

# PROCEEDINGS

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## THE FIRST ATSEA REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC) MEETING

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Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia | 10-11 December 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First ATSEA Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting was held on 10-11 December 2024 at the Trans Resort Hotel in Bali, Indonesia. Hosted by the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), the meeting marked a significant milestone for the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region. It symbolized the formal transition from the ATSEA-2 Project to the ATSEA Program. The First RCC marked the initiation of the operations of the ATSEA Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) following its formal adoption via the Sydney Ministerial Declaration on 5 December 2024.

The meeting convened senior representatives from Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, along with observers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and the ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) as well as National Coordinating Units (NCUs) from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. As the new oversight body of the ATSEA Program, the RCC assumes a crucial role in coordinating the implementation of the ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programmes (NAPs) 2024-2033, fostering cooperation, mobilizing resources, and guiding the Regional Secretariat.

The key recommendations or decisions from the meeting are as follows:

1. Considering the suggestions from the RCC, the Secretariat was tasked with circulating the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) of the RCC for further review and confirmation by the RCC members.
2. The RCC endorsed the establishment of the ATSEA Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) with a composition of up to six members per country, emphasizing efficiency.
3. The RCC approved PEMSEA as the first Strategic Development Partner (SDP) and recommended periodic reviews of SDPs (e.g., every three years).
4. The RCC endorsed the establishment of the Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) and tasked the Secretariat to revise the RSWG timetable, incorporating meeting suggestions.
5. UNDP will circulate a preliminary concept note for the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) to ATS countries for input and alignment with the ATS SAP, with countries requested to confirm interest by 17 December 2024.
6. The ATSEA-2 Project member countries and partners are requested to submit comments or feedback on the draft Terminal Evaluation Report and Management Response by 16 December 2024.
7. The RCC approved the current ATSEA-2 Regional Project Manager to serve as the Interim Executive Director for 2025.
8. RCC member countries will confirm counterpart national coordinators to ensure seamless coordination between national and regional secretariats during the transition period.
9. The RCC approved the 2025 Work Plan and Budget, emphasizing essential operations during the transition year.
10. Indonesia will provide updates on Regional Secretariat office arrangements and appoint local staff for 2025.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST ATSEA  
REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
10-11 December 2024**

## INTRODUCTION

- i. The First ATSEA Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting was convened on 10-11 December 2024 at the Trans Resort Hotel in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF).
- ii. Following the adoption of the Sydney Ministerial Declaration on 5 December 2024, which formally adopted and launched the ATSEA Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM), the First RCC was organized in conjunction with the Final Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 Project, marking the initiation of the RGM operations and the official transition from the ATSEA-2 Project to the ATSEA program. The RCC serves as the regional policy and decision-making body of the RGM.
- iii. The Meeting was attended by senior representatives from Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, nominated as country representatives. Observers included representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub and Indonesia Country Office, as well as the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). The ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), supported by the ATSEA-2 National Coordinating Units (NCUs), served as the Secretariat. The meeting was conducted in two parts: the first session took place on the afternoon of 10 December 2024, and the second session was held on 11 December 2024.
- iv. The full list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

## OPENING OF THE FIRST RCC MEETING

- i. Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Regional Project Manager of ATSEA-2, delivered the Welcome and Opening Remarks, emphasizing the significance of the First ATSEA Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting as a milestone for the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region. He congratulated ATS countries on the formal establishment of the Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM), marked by the signing of the Sydney Ministerial Declaration, which reaffirms their collective commitment to the long-term implementation of the ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
- ii. Dr. Susanto highlighted the RCC's role as the new oversight body, taking over from the Project Regional Steering Committee (RSC). The RCC will coordinate SAP implementation, promote cooperation, support resource mobilization, and guide the Regional Secretariat. Progress will be reported to the Council of Ministers to ensure the program's continued success.
- iii. Acknowledging the absence of Timor-Leste as a full RCC member pending in-country consultations on the SAP, Dr. Susanto reiterated ATSEA's commitment to supporting Timor-Leste through an inclusive process.
- iv. He underlined the importance of addressing key post-project priorities, including the ATSEA program's legal status and securing funding for 2025-2026. The meeting's key

objectives include confirming the RCC Terms of Reference, finalizing RGM components, welcoming the Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) and the first ATSEA Strategic Development Partner (SDP), and approving the 2025 work plan and budget.

- v. Dr. Susanto expressed confidence in the RCC's leadership and the collective commitment of all stakeholders to achieve the ATS region's ecological, social, and economic goals. He concluded by reaffirming the Regional Secretariat's support and calling for focused deliberations during the meeting.

## 1.0 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### *Election of Meeting Chair*

- 1.1 Dr. Susanto proceeded to facilitate the election of the Chair for the First RCC Meeting. He began by explaining the relevant provisions outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the RCC, endorsed by the ATSEA-2 Project Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in 2023:
  - The National Focal Point, Chairperson of the NCC, or a designated representative of the host country will serve as the Chairperson for the annual RCC meetings.
  - A Co-Chair will be elected by the RCC members during the meeting.
- 1.2 However, Dr. Susanto noted that a Co-Chair would not be elected for this meeting, as the agenda was relatively short and members of the RCC are still to be formally confirmed. To facilitate the election process, advance consultations had been conducted with the host country. The host country nominated Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, Senior Adviser to Minister on Ecology and Marine Resources Affairs of MMAF, as Chair; however, due to his delayed arrival, the host country requested Mr. Matheus Eko Rudianto, Principal Fisheries Inspector from Directorate General of Monitoring and Fisheries Surveillance of MMAF, to serve as interim Chair for the first session of the meeting.
- 1.3 In accordance with these provisions, the RCC members formally expressed their confirmation and support for the nominated Chair and interim Chair. Dr. Susanto then officially handed over the floor to the interim Chair to proceed with the agenda of the meeting.

### *Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda*

- 1.4 Dr. Susanto presented the proposed agenda for the First RCC Meeting. The RCC meeting adopted the agenda as presented.
- 1.5 The Meeting Agenda is provided in **Annex 2**.

### **Session 1 of the First RCC Meeting (December 10, 2024)**

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION OF RCC MEMBERS AND REVIEW OR CONFIRMATION OF RCC TOR

### *Presentation Highlights*

- 2.1 Ms. Ingrid Narcise, Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist of the ATSEA-2 RPMU, delivered an update on the nominations of country representatives to the RCC. She also presented the RCC Terms of Reference (TOR), which had initially been endorsed during the 5<sup>th</sup> ATSEA-2 RSC Meeting in November 2023.

