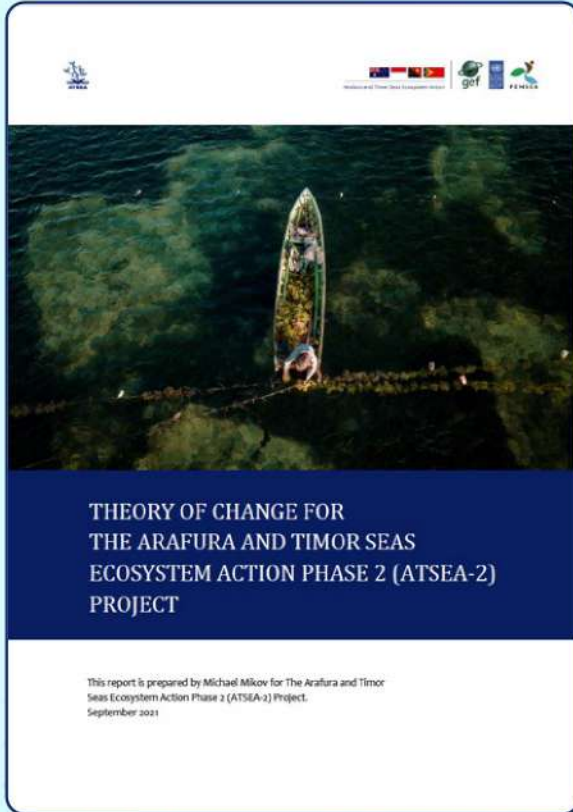




Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action



# ATSEA's PATHWAY TO CHANGE: AN OVERVIEW

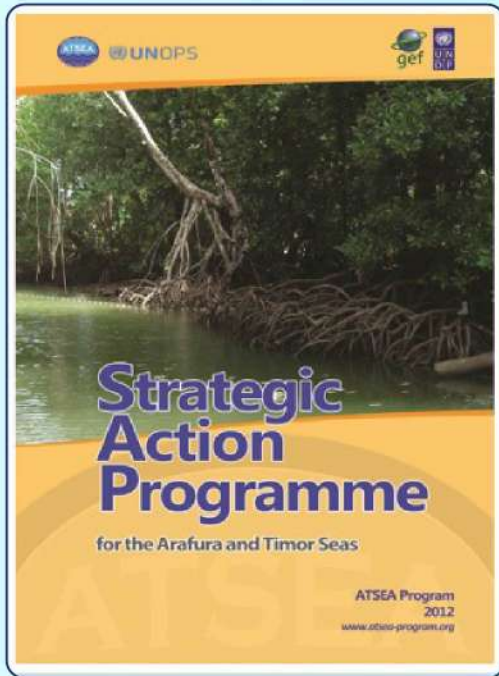


**The Theory of Change (ToC)** for the Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2) Project was developed in 2021 with the aim of clarifying the causal relationships between the ATSEA-2 project results and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) objectives and goals, as well as the stakeholder roles and responsibilities and strategies that will be needed to achieve successful project implementation.

The ToC document presented nine (9) interrelated diagrams supported by brief explanatory narratives to help communicate ‘how and why’ project activities are expected to lead to the project outcomes. A set of potential indicators (at SAP programme level and project level) were also provided to support the evolution of a region-wide monitoring and reporting system, and adaptive management.







Adopted through a Ministerial Declaration in 2014, the SAP provides a 10-year framework focusing on 5 environmental and governance objectives governance, towards a shared vision:

***“To promote sustainable development of the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems”***

## The SAP for the Arafura and Timor Seas and The ATSEA-2 Project

The ATSEA-2 Project was designed to support ATS collaboration and implementation of the SAP through 3 components:



Strengthen Regional and National Governance



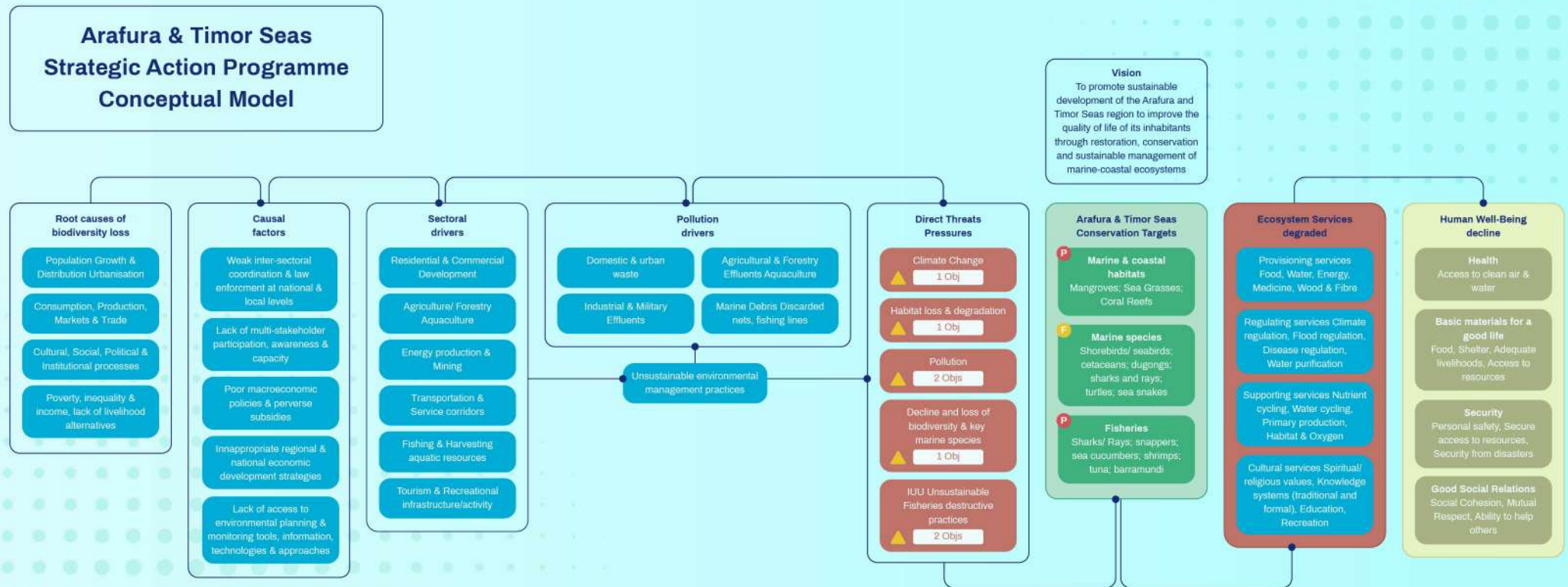
Improve Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Carrying Capacity



Knowledge Management

# A HIGH LEVEL CONCEPTUAL MODEL

The high level conceptual model presents a current situation analysis across the region or a summary of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis or TDA (2011) that identified the root causes of biodiversity loss, contributing factors or indirect drivers, sectoral drivers, and the direct threats impacting on the conservation, ecosystem services, and human well-being. The rationale for developing interventions to reduce the impacts of the main threats to the region are based on the assumption that by addressing each threat and related driver(s) - the status of all conservation targets will be improved - including their ability to provide the necessary ecosystem services that ultimately support the human well-being priorities across the region.



