

PROCEEDINGS

THE 5th REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 PROJECT

21-22 November 2023, Jakarta

MINUTES OF MEETING
5th MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE/PROJECT BOARD
Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and
National Strategic Action Programs (ATSEA-2)
PROJECT ID: (PIMS) 5439
DATE: November 21-22, 2023

1. PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND MEETING AGENDA

Issue/Topic	Objectives
Status of ATSEA-2 Project Extension and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive UNDP's updates on the result of the review of the ATSEA-2 project's request for extension of up to December 2024, and to receive further guidance from UNDP on the next steps.
Project Progress and Proposed Work Plan and Budget for 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update the RSC on the status of the project's progress (technical and financial) vis-à-vis the end of project targets and objectives set in the Strategic Results Framework. To review the proposed Work Plan and Budget for 2024, discuss possible challenges and management measures, and approve the proposed Work Plan and Budget.
Monitoring of Project ToC, Risk Log, and M&E Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive updates on the application of the project's ToC To discuss new risks and possible treatments To receive guidance from UNDP on the Project's Terminal Evaluation scheduled in 2024.
Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM)- RGM TORs, Transition Plan, and RGM Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure final inputs and endorsement of the proposed Terms of Reference for the different components of the RGM at the regional and national level To discuss and secure endorsement of the proposed Transition Plan to guide the transformation of the current ATSEA-2 Project into the RGM and programme-based arrangement in support of the implementation of the ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2024-2033 and corresponding National Action Programmes (NAPs) To review and endorse the proposed RGM Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan, and to confirm country commitments in support of the operationalization of the RGM particularly for the bridging phase (2025-2026) post the ATSEA-2 project.
Updated ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programmes (NAPs)- Final draft updated SAP; SAP Financial Plan; and Updates on NAPs development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and endorse the final draft of the ATS SAP 2024-2033 To review and provide further inputs and guidance towards the completion of the draft SAP Financial Plan To receive updates from the ATS countries on the development of the ATS NAPs and financing plans

Issue/Topic	Objectives
Draft ATS SAP Monitoring System and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and provide further inputs and guidance towards the finalization of the draft ATS SAP Monitoring System.
ATSEA-3 Project Under UNDP/GEF- Updates from UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive updates from UNDP BRH on the status or progress regarding the PIF development for ATSEA-3 under GEF 8, and to clarify the schedule and next steps.
Initial Information in Support of ATS Ministerial Forum Preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek further inputs and guidance from the RSC on the key objectives, and proposed activities and schedule in support of the Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) and the 2nd ATS Ministerial Forum, including development of the Ministerial Declaration, to be conducted in 2024. • To receive further updates from the MF host country (Timor-Leste), and SGOM host country (possibly Australia) regarding the initial discussions/arrangements for both events • To secure country support for the successful organization and conduct of the SGOM and MF.

5th RSC Meeting Agenda

Time	Agenda No.	Agenda Item
Monday, 20 November 2023 – Expected Arrival of Participants		
Day 1: 21 November 2023 (Tuesday)		
08:30-09:00		Registration of Participants
09:00-09:30		<p>Opening Ceremony of the 5th RSC Meeting Welcome Remarks <i>Dr. I Nyoman Radiarta, MSc.</i> <i>Chairman, Agency for Marine and Fisheries Extension and Human Resource Development, MMAF, Indonesia</i></p> <p>Welcome Remarks <i>Dr. Aretha Aprilia</i> <i>Head, Environment Unit, UNDP Indonesia</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks <i>Mr. Antam Novambar, Secretary General, MMAF, Indonesia</i></p>
09:30- 10:00		Group Photo and Coffee Break
10:00-10:30	1.0	<p>Organizational Matters 1.1 Election/Confirmation of Chairpersons 1.2 Introduction of Delegates 1.3 Review and Adoption of Provisional Agenda</p>
10:30-10:45	2.0	<p>Summary of Major Recommendations and Decisions from the 4th RSC Meeting (November 2022) and Intersessional RSC Meeting (July 2023) and Actions Taken <i>(Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise, Policy and Results Based Management Specialist)</i></p>
10:45-11:10	3.0	<p>Status of Proposed ATSEA-2 Project Extension and Next Steps <i>(Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH)</i></p>
11:10-12:30	4.0	<p>Project Progress in Accordance with the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), Financial Summary Report 2023, and Proposed AWP and Budget 2024 4.1 Timor-Leste (<i>National Project Director/Designated Representative</i>) 4.2 Papua New Guinea (<i>National Project Director/Designated Representative</i>)</p>
12:30-1:30		Lunch Break
1:30-3:30	4.0 Cont.	<p>Project Progress in Accordance with the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), Financial Summary Report 2023, and Proposed AWP and Budget 2024 4.3 Indonesia (<i>National Project Director/Designated Representative</i>) 4.4 Regional (<i>Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager</i>) 4.5 Australia's initiatives contributing to ATS SAP and ATSEA-2 Objectives <i>(Ms, Nicole Coombe, Director, Pacific and Regional Section of International Environment, Reef, and Oceans Division, DCCEEW, Australia)</i></p>
3:30-4:00		Coffee Break (+Prayer)
4:00-4:50	5.0	<p>Monitoring of the Project Theory of Change (ToC), Risk Log, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2024 (Terminal Evaluation) 5.1 ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change and Risk Status Report</p>

		(Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilong, M&E Specialist)
		5.2 Terminal Evaluation Process and Schedule (Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH)
4:50-5:00		Closing of Day 1 and Reminders for Day 2
6:30-8:00		Welcome Dinner

Time	Agenda No.	Agenda Item
Day 2: 22 November 2023 (Wednesday)		
09:00-10:00	6.0	ATSEA Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) 6.1 RGM Terms of Reference (regional and national components) and 6.2 Transition Plan (Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager)
10:00-10:30		6.3 Draft Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM (Ms. Maricor Ebarvia, Financing Consultant)
10:30 – 10:45		Coffee Break
10:45-12:15 (30 mins each item)	7.0	Updated ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) and National Action Programs 7.1 Final Version of the Draft ATS SAP 2024-2033 (Mr. Matthew Fox, SAP Consultant) 7.2 Draft ATS SAP Financing Plan and Next Steps (Ms. Maricor Ebarvia, Financing Consultant) 7.3 Information on the Draft Updated or New NAPs and Financing Strategies/Plans (National Project Directors of Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste; and National Focal Point of Australia-country approach/strategy to support SAP implementation)
12:15-1:15		Lunch Break
1:15-1:45	8.0	Draft ATS SAP Monitoring System and Next Steps (Ms. Catherine Corpuz, ATS SAP Monitoring System Consultant)
1:45-2:30	9.0	Initial Information in Support of ATS Ministerial Forum Preparations (Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager), (National Focal Point of ATSEA-2 in Australia), and (National Project Director/Designated Representative of Timor-Leste)
2:30-3:15	10.0	ATSEA-3 Project Under UNDP/GEF- Updates from UNDP (Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH)
3:15-3:45	11.0	Other Business
3:45-4:15		Coffee Break
4:15-4:30	12.0	Review and Adoption of 5th RSC Meeting Conclusions and Decisions
4:30-5:00		Closing Ceremony of the 5th RSC Meeting
6:30-8:00		Farewell Dinner

2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES & DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>The 5th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) was conducted on 21-22 November 2023 at the Le Meridien Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF).</p> <p>RSC members from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) participated in the meeting. Representatives from the UNDP Country Office of Indonesia, the Principal Project Representative, UNDP Country Office of Timor-Leste, as well as the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub participated 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. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) and National Coordination Unit (NCU) of Indonesia served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.</p> <p>On behalf of the host country, Indonesia, Dr. I Nyoman Radiarta, MSc, the Chairperson, Agency for Marine and Fisheries Extension and Human Resource Development, MMAF Indonesia, welcomed the Project RSC members to the 5th ATSEA 2 Project RSC meeting. He emphasized Indonesia's commitment to fostering lasting regional collaboration in the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) region. Over the past four years, collaborative efforts with ATS countries and partners under ATSEA-2 have focused on implementing the current Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation. The updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) has been completed and endorsed, with the final draft of the updated SAP set for endorsement during the meeting. The ATSEA-2 project, supported by ATS countries, has made notable progress in various regions, addressing issues such as disaster preparedness in Rote Ndao, fisheries management, and gender mainstreaming. Dr. Radiarta hopes for strong collaboration and mutual benefit partnerships among ATS nations and envisions extending cooperation to other nations with common interests in marine and coastal resource management.</p> <p>Joining Dr. Radiarta in welcoming the RSC members was Dr. Aretha Aprilia, Head of Environment Unit of UNDP Indonesia. Dr. Aprilia expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia for hosting the event. UNDP Indonesia is committed to supporting the Arafura and Timor Seas countries in achieving the project's objectives. The focus is on implementing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in alignment with sustainable development goals. Dr. Aprilia endorses the establishment of a long-term Regional Governance Mechanism and highlights the progress made, including the establishment of a marine protected area in Kolepom Island and successful initiatives in sustainable fisheries and coastal management. Dr. Aprilia looks forward to endorsing the ATS SAP for 2024-2033 and hopes for consensus on transitioning to a Regional Governance mechanism. Notable achievements under the ATSEA-2 project, such as the Kolepom Island Marine Protected Area and progress in sustainable fisheries and coastal management, are acknowledged. Dr. Aprilia also congratulated the organizers and partners, expressed anticipation for constructive discussions in advancing collaborative efforts for a sustainable future in the ATS region.</p> <p>After the welcome remarks, the meeting was formally opened by Mr. Antam Novambar, Secretary General of MMAF. The Indonesian government acknowledges ATSEA-2's alignment with its blue economy priorities, highlighting achievements in marine</p>

