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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Address: FASPS - Project Management Division
Visayas Avenue, Diliman QC
Subject: MEMO DTD 01/03/2022 RE: PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDS SEA)
Addressee(s): FASPS - Office of the Director (DENRCO - FASPS OD)
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Mimi 1/4 Draft action document to be signed by Vice Director. Uses for Field Ops & regions concerned to adopt/integrate the local strategies plans developed by the project & other groups.

Puro 1/12 For your signature, Sir.

*UPP/AD/RY
01/13/2022*



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1128
Tel. Nos. (632) 8929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 8929-62-52
8929-66-20 • 8929-66-33 to 35 • 8929-70-41 to 43
Email: web@denr.gov.ph; Website: <https://denr.gov.ph>

JAN 13 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR **ATTY. JONAS R LEONES, CESO I**
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

THRU **MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.**
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

FROM **THE DIRECTOR**
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT **PROJECT COMPLETION STATUS REPORT OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDSSEA)**

We are submitting herewith the Project Completion Status Report (PCSR) of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Scaling Up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Project.

The SDS-SEA Project is a GEF-funded coastal and marine sector project implemented in Regions III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, VI, and X by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). The Project was developed to reduce pollution and rebuild degraded marine resources through scaling up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia in Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam that share six large marine ecosystems (LMEs), and related catchment areas. It aimed to catalyze actions and investments at the regional, national and local levels to rehabilitate and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem services and build a sustainable coastal and ocean-based blue economy in the East Asian region. The Project was approved in August 2014, commenced in September 2014 and closed in December 2020. Total GEF grant for the Philippine component was USD 1,000,000.00.

At closing date, the project was able to complete 33 of 37 target output indicators. Major accomplishments include the preparation and implementation of the national SDS-SEA/ Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Program and local strategy1 management plans; publication of National and Provincial State of the Coast reports; filing of the ICM Bill; water quality and institutional capacity assessments; establishment of Integrated Information Management System and environmental laboratories; conduct of trainings; and institutionalization of ICM management offices in LGUs; among others.

Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Tel. Nos. (632) 8926-2689-00; 8926-8065-PPD; 8928-0028-PMO;
8927-6755-PAMD; 8926-8052-PMED
Website: <https://fasps.denr.gov.ph>

Three (3) outputs were partially completed - reports that were drafted but still undergoing review prior to publication and dissemination. One (1) output was dropped - Development of a Capacity Building Program for the Cavite Water Testing Laboratory; this was assumed by another PEMSEA project operating in Cavite.

The USD 1 million GEF grant was fully utilized at the end of the Project. Cofinancing from the **GoP** reached USD 61,360,663 from the DENR, provincial governments of **Bataan**, **Batangas**, **Cavite**, **Guimaras** and **Oriental Mindoro**, and the **Macajalar Bay Development Alliance**.

The gains of the Project are considered sustainable given the policy and institutional mechanisms established. National and local governments have also allocated funds for the implementation of ICM initiatives.

Details of the project accomplishments, sustainability measures and other project information are in the attached PCSR.

Attached is a **draft** memorandum for the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment and the concerned Regional Executive Directors providing a copy of the PCSR.

For your consideration and signature, Sir.


WILFREDO J. OBIEN

Cc: **GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE**
Director, Policy and Planning Service



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEMORANDUM

FOR

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I
Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment

NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO
Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau

ENGR PAQUITO T. MORENO, JR. CESO III
Regional Executive Director, DENR Region III

NILO B. TAMORIA, CESO III
Regional Executive Director, DENR CALABARZON Region

LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO
Regional Executive Director, DENR MIMAROPA Region

LIVINO B. DURAN
Regional Executive Director, DENR Region VI

HENRY A. ADORNADO
Regional Executive Director, DENR Region X

FROM

THE DIRECTOR
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT

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GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDSSEA)**

This refers to the completion of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Scaling Up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Project implemented by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) with the Biodiversity Management Bureau in Regions III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, VI and X.

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We would like to commend the **BMB** and the participating regions and field offices for their valuable contribution to the Project. The gains of the Project are considered sustainable given the policy and institutional mechanisms established through your offices. National and local **governments** were also made to allocate resources necessary for the implementation of ICM initiatives.

In this regard, we recommend that the **BMB** and the Regional Offices ensure continued adoption of the project gains, and keep track of the progress of sustainability measures and activities identified.

Attached is a copy of the Project Completion Status Report prepared by FASPS based on reports submitted by the Project for your reference.