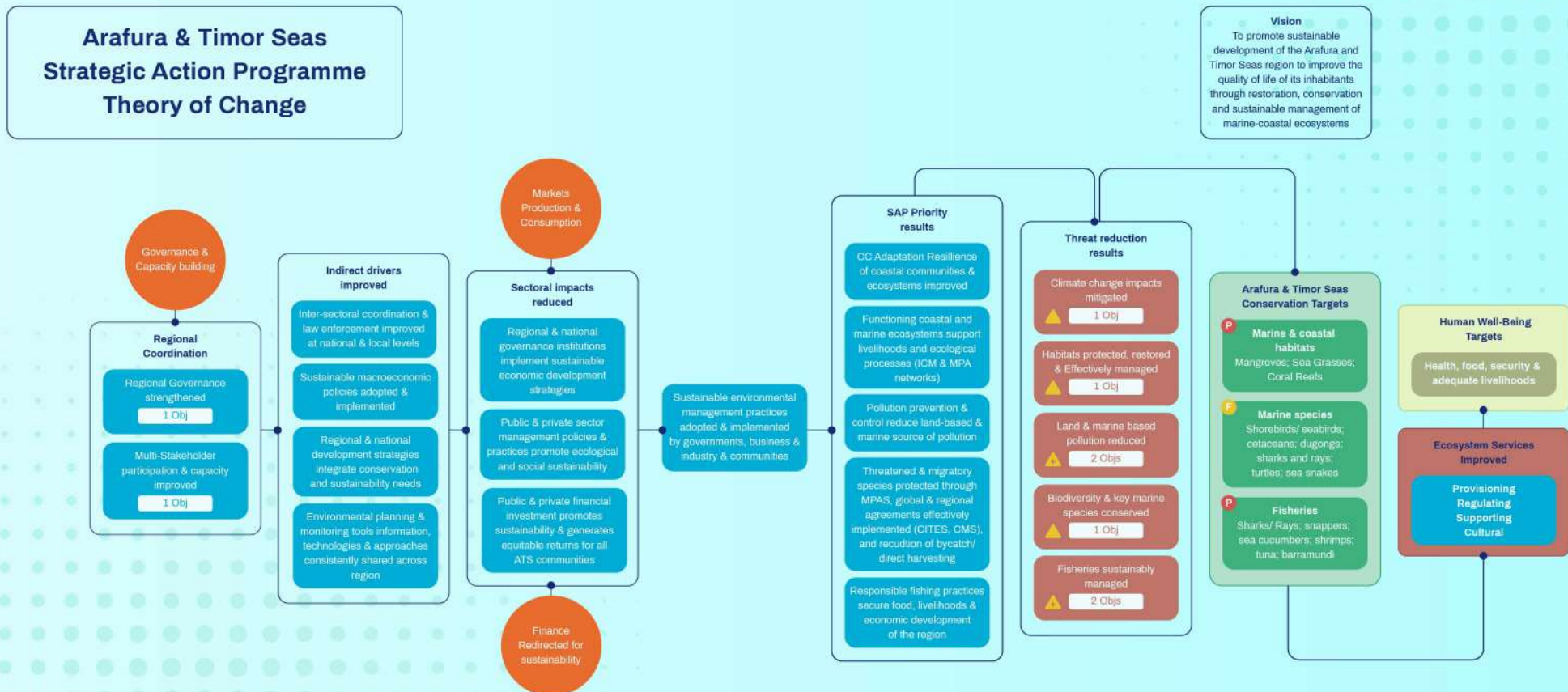
## Legend Table

<span style="color: green;">■</span> Conservation Target	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Direct Threat
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Human Well-being Target	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Contributing Factor



# B Arafura & Timor Seas Strategic Action Programme Theory of Change

The high level ToC provides a summary of the SAP strategy that is currently being implemented and the expected results to be achieved that aim to reduce the impacts of key direct threats to the region and lead to the improved status of the conservation targets. The ToC highlights the need for strengthened inter-sectoral coordination, regional and national policy frameworks, economic development strategies, and environmental planning and monitoring approaches to effectively achieve the SAP priority results and ensure sustainability needs are integrated with biodiversity conservation. The key strategies to guide regional and national actions include: Governance and Capacity Building; Markets-Production and Consumption; and Finance for Sustainability.



## Legend Table

<span style="color: green;">■</span> Conservation Target	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Threat Reduction Result	<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Strategy	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span> Objective
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Human Well-being Target	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Intermediate Result	<span style="color: orange;">▲</span> Indicator	



## C The ATSEA-2 Project Component ToCs

Building on the ATSEA-2 Project Strategic Results Framework, ToCs for each of the project components were designed to further demonstrate how the target project activities will deliver the specific outputs required to achieve the planned project outcomes. Each component strategy and associated outcomes are linked to the overarching SAP priority results and demonstrate how the project interventions will help support the longer-term delivery of the SAP. The three Component ToCs encompass: Component 1 on Regional and National Governance which supports the governance objectives of the SAP, Component 2 on Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Carrying Capacity Improvement which supports the environmental objectives of the SAP, and Component 3 on Knowledge Management which supports both governance and environmental objectives of the SAP. Due to the complexity of Component 2 on LME Carrying Capacity - separate ToCs have been developed for each thematic area – (1) Fisheries, (2) Marine Pollution, (3) Habitat and Species and (4) Integrated Coastal Management.



### GOVERNANCE

#### OBJECTIVE

To strengthen regional and national governance of ATS management

#### PRE-CONDITIONS

Develop agreed model for a Regional Governance Mechanism at regional and national level; strengthen institutional and human resource capacity; and support climate change analysis in support of decision-making tools

#### KEY ASSUMPTIONS

National Inter-Ministerial Committees assisted by National Coordinating Units of the Project will harmonise and effectively align national policies with SAP priorities from local to regional scales

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

Planning and Coordination improved; and long-term regional collaboration operationalised to carry out implementation of updated SAP and NAPs, wherein climate change considerations are mainstreamed



### IMPROVE LME CARRYING CAPACITY

#### OBJECTIVE

To support the maintenance of ecosystem services and livelihoods through collective actions to reduce direct threats

#### PRE-CONDITIONS

Develop and apply integrated management approaches/tools, such as EAFM, FIPs and MCS for fisheries management improvement, ICM for sustainable local coastal management and livelihoods with climate change and ecosystem-based considerations, MPA plans and other strategies for habitat and species protection, and knowledge building for land- and marine-based pollution reduction

#### KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Integrated management plans and tools will be adopted & implemented to address environmental challenges

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

Enhanced awareness/knowledge on environmental management; initial improvement in target sites



### KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

#### OBJECTIVE

To centralise and share ATS-related information and contribute to other information systems, and create efficiencies in SAP monitoring

#### PRE-CONDITIONS

Develop agreed indicators and monitoring system for SAP; and implement a communications and stakeholder strategy supported by various media tools

