 | Passcode: 240610

Link to Recording Day 1: https://bit.ly/RSC2022_RecordingDay1

Meeting Day 2. Thursday, 03 November 2022

https://bit.ly/RSC2022_ATSEA

Meeting ID: 876 4456 9489 | Passcode: 966911

Link to Recording Day 2: https://bit.ly/RSC2022_RecordingDay2

1. PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND MEETING AGENDA

1. To review progress of regional and national components in line with the implementation of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2022.
2. To discuss and address challenges in project implementation, including remaining challenges in view of COVID-19, reorganization in some countries or implementing partners as a result of elections, as well as to discuss possible opportunities for collaboration.
3. To review and endorse the following key documents: (a) Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) consolidated model and proposed next steps; (b) Regional EAFM Plan for Red Snapper; (c) Climate Change Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers; (d) Key transboundary issues identified in the Causal Chain Analysis in support of the updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and work plan for its completion; and (e) Roadmap/Work Plan for the updating of the regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
4. Building on National Project Board (NPB) discussions and recommendations, to conduct strategic discussions and provide guidance on: (a) possible Project extension; (b) Plan for ATSEA-3 project concept development and submission; and (c) suggested modifications in some Project indicators and targets based on the Midterm Review (MTR).
5. To agree on ways forward, including review and approval of proposed Work Plan and Budget for 2023 for regional and national components.

4th RSC Meeting Agenda
(As modified and approved by the 4th RSC)

Time	Agenda No.	Agenda Item
01 November 2022 – Arrival of Participants in Port Moresby		
Day 1: 02 November 2022		
08:30-09:00		Registration of Participants
09:00-09:15		Opening Ceremony of the 4th RSC Meeting Welcome Remarks <i>Mr. Dirk Wagner</i> <i>Resident Representative</i> <i>UNDP PNG</i> Opening Remarks <i>Mr. Justin Ilakini</i> <i>Managing Director</i> <i>National Fisheries Authority, PNG</i>
09:15 -09:30		Group Photo
09:30-09:45	1.0	Organizational Matters 1.1 Election/Confirmation of Chairpersons 1.2 Review and Adoption of Provisional Agenda
09:45-10:00	2.0	Summary of Major Recommendations and Decisions from the 3rd RSC Meeting (2021) and Actions Taken
10:00-11:00	3.0	Status or Actions Taken on Project MidTerm Review (MTR) Management Response <i>Updates on follow up actions, status, and/or proposal to create new action(s) if any, and timeline of completion of actions identified in the MTR Management Response (approved by RSC in August Project Board Meeting for MTR)</i>
11:00-11:15		Coffee Break
11:15-12:30	4.0	Project Progress in Accordance with the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), Financial Summary Report 2022, Proposed AWP and Budget 2023 and Projected Budget to 2024 4.1 Indonesia
12:30-1:30		Lunch Break
1:30-4:00	4.0 (Cont.)	Project Progress in Accordance with the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), Financial Summary Report 2022, Proposed AWP and Budget 2023 and Projected Budget to 2024 4.2 Papua New Guinea 4.3 Timor-Leste 4.4 Regional 4.5 Australia’s initiatives contributing to ATS SAP and ATSEA-2 Objectives
4:00-4:15		Coffee Break

4:15-4:45	5.0	Monitoring of the Project Theory of Change (ToC), Risk Log, and Upcoming Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
4:45-5:00		Closing of Day 1 and Reminders for Day 2
6:30-8:00		Welcome Dinner
Day 2: 03 November 2022		
08:30-9:30	6.0	ATSEA-2 Regional Governance Mechanism <i>Final RGM Model, including TOR of Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF)/Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), and Next Steps</i>
9:30-10:30	7.0	ATS Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA): Causal Chain Analysis Report <i>Confirmation of key transboundary issues, trends, and recommendations; and Action plan for the completion of the updated TDA Report</i>
10:30-10:45		Coffee Break
10:45-11:15	8.0	ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) Updating Process <i>Status and Roadmap for the updating of the ATS SAP</i>
11:15-12:00	9.0	Regional EAFM Plan for Red Snapper <i>Final review and endorsement of the Regional EAFM Plan</i>
12:00-1:00		Lunch Break
1:00-1:45	10.0	Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers: Incorporating Regional Climate Change Results into Local Action Planning <i>Final review and endorsement of the Guide for Decision-makers and Facilitators</i>
1:45-2:45	11.0	Strategic Discussion on Project Implementation and Sustainability 11.1 Project Extension 11.2 Possible Follow-on Phase (ATSEA-3)
2:45-3:15	12.0	Other Business
3:15-3:45		Coffee Break
3:45-4:15	13.0	Review and Adoption of 4th RSC Meeting Conclusions and Decisions
4:15-4:45		Closing Ceremony of the 4th RSC Meeting
5:30-6:00		Press Conference
6:30-8:00		Farewell Dinner

2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES & DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>The 4th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) was conducted through a hybrid mechanism on 2 to 3 November 2022. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority (NFA).</p> <p>Representatives from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste participated in the in-person meeting. Representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Office of Indonesia, as well as the UNDP</p>

	<p>Bangkok Regional Hub participated via Zoom on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP. PEMSEA was present as the executing agency for the Regional and Papua New Guinea components of the project. Representatives from UNDP Papua New Guinea and other Stakeholder Partners in PNG were also present as observers. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting, with support from the National Organizing Committee of NFA.</p> <p>On behalf of UNDP PNG and as a member of the National Project Board (NPB) and Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF) of ATSEA-2 PNG, Mr. Dirk Wagner, Resident Representative of UNDP PNG, welcomed the RSC delegates to Port Moresby. Mr. Wagner highlighted some of the key initiatives of UNDP PNG related to Environment and Biodiversity that are geared towards delivering integrated solutions in line with PNG’s priorities (e.g., strengthening of local capacities, support to PNG’s protected area network, mainstreaming of climate change to regulatory and policy frameworks, etc.). Mr. Wagner noted and expressed UNDP PNG’s support to some of the key ongoing initiatives of ATSEA-2 such as the establishment of a regional governance mechanism, the target development of PNG’s first National Action Program (NAP) , and the finalization of the South Fly Fore-Coast Artisanal Fishery Management Plan.</p> <p>The Meeting was opened by Mr. Justin Ilakini, Managing Director of NFA, PNG. Mr. Ilakini indicated that the ATSEA program’s objectives speak to the heart of PNG’s people, particularly the project’s local initiatives that aim to contribute in livelihood improvements. On the part of NFA, they see the value of integrating or mainstreaming ATSEA initiatives with NFA programs to ensure sustainability and full benefits. Mr. Ilakini expressed PNG’s full support to the objectives of the 4th RSC in paving the way to the establishment of the program’s sustainable mechanisms. In particular, he expressed PNG’s enthusiasm in the upcoming development of an updated Regional SAP and how PNG will best align, contribute and benefit from the regional plan. He affirmed PNG’s readiness to elevate the updated SAP as well as the region’s governance mechanism, once finalized, to a higher level dialogue and pursue adoption through a ministerial commitment.</p> <p>The full Opening Ceremony speeches are accessible via this LINK.</p> <p>The Meeting was Chaired by Mr. Noan Pakop, National Project Director of ATSEA-2 in PNG and Deputy Managing Director of NFA, PNG, while Mr. Iwan Kurniawan, Programme Manager for Natural Resource Management Cluster of UNDP Indonesia as Principal Project Representative, served as Co-Chair.</p>
1	<p>Issue: Major Recommendations and Decisions from the 3rd RSC Meeting (2021) and Actions Taken (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <hr/> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Cristine Ingrid S. Narcise, Policy and Results-based Management Specialist of RPMU, presented the summary of key recommendations and decisions from the 3rd RSC Meeting and highlighted that majority of the recommendations have been acted upon, while some items are still ongoing and will be further discussed under dedicated agenda items of the 4th RSC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia, PNG, Timor-Leste, and Australia appreciated the presentation and noted the actions taken by the RPMU in addressing the recommendations from the 3rd RSC Meeting. Indonesia also confirmed the endorsement of the MPA Network and Roadmap and the RPOA for marine turtle protection, following the endorsement from Australia, PNG, and Timor-Leste during the 3rd RSC. Timor-Leste requested for further information with regard to Indonesia’s plan to undertake a national consultation on possible development of a concept related to a national and regional contingency plan and revolving fund for oil spill mitigation for the ATS region. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC noted the actions taken on the major recommendations and decisions of the 3rd RSC Meeting, noting that more detailed discussions will be undertaken under specific agenda items for Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM), Midterm Review (MTR) Management Response, and Project Progress.
2	<p>Issue: Status or Actions Taken on Project MidTerm Review (MTR) Management Response (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Kathrine Rose G. Aguilung, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of the RPMU, provided updates on the status of actions undertaken in accordance with the management response agreed upon by the RSC in its August 2022 Project Board Meeting for the Midterm Review (MTR). The discussion focused on the key MTR management response or action items that require further RSC review and endorsement. In particular, these pertain to end of project targets and indicators that were suggested to undergo further National Project Board (NPB) and RSC re-assessment and possible modification, as well as key actions related to possible project extension and submission of proposal for an ATSEA-3. Ms. Yayan Hikmayani, National Project Director of ATSEA-2 and Director of Center for Fisheries Research of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, confirmed the conduct of an NPB meeting last September 2022. The NPB put forward the following recommendations with regard to key end of project targets and activities under the Indonesia component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective level target on MPA coverage: Reduce the target hectare coverage for the new MPA in Kolepom from the original Project Document (ProDoc) target of 555,000ha to 356,337.90ha, based on the final assessment and spatial planning conducted in the area. Indicator 13 and End of Project Target on Reduced Fishing Pressure in Aru: Instead of 25% reduction in fleet size (based on baseline of approx. 775 registered fishing vessel) within the shrimp and red snapper fisheries, support the registration of 25% of fishing fleet for shrimp and red snapper fisheries at the national level to facilitate better monitoring. Indicator 14 and End of Project Target on Improved Use of Fish Gear/Techniques in Aru and Merauke: Make the target clear and specific by promoting use of fishing gear that are selective to Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species at the national level by supporting 50% of shrimp, red snapper and barramundi fishers