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>conservation and sustainable fishing support. With the program continuing until 2024, the focus is on establishing the Regional Governance Mechanism, funding strategies, and planning for ATSEA-3. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries commits to ongoing collaboration and encourages identifying key actions for each member country. The goal is to work towards developing a joint Ministerial Declaration in 2024.</p>
1	<p>The Meeting adopted the agenda as presented by Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager of the ATSEA- Project. Each country expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the 5th RSC meeting and was pleased to endorse the proposed Meeting Chair and Co-Chair.</p> <p>The Meeting confirmed Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, Head of Marine Research Center of MMAF, as the Meeting Chair, and Mr. Acacio Guterres, Senior Officer of MALFF, Timor-Leste as the Meeting Co-Chair.</p> <p>Before proceeding to the meeting agenda, the Chair invited the RSC members (country as well as the implementing and executing agencies) and the RPMU to introduce their respective delegation/team.</p>
2	<p>Issue: Summary of Major Recommendations and Decisions from the 4th RSC (Nov 2022) and Intersessional RSC Meeting (July 2023) and Actions Taken (Presenter: Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise, Policy and Results-based Management Specialist, RPMU) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise, Policy and Results-based Management Specialist of the RPMU of ATSEA-2 Project, presented the summary of major recommendations and decisions from the 4th RSC and the 2023 Intersessional RSC Meeting and the actions taken, highlighting that most of the issue items will be discussed in more detail under dedicated agenda items of the 5th RSC. In line with the approved 2023 Annual Work Plan and Budget, noteworthy developments since the 4th RSC include the revision of selected End of Project (EOP) targets; endorsement of the Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) model, and preparation of Terms of Reference (TORs), Transition Plan, and Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan for the RGM for endorsement of the 5th RSC; completion and endorsement of the updated TDA; completion of the updated SAP for endorsement of the 5th RSC and development/updating of National Action Programs for Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste; and preparation of the Draft SAP Financial Plan and Draft SAP Monitoring System Framework. A key technical document, the "Guide for Facilitators and Decision-makers", has been endorsed. The ATS Symposium was delivered in collaboration with the 4th International Conference on Integrated Coastal Management and Marine Biotechnology in September 2023 and it provided a platform to share key initiatives and launch the updated Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) TDA and the ATS Atlas. Additionally, the request for extension of all project components until December 2024 was endorsed by the Intersessional RSC and the review at UNDP is in process. Development of a potential third phase ('ATSEA-3') project has also been initiated by UNDP in collaboration with the ATS countries. These actions collectively signify commitment to sustainability, effective governance, and collaborative efforts across the ATS countries.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Nicole Coombe, Director of the Pacific and Regional Section of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW), endorsed the document. ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Yayan Hikmayani, Indonesia National Project Director for ATSEA-2 and Head of the Fisheries Research Center of MMAF, expressed appreciation for the project team and acknowledged the region's milestone achievements from previous meetings and endorsed the document. ● On behalf of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Noan Pakop, Special Advisor to the Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), appreciated the project team and partners. In particular, he commended the approval of the updated TDA and the endorsement of the RGM model, and emphasized the importance of sustainability for ATSEA in the future. Papua New Guinea also expressed the importance of aligning the Theory of Change (TOC) with the SAP and NAPs. ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, Timor-Leste's National Project Director for ATSEA-2 and Director General for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF), conveyed gratitude to the project team and partners for the project implementation efforts, acknowledged ongoing actions, and looked forward to detailed discussions on targets and outputs. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the actions taken on the major recommendations and decisions of the 4th RSC Meeting and Intersessional RSC Meeting 2023. The meeting also noted that more detailed discussions will be undertaken under the succeeding items, on the project extension, the operationalization of the RGM, the endorsement of SAP and its financing strategy, and the ATSEA-3 project. ● The 5th RSC noted Papua New Guinea's emphasis on the importance of aligning the Theory of Change with the SAP and NAPs.
3	<p>Issue: Status of Proposed ATSEA-2 Project Extension and Next Steps (Presenter: Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH, provided an update on the current status of the ATSEA-2 project's request for extension and outlined the remaining procedural steps. Key points emphasized included: (a) the extension of GEF projects is viewed as a no-cost measure for GEF, but associated costs must be covered through non-GEF sources; (b) UNDP's project extension policy involves three stages—request, review, and clearance; (c) The GEF does not have a specific policy regarding project extensions. ● Building upon the recommendations from the Project Midterm Review (MTR) in September 2022 and discussions during the 4th RSC Meeting in November 2022, the request for project extension received endorsement at the Intersessional RSC meeting in July 2023. Subsequently, necessary documents were submitted to UNDP offices in Indonesia and Timor-Leste in July and early August 2023. On November 3, 2023, the UNDP BRH revised the submission package, seeking clarifications and revisions for certain documents. ● The goal is to address these clarifications and finalize the required documents by the end of November 2023 to facilitate UNDP BRH's submission to UNDP HQ for final clearance. As such, , as of the 5th RSC meeting, the approval or outcome of the project extension remained pending.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Barreto emphasized that as the original closure dates for country components draw near, it is imperative to promptly decide on approving the project extension request. Despite making significant strides in finalizing the draft Updated SAP and expediting various deliverables through concurrent initiatives, the outstanding steps related to financing, mainstreaming, and the Ministerial Declaration would require thorough country consultations. Timor-Leste affirmed its preparedness to provide the necessary support to facilitate quick approval of the request for project extension. ● Mr. Pakop indicated that the project extension is crucial for completing certain activities that would otherwise be unfeasible. In particular, he noted that some key activities in PNG have just been initiated (i.e., the legalization of the ForeCoast Artisanal Fishery Management Plan for South Fly, which is expected to be endorsed by November and with target roll out by end of 2023). Mr. Pakop also emphasized the time needed to establish the Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) and initiate the implementation of the updated SAP and NAPs. PNG expressed its support to complete the remaining steps related to ATSEA-2's project extension request. ● Ms. Hikmayani echoed the concerns raised by Timor-Leste and PNG and reiterated the additional time needed to finalize and complete remaining country activities and targets. ● Mr. Iwan Kurniawan, Programme Manager of Natural Resources Environment, UNDP Indonesia, provided further explanation on the review process and considerations. In particular, he highlighted three aspects: (1) the necessity to confirm that there will be no additional requests for extension beyond the current request for project extension up to December 31, 2024, supported by a completed justification form; (2) the need to revisit the project's risk management log; and (3) while the cost analysis, has undergone UNDP review, there is a need to further reconcile the discrepancies between the balances indicated in the letters from implementing partners and the current balance in the UNDP system. ● Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilong, M&E Specialist of RPMU, ATSEA-2, informed the meeting that the key documentary requirements to support the rationale for project extension, as well as the updated project risk log has been developed. These documents have been provided to the 5th RSC for review and confirmation. She further clarified that the letters issued by the implementing partners were part of the original package of documents issued in July 2023, and therefore, reflect a different balance from the current fund balance in the UNDP system. In light of this, she sought clarification on whether updated letters need to be issued by implementing partners to align with the current balance in the system. ● In response, Dr. Mahjoub indicated that he will check with UNDP BRH to determine if letters will need to be updated based on the most recent figures.
	<p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The approval of ATSEA-2's request for project extension is vital to ensure the achievement of outstanding objectives, particularly within the governance component. The extension will provide ATS countries and project teams with the necessary time to complete consultations related to the operationalization of the RGM, the mainstreaming of SAP and financing into relevant country programs and plans, and the confirmation of commitments for inclusion in the ATS Ministerial Declaration to be developed and adopted in 2024. ● Considering the forthcoming original project closure dates of Indonesia component in January 2024 and Timor-Leste in March 2024, it is crucial that remaining clarifications and requested documents from UNDP BRH be provided the soonest time possible.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>This will facilitate the completion of the review process and secure a final decision regarding the project extension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted and agreed on the extension of the ATSEA-2 Project that has been supported by all beneficiary countries in accordance with previous decision made at the Intersessional RSC Meeting on 11 July 2023. ● The 5th RSC noted and agreed on the following next steps for UNDP to facilitate the completion and final submission of the project request for extension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The RPMU and NCUs of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, with support from respective UNDP Country Offices, to address the clarifications requested on some project extension documents. This includes the finalization and submission of the revised annual work plan, considering the most updated financial status/data in the UNDP Quantum system, as well as updating the procurement plans for the 2024 fiscal period by November. ○ UNDP Indonesia to compile the responses from ATSEA-2 RPMU and NCUs on the remaining project extension documents. This compilation is targeted to be submitted to UNDP BRH by the end of November 2023. Once cleared by UNDP BRH, the project extension request will be submitted to UNDP HQ for approval. ○ Noting the difference between the fund balance reflected in the earlier endorsement letters issued by the country implementing partners in July 2023 and the most recent fund balance in the system, the RTA will check and confirm whether updated letters will need to be re-issued.
4	<p>Issue: Project Progress in Accordance with the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), Financial Summary Report 2023, Proposed AWP and Budget 2024</p> <p>4.1 Timor-Leste (Presenter: Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, National Project Director for ATSEA-2 , Timor-Leste) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto presented the project progress for 2023 and the NPB-approved Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Budget for 2024. ● Overall, delivery towards project outcomes is on track with some ongoing activities. In terms of financial delivery, 65.70% or US\$ 483,461.73 out of the US\$735,893.80 approved 2023 budget has been expended as of November 2023. Timor-Leste, through MALFF, has also delivered a cumulative amount of US\$ 21,618,094.03 co-financing for the project. ● Among the key achievements for 2023 under Component 1 are: the establishment and formalization of the National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIMC), Timor-Leste’s support for the finalization and endorsement of the ATS RGM model with an initial commitment to allocate USD50,000 per year in support of the Regional Secretariat for 2025-2026, support for the updating of the regional TDA and SAP and ongoing updating of the NAP, drafting of a Ministerial Decree in support of the ongoing initiative to establish a new MPA from Manufahi to Manatuto, and trainings on MPA management and boat repair maintenance, and achievement of end-of-project targets on training/resource beneficiaries. ● Under Component 2, the Timor-Leste component has achieved its end of project target of 50% of red snapper fishery in the South Coast utilizing improved gears/techniques. The National Fisheries Advisory Committee (NFAC) has been convened to support the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Plan. Consultations were also undertaken to assess the existing early warning system (EWS) to serve as reference for the development of an appropriate EWS tailored to the

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>specific needs of the Barique (Manatuto) ICM site. Assessment of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for the Nino Konis Santana (NKS) National Park in consultation with stakeholders showed a significant improvement from a METT score of 24 in 2016 to 46 in June 2023. A pilot project was initiated within the national park involving women's groups to advance the conservation and management of marine turtles, and concurrently promote economic empowerment of women. The initiative facilitated the construction of turtle protection fence, 4 turtle ponds and fishponds, contributing to conservation of 1,200 turtles and 400 turtle hatchlings to date. The additional assessment pertaining to the expansion of the new MPA on the south coast from Manufahi Municipality to Manatuto Municipality covering a total area of 51,000 hectares is also on the final stage of the procurement process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For 2024, the NPB approved a total budget of US\$ 225,463.64 to support initiatives on establishment and formalization of the ATS RGM in Timor-Leste; mainstreaming of the RGM, SAP and NAP into national planning and budgetary frameworks; preparations for the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Forum to be hosted by Timor-Leste in August 2024; adoption of one local regulation on establishment of new MPA in Betano (Manufahi) and Barique (Manatuto); training and activities in support of EAFM Plan implementation, Rights-Based Fisheries Management, and operationalization of the NFAC; support for the implementation of the ICM Plan for Barique including establishment of oil spill early response system and monitoring and reporting and alternative livelihood activities; monitoring, reporting and packaging of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned on ATSEA-2 initiatives in Timor-Leste; and support to the completion of project reports, Terminal Evaluation, audit, and project operational closure. ● The approved budget for 2024 represents 11% of the approved 5-year budget for Timor-Leste amounting to US\$ 2,120,000. <p>4.2 Papua New Guinea (Presenter: Mr. Noan Pakop, Special Advisor to the Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) , PNG) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representing the National Project Director of PNG, Mr. Noan Pakop presented the progress report for 2023 and the proposed AWP and Budget for 2024. In terms of technical accomplishments, PNG has successfully met its end-of-project targets for Component 1, specifically in Outcome 1.1, focusing on regional and national mechanisms. This success is reflected in the establishment and operationalization of the NIMC and Stakeholder Partnership Forum, currently transitioning into the national RGM components. Additionally, under Outcome 1.4 on the updating of TDA, SAP, and NAPs, PNG has completed its Country Synthesis Report for the TDA and the first NAP in support of the updated SAP. The remaining ongoing initiatives are directed towards supporting the implementation of the ForeCoast Artisanal Fisheries Management for South Fly (FAFMP). The goal is to achieve the adoption of a by-law by the end of November 2023 at the Local Level Government (LLG) level, contributing to the end-of-project target under Outcome 1.2 related to institutional and human resource capacity. Further efforts, such as the operationalization of the Stakeholder Management Committee and the implementation of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) in support of FAFMP, will be initiated following the legal adoption of the FAFMP. These efforts align with key targets under Outcome 2.1, focusing on EAFM and supporting the fight against IUU fishing.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In terms of financial progress, as of September 2023, the PNG component has achieved 64% delivery, equivalent to US\$90,185, out of the total approved 2023 budget of US\$142,000. PNG's co-financing commitment from NFA stands at 26%, or US\$131,413 out of US\$2 million, with consideration given to the unavailability of information on some relevant NFA programs during the 5th RSC. Looking at the 5-year budget, PNG has already delivered 72%, amounting to US\$382,995. ● For the year 2024, the PNG component will focus on completing the remaining targets for Outcomes 1.2 and 2.1, as well as supporting key regional efforts, specifically in preparation for the Ministerial Declaration, the Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM), the Ministerial Forum (MF), and the conduct of the Terminal Evaluation and project closure. Prior to the 5th RSC, PNG's NPB has approved a total of US\$95,190 to carry out its 2024 activities and complete its project delivery. <p>4.3 Indonesia (Presenter: Mr. Kamaluddin Kasim, Policy Analyst of MMAF , Indonesia) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Ms. Yayan Hikmayani, National Project Director of ATSEA-2 in Indonesia, Mr. Kamaluddin Kasim, Policy Analyst of MMAF, delivered a presentation on Indonesia's progress in 2023 and proposed programming for 2024. Overall, Indonesia is on track in terms of technical delivery, except for Outcome 1, which involves the establishment and formalization of the NIMC . In particular, Indonesia highlighted the following major achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in support of policy reform, eight regulations from village to national level are already in effect with two more still underway; (b) in terms of seascapes and commodities management, a total of 640,964 ha are currently covered by MPA related efforts of the project. There has been a significant increase in METT score of SE Aru MPA from 39 in 2019 to 72 in 202. Eight action plans have been developed and are being implemented related to fisheries management and surveillance, ICM, and marine pollution management. Six fishing companies have been conferred with MSC Grade A+ for red snapper Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP). To date, 140 fishing vessels have been registered and capacitated to handle ETP species, 724 fishers registered with KUSUKA card, and five fishing companies are already using STELINA traceability system in Aru; and (c) on stakeholder engagement, a total of 14 community groups are involved on various project initiatives including on alternative livelihoods, gender mainstreaming and fisheries surveillance. More than 1,200 individuals have been capacitated as part of various project training. ● In terms of financial delivery, out of the approved budget of US\$910,166 for 2023, a total of US\$642,233.20, or 71%, has been expended as of October 2023. Regarding the overall financial delivery vis-a-vis the five-year budget, Indonesia has delivered 67% against its overall budget. Lastly, Indonesia has already surpassed its co-financing commitment through grant or in-kind, amounting to US\$21,316,138. ● For the year 2024, Indonesia has allocated US\$606,018, primarily directed towards Component 1 of the project. This includes the national mainstreaming workshop on the updated SAP and NAPs with their Financing Plans, transformation to RGM, finalization of the exit strategy, impact and lessons learned assessment, and support for the ATS Ministerial Declaration and SGOM. For Component 2, Indonesia has several activities in progress, such as Fisheries Surveillance certification, small-scale salt making development and monitoring, EAFM reassessment for three commodities, and Kolepom Island MPA public consultation. Indonesia continues to facilitate regular

