



PEMSEA EC Meeting Report 6

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Beijing Longxi Hotspring Resort
Beijing, PR China**

12 – 13 March 2010



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A. INTRODUCTION

- i. In welcoming the members of the Executive Committee and observers, the Chair thanked the host government and staff of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) for their cooperation and assistance in organizing this very important meeting. With the signing of the Agreement Recognizing the International Legal Personality of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, PEMSEA has become an international new organization with new challenges. He emphasized that it is a time for reflection and reassessment of PEMSEA roles.
- ii. Dr. Li Haiqing remarked that the next few months will be a critical time for planning and developing a transformed PEMSEA, and hoped that the meeting would include a frank and focused discussion on the way forward.
- iii. Mr. Hiroshi Terashima indicated that the meeting would provide an opportunity for discussion and interaction between the EC and the PEMSEA Resource Facility on the required changes in operation and decisionmaking as we move from the UN system to a functional regional mechanism.
- iv. The provisional agenda for the meeting is attached as Annex 1. The list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

B. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

The EC discussed a number of previous business items and made the following conclusions and decisions:

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
1.0	1.1 Progress of the Implementation of the previous EC Decisions (EC/10/DOC/01)	1.1.1 It was noted that there were delays in implementation of some PC and EC Decisions.	1.1.1.1 The PC and EC decisions need to be responded to within a specified timeframe, including communication with the EC on any delays as necessary.	1.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare the ICM Code, SOC reports and ICM Curriculum by the end of the year 2010. The progress will be reported to the EAS Partnership Council in July 2010.
	1.2 Headquarters (HQ) Agreement	1.2.1 The PRF Headquarters Agreement is currently under negotiation with concerned government agencies in the Philippines.	1.2.1.1 The PRF will continue to pursue approval of the concerned agencies and Senate of the Philippines on the HQ Agreement.	1.2.1.1.1 A report on status of the HQ Agreement will be presented to the EAS Partnership Council in July 2010.
	1.3 Yeosu Project	1.3.1 The latest information is that the Yeosu Project has been set at US\$2M and has been transferred to the authority of KOICA. KOICA will solicit project proposals.	1.3.1.1 The PRF needs to identify and pursue potential sources of financing for SDS-SEA related initiatives, including the Yeosu Fund.	1.3.1.1.1 The PRF will report on its progress in accessing financial and in-kind assistance for SDS-SEA implementation on a regular basis to the Council and to the EC.
	1.4 GEF IW Stocktaking	1.4.1 The GEF and UNDP have requested PEMSEA to support a joint GEF IW stocktaking review in the region including: (1) providing US\$15,000 in co-financing for the review; and (2) organizing a stocktaking meeting comprised of implementing and executing agencies,	1.4.1.1 The GEF IW stocktaking activity will be an important ingredient in the development and approval of the next phase of PEMSEA. The PRF should be actively involved in the process.	1.4.1.1.1 The PRF will work with UNDP and the GEF Secretariat on the organization and conduct of the stocktaking study and meeting.