- Indicator 16 and End of Project Target on METT score in Southeast Aru MPA: Reduce the ProDoc target of 92 METT score to 70 to make it more realistic, noting that none of the more mature MPAs in Indonesia have reached 90 METT score to date. To comply with MMAF's MPA assessment tool EVIKA, a target of 75% EVIKA score will also be included and will be considered in the subsequent METT and EVIKA assessment in Southeast Aru MPA.
- ICM Activity 2.4.3.4 on technical training for maintenance and repair of the solar-powered water desalination units in Nusa Manuk: Noting that the desalination units were no longer functional when ATSEA-2 started and the area is quite remote; changing the activity into safe-drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives will also be difficult within the remaining time of the project. As such, NPB recommended to drop the target and focus on key deliverables.
- The NPB also recommended re-focusing of other target activities related to conduct of IUU baseline which will now focus on “unreported fishing”, modification of target pilot project in tourism into turtle conservation, education and nature-based alternative livelihoods, as well as support to sustainable financing in the newly-established MPA in Kolepom.
- Based on NPB assessment, it would be unlikely that the Indonesia component will be able to achieve its end of project targets by January 2024 (operational closure of Indonesia component) considering the limitations brought about by COVID and thus recommended to carry out a request for project extension until November 2024.
- Mr. Thomas Usu, Acting Executive Manager of NFA, informed the meeting that PNG's NPB has convened in September 2022 and recommended the following:
 - The NPB recognized the South Fly Fore-Coast Artisanal Fishery Management Plan (SFAFMP) and the establishment of corresponding Stakeholder Management Committee as the flagship deliverable of PNG component under ATSEA-2. NFA commits its full support to the ongoing validation, consultation and finalization of the Plan.
 - Indicator 13 and End of Project Target on Reduced Fishing Pressure in South Fly: Recognizing that the ProDoc baseline information on the production of dried fish maw is outdated and unrealistic (baseline 2 tons; target reduction to 1 ton), the NPB recommended undertaking the following actions: (a) conduct of further field data collection; (b) Use updated data to update the baseline and end of project target; (c) Target not only reduction in dried fish maw production but also awareness and management on use of fish carcass; and (d) Pursue and support development of a National Fish Maw Management Plan.
 - Indicator 14 and End of Project Target on Improved Use of Fish Gear/Techniques in South Fly: In line with the SFAFMP, there is a need to conduct further data collection to update the baseline and set a realistic end of project target. The original ProDoc target is for 25% of artisanal fishers in South Fly (based on approx. 2,700 households in small-scale fishing) using improved fishing gear/techniques. This baseline and target will be updated by 2023 upon completion of further field data collection.
 - In reviewing the remaining deliverables of the Project, the NPB supported the MTR recommendation for a project extension of up to end of December 2024.
- Mr. Acacio Guterres, National Project Director of ATSEA-2 in Timor-Leste and Director-General of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), also confirmed the conduct of NPB meeting in September. The NPB meeting highlighted the following

actions that are needed to be undertaken to confirm revision in the end of project target and other key activities:

- Objective level target on MPA coverage: The ProDoc target is to establish a new MPA in Betano-Klakuk covering 90,000ha. Recent assessment completed under ATSEA-2 indicated a coverage of only 20,906ha, which covers up to 2 nautical miles which was recommended to help ensure more effective management. Considering the ProDoc target, the NPB recommended to include areas from Manufahi to Barique and Ainaro up to 4 nautical miles. With this expansion, it would be possible to achieve about 50,000 to 60,000 ha of new MPA (or about 55% of the original ProDoc target). However, further assessment will need to be undertaken. Once confirmed, a formal letter will be issued by the DG of MAF to finalize the end of project target.
- MAF expressed continued support to strengthening management effectiveness of the existing MPA in Nino-Konis Santana National Park and confirmed that biophysical assessment has already been completed and updating of the management plan is already underway.
- In support of strengthening local engagement and benefits from ICM alternative livelihood and climate change adaptation initiatives, MAF is closely monitoring the work that has been initiated related to community climate resilient home gardens horticulture and ecotourism.
- The NPB meeting also expressed support to extend the project to end of 2024 to facilitate achievement of key targets particularly under the Governance component related to formal adoption of RGM, SAP and National Action Programmes (NAPs), as well as the plan to pursue an ATSEA-3.
- At the regional level, the meeting confirmed support to the MTR recommendation to include an intersessional RSC meeting starting from 2023 as part of the annual work plan and budget to facilitate mid-year assessment of progress and challenges and provide more timely guidance on key matters that may affect project implementation.
- With regard to the proposed re-assessment of the regional end of target related to operationalization of the RGM with contributing dues from at least 2 out of 4 countries. The matter was decided to be further discussed under the agenda on RGM. In line with this, the delegation from Timor-Leste and PNG indicated the willingness of their countries to identify and allocate necessary support to RGM once it is formally established through a Ministerial Declaration. The Ministerial Declaration is envisioned to provide the legal basis for countries to facilitate possible contributions to RGM and implementation of the next SAP.

Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:

The 4th RSC endorsed the following National Project Board (NPB)-recommended revisions on the end of project targets and outputs:

- A. Indonesia:
 - Change of MPA coverage in the newly established MPA in Kolepom to 356,337.90ha, to be supported by a formal endorsement letter from MMAF.
 - Change of METT score to 70, and set a target of 75% for EVIKA score
 - Setting of specific targets in reducing fishing pressure by supporting registration of 25% fishing fleet for shrimp and red snapper fisheries, and by supporting 50% of shrimp, red snapper and barramundi fisheries using fishing gear that are selective to ETP species at national level
 - Conversion of target pilot project on tourism to turtle conservation

	<p>education and alternative nature-based livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving fishing vessel registration in collaboration with MMAF and SILAT (Sistem Informasi Izin Layanan Cepat) program, as a web-based tool to support Quick service Fishing License Information System. ○ Focusing IUU baseline assessment on ‘unreported’ aspect ○ Cancellation of target activity in Nusa Manuk on solar-powered desalination plant and WASH <p>B. Timor-Leste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lowering of hectare coverage of the target new MPA to 50,000-60,000 ha (from the original target of 90,000ha), subject to further assessment of areas to be covered and formal endorsement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. <p>C. PNG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setting of more realistic baseline through conduct of extensive data collection on the reduction of dried fish maw production, and on the number of households/ artisanal fishers in South Fly and types of gears/techniques used ○ Inclusion of management of fish carcass and support to development of a National Fish Maw Management plan as part of the end of project target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 4th RSC noted the commitment from Timor-Leste and PNG to complete the assessment and data collection by March 2023 to finalize the end of project targets and facilitate reporting in Project Implementation Review (PIR) in June 2023. ● The 4th RSC agreed to include an intersessional RSC meeting in the 2023 and 2024 Regional AWP and Budget ● The 4th RSC noted the expression of support from Timor-Leste and PNG to provide contributions in support of RGM operations, subject to formal adoption of RGM through a Ministerial Declaration.
3	<p>Issue: Progress Report 2022 and Programming for 2023 and 2024 (Link to Meeting Documents: Indonesia, PNG, Timor-Leste, Regional) (Link to PPTs: Indonesia, PNG, Timor-Leste, Regional, Australia)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>A. Indonesia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Ms. Yayan Hikmayani, National Project Director of ATSEA-2 in Indonesia and Director of Center for Fisheries Research of MMAF, Mr. Agung Purnomo, First Interpreter of MMAF, delivered Indonesia’s progress in 2022 and proposed programming for 2023 and 2024. Overall, Indonesia is on track in terms of technical delivery except for Outcome 1.1 wherein the formal establishment of its National Inter-Ministerial Committee is still pending but targeted to be completed before the end of 2022, and Outcome 2.1 wherein recruitment of service company to support implementation of EAFM Action Plan related to fisheries processing product for red snapper and barramundi, as well as facilitation of fishing vessel registration in Aru and Merauke are still ongoing. ● In terms of financial delivery, out of US\$885,487 approved budget for 2022, a total of US\$297,795.24 or 39% has been expended up to September, while the remaining 61% is still targeted to be delivered in Quarter 4. However, should full

delivery be deemed not feasible by mid-November, the NCU will convene a NPB meeting in the end of November to present and request for approval of a revised budget, with potential balance to be carried over to 2023 and 2024. As for the country's co-financing commitment, it was noted that Indonesia (through MMAF) has already exceeded its commitment by 102.81%.

- For 2023, Indonesia's NPB has approved the budget allocation of US\$555,696 which will focus on completion of majority of deliverables for Component 2 and support to Component 1 governance targets related to the finalization of RGM, completion of updated TDA, updated SAP and NAP with draft financial plans.
- For 2024 projection, Indonesia allocated US\$167,528 to support: (1) RGM adoption through Ministerial Declaration, (2) Formalization/legalization of SPF and NIMC through national policy, (3) Adoption of financial model to support SAP/NAP and mainstreaming of NAP to national development plans/programs, (4) National and local policies to support SAP/NAP implementation including ICM policies, and (5) Development of lessons learned and policy briefs based on assessments and initiatives on EAFM, Early Warning System, Gender and ICM. Recognizing the political processes required for these remaining targets, the NPB also recommended to pursue a project extension of up to 10 months (from the original operational closure date of Indonesia component in January 2024).
- Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), further inquired on the possible impact of the national election scheduled in June 2024 particularly on the conduct or participation of Indonesia on the Ministerial Forum and signing of the Declaration. Mr. Purnomo relayed that MMAF has already taken note of this and assured the RSC that it will not affect the project implementation and achievement of target outcomes. He reiterated that the proposed 10-month extension will also be key to ensuring approval of the RGM which will require regional endorsement.
- Based on guidance from UNDP BRH, Mr. Iwan Kurniawan clarified that approval of requests for project extension would need to undergo a process and is not guaranteed. As such, he suggested to have a back-up plan to address possible risks or implications and develop project timelines with and without the extension.
- Ms. Akiko Yamamoto, Regional Team Leader for Asia and the Pacific for the Nature, Climate and Energy Team of UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH), underscored that while the national and regional components have varying end dates, from GEF's perspective ATSEA-2 is just one project. Therefore, should countries pursue a request for extension, it would be best to harmonize the end dates. A possible option is if the national component activities could be completed 1-2 months before the regional component, to give the regional team the time to conclude the remaining work for operational closure. Moreover, Ms. Yamamoto clarified that while the no cost extension will not affect the GEF as donor agency, it will still entail oversight and operational costs for the project implementors and partner governments. This will also entail reallocation of some project resources or additional resources to support project management component. However, she emphasized that under GEF policy, project extension should not cause the total project management cost to exceed over the 5% limit.

B. PNG Component

- Mr. Rickson Lis, Operation Focal Point of ATSEA-2 in PNG presented the project progress for 2022 and proposed AWP and Budget for 2023 and 2024 projections for the PNG component. Overall, the technical delivery of PNG in 2022 is on track except for Outcome 2.1 in view of the need to undertake further validation on

the draft South Fly Fore-Coast Artisanal Fishery Management Plan (SFAFMP) and the finalization of the TOR for the establishment of the Stakeholder Committee who will oversee the SFAFMP implementation.