- 2.2 Ms. Narcise highlighted the following key points:
- Building on the 2014 ATS Ministerial Declaration, Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea signed the Sydney Declaration during the ATS Ministerial Forum on 5 December 2024. The Declaration formally adopted the ATS Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2024-2033 and launched the ATSEA Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) to coordinate its implementation.
  - The RGM consists of regional and national components:
    - Regional Components: Council of Ministers (COM), Regional Coordination Committee (RCC), Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG), and Regional Secretariat (RS).
    - National Components: National Coordinating Committee (NCC), National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG), and National Secretariat (NS). Noting that the national components will be organized at the discretion of the countries.
    - Strategic Development Partners (SDPs).
  - The Sydney Declaration mandates the RCC, supported by the Regional Secretariat, to oversee the operationalization of the RGM and implementation of the ATS SAP 2024-2033.
  - Based on the RSC-endorsed TOR of the RCC, the RCC will serve as the regional policy and decision-making body tasked with:
    - Overseeing coordination and cooperation among ATS countries and partners for SAP implementation.
    - Approving the 5-year implementation plan, annual work plans, and budgets.
    - Providing strategic guidance in line with country priorities and international commitments.
    - Guiding resource mobilization and endorsing collaborative proposals from partners.
    - Approving key governance documents and establishing elements of the RGM.
    - Advocating for partnership-building efforts within and outside the ATS region.
    - Reporting to the Council of Ministers on program performance and SAP progress.
- 2.3 Ms. Narcise reported that, in consultation with ATS countries, the following senior representatives were confirmed as RCC members:
- Australia: Division Head, International Environment, Reef, and Ocean Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). A position currently held by Ms. Katrina Maguire.
  - Indonesia: Directorate General of Marine and Fishery Resource Surveillance, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), currently represented by Mr. Eko Rudianto.
  - Papua New Guinea: Deputy Managing Director for Corporate Affairs, National Fisheries Authority (NFA). A position currently held by Mr. Leban Gisawa.
  - For Timor-Leste, it was noted that the RCC representative would be confirmed following the completion of their internal consultations on the SAP and ATSEA participation.
- 2.4 The RCC will meet annually and will be exclusive to the Senior officials of member countries. Hosting of the meeting will rotate to all member countries, but for the transition period (2025 and 2026) the initial plan is for Indonesia to host the meetings as part of their in-kind support to the RGM operationalization. The meetings may be conducted virtual or face-to-face, with a provision to call for intersessional RCC meetings as may be needed. Decision-making of the RCC will be carried out by consensus. The Regional Secretariat will provide organizational and documentation support for these meetings, while representatives from the ATSEA RSWG and SDPs may be invited as observers. In terms of funding, the meeting requirements will be covered by the host country, while RCC representatives will be funded by their respective governments.

**Discussion Highlights**

- 2.5 Dr. Andrew Chek, Assistant Director, Pacific and Regional Section, International Environment, Reef and Oceans Division of DCCEEW, Australia, formally confirmed Australia's representative to the RCC as reported by the Secretariat.
- 2.6 Ms. Desri Yanti, Head of Multilateral Cooperation, Bureau of Public Relations and International Cooperation of MMAF Indonesia, raised concerns regarding potential challenges posed by changes in the Ministry's structure, which may affect RCC representation. She proposed incorporating flexibility in the RCC nomination process to address this issue. Indonesia, at present, confirmed that their RCC representative will be the Director General of Marine Spatial Planning and Ocean Management and requested the Secretariat to update the RCC representative list accordingly.
- 2.7 Mr. Terence Kedamwana, Manager for Coastal Fisheries, National Fisheries Authority of PNG, confirmed Mr. Leban Gisawa as PNG's Head of Delegation for annual RCC meetings, with Mr. Thomas Usu designated as the alternate representative.
- 2.8 Regarding the TOR of the RCC, Mr. Kedamwana, conveyed PNG's concurrence with the TOR as initially endorsed by the 5<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting. He reaffirmed PNG's full commitment to the TOR, while acknowledging the need for flexibility, noting that the TOR may be revisited and updated by the RCC when necessary.
- 2.9 Dr. Chek requested the Secretariat to confirm whether a provision allowing for TOR revisions is already reflected in the document. He suggested clarifying that amendments to the TOR could be undertaken not only during annual RCC meetings but also through formal communications during intersessional periods.
- 2.10 Ms. Desri Yanti reaffirmed Indonesia's recognition of the RCC's critical role and expressed Indonesia's full support. She further proposed the following amendments to the TOR:
- Include clarity on how meeting expenses will be managed.
  - Add provisions detailing the process for revising country nominations to the RCC.
  - While decisions are to be made by consensus, include an option for alternative mechanisms if consensus cannot be reached.
  - Replace or avoid unfamiliar terms such as "sustainable development" and "blue economy"
  - Specify that observers should provide insights rather than formal recommendations.
- She further agreed with Australia that any revisions to the TOR should not impose additional burdens and suggested that amendments could be made during annual RCC meetings or intersessional periods.
- 2.11 In response to Indonesia's proposal, Dr. Chek supported the recommendation to avoid terminologies like "sustainable development" and "blue economy," to focus the TOR on operationally relevant terms.
- 2.12 The Secretariat was requested to revisit the TOR and incorporate the suggestions made during the meeting. The revised TOR will be presented for review and approval the following day at the start of the second session of the RCC meeting.

**END OF SESSION 1**

2.13 The interim RCC Chair adjourned the first session of the RCC meeting at 4:30pm.

**Session 2 of the First RCC Meeting (December 11, 2024)**

The RCC Chair, Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, presided over the second session of the RCC Meeting.

**CONTINUATION OF AGENDA 2.0 ON INTRODUCTION OF RCC MEMBERS AND REVIEW OR CONFIRMATION OF RCC TOR**

2.14 Before moving forward with the remaining agenda items, the Chair revisited the discussions on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the RCC from the previous day. The Chair requested the Secretariat to present the amended TOR for further review and formal confirmation by the meeting.

**Presentation Highlights**

- 2.15 Ms. Narcise presented the revised TOR for the RCC. Key updates included:
- Composition (section 3): A new provision was added to address possible changes in government representation to the RCC. The proposed text reads: “Changes in the Government representative to the RCC will be communicated formally by the National Focal Points to the Regional Secretariat, which will update the other members of the RCC accordingly.”
  - Roles and Responsibilities (first bullet of section 4.b on Strategic Guidance): the phrase “in support of sustainable development and ocean-based blue economy” was removed to focus the language on operational priorities.
  - Rules of RCC Meetings (section 6.f): provision on decision-making expanded to provide clarity and flexibility. The updated text reads: “Decision-making during annual meetings will be carried out by consensus. If deliberation/ consensus on critical issues cannot be reached, then decision making is postponed for consideration in a special/extraordinary/intersessional RSC meeting. Decision making by majority vote can be taken if a decision/consensus is not reached in the succeeding meeting.”
  - Rules of RCC Meetings (section 6.i): the word “recommendation” was replaced with the word “insight” pertaining to the role of observers (i.e., RSWG and SDP) during RCC discussions.
  - Funding for RCC Meetings (section 7): The term “Ministerial Forum” was replaced with “RCC meetings”. Additionally, Ms. Narcise provided further explanation or details on the funding of RCC meetings as stipulated in the RGM Financing Strategy. She inquired whether the details needed to be explicitly included in the TOR or if referencing the RGM Financing Strategy would already suffice.
  - Revision of RCC TOR (section 8): A new provision to further clarify the process for proposing revisions to the TOR. The proposed text reads: “Proposed revisions should be sent by the National Focal Points through a formal letter to the Regional Secretariat, which will submit it for consideration and approval of the RCC, either through email communications or through a forthcoming RCC meeting.”