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
		<p>country focal points, and the GEF Secretariat.</p> <p>1.4.2 The GEF IW stocktaking meeting is being proposed for July 2010 as a back-to-back meeting with the EAS Partnership Council.</p> <p>1.4.3 The SDS-SEA provides an umbrella strategy for GEF IW projects in the East Asian Region and as such may be used as the framework for the stocktaking study.</p>	<p>1.4.2.1 Because of the time limitation to complete a regional study and conduct a regional stocktaking meeting, the proposed back-to-back GEF IW meeting may be organized and promoted as an "initial review of the stocktaking study." A regional GEF IW stocktaking meeting involving all stakeholders would then be scheduled later in the year.</p> <p>1.4.3.1 PEMSEA needs to build awareness and promote the SDS-SEA as a framework for collating and analyzing the contributions of the various GEF-supported projects to addressing transboundary environmental problems and concerns in the region.</p>	<p>1.4.2.1.1 The PRF will discuss details with the GEF Secretariat and upon confirmation, PEMSEA will formally request SOA China to serve as the host organization for the proposed July Joint stocktaking meeting. The request to SOA, including the number of participants attending the stocktaking meeting should be forwarded by 31 May 2010.</p> <p>1.4.3.1.1 The PRF will keep the EC members informed of this issue, as well as the progress with regard to the organization and conduct of the stocktaking study and meeting.</p>
	<p>1.5 Executive Committee elections</p>	<p>1.5.1 In light of PEMSEA's transformation and related outstanding activities, the Secretariat proposed a delay of EC elections for at least one year.</p>	<p>1.5.1.1 A proposal to delay the EC elections is required to be submitted to the Council for approval.</p> <p>1.5.1.2 In addition, there is a recognized need to provide for vice or alternate chairs to ensure the continuing participation of the EC in the PEMSEA transformation process.</p>	<p>1.5.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare a proposal to the EAS Partnership Council concerning a one-year delay of EC elections and providing for vice or alternate chairs.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
	<p>1.6 PEMSEA Partnership Fund</p>	<p>1.6.1 The PEMSEA Trust Fund is constituted by proceeds from activities supported by resources made available by Partner Countries and collaborators. The PEMSEA Trust Fund is governed by financial guidelines approved by the EC. Rules of procurement are still under development for the Trust Fund operation.</p> <p>The PEMSEA Partnership Fund, as described in the Haikou Partnership Agreement, is distinct from the PEMSEA Trust Fund. The CSA arrangements are examples of activities under the PEMSEA Partnership Fund.</p>	<p>1.6.1.1 There is a need to further clarify the distinction between PEMSEA Partnership Fund and PEMSEA Trust Fund.</p>	<p>1.6.1.1.1 The PRF will update the Council on the status of the PEMSEA Partnership Fund and PEMSEA Trust Fund including CSAs at the July meeting.</p>
2.0	<p>2.1 Post-Assessment Report on the EAS Congress 2009 (EC/10/DOC/02)</p>	<p>2.1.1 The experiences of the EAS Congress 2009 can serve as guidance in the organization and conduct of the EAS Congress 2012.</p>	<p>2.1.1.1 A comprehensive review of the organization and conduct of the EAS Congress 2009 is required for use in planning and implementation of the next Congress.</p>	<p>2.1.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare a comprehensive review of the EAS Congress 2009, along with recommendations for the organization and conduct of the EAS Congress 2012, for dissemination and discussion during the EAS Partnership Council.</p>
3.0	<p>3.1 Review of SDS-SEA Implementation</p>	<p>3.1.1 The implementation of the GEF regional project is behind schedule in some countries due to</p>	<p>3.1.1.1 There is a need to strengthen the working relationship between PRF and National Focal Points in order to</p>	<p>3.1.1.1.1 In cases where delays in signature of MOAs persist, the PRF will make special efforts in terms of personal visits</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
		<p>delays in signing of MOAs between PEMSEA and National Focal Agencies.</p> <p>3.1.2 Communication between the PRF and project implementers is constrained in some countries because of language constraints and internal requirements with respect to lines of communication.</p>	<p>facilitate timely conclusion of MOAs and other contractual agreements.</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Regular communication and collaboration between PRF and project implementers is needed to ensure smooth and timely implementation of activities.</p> <p>3.1.2.2 The EC may be invited to provide support in addressing concerns/matters with the concerned National Focal Points.</p>	<p>to the field and consultation with concerned national or local agencies in order to accelerate project activities, in collaboration with the National Focal Points.</p> <p>3.1.2.1.1 The PRF will establish regular communication and closer collaboration with National Focal Agencies and collaborators at the local level in all countries.</p>
	<p>3.2 GEF application for funding</p>	<p>3.2.1 PEMSEA's transformation phase (2012-2015) has been previously negotiated with the GEF Secretariat for US\$10 million.</p>	<p>3.2.1.1 PEMSEA's application needs to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat by the end of 2010. Project documentation needs to link the project activities with the transformed PEMSEA.</p>	<p>3.2.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare a PIF application for submission to the GEF Secretariat by November 2010.</p>