- In terms of financial delivery, PNG component has delivered 71% or US\$ 117,535.46 out of the total approved 2022 budget of US\$166,000. As for PNG's co-financing commitment from NFA, the delivery is only at 7% or US\$148,380 out of US\$2million, noting that this not yet include the support for the hosting of the 4th RSC Meeting.
- Recalling the NPB suggestion related to the MTR recommendation to undertake further data gathering to provide a more realistic baseline and end of project targets on dried fish maw production and use of improved fish gears/techniques in South Fly, Ms. Gonzales sought further clarification on the target completion of the assessments. Mr. Kenneth Yhuanje, National Project Coordinator for ATSEA-2 in PNG, indicated that data collection has already been initiated and is targeted to be completed by March 2023 in line with the agreed MTR management response.
- Despite PNG's late start as well as some delays encountered due to COVID and the national elections conducted last July to August 2022, PNG was able to catch up on a number of its targets. However, based on NPB review further project extension to end of 2024 (6 months from original project operation closure date of June 2024 for PNG component) will be integral to completing key government consultations particularly on formal adoption of RGM, SAP with financial plan, as well as mainstreaming and allocation of financial support for PNG's 1st NAP.
- Echoing UNDP BRH's previous suggestion, Mr. Dhiraj Singh from UNDP PNG indicated the need to align the different end dates of country components into one should a proposal for extension be submitted to GEF.

C. Timor-Leste Component

- On behalf of Mr. Acacio Guterres, Timor-Leste's National Project Director for ATSEA-2, Mr. Almerindo Oliveira da Silva, National Project Coordinator for ATSEA-2 in Timor-Leste, presented project progress for 2022 and the NPB-approved AWP and Budget for 2023, and 2024 projected activities and budget.
- Overall, delivery towards project outcomes is on track. In terms of financial delivery, 83% or US\$ 517,557 out of US\$621,838 approved 2022 budget has been expended. Timor-Leste, through MAF, has also delivered US\$ 19,129,532 as part of its co-financing commitment to the project.
- For 2023, the NPB approved a total budget of US\$600,137 to support completion of majority of remaining targets under Component 2 particularly on EAFM and ICM implementation, including several trainings and roll out of alternative livelihood activities, and support to completion of updated TDA, SAP and NAP, and support to review and dissemination of Timor-Leste's National Ocean Policy.
- For 2024 projection, the remaining budget is at US\$247,435 which will be utilized to support the Ministerial Forum, formal adoption and mainstreaming of updated NAP, support to the National Ocean Policy, meeting of the National Fishery Advisory Committee, harmonization and establishment of database on marine spatial information, and packaging of project results.
- Mr. da Silva highlighted the two national elections (for legislative and village councils) scheduled in 2023 as a possible challenge considering that government work tends to slow down during election periods. This may also impact on government and stakeholder consultations on a number of governance-related

targets of the project in 2023. As such, the NPB also recommended a project extension of up to December 2024.

- Mr. Kurniawan sought clarification about the zero allocation for 2023 and 2024 on project management cost (PMC). He further suggested for the team to review whether the PMC cost has already exceeded the 5% limit. The same point was raised by Ms. Tharuka Dissanaiké of UNDP BRH. Mr. da Silva indicated that the system in UNDP TL does not reflect any budget under PMC, as such PMC costs are currently being taken and recorded as part of Component 1 and 2 of the project. He also indicated that unlike in UNDP Indonesia and UNDP PNG, UNDP TL does not have co-financing commitments to the project. To clarify the matter on PMC, UNDP BRH suggested to organize a separate discussion with UNDP TL.
- In response to Mr. Kurniawan's question on the proposed monitoring system by Timor-Leste, Mr. da Silva clarified that currently data in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) are coming from various partners and sources. Through this initiative, the Project will support the platform to harmonize data collection which has never been done before by other projects in Timor-Leste.
- Regarding the stock and value chain assessment key results, Mr. da Silva indicated that the project has also linked the community cooperative as part of its ICM initiatives with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

D. Regional Component

- Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager (RPM) of ATSEA-2 presented the regional component's progress in 2022 and proposed programming for 2023 and 2024. Overall, in terms of technical delivery, the regional component is on track on all Outcomes except for Outcome 1.1 on regional mechanism and Outcome 1.4 on updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) wherein some adjustments on the roadmap and timeline were made, and under Outcome 3.1 on the development of ATS SAP Monitoring System, which was deferred to 2023 to align with the updating of the SAP. In terms of financial delivery, out of the total approved budget of USD1,055,000 for 2022, 60% or US\$ 633,672 has been delivered as of September 2022. Based on committed expenditures to end of the year, the RPMU expects to deliver up to 95% of the approved budget. As some budget realignment was done to support travels and other in-person activities which were not budgeted for 2022, the RPMU was advised by UNDP to submit a revised budget of 1,005,000 for 2022. The US\$50,000 balance will then be carried over to the 2023 budget, subject to RSC approval.
- The RSC expressed appreciation to the RPMU and noted the work completed in 2022 despite the challenges faced related to some government reorganization due to elections as well as remaining limitations from COVID.
- On the proposed budget revision for 2022, the RSC noted that some budget had to be realigned as the project started to undertake more in-person meetings and forums and travels which were not budgeted when the 3rd RSC approved the 2022 AWP and Budget. Indonesia suggested to ensure that budget be utilized in the conduct of more strategic activities, including development of more technical guidance documents building on the regional thematic environmental assessments completed by the project in order to give countries better guidance in applying results from various assessments.
- Under Component 2 related to sustainable fisheries, the RSC noted that target at the regional level is on track and close to completion. The RSC requested for the RPMU to provide further guidance and support to countries who are still

undertaking several activities in support of sustainable fisheries. In line with this, further clarification was sought on the coverage of the assessment completed by ATSEA-2 related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, to which the Regional Project Manager (RPM) confirmed that the assessment focused mainly on illegal aspect considering the lack of data and complicated process related to securing of unreported and unregulated fishing data in the region.

- Further on Component 2 related to Rights-based fisheries management (RBM), Ms. Tania explained that part of the project target activities is the conduct of a regional exchange on RBM in Australia, which will require further discussion and planning with the national focal agency in Australia. Once clarified, the RPMU will provide further updates to the members of the RSC. In support of this target, Ms. Tania informed the meeting that ATSEA-2 has also published online the “[Scaling up RBM in ATS](#)” to help advance RBM approaches throughout the region.
- In response to clarification sought regarding the delay in the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System, Ms. Narcise explained that while it was originally planned to commence in the 4th quarter of 2022 and interview of consultant has already been conducted, for efficiency, the RPMU decided to defer the activity to 2023 to align with the updating of the SAP to ensure conformity of the monitoring indicators and system with the new SAP. The development of indicators for the monitoring system will also make use of the indicators identified in the Theory of Change (ToC) for SAP and ATSEA-2 as reference.
- With regard to the TDA-SAP updating process, the RPM explained that considering the limited time left for the project, the roadmap has been revised wherein updating of the SAP will overlap with the TDA updating process beginning with the SAP Inception Workshop in December 2023. The target is to complete the updated TDA and secure RSC endorsement by March 2023, while the first draft of the updated SAP is targeted to be ready by June 2023, and final version completed and endorsed by the RSC by September 2023, to facilitate completion of formal country endorsements through the signing of a Ministerial Declaration in 2024. (NOTE: More detailed discussion on TDA and SAP updating process is covered in separate issues below)
- Based on the scope and amount of work being undertaken by ATSEA-2 in support of the current SAP implementation, Dr. Andrew Chek of Australia emphasized that for the next SAP to be realistic and achievable, it is crucial to ensure that it will have strategic focus and targeted impacts.
- With regard to the planned ATS Symposium in 2023, the meeting recognized the value of the event to showcase ATSEA-2 initiatives as well as the opportunity to engage with more partners. The RPM indicated that initial discussions are underway with Indonesia’s BRIN (National Research and Innovation Agency) as one of the possible collaborators, and that discussion with other countries will also be undertaken. Ms. Yamamoto of UNDP further suggested to use the symposium as a venue to highlight linkages of science with management and show contributions from the ATS countries and the region to the UN Decade of Ocean Science (UNDOS). She also suggested to explore engagement of other relevant UNDP project portfolios in the Symposium.

E. Australia’s Initiatives in Support of SAP Objectives

- Dr. Andrew Chek, National Focal Point of Australia for ATSEA-2 from the Pacific and Regional Section of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the

	<p>Environment and Water (DCCEEW), presented Australia’s initiatives contributing to ATS SAP and ATSEA-2 Objectives. He emphasized that as a non-project beneficiary Australia does not have specific activities under the ATSEA-2 Project. There were many activities which took place in the region supported by Australia, but there is not much integration with ATSEA activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chek indicated that the new Australian government has signaled to undertake more collaboration in the international space. In line with this, Dr. Chek’s team aims to help bring more visibility to the ATSEA program despite the ongoing national restructuring following the federal elections in May 2022. In particular, on RGM, he acknowledged Australia’s slow progress in conducting the national consultations and appreciated the Pre-RSC suggestions to revise the roadmap and move the RGM endorsement to the 2023 RSC meeting. He also shared that even a draft SAP would be helpful to make the case on why RGM is necessary, and that a round of in-country consultation will also be started in the next few weeks in support of the TDA updating. • Dr. Chek suggested that as the project moves to the SAP process, it is important to focus the efforts on a few very clearly defined shared priorities and strategic actions that may gain interest from international stakeholders. • Dr. Susanto thanked Dr. Chek for Australia’s support on the RGM and looked forward to receiving more progress in regard to RGM and TDA updating prior to June 2023. • Ms. Aguilin requested further information on the study conducted by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in South Fly that may be more useful for PNG. Dr. Chek will need to check with ACIAR and encouraged the RPMU to send an email to enable his team to bridge the request. • Mr. Kenneth Yhuanje, ATSEA-2 National Project Coordinator of PNG shared that NCU PNG has initiated discussions with the Australia High Commission in PNG to support fisheries related activities in South Fly and requested for additional guidance or information on the kind of arrangements that they may need to consider for the cooperation with Australia to happen. • The Chair, Mr. Noan Pakop, suggested for the project to map out the different work or activities happening in the ATS region particularly in ATSEA-2’s areas of interest. For instance, in PNG, the private sector (e.g. OK Tedi) and NGOs have raised some issues on fish maw; the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has project on coastal communities in terms of fishing gears which is under development; some may be in line with NPOA-IUU implementation to address IUU fishing; and some work from Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <p>A. Indonesia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC noted the 2022 progress report and the NPB-approved 2023 AWP and Budget for Indonesia amounting to US\$555,696 • The 4th RSC noted and recommended the NPB proposal for a 10-month project extension (from the initial end of the project in January 2024 to November 2024) to be discussed further under Agenda 11.0 <p>B. PNG Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC noted the 2022 progress report and the NPB-approved 2023 AWP and Budget for PNG amounting to US\$ 142,000. This includes the