**Discussion Highlights**

- 2.16 The RCC concurred with the following amendments from the Secretariat:
- new provision pertaining to Composition (section 3)
  - removal of the terms “sustainable development and blue economy”
  - use of the word “insight” under section 6.1 on Rules of RCC meetings



- new provision pertaining to Revision of RCC TOR (section 8)
- 2.17 Recognizing that there are currently only three member countries represented in the RCC, Mr. Eko Rudianto of MMAF Indonesia emphasized the importance of ensuring that the decision-making process remains consensus-based. To address this, Section 6.f of the TOR was further revised to read: “f) Decision-making during annual meetings will be carried out by consensus. If consensus on critical issues cannot be reached, then decision making is postponed for consideration in an intersessional RCC meeting until a consensus is reached.”
- 2.18 Under section 6.d, Indonesia proposed removing the word “Extraordinary” and retaining only “Intersessional meetings” when referring to meetings convened to address specific or emerging issues.
- 2.19 Indonesia proposed the inclusion of terms such as “Senior Officials Meeting” or “High-Level Meeting” alongside “RCC” to underscore the significance of having senior-level representation during RCC meetings. This would also elevate the stature and prominence of the RCC within the ATS countries.
- 2.20 Both Indonesia and Australia emphasized the need for more regular RCC meetings to ensure timely guidance on the implementation of the SAP and the operationalization of the RGM. Apart from the annual RCC meetings, quarterly consultative meetings of the RCC may be considered. These meetings may be virtual, hybrid or face-to-face, depending on the readiness and capabilities of the host country.
- 2.21 The RCC also suggested additional minor edits:
- Replacement of RSC with RCC under section 5
  - Removal of the word “intergovernmental” under section 6.a
- 2.22 The Chair suggested updating the format of the TOR to remove bullet points and replacing them with numbered provisions to facilitate easier reference.
- 2.23 The revised TOR of the RCC, incorporating the changes discussed during the meeting, is provided in **Annex 3**.

#### **Recommendation or Decision**

- 2.24 The Secretariat will circulate the updated version of the TOR of the RCC (Annex 3) for further review and confirmation by the RCC members.

### **3.0 ENDORSEMENT OF RSWG ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERS**

#### **Presentation Highlights**

- 3.1 Ms. Ingrid Narcise provided an update on the identification and nomination of members for the Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG), including an overview of its Terms of Reference (TOR) and the plan for its operationalization. The key purpose of the RSWG is to serve as a mechanism for inclusive stakeholder engagement in the sustainable development of the ATS region. The RSWG will act as a key partner to the RCC, offering expert, technical, and cross-issue advice to support the effective and efficient implementation of the ATS SAP and NAPs.

- 3.2 Based on the initially agreed TOR, the RSWG will consist of 3-4 representatives from each of the four ATS countries, with members drawn from National Stakeholder Working Groups (NSWGs), as well as national and regional experts, including government representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the private sector, and community representatives. These members will be nominated by National Focal Points (NFPs) for two-year terms, with the membership subject to the endorsement of the RCC.
- 3.3 Apart from providing technical support to the RCC, the RSWG is also tasked to provide inputs and share other initiatives to help address the critical environmental issues affecting the ATS region. The RSWG is also expected to provide insights or information on potential funding opportunities for the SAP and ATSEA program, as well as to support knowledge sharing and promote innovations.
- 3.4 Regarding RSWG meetings, the group will meet virtually at least once a year or as needed, prior to RCC meetings. Additional meetings and communications will be organized as necessary, with the RSWG meetings coordinated by the Regional Secretariat (RS) with support from the National Secretariat (NS). Technical experts will be invited to participate as required, and decision-making will be by consensus.
- 3.5 Funding for the RSWG will follow the RGM Investment and Financing Strategy. In particular, government representatives or country-nominated members will be supported through country budgets, regional experts will be funded by regional resources, while other stakeholders may need to self-fund their participation.
- 3.6 The RPMU requested nominations from the countries for the RSWG. To date, only Papua New Guinea (PNG) has submitted its nominees, who include:
- Mr. Thomas Usu, Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Unit, National Fisheries Authority
  - Mr. Vagi Rei, Manager, Marine Ecosystems, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
  - Mr. Pawa Limu, Manager, Marine Environment Protection, National Maritime Safety Authority
  - Ms. Glynis Farari, Assistant Director, Multilateral and Development Cooperation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs

While Australia and Indonesia indicated that further in-country consultations will be undertaken before they finalize and submit their nominees.

- 3.7 Although membership in RSWG is voluntary, Ms. Narcise highlighted some of the benefits of being an RSWG member. These include:
- Networking opportunities with regional, international, and other national stakeholders.
  - Access to knowledge sharing and best practices.
  - Enhanced visibility for organizations or individuals.
  - Opportunities for collaborative research.
  - Amplified stakeholder representation in regional decision-making processes.
  - The opportunity to contribute to the regional goals and vision of the ATS SAP.

- 3.8 Ms. Narcise outlined the next steps for the establishment and operationalization of the RSWG in 2025:
- Indonesia and Australia are to submit their nominees by January 2025.
  - The Secretariat will submit the full list of nominees to the RCC for confirmation in February 2025.
  - A second RSWG meeting is planned for February or March 2025.
  - The RSWG will be operationalized in line with its agreed work plan.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 3.9 Mr. Kedamwana of PNG, confirmed PNG's initial RSWG members as presented by the Secretariat, while emphasizing that they will require an additional week to fully finalize the confirmation of their nominated RSWG members, similar to the process they have followed for the RCC. In terms of the TOR of the RSWG, he indicated that confirmation of the detailed TOR may be done in the next meeting.
- 3.10 Mr. Rudianto of Indonesia raised a point regarding the number of RSWG members. Initially, the TOR suggested 3-4 members per country. However, during the SGOM, Indonesia requested additional representatives, which could depend on the components of the SAP. It was suggested to consider "up to 6 members per country" to allow flexibility in nominations. He also acknowledged the need to finalize nominations, with a commitment to send them before the established deadline. Indonesia also agreed to send comments on the TOR before Christmas.
- 3.11 Dr. Chek of Australia indicated that Australia will advise on RSWG nominations in February 2025. He shared that the signed Sydney Ministerial Declaration has increased interest in the RSWG. He further cautioned that while 6 members per country is acceptable, a smaller group may be more effective for ensuring efficient progress.
- 3.12 The RCC also raised the issue of support for the RSWG, which will be discussed in the first RSWG meeting.
- 3.13 Noting the commitments from Indonesia and Australia on their in-country nomination process, the Secretariat will send a reminder email in January 2025, and a second RSWG meeting is being considered for March 2025.

### **Recommendations or Decisions**

- 3.14 The RCC endorsed the establishment of the ATSEA RSWG.
- 3.15 The RCC agreed to set the composition of the RSWG to "up to 6 members per country," with an emphasis on keeping the group small for effectiveness.
- 3.16 The Secretariat will revise the timetable for the RSWG's operationalization and activities, incorporating the suggestions made during the meeting. Additionally, it will issue timely reminders of key deadlines.