C. NEW BUSINESS

4. PEMSEA'S FUTURE DIRECTION

- 4.1. The EC discussed several fundamental issues regarding PEMSEA's identity, including what is PEMSEA; how will PEMSEA operate in the future; is PEMSEA an international organization or a regional organization, etc? Although it is clearly stipulated in the Haikou Partnership Agreement that PEMSEA is a regional collaborative mechanism focused on the SDS-SEA, it was noted that the image of PEMSEA is still largely perceived by Partners as a project.

What constitutes PEMSEA?

- 4.2. The EC reiterated the importance of operationalizing PEMSEA as a partnership organization, comprised of Country and Non-Country Partners, as stipulated in the Partnership Operating Arrangements. It was further noted that there is a need to jointly plan the activities of PEMSEA with the Partners, to ensure efficient and cost-effective use of the Partners' resources and skills in attaining the objectives and targets of the SDS-SEA. Hence, the PEMSEA Resource Facility will need to become more proactive in its planning and coordination of initiatives under the SDS-SEA framework.

PEMSEA's Status: an international organization or a regional organization?

- 4.3. The Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility confirmed that PEMSEA is legally an international organization whose geographic focus is in the EAS region. With its own legal personality, PEMSEA can contract with third parties, receive donations and obtain properties. Hence, PEMSEA can be an executing agency for future projects, including projects supported by the GEF, once the Headquarters Agreement enters into force.
- 4.4. The Headquarters (HQ) Agreement with the Government of the Philippines is still pending. Upon Philippine Senate concurrence in the ratification of the HQ Agreement, issues such as immunities and benefits provided to PEMSEA personnel and contractors will be addressed. The HQ Agreement will be submitted for approval by the Philippines Senate following national elections in May 2010.

A Transformed PEMSEA

- 4.5. A paper outlining basic principles of a transformed PEMSEA including mission, operating philosophy, strategic direction and financial sustainability was presented. The EC discussed the issues extensively, the results of which are contained in a revised outline attached as Annex 3.
- 4.6. Conclusion and decisions of the EC concerning the transformation of PEMSEA are summarized below:

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
4.0	4.1 A Transformed PEMSEA (EC/10/DOC/03)	4.1.1 In line with PEMSEA's transformation, it is integral to agree on a common vision for the organization. The revised outline attached as Annex 3 provides a starting point for the development of the vision, mission, operating philosophy and strategic direction of a transformed PEMSEA.	4.1.1.1 It is essential that PEMSEA Partners are fully engaged in discussions on their vision for a transformed PEMSEA.	4.1.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare a draft document regarding a transformed PEMSEA for review and discussion by the EAS Partnership Council.
	4.2 Joint Planning among Partners	4.2.1 As a Partnership organization, PEMSEA should serve as a mechanism for Partners to conduct joint planning and collaborative activities for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. A database on SDS-SEA implementation would also be helpful. 4.2.2.1 To support joint planning, the PRF should be proactive in the development and implementation of tools and services for use by the Partners, such as good practices, guidelines, standards,	4.2.1.1 There is a need to organize joint planning sessions among Partners on an annual basis. To start the process, the PRF needs to work with the Partners to identify progress and achievements in the implementation of the SDS-SEA. 4.2.2.1.1 Procedures are required for developing, submitting and adopting PEMSEA good practices, guidelines, standards, codes and/or directives.	4.2.1.1.1 A progress report on SDS-SEA implementation from 2003 to 2010 will be presented to the EAS Partnership Council in July 2010. Joint planning sessions among Partners will be organized by the PRF with the aim of developing a 2-5 year work program among Partners for SDS-SEA implementation, including capacity development. 4.2.2.1.1 The PRF will be responsible for preparing such procedures for consideration by the EAS Partnership Council in July 2010.