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>monitoring and evaluation and will support the Terminal Evaluation and project operational closure.</p> <p>4.4 Regional (Presenter: Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager, ATSEA-2) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto presented the regional component’s progress in 2023 and the proposed work plan and budget for 2024. Overall, in terms of technical delivery, for Component 1, focusing on Governance, two target outcomes have been completed related to institutional and human resource capacity and better understanding of climate change, with significant progress on the remaining outcomes related to governance mechanisms, TDA, and SAP. In Component 2, key targets at the regional level for pollution reduction and coastal/marine biodiversity have been achieved, except for the final endorsement of the Regional EAFM Plan by Australia. Component 3, focusing on Knowledge Management, is progressing well, with ongoing efforts in the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System and communications. Overall, the technical delivery status is generally on track, with some items still in progress. In terms of financial delivery, 71% of the USD858,000 total approved budget has been delivered as of September 2023, with an expected delivery of 95% by year-end. Moreover, 79% of the budget has been delivered vis-à-vis the five year project budget for the regional component. ● Dr. Susanto, also highlighted the following overall major achievements of the project from the combined regional and national efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 815,564.9ha covered in support of MPA (Out of the 800,000ha end of project target) ○ Five EAFM plans developed and being implemented in five fishing communities ○ ICM plans in place in the two target sites in Rote Ndao, Indonesia, and in Barique, Timor-Leste, covering 347.22 km of coastline ○ Five local regulations (national and provincial level) are in effect in various project sites in support of ICM, MPA and marine pollution management, while two draft regulations are currently undergoing finalization for the new MPA in Timor-Leste and the by-law for the FAFMP for South Fly ○ More than 78,000 individuals engaged in various awareness and capacity building, consultations, planning, assessments and monitoring, as well as on actual on-the-ground initiatives. Of this total, 3,053 received specific training, and over 1,700 were empowered through alternative livelihoods, particularly focusing on women in the target sites. ○ More than 150 publications have been released, with some translated into local languages ○ More than 200 events have been organized/co-organized, and represented by ATSEA-2 from local to international level ○ In line with efforts to set the future of the ATSEA program, the RGM model has been finalized and endorsed with initial commitment by countries to fund the RGM’s regional secretariat for the bridging phase (2025-2026), the TDA has been updated and signed, and the updated SAP and NAPs have been drafted for review and endorsement. ● For the year 2024, the regional component will mainly focus on completing the following remaining work: mainstreaming of the RGM, SAP, and NAPs into country programs and plans; facilitate the development and adoption of the Ministerial

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>Declaration through the SGOM and Ministerial Forum; operationalize the RGM; package the project’s lessons learned, results, and impacts; support the remaining M&E activities, including the Terminal Evaluation; and facilitate a smooth project closure, including turnover to the new Regional Secretariat. The remaining budget of US\$567,515 is proposed to support the completion of remaining activities and facilitate the operational and financial closure of the project.</p> <p>4.5 Australia (Presenter: Ms. Nicole Coombe, Director of the Pacific and Regional Section, DCCEEW, Australia) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Nicole Coombe presented Australia’s initiatives contributing to ATS SAP and ATSEA-2 Objectives. There are six initiatives: 1) Ghost Nets Initiative, 2) Australian Marine Parks, 3) Marine pollution prevention and preparedness, 4) Migratory and threatened species management, 5) Sustainable Fisheries, and 6) Sustainable Ocean Plan. ● On the Ghost Nets initiative, since 2023, there has been a large program dedicated to cleaning up nets in the water and along the coastline, especially in the Gulf of Carpentaria—a critical area for Abandoned, Lost, or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG). Substantial efforts have been made to secure funding for ranger groups, enabling them to gather nets and marine debris in this relatively remote region. Additionally, a recent study on recycling pathways in the Northern Territory has been conducted. Work has been ongoing to collect floating nets in the water using satellite technology, targeting sea turtles, sawfish, and fishing activities. ● On Australian Marine Parks, in recent years, there has been a significant effort within Australian Marine Parks to recognize traditional knowledge and practices from sea countries. A new model for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and conservation activities has been developed, drawing inspiration from the wisdom of the sea countries ● On marine pollution, AMSA has engaged in bilateral efforts on Oil Spill Response (OSR) work with Australian ports. The focus has been on enhancing the management of waste and recycling of international ship waste. Additionally, short-term measures have been introduced to reduce carbon intensity by 40%. ● On migratory and threatened species management, numerous programs have been implemented to support the survey, management, and threat reduction for sea turtles. Australia uses satellite imagery to locate biological hotspots for protection and collaborate directly with indigenous rangers. There is a specific program for Green and Olive Ridley, focusing on reducing light pollution. Additionally, there's a program dedicated to disentangling sawfish. ● In terms of sustainable fisheries management, a traceability system is being developed for live aquarium corals. This system is essential for the effective management of coral trade. ● In the development of the sustainable ocean plan, there is a challenge in bringing together various parties to collaborate on building a blue economy for Australia. The country faces a particular challenge in energy transition, particularly with offshore wind turbines. It is crucial to manage their impact on marine megafauna migration, such as the blue whale, and fisheries. ATSEA is identified as a key stakeholder to be consulted for the plan's development.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>A. Timor-Leste Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indonesia, Australia and Papua New Guinea representatives acknowledged the progress in 2023 and the approved AWP and budget for 2024, noting the challenges in establishing coordinating mechanisms at the national level as well as at the regional level. They also looked forward to the Ministerial Forum in Timor-Leste in 2024. ● Mr. Iwan Kurniawan inquired whether the remaining budget for 2023 (34%) would be delivered or if a budget revision will be requested. He also advised on the need to ensure that knowledge products on project results and their benefits to the country will be ready in time for the Terminal Evaluation which will commence by April 2024. ● Mr. Expedito Belo, National Project Coordinator for Timor-Leste, clarified that there are still remaining major activities to be implemented in the coming month including the MPA extension from Manufahi to Manatuto, implementation of low-value grants in support of the ICM implementation in Barique, and Tarabandu activities as part of EAFM Plan implementation in the south coast. Together with the staff salaries, they expect to reach around 85% budget delivery, with 15% to be carried over to the following year. Considering this, they will be requesting for a budget revision for 2023. Mr. Belo also noted the advice on preparations for the Terminal Evaluation, which will be led by the RPMU with the support of the NCU and government partners. <p>B. Papua New Guinea Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC meeting noted and congratulated PNG on the progress made in 2023 and the AWP and Budget for 2024 which was initially approved by PNG’s National Project Board. ● In response to the question from Australia regarding opportunities to scale up the initiatives undertaken in PNG across various villages or communities and support changes in fishing behavior, Mr. Pakop underscored the value of the FAFMP as a pilot project demonstrating a bottom-up management approach. This approach enables communities to manage their marine and coastal resources in alignment with national policies, regulations, and relevant traditional fishing practices. Mr. Pakop highlighted that the FAFMP is a pioneering initiative, as often top-down implementations of national plans and laws focus on specific fisheries of national importance, and these are not adequately implemented, particularly in remote areas like the villages of South Fly. Artisanal fisheries present unique challenges, and through the FAFMP, a community-based fisheries management approach will be undertaken, complementing national plans and laws. The initiative is also expected to cascade awareness down to the local communities. The target is to utilize and build on the experience gained under the FAFMP implementation to serve as an example for further scaling up in other communities of PNG, while noting that implementation may vary depending on the needs and settings in various communities. <p>C. Indonesia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All countries acknowledged and congratulated Indonesia for the progress made in 2023. Ms. Coombe specifically mentioned that she understands why the Secretary-General of MMAF is enthusiastic about the project. Mr. Dwi Ariyoga Gautama, National Project Coordinator of Indonesia, expressed appreciation for the commendation from Australia. He emphasized the importance of aligning project

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>implementation from the national to provincial levels, stressing the need to build ownership at all levels to ensure sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Kurniawan expressed appreciation for the progress made by Indonesia, highlighting its efficiency, with a significant budget still remaining for 2024—another justification for extending the project. He inquired about the lessons learned in contributing to SDG targets. Mr. Gautama responded, emphasizing the achievements compared to budget spending, noting that there is still budget available for the next year. Regarding lessons learned, he mentioned the importance of ensuring that project outputs align with ministerial programs from national to local level to support sustainability of project initiatives, citing fisheries-based quotas as one example. He highlighted the extensive use of co-financing in implementation and the goal to mainstream SAP and NAP implementation. The current action plan places local governments as the major drivers for implementing projects at grassroots levels, necessitating alignment in all activities. <p>D. Regional Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of PNG, Mr. Pakop commended the RPMU for the significant progress achieved at the regional level over the past year. He further noted the developments under Components 1 and 2, with a request to RPMU to provide further assistance to PNG in its efforts to complete its remaining work at the country level related to the implementation of the FAFMP in South Fly. Noting the upcoming Ministerial Forum in 2024, Mr. Pakop highlighted the achievements of ATSEA-2 in the past four years as valuable documentation for future collaborations. In line with this, PNG endorsed the proposed AWP and Budget for the regional component in 2024. ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Hikmayani noted the advancements made particularly for Component 1 of the project, and highlighted the need to ensure that continued efforts be undertaken to operationalize the RGM. She highlighted that the upcoming year will be crucial in setting the future cooperation in the region. With this, Indonesia supported the endorsement of the regional AWP and Budget for 2024. ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe indicated that the progress achieved to date is a testament of the professionalism and commitment of the project team as well as the collaboration with the four ATS countries and stakeholders. Australia signified its support for the proposed AWP and Budget for 2024 under the regional component. ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Barreto echoed the congratulations extended to the RPMU for the progress made in 2023 and endorsed the proposed AWP and Budget for 2024 as presented. ● Dr. Mahjoub extended congratulations to the regional project team. In line with the ongoing review of the project extension request, he recommended for the 5th RSC proceedings to indicate that the 5th RSC endorsement of the budget remains contingent upon the approval of the extension. ● Mr. Kurniawan reminded the RSC of the overall objective of the project, which is to improve the quality of life. Building on technical accomplishments, he urged the RSC and the project team to emphasize the project's contributions to the improvement of the quality of life and the utility of its initiatives for various stakeholders, along with its role in achieving relevant international sustainable development objectives. Documenting these stories will be a valuable reference for the upcoming Terminal Evaluation. These stories will also serve as a useful resource for policymakers, donors, particularly in demonstrating the continuing value and relevance of the ATSEA program.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Susanto agreed with the suggestions to document and assess the benefits gained, success stories, and lessons learned to capture the results and linkages and contributions to international objectives and targets. He indicated that the project team has already initiated this process with the target of having the compilation ready prior to the Ministerial Forum in 2024. <p>E. Australia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Hikmayani expressed gratitude for the support provided by Australia and hoped for its continued assistance in the implementation of the SAP, particularly in managing marine and coastal resources, such as the Ghost Net initiative. She highlighted that Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea still lack a database concerning ALDFG. ● Mr. Pakop noted that Australia has bilateral and multilateral treaties, including RPOA-IUU. He expressed anticipation for increased collaboration with Australia in 2024 through the adoption of the SAP, citing the Ghost Net initiative as an example to collectively address transboundary issues. ● Mr. Hendra Siry, the Meeting Chair, highlighted the initiative to enhance and apply Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) in other Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Indonesia. He emphasized the importance of learning from established examples, such as the Great Barrier Reef, to understand the process of establishing and effectively managing PSSAs. ● Mr. Artemiy Izmetyev, Country Economist of UNDP Timor-Leste, raised a concern about traceability for coral in Timor-Leste, highlighting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing as a significant challenge. He inquired about the possibility of sharing lessons learned from Australia in coral traceability with other countries. Ms. Coombe responded that the initiative is still in a trial state and committed to providing more information on this matter in the future. ● Dr. Susanto emphasized the importance of involving not only the secretariat but also other ATS (Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste) countries in the development of the sustainable ocean plan.
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <p>A. Timor-Leste Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the 2023 progress report, including Timor-Leste’s financial delivery which is subject to change in accordance with the final delivery report which will be available by the end of the year. The 5th RSC further noted the NPB-approved 2024 AWP and Budget for Timor-Leste amounting to US\$ 225,463 (inclusive of balance from 2023), subject to the final clearance of the request for a project extension. <p>B. Papua New Guinea Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the 2023 progress report and the NPB-approved 2024 AWP and Budget for PNG amounting to US\$95,190, subject to the final clearance of the request for a project extension. <p>C. Indonesia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the 2023 progress report and the NPB-approved revised budget for 2023 amounting to US\$799,423, and the 2024 AWP and Budget for Indonesia amounting to US\$606,018, subject to the final clearance of the request for a project extension.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>D. Regional Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th RSC noted the progress made under the Regional component in 2023, and endorsed the proposed 2024 AWP and Budget amounting to US\$567,515, subject to the final clearance of the request for a project extension. Recommendations were made to highlight or strengthen the value of ATSEA-2 initiatives and results. The RSC highlighted the importance of documenting and packaging case studies, lessons learned, and impacts focusing not only on the technical achievements, but most importantly, to underscore project contributions to the quality of life and to key sustainable development targets and commitments. Disseminating these materials will provide stronger justification and bolster support for the project objectives. Furthermore, these information materials will serve as valuable references during the Terminal Evaluation, and in securing more support for ATSEA initiatives. <p>E. Australia Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th RSC noted the different initiatives of Australia contributing to the ATS region and the opportunities for possible collaboration and sharing of good practices on Ghost Net Initiative, Australian Marine Parks, Marine Pollution Prevention and Preparedness, Migratory and Threatened Species Management, Sustainable Fisheries Management, and Sustainable Ocean Plan Development. Moreover, the meeting noted opportunities for knowledge sharing of other Australian initiatives including the application of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) (e.g. Great Barrier Reef) and coral traceability. On the Sustainable Ocean Plan Development, Australia agreed to share their experience and other relevant information which may be useful reference for other ATSEA member countries.
5	<p>Issue: Monitoring of the Project Theory of Change (ToC), Risk Log, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2024 Presenter: Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin, M&E Specialist, RPMU (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT) Presenter for Terminal Evaluation: Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH (LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>5.1 ATSEA-2 Project Theory of Change and Risk Status Report</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin presented the monitoring of the Project Theory of Change (ToC), risk log and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. The main intention was to update the RSC on aspects related to project management particularly on the delivery of M&E requirements in support of achieving the project targets and objectives, and to give the RSC the opportunity to provide guidance on how the monitoring and evaluation initiatives can be further improved. Ms. Aguilin provided an overview of the M&E activities being undertaken by the ATSEA-2 Project in accordance with the GEF/UNDP requirements, and as part of project management processes. Guided by the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), the ToC, and the recommendations from the project Mid-Term Review (MTR) that was completed in September 2022, ATSEA-2 regularly conducts a number of M&E activities. These include the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), biannual Project Assurance Report (PAR), biennial project assurance quality reporting, and periodic