## 4.0 ENDORSEMENT OF THE FIRST ATSEA SDP AND PRESENTATION ON KUNMING BIODIVERSITY FUND

### Endorsement of the First ATSEA SDP

#### *Presentation Highlights*

- 4.1 Dr. Susanto provided an overview of the role of ATSEA Strategic Development Partners (SDPs) in advancing the goals of the ATS SAP and NAPs. He emphasized that SDPs play a crucial role in providing technical expertise, capacity-building, project implementation, and funding to ensure alignment with ATSEA objectives.
- 4.2 He outlined the core responsibilities of SDPs, which include:
- Project development and funding.
  - Oversight and advocacy.
  - Active participation in ATSEA meetings.
  - Transitional tasks such as fund management, personnel recruitment, and knowledge/assets management.
- 4.3 Dr. Susanto detailed the steps involved in the selection process and review of PEMSEA's application as first SDP:
- 5th RSC (November 2023): Endorsed the investment and financial strategy and identified PEMSEA as a potential SDP.
  - SGOM (June 2024): ATS countries reaffirmed their readiness to welcome PEMSEA as a potential SDP.
  - Formal Application (November 2024): PEMSEA submitted its official application, becoming the first entity to express interest in the role.
- 4.4 The RPMU evaluated PEMSEA against the four established criteria for SDPs, highlighting key strengths such as:
- Legal personality supported by international agreements.
  - Governance through the EAS Partnership Council.
  - Extensive experience managing multilateral and bilateral projects.
  - Alignment with ATSEA goals, including marine pollution reduction, oil spill agreements, and integrated resource management.
  - Alignment with the Updated SAP and NAPs (2024-2033): Dr. Susanto highlighted PEMSEA's proposed areas of support, which include marine plastic pollution reduction, capacity-building programs, and alignment with ATSEA strategies to achieve shared objectives.

#### *Discussion Highlights*

- 4.5 On behalf of Australia, Dr. Chek endorsed PEMSEA as the first SDP. He further inquired about the term limit or review period for the SDP, suggesting periodic reviews to ensure that the collaboration remains efficient and in line with the objectives of the ATSEA program.
- 4.6 The Secretariat clarified that currently there is no specific time limit, as it depends on the program's or collaboration's timeframe.
- 4.7 Mr. Rudianto recognized the importance of the SDP, especially in supporting the implementation of the SAP. He also supported Australia's recommendation for periodic reviews. On behalf of Indonesia, he endorsed PEMSEA as the first SDP, recognizing its

support and efficient work under the ATSEA-2 project. In terms of other potential SDPs, Indonesia suggested the following for consideration: UNDP, USAID, GIZ, Blue Institute, WCS, CFA, and Coral Triangle Center (CTC).

- 4.8 On behalf of PNG, Mr. Kedamwana endorsed PEMSEA as the first ATSEA SDP citing its successful role as the executing agency of the ATSEA-2 project. He also highlighted the MOA that NFA signed with PEMSEA regarding PNG's support for the Regional Secretariat for the transition period. Mr. Kedamwana supported Australia's proposal for a review process and Indonesia's suggestion to consider other organizations for SDP.

### **Recommendations or Decisions**

- 4.9 The RCC endorsed PEMSEA as the first ATSEA SDP.
- 4.10 The RCC endorsed Australia's recommendation for periodic reviews of the SDP (e.g., every three years subject to further confirmation or advice of the RCC)
- 4.11 The Secretariat was tasked with reaching out to other potential SDPs, as suggested during the meeting, and identifying additional potential partners for consideration by the RCC.

### **Presentation on Kunming Biodiversity Fund**

#### **Presentation Highlights**

- 4.12 Building on the initial discussions on other potential funding for the ATS SAP during the Final RSC Meeting, Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub, Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) of the ATSEA-2 Project, UNDP BRH, provided detailed information on the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF), a fund established by China and UNEP to support developing countries in implementing the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- 4.13 He explained that the main purpose of the KBF is to contribute to the four goals and seven thematic areas of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, with preference given to projects addressing the following areas:
- Restored and protected ecosystems to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services.
  - Biodiversity effectively mainstreamed into policies, regulations, planning, and strategies.
  - Enhanced sustainable use of biodiversity.
  - Biodiversity mainstreamed among businesses and consumers to drive positive behaviors.
  - Equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources.
  - Prevention and control of invasive alien species to enhance biosecurity.
  - Strengthened resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation.
- 4.14 The call for applications is now open and due on 15 January 2025, although upon checking the official website, the deadline has been updated to 10 February 2025. The fund budget is USD 2,000,000 – 3,000,000 per project for multi-country initiatives. The duration for each project is 24-30 months. Only a maximum of 20 projects will be approved for support.
- 4.15 The application requirements include:
- Review and Longlisting: Strong concept notes will be longlisted, and selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals.
  - Full Proposal Submission: Due 31 March 2025.
  - Executive Council Review and Decision: May/June 2025.

- 4.16 The KBF is currently open to UN entities only. A letter of endorsement is required. For single-country projects, endorsement must come from the CBD focal point or an appropriate official in the lead ministry. For multi-country or regional initiatives, endorsement letters must come from relevant governments, with multiple letters considered as advantageous. Dr. Mahjoub further emphasized that preference will be given to regional projects (or involving more than one country) and small island developing states (SIDS).
- 4.17 Based on his initial discussion with UNDP Timor-Leste, Dr. Mahjoub informed the RCC that TL indicated enthusiasm to be part of the KBF proposal in support of the ATS SAP. Moreover, Dr. Mahjoub indicated that UNDP has a consultant ready to provide support in developing the concept paper. Dr. Mahjoub will share the online link to the open call where further details can be accessed.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 4.18 Dr. Chek recognized the KBF as a significant opportunity for ATSEA. He stated that, while Australia would not be part of the proposal, he supported aligning the initiative with the fourth pillar of the ATS SAP on biodiversity and ETP species. Additionally, he inquired whether the fund could support operational costs for the Secretariat.
- 4.19 Dr. Mahjoub clarified that UNDP's management cost is 6–7%, with additional staff costs for project implementation covered separately.
- 4.20 Mr. Kedamwana highlighted the potential of the KBF to support the bridging phase of ATSEA initiatives. He further inquired on the following and requested further details on the application process:
- Whether specific criteria exist at the country level.
  - If the Secretariat could lead or guide the process.
  - Whether there should be a designated contact point at the country level.
- 4.21 Dr. Mahjoub responded that focal points should communicate directly with UNDP representatives in their respective countries (e.g., Mr. Dhiraj Singh in UNDP PNG). A concept note has already been shared with them. He emphasized that while there is no obligation for country co-financing, contributions would strengthen the application. Regional management by the ATSEA RGM was also noted as a potential advantage.
- 4.22 Mr. Andreas Mahardika, Bureau of Public Relations and International Cooperation Secretariat General of MMAF, Indonesia, requested details on the project proposal being developed by UNDP to ensure alignment and avoid duplication with ATSEA-3 initiatives.
- 4.23 Dr. Mahjoub clarified that the intention is to complement rather than duplicate efforts, with countries determining priority sites. He noted that ATSEA-3 proposal for GEF8 funding remain contingent on Timor-Leste's signing of the ATS SAP. Priority actions under the KBF could potentially be adjusted once ATSEA-3 plans are finalized (i.e, sites to be covered).

### **Recommendations or Decisions**

- 4.24 UNDP will circulate the preliminary concept note to ATS countries for further input and alignment with the ATS SAP. *(Post meeting note: The draft concept note was circulated to all RCC members by email immediately following the meeting).*

- 4.25 ATS countries are requested to submit their inputs to the preliminary concept note and confirmation of interest to be part of the KBF proposal by 17 December 2024.