		<p>codes and/or directives. Submissions from Partners should also be considered.</p> <p>4.2.3 Members of the PC could be invited to represent PEMSEA in conferences and other public meetings, where appropriate.</p>		
	<p>4.3 Inclusion of new Partners</p>	<p>4.3.1 There is an increased interest being expressed by different organizations to become a Partner of PEMSEA. Existing criteria regarding the eligibility of potential Non-Country Partners, as contained in the Partnership Operating Arrangements, is quite general.</p> <p>4.3.2 Existing national networks of Non-Country partners may be tapped to assist in the national implementation of the SDS-SEA.</p>	<p>4.3.1.1 Criteria on the inclusion of new Partners need to be revisited, and a clear guideline developed, including consideration of: Non-Country Partners with regional coverage, objectives and capacities.</p>	<p>4.3.1.1.1 A guideline on the eligibility criteria for application as Non-Country Partners of PEMSEA will be drafted for review by the EC.</p> <p>4.3.2.1 The PRF will explore possible collaboration or linkage with national networks of Non-Country Partners to assist in national implementation of SDS-SEA.</p>

5. OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	CONCLUSIONS	DECISIONS
5.0	5.1 3rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting	5.1.1 The 3 rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting will be held at Inner Mongolia, PR China. The Council meeting is a 5-day event, from 26 to 30 July 2010, providing one day for the proposed GEF IW stocktaking meeting.	5.1.1.1 This is an important meeting for all Partners since a main focus of the meeting is planning for the transformation of PEMSEA.	5.1.1.1.1 The provisional agenda and meeting documents will be circulated to Council members at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting.
	5.2 UNCSD Conference	5.2.1 One of the key international ocean- related events is the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Conference on Oceans and Seas scheduled in 2014.	5.2.1.1 The UNCSD Conference on Oceans and Seas in 2014 is an important event for PEMSEA to showcase the progress and achievements made in SDS-SEA implementation.	5.2.1.1.1 The PRF will prepare a working document for the UNCSD Conference on Oceans and Seas 2014 for review and comment by the Partners during the EAS Partnership Council meeting in July 2010.

D. CLOSING

- i. The Chair of the EC expressed his appreciation to SOA and the Government of PR China for co-organizing and hosting the EC meeting and declared the meeting closed at 6:30pm.

Annex 1

6TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

12-13 March 2010, Beijing, PR China

Provisional Agenda

12 March (5pm onwards with working dinner)

Previous business

1. EC decisions 2009
2. EAS Congress 2009: outcomes; conclusions and recommendations; financial report
3. SDS-SEA implementation: project budget 2010; project extension to 2012

13 March (9am – 5pm)

New business

4. The future of PEMSEA as an international organization

4.1 Issues

PEMSEA structure and organizational arrangements; sustainability plan; PEMSEA management and administrative system; human resource needs and capacities; financial plan.

4.2 Process

EC experts group; technical working group; GEF IW stocktaking meeting; Consultations with Partners and collaborators

4.3 Work plan and schedule

4.4 Expected outcomes

PEMSEA governance and management system; PEMSEA operating and administrative rules, regulations and procedures; financial plan; sustainability plan; human resource management plan; GEF project proposal