	<p>recommendation to undertake data collection on the fish maw as recommended by the Mid-Term Review in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC noted and recommended the proposal NPB for a 6-month project extension (to December 2024) to be discussed further under Agenda 11.0. <p>C. Timor-Leste Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC noted the 2022 progress report and the NPB-approved 2023 AWP and Budget for Timor-Leste amounting to US\$ 600,137 with advice from UNDP BRH to have further discussion with UNDP Timor-Leste in regard to Project Management Cost and to re-visit the Project Document. The 4th RSC noted and recommended the NPB proposal for a project extension to December 2024 to be discussed further under Agenda 11.0. <p>D. Regional Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC approved the proposed budget revision for 2022 from US\$1,055,000 to US\$1,005,000, representing a 5% reduction or a balance of US\$50,000 to be carried over to 2023. The 4th RSC approved the proposed 2023 AWP and Budget for the regional component amounting to US\$858,000, with recommendation to prioritize strategic deliverables (e.g.. completing updated TDA, SAP, and RGM). The 4th RSC expressed support to the planned ATS Symposium in 2023 and recommended to engage/link with other relevant regional initiatives, and to schedule the symposium to coincide with a key international celebration related to environmental protection. The 4th RSC recognized the need to secure regional consensus and commitment on the RGM and the updated SAP and NAPs as crucial in building the case for ATSEA-3. <p>E. Australia’s Initiatives Contributing to ATS SAP and ATSEA-2 Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC noted the different initiatives of Australia contributing to the ATS region and the opportunities for possible collaboration in common areas of interest, with further suggestion for the project to map out different initiatives and potential convergence in the region. The 4th RSC noted the challenges faced by Australia due to national elections and subsequent government restructuring and expressed support towards Australia’s plan to speed up the processes with regard to RGM and TDA updating.
4	<p>Issue: Monitoring of the Project Theory of Change (ToC), Risk Log, and Upcoming Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <hr/> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Aguilin presented the actions taken in line with the application of the Project’s Theory of Change (ToC) which was completed in 2021 building on RSC recommendations at the 2nd RSC in 2020, as well as the status in monitoring, updating and reporting of the project risk log, and the delivery of ATSEA-2’s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan. Apart from the application of the Theory of Change (ToC) as key reference in the updating of the TDA, reporting of project results, and improving communications and knowledge sharing, Ms. Aguilin cited the following key results contributing

towards the SAP and ATSEA-2 objective of “enhancing sustainable development of the ATS region to improve biodiversity and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through conservation and sustainable coastal and marine management”:

- On the environmental aspect of the objective: ATSEA-2 completed a number of regional and national thematic assessments to provide the region with updated information on the status of key persistent and emerging challenges, which serve as useful reference for awareness building and guide for planning and designing of management actions. This also supported implementation of key integrated approaches such as Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in selected sites.
- On the socio-economic aspect of the objective: ATSEA-2 through application of EAFM and ICM, in particular, have started to demonstrate results through the different capacity and awareness building initiatives particularly to women’s groups. In Indonesia for example, the alternative livelihood initiative on soap making using seaweed which engages women’s groups have started to yield additional income for the beneficiaries.
- The Co-Chair, Mr. Kurniawan, recognized the good results that are starting to manifest from the project implementation and suggested for these results and good practices to be packaged into fact sheets and disseminated to highlight ATSEA-2’s contribution to national and regional agenda, as well as to showcase possible areas/aspects of replication or upscaling.
- UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub supported the Co-Chair’s suggestion and further suggested mainstreaming or linking of project initiatives and corresponding plans with international targets such as the SDGs, and climate change goals, among others.
- Indonesia noted that the ToC document mentioned shared stocks and transboundary pelagic fisheries related to IUU fishing. As shared stocks arrangements have yet to reach any level of agreement, Indonesia requested for the statement to be deleted not only in the ToC but also in other ATSEA-2 documents and replace it with ‘optimizing use of fish stocks in each country’.
- Australia expressed appreciation to the RPMU for pursuing the completion of a ToC and encouraged continued application of the ToC in various project initiatives to guide framing of issues and subsequent actions. The ToC may also serve as a good reference material in designing the concept for ATSEA-3. To facilitate easier understanding of the ToC, Australia further suggested to develop a 1-pager or an information brief which can be made available and prominent on the ATSEA-2 website. In particular, in addition to the current ‘About Us’ menu item, a separate and differently colored link on the main page on "What is ATSEA" or "ATSEA Goals Objectives and Logic" would help provide a helicopter view of the objectives of ATSEA and its logic which could be very valuable in helping people engage with the project.
- To further enhance and ensure participatory approach in Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Indonesia suggested for the draft annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) report to be circulated to all country partners for review and inputs prior to its finalization and submission to UNDP and GEF. Indonesia also suggested to engage the GEF Operational Focal Points more closely in project implementation by updating them on project progress and results on an annual basis.
- With regard to monitoring and reporting of project risks, UNDP PNG noted the earlier discussions on the limited timeframe for the project to complete its

	<p>remaining deliverables including the requirement to conduct a Terminal Evaluation six months before the project closure date. Considering the varying end dates of the national and regional components of the project and the uncertainty with regard to possible project extension, UNDP PNG suggested for such risks to be noted if not yet included in the current project risk log. The RPMU concurred to further update the risk log and add this as a potential new risk with corresponding mitigating measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for other risks and challenges identified in the country and regional progress reports, particularly on challenges posed by elections and changes in government structure and personnel, the RPMU confirmed that this is already captured and updated in the current project risk log. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th RSC recommended the following actions to maximize the guidance provided by the Theory of Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a ToC infosheet to make it more digestible and useful to various partners and stakeholders which can be made available on the ATSEA-2 website possibly under a separate link or page under the main ‘About Us’ menu, focusing on “What is ATSEA” or “ATSEA Goals, Objectives and Logic” On communicating project results, develop a 2 to 3-pager fact sheets on contribution of ATSEA-2 initiatives vis-à-vis national and regional agenda as well as international targets (i.e., SDGs, Climate Change goals, etc.), and highlight potential aspects or efforts for upscaling In line with Indonesia’s request, amend the ToC document and replace statements on transboundary pelagic fisheries and shared fish stock with optimizing use of fish stocks in each country The 4th RSC recommended to update the project risk log, considering that (a) some end of project targets may not be achieved within the given project timeframe due to delays caused by COVID-19, and (b) implications on the conduct of the Terminal Evaluation (TE) given the varying end dates for each component of the project as potential new risks, and identify corresponding mitigating measures The 4th RSC recommended to include the following in the subsequent M&E plan or activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulation of draft PIR to all countries to seek further inputs or validation prior to finalization and submission of the report to UNDP and GEF Update the GEF Operational Focal Points on status of project implementation or progress, preferably through in-person meeting or briefing
5	<p>Issue: ATSEA-2 Regional Governance Mechanism (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <hr/> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto presented the process and progress of consultations with regard to the design of the ATS regional governance mechanisms (RGM) and stakeholder partnership forum (SPF). Considering recommendations from

stakeholder consultations in Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste and the rapid assessment of non-government stakeholders in Australia, two design options were developed and considered in a second round of consultations. The main difference between the two options is the presence of a Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) in Option 1 and its absence in Option 2. The RSWG will serve as one of the mechanisms for facilitating stakeholder inputs and engagement into the RGM decision making process via the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC). After significant consideration of the options, Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste expressed support for the Option 1 design, which they confirmed in the Pre-RSC meeting on October 17. Due to government restructuring that followed the conduct of federal elections, Australia was unable to conduct country RGM consultations and requested additional information to support consultations on RGM with the new government (e.g., cost estimates for the RGM options, priority issues that the RGM will address, etc.). Considering this, a revised timeline/roadmap was presented targeting RSC endorsement of the agreed RGM model by June 2023, and formal adoption through a Ministerial Declaration on June 2024. The RSC was requested to consider the proposed RGM Option 1 as the preferred model for the region, and to endorse the proposed next steps for completing the RGM process.

- Dr. Chek underscored the importance of having a value proposition for the regional collaboration. Moreover, to facilitate an assessment of the RGM benefits, on the part of Australia, he suggested that it would be useful to have information on potential costs and proposed functions or services of the model (i.e., some detail on duties of the Secretariat), without the expense and time needed for a formal Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA).
- Ms. Gonzales assured that a quick analysis of costs, possible sources, and funding options could be done earlier to support decision-making on the RGM options.
- Mr. Da Silva shared that Timor-Leste initially chose Option 2 but after some consideration chose Option 1, although in addition to the cost considerations, stakeholders still need deeper clarification on the benefits of the proposed RGM for the countries. He also highlighted the importance of Australia in the regional collaboration considering the need to synchronize key actions within the region.
- Ms. Hikmayani confirmed that Indonesia continues to support Option 1 as it is simple but has the most effective structure that will enable stakeholder participation, with key elements at regional and national levels including an RSWG. She further stated that Indonesia is well aware of the need for the SAP to determine the position of Australia on the RGM, and urged the RPMU to consider how to simplify and finish the updated TDA by March 2023 followed by the development and finalization of the updated SAP to enable adoption of the RGM model by June 2023 and move toward its adoption through a Ministerial Declaration. She also encouraged simplifying and finalizing the TDA focusing on key issues as proposed by Australia.
- Mr. Lis also shared that PNG also initially chose Option 2 but after some discussions agreed on Option 1 recognizing the value of having a RSWG to provide technical guidance and inputs on regional transboundary concerns. He reconfirmed the PNG position for Option 1 while also acknowledging the importance of having a cost-benefit analysis to support better decision-making on the RGM structure and operation.
- Ms. Tharuka Dissanaiké, Regional Technical Specialist of UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP), highlighted the importance of having a SAP in order to determine the best mechanism and most cost-effective way to support and monitor its implementation. This will also increase ownership of the RGM. She further reminded that although there might be an ATSEA-3 proposal, it is important for