## 5.0 UPDATE ON THE ATSEA-2 PROJECT TERMINAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

- 5.1 Following discussions by the Final Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting on the findings and recommendations of the ATSEA-2 Terminal Evaluation (TE), the Chair noted that UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH), UNDP Indonesia, and UNDP Timor-Leste, in collaboration with the Project Team, conducted further deliberations to develop the Management Response. Mr. Iwan Kurniawan from UNDP Indonesia was invited to present updates and outline subsequent actions required from ATS countries and ATSEA-2 project partners for the finalization of the TE report.
- 5.2 Mr. Kurniawan reported that the TE report included 13 recommendations. In developing the Management Response, the team reviewed each recommendation and categorized them as “fully agreed,” “partially agreed,” or “rejected” in line with the prescribed Management Response template. This categorization was guided by the following considerations:
- Whether the recommendations are strongly substantiated within the report.
  - Whether they remain relevant in light of the outputs or progress already achieved by the project.
  - Whether they primarily represent lessons learned rather than actionable recommendations.
- 5.3 Based on the Team’s review, 5 recommendations were fully agreed upon, 3 were partially agreed upon, and 5 were rejected. The full draft Management Response is attached as **Annex 4**.
- 5.3 Mr. Kurniawan and Dr. Mahjoub further clarified that the items rejected by the team pertain to items already addressed or achieved by the project or considered more as lessons learned rather than actionable recommendations.
- 5.4 Mr. Kurniawan indicated that recommendations addressed to UNDP and corresponding draft management response would undergo further review and clearance by the Quality Assurance and Results Effectiveness (QARE) unit of UNDP. Recommendations directed at ATS countries, particularly Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste, require further feedback from the ATSEA Focal Ministries.

### ***Recommendation or Decision***

- 5.5 To support the finalization of the Terminal Evaluation Report and Management Response by December 20, 2024, ATS countries and project partners are requested to submit written feedback or comments on the draft Terminal Evaluation Report and Management Response by 16 December 2024.

## 6.0 CONFIRMATION OF INTERIM REGIONAL SECRETARIAT AND NATIONAL COMPONENTS ARRANGEMENTS

### *Presentation Highlights*

- 6.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilung, ATSEA-2 Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, presented the proposed interim arrangements for the Regional Secretariat (RS) and National Components to support the operationalisation of the ATSEA RGM.
- 6.2 Ms. Aguilung began by revisiting the agreed RGM structure, noting that the Regional Secretariat (RS) will operate under the guidance of the RCC while coordinating directly with other RGM components. Based on the approved TOR, the RS will be headed by an Executive Director (ED) supported by a team of at least three core staff and three national staff. The RS is responsible for day-to-day coordination with other RGM entities. In particular, they will provide technical, secretarial, fundraising, communication, external relations, monitoring, and reporting services in support of the SAP and RGM. The funding for RS is guided by the RGM Financing Strategy.
- 6.3 Ms. Aguilung provided an overview of the roles of the Secretariat:
- Executive Director (ED): Oversees all Secretariat functions.
  - Senior Program Lead: Coordinates governance, cross-cutting objectives (e.g., climate change and GESI), and the implementation of the ATS SAP Monitoring System.
  - Program Management Specialist: Serves as the main technical lead, focusing on environmental objectives of the SAP and coordinating with National Staff on NAPs.
  - Finance and Partnerships Manager: Leads resource mobilization, project development, and partnership-building initiatives.
  - KM and Communications Specialist: Locally hired, responsible for coordinating communications, outreach, and knowledge management.
- 6.4 For the national elements of the RGM, Ms. Aguilung indicated that the ATS countries had previously agreed to maintain flexibility in structuring their national RGM based on country-specific needs, capacity and resources. While the RGM TOR proposed indicative structures such as the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), National Steering Working Group (NSWG), and National Secretariat, the final structure rests with each country. The key objective is to ensure clear coordination and effective communication between regional and national components.
- 6.5 As ATSEA-2 is scheduled to end on 31 December 2024, Ms. Aguilung highlighted a planned transition period of at least two years (2025–2026) while the RGM finalizes its structure and secures additional funding. To address resource limitations during this phase, the RSC previously proposed a streamlined Secretariat structure for 2025, comprising an interim Executive Director and a program assistant. The interim ED will operate under the guidance of the RCC and PEMSEA, which will serve as the interim fund manager.
- 6.6 The interim ED will work closely with the RCC to implement the transition plan and budget, mobilize funding and resources, and lead the implementation of the Australia ALDFG Program.
- 6.7 To ensure continuity, the 5th RSC and SGOM recommended that the current ATSEA-2 Regional Project Manager (RPM) serve as the interim Executive Director. Funding for interim Secretariat operations will rely on country contributions and PEMSEA support.



Confirmation from Indonesia on the office of the RS and the secondment of program staff is also anticipated.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 6.8 Dr. Chek acknowledged the TOR for the interim Executive Director, noting that the RCC can always revise it as needed. He expressed Australia's support in formalizing the appointment of Dr. Handoko Susanto as interim ED for 2025. Regarding the National Coordinator from Australia, Dr. Chek indicated that he will continue to provide support. Australia will also advise on their national RGM arrangements later but will keep the structure streamlined and possibly build it out later as necessary. He observed that specific funding allocations in the work plan remain unclear, particularly regarding funding availability and gaps.
- 6.9 Mr. Rudianto reaffirmed their support for the previous RSC decision to maintain flexibility in establishing the RGM, particularly at the national level. Indonesia endorsed the appointment of Dr. Susanto to continue as interim ED. In line with Indonesia's commitment, he also announced that the Secretariat office would remain in Bali for the next six months, after which a new office would be arranged, potentially in Jakarta or another location.
- 6.10 Mr. Kedamwana commended Dr. Susanto's contribution and expressed appreciation for his invaluable leadership. PNG agreed to appoint Dr. Susanto as the interim ED during the critical transition period. Mr. Kedamwana highlighted PNG's efforts to support the Secretariat during the bridging phase, referencing an MOA signed with PEMSEA in Sydney earlier in December. He also provided updates on PNG's national components, noting that the NFA is recruiting a National Coordinator with an expanded job description. Additionally, the NPB has approved the transition to NCC, and biannual NCC meetings commenced this year. The NSWG has been established, transformed from the National Stakeholder Partnership Forum, with meetings already initiated.
- 6.11 Mr. Rudianto shared that, with regard to the Indonesia national component, discussions were held during the last meeting in Ambon which led to the drafting of a concept for the national structure. The concept has been submitted to MMAF's legal bureau for finalization.
- 6.12 Dr. Susanto expressed his gratitude for the trust and support extended to him, offering special thanks to the NFP and NPDs, UNDP country offices, UNDP BRH, PEMSEA, as well as the RPMU and NCU teams. He wished everyone the best in their future endeavors and emphasized that the lessons learned over the past five years would serve as a valuable guide for the next chapter. He encouraged continued collaboration toward greater milestones.

### **Recommendations or Decisions**

- 6.13 The RCC approved the current ATSEA-2 Regional Project Manager to serve as the Interim Executive Director for 2025.
- 6.14 Indonesia is requested to provide further updates on the Regional Secretariat office arrangements and appointment of local staff support for the Regional Secretariat in 2025.

- 6.15 The RCC noted the available funding from country contributions, the ALDFG project fund, and PEMSEA to support the operations of the RS, with details discussed under the agenda item on Work Plan and Budget for 2025.
- 6.16 RCC member countries will continue to facilitate identification and confirmation of counterpart national coordinators or coordinating committees to ensure smooth coordination between the regional and national secretariats for the transition period.