5. Other Matters

5.1 3rd EAS PC agenda

5.2 other matters

Annex 2

List of Participants

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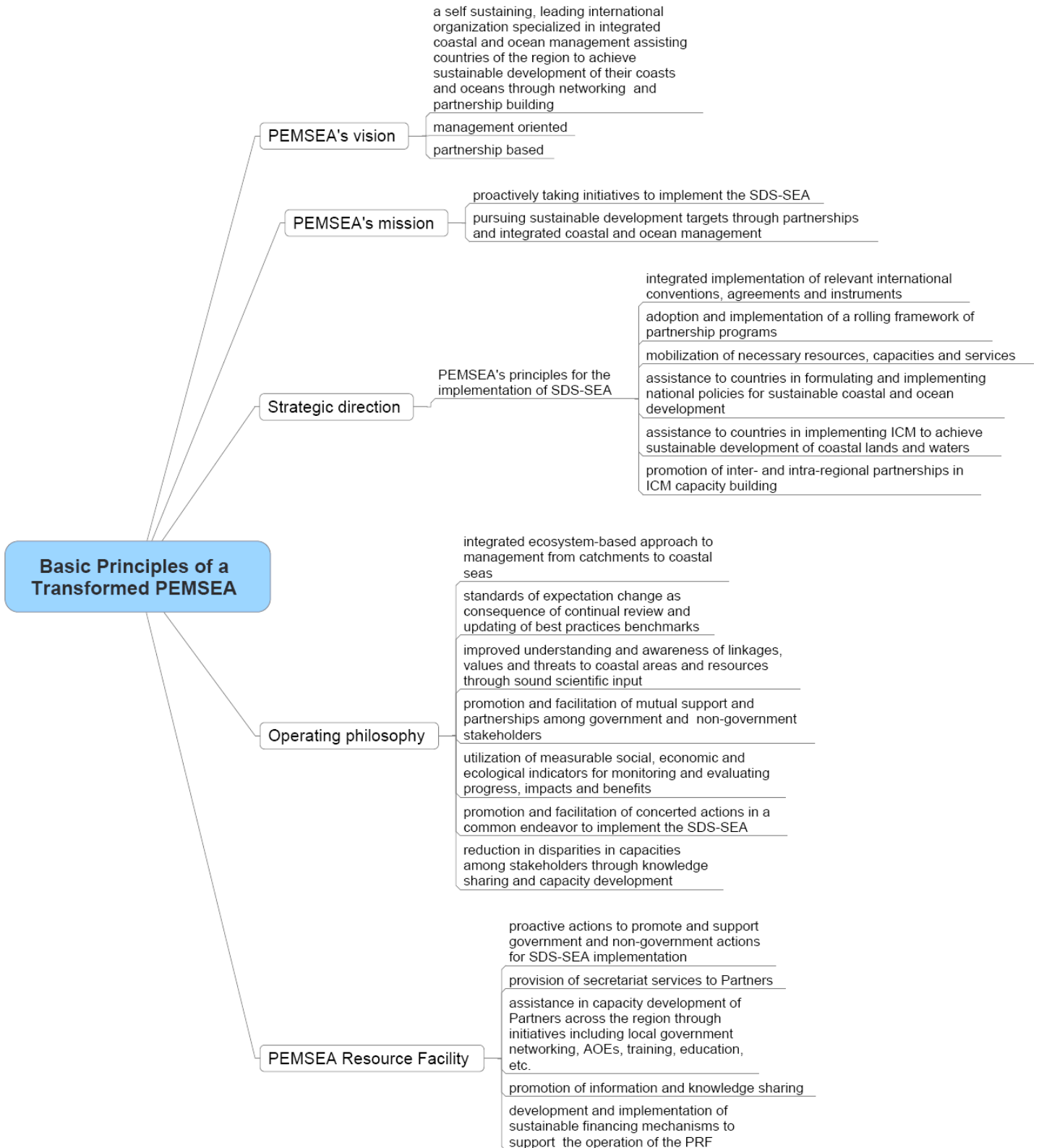