	<p>sustainability to have financing support for the RGM and SAP/NAP implementation from the countries as well as from external and other sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chek also clarified if there are any provisions in the proposed RGM model about the engagement of institutions that are not in the NWG, e.g., CTI and some NGOs who have been helpful in the region. Dr. Susanto and Ms. Narcise explained that in the Option 1 model, apart from nominated members from the NWGs, other experts may be invited to join the RSWG as members or resource persons considering the specializations that may be needed to address specific priority issues. • Ms. Sitti Hamdiah, Coordinator for Regional and Multilateral Cooperation of MMAF-Indonesia, acknowledged the usefulness of the proposed cost-benefit analysis but further clarified and suggested the following with regard to financing of RGM Secretariat and its operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer to the 2014 ATSEA-1 Ministerial Declaration which states that member countries are not required to contribute a determined amount of funds but are welcome to contribute voluntarily. ○ The RGM Secretariat, once established may also consider, if possible, the establishment of a fund-raising unit under the Secretariat to explore various funding sources to support the RGM operations, and the SAP and NAP implementation. • The Co-Chair also inquired if resources for conducting the cost-benefit analysis is already part of the work plan and budget for 2023, which was confirmed by the RPMU. • On the timeline, Dr. Chek endorsed the proposed adjustment targeting endorsement of the RGM model in June 2023, and the proposed next steps for completing the RGM process leading to the Ministerial Declaration. • The Chair noted the RGM options preferred by Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste and acknowledged that further work needs to be done with regard to the operational costs and possible sources of funds before decisions could be made on the final RGM option. He also noted the endorsement of the adjusted timeline and next steps for finalizing and adopting the RGM and stakeholder engagement mechanism for the ATS region. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste confirmed Option 1 (with RSWG) as the preferred RGM model at this time, while Australia would require more time to undertake further in-country consultation. • To facilitate in-country assessments and consultations, particularly on associated costs and support required for RGM operationalization, the 4th RSC requested for an early completion of the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA), with costing related to Regional Secretariat operations to be prioritized and shared with countries by early 2023 to jumpstart country consultations. • In line with the Pre-RSC recommendation, the 4th RSC agreed to defer RSC endorsement of the RGM in June 2023 to coincide with the completion of the draft updated SAP. Once endorsed, the project will pursue completion of requirements for transition leading to the formal adoption of RGM and SAP at the Ministerial Forum targeted in June 2024. • The 4th RSC endorsed the proposed next steps for the finalization and adoption of the RGM and stakeholder engagement mechanism for the ATS region, taking into consideration the request for early completion of the CBA, including further
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discussion related to Indonesia's suggestion on RGM financing and a possibility to establish a fund-raising unit within the Regional Secretariat.

Proposed Next Steps/Activities	Schedule
1) Refine RGM report and Next Steps, and present to 4 th RSC	Nov. 3, 2022 (4 th RSC)
2) Undertake cost-benefit analysis of preferred RGM model	Q1-Q2 2023
3) Continue consultations/consensus building on preferred RGM model considering the CBA & financing strategy & priorities from updated TDA & draft updated SAP (ready June '23)	Q1-Q2 2023
4) Develop RGM Transition Plan	Q1-Q2 2023
5) Present the results of country consultations on the RGM model, financing strategy and Transition Plan to the RSC (Inter-sessional or special meeting) for review and approval	June/July 2023
6) Initiate implementation of Transition Plan (develop TORs, establish Secretariats, facilitate transition to RCC and NCC, establish NWGs and RWG)	Q3-Q4 2023
7) Finalize SAP and NAP updating (incorporating agreed RGM)	Sept. 2023/Dec. 2023
8) Prepare Financial Plan (FP) (for RGM, SAP & NAPs)	Q3 2023 – Q1 2024
9) Preparation for Ministerial Forum & Drafting of Ministerial Declaration	Start January 2024
10) Ministerial Meeting - Signing of Ministerial Declaration - Adopting RGM, SAP&NAPs, FP	June 2024
11) Terminal Evaluation and Operational Closure	March-June (Dec if project is extended) 2024

6 **Issue: ATS Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA): Causal Chain Analysis Report**
[\(Link to Meeting Document\)](#)
[\(Link to PPT\)](#)

Discussion:

- On behalf of the Regional Project Management Unit, Mr. Matthew Fox, Regional Consultant on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) presented the progress on the ongoing ATS TDA updating process, and focused on the consultative process undertaken, the resulting key transboundary issues identified through existing assessments and causal chain analysis (CCA) workshops, and the proposed roadmap towards the finalization of the updated TDA. In particular, the three (3) key environmental transboundary issues and corresponding sub-issues prioritized by the Regional Working Group (RWG) are as follows, while Climate-change and Gender-related aspects were considered as cross-cutting driver and issues:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pollution of Marine and Coastal Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oil spill ○ Plastic pollution and marine debris ○ Ghost-net (ALDFG) ○ Land based pollution and sedimentation 2) Ecosystem, habitat, and biodiversity Habitat decline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deterioration of critical habitat ○ Climate impact on ecosystem ○ Decline of ETP Species 3) Unsustainable fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harvest level ○ Fisheries bycatch ○ IUUF ○ Gender equity and socio-economic issues ○ Market and supply chain issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia acknowledged the progress made and reiterated its earlier suggestion to focus on the most relevant and key issues of the region. As a crucial undertaking, Indonesia further requested to consider conducting possibly a 3-day in person meeting to finalize the updated TDA. Ms. Narcise responded by explaining the initial plan to conduct national validation workshops in November and a regional validation workshop in February, both virtually. Recognizing the value of convening an in-person meeting, the RPMU will re-consider the request from Indonesia. • Ms. Hikmayani also reiterated their request to not use shared-fish stock and transboundary pelagic fishing terms in any document. • Ms. Yamamoto acknowledged the effort in facilitating the CCA despite the COVID-19 situation. She further suggested for the group to check on whether there are issues that have been overlooked. Furthermore, she indicated that in the TDA-SAP, sustainable development has to come out equally as important as conservation issues (i.e., how to utilize the resources in a sustainable manner). • Mr. Kurniawan inquired about the quantitative data on the region's status in the CCA report, to which Mr. Fox, Ms. Narcise, and Ms. Aguilin responded with the following clarifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More detailed data on the changes or status of the ATS will be reflected in the full TDA report, while key references relevant to the identified key issues were initially provided in the CCA report; ○ While country synthesis reports are still being finalized by National TDA consultants, the members of the RWG (multi-expert group) including the national TDA consultants, have considered the key issues arising from country data gathering and known studies during the CCA discussions ○ Completed regional and national thematic assessment reports by ATSEA-2 were also considered and served as key references from the start of the TDA updating process. • In response to Australia's questions on whether all issues that will be identified in the TDA will be covered in the SAP and if inputs would still be accommodated to early next year, the TDA Regional Consultant and Ms. Narcise explained that while TDA will mainly provide the scientific or technical basis on the priority transboundary issues, it will also touch on leverage points and prioritization of issues which will be further threshed out in the development of strategic actions for the updated SAP. The Regional TDA Consultant also confirmed that considering the limited timeframe, the process for TDA updating will have to proceed while keeping the process open for inputs from countries until the final draft is agreed upon in March 2023.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting agreed in principle to proceed with the proposed process and timeline, noting that Australia will provide its position later about the endorsement as well as the input for the CCA, and supported Indonesia’s suggestion of an in-person meeting. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste endorsed the three priority transboundary environmental issues to facilitate initiation of the drafting of the full updated TDA report, while Australia will require more time to undertake in-country consultations on the transboundary issues identified in the CCA report The 4th RSC endorsed the following proposed roadmap and timelines to allow the TDA team to commence preparation of the TDA update/revision, while recognizing that additional inputs from countries will be considered all throughout the TDA completion process leading to completion of the updated TDA: <table border="1" data-bbox="338 698 1423 1283"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 698 550 734">Timeline</th> <th data-bbox="550 698 1423 734">Activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 734 550 846">W1 Nov 2022</td> <td data-bbox="550 734 1423 846">Draft CCA Report tabled at RSC for endorsement of priority transboundary issues and timeline/roadmap for the completion of updated TDA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 846 550 918">W2-3 Nov 2022</td> <td data-bbox="550 846 1423 918">CCA Report (Key Transboundary Issues) considered in drafting of full TDA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 918 550 954">W3 Nov 2022</td> <td data-bbox="550 918 1423 954">The first draft TDA Report will be distributed to RSC and NWGs</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 954 550 1025">W4 Nov 2022</td> <td data-bbox="550 954 1423 1025">National TDA Validation Workshops of the first draft TDA Report (NWGs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1025 550 1061">W1-3 Dec 2022</td> <td data-bbox="550 1025 1423 1061">Inputs received by TDA Consultant, completion of V2 draft TDA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1061 550 1133">W2 Jan 2023</td> <td data-bbox="550 1061 1423 1133">TDA Draft V2 shared to RSC, NWGs and RWG for review and comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1133 550 1205">W2 Feb 2023</td> <td data-bbox="550 1133 1423 1205">Regional validation workshop (RWG and other stakeholders), completion of V3 draft TDA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1205 550 1283">Mar 2023</td> <td data-bbox="550 1205 1423 1283">Final RSC / RWG feedback on V3 TDA Report, and completion of the TDA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Timeline	Activity	W1 Nov 2022	Draft CCA Report tabled at RSC for endorsement of priority transboundary issues and timeline/roadmap for the completion of updated TDA	W2-3 Nov 2022	CCA Report (Key Transboundary Issues) considered in drafting of full TDA	W3 Nov 2022	The first draft TDA Report will be distributed to RSC and NWGs	W4 Nov 2022	National TDA Validation Workshops of the first draft TDA Report (NWGs)	W1-3 Dec 2022	Inputs received by TDA Consultant, completion of V2 draft TDA	W2 Jan 2023	TDA Draft V2 shared to RSC, NWGs and RWG for review and comment	W2 Feb 2023	Regional validation workshop (RWG and other stakeholders), completion of V3 draft TDA	Mar 2023	Final RSC / RWG feedback on V3 TDA Report, and completion of the TDA
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Mar 2023	Final RSC / RWG feedback on V3 TDA Report, and completion of the TDA																		
7	<p>Issue: ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) Updating Process (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Narcise presented the plan and roadmap for the updating of the ATS SAP, which will be initiated before the end of 2022 following the confirmation of priority transboundary issues from the ongoing TDA updating process that would need to be addressed in the updated SAP. The updating of the ATS SAP will build on the participatory and multi-disciplinary arrangements from the TDA process, working with the same NWGs and RWG, with minor adjustments as may be needed. A consultant will be engaged to facilitate the SAP consultation process and write an updated SAP in collaboration with the national and regional project teams, NWGs in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Australia, and the RWG. Recruitment of the SAP Consultant is in process, and the selected SAP consultant is expected to be on board by the 3rd week of November, and a virtual inception meeting will be organized in early December. A series of ‘Strategic Thinking’ and ‘Strategic Planning’ workshops will be organized to be participated by the NWGs and RWG in the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2023 which should provide inputs for preparation of the draft updated SAP by June 2023. National and regional consultations to review the draft SAP together with the NWGs and RWG and other key stakeholders will be conducted in 																		

the 3rd quarter of 2023, after which it will be presented to the RSC for review and finalized on September 2023. National consultants for the preparation/updating of the NAPs in Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste will be engaged separately by the countries in early 2023 to enable them to take part in the SAP updating process, and work with the SAP consultant in the development and finalization of the NAPs by December 2023.

