



PNLC OPERATION PLAN 2022-2027

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 One of the main thrusts of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is the exchange of data, information, and knowledge among relevant coastal and marine stakeholders and the building of ocean governance capacity to facilitate the implementation of the shared PEMSEA regional strategy called the “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)” at the regional, national, and local levels.
- 1.2 Since 2008, PEMSEA has engaged prestigious universities and regional research institutions, collectively known as PEMSEA Regional Centers of Excellence (RCOEs), to protect and manage the region’s marine resources. To date, four institutions from three countries have been designated as RCOEs, each with their own thematic areas of expertise (i.e., coral reef research, marine protected area management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, marine pollution, and sustainable coastal development). They provide technical advice to meet the needs of stakeholders, conduct research and share the corresponding results to interested government agencies and other stakeholders, and conduct regional training and capacity development programs. In addition, 15 PEMSEA Learning Centers support PEMSEA’s work in 9 countries in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region to apply and replicate integrated coastal management (ICM) and offer specialized capacity building activities. For the roster of PNLC members and their key accomplishments up to 2021, please refer to Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.
- 1.3 At the 2021 EAS Congress, ten PNLC members signed the PNLC Charter, which formalized the PNLC as a regional consortium and specified the requirements on membership, identified joint activities and outputs amongst its members, and provided options for sustainability and financial resources to support its operations. Since then, one more Learning Center and two RCOEs have signed the Charter, four have approved the instrument, and four others are currently in the review process.

2.0 PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027

- 2.1 The operational plan contains the general actions and five-year timeline related to the programs and functions of the PNLC as a network. It also specifies the potential joint activities and programs that PNLC members can engage in collectively to pursue science-based coastal and ocean governance in the region in line with the SDS SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2018-2022 and IP 2023-2027. The operational plan will be reviewed and refined on an annual basis by the PNLC General Assembly starting in 2023.

2.2 General targets of the PNLC as mandated by the PNLC Charter:

- A functioning governance mechanism established in 2022 with a PNLC General Assembly meeting once a year, chaired by a President and Vice-President
- In between the General Assemblies (GAs), PNLC actions will be guided by the PNLC Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice-President, Executive Director of PRF, and Head of the PNLC Secretariat
- Turnover of PNLC Secretariat work to IPB University of Indonesia in 2024 after a two-year transition/planning period with PRF as the interim PNLC Secretariat (see separate timeline on the turnover in Annex 3)
- An operational plan, which considers the financial sustainability of the network, to be developed by the PRF for approval of the General Assembly by November 2022
- An annual work plan and budget guided by the programmatic elements of the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027 and the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027, starting in 2023. Annual targets and indicators will be identified and approved by the General Assembly.

Table 1. Indicative activities of the PNLC in 2022-2027.

Completed and ongoing activities are listed in green and orange, respectively.

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Governance	<p>PRF, as interim PNLC Secretariat, to manage day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Create interim Executive Committee (EC).</p> <p>Conduct first 2 GAs via Zoom to elect the new PNLC officers and establish/discuss the governance protocols and plans for the network.</p> <p>PNLC officers to participate in the 14th Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council (PC) held on 27-28 July</p>	<p>PRF, as interim PNLC Secretariat, to manage the day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Conduct the 1st formal meeting of the PNLC EC.</p> <p>Conduct the 3rd PNLC GA.</p> <p>PNLC Officers to present the PNLC's plans, programs, and accomplishments during the 15th EAS PC Meeting (July 2023).</p> <p>Review/update PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 as needed.</p> <p>Develop and implement the annual</p>	<p>PRF/PNLC Secretariat to manage the day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Conduct the 2nd PNLC EC Meeting.</p> <p>Conduct the 4th PNLC GA.</p> <p>PNLC Officers to present the PNLC's plans, programs, and accomplishments during the 16th EAS PC Meeting (July 2024).</p> <p>Review/update PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 as needed.</p> <p>Develop and implement the annual work plan and budget.</p>	<p>PNLC Secretariat to manage the day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Conduct the 3rd PNLC EC Meeting.</p> <p>Conduct the 5th PNLC GA (election/extension of term of PNLC officers).</p> <p>PNLC Officers to present the PNLC's plans, programs, and accomplishments during the 17th EAS PC Meeting (July 2025).</p> <p>Develop PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2026-2030.</p> <p>Develop and implement the</p>	<p>PNLC Secretariat to manage the day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Conduct the 4th PNLC EC Meeting.</p> <p>Conduct the 6th PNLC GA.</p> <p>PNLC Officers to present the PNLC's plans, programs, and accomplishments during the 18th EAS PC Meeting (July 2026).</p> <p>Review/update PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 as needed.</p> <p>Develop and implement the annual work plan and budget.</p>	<p>PNLC Secretariat to manage the day-to-day operations of the PNLC.</p> <p>Conduct the 5th PNLC EC Meeting.</p> <p>Conduct the 7th PNLC GA.</p> <p>PNLC Officers to present the PNLC's plans, programs, and accomplishments during the 19th EAS PC Meeting (July 2027).</p> <p>Participate in the preparation of the SDS-SEA IP 2028-2032.</p> <p>Review/update PEMSEA's Capacity</p>