## 7.0 REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2025

- 7.1 Highlighting the mandate from the Sydney Ministerial Declaration for the countries to operationalize the RGM and implement the SAP 2024-2033, Dr. Susanto presented the proposed work plan and budget for the ATSEA Program in 2025.
- 7.2 Dr. Susanto began by revisiting the RGM Transition Plan and the work needed to support organizational strengthening and full operationalization of the RGM, and the RGM Investment and Financing Strategy (IFS) which specified the resources needed to operationalize a downscaled Regional Secretariat composed of an Interim Executive Director and a Program Assistant during the transition phase (around \$273,022). He also provided an overview of the financial and in-kind commitments from the ATS countries as well as PEMSEA in support of the Regional Secretariat, which includes USD65,000/year from PNG, USD50,000/year from Timor-Leste, and hosting of the Regional Secretariat Office, secondment of administrative assistant, and RCC and RSWG meetings by Indonesia in 2025-2026. PEMSEA also committed to provide USD20,000 for 2025 together with in-kind support for fund management and knowledge management
- 7.3 Dr. Susanto proceeded to explain the resources needed to implement identified activities for 2025 in the draft SAP Implementation Plan and the SAP financial plan which is around USD852,480. This covers regional level activities in the SAP across all the SAP components, while national level activities are covered in the country NAPs and financing plans and related national programs.
- 7.4 In terms of the availability of the committed resources, Dr. Susanto shared that immediately after the signing of the Ministerial Declaration, an agreement was signed between PEMSEA and the National Fisheries Authority of PNG for the transfer of their funding commitments. While Indonesia's in-kind commitments for the Regional Secretariat needs further confirmation, various programs in the country can support initial implementation of their NAP. Dr. Susanto also shared that Australia has entered into an agreement with PEMSEA and transferred USD420,000 to support initial implementation of the SAP component on abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gears (ALDFG) activities in the SAP. Potential funds for operationalizing the RGM and initiating SAP implementation also includes the AUS\$1.4M allocation from AUS to support ALDFG work of ATSEA which was announced by the Honourable Minister Tanya Plibersek during the Ministerial Forum in Sydney. PEMSEA's commitments have been confirmed, while Timor-Leste's commitments are subject to their re-engagement with ATSEA.
- 7.5 Considering the need to operationalize the RGM, initiate implementation of the SAP and NAPs, and the expected financial and human resources available in 2025, Dr. Susanto presented the proposed ATSEA work plan and budget for 2025 which will be focusing on the following components:
- Implementation of the Transition Plan - focusing on the operationalization of the RGM components including securing Timor-Leste's participation, confirming preferred arrangements for institutionalizing the RGM, developing the governance processes

and guidance documents, and resource mobilization and development of the financial management system, with an estimated cost of USD 138,000, to be supported partly from the funding and in-kind support from PNG, Indonesia and PEMSEA;

- Implementation of the ALDFG project - which will include the conduct of a Regional ALDFG workshop in Cairns in February 2025, development of a Theory of Change (TOC) for ALDFG, establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) for ALDFG and conduct of TWG meetings, and development of a draft ALDFG Regional Action Plan, with an estimated cost of USD264,694.56, to be supported by the funds from Australia;
- Knowledge management - including the implementation of the ATS SAP Monitoring System and development and dissemination of key knowledge products, estimated at USD8,000, to be supported partly from PNG and PEMSEA contributions; and
- Project management - to support necessary travel to the ATS countries and within Indonesia, office operations, and administrative, financial and audit activities, estimated to need USD 12,200, to be supported partly from PNG and PEMSEA contributions.

- 7.6 The total cost of implementing the proposed 2025 work plan is USD423,494, while the available funds from PNG (USD65,000), Australia (USD264,694) and PEMSEA (USD20,000), and the estimated cost for Indonesia's hosting of the RCC and RSWG meetings (\$46,000) totalled to USD385,694. Dr. Susanto highlighted a budget deficit of around USD27,800 and the need to identify potential sources of funding to support the Regional Secretariat operations.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 7.7 Dr. Chek clarified that the AUD1.4 M from Australia includes the US\$420,000 which has already been committed for the current ALDFG project. The ALDFG TWG is also not permanent and was proposed for the duration of the work under the project. Dr. Chek also identified the need for the work plan and budget information to be presented in a way that will enable better understanding of how the costs are apportioned, including a breakdown of staff cost, meeting cost, and other expenditures. This is important to be able to strike a balance between running a lean secretariat and having enough staff to service the work needed. There is a need to understand the allocation for staff salaries and what staff services this will be able to support. The program needs actual people to do the work, and there is a need to understand the gaps or shortfall, if any. Dr. Chek requested the Secretariat to prepare a budget table showing three staffing scenarios - the ideal, the minimum, and intermediate - to effectively implement the work plan this year and the year after. This will be useful when opportunities come from donors or countries to provide contributions.
- 7.8 Dr. Susanto clarified that as the Interim Executive Director will be directly coordinating the implementation of the ALDFG project, part of the ALDFG budget will be supporting the Interim ED's salary. Dr. Susanto will be preparing the budget table as proposed by Australia.
- 7.9 Mr. Rudianto acknowledged that the work plan and budget seem realistic, but implementation will depend on the situation at the given time. Indonesia agreed with the presented work plan, and the priorities on the operationalization of the Regional Secretariat, establishment of the governance mechanisms, and resource mobilization to support SAP implementation. For the moment, Indonesia endorses the work plan and budget for 2025. With regard to the support from Indonesia, the National Focal Point of ATSEA will be the Director General for Marine Spatial Planning and Ocean Management, which may be able to work out the in-kind support. Regarding the meetings to be hosted by Indonesia, the proposed budget remains an estimate. However, Indonesia is committed to making every effort to ensure the successful organization and execution of these meetings. Currently,

there is a limitation on the conduct of big meetings in Indonesia. Mr. Rudianto also provided assurance that Indonesia will continue to support the plan for 2025.

- 7.10 Mr. Kedamwana confirmed that the work plan aligns with the ATSEA priorities during bridging period, and PNG accepts the proposed work plan and budget. They also recognize the budget concerns and proposed to focus on resource mobilization as a priority, work within available means, and continue engaging donors for support.

### **Recommendations or Decisions**

- 7.11 Considering the available resources, the meeting Chair acknowledged the need to run the Regional Secretariat in the first year based on key essentials.
- 7.12 The Chair also requested the Secretariat to present the budget in an easy-to-understand format, detailing costs to enable countries to better understand the gaps and requirements for running the Regional Secretariat effectively and ensuring the transition process is completed within a year.
- 7.13 The First RCC Meeting endorsed the 2025 work plan and budget, noting the need to address recommendations from the countries and to undertake further discussions through email.

## **8.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Discussion Highlights**

- 8.1 In line with the transition plan and Indonesia's initial commitment, the 2025 RCC meeting will be hosted by Indonesia under the guidance of a new focal point.
- 8.2 Acknowledging Indonesia's earlier statement on the country's plan to conduct further assessment to determine the most suitable location for the Regional Secretariat office, member countries were invited to share their perspectives and considerations:
- Australia expressed a preference for Bali as the Secretariat's location, highlighting its neutral, non-capital setting, which provides an 'arm's length from government' advantage. Bali's logistical benefits, including easier accessibility from Australia, were also emphasized.
  - Papua New Guinea supported Australia's comments, agreeing on the logistical convenience and recommending Bali as the preferred location.
- 8.3 Noting the perspectives from Australia and PNG, the Chair requested Indonesia as the host country to take these inputs into account when finalizing the location of the Regional Secretariat office.