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>financial reporting. Alongside these activities is the periodic monitoring and identification of potential risks and challenges that may affect the delivery and achievement of project targets and objectives, and the identification and implementation of corresponding mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For Q1-Q3 2023, a number of M&E requirements have already been delivered including the PIR and first semester PAR reports. Key applications of the TOC particularly in the updating of the TDA and SAP, as well as in enhancing project planning and results-based monitoring, reporting and assessment were also highlighted. In support of the regular review of the project risk log, Ms. Aguilin reminded the RSC that the project has 14 risks that are being monitored periodically. In addition to these risks, she presented three new potential risks based on information received by the project team from partners and project team meetings, for further review and confirmation by the 5th RSC. These include: (1) some governance targets may not be fully achieved within the original project timeframe as a result of delays caused by changes in governments, COVID-related restrictions in the past years, and the varying government processes and requirements for project targets/outputs requiring political commitments; (2) possible impact to the project’s sustainable fisheries objectives of unintended child labor in the fisheries sector particularly in PNG and Timor-Leste based on some country-based studies from other organizations; and (3) possible security risk from confrontations between illegal fishers and authorities in the enforcement of policies or laws related to IUU fishing particularly in PNG. In addition, Ms. Aguilin informed the RSC that the previous risk related to climate change impacts will be reactivated recognizing the continuing risks posed by climate change to sustainable coastal and marine management. ● To mitigate the newly identified risks, the following treatments were suggested for RSC’s review and consideration: (1) on delivery of governance targets- the Project team in collaboration with the countries and UNDP will pursue and complete the necessary requirements in support of the request for project extension of up to 31 December 2024; (2) on unintended child labor- Project initiatives related to EAFM and ICM will continue to promote awareness building of sustainable fishing practices, laws and regulation, including the principles of gender equity and social inclusion, and labor standards or laws; and (3) on confrontations related to IUUF law enforcement in PNG- in line with the initiatives on FAFMP for South Fly, wider stakeholder awareness and socialization on sustainable and responsible fishing principles, along with related fishing laws will be undertaken to build and strengthen community support for sustainable fishing practices. ● As for the M&E Plan, an updated plan with corresponding status of delivery was submitted to UNDP Indonesia in July and September 2023. For the remainder of 2023, the following are scheduled for delivery: second semester PAR for 2023, updated risk log based on final review by the 5th RSC, financial report, and status update on the delivery of MTR recommendations and management actions. For 2024, the key activity will be the Terminal Evaluation, along with PIR, PARs, Terminal Project Report, final Quality Assurance report, quarterly financial reports, and Compilation of Lessons Learned and Results (an ongoing initiative under Component 3). <p>5.2. Terminal Evaluation Process and Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Sofiane Mahjoub, provided further information and guidance in preparation for the Project Terminal Evaluation (TE) in 2024. He emphasized that under GEF policies, full-sized projects with more than US\$2 million grant, such as ATSEA-2, are required to undergo Midterm and Terminal evaluations. The primary purposes of the TE are to promote accountability and transparency, synthesize lessons for improving future

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>initiatives, assess the overall project outcomes, and to gauge the extent of project convergence with other priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terminal Evaluations should be reported three months before project closure. Considering the pending approval of the request for project extension, two scenarios were presented for the conduct of the TE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First scenario (Timeline for TE with current project closure dates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indonesia: Expected date of TE - October 28, 2023, with an expected closure by January 28, 2024. ○ Timor-Leste: Expected date of TE - December 8, 2023, with an expected closure by March 8, 2024. ○ Papua New Guinea: Expected date of TE - March 10, 2023, with an expected closure by June 10, 2024. 2. Second scenario (Timeline for TE with project extension) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indonesia: Expected date of TE - September 2024, with an expected closure by December 31, 2024. ○ Timor-Leste: Expected date of TE - September 2024, with an expected closure by December 31, 2024. ○ Papua New Guinea: Expected date of TE - September 2024, with an expected closure by December 31, 2024. ○ In the second scenario, Mr. Mahjoub indicated that if the TE process will be initiated in July/August 2024, the PIR may be skipped, otherwise a PIR will have to be prepared as per usual schedule.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All country delegates expressed appreciation for the regular monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by the RPMU, underscoring their importance for sustainability, documenting lessons learned, and maintaining a timely and efficient process. They also noted the status of the actions taken in line with the application of the Theory of Change, the monitoring of the risk log, and the delivery of the M&E plan. Furthermore, the countries acknowledged the information provided on the Terminal Evaluation and confirmed their support for the process. ● Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, inquired if the recent local elections in Timor-Leste and upcoming elections in Indonesia should also be considered as risks. In response, Ms. Aguilung clarified that risks pertaining to elections and changes in government officials and structure are already part of the original 14 risks being monitored by the project. Status on delivery of treatments on these risks will continue to be carried out in light of developments in the countries. ● All the country representatives expressed hope that the request for project extension will be granted to enable the project to complete the remaining crucial governance targets. ● With regard to the potential new risks, Mr. Pakop hoped that the identification of new risks would contribute to improving governance. Concerning the potential risk of child labor and security risk on IUUF law enforcement in the fisheries sector, he requested clarification on how it was identified as a risk. While he understands and supports the advocacies on gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) as a mechanism to address such issues if any, he believes that the aspect of child labor is sometimes misconstrued in some reports. He explained the need to have better understanding and appreciation of the cultural context, particularly in the community setting in different countries, as opposed to some cases particularly on commercial fisheries and factories wherein child labor is unequivocally deemed illegal. In PNG's case, for instance, he underscored that fishing is a family-oriented, socioeconomic activity where everyone is involved at the community level. Thus, in such a setting, the participation of children is not considered

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>a risk. In line with this, he underlined the need to clearly define particular risks by understanding the context. Similarly, the same applies to the issue related to potential confrontations on enforcement of IUU related laws and policies, wherein programs are already being carried out to address possible issues. He confirmed PNG's support for the M&E initiatives of the project as these are important to understand the progress of SAP and NAP implementation particularly at the national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In addition, Mr. Kenneth Yhuanje, the National Project Coordinator of Papua New Guinea, reiterated that children's involvement in fishing practices is an integral part of the community's local culture and family activities, emphasizing the need to view risks in different contexts. He added that, based on information from the ground, there is no evidence of forced child labor and children continue to attend to their education, and hence it should not be perceived as a risk for the ATSEA-2 project. Regarding the project's intervention, at the Local Level Government (LLG), the ATSEA-2 team has been working to legalize the South Fly Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan (SFAFMP) which includes provisions on conduct of training and awareness on sustainable fishing/EAFM and GESI, as well as provisions in support of labor laws. Concerning potential confrontations, as reflected in the FAFMP, villagers are expected to report incidents, minimizing the possibility of conflicts. Buyers/traders are also required to obtain consent from the community to operate. ● Mr. Exedito Belo, National Project Coordinator of Timor-Leste, noted a lack of sufficient data on child labour specifically on fishing practices, citing that information particularly from ILO 2016 was a general country report on child labor. He further indicated that considering the lack of project specific studies on this issue makes it difficult to confirm if there is indeed such a risk. ● Ms. Aguiling clarified that the intention was to seek confirmation from the countries on the identified potential risks as they were brought to the attention of the project team. She emphasized that risks may or may not happen but if there are studies showing that a certain issue can pose a risk in achieving project targets, then it needs to be assessed. She also clarified that the information was based on country-based studies on child labor undertaken by other organizations, and were not specific to the ATSEA-2 project sites. Based on the clarifications received from the countries, the project team will finalize the project risk log for submission to UNDP, wherein issues related to child labor and confrontations related to enforcement of IUU fishing will not be included. The emphasis by countries on the efforts related to EAFM or promotion of sustainable fishing practices was also noted.
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the simplified infosheet on ToC and inclusion of a high-level ToC for the updated SAP, the updated risk log with some new risks identified for confirmation by the RSC, and the regular Monitoring and Evaluation activities in support of effective project management. ● The 5th RSC noted the two possible scenarios for Terminal Evaluation with and without project extension and emphasized the importance of securing the approval of the request for project extension. ● Regarding the newly identified risks, the 5th RSC noted the risk that some governance targets may not be fully achieved within the original project timeframe and supported the suggested treatments to facilitate and secure the approval of the project extension. As for the new risk related to potential impacts of unintended child labour in the fisheries sector, the need to have better understanding of the distinct cultural context in the project sites was underscored.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5th RSC meeting further recognized that there is not enough data and information to back up the identified risk, particularly in the ATSEA-2 project sites. In line with this, the updated ATSEA-2 project risk log to be submitted to UNDP will include only one new risk on the delivery of governance targets in addition to the existing original 14 risks previously identified for the project. • Risk management and monitoring will continue to be undertaken by the project and reported to the RSC.
6	<p>Issue: ATSEA-2 Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM)</p> <p>6.1 RGM Terms of Reference (regional and national components) and Transition Plan (Presenter: Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager, RPMU) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto delivered the presentation in two parts, first focusing on the RGM Terms of Reference (TORs) and feedback from the RSC, then the Transition Plan and a separate focused discussion. • Dr. Susanto presented an overview of the updated TORs for all the elements of the ATS Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM), building on the 2023 Intersessional RSC Meeting’s endorsement of the agreed RGM model, which includes the following: a) a Regional Component consisting of a Council of Ministers (COM), a Regional Coordination Committee (RCC), a Regional Secretariat, and a Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG); b) a National Component consisting of a National Coordination Committee (NCC), a National Secretariat, and a National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG) which countries agreed as core elements at the national level but with flexibility in their organization considering the different country arrangements and needs; and c) a mechanism for engaging Strategic Development Partners (SDP). • TORs for each of the key core technical personnel were added to the draft TOR for the Regional Secretariat, while the criteria and process for engaging SDPs was added to the draft TOR for the SDP. • Dr. Susanto also shared inputs from Australia following a review period with the countries, which have been accepted in the final compilation of TORs submitted for endorsement of the 5th RSC. The inputs included proposed alternative titles for the core staff aimed at attracting better candidates for the posts, inclusion of indicative number of country representatives in the RSWG to keep the operation efficient especially for decision making, and some edits to the TORs of the national elements in order to further emphasize the countries’ discretion in their organization and operation. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe thanked Dr. Susanto for the presentation and consideration of Australia’s inputs, and emphasized the importance of balancing certainty and flexibility as the RGM arrangements are firmed up in the future. • On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Sitti Hamdiah, Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Coordinator of MMAF, appreciated the process of engaging stakeholders in the development of the ATS RGM and proceeded to endorse the RGM TORs. • On behalf of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Pakop also expressed appreciation for the inclusive consultation process in developing the TORS and confirmed full support for their endorsement, while noting the need for future reviews in line with the progress of their implementation.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Barreto also confirmed that they have no further comments on the TORs and confirmed their support and endorsement. ● Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of PEMSEA, thanked the ATS countries for endorsing the RGM model and TORs. She thanked the RSC members for the trust in engaging PEMSEA as executing agency in transforming from a project to a program. PEMSEA governance mechanism has served and been adapted as a model for many LMEs in the world.
	<p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC appreciated the inclusive consultation process and endorsed the RGM TORs as presented, noting the need for review and updating in the course of program implementation.
	<p>6.2 Transition Plan</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Susanto proceeded to present the Transition Plan which provides the key steps, associated tasks and activities, and timeframe for moving from the current ATSEA-2 project-based arrangements to the long-term ATSEA Program and ATS RGM operationalization. ● The presentation highlighted the key aspects that will need to transition, including the coordination and management mechanism, the status or legal personality of the RGM, and the funding and financial management mechanism. The transition will be building on the arrangements and good practices from ATSEA-2, and includes key activities that will need to be undertaken during ATSEA-2 in order to put in place key RGM structures and systems that will be operationalized or further developed after the project. ● With regard to the transition in the Coordination and Management Mechanism, Dr. Susanto highlighted how the elements of the agreed long-term RGM structure could build on existing similar entities under the ATSEA-2 project. ● In terms of the transition in Status or Legal Personality, Dr. Susanto presented the considerations in moving from the project-based arrangements to the ATS RGM (which is an inter-governmental partnership mechanism), including the following: a) Country requirements and processes for participation in an inter-governmental regional mechanism or organization; b) Establishment or conferment of ‘legal personality’ of ATSEA in each country, and the processes and requirements involved; and c) Need for and development of a Headquarters’ Agreement with the host country of the Regional Secretariat. Dr. Susanto requested further information from the countries on their relevant processes and requirements including advice on what will need to be worked out before and after the signing of the 2024 Ministerial Declaration. ● With regard to the funding and financial management mechanism, Dr. Susanto explained the considerations in transitioning from the current ATSEA-2 project arrangements currently supported by GEF funds (with co-financing from the countries, UNDP and key implementation partners) and managed under the UNDP system, to a new modality of sourcing financing from country contributions, projects, donors, partners and innovative financing mechanisms which will be managed under a new financial management system to be established for ATSEA. With the shift from being a project to being an intergovernmental partnership mechanism, the legal personality of ATSEA to transact financially especially in the host country of the Regional Secretariat will also change. This may entail registration with appropriate government agencies, some process and requirements to open bank accounts, and clarification of tax status and requirements, among others. ● Dr. Susanto also presented the detailed plan for the transition which included a checklist of key items or aspects for the transition, key activities that need to be