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	<p>2022.</p> <p>Participate in the preparation of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.</p> <p>Review/update PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 as needed.</p> <p>Develop the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027 and 2023 work plan based on the roles and responsibilities identified in the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.</p>	<p>work plan and budget.</p> <p>Prepare and sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the hosting of the PNLC Secretariat with a clear Terms of Reference (TOR) on the roles and responsibilities of IPB University as PNLC Secretariat, manpower and capital requirements, support to be provided by PRF to IPB University, funding options for the PNLC Secretariat, and transition plan for the turnover (Q3 2023).</p> <p>If needed, develop an ad hoc committee to guide the formulation and first-year implementation of the MOA on the hosting of the PNLC Secretariat (early 2023).</p>		<p>annual work plan and budget.</p>		<p>Development and Training Plan 2021-2025 as needed.</p> <p>Develop the PNLC Operational Plan 2027-2032.</p> <p>Develop and implement the annual work plan and budget.</p>

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Programs	<p>Engage in the certification of ICM systems in select sites when needed.</p> <p>Implement the IGES-PRF project on climate adaptation in Guimaras, Philippines.</p> <p>Initiate/implement other projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS- SEA.</p> <p>Organize or participate in capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities</p>	<p>Initiate/implement projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS-SEA.</p> <p>Conduct a Joint Learning Event between the PNLC and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG).</p> <p>Organize or participate in other capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Initiate/implement projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS-SEA.</p> <p>Conduct a Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Event.</p> <p>Participate in the EAS Congress 2024.</p> <p>Organize or participate in other capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Initiate/implement projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS-SEA.</p> <p>Conduct a Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Event.</p> <p>Organize or participate in other capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Initiate/implement projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS-SEA.</p> <p>Conduct a Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Event.</p> <p>Organize or participate in other capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Initiate/implement projects/activities in support of efforts to strengthen ICM or implement the SDS- SEA.</p> <p>Conduct a Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Event.</p> <p>Participate in the EAS Congress 2027.</p> <p>Organize or participate in other capacity development and knowledge sharing activities with PEMSEA partners and other stakeholders when opportunities arise.</p>

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	arise.					
Communications (internal and external)	<p>PRF Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications.</p> <p>PRF Secretariat to activate the Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) and PNLC webpage and web forum.</p>	PRF Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications, including management of the SEAKB and PNLC webpage and webforum.	PRF/PNLC Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications, including management of the SEAKB and PNLC webpage and webforum.	PNLC Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications, including management of the SEAKB and PNLC webpage and webforum.	PNLC Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications, including management of the SEAKB and PNLC webpage and webforum.	PNLC Secretariat to take charge of internal and external communications, including management of the SEAKB and PNLC webpage and webforum.
Partnerships and resource mobilization	<p>Depending on the availability of projects and resources, PRF to review/renew its individual Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with Learning Centers and RCOEs.</p>	<p>PRF to review/renew its individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and sign new MOAs/contracts where applicable.</p> <p>Discuss funding options to support the operations of IPB University as the PNLC Secretariat with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) of Indonesia (Q1 2023).</p>	<p>PRF to review/renew its individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and sign new MOAs/contracts where applicable.</p> <p>Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the results of the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on financial sustainability.</p> <p>Secure the staff and</p>	<p>PRF to review/renew its individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and sign new MOAs/contracts where applicable.</p> <p>Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the results of the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on financial sustainability.</p>	<p>PRF to review/renew its individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and sign new MOAs/contracts where applicable.</p> <p>Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the results of the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on financial sustainability.</p>	<p>PRF to review/renew its individual MOAs with Learning Centers and RCOEs and sign new MOAs/contracts where applicable.</p> <p>Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the results of the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on</p>

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
		<p>Conduct a financial landscape assessment to identify trends and potential areas of cooperation beyond PEMSEA for potential joint fundraising activities.</p> <p>Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the results of the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on financial sustainability.</p>	capital requirements of IPB University as PNLC Secretariat.			financial sustainability.