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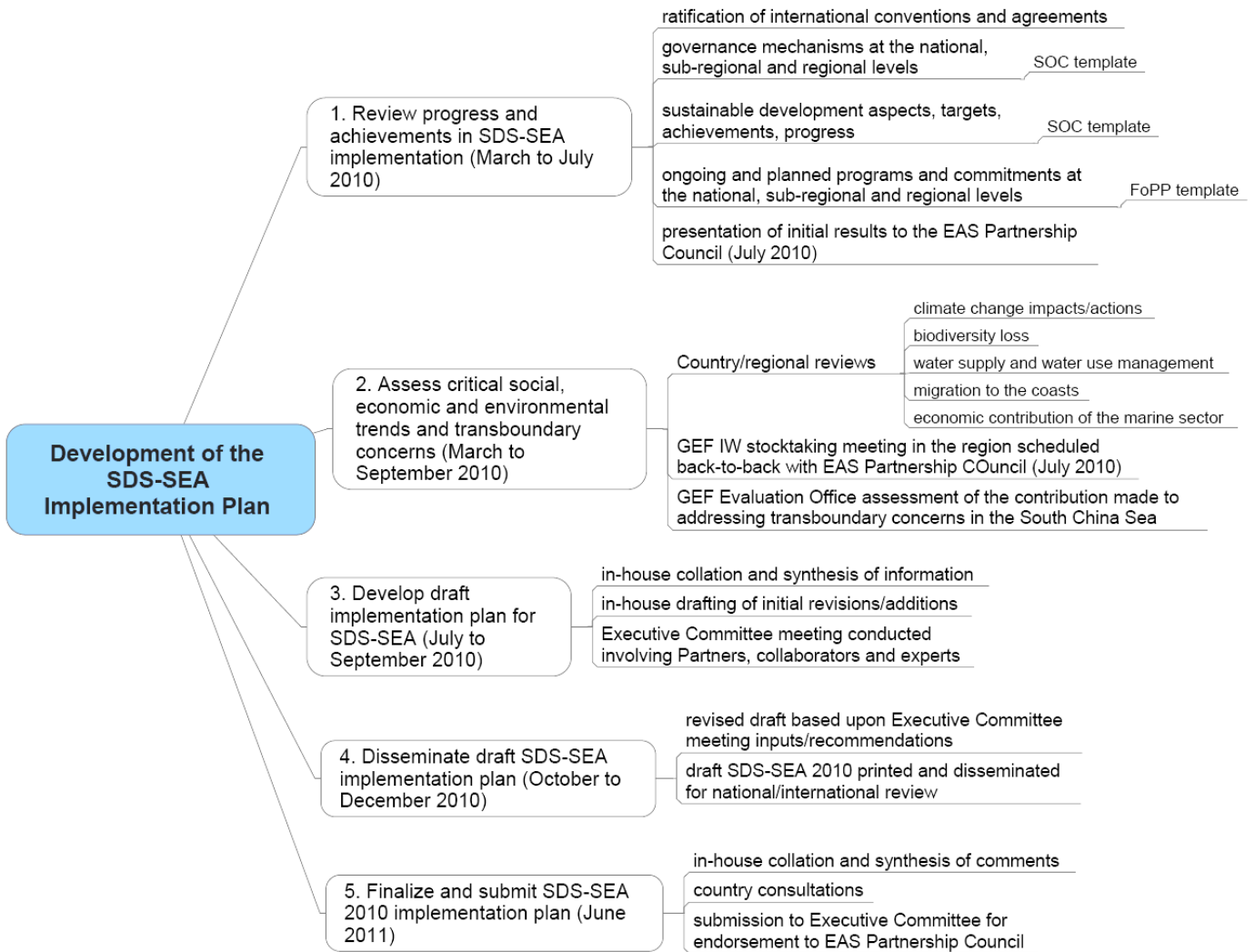
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Annex 3