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>implemented during ATSEA-2 (Inception Phase) and after ATSEA-2 (Implementation Phase), timeframe, and roles and responsibilities within the current project arrangements and the future RGM. Dr. Susanto also presented the next steps which summarized key actions to be undertaken after the 5th RSC's endorsement of the Transition Plan leading to the Ministerial Forum, establishment of the RGM elements, turn over from the project management units to ATSEA's regional and national secretariats, and operational project closure of ATSEA-2.</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Barreto thanked Dr. Susanto for the presentation and confirmed that the Transition Plan is well aligned with their recommendations. In order to ensure a fully functioning regional mechanism, Mr. Barreto agreed on the need to start early in order to avoid gaps in the implementation of the SAP and NAPs, and endorsed the proposed Transition Plan for the ATS RGM. ● On behalf of PNG, Mr. Pakop also appreciated the presentation, which shows a lot of thinking, consideration of the seriousness of issues, and the need for transitioning into the future in order to accomplish important work in the region. Mr. Pakop highlighted the importance of continuity from the project to a program that is not fully reliant on donor funding, and the need for the regional secretariat to coordinate the collaborative efforts. He expressed his full support for the proposed step-wise approach and endorsed the Transition Plan, noting the possibility to revisit the plan in the 1st RCC meeting in November 2024. ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Sitti Hamdiah reaffirmed their position from the Pre-RSC Meeting and expressed their support for the proposed Transition Plan. Ms. Hamdiah also shared the process in Indonesia for membership in International Organizations, which goes through the Working Group of Reviewers of Indonesia's Membership in and Contribution of the Government of Indonesia to International Organizations. The Working Group includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Development Planning. The RGM model and the development of a Ministerial Declaration have been presented to the Working Group which have received good response. A signed Ministerial Declaration is one of the requirements of the Working Group to endorse the ATS RGM as an international organization. Ms. Hamdiah expressed their hope that the RGM will also be supported by other ATS countries. ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe, confirmed their position to endorse the Transition Plan. Australia agrees on the importance of building up regional collaboration. In terms of the need to be flexible, Ms. Coombe noted that the Terminal Evaluation may also provide insights on how to move forward with the regional collaboration. ● Ms. Gonzales expressed her appreciation of the meeting results and anticipation of upcoming collaborations to implement the Transition Plan. ● Mr. Kurniawan congratulated the RSC, especially the ATS countries, on the good decision to move from a project to a program after 15 years of working together. He assured the RSC of UNDP's support in moving forward with the collaboration and implementation of the Transition Plan. ● Dr. Siry congratulated the RSC for the endorsement of a new regional initiative to protect the seas in the region in addition to the current existing mechanisms.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5th RSC endorsed the Transition Plan noting the proposed stepwise process and considering the importance of continuity from the ATSEA-2 project to the implementation of the updated SAP and NAPs. • The upcoming Terminal Evaluation may also provide further insights on ways forward from the project to the long-term program. • The 5th RSC noted the consultation process initiated by Indonesia on procedures and requirements for the country to be a member of ATSEA as an intergovernmental organization, and enjoined other countries to provide the necessary information on their respective government processes and requirements.
	<p>6.3 Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM (Presenter: Ms. Maria Corazon Ebarvia, Financial Consultant) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p><u>Presentation Overview:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Corazon Ebarvia, Team Leader of the Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies (REECS), consultant for the RGM and SAP financial planning, presented a summary of the process of developing the Financing and Investment Strategy for the endorsed RGM Model, including the cost estimation for the RGM options (and SAP implementation), preparation of 5-year budget, consultations on the financing options and fund management mechanism, and the refinements of the draft financing strategy considering feedback from the Intersessional RSC and a series of national and regional consultations. • Considering the funding requirements, the forthcoming closure of the ATSEA-2 project by the end of 2024, limitations of some countries to provide financial contributions, and that external financing may only be available in late 2026 or 2027, Ms. Ebarvia highlighted the following: a) the ATS countries’ recognition of the need for bridge financing in order to build on the momentum of ATSEA-2 and maintain the regional collaboration for the immediate implementation of the SAP and NAPs; and b) their recommendation to reduce the size of the Secretariat for the first two years, with other staff positions to be filled when funding from GEF and/or other sources becomes available. • Ms. Ebarvia presented the cost of the scaled-down Regional Secretariat and the secretariat office costs and RGM meetings for three years (2025 to 2027), including the regional costs (which would need country cost-sharing in the first two years), and the national costs to be covered by each country. Ms. Ebarvia also presented the country commitments in support of the RGM during the bridging phase (2025-2026) as confirmed with the countries during the national and regional consultations as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Australia: Cannot make any commitment until the Ministerial Declaration is signed; preference for external financing, with possibility of human resource support in the future ○ Indonesia: Considering the difficulty in making cash contributions due to a Presidential directive, providing in-kind support including hosting of the Regional Secretariat and office costs (equivalent to approximately \$14,000-21,000/year), second of national staff (~ \$52,000/year), and hosting of two RGM meetings in Indonesia (~ \$5,000/year); and two options for potential support for the Regional Director including seconding a senior director-level official (if other countries agree), and co-financing, subject to discussion with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to be confirmed on the first quarter of 2024

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Papua New Guinea: US\$65,000/year; process for funds transfer to be discussed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ○ Timor-Leste: US\$50,000/year; to be included in the 2024 budget discussion ● In addition, Ms. Ebarvia shared the offer from PEMSEA, as a potential strategic development partner, of US\$20,000 financial support for the Regional Director for one year, and fund management and knowledge management services during the bridging phase. ● Ms. Ebarvia explained what the current country commitments can cover, which includes the following: a) the Regional Director using the financial contributions from PNG, Timor-Leste and PEMSEA; b) the Admin and Accounting Officer and Executive Assistant through secondment by Indonesia; c) the Regional Secretariat office costs through the hosting of Indonesia; and d) the RGM meetings through the hosting of Indonesia and each country's support for their participants' travel costs. Not covered are the Finance and Resource Mobilization Specialist and the Regional Secretariat's travel and DSA costs for the RGM meetings (if held outside Bali). ● Ms. Ebarvia also presented a summary of the discussions in the Pre-RSC Meeting which was held virtually on 13 November 2023 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Country contributions: The four countries affirmed their country contributions/positions for the bridge financing, and agreed to accept the support offered by PEMSEA. ○ Fund management: The four countries agreed to have PEMSEA as partner for fund management, subject to country/RSC endorsement and legal mechanism. ○ Government processes to secure and transfer funds will be confirmed by countries ○ Regional Director: The four countries agreed to continue the engagement of the current ATSEA-2 Regional Project Manager, to be funded by the contributions of Timor-Leste and PNG and PEMSEA's co-financing support. ○ Finance and resource mobilization specialist: Indonesia offered two options: (a) secondment from MMAF (subject to review of TOR); or (b) hiring (subject to discussion with MMAF regarding the hiring process and means to cover the additional cost). Australia recommended reframing the position into Finance and Strategic Partnerships Specialist. ● National workshops on mainstreaming of the RGM and SAP financing will be undertaken with the countries in January 2024 and the report and mainstreaming recommendations will be shared with the countries in February 2024 for review. REECS will complete the final report on mainstreaming funding allocations by the end of February 2024, which will be shared with the countries for the implementation of the identified actions.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Hamdiah appreciated the inclusive and extensive consultation process facilitated by the RPMU, and agreed on the bridging phase to ensure a smooth transition. Considering the financing requirements, Ms. Hamdiah reaffirmed Indonesia's commitments in support of the RGM including the hosting of the Regional Secretariat, secondment of administrative staff, and hosting of RGM meetings in Indonesia. She also expressed appreciation for Timor-Leste and PNG for their country commitments for the RGM. Ms. Hamdiah proceeded to convey Indonesia's support for the proposed Investment and Financing Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM. She will also continue coordination on other potential support including for the Finance and Partnerships Specialist, and the information on securing and transfer of funds to the Regional Fund.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe shared her reflections on the challenges many organizations have on sustainable financing. Even mature organizations are undergoing processes to ensure ongoing and predictable funding. She noted that the work in ATSEA ranges from translation of global commitments to sustaining livelihoods and emphasized the need to work together for the common good. Ms. Coombe also shared updates on the development of a global treaty on plastic pollution and noted that ATSEA is moving ahead with regard to on-the-ground actions. Ms. Coombe confirmed that Australia will continue to support ATSEA in its work to ensure changes on the ground. Ms. Coombe also shared that the financial commitment for ATSEA is a work in progress in Australia, and highlighted potential opportunities to link with existing efforts and programs in Australia either through bilateral or other arrangements with the ATS SAP as guide. Ms. Coombe assured that Australia will continue to identify potential support for co-financing in support of ATSEA, and will be active contributors in discussions on sustainable financing and identification of partnerships moving ahead. Australia has many ongoing bilateral commitments in support of livelihoods and conservation and appreciate the effort to grow ATSEA into a sustainable and impactful alliance. Ms. Coombe conveyed Australia’s endorsement of the Investment and Financing Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM. ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Barreto appreciated the various consultations undertaken together with the other ATS countries, reaffirmed Timor-Leste’s commitment for the bridging phase, and confirmed the country’s commitment to provide US\$50,000 per year from 2025 to 2026 for the operation of the Regional Secretariat. He also ensured that the financial commitment will be included in the ministry’s budget submission in 2024 in order to ensure that the budget will be available in 2025. Mr. Barreto also reaffirmed their position in the Pre-RSC Meeting supporting the proposed Investment and Financing Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM, including the role of PEMSEA as interim fund manager during the bridging phase subject to development of a specific and appropriate agreement. ● On behalf of PNG, Mr. Pakop expressed appreciation for the inclusive and extensive consultation process on the RGM financing strategy. He also agreed with the urgency of having a bridging phase to ensure a smooth transition after the signing of the Ministerial Declaration. Mr. Pakop also emphasized the importance of providing information to the governments and all relevant ministries in order to facilitate support for the Ministerial Declaration and for longer-term commitments. He looks forward to the Ministerial Forum and the subsequent processes to ensure delivery of country commitments. Mr. Pakop confirmed PNG’s commitment to provide US\$ 65,000/year for 2025 to 2026 to support the smooth RGM transition. ● Dr. Siry congratulated the RSC and the ATS countries on the endorsement of the Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM. He also shared the experience of CTI which took four years for the recognition of its legal personality. The CTI agreement specified that four out of six countries were needed to ratify the organization’s legal personality. This required an extensive process that began in 2009 until CTI was formally established in 2014 and the ratified agreement was deposited with the UN. Dr. Siry advised the RSC to consider if the Ministerial Declaration can be considered for the recognition of ATSEA’s legal personality in order to shorten the process. He encouraged the RSC to make the process simple, if possible.
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste reiterated their agreement on the need for the bridging phase and corresponding financial requirements, and reaffirmed the following country commitments to fund and support the operationalization of the RGM for 2025-2026:

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USD 65,000 per year from PNG for 2025-2026 ○ USD 50,000 per year from Timor-Leste for 2025-2026 ○ In-kind support from Indonesia including the hosting of the Regional Secretariat, secondment of administrative staff, and hosting of RGM meetings if held in Indonesia in 2025-2026. ● Indonesia will continue coordination to get other potential support including to have the Financial and Partnership Manager. ● Recognizing ATSEA’s work on the ground, Australia expressed its continued support to ATSEA. Guided by the SAP, Australia will also endeavor to identify linkages of their existing country programs and support for co-financing and partnerships either bilaterally or through other arrangements. ● The 5th RSC committed to identify and confirm their government processes to ensure that financial and in-kind commitments during the bridging phase (2025-2026) will be available by the start of 2025. ● The 5th RSC also noted the need to continuously provide information to other relevant agencies in support of the Ministerial Declaration and longer term commitments. ● The 5th RSC recognized the need to keep the process of developing the legal personality of ATSEA simple and short, learning from the experience of other regional mechanisms such as the CTI. The anticipated ATS Ministerial Declaration in 2024 may already serve as a basis for supporting the legal personality of the ATSEA program. ● The 5th RSC endorsed the Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan for the ATS RGM, which includes the country commitments for the bridging phase, the engagement of the current RPM as interim Regional Director/Executive Director, and PEMSEA’s support as potential strategic partner including provision of funds for 2025, fund management and knowledge management during the bridging phase.
7	<p><u>Issue: Updated ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) and National Action Programs</u></p> <p>7.1 Final Version of the Draft ATS SAP 2024-2033 (Presenter: Mr. Matthew Fox, Regional SAP Consultant) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p><u>Presentation Overview:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Matthew Fox, Consultant for the TDA and SAP Updating, presented the final draft of the ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) along with a roadmap for its endorsement and implementation. ● The document, spanning a 10-year horizon, was developed following the published GEF/IW methodology and has undergone four drafts, with Version 3.1 being the most recent. The comprehensive 80-page document comprises four core components (marine plastic pollution, oil spills, small-scale IUU, and conservation of ETP species and critical habitats) and three cross-cutting objectives (climate change, GESI, and SAP governance). ● The development process involved a 10-month comprehensive co-design process, including four regional and three national rounds of consultations. The four core components contain six operational objectives, each with three types of targets: process, threat reduction, and socio-economic targets. ● Version 3.1 was reviewed in the Pre-RSC Meeting which was held virtually on 13 November 2023. Final refinements agreed in the Pre-RSC include the development of a high-level TOC, and highlighting the contingency of certain targets and activities in the SAP on the outcomes of planned assessments and analyses and new RAPs. Furthermore, there were proposals from UNDP on adding narrative to highlight the SAP’s role in strengthening national contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>Biodiversity Framework and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and moving local level Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment under national activities. The proposed refinements have been addressed in the Version 4 SAP which was submitted to the 5th RSC for review and endorsement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the 5th RSC’s endorsement of the updated SAP, the document will be finalized and packaged for signature by the National Project Directors (NPDs) and National Focal Point (NFP) within December 2023. In the first quarter of 2024, the RSC-endorsed SAP will be submitted for signature by the Ministers of the ATS countries, targeting completion before May 2024. Further activities to develop and align the implementation plans for the SAP and NAPs including their financing plans will be undertaken in the first and second quarters of 2024, prior to their formal adoption through the signing of the Ministerial Declaration in August 2024.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On behalf of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Pakop expressed gratitude for the continuous support and noted the four highlighted components in the SAP, along with the cross-cutting issues. He acknowledged the alignment between the SAP and PNG’s NAP. Papua New Guinea endorsed the SAP and its roadmap, committing to support the process of securing ministry endorsement of the SAP, implementation of the roadmap, and the pursuit of ATSEA-3. On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe expressed appreciation for the consultative process and officially gave Australia’s endorsement to both the SAP and its accompanying roadmap. On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Hamdiyah conveyed her belief that collective efforts have materialized in the SAP. She officially endorsed both the SAP and its roadmap, supporting their submission for signature by the Ministry. On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Baretto highlighted that key elements have been identified and aligned with country priorities, acknowledging the refinements made during the pre-RSC meeting. He mentioned that Timor-Leste has no further comments and officially endorsed the SAP and its roadmap for adoption and signing by the Ministry.
	<p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th RSC endorsed the final draft SAP 2024-2033 and the roadmap for its endorsement and implementation, highlighting the alignment of the SAP with respective national priorities and programs.
	<p>7.2 Draft ATS SAP Financing Plan and Next Steps (Presenter: Ms. Maria Corazon Ebarvia, Financial Consultant) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Ebarvia presented the 5-year cost estimates and draft financial plan for the four core components and three cross-cutting issues in the updated SAP. Considering the operational objectives, targets, priority actions, supporting regional activities and the corresponding timeframes and priority levels in the SAP, and as the SAP Implementation Plan is yet to be prepared, Ms. Ebarvia explained that a logical sequence of steps was outlined for each of the regional activities in order to identify the timeline, resources required, and estimate the costs. Assumptions and references for the estimated costs of various items were presented including international and national consultants, national and regional workshops, regional meetings for adoption of agreements/action plans, pilot projects, and

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>development of knowledge products. For pilot projects, costs were derived from similar initiatives by other development agencies such as the ADB and World Bank. Miscellaneous/contingency costs were also factored in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Ebarvia presented a detailed example of the cost estimates for Component 1 on marine plastic pollution prevention and reduction, and cost summaries for: a) each cost item across five years, and b) considering the timeframe and priority levels. ● In summary, the total cost estimates for implementing the four SAP components over five years are as follows: US\$3,529,507 for Component 1 (Marine Plastic Pollution); US\$727,480 for Component 2 (Oil Spills); US\$1,513,558 for Component 3 (Small-scale IUUF); and US\$1,748,559 for Component 4 (ETP Species and Critical Habitats). ● The costs for the cross-cutting components (GESI and Climate Change) will be mainstreamed into the four core components, although the costs for undertaking climate change vulnerability assessments in new priority local sites and development of GESI Action Plan for 2024-2033 were allocated under Component 4. ● In summary, the total cost estimate for implementing the SAP for the first five years, including the governance component as presented in the RGM Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan, is US\$9,850,097. The updated cost-benefit analysis indicates a positive Net Present Value (NPV) and shows that the benefits are 258-282 times higher than the costs, depending on the discount rate. ● Ms. Ebarvia proceeded to present the proposed financing plan which outlines a phased approach for the first half of the SAP implementation (five years). In Year 1, funding for country assessments and national workshops will be integrated into National Action Plans (NAPs) and other relevant national initiatives, while regional technical assistance applications will begin, already supported by financing from Regional Governance Meetings (RGM). By Year 2, it is anticipated that applications for technical assistance will be secured. In Years 3 to 5, focus shifts to implementing pilot projects, sustaining the Information Management System (IMS), and conducting regional capacity development, knowledge sharing, and collaborative research, with funding expected from sources like GEF and other entities, complemented by technical assistance from development banks and agencies. ● To support the refinement of the draft SAP financing plan, national consultations on SAP financing have been conducted in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. Both countries have identified national plans that can contribute to SAP implementation. Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste will share information on potential funding contributions with the RPMU, with inputs awaited from Indonesia and Australia. The draft SAP financing plan will be refined based on countries' comments and recommendations, and a financing mainstreaming workshop is scheduled for January 2024, pending country confirmations. By the end of January, a mainstreaming report will be prepared, and from March onward, plan implementation will commence. The adoption of the RGM, SAP, NAPs, and the financing plan is targeted for August 2024 during the Ministerial Forum.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Hamdiyah expressed full commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of the SAP and encouraged countries to allocate national budgets, not solely relying on external funding. She endorsed the subsequent steps and pledged collaboration with RPMU and NCU to expedite the mainstreaming workshop. Indonesia proposed expediting the signing of the SAP immediately after the RSC meeting to meet the GEF-8 funding target by the end of 2026. RPMU was requested to send letters to countries for signing/endorsing the SAP after the meeting. ● Mr. Baretto emphasized the need to secure bridging support for RGM and SAP implementation while simultaneously pursuing external funding support. Timor-Leste endorsed the subsequent steps in the process.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Pakop reiterated the critical nature of SAP financing for the bridging phase, similar to the importance of RGM. The Papua New Guinea government, including the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), committed to supporting the bridging phase. He endorsed the roadmap for SAP financing and expressed willingness to collaborate with the NCU and RPMU for the mainstreaming workshop. ● Ms. Coombe will be looking at existing programs and plans in Australia such as the Sustainable Ocean Plan and Circular Economy Plan on potential linkages to the SAP. She also acknowledged Indonesia’s suggestion to obtain official signoff of the SAP before the Ministerial Declaration. She expressed anticipation for the RPMU letter and will see how they can support the early ministerial signing of the SAP. She expressed support for the next steps for completing the SAP financing plan. ● Ms. Hamdiah emphasized the importance of pursuing the GEF-8 budget and facilitating GEF PIF approval early in 2024 in order to avoid a gap in the implementation of the SAP. She proposed signing the SAP using a desk-to-desk mechanism after the 5th RSC, and having a ceremonial declaration of the SAP and endorsement of the RGM during the Ministerial Forum in 2024, emphasizing the need to maintain the momentum. This proposal garnered support from Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, while Australia needs to explore the possibility of a desk-to-desk mechanism. ● Dr. Mahjoub confirmed that the GEF Council meets in June and December. If the target is to get the GEF Council approval in June 2024, the full proposal package should be submitted in March 2024 in order to meet the requirements of the process.
	<p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the progress of the ATS SAP Financing Plan development and reiterated their support for the proposed Financing Plan by identifying and mapping possible funding sources from both internal and external sources. ● The 5th RSC endorsed the subsequent steps necessary to mainstream the Financing Plan, including the request for further consultations with Australia and Indonesia. ● Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste agreed to facilitate the desk-to-desk signing of SAP by their respective ministries following a letter prepared and sent by RPMU after the conclusion of the 5th RSC. This is a crucial step to maintain the momentum in pursuing the submission of a complete package for the GEF-8 funding request in March 2024. Australia requested more time to investigate the steps required for its ministry’s signing and confirm by the end of November. A ceremonial signing of the SAP will be undertaken during the Ministerial Forum in 2024 along with the formal adoption of the RGM and financing arrangements.
	<p>7.3 Information on the Draft Updated or New NAPs and Financing Strategies/Plans (Presenter: Country representatives)</p> <p>INDONESIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA TIMOR-LESTE AUSTRALIA</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Hamdiah informed the meeting that the first draft of the NAP is now available. The plan underwent consultations at both the national and provincial levels to ensure effective implementation and alignment. The NAP is expected to be finalized by the end of the current year and will be adopted for mainstreaming in 2024.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Vagi Rei, Papua New Guinea’s NAP Consultant, shared that this marks the first time PNG has a NAP. The NAP has been completed and is almost aligned with the SAP. The process involved extensive consultations, particularly in the Western Province, with the assistance of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and various stakeholders from different agencies. Printed copies are available, and Mr. Rei expressed openness to receiving additional comments to finalize the document. There are plans to launch the NAP alongside other programs, potentially to be conducted by the NFA Managing Director. ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Baretto provided an update on the NAP process, indicating that it was initiated in the third quarter of 2023. Initial consultations took place in October 2023, and the first draft is now available. The target for the completion of the NAP is set for February 2024. ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe highlighted Australia’s engagement in the comprehensive consultations throughout the drafting of the SAP, and emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication with existing programs such as the RPOA-IUU and the sea turtle regional program. She highlighted the challenge and opportunities to shape existing programs to adapt to the specifications in the SAP. Underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in addressing threats, Ms. Coombe identified potential national environmental programs that provide opportunities to support ATSEA, including the Sustainable Ocean Plan, sharing of approaches on circular economy initiatives, cooperation on oil spills, and opportunity to develop bilateral cooperation on ETP species, particularly in collaboration with Papua New Guinea. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the following updates from the countries related to the development or updating of their National Action Programs (NAPs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indonesia completed its first draft NAP and aims to finalise it by the end of 2023. ○ Papua New Guinea completed its NAP and has the printed version ready. Nevertheless, Papua New Guinea remains open if there are further comments. ○ Timor-Leste has initiated the NAP development process in Q3 of 2023 and aims to complete the NAP by February 2024. ● Australia reiterated its engagement in the SAP development process and underscored the importance of avoiding duplication with existing programs such as RPOA-IUU and sea turtle regional program. Australia identified several potential areas where Australia could contribute to the region, including the Sustainable Ocean Plan, circular economy, and bilateral agreements for oil spills and ETP species.
8	<p>Issue: Draft ATS SAP Monitoring System and Next Steps (Presenter: Ms. Catherine Corpuz, ATS SAP Monitoring System Consultant) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; PPT on ATS SAP Monitoring System)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Catherine Corpuz, consultant for the development of the ATS SAP Monitoring System (MS), delivered the presentation through a video recording, as she was unable to personally join the 5th RSC Meeting. ● Ms. Corpuz introduced the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) approach and its relationship with the programme and planning cycle. The SAP lays out the goals, objectives, planning and programming aspects covering ATSEA, while MEAL is a feedback mechanism which provides information for governance and decision making and promotes efficient policy development and resource allocation. ● Ms. Corpuz explained three levels of monitoring: , process and compliance monitoring, results or outcome monitoring, and impact monitoring. Recognizing the