For your information and appropriate action.

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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PROJECT COMPLETION STATUS REPORT

| I. PROFILE |
|---|
| Project Title: GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Scaling Up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) |
| Fund Source/s: Global Environment Facility (GEF) |
| Project Cost Grant : US\$ 1,000,000 (Philippine component) Co-financing: PhP 48,250,000 |
| Effectivity Date: September 5, 2014 |
| Closing Date: December 31, 2020 |
| Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| Executing Agency: Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) |
| Sector: Coastal and Marine |
| Project Sites: Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam Philippines: Regions 3 (Bataan and Pampanga); 4A (Batangas and Cavite); 4B (Oriental Mindoro and Romblon); 6 (Guimaras) and 10 (Misamis Oriental) |
| Beneficiaries: Policymakers at the national and sub-national levels; planners/managers in provinces, cities and municipalities of participating countries implementing ICM programs in watersheds/coastal areas; private sector; NGOs; academe; and CSOs |
| Description: The project sought to reduce pollution and rebuild degraded marine resources through scaling up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam that share six large marine ecosystems (LMEs), and related catchment areas. It represented the “ transformation phase” of a series of GEF support, culminating in the sustainability of PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. It also made a stronger linkage between sustainable development of river basins, coastal and marine areas and local, national and regional investment processes in a “blue economy.” |
| Objective: The Project aimed to catalyze actions and investments at the regional, national and local levels to rehabilitate and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem services and build a sustainable coastal and ocean-based blue economy in the East Asian region, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). |
| Components: In order to achieve the objective, the Project's intervention was organized in three (3) mutually supporting components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnerships in Ocean and Coastal Governance 2. Healthy and Resilient Coastal and Marine Ecosystems 3. Knowledge Platform for Building a Sustainable Ocean-based Blue Economy <p>Targeting to achieve the 20% (45,000 km) coverage of the region's coastline by Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) programs, the project strategized to increase the meal extent and resilience of ecosystems in selected priority sites of the eight participating countries and to replicate good practices in the application of ICM tools to new sites (Component 2), supported by enabling poicy, institutional arrangements and legal environments to scale up ICM implementation on the ground (Component 1). Meanwhile, Component 3 mobilized broader technical and investment support to ICM up-scaling and implementation at the local level by strengthening the knowledge base of state of coasts and oceans at local, national and regional levels, and implementation of a series of recognition and certification programs for local governments, ICM professionals, ports, universities</p> |

and the corporate sector to extend technical services, develop a core human resource base, and catalyze public and private investments and participation in scaling up the implementation of ICM programs.

A. Physical Accomplishment

At the end of the implementation period, the Project accomplished 33 of its 37 target output indicators. Three (3) outputs were partially completed - reports that were drafted but still undergoing review prior to publication and dissemination. One (1) output was dropped – Development of a Capacity Building Program for the Cavite Water Testing Laboratory. This was assumed by another PEMSEA project operating in Cavite.

The Terminal Evaluation rated the implementation and adaptive management as *highly satisfactory*. The Project was recognized for its significant work in helping the country harmonize its ICM policies, prepare ICM plans, and develop reports that provided deeper understanding of the governance and management challenges that need to be addressed. The evaluator also noted the availability of budget in the different ICM sites in the country which makes the sustainability of ICM implementation likely.

| Expected Outputs | Target | Accomplishments |
|--|---|--|
| Component 1: Partnerships in Ocean and Coastal Governance | | |
| 1. Host Country Agreement ratified by the Government of the Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Country Agreement signed between PEMSEA and GoP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Country Agreement signed by the DFA in 2012, ratified by the Philippine President in 2013, and by the Philippine Senate in May 2015. |
| 2. Signed agreements with country partners confirming voluntary financing and in-kind commitments to sustain PEMSEA's core | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed agreements with country partner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH through the DENR has been providing office space and utilities to PEMSEA through an agreement signed in 2017. |
| 3. Improved national coastal and ocean policies and institutional arrangements for sustainable management of priority coastal and marine areas, surrounding watershed and blue economy development initiated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National SDS-SEA/ICM Program adopted and implemented | SDS-SEA/ ICM included in the PDP Chapter 20. LGU partners of PEMSEA have also passed and adopted their ICM plans. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSOC report published and disseminated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National State of the Coast report completed. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National ICM Forum convened; report prepared and disseminated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual end-of-project forum involving DENR, ICM sites and other relevant partners conducted in December 2020. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICM Bill refiled at the 18th Congress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICM Bill filed at the 17th and 18th Congress. While waiting for approval, EO 533 provided guidelines on the use of ICM and this has been used by LGUs in crafting their ordinances on ICM, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bataan Environment Code Cavite Ordinance 007-2012 Guimaras EO 2015-05 creating ICM Provincial Coordinating Committee Guimaras ICM Ordinance 2018 |