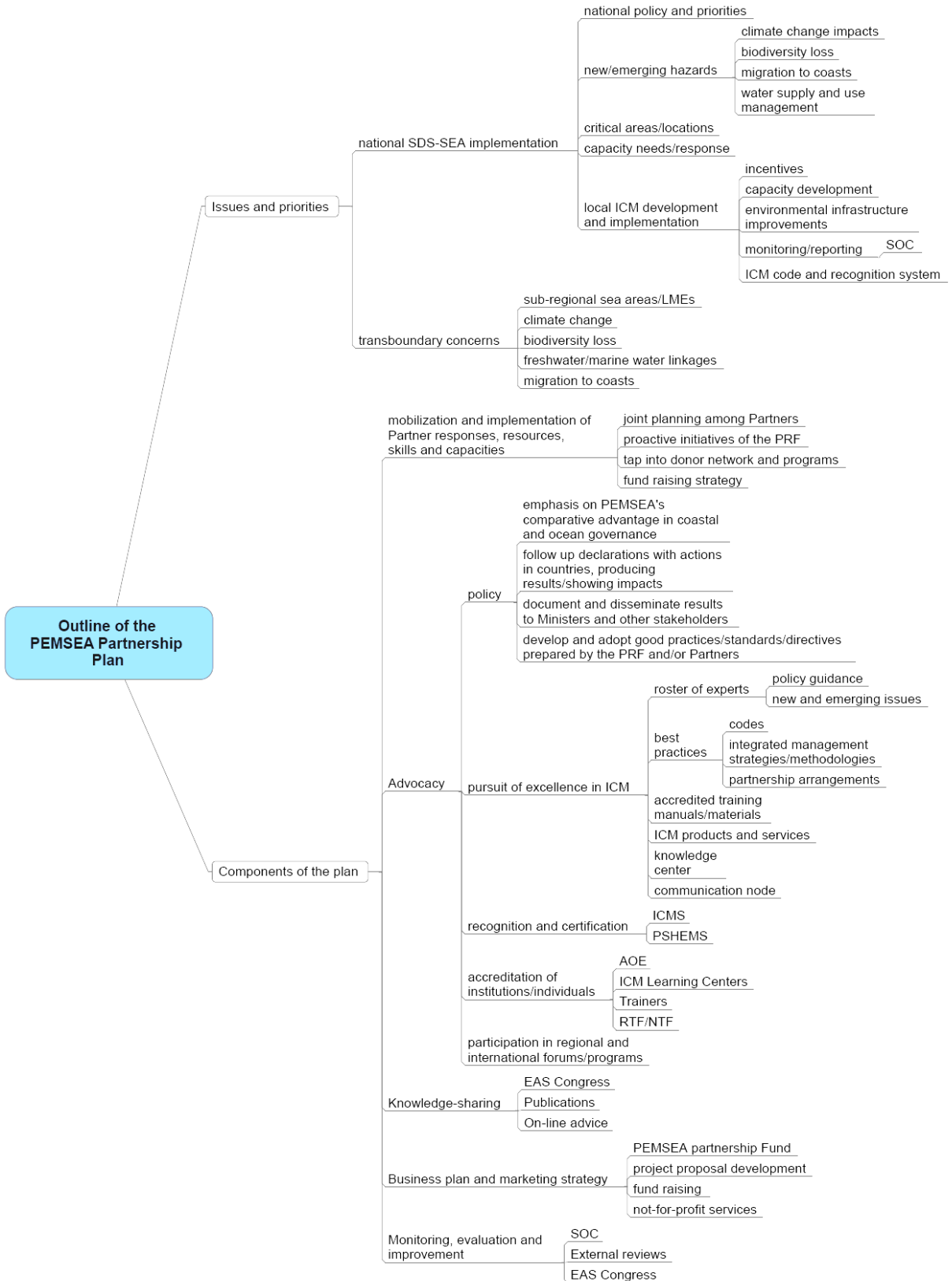
Sheet 1: Basic Principles of a Transformed PEMSEA



Sheet 2: Development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan



Sheet 3: Outline of the PEMSEA Partnership Plan



Sheet 4: Working Group on Re-Engineering of the PRF