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>SAP timeframe, it is expected that the initial years will mainly focus on process and compliance monitoring with some results monitoring taking place. As the program matures, monitoring data on impacts is expected to be generated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlighting the impacts of risks to program or project implementation, Ms. Corpuz shared the risk matrix used in the updated SAP which has been adopted in the ATS SAP MS, which can support monitoring efforts particularly those that affect governance and institutional arrangements essential for compliance monitoring. ● Ms. Corpuz outlined the steps and considerations in designing the SAP MS, covering defining its purpose, developing data collection and management plans, creating a capacity-building plan, and allocating a sufficient monitoring budget. Addressing the absence of baseline data, she emphasized the need for validation and review of activity-level targets suggested in the draft monitoring framework. She also suggested an M&E plan and process for the conduct of actual monitoring, reporting and evaluation for the SAP MS. ● Noting that the updated SAP as a framework document identified targets only at the operational objectives level and did not detail activity level targets, Ms. Corpuz emphasized that such details will be crucial to finalize the SAP monitoring and reporting template as early monitoring would occur at the activity level. Initial suggestions were provided in the draft SAP MS Framework document for further refinement once the SAP Implementation Plan is already in place. <p>Considering the recommendation from the 1st TWG Meeting on the draft SAP MS (23 October 2023), and the concurrence at the Pre-RSC Meeting (13 November 2023), Ms. Corpuz presented the proposed next steps, which will include the development of a high level TOC for the updated SAP after its adoption by the 5th RSC. Following inputs from the 5th RSC, Ms. Corpuz will be refining the ATS SAP MS framework for review in the second TWG meeting targeted for mid-December. In the second quarter of 2024, the draft SAP MS will be refined considering the TOC and results chain for the SAP and review of activity level targets and baseline information. The RPMU will be organizing a training/orientation on the SAP MS for relevant personnel of the regional and national secretariats in the fourth quarter of 2024.</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Hamdiyah acknowledged that the SAP MS is an initial effort to establish a monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) system. They are in agreement with the TWG on the need to develop a TOC for the updated SAP and subsequently, the need to refine the SAP MS framework. Considering this, Indonesia endorsed the proposed next steps for the ATS SAP MS. ● Mr. Baretto appreciated all the key elements to support the SAP implementation that are underway, including the SAP Monitoring System. He highlighted that all these initiatives will provide the new RGM with the necessary means not only to monitor and compile data as part of SAP implementation but also to have a key reference for reviewing progress and guiding decisions and identification of necessary adaptive measures later on. Timor-Leste delegates agreed that in order to have a better monitoring system design, it would be good to have a more defined TOC as initially suggested by the TWG. Considering this, they expressed their agreement and support for the proposed next steps/roadmap. ● Mr. Terence Kadamwana, Manager for Coastal Fisheries of NFA and ATSEA-2 Operational Focal Point, PNG, recognized that the ATS SAP Monitoring System is a crucial initial step towards a MEAL system. They fully support the recommendation from the TWG to pursue the development of a high-level TOC, and if possible a SAP Implementation Plan, early next year as these initiatives will further guide the refinement of the SAP MS document. In addition, NAPs should be taken into

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>consideration while the SAP MS is still being developed, since NAPs are the national versions of the SAP. A corresponding NAP MS is required to manage NAP implementation and to successfully achieve the outcomes. It would be efficient to use the SAP MS as a template for the NAP. Having said that, they expressed support for the proposed next steps for developing the SAP MS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Coombe supported the next steps for the monitoring system, and the importance of having a monitoring program. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th RSC endorsed the proposed next steps for refining the Draft ATS SAP Monitoring System, considering the development of a more detailed TOC and implementation plan for the SAP in the first quarter of 2024. Guided by the SAP MS, the 5th RSC emphasized the need to develop corresponding NAP monitoring systems.
9	<p>Issue: Initial Information in Support of ATS Ministerial Forum Preparations Presenter: Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, RPM, ATSEA-2 RPMU Speaker: Ms. Nicole Coombe, DCCEEW, Australia Speaker: Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto, MALFF, Timor-Leste</p> <p>(LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Susanto commenced the presentation with a reference to the 2014 Ministerial Forum when three ministers signed the ATS Ministerial Declaration which endorsed the first ATS SAP and approved the SAP Guidelines on the Implementation of the Institutional and Governance Arrangements. In line with the mandate from the Ministerial Declaration, in 2020-2022, the ATSEA-2 Project supported the implementation of the SAP and NAPs, development and consultations on the ATS RGM, and the updating of the TDA considering the various thematic assessments and country synthesis reports generated under the project. Dr. Susanto also highlighted key accomplishments of ATSEA-2 in 2023, including the endorsement of the Updated TDA and key governance elements including the RGM model, RGM TORs and Transition Plan, RGM Investment and Financial Strategy and Plan, and Updated SAP; review of the Draft SAP Financial Plan and Draft ATS SAP Monitoring System by the 5th RSC; and ongoing finalization of the Draft NAPs with Financing Plans by Indonesia, PNG and Timor-Leste. Looking ahead to 2024, Dr. Handoko emphasized the need for three key steps as follows: 1) finalizing the SAP Financing Plan and NAPs with financing plans and mainstreaming key actions into country programs, and finalizing the SAP Monitoring System; 2) developing and building consensus on the SAP Implementation Plan and Draft Ministerial Declaration; and 3) formalizing and executing the commitments through the signing of the ATS Ministerial Declaration during the 2024 Ministerial Forum, operationalization of the RGM, initiating implementation of the updated SAP and NAPs, and pursuing initiatives to secure external/project funds to support SAP and NAPs implementation.. In support of the Ministerial Forum preparations, a special RSC meeting which will serve as an ATS Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) will be organized. The SGOM is anticipated to be hosted by Australia and scheduled for the end of June or early July. The meeting aims to finalize and obtain endorsement of the Ministerial Declaration to the Ministerial Forum, review and guide the program and arrangements for the Ministers and country delegations, and review the proposed program for the inaugural meetings of the RCC and RSWG.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ATS Ministerial Forum, which will serve as the Inaugural Meeting of the ATS Council of Ministers, will highlight ATSEA’s progress on SAP implementation; formally adopt and launch the ATS RGM, ATS SAP 2024-2033, and NAPS; and will usher in a long-term and programme-based cooperation in the ATS region highlighting commitment to blue economy development and sustainable development objectives and targets. Dr. Susanto confirmed Timor-Leste’s hosting of the Ministerial Forum which is being proposed to be held for two days in August 2024. ● Dr. Susanto also presented the proposed activities scheduled from December 2023 to August 2024 to prepare for the Ministerial Forum. A consultant will be engaged to support the drafting of the Ministerial Declaration, and all ATS countries will be requested to nominate members to be part of the Working Group to draft the Ministerial Declaration. Various country consultations will be undertaken to review and refine the Declaration. In parallel, organizing committees will be organized to support preparations for and conduct of the SGOM and Ministerial Forum and inaugural RCC and RSWG meetings. Dr. Susanto also shared key activities to be undertaken after the Forum leading to the ATSEA-2 Project closure. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Australia, Ms. Coombe confirmed that Australia is intending to host the SGOM to prepare for the Ministerial Forum, in June or July 2024. She proposed two days for the meeting to give adequate time for some relevant institutions in Australia to present their programs relevant to the ATSEA focus. ● On behalf of Timor-Leste, Mr. Baretto reaffirmed that they will host the Ministerial Forum in Dili, Timor-Leste. The country has discussed internally and proposed the tentative date of 22-23 August 2024. He thanked Australia for confirming the hosting of the SGOM. ● Mr. Acacio Guterres, the meeting Co-chair, reminded the countries to prepare their Ministers and make sure that they will be properly informed and engaged in the process to ensure their full support and participation in the forum. ● On behalf of Indonesia, Ms. Hamdiyah acknowledged Australia and Timor Leste for their commitments to host the two crucial meetings. She reaffirmed Indonesia’s unwavering dedication to this process. ● On behalf of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Kedamwana acknowledged Australia and Timor Leste for their commitments to host the two key high-level meetings. PNG will coordinate closely with RPMU and NCU Papua New Guinea to prepare the necessary briefing materials for the two meetings. He expressed Papua New Guinea’s commitment to this process and securing the participation of their Minister. <p>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC acknowledged with appreciation the confirmation from Australia on the hosting of the Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) by the end of June or the first week of July 2024, and by Timor-Leste on the hosting of the Ministerial Forum proposed to be held on 22-23 August 2024. ● The 5th RSC reiterated support and commitment towards the timely and quality preparations for the forthcoming SGOM and the ATS Ministerial Forum.
10	<p>Issue: ATSEA-3 Project Under UNDP/GEF- Updates from UNDP (Presenter: Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP BRH) (LINK TO MEETING DOCUMENT; LINK TO PPT)</p> <p>Presentation Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Mahjoub presented a snapshot of the proposed ATSEA-3 project for GEF-8 funding consideration. Building on the initial concept presented during the 4th RSC Meeting in

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<p>2022, Dr. Mahjoub informed the RSC that an international consultant has been engaged to support the development of the Project Information Form (PIF). In support of the updated ATS SAP, the proposed ATSEA-3 project aims to “Strengthen transboundary cooperation in the Arafura and Timor Seas region for protection of globally significant biodiversity and safeguarding coastal and marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient economic growth”. The proposal is for a 6-year project with total target GEF funding of US\$17,520,00 from International Waters and Biodiversity Focal Areas, covering Indonesia, PNG, Timor-Leste as beneficiary countries, while Australia is considered as a co-financing partner. The proposed implementing partner is PEMSEA, with UNDP serving as oversight agency for the GEF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The request for continued GEF financing is anchored on the following incremental reasoning: strong national government commitment building on the RGM, updated SAP and NAPs, and robust co-financing for the ATSEA-2 project, as well as to support regional efforts to respond to the emerging transboundary issues identified in the updated TDA. ● The current draft Project Identification Form (PIF) covers three major components: Component 1- Reducing emerging threats through implementation of priority actions supported by five outcomes; Component 2- Strengthening regional governance management and blue financing supported by two outcomes; and Component 3- Knowledge and innovation supported by one outcome. The proposed global environmental benefits include: 1,038,604 ha of MPAs; 924,500 ha of marine habitat under improved practices; Shared ATS ecosystem under further improved management; 3,500 tons of marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels; and 100,000 beneficiaries.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PNG, Timor-Leste, and Indonesia expressed full support to the process for PIF completion and to facilitate its early submission to the GEF Council. Indonesia further indicated that they would need to conduct further discussion with UNDP and the RPMU related to the proposed implementation arrangements for the proposed ATSEA-3 project. ● Mr. Izmayev from UNDP Timor-Leste, noted the complementarity and strong focus of the proposed project on blue economy, which is aligned with country priorities, particularly in Timor-Leste. He suggested the next project to include or synergize with country initiatives on integrated national financing framework on blue economy, which will be beneficial to all countries. Currently, he noted that financing related to blue bonds is more accessible to developed countries, while capacities in the ATS region related to blue financing still varies, although several good initiatives on innovative financing mechanisms are already being demonstrated in Indonesia. Moreover, he suggested incorporating technology exchange, such as in the area of plastic waste management to support regional objectives to promote circular economy, wherein Australia has more advanced experience and cutting-edge technologies from which the other ATS countries may learn. ● Dr. Mahjoub indicated that the current draft PIF is comprehensive, taking into consideration the key elements of the updated SAP. He mentioned that the national consultations proposed to be undertaken in the upcoming months will serve as important platforms to further assess and adjust some of the proposed initiatives and targets to ensure their feasibility in the countries (e.g., 100,000 beneficiaries). ● Mr. Elson da Costa, National Director for External Resources Management, Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste, inquired if there is flexibility for countries to mobilize other funding resources (e.g., World Bank, ADB, GCF) to help support the ATSEA program’s sustainability.