### **9.0 CLOSING OF THE FIRST RCC MEETING**

- 9.1 As Chair of the First RCC Meeting, Dr. Siry expressed his gratitude to all RCC members for their active participation, valuable insights, and dedication throughout the two-day meeting. He emphasized the significance of this inaugural RCC meeting as a key milestone in laying the foundation for the collective efforts aimed at advancing the goals of the ATS region.
- 9.2 He urged all participants to carry forward the momentum and collaboration demonstrated during the meeting, and reaffirmed his commitment to working with the members in the coming months to implement the outcomes and prepare for the next steps.

- 9.3 Dr. Siry concluded by wishing safe travels to all those returning home and officially adjourned the First RCC meeting at 12:00 noon on 11 December 2024.

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**ANNEX 1: List of Participants**

<b>No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1	Australia	Dr. Andrew Chek	Assistant Director, Pacific and Regional Section, International Environment, Reef, and Oceans Division	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
2	Indonesia	Ms. Yayan Hikmayani	Head of Fisheries Extension Centre, BPPSDMKP, ATSEA-2 National Project Director	MMAF
3		Ms. Desri Yanti	Head of Multilateral Cooperation, Bureau of Public Relations and International Cooperation	Secretariat General of MMAF
4		Mr. Matheus Eko Rudianto	Principal Fisheries Inspector	DG Monitoring and Fisheries Surveillance, MMAF
5		Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry	Senior Adviser to Minister on Ecology and Marine Resources Affairs	MMAF
6		Ms. Niken Winarsih	Sub-coordinator of Marine Fisheries Research/Cooperation, Fisheries Research Centre	BPPSDMKP of MMAF
7		Ms. Ni Nyoman Siti Mardiani Satria	Head of Tuna Research Center	BPPSDMKP of MMAF
8		Mr. Noor E. Syahlani	Directorate General of Asia-Pacific and Africa	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9		Mr. Eko Nugroho	Junior Expert Planner, GEF Operational Focal Point	Directorate General of Climate Change Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
10		Mr. Andreas Mahardika	Junior Analyst	Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation Bureau, MMAF
11		Ms. Sri Rahayu	Junior Analyst	MMAF
12		Ms. Iyus Sari	Cooperation Analyst	Directorate General of Marine Spatial Management, MMAF
13		Mr. Ardiansyah Hasyim		MMAF

14		Ms. Mega Nanda	Executive Secretary	MMAF
15		Mr. Guruh Saputra	Executive Secretary	MMAF
16		Ms. Anita S		MMAF
17		Ms. Aisyah Fatima		MMAF
18		Mr. Ahmed Sofivilah	Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Manager	MMAF
19		Ms. Vidlia Putri R	Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Jr. Manager	MMAF
20		Ms. Kiestiko Sari S	Policy Analyst	BPPSDM, MMAF
21		Mr. Afriza Aziz	PR	BPPSDM, MMAF
22		Ms. Arinta Dwi H.	Analisis SDI	PSDI-DJPT, MMAF
23		Mr. Wahyu Wibaso	Humas	BPPSDM, MMAF
24	Papua New Guinea (PNG)	Mr. Terence Kedamwana	Manager-Coastal Fisheries, ATSEA-2 PNG OFP	National Fishery Authority (NFA)
25		Mr. Vagi Leke Rei	Manager – Marine Ecosystems, National Advisor - ATSEA-2	Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA)
26	Non-Country	Mr. Iwan Kurniawan	NRM Project Manager	UNDP Indonesia
27		Mr. M. Yayat Afianto	Monitoring, Reporting and Technical Officer	EU, UNDP Indonesia
28		Ms. Nathazha Bostanova Eunike Sipasulta	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
29		Ms. Lestari Handayani	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
30		Mr. Safran Yusri	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
31		Ms. Nabila Jihan Tazkia	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
32		Ms. Safina Putri Afrilia	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
33		Ms. Rembulan Cahyaning Astari Wijanarko	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia

34		Mr. Faichnurrozi	ATSEA-2 NCU Indonesia	UNDP Indonesia
35		Mr. Kenneth Yhuanje	National Project Coordinator	ATSEA-2 NCU PNG
36		Mr. Joseph Kiningi	Admin/Finance Officer	ATSEA-2 NCU PNG
37		Dr. Sofiane Mahjoub	Regional Technical Advisor	UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
38		Ms. Aimee Gonzales	Executive Director	PEMSEA Resource Facility
39		Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto	Regional Project Manager	ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU)
40		Ms. Casandra Tania	Regional Biodiversity Specialist	RPMU
41		Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise	Policy/RBM Specialist	RPMU
42		Ms. Kathrine Rose G. Aguilin	M&E Specialist	RPMU
43		Ms. Stella Yovita Puteri	Communication and KM Specialist	RPMU
44		Ms. Ni Luh Putu Yulia Dewi	Communication Assistant	RPMU
45		Mr. Nur Junaidi	Admin and Finance Associate	RPMU
46		Ms. Chyntia Rachmadanti	Project Assistant	RPMU



## ANNEX 2: Meeting Agenda

Time	Agenda No.	Agenda Item
<b>PART 1 (DECEMBER 10, 2024)</b>		
16:00 – 16:10		<b>Opening of the First ATSEA Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting</b>  <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>(Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto-RPMU)</i>
16:10 – 16:30	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Organizational Matters</b>  1.1 Election of Chair and Co-Chair 1.2 Adoption of the RCC Meeting Agenda
16:30 – 17:00	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Introduction of RCC Members and Review/Confirmation of RCC TOR</b>
17:00 – 17:15		<b>Announcement of Day 2 Agenda</b>
18:00 - 20:00		<b>Welcome Dinner</b>
<b>PART 12 (DECEMBER 11, 2024)</b>		
09:00 -09:30		<b>Continuation of Agenda 2.0: Review of revised RCC TOR</b>
09:30 - 10:00	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Endorsement of RSWG establishment and members</b>
10:00 - 10:30	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Endorsement of the first SDP and Presentation on Kunming Biodiversity Fund</b>
10:00 - 10:30	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Update on Terminal Evaluation and Management Response</b>
10:30-10:45		<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>6.0</b>	<b>Confirmation of Interim Regional Secretariat and National Components Arrangements</b>
11:00 - 12:00	<b>7.0</b>	<b>Review and Endorsement of Work Plan and Budget 2025</b>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>8.0</b>	<b>Other Business</b>
12:15 - 12:30	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Closing of the First RCC Meeting</b>

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## ANNEX 3: TOR OF THE RCC

### DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ATS REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)

#### 1. Background

In accordance with the mandate from the 2014 ATS Ministerial Declaration, the ATSEA-2 Project supported the establishment of a regional governance mechanism (RGM) to facilitate collaboration among the four littoral countries in the ATS region in addressing priority transboundary environmental concerns through the implementation of an agreed regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and supporting National Action Programmes (NAPs).

