

Environmental Indicators for Manila Bay Coastal Management through an Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program

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The Manila Bay Environmental Management Project (MBEMP) is a local component of the Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), a UNDP-GEF funded project with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the host institution in the Philippines and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the executing agency. It has envisioned a Manila Bay Coastal Strategy supported by an Operational Plan for Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OPMBCS), developed in partnership with national government agencies and stakeholders both from public and private sectors.

To aid in measuring the progress and outcomes of operational plan, a set of ecological indicators which will reflect trends in the state of the environment is routinely measured through an Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP). The IEMP was developed by an inter-agency technical working group (TWG) working towards a plan that is cross-sectoral, addressing major impact areas, uncertainties and data gaps as identified in the Refined Risk Assessment of Manila Bay 2002 and building on existing monitoring efforts of the different agencies.

The development of the monitoring program is a consensus building effort among numerous agencies and organizations, and several iterations were required to finalize this plan. It is an outcome of a review and assessment process coupled with the conduct of a pilot monitoring plan. From the review and pilot study implementation, recommendations were made and the final monitoring plan for the Bay was drafted. The plan will require five years of uninterrupted



effort in order to assess its usefulness in providing an overall picture of the status of the Manila Bay and in providing data to assess the progress of the Operational Plan.

This report will describe the process of developing the plan, its components and the highlights of the pilot study to field test and refine the IEMP.