2.3 The roles and functions of the PNLC Secretariat is attached as Annex 4.

3.0 Programmatic Elements of the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2027

3.1 Rationale:

3.2 The implementation of the SDS-SEA challenges national and local governments in coastal areas throughout the EAS region with the task of reducing conflict and non-sustainable use of natural resources through the application and replication of ICM. Lessons from the implementation and scaling up of ICM will also help inform the application of other integrated management approaches such as integrated river basin management (IRBM) and integrated transport modality to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime transport sector.

3.3 International and regional commitments and targets:

3.4 The operational plan builds upon and will contribute to key international and regional commitments and targets for knowledge management and capacity building, namely:

- **United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development:**
 - Objective 1: Identify required knowledge for sustainable development and increase the capacity of ocean science to deliver needed ocean data and information.
 - Objective 2: Build capacity and generate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the ocean, including human interactions and interactions with the atmosphere, cryosphere, and the land-sea interface.
 - Objective 3: Increase the use of ocean knowledge and understanding and develop capacity to contribute to sustainable development solutions.

PEMSEA implements 3 of the 41 endorsed programs under the UN Decade of Ocean Science

As the RCOE in Marine Pollution, the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP) of City University of Hong Kong implements the **Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme**, an extension of their past project entitled “Global Monitoring of Pharmaceuticals,” which involved 258 rivers. The GEM Programme aims to develop standardized methods to sample, extract, and quantify the priority chemical contaminants in seawater samples collected from major urbanized estuaries worldwide to enable a global and scientifically sound comparison of the results among various estuaries. The results of this global effort will help reveal the latest status of chemical contaminations in major estuaries worldwide, including the pollution hotspots and most common pollutants, as well as develop pollution strategies through socioeconomic and policy analyses. The project began in 2021 and is expected to end in 2030.

As an associate member of the PNLC, the Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (FISO) of Xiamen University in China implements the program entitled “**Coastal Zones Under Intensifying Human Activities and Changing Climate: A Regional Programme Integrating**

Science, Management and Society to Support Ocean Sustainability (Coastal-SOS)." This initiative aims to examine the trajectories of six model East Asian coastal ecosystems over the past 50 years and predict their future (30-year) direction. This enables effective integration of science, governance, and society to fundamentally change the business-as-usual development model of the coastal zone. The project began in 2022 and is expected to conclude in 2030.

As a PEMSEA non-country partner, the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) implements the **Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS) Programme**, which builds on the work of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network to enhance the science surrounding ocean acidification by providing systematic evidence of the impacts of this environmental issue on the sustainability of marine ecosystems, increasing the available observations regarding ocean chemistry changes, facilitating the development and evaluation of strategies to offset future impacts of ocean acidification, and providing the information needed to mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification to policy-makers and communities. The project began in 2021 and is expected to end in 2030.

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):¹**
 - SDG 14a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity, and transfer marine technology
 - SDG 117.6: Enhance north-south, south-south, and triangular regional and international cooperation on access to science, technology, and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms
 - SDG 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination, and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries
 - SDG 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans, including through north-south and south-south triangular cooperation
- **Aichi Biodiversity Targets:**
 - Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management, and capacity building
 - Target 18: Traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are respected and fully integrated and reflected.
 - Target 19: Knowledge, science base, and technologies related to biodiversity, its values, functioning status and trends, and consequences of its loss are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied

¹ Most SDGs have specific targets pertaining to knowledge and capacity development (i.e., SDG 6.a and SDG 13b).

- **Paris Agreement:**
 - Article 11: Enhance capacity of developing country Parties to the Agreement
 - Article 12: Enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, and public access to information
- **Glasgow Climate Pact:**
 - Paragraph 60: The relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are invited “to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and work plans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes.”
 - Paragraph 61: The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is also invited “to hold an annual dialogue (starting in June 2022) to strengthen ocean-based action and to prepare an informal summary report thereon and make it available to the Conference of the Parties.”

