

Integrated Coastal Management Code



Partnerships in Environmental Management
for the Seas of East Asia
(PEMSEA)



The Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Code

Integrated coastal management (ICM) entails a systematic process for managing competing issues in marine and coastal areas, including diverse uses of natural resources. ICM planning and implementation involves putting in place effective governance, active partnerships, practical coordinating mechanisms, sustainable financial resources and, most importantly, strengthened technical and institutional capacities. With rapidly growing coastal economies and urban areas, widespread degradation of coastal ecosystems and increasing vulnerability of coastal communities to natural and manmade hazards, there is an urgent need to put ICM into practice.

Putting ICM into practice requires local action. In the East Asian region, many countries have realized the need to strengthen the capacity of local governments and to provide them with the authority and resources to undertake the required actions. The ICM Code aims to aid local governments in planning, developing, assessing and refining a structured management system for marine and coastal areas, which may be integrated with other management requirements of local governments, to enhance governance and achieve desired social, economic and environmental goals.

The ICM Code specifies requirements for an ICM system to enable a local government to develop and implement a strategy and implementation plan, multisectoral coordinating mechanism, relevant legislation, information management and public awareness, capacity development and financing mechanisms to sustainably manage marine and coastal areas. The ICM Code encapsulates decades of ICM practices and experiences, particularly in the East Asian region.

The ICM Code

- Provides a systematic approach to sustainable coastal development based on international standards for environmental management and quality management, at the local government level.
- Facilitates efficient and effective use of available resources through integrated planning, implementation, monitoring and review process.
- Uses the "ICM Development and Implementation" process as the basis for continual improvement (see figure below).
- Can be applied by any local government who wishes to establish implement, maintain, improve and seek recognition of their ICM System.
- Can be employed to validate the daily operations of a local government conforming to international management standards, i.e., ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.



The ICM Code includes:

- Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Code: core requirements of an ICM System
- Guidance on the Background and Use of the ICM Code
- Correspondence between ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and the ICM Code
- Template for an Initial Status Review

ICM System Development, Implementation and Continual Improvement Process

Phase 1 Initial Status Review

Consists of a system review to establish the current status of the existing process and the ICM System being implemented by the Local Government.

Phase 2 Strategic Planning

Involves the determination of the scope of the ICM System and the establishment of the business process, the conduct of the risk assessment and the establishment of objectives, targets and programs.

Phase 3 System Development and Documentation

Involves the establishment of manuals and procedures to facilitate the control of the process and address identified risks.

Phase 4 Monitoring and Measurement

Consists of progressive implementation and monitoring of the policy and programs as well as the planning and conduct of audits and continual improvement of the ICM System.

Recognition Phase

Comprises two stages of external audits and the awarding of recognition.

Future of the ICM Code

Supporting resources

The ICM code will be supported through the provision of:

- ICM Guideline
- ICM System Training Courses

Roll-Out Strategy for the ICM Code and Recognition System

The PEMSEA Resource Facility has identified ICM sites in Bataan, Bali and Danang for the demonstration of the ICM Code in the region. Training programs will be conducted on-site to guide the implementation of the ICM System and the field testing of the ICM Code.

Adoption of the ICM Code and Recognition System

A peer review involving ICM and ISO experts and practitioners from within and outside the region will be organized to review the ICM Code. The results of the review together with the case studies of the experiences of ICM System implementation in the selected sites will be presented to the EAS Partnership Council.

Governance of the ICM Code and Recognition System

A Governance System will be established to properly manage the activities related to revision/update of the ICM Code, the process related to recognition, as well as the administration of activities for ICM System services.

The ICM Code and Recognition System will be promoted in regional and national events through marketing materials, brochures, case studies, PEMSEA website and presentations. Partnerships with other regional agencies/mechanisms will be initiated with the aim of gaining international support for the ICM Code and Recognition System.

ICM System Recognition

ICM System Recognition provides a means of formally evaluating and acknowledging that a local government's ICM System conforms to the requirements of the ICM Code. The Recognition system will be structured to encourage local governments to strive for excellence through continuous improvement.

Three levels of recognition will be offered:

- **Transition Level:** Integrated coastal management system developed and implemented, compliant with the requirements of the ICM Code and consistent with the requirements of ISO 14001 and ISO 9001.
- **Transformation Level:** Significant progress in building sound processes and environmental benefits being demonstrated in priority areas.
- **Sustainability Level:** High level of excellence in ICM, with sustainable development benefits being demonstrated, maintained and continually improved.



For more information, please contact

The Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Office Building, Department of Environment and
Natural Resources (DENR) Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City 1100, Philippines
P.O. Box 2502, Quezon City 1165, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 929 2992 Fax: (632) 926 9712
info@pemsea.org
www.pemsea.org