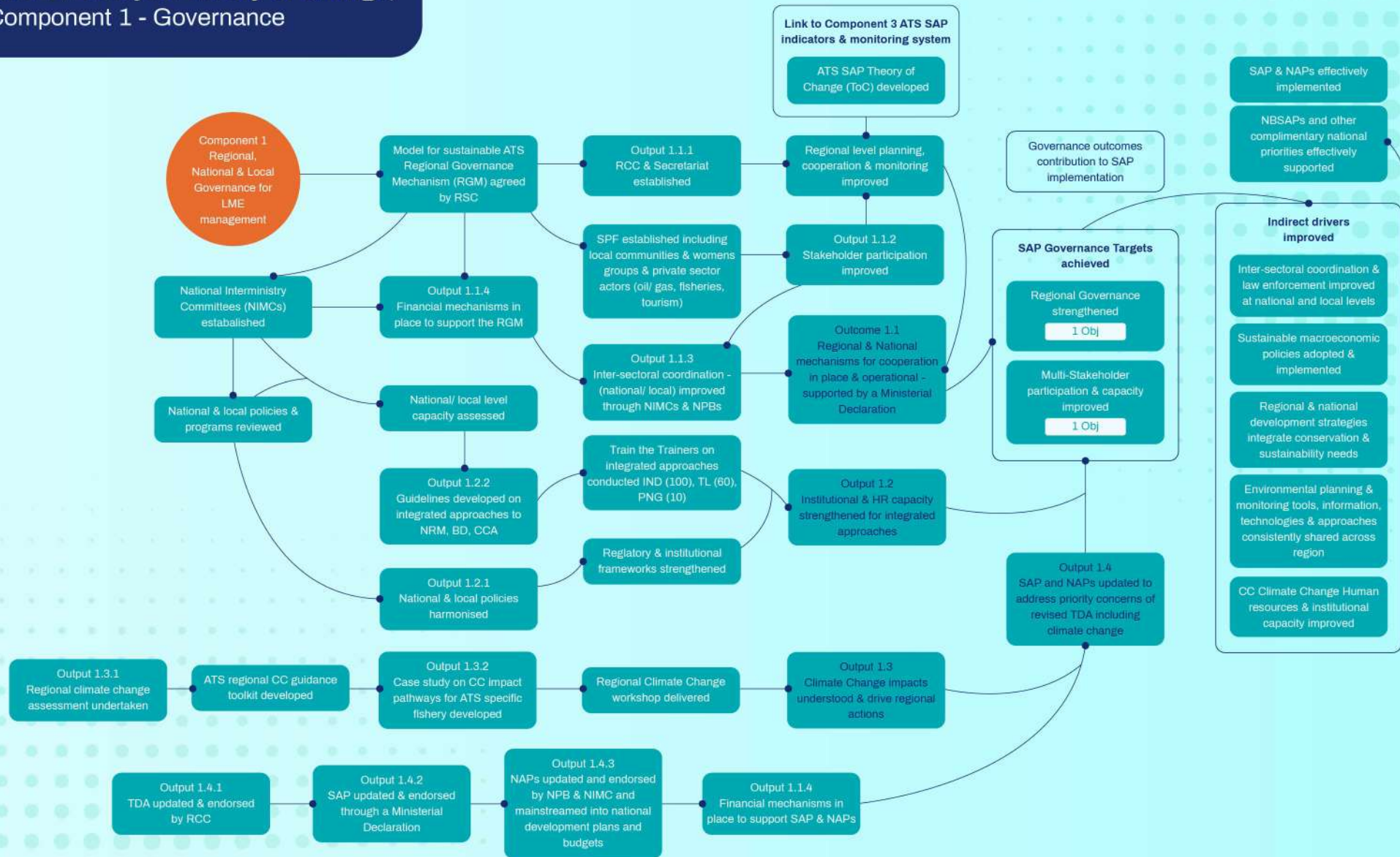
#### KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Stakeholders are supportive of information sharing and monitoring

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

Region-wide ATS SAP Monitoring & Reporting system supports SAP implementation; Improved understanding of ATS status and needs; and increased participation of stakeholders in planning and implementation

# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 1 - Governance

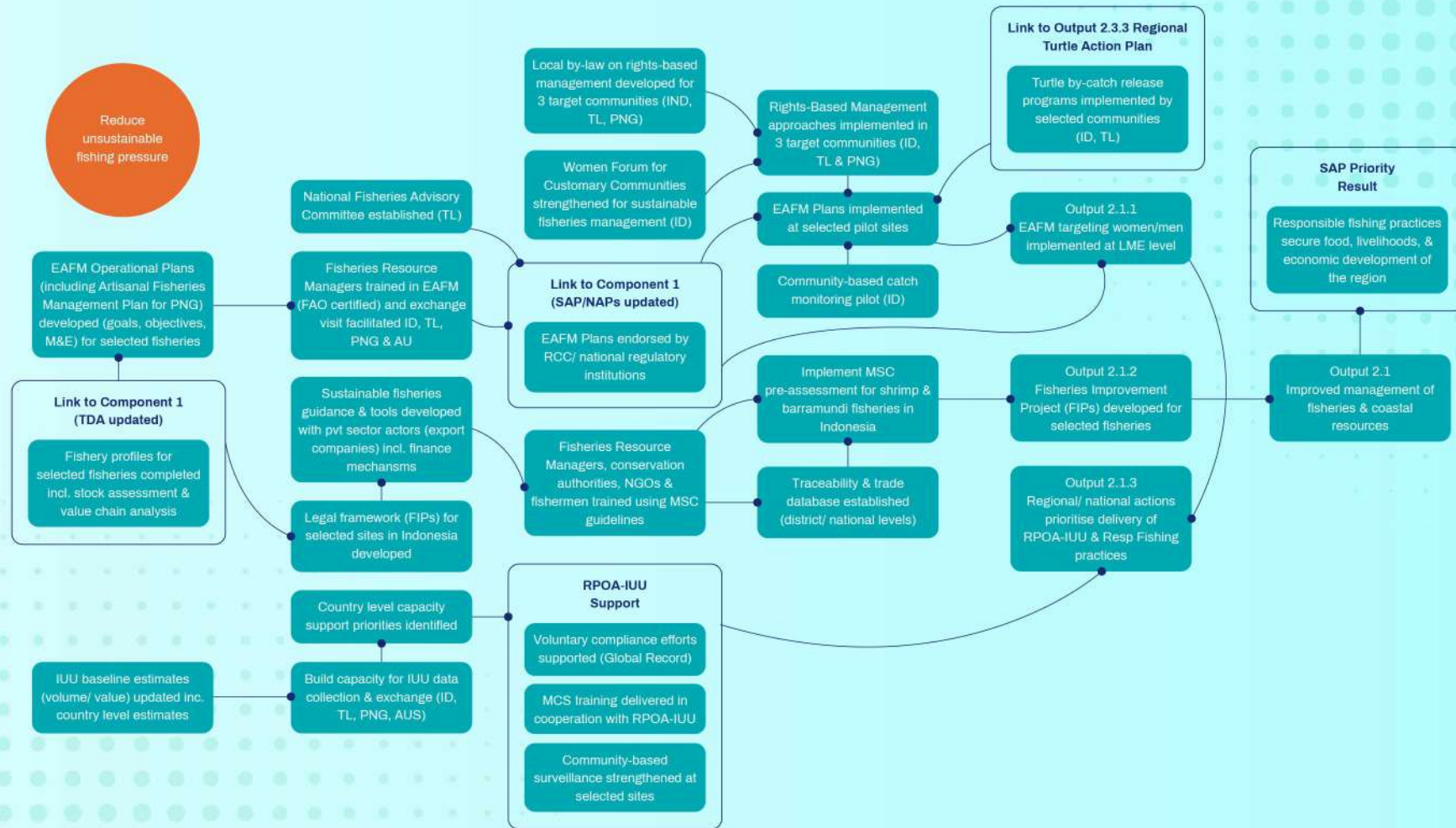


## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy
- Objective



# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 2 - Fisheries