- Dr. Chek confirmed that he has no objection on the proposed plan and roadmap but raised concerns on the timing of activities around December to January considering the Christmas holidays. Ms. Narcise replied that much of the activities in December 2022 to January 2023 will consist of desk reviews and preparatory work to be undertaken by the SAP consultant in preparation for the workshops which will be start in February.
- The Co-Chair, Mr. Kurniawan, inquired about the overlapping schedules of the TDA and SAP process considering that the TDA will serve as reference for the SAP. Ms. Narcise explained that in view of time constraints, SAP updating will be initiated after the confirmation of the priority transboundary issues to be covered in the updated TDA, noting that the regional validation workshop for the TDA where leverage points will be identified will be undertaken in February and the TDA will be completed in March 2023, in time to serve as reference in SAP consultations until May/June.
- Ms. Yamamoto encouraged unpacking of the process for the SAP updating to make it clearer, ensuring government commitment to the proposed timeline for SAP updating until its endorsement, and finalizing the SAP and NAPs before September and December 2023 respectively, if possible. In support of this suggestion, Ms. Dissanaikie suggested for the project team to develop a consolidated roadmap on the target milestones including SAP and NAP endorsement plan and strategic meetings, including the regional ATS Symposium planned in 2023.

Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:

- The 4th RSC approved the following proposed timeline for the conduct of the updating of SAP:

Activities	Schedule
Updating of SAP	
1. Inception workshop	W1 Dec 2022
2. SAP Consultation Workshops - Strategic Thinking and Strategic Planning with NWGs and RWG (mostly online, with one offline meeting in Bali in March or April)	Jan-April 2023
3. Drafting of Updated SAP	May-June 2023
4. National and regional consultations with NWGs and RWG to review the draft Updated SAP; refinement of SAP	June-July 2023
5. Presentation of refined updated SAP to RSC	W4 July 2023
6. Finalize the updated SAP based on RSC review/inputs	Sept 2023
Development/Updating of NAPs	
Development of NAP for Papua New Guinea	Jan-Dec 2023
Updating of NAPs for Indonesia and Timor-Leste	Apr-Dec 2023

- The 4th RSC recommended to harmonize timing for the updating of SAP and NAPs and endorsement processes in the countries, and develop a consolidated roadmap for completing all key governance deliverables and strategic meetings (e.g., RGM,

	completion and adoption of TDA, SAP and NAPs, ATS Symposium, RSC and other strategic meetings)
8	<p>Issue: Regional EAFM Action Plan on Red Snapper in ATS Region (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Casandra Tania, Regional Biodiversity Specialist of RPMU, presented the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Plan for Red Snapper Fisheries in the ATS. The Plan was built on the Fishery Baselines report completed in 2021 and developed through a participatory approach, specifically through a series of virtual Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with more than 80 participants from the ATS countries. Prior to the RSC meeting, the Plan was also discussed through dissemination meetings with PNG, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste, and to Australia through email. • Dr. Chek shared that Australia would need to conduct further consultations with the states, private sector and other relevant parties. Hence, it will need more time to provide comments and endorsement as appropriate in writing to the RPMU. In response to Dr. Susanto’s inquiry on a possible timeline for in-country consultations, Dr. Chek stated the consultations would happen in January 2023 and may need more time until February 2023 for more comprehensive comments. • Ms. Hikmayani informed the meeting that Indonesia has no objection with regard to the Plan, but would like to highlight that climate change on ecological wellbeing was not highlighted enough in the plan. Indonesia thought that the Guide still focused more on the Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species. Indonesia recommended identifying spawning grounds for red snapper which can serve as basis for establishing MPAs. Moreover, Indonesia suggested the adoption of the fishery refugia concept. On management measure related to gear marking, Indonesia shared that the practice may not be feasible for the three ATS countries (i.e., Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste). Instead, Indonesia undertakes public awareness and community engagement for handling of lost gears. Overall, Indonesia agreed and endorsed the plan to be disseminated and used by the countries. Indonesia requested that RPMU develop technical guidelines for the documents endorsed by the RSC to ensure countries have corresponding guides to implement the Plans to create a more long-lasting impact. • Related to fisheries management, Indonesia further inquired about the planned regional exchange on rights-based fishery management (RBM) and its linkage to EAFM. • On Indonesia’s comment regarding the lack of consideration for climate change impact on ecological wellbeing in the regional EAFM Plan, Ms. Tania indicated that climate change was considered more at the national plan like in the EAFM Plan developed for Timor-Leste. As for RBM, Ms. Tania confirmed that the RBM initiative is linked to EAFM. In particular, the strategy and roadmap on implementation of RBM is specific to red snapper. The planned regional exchange on RBM is also not a stand-alone activity as it hopes to enable participating countries to apply the additional learning on their on-the-ground implementation leading to development of local bylaws related to RBM for red snapper and other key fish commodities. Moreover, to address lack of capacity, several EAFM trainings have also been conducted under ATSEA-2 both at the regional level which have already trickled

	<p>down to community level, with regional-trained fisheries managers and personnel already supporting country or local level EAFM trainings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite there being no red snapper fishery in South Fly District, Mr. Lis acknowledged the Plan and stated that the Plan would be a good reference material for PNG to develop a red snapper management plan for other parts of PNG. PNG endorsed the plan. • Mr. Celestino da Cunha Baretto, National Director of MAF, acknowledged the value of the plan and expressed appreciation to the RPMU for disseminating the document. The regional plan will act as an umbrella for the national action plan. Timor-Leste endorsed the plan and believed that the document would be a good reference for managing the fisheries in the country as well as at the regional level. • In response to Ms. Dissanaïke’s inquiry, Ms Tania responded that the EAFM Plan includes an M&E plan as an appendix with indicators and possible source of baseline data. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC endorsed in principle the draft Regional EAFM Plan on Red Snapper, considering the recommended refinements from Indonesia and subject to further comments from Australia following further in-country consultations which are targeted to be completed by February 2023.
9	<p>Issue: Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers: Incorporating Regional Climate Change Results into Local Action Planning (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tania presented the key elements of the Draft Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers which builds upon the Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) completed by ATSEA-2 in 2021. The Guide includes a summary of the CCVA results and provides decision-support tools and processes for practitioners and NGOs, using a series of steps and templates, to work with communities to incorporate climate change into local planning, thereby facilitating targeted and appropriate adaptation actions for implementation at the community level. The Guide was tested in Oeseli Village, Rote Ndao, Indonesia and Viqueque on the south coast of Timor-Leste to test its effectiveness. This resulted to case studies, and a community action plan particularly in Oeseli Village. • Mr. Kurniawan inquired about 1) the innovativeness; 2) the possible level of adoption; the need for facilitators and the technical requirements, and 3) the possibility of automating the process. Ms. Tania responded that based on countries’ responses during national dissemination, the Guide was well accepted and countries hinted that the document was the first of its kind. With regard to the adoption and the need for facilitators, initially the Guide was prepared only for the decision-makers, specifically the local communities. However, when the Guide was tested out, it became apparent that facilitators are crucial to ensure decision-makers can undertake all the necessary steps listed in the Guide. Hence, the need for facilitators and modification of the Guide’s title (i.e. from Guide for Decision-Makers to Guide for Facilitators and Decision-Makers). The facilitators and decision-makers need to have a basic understanding of climate change and marine and fisheries issues in order to use the Guide. On automatization, Ms. Tania explained that it may not be possible as observed during the trial, even with the assistance from facilitators, the process needs to be as hands on as possible and will require time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chek indicated that while other ATS countries have been engaged in a dissemination and review process, the Draft Guide came only to their attention in October 2022. He also noted that the CCVA report which served as the key reference for the Guide did not require endorsement from the RSC. As the CCVA predicates the Guide and in view of time limitation, Dr. Chek indicated that Australia would need more time to endorse the document. Ms. Tania explained that the Guide is a knowledge product produced by the project and mainly targets users from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, but may also be useful to Australia. The Guide was developed to ensure the results of the CCVA for the ATS region can be used by local communities to conduct a local assessment and develop a community action plan to be more resilient against climate change. To help address Australia’s concern, Ms. Gonzales suggested adding a disclaimer to clarify documents that are required for RSC endorsement and those that do not require endorsement by countries. Dr. Chek expressed willingness to work with RPMU to fast track the Guide endorsement which may consider a separate presentation on the CCVA and Guide. • Ms. Hikmayani stated that Indonesia endorsed the Guide and encouraged the Guide to be escalated in other regions. She underscored that so far, this Guide is the only ATSEA document that provides technical guidance building from a regional assessment to help member countries implement. • Mr. Lis on behalf of PNG acknowledged the guide, highlighting its importance given the increasing challenges posed by climate change in the region. PNG endorsed the guide. • On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Aquilino Amaral, Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation expressed Timor-Leste’s endorsement of the Guide in principle and their appreciation to RPMU for conducting the dissemination in person in Dili. Timor-Leste believes that application of the Guide by coastal communities will help build local resilience. RPMU was recommended to conduct further dissemination at national level to increase adoption. <p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste endorsed the Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers • Australia requested for additional time to work with RPMU in identifying means to further clarify and facilitate endorsement of the proposed Guide, considering that the Guide was built upon the Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report which was not subject to RSC endorsement
10	<p><u>Issue: Strategic Discussion on Project Implementation and Sustainability</u> (Link to Meeting Document) (Link to PPT)</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Potential ATSEA-2 Project Extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session started with a discussion on the potential for ATSEA-2 project extension. Ms. Yamamoto of UNDP-BRH emphasized that in the current context, project extensions are considered for exceptional cases only, and with strong justification. She also underscored the timing considerations noting: 1) that SAP preparation and endorsement through a Ministerial Declaration should happen within the project timeframe to ensure availability of project and government resources; 2) the need to consider when to approach GEF in terms of ATSEA-3; and