Following a three-year consultation process, the Intersessional RSC Meeting on 11 July 2023 endorsed an agreed structure for the ATS RGM along with a roadmap for further development of the detailed RGM arrangements. The RGM structure and terms of reference were formally adopted and launched through the Sydney Ministerial Declaration signed on 5 December 2024, in Sydney, Australia.

The RGM structure includes regional and national components as follows:

1. Regional Component: Council of Ministers; Regional Coordination Committee; Regional Stakeholder Working Group; and Regional Secretariat;
2. National Component: National Coordinating Committee; National Stakeholder Working Group; and National Secretariat; and
3. Strategic Development Partners.

This Terms of Reference (TOR) provides guidance on the establishment and operation of the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) for the ATSEA program, in particular. The TOR builds on the regional collaboration mechanism and practices of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) in the two phases of GEF/UNDP-supported ATSEA projects.

#### 2. Purpose of the RCC

The RCC will serve as the regional policy and decision-making body to coordinate the formulation of supporting programs and operational policies for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). It will report to the Council of Ministers (CoM) and provide guidance to the Regional Secretariat.

#### 3. Composition

- 3.1 At a minimum, the ATSEA Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) will be composed of four high-level/duly designated National Government representatives from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, e.g., National Focal Points for ATSEA or Chair of National Coordination Committees.

- 3.2 Changes in the Government representative to the RCC will be communicated formally by the National Focal Points to the Regional Secretariat, which will update the other members of the RCC accordingly.

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

##### 4.1 Regular Functions:

- 4.1.1 Foster coordination and cooperation among the ATSEA member countries, other Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM) entities, and other stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 Oversee the implementation of the SAP including review and approval of 5-year SAP Implementation Plan, annual work plans and budgets, and annual assessment of progress toward the targets.
- 4.1.3 In coordination with the National Coordination Committees (NCCs) or equivalent entities in the four ATS countries, the RCC will ensure that the implementation of the SAP and National Action Programmes (NAPs) remains on course to deliver the desired ecological, social and economic outcomes and impacts.

##### 4.2 Strategic Guidance:

- 4.2.1 Provide strategic direction to overall ATSEA program and SAP by setting and aligning SAP priorities with the objectives and priorities of member countries, and with key relevant international commitments and targets.
- 4.2.2 Facilitate formulation of programs and operational policies, including review and approval of proposals from the Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG).
- 4.2.3 Facilitate review and decide on potential adjustments to the ATS SAP and 5-year SAP Implementation Plan considering progress assessments, challenges and constraints, opportunities, and new and emerging concerns.

##### 4.3 Funding/Resource Mobilization:

- 4.3.1 Guide the development, and review and approve project proposals in support of SAP implementation for submission to donors or potential partners.
- 4.3.2 Review and approve expressions of interest and collaborative proposals from international and regional organizations which will comprise the ATSEA Program's Strategic Development Partners (SDP).

##### 4.4 Advocacy and Partnership Building:

- 4.4.1 Facilitate local-to-international partnership and networking, as well as knowledge sharing of program results, best practices, and lessons learned to relevant audiences.

##### 4.5 RGM Operations:

- 4.5.1 The RCC will establish an ATSEA Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) and sub-working groups as may be necessary that will provide expert/technical and cross-issue advice or inputs to the RCC in support of the implementation of the SAP and NAPs.
- 4.5.2 The RCC will review and approve the procedure for recruitment of the core staff of the Regional Secretariat.

- 4.5.3 The RCC will administer the recruitment and evaluate the performance of the Executive Director in accordance with the approved procedure.
- 4.5.4 The RCC will provide guidance to the Regional Secretariat in developing processes and guidelines for effective and efficient Regional Secretariat operations (e.g., rules of procedures, SOPs for procurement, contract management, etc.) building on ATSEA-2 good practices.
- 4.5.5 The RCC will provide guidance to the Regional Secretariat on the development and implementation of legal and financial requirements/arrangements to ensure the sustainable operation of the ATSEA RGM.

#### 4.6 Progress Reporting:

- 4.6.1 The RCC will report to the Council of Ministers on overall program performance and progress towards expected outcomes and targets.

### 5. Secretariat of the RCC

- 5.1 The Regional Secretariat (RS) will act as the Secretariat for the RCC and will organize the annual, consultative, and intersessional RCC meetings, prepare the required documentation and reports, coordinate the implementation of actions arising from the RCC meetings, and provide a summary report to the RCC.

### 6. Rules of RCC Meetings

- 6.1 The RCC will have an annual meeting, typically in the final quarter of the year, and three consultative meetings in the other quarters. The meetings may be virtual, hybrid or face-to-face, considering the readiness and capabilities of the host country.
- 6.2 The annual meeting will be organized to review progress of regional and national components in line with the implementation of SAP and NAPs, as well as address remaining challenges; review and endorse ATSEA key documents; and review and approve workplan and budget for the following year.
- 6.3 The quarterly consultative meeting will be organized to provide timely guidance on the implementation of the SAP and NAPs, as well as to discuss current developments, progress, and challenges, and recommend immediate actions and solutions.
- 6.4 Intersessional meetings may be convened upon request by email to the Secretariat for a member(s), or as necessary to address specific or emerging issues.
- 6.5 Hosting of the RCC meetings will rotate around the ATS countries, upon invitation by the country and as may be decided by the RCC. At the end of each meeting, the next meeting location or host and tentative date of the next meeting will be decided by the RCC.
- 6.6 The National Focal Point or Chairperson of the NCC or a designated representative of the host country will serve as Chairperson for the RCC meetings, while a Co-Chair may be elected during the meeting as deemed necessary.
- 6.7 Decision-making during the meetings will be carried out by consensus. If consensus on critical issues cannot be reached, then decision making is postponed for consideration in an intersessional or regular RCC meeting until a consensus is reached
- 6.8 RCC meeting documents will be made available at least two weeks in advance to enable better preparation of all members. Circulation of the meeting report or draft

Proceedings will be supported by the ATS Regional Secretariat, which will disseminate a draft one week after the meeting and for one week review of meeting participants.

- 6.9 Proceedings of the RCC Meetings will be approved by RCC members/meeting representatives. Final approved proceedings will be uploaded by the Regional Secretariat in the ATSEA website.
- 6.10 Based on RCC decision, representatives of the Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RSWG) and Strategic Development Partners (SDPs) may be invited as Observers in RCC meetings, or special/technical sessions may be organised during the RCC meetings. Invited RSWG representatives can provide insights or inputs on the implementation of the SAP, while invited SDP representatives can provide status or progress report on ATSEA specific projects or new opportunities, for consideration in the RCC meeting.

## **7. Funding for RCC Meetings**


- 7.1 Details of funding arrangements for the organization and conduct of RCC meetings will be guided by the RGM Financing Strategy. In general, the cost of meeting venue, equipment, meals and supplies will be shouldered by the host country, while travel cost (airfare, DSA and accommodation) for participants from other countries will be supported by their respective government budgets. Other funding arrangements for miscellaneous activities will be decided in line with available resources.

## **8. Revision of RCC TOR**

- 8.1 The RCC TOR may be reviewed and revised in the course of implementation of the program, as necessary, for approval of the RCC.
- 8.2 Proposed revisions should be sent by the National Focal Points through a formal letter to the Regional Secretariat, which will submit it for consideration and approval of the RCC, either through email communications or through a forthcoming RCC meeting.



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