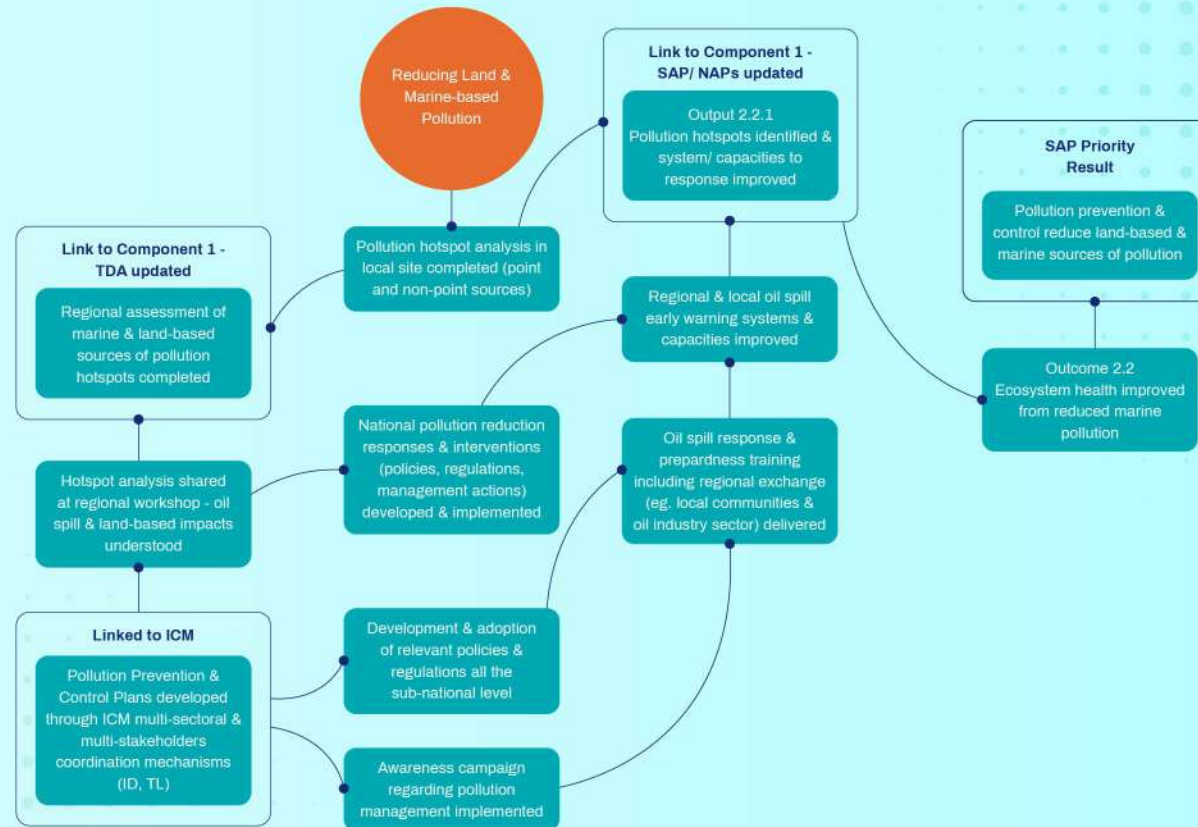


## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy



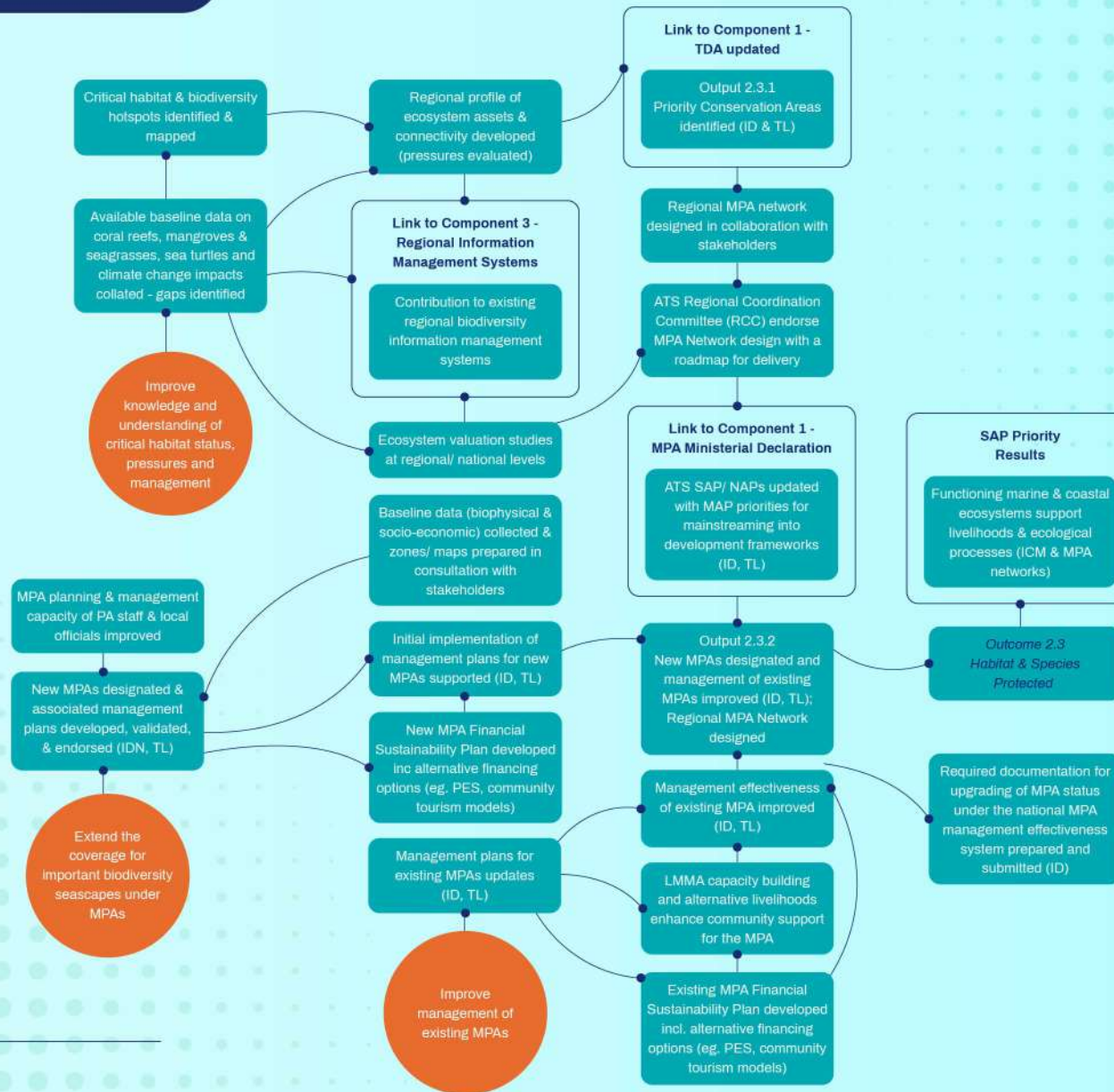
# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 2 - Marine Pollution



## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy

# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 2 - Habitat

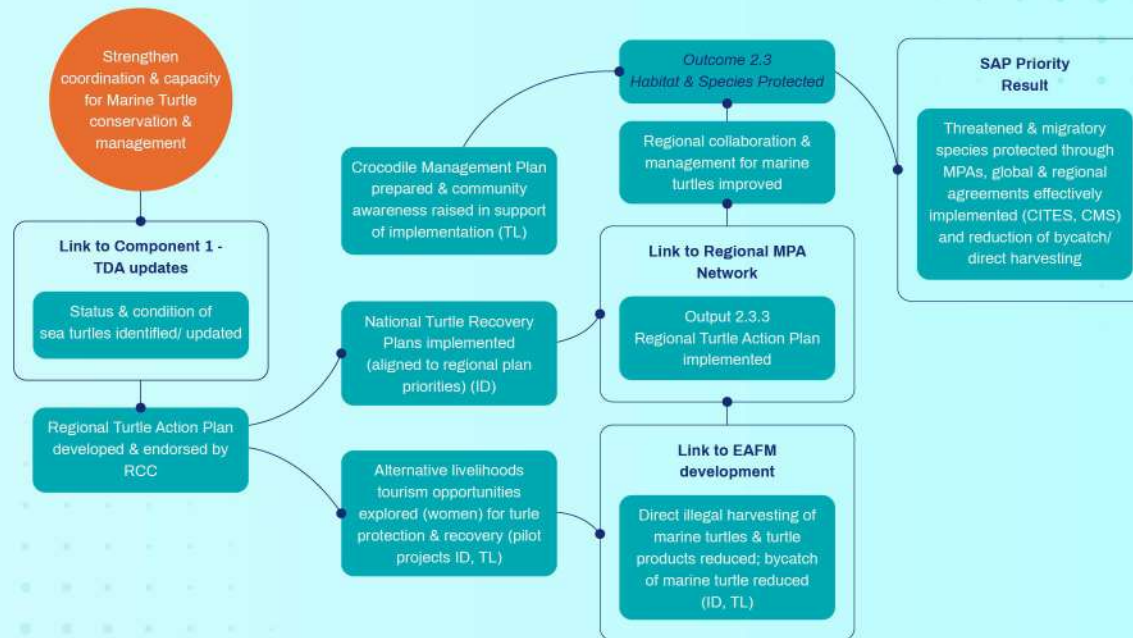


## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy



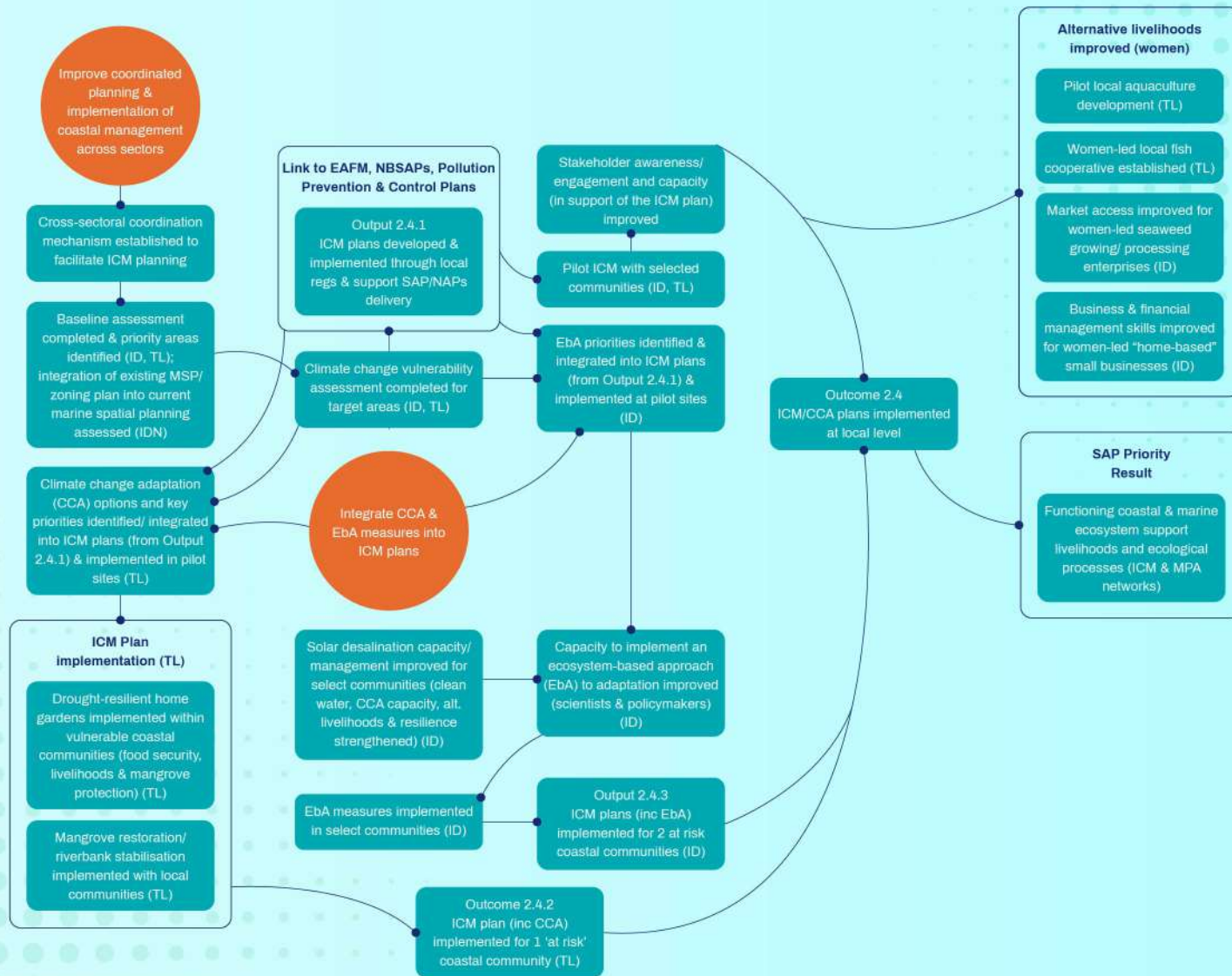
# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 2 - Species



## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy

# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 2 - Integrated Coastal Management

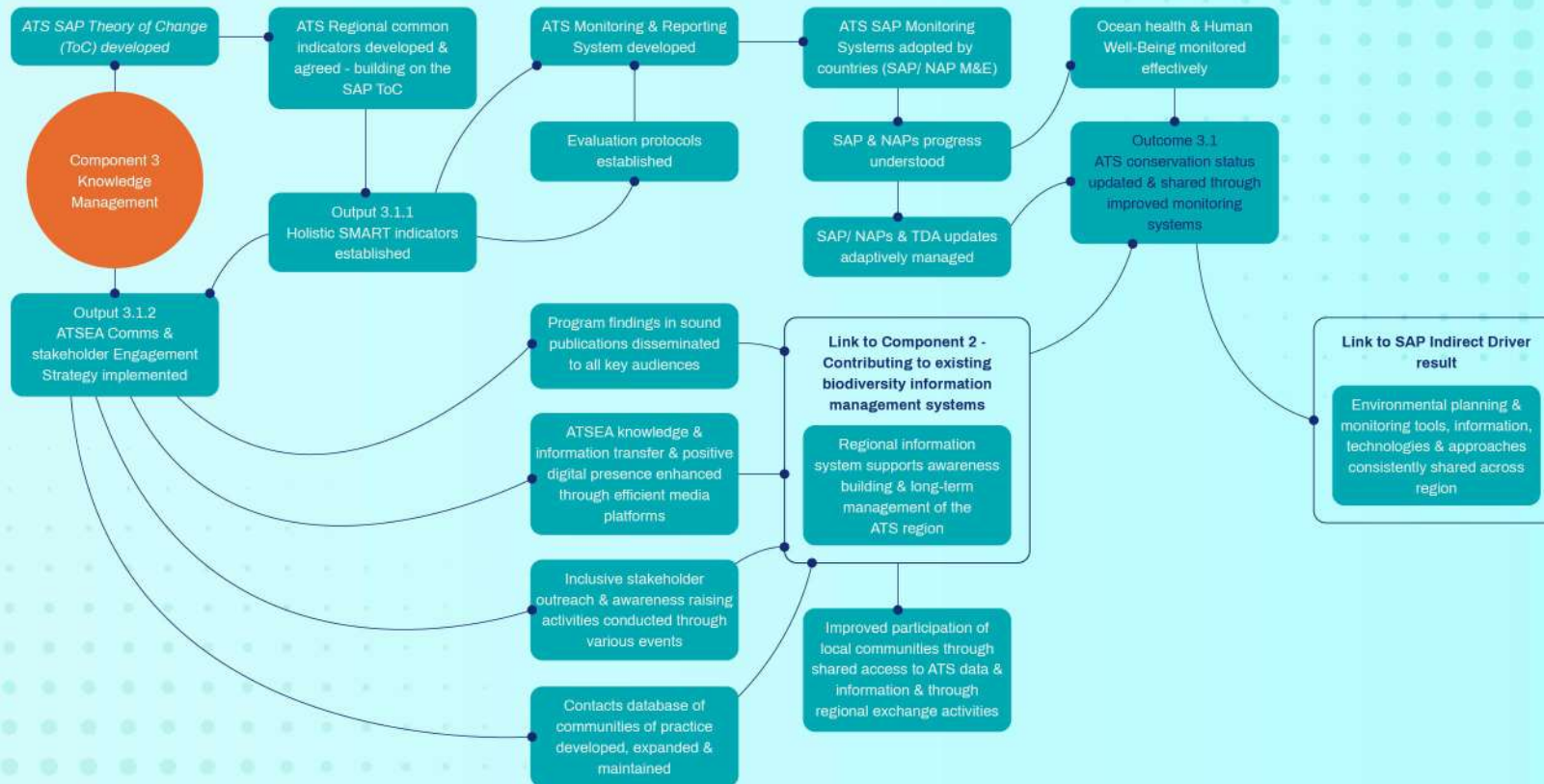


## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy



# ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change, Component 3 - Knowledge Management



## Legend Table

- Intermediate Result
- Strategy