	<p>3) the timing of the terminal evaluation there being 3 project documents that need to be harmonized. These all need to be factored in when talking about project extension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the varying project completion dates (January 2024 for Indonesia, March 2024 for Timor-Leste, and June 2024 for the Regional and PNG components) and considering the SAP finalization (September 2023) and formal endorsement target, Ms. Yamamoto proposed considering Plan A (project completion as originally planned) and Plan B (project completion by June 2024, harmonizing all three Project Documents, which would require extension for the Timor-Leste and Indonesia project components). Anything beyond June 2024 will require more rigorous discussion and commitment. • With regard to the timing of ATSEA-3 proposal submission, Ms. Yamamoto advised that this depends on when the Ministerial endorsement of the SAP will be secured. GEF will look at the political and financial commitment of the countries developing the SAP. The sooner the SAP is developed, the sooner will be the application for ATSEA-3. She further inquired if it is possible to aim for SAP endorsement within 2023. • Dr. Susanto inquired if the RSC endorsement of the SAP which is targeted in September 2023, would suffice to support the ATSEA-3 application, but Ms. Yamamoto advised that historically, the Ministerial Declaration will be needed. • Mr. Da Silva reminded the meeting that there will be two elections in Timor-Leste in 2023, and it will be difficult to push for adoption of the SAP in 2023. It will be better to target endorsement up to March 2024 and prepare for the endorsement in 2023. • Dr. Chek inquired if it is possible to have a renewal of Declaration, with the addition of PNG, rather than a new Declaration, which might need more requirements. Ms. Yamamoto confirmed that this approach is completely acceptable and may be more palatable to Ministerial actors if presented as a renewal of existing commitment. Even if the document is different, with an already existing SAP, it can be considered a renewal. If it will facilitate the process, it can be considered as a path that could be taken by the countries. • Ms. Hamdiyah however clarified that the two declarations are different as they believe that the first one focused on endorsement of the SAP while the new one is focusing on endorsement of the RGM, which they need as basis for the preparation of a Presidential Order to support the RGM. She further emphasized the need to approve the commitment on establishing an RGM, to be continued with further RGM establishment. • Dr. Chek inquired on the strategy on how PNG will approach the Ministerial Declaration if it will be a renewal (instead of a new Declaration), and Mr. Pakop replied that he will need time to consult on this at the political level. • The meeting agreed that the form of the Declaration will need further consultation with key ministries in the countries, with the support of the RPMU in parallel with the completion of the RGM, TDA, SAP and NAP processes. The time required to complete these outputs and work toward country endorsement processes through a Ministerial Declaration will be a major consideration in requesting project extension. • Considering that in principle, a project could only be extended once, and the option of harmonizing project closure dates to June 2024 would disqualify the Indonesia and Timor-Leste components from further extension should one be needed beyond June 2024, and considering that submission of project extension request could be done 6 months before the end of the project, the meeting agreed to defer the decision on submission of request for project extension to the Intersessional RSC
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meeting in June 2023 (7 months before the operational closure of the Indonesian project component).

RGM End-of-Project Target

- The session also revisited the proposed revision of the RGM End-of-Project target for Outcome 1.1 on the operationalization of the RGM with 2 out of 4 countries contributing dues, which was presented in Agenda 3.0 considering the recommendation from the MTR.
- Considering the ongoing discussion on the RGM model options, the meeting agreed to review the target again in 2023 when information from the cost-benefit analysis is available.

Possible ATSEA-3

- Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of PRF, presented a concept on the development of a potential third phase of GEF-supported project in the ATS region ('ATSEA-3') considering the GEF-8 replenishment fund. Building on the results and progress from ATSEA-2, an ATSEA-3 project could aim to: 1) Secure the implementation of agreed priority issues based on the updated SAP and NAPs (2024-2034); 2) Support the operationalization of the endorsed ATS governance mechanism which will manage the implementation of the agreed priority issues; and 3) Secure sustainable financing and investments of the agreed priority issues in pursuit of blue economy in the ATS. The presentation emphasized that approval of an updated 10-year SAP through an ATS Ministerial Declaration in 2024 are prerequisites for developing the ATSEA-3 project.
- Considerations for accessing funds under the GEF-8's Integrated Program (IP) especially IP 7 on Clean and Healthy Ocean as well as the International Waters Investment Focal Area and Biodiversity Focal Area were also presented.
- Given the conclusion of ATSEA-2 in 2024, the earliest time and the most optimistic scenario to submit a potential EOI/Concept (for child project under a IP) or a PIF (for a regional project) to GEF will take place on June 2024. This will allow the countries 18 months to design and get the project approved in Dec. 2025 and commence implementation from January 2026
- The following actions and next steps were identified as critical in the development of ATSEA-3: 1) PRF/RPMU to develop the concept proposal based on key objectives of existing SAP, initial results from the TDA updating process and country suggestions by 30 November 2022; 2) RPMU to accelerate updating and completion of SAP by 3rd quarter of 2023; 3) NFPs in coordination with UNDP COs to talk to GEF OFP in respective countries to ensure inclusion of ATSEA-3 in GEF 8 country priorities and secure BD star allocation; 4) In line with the development of Financial Plan for SAP, NAPs, and RGM, NFPs to identify potential sources of cash and in-kind co-financing for 2025-2030 to fund the implementation of NAPs and contribution for staff and operational costs of the regional secretariat; and 5) RPMU, in collaboration with countries and partners, to mobilize potential sources of funding (cash and in kind) to operationalize RGM and SAP regional/transboundary activities
- Following Ms. Gonzales' presentation, Dr. Chek noted the seeming inclination for a GEF funding source although exploring other sources of funding was also mentioned in the presentation. Learning from other regional mechanisms (e.g., CTI), he encouraged developing a financial architecture for ATSEA, including further consideration of the requirements for the RGM and SAP/NAP implementation and looking at the broader financial landscape and options. The financing mechanism/framework for ATSEA should enable other actors including the private sector and non-government sectors to join.

- Ms. Hamdiyah confirmed that Indonesia has GEF STAR allocation amounting to US\$103M for biodiversity, climate change and land degradation which was announced in June/July 2022. She also confirmed Indonesia's support for the development of ATSEA-3 but seconded Australia on the need to consider other donors/funding sources in addition to GEF. She emphasized that ATSEA-3 would need to support the operationalization not only of the SAP but the RGM as well, and reiterated the need to have a legal basis for the RGM through the Ministerial Declaration. Assessment is ongoing in Indonesia on potential options for supporting the future regional inter-governmental organization. She also inquired if countries could start discussing the draft of the new Project Document for submission to GEF-8 and if RPMU could allocate funding for its preparation.
- The Co-Chair, Mr. Kurniawan, agreed on the need to assess the financial landscape and the needs for implementing the RGM, SAP and NAPs, and understand the gaps and the possibility of mobilizing domestic resources and financial institutions as well as the private sector to jointly implement the SAP and NAPs. Hopefully this will be part of the good practices in the LME project and IW project.
- Mr. Lis agreed that countries need to consider other funding sources in addition to GEF. He also confirmed PNG's support for ATSEA-3 and the continuation of the work in South Fly, and hoped for a minimal gap time between ATSEA-2 and ATSEA-3.
- Mr. Guterres noted that ATSEA-2 will end in 2024 and a possible ATSEA-3 will start in 2026. He shared that Timor-Leste is willing to provide some support for the regional secretariat for 1 to 2 years. The amount of support will depend on RPMU's strategy and how long the gap between ATSEA-2 and ATSEA-3 will be. Mr. Da Silva added that initial discussions have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste.
- Ms. Aretha Aprilia, Head of Environment Unit of UNDP Indonesia, shared that from her discussion with the GEF Operational Focal Point (for Indonesia), key features of interest for GEF-8 projects would be the novelty and newness of the concept. In this regard, there is a need to think about fresh ideas or approaches that might be piloted, which if appropriate might include aspects related to digitalization or cross-cutting issues with other sectors such as renewable energy, circular economy, etc. Further consideration will be needed to develop a proposal that GEF will take into account. She also shared the upcoming GEF Asia Pacific workshop to be held in Bali in January 2023 to be participated by the GEF Secretariat and Operational Focal Points as an opportunity to share lessons learned from previous GEF cycles on what works or doesn't work.
- Ms. Gonzales noted the countries' interest in a possible ATSEA-3 and stated that the PRF will continue the process of consultation and refining the concept proposal. She informed the meeting on the financial landscape assessment conducted for the ATS region by Starling Resources which showed possible mix of funding opportunities. She emphasized the need for countries to fund the regional secretariat during the transition period between ATSEA-2 and ATSEA-3.
- Dr. Chek further encouraged developing a SAP that is focused on addressing priority issues in the region (and not focused on funding sources), and undertaking a co-design process with potential donors including the private sector that will also consider potential opportunities for collaboration. For ATSEA to be sustainable (after GEF funding support), there is a need to consider how to present a value proposition for ATSEA that would enable collaboration with various partners/donors without compromising principles.
- Ms. Narcise shared that following the updating of the SAP and NAPs, financial plans to support the RGM and SAP/NAPs implementation will be prepared, which will include identification of possible funding sources. The SAP and NAPs and the

	<p>financial plans will be presented to key agencies, partners and donors in the countries for consideration in their current and future work and budget plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Co-Chair also informed the meeting that Indonesia will be having an initial national dialogue whereby the GEF OFP will start taking ideas and concept notes to be considered in the GEF programming. There might be similar processes in the other countries. This provides an opportunity to prepare a draft project concept that is linked with the GEF strategic programming direction. • Ms. Gonzales acknowledged the iterative process of preparing the project proposal, highlighting that the target for November 2022 is for UNDP-BRH to have an initial review of the initial project concept, with the understanding that there will be other considerations as the project is yet to undertake financial planning and resource mobilization. She also noted the recommendations to look into other sources of funding including foundations and bilateral arrangements and will reach out to countries for some of these opportunities. • Considering long-term sustainability, the difficulties and challenges in trying to raise funds for continuing ATSEA-2, the gap years between ATSEA-1 and ATSEA-2, and lack of dedicated funding source for the Secretariat, Mr. Yhuanje also inquired on the possibility of establishing a Trust Fund with funding support from donors that will help sustain program implementation for the longer term. • The Co-Chair acknowledged the recommendations which would be considered in developing the mechanisms for sustaining project results, and noted the plan for mobilization of resources to ensure successful implementation of the upcoming SAP and NAPs, including utilizing the current opportunity under GEF-8, exploring resources that could be mobilized from each country, and identifying other potential sources of funds.
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <p>A. Project Extension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC agreed to defer the decision on submission of request for project extension to the Intersessional RSC meeting in June 2023 to facilitate further assessment and discussions with the project member countries. • The 4th RSC underscored the time required to complete country endorsement processes towards a Ministerial Declaration adopting the updated SAP, NAPs and RGM, as major considerations in requesting project extension. <p>B. Revision of RGM End-of-Project Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC agreed to revisit the proposed revision of the RGM End-of-Project target for Outcome 1.1 (on operationalization of the RGM with 2 out of 4 countries contributing dues) in 2023 when information from the cost-benefit analysis is available. <p>C. Possible ATSEA-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th RSC expressed support to the proposed plan to develop and submit project proposal for an ATSEA-3 project considering GEF-8 and other potential funding sources.
11	<p><u>Issue: Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timor-Leste and Indonesia highlighted the national elections that are scheduled to take place in 2023 (for Timor-Leste) and 2024 (for Indonesia). It is expected that

	<p>government work and coordination will slow down to some extent during election period. In line with this, Indonesia offered to host the 5th RSC Meeting in 2023. Timor-Leste reconsidered its initial offer to host the 5th RSC meeting and offered to take on the hosting of the RSC and ATS Ministerial Forum in 2024. As a back-up, Australia indicated willingness to host either in 2023 or 2024 should one of the two countries are unable to do so. PNG welcomed the offer from the countries.</p> <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RPMU to coordinate with Indonesia and Timor-Leste in formalizing the offer to host the 2023 RSC Meeting and 2024 RSC and Ministerial Forum, and to provide the necessary guidance in the preparations.
Other activities	<p>All throughout the 4th RSC meeting, a mini exhibit was also prepared wherein various information materials and knowledge products from ATSEA-2 were put on display. The NFA as host of the meeting has also set up its own information desks on key initiatives contributing to the ATSEA-2 and SAP objectives.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the 4th RSC Meeting on November 3, 2022, a 30-minute hybrid Press Conference was also conducted. The panel of speakers included the Chair (Mr. Noan Pakop), Co-Chair (Mr. Iwan Kurniawan), PEMSEA Executive Director (Ms. Aimee Gonzales), and ATSEA-2 Regional Project Manager (Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto). The Press Conference focused on the key results and next steps as agreed upon at the 4th RSC. The Press Conference was joined in person by national and local media of PNG as well as by regional journalists via Zoom.</p>

Prepared and signed via DocuSign by the representatives of all parties.