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| <p>4. National sector legislative agenda developed on ICM, CCA/DRR, integrated land and sea use zoning/marine spatial planning and other innovative regulatory and economic instruments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on review of sector-based policies and legislative agenda addressing sectoral issues submitted to DENR and NEDA for consideration in the next cycle of PDP formulation • Case study on the institutionalization of ICM in the Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings in review of policies and legislative agenda adopted in the PDP 2017-2022. |
| Component 2: Healthy and Resilient Coastal and Marine Ecosystems | | |
| <p>1. ICM program covered extended to 20% (45,000 km) of the region's coastline, with scaled up national and local ICM program implementation in 8 participating countries</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ICM Program (NICMP) updated based on the 3rd Party Assessment (TPA) • Guimaras Coastal Strategy published and disseminated • State of the Coast (SOC) reports of Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Macajalar Bay, and Romblon completed • Reports on the establishment and operationalization of Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) in Cavite, Guimaras, Macajalar Bay and Oriental Mindoro • ICM Level 2 Certification of Bataan Province; ICM Level 1 Recertification of Batangas, Cavite, Guimaras • At least one (1) case study prepared on good practices in ICM implementation, including application of tools and methodologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Party Assessment was completed in 2018. Updating of the NICMP is a continuing activity with BMB, beyond the project's timeframe. • 80% completed. Guimaras Coastal Strategy submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for approval. • 8 SOCs (Bataan, Batangas, Cavite, Guimaras, Oriental Mindoro, Pampanga, Macajalar Bay, and Romblon) completed. • 2nd SOC of Guimaras and Batangas completed. • Reports on the IIMS were prepared. Report preparation will be a continuing activity that will surpass project life. • Bataan and Batangas were granted Level 2 Certification; Cavite and Guimaras were re-certified for Level 1. • Case study on Bataan's experience and lessons learned on the development and implementation of Coastal Use Zoning prepared. |
| <p>2. Strengthened MPAs functioning effectively in priority coastal and marine biodiversity areas, demonstrating improved management effectiveness, sustainability and benefits</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA management plans in selected MPAs in Batangas, Guimaras, Oriental Mindoro and Macajalar Bay implemented • Reports on habitat monitoring and water quality at 2 MPAs in Guimaras • Reports on METT/MEAT ratings for selected MPAs in Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Guimaras and Macajalar Bay • Updated METT/MEAT ratings for 34 MPAs/FS in Romblon Province | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans prepared, adopted thru ordinances and resolutions, and implemented. • Reports on habitat monitoring and water quality prepared. • Assessments completed. Results showed an average increase of >10% from baseline. |

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| 3. Innovative fisheries management schemes (i.e., ICM/Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management [EAFM]) developed and implemented using ecosystem-based approach to reduce overexploitation in selected threatened fishing grounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study on partnerships and networking for the effective management of the Verde Island Passage developed • Macajalar Bay ICM Plan incorporating EAFM prepared | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study prepared. • ICM Plan adopted by the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance through a resolution. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macajalar Bay Ecological and Fisheries Profile updated using available data and information from the Macajalar Bay IIMS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological and Fisheries Profile updated. |
| 4. Reduced stress on coastal fisheries and improved household incomes, with implementation of alternative/ supplemental livelihood policies, capacities and incentive programs in coastal communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social assessment/ social preparation report in the identified priority sites in Macajalar Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment/preparation report completed. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on feasibility study for ecosystem-friendly livelihood activities in priority sites in Macajalar Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study completed. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial report on pilot testing of eco-business enterprises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study prepared and undergoing refinement. |
| 5. Reductions of pollutants (e.g., N; P; BOD) measured in priority river basins and coastal areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Batangas Bay watershed report finalized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% completed. Review and refinement of draft report is ongoing. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAPL assessment report for Batangas Bay watershed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment report completed. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on strategy to strengthen the water quality monitoring program of Batangas Environment Laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report completed. |
| 6. Adaptive management measures implemented in ICM sites to reduce impacts of climate change, improve oil spill preparedness, and strengthen maritime safety measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard and vulnerability maps for Bataan, Cavite and Pampanga developed in line with the PDRRM Plans and LCCAP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC reports were inclusive of DRRM awareness raising and capacity building. • Case study on the implementation of LGU Resilience Program in Bataan drafted. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review documents on adaptation measures in vulnerable and disaster-prone areas in Bataan and Cavite | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft mangrove conservation and business plan for Sasmuan Bangcung Mapalad Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area in Pampanga | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan developed and adopted by Sasmuan LGU. |
| 7. Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ports achieved targets for—PSHEMS implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHEMS implemented through cost sharing arrangement in the International Ports of Batangas, |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| (PSHEMS) adopted as an international standard for use in ports of 6 countries | | Cagayan de Oro and General Santos. A Sustainable Port Development Program is being undertaken with the Philippine Port Authority Training Institute. |
| 8. Innovative economic and investment mechanisms (e.g., revolving funds, PPP, PES, carbon credits) tested and applied to help participating countries' national and local governments sustain and scale up ICM programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on accomplishment in developing PPP agreement for Blue Finance Project in Oriental Mindoro | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published the report "Enabling Blue Economy Investment for Sustainable Development in the Seas of East Asia: Lessons on Engaging the Private Sector for Partnership and Investment." |