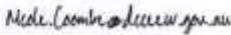


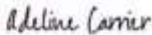

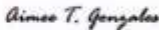
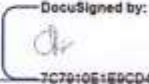
No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Belo informed the RSC that the GEF STAR allocation for Timor-Leste is US\$9.5 million (US\$2 million for climate change, US\$4 million for biodiversity, and US\$3.5 million for land degradation). Based on information received from the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) in Timor-Leste, to date, an integrated FAO/UNDP proposed project amounting to US\$5.5 million has already conducted an inception meeting for Project Preparation Grant (PPG), while the remainder of US\$4 million has been requested by Conservation International to support its project proposals in Timor-Leste. Mr. Belo suggested if the Director General of MALFF could further discuss with the GEF OFP in Timor-Leste to explore if some funds can still be re-allocated to support the proposed ATSEA-3 project. ● Dr. Mahjoub clarified that there are two components of funding allocation, one component from the International Waters (IW) and some activities that are not aligned with IW focal area and would happen at the national level which would have to be funded through STAR allocations. While it is not a GEF requirement to have counterpart country funding, it would be an advantage in demonstrating country commitment and would increase the chances of securing a GEF grant. ● In line with this, Dr. Susanto requested the three ATS countries (Indonesia, PNG, and Timor-Leste) to further review the draft PIF which was shared as part of the 5th RSC meeting documents and to support the organization of national consultations before the end of 2023. He also encouraged the three countries to seek opportunities to secure STAR allocation, and to further understand and possibly secure STAR allocation from the Biodiversity (BD) focal area. ● Mr. Kurniawan highlighted the need for the next project to demonstrate innovativeness. An example is the mobilization of resources from other partners as demonstrated in the ATSEA-2 initiatives in East Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia wherein local or provincial support was secured to sustain project initiatives. Engaging the private sector and investors to co-finance SAP implementation will be an advantage. Promoting investments related to renewable energy which can contribute to improving the quality of life and local economy will also be a good consideration in the draft PIF.
	<p><u>Agreed Follow Up Actions/Recommendations/Decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste expressed support and commitment to the proposed next steps and schedule for the completion and submission of the PIF to the GEF Council. In line with the ATS countries' aspiration to secure early approval of the ATSEA-3 project proposal, it was recommended to complete the necessary country and regional consultations and to finalize the PIF by March 2024 in time for submission to the GEF Council meeting in June 2024. In line with the draft PIF, the following suggestions were provided for consideration in the PIF design and in the upcoming consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrated National Financing Framework for blue economy ○ Incorporate knowledge and capacity building on innovative technologies (e.g., on plastic waste management, circular economy) ○ Review of country level activities and targets (i.e., number of beneficiaries) ○ Promoting Investments on renewable energy and engagement of private sector ● The 5th RSC tasked the National Project Directors/National Focal Point to organize internal country consultations to gather feedback and inputs on the draft PIF and to identify STAR allocation in support of the PIF, and to share results or updates before the end of the year. While this is not a requirement, counterpart support from countries will show commitment and strengthen the probability of approval of the proposed ATSEA-3 project. UNDP can support the consultation upon the request of the countries including involving the consultant for the update of the PIF.

No.	Discussion of Issues & Decisions/Recommendations
11	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 5th RSC noted the upcoming 2024 East Asian Seas Congress in Xiamen, China to be held on 6-8 November 2024, which coincides with the 50th year anniversary of LMEs and regional bodies. The EAS Congress 2024 will be a good opportunity to introduce the ATSEA program to a broader audience and identify potential partners and investors. ● The 5th RSC confirmed Indonesia as the host of the 6th and last RSC Meeting, and the first RCC Meeting, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2024.
12	<p>Review and Adoption of the 5th RSC Meeting Conclusions and Decisions</p> <p>The 5th RSC reviewed the draft Conclusions, Recommendations and Decisions from the 5th RSC Meeting and provided inputs for further refinement.</p>
	<p>Closing Ceremony of the 5th RSC Meeting</p> <p>The heads of the delegation from ATS countries, representatives from UNDP BRH, UNDP Country Offices, PEMSEA, ATSEA-2 Project team, Co-chair and Chair concluded the meeting by commending Indonesia as the host and acknowledging the efforts of the project team and Event Organizer for delivering a smooth and fruitful meeting. The participants looked forward to the forthcoming SGOM, Ministerial Forum and the last RSC/first Regional Coordination Committee meeting.</p>

Prepared and signed via DocuSign by the representatives of the ATSEA-2 Project Regional Steering Committee.

(SENIOR BENEFICIARIES/RSC MEMBERS)

(IMPLEMENTING AND EXECUTING AGENCIES)

<p></p> <p>Ms. Nicole Coombe Director, Pacific and Regional Section, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Australia</p>	<p></p> <p>Dr. Aretha Aprilia Head of Environment Unit, UNDP Indonesia</p>
<p></p> <p>Ms. Yayan Hikmayani National Project Director, Indonesia</p>	<p></p> <p>Ms. Adeline Carrier Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Timor Leste</p>
<p></p> <p>Mr. Leban Gisawa National Project Director, Papua New Guinea</p>	<p></p> <p>Ms. Aimee T. Gonzales Executive Director, PEMSEA Resource Facility</p>
<p></p> <p>Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto National Project Director, Timor-Leste</p>	

Annex 1. List of Participants

No	Participant	Gender	Total (person)
	Australia		
	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		1
1	Nicole Coombe – Director, Pacific and Regional Section	F	
	ATSEA-2 National RGM Advisor		2
2	Dr. Gellwynn Yusuf – Indonesia National RGM Advisor	M	
3	Vagi Rei – PNG National RGM Advisor and NAP Consultant/Manager, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority	M	
	Indonesia		
	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries		21
4	Antam Novambar - Secretary General	M	
5	Dr. I Nyoman Radiarta - Chairman of Agency for Marine and Fisheries Extension and Human Resource Development	M	
6	Yayan Hikmayani - Head of Fisheries Research Center/National Project Director of ATSEA-2	F	
7	Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry – Head of Marine Research Center	M	
8	Ari Prabowo - Head of Public Relations and Foreign Affairs Bureau	M	
9	Sitti Hamdiah - Coordinator for Regional and Multilateral Cooperation	F	
10	Kamaluddin Kasim – Policy Analyst, Center for Fisheries Research	M	
11	Niken Winarsih – National Development Planner, NPD Team	F	
12	Yuliadi Kadarmo - Policy Analyst, Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Bureau	M	
13	Marcus Daniel - Policy Analyst, Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Bureau	M	
14	Muhammad Febrianor - Corporate Analyst, Capture Fisheries Secretariat General	M	
15	Siti Annisa M - Staff, Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Bureau	F	
16	Andreas M - Staff, Regional and Multilateral Cooperation Bureau	M	
17	Jatu F.N - Policy Analyst, Legal Affairs	M	
18	Dita Primaoktasa - Senior Officer	F	
19	Harry Farhat - Staff	M	

20	Erlinda Qurrotu Aina - Secretary Director, Directorate General of Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance	F	
21	Yesinia A - Public Relation Bureau	F	
22	Novita Dewi - Public Relation Bureau	F	
23	M. Yodha A - Staff	M	
24	Teuku Heri - Staff	M	
	Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency		1
25	Irfan T - Planner	M	
	Ministry of Environment and Forestry		2
26	Iwan Nirawadi - National Focal Point of PEMSEA, Directorate General for Environmental Pollution Control and Damage Control.	M	
27	Eko Nugroho - Secretariat GEF, Official Focal Point	M	
	Ministry of Finance		1
28	Annur Ramadhan – Staff	M	
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		4
29	Noor E. Syahlani – First Diplomat	M	
30	Argy Christo P.B - Staff	M	
31	Naufal Fajari A - Staff	M	
32	Maulana Syaikhan – Staff	M	
	UNDP Indonesia/ATSEA-2 National Coordination Unit – Indonesia		9
33	Dr. Aretha Aprilia – Head of Environment Unit	F	
34	Iwan Kurniawan - Programme Manager Natural Resource Management	M	
35	Dwi Ariyoga Gautama – National Project Coordinator	M	
36	Lestari Handayani - Project Assistant	F	
37	Nathazha Bostanova Eunike Sipasulta – Project Clerk	F	
38	Sila Kartika Sari - Field Facilitator, Aru	F	
39	Mikael Leuape – Field Facilitator, Rote Ndao	M	

40	Johanis Valentino Fofied – Field Facilitator, Merauke	M	
41	Ratih Saraswati - Budget Management Associate	F	
	Papua New Guinea		5
	National Fisheries Agency		2
42	Noan David Pakop – Special Adviser to Managing Director	M	
43	Terence Kedamwana – Manager, Coastal Fisheries/ATSEA-2 National Focal Point	M	
	Department of Foreign Affairs		1
44	Glynis Farari – Director (REA)	F	
	National Coordination Unit – PNG		2
45	Kenneth Yhuanje – National Project Coordinator	M	
46	Joe Kiningi – Admin and Finance Officer	M	
	Timor-Leste		14
	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Forestry		4
47	Celestino da Cunha Barreto - Director General for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources; National Project Director of ATSEA-2	M	
48	Acacio Guterres – Senior Staff	M	
49	Marito Filipe – National Focal Point of ATSEA-2	M	
50	Aleixo Leonito Amaral – Advisor	M	
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		1
51	Anastasia Pires - Director National for Regional Affairs	M	
	Ministry of State Administration		2
52	Maria Goretti Marques Belo - Director General of Simplification and Modernization of Local Administration	F	
53	Elviro Fernandes Moniz – Technical Staff	M	
	State Secretary of Environment		3

54	Rui Pires - Director National for Environment	M	
	Ministry of Finance		1
55	Elson M. da Costa - Director National for External Resources Management	M	
	National Authority of Petroleum and Mineral		1
56	Ruben Gusmão – Manager of Health, Safety, and Environment	M	
	Ministry of Defense		1
57	Doroteio Noronha – Second Lieutenant	M	
	UNDP Timor Leste/ ATSEA-2 National Coordination Unit		3
58	Artemiy Izmayev – Country Economist	M	
59	Expedito Roberto Maria Belo – National Project Coordinator	M	
60	Dominica Paula Jeronimo Guterres - Monitoring and Reporting Assistant	F	
	PEMSEA		1
61	Aimee Gonzales – Executive Director	F	
	UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub		1
62	Dr. Mohamed Sofiane Mahjoub – Regional Technical Advisor	M	
	ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit		9
63	Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto – Regional Project Manager	M	
64	Cristine Ingrid S. Narcise - Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist	F	
65	Cassandra Tania - Regional Biodiversity Specialist	F	
66	Kathrine Rose Gallardo Aguilung – Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	F	
67	Deti Triani – Marine Technical Officer	F	
68	Stella Puteri – Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist	F	

69	Nur Junaidi – Finance and Project Associate	M	
70	Yulia Dewi - Communication Assistant	F	
71	Chyntia Rachmadanti – Project Assisstant	F	
	Consultants		2
72	Maria Corazon Ebarvia – REECS, Finance and Investment specialist	F	
73	Matthew Fox – TDA/SAP Specialist	M	