(SENIOR BENEFICIARIES/RSC MEMBERS)

(IMPLEMENTING AND EXECUTING AGENCIES)

Andrew Chek

Aretha Aprilia

Dr. Andrew Chek
National Focal Point, Australia

Dr. Aretha Aprilia
Head of Environment Unit, UNDP Indonesia

Hikmayani

Aimee T. Gonzales

Ms. Yayan Hikmayani
National Project Director, Indonesia

Ms. Aimee Gonzales
Executive Director, PEMSEA Resource Facility

Noan Pakop

Mr. Noan Pakop
National Project Director, PNG

Acacio Guterres

Mr. Acacio Guterres
National Project Director, Timor-Leste

Annex 1. List of Participants

No	Participant	Gender	Total (person)
	Wednesday, 02 November 2022		
	Papua New Guinea		
	National Fisheries Agency		13
1	Jason Ilakini – Managing Director	M	
2	Noan Pakop – Deputy Managing Director/ATSEA-2 National Project Director	M	
3	Rickson Lis – Manager for Coastal Fisheries	M	
4	John Mukekit – Manager	F	
5	Odori Kelodi – Provincial Fisheries Officer	F	
6	Dainah Gigiba – District Fisheries Officer	F	
7	Alvis Kinol – Manager	F	
8	Josephine Y – Staff	F	
9	Abigail W – Staff	F	
10	Linda Y – Staff	M	
11	Daniel Ora – Staff	M	
12	Thomas Usu – Acting Executive Manager	M	
13	Tony Ware – Staff/MC	M	
	CEPA		2
14	Vagi Rei – RGM ATSEA Advisor/ Manager	M	
15	Philameya Haiveta – Staff	F	
	CCDA		2
16	Iki Peter – Manager	M	
	UNDP PNG		4
17	Dirk Wagner – Resident Representative	M	
18	Linda Kapus Barae – Program Manager	F	
19	Theresa Dearden – Technical Advisor	F	
20	Dhiraj Singh – Head of Program Support Unit	M	
	ATSEA-2 NCU PNG		2
21	Kenneth Yhuanje – National Coordinators	M	
22	Joe Kiningi – Finance Staff	M	
	Media		12
23	Gunnie Kero F – Editor, The National	F	
24	Maxine Kamus – Reporter, Post Courier	F	
25	Robert Alma – Photographer, Post Courier	M	
26	Joe Sabbata – Cameramen, TV Wan	M	
27	Carol Kidu – Reporter, TV Wan	F	
28	Lina Keadu – Reporter, Wantok Nuspeper	F	

29	Susan Kania – Reporter, NBC	F	
30	Clive Ewada – Reporter, NBC	M	
31	Samantha Solomon – Reporter, EMTV	F	
32	Leon Suharupa – Cameraman, EMTV	M	
33	Joe G – Sunday Bulletin	M	
34	Pau U – Sunday Bulletin	M	
	Australia		
	Department Of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		2
35	Andrew Chek – ATSEA-2 National Focal Point	M	
36	Kathryn McKenna*- A/g Assistant Director, Portfolio Strategy Division, International Strategy and Engagement Branch, Pacific and Regional Section, DCCEEW	F	
	Indonesia		
	Marine Affairs and Fisheries		4
37	Yayan Hikmayani – Head of Center for Fisheries Research/ATSEA-2 National Project Director	F	
38	Sitti Hamdiah - Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Coordinator, Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation	F	
39	Niken Winarsih – Subcoordinator for Cooperation, Center for Fisheries Research	F	
40	Agung Purnomo – Minister Interpreter	M	
	UNDP Indonesia/ ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia		4
41	Iwan Kurniawan – Programme Manager for Natural Resource Management, Environmental Unit	M	
42	Muhammad Yayat Alfianto* – UNDP Technical Officer	M	
43	Dwi Ariyoga Gautama – ATSEA-2 National Project Director	M	
44	David Kuntel* – ATSEA-2 Monitoring and Evaluation	M	
	Timor-Leste		
	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries		2
45	Acacio Guterres – Director General of Fisheries/ ATSEA-2 Timor Leste National Project Director	M	
46	Celestino da Cunha – National Director	M	
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation		1
47	Aquilino Amaral - Director	M	
	UNDP Timor Leste/ATSEA-2 NCU Timor Leste		1
48	Almerindo Oliveira da Silva	M	
	Regional		

	UNDP BRH		3
49	Akiko Yamamoto* - Regional Team Lead, Asia & the Pacific, for Nature, Climate and Energy	F	
50	Tharuka Dissanaike* – Regional Technical Specialist	F	
51	Nlittaya Saengow*- Programme Officer	F	
	PEMSEA		2
52	Aimee Gonzales – Executive Director	F	
53	Mary Anne Dela Peña- Finance Officer	F	
	ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit		9
54	Handoko Adi Susanto – Regional Project Manager	M	
55	Cristine Ingrid Narcise - Regional Policy and Result Based Management	F	
56	Kathrine Rose Gallardo Aguilung – Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	F	
57	Casandra Tania – Regional Biodiversity Specialist	F	
58	Deti Triani – Marine Technical Officer	F	
59	Yulia Dewi* – Communication Assistant	F	
60	Nur Junaidi* – Project Associate	M	
61	Dicky Zulkarnain* – Project Assistant	M	
62	Hilda Anastasia* – Admin	F	
	Total		62

*Joined virtually via Zoom

No	Participant	Gender	Total (person)
	Wednesday, 03 November 2022		
	Papua New Guinea		
	National Fisheries Agency		11
1	Rickson Lis – Manager for Coastal Fisheries	M	
2	John Mukekit – Manager	F	
3	Odori Kelodi – Provincial Fisheries Officer	F	
4	Dainah Gigiba – District Fisheries Officer	F	
5	Josephine Y – Staff	F	
6	Abigail W – Staff	F	
7	Linda Y – Staff	M	
8	Daniel Ora – Staff	M	
9	Thomas Usu – Acting Executive Manager	M	
10	Tony Ware – Staff/MC	M	
11	Loirel Dandavan – Acting Manager	M	
	CEPA		3
12	Vagi Rei – RGM ATSEA Advisor/ Manager	M	
13	Philameya Haiveta – Staff	F	
14	Yvonne Tio – Executive Manager	F	

	CCDA		2
15	Iki Peter – Manager	M	
	University of Papua New Guinea		2
16	Ralph Mana	M	
17	Maryrose Iso	F	
	UNDP PNG		3
18	Linda Kapus Barae – Program Manager	F	
19	Theresa Dearden – Technical Advisor	F	
20	Dhiraj Singh – Head of Program Support Unit	M	
	ATSEA-2 NCU PNG		2
21	Kenneth Yhuanje – National Coordinators	M	
22	Joe Kiningi – Finance Staff	M	
	Australia High Commission		
23	Tess Gizoria – Senior Program Manager	F	
	Australia		
	Department Of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		2
24	Andrew Chek – ATSEA-2 National Focal Point	M	
25	Kathryn McKenna*- A/g Assistant Director, Portfolio Strategy Division, International Strategy and Engagement Branch, Pacific and Regional Section, DCCEEW	F	
	Indonesia		
	Marine Affairs and Fisheries		4
26	Yayan Hikmayani – Head of Center for Fisheries Research/ATSEA-2 National Project Director	F	
27	Sitti Hamdiyah – Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Coordinator, Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation	F	
28	Niken Winarsih – Subcoordinator for Cooperation, Center for Fisheries Research	F	
29	Agung Purnomo – Minister Interpreter	M	
	UNDP Indonesia/ ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia		4
30	Iwan Kurniawan – Programme Manager for Natural Resource Management, Environmental Unit	M	
31	Muhammad Yayat Alfianto* – UNDP Technical Officer	M	
32	Dwi Ariyoga Gautama – ATSEA-2 National Project Director	M	
33	David Kuntel* – ATSEA-2 Monitoring and Evaluation	M	
	Timor-Leste		
	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries		2

34	Acacio Guterres – Director General of Fisheries/ ATSEA-2 Timor Leste National Project Director	M	
35	Celestino da Cunha – National Director	M	
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation		1
36	Aquilino Amaral – Director	M	
	UNDP Timor Leste/ATSEA-2 NCU Timor Leste		1
37	Almerindo Oliveira da Silva	M	
	Regional		
	UNDP BRH		3
38	Akiko Yamamoto* - Regional Team Lead, Asia & the Pacific, for Nature, Climate and Energy	F	
39	Tharuka Dissanaik* – Regional Technical Specialist	F	
40	Nittaya Saengow*- Programme Officer	F	
	PEMSEA		1
41	Aimee Gonzales – Executive Director	F	
42	Mary Anne Dela Peña- Finance Officer	F	
	ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit		9
43	Handoko Adi Susanto – Regional Project Manager	M	
44	Cristine Ingrid Narcise - Regional Policy and Result Based Management	F	
45	Kathrine Rose Gallardo Aguilung – Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	F	
46	Casandra Tania – Regional Biodiversity Specialist	F	
47	Deti Triani – Marine Technical Officer	F	
48	Yulia Dewi* – Communication Assistant	F	
49	Nur Junaidi* – Project Associate (Online)	M	
50	Dicky Zulkarnain* – Project Assistant (Online)	M	
51	Hilda Anastasia* - Admin	F	
	Total		51

*Joined virtually via Zoom

Annex 2. Outputs Reporting Sheet (Please refer to the Progress Reports found in this [LINK](#))

Annex 3. Register Risk Reporting Sheet (Please refer to the Project Risk Log found in this [LINK](#))

Annex 4. Financial Reporting (Please refer to the Financial Reports 2022 found in this [LINK](#))


Annex 5. AWP and Budget for 2023 (Please refer to this [LINK](#))

Annex 6. Revised Regional Component Budget for 2022 (Please refer to this [LINK](#))



Annex 7. Slides presentation



Powerpoint Presentations are found in this [LINK](#). Note that links to individual presentations and meeting documents are also provided in Section 2 of this report.



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