Component 3: Knowledge Platform for Building a Sustainable Ocean-Based Blue Economy

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. National and sub-national environmental monitoring programs for ICM sites, coastal seas and priority watersheds providing scientific and evidenced-based data on the effectiveness and impacts of management interventions and commitments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft capacity building program for Cavite Water Testing Laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target was dropped. The program will be developed under the ongoing ASEAN-Norwegian Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in Cavite Province. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on operationalization of IIMS in Cavite, Guimaras and Macajalar Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports completed. Maintenance and operationalization are continuous activities that are now undertaken by the LGUs and DENR. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOC reports of Batangas (2nd Report) and Macajalar Bay published and disseminated NSOC report published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% completed. Reports have been drafted and are undergoing review and validation. NSOC reports have been published online. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and national SOC reports uploaded into the PEMSEA website and SEAKB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports can be downloaded from the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://pemsea.org/publications/reports/ http://seaknowledgebank.net/e-library/ |

B. Financial Accomplishment

The USD 1 million budget was fully utilized at the end of the Project. Cofinancing from the GoP reached USD 61,360,663 from the DENR, provincial governments of Bataan, Batangas, Cavite, Guimaras and Oriental Mindoro, and the Macajalar Bay Dev Alliance. The amount comes from hosting of activities, office space and utilities, cost of construction of buildings such as Batangas PGENRO and laboratory and Cavite laboratory and conservation center, ICM PMO operational budgets, and ICM implementation budgets.

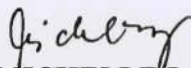
At the national level, the gains of the SDS-SEA Project are seen as sustainable as the country remains committed to support PEMSEA as evidenced by the 25-year PEMSEA Headquarters hosting agreement between the DENR and PEMSEA, ratified by the President and the Senate. Policies on ICM are in place with the issued Executive Order 533 which adopted ICM as the overall framework for the sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas and resources. The ICM Bill is also undergoing committee hearings in the Philippine Congress.

Further, ICM is integrated in the Philippine Development Plan for **2017-2022**. PEMSEA is expected to continue working with the **BMB** and other **government** offices in ICM initiatives.


National and provincial governments have also allocated funds to pursue ICM initiatives in the country. ICM plans were approved and adopted by provincial **governments** and provided budgets for implementation. Project Management Offices that were initially established to implement ICM activities have been regularized and incorporated in the **PGENROs** and **PAOs** of the provinces and in the **MENROs** of the municipalities involved in the Project. The personnel were properly trained through the Project and thus have the capacity to continue the implementation of the ICM initiatives. The **LGUs** have also passed ordinances concerning ICM. Batangas, **Bataan** and **Cavite** also constructed **environmental** laboratories for continuous monitoring of water quality in their provinces.

The sole threat to **sustainability** identified by the Terminal Evaluation Consultant is climate change, a source of considerable uncertainty in **long-term** impacts and changes to marine and coastal ecosystems.

Prepared by:


MICHELLE I. YU
PEO II, PMD-FASPS

Noted by:


EDDIE ABUGAN, JR.
Chief, PMD-FASPS