3.5 Objectives:

3.6 The objectives of the program over the next five years are generally to build and strengthen capacities and incorporate scientific information into planning, managing, and sustaining healthy and resilient ocean, coasts, and coastal communities.

3.7 The PNLC will closely work with PRF in the preparation of the SDS- SEA IP 2023-2027, where training, capacity development, and knowledge exchange will be essential crosscutting tools that will be undertaken to strengthen the delivery of the SDS-SEA IP and use this plan as basis in the formulation of annual work plans.

3.8 The target actions and schedule of the PNLC as a network and the capacity development and knowledge management initiatives of individual members are contingent on:

- Identifying, accessing, and utilizing available expertise and knowledge, mobilizing internal and external resources, creating new opportunities through blue economy, and putting greater emphasis on ownership and representation of relevant sectors of society;
- Co-designing, sharing, and translating scientific and traditional forms of knowledge on sustainable coastal and marine resource management towards more informed laws, policies, and practices; and
- Harnessing communities of practice as a support service to training, education, and mentorship in expanding the coverage of ICM programs and sustainable, inclusive, and resilient blue economic growth in the EAS region.

3.9 Expected outcomes at a network level include:

- **Active regional knowledge hubs for ocean and coasts (e.g., SEAKB, PNLC webforum, and communities of practice).** While these already exist and are currently managed by PRF, maximizing the potential of these online, interactive

learning platforms would require active participation of PNLC members as users, contributors, and promoters of data and information.

- **Strong and effective integrated management solutions** such as ICM, IRBM, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and other specialized skills especially those concerning the links between human health and ocean health, ocean and gender, ocean and climate. These are in the form of blue economy training programs, case study materials, and advisory and monitoring services to name a few examples. These include learning events/activities that the PNLC as a network or its individual members can organize or participate in (e.g., Joint PNLC-PNLG Learning Events), review of the effectiveness of ICM systems of localities in the EAS region, or conduct of capacity development programs (e.g., applying harmonized templates of greenhouse gas emissions inventory, harmonizing climate mitigation and adaptation programs).
- **Specialized and targeted empirical research projects providing scientific data, tools, and methodologies for planning and decision-making processes to implement the SDS-SEA.** Examples of these projects include research on the state of river basin management in select river basins, application of ICM tools in transboundary marine protected areas, and development of a roadmap to transition to zero carbon bunker fuels in East and Southeast Asia.

Annex 1. Roster of PNLC members.



Catanduanes State University and De La Salle University – Dasmariñas of the Philippines will be inducted as members of the PNLC during the 29th Executive Committee Meeting of PEMSEA on 29 November 2022 through the signing of the PNLC Charter. This will be attended by the officers of the PNLC and members of the EAS PC.

Annex 2. Accomplishments of the PNLC.

- Provided expert advice to national and local governments to support the implementation of coastal management programs and projects (e.g., GEF/UNDP Scaling Up SDS-SEA Implementation Project, national and local initiatives) and facilitated knowledge transfer and sharing at the regional, national, and local levels
 - Implemented issue-specific management programs (e.g., conduct of baseline assessments, development of management plans, implementation of pilot projects)
 - Conducted various training on ICM and ICM-related tools (e.g., State of the Coasts reporting, risk/vulnerability assessment, coastal use zoning) and developed the relevant training modules
 - Applied/demonstrated ICM tools on-the-ground (e.g., Ocean Health Index, Marxan-Z)
- Provided platforms for collaboration, peer learning, and networking of academic institutions
- Advanced the contribution of higher learning institutions to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (life below water)

Annex 3. Timeline on the turnover of PNLC Secretariat work.

Step	Description	Target Results	Decision/ Responsible centers	Deadline
1	Discuss funding options to support the operations of IPB University as the PNLC Secretariat with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) of Indonesia	Formal commitment of support from MoEF	Bilateral discussions with Indonesia	Q1 2023
2	Mobilize other potential funding sources as indicated in the financial landscape assessment and discussion paper on ensuring the financial sustainability of the PNLC	MOAs	PEMSEA partners, PNLC members, PEMSEA-related projects	2023-2024
3	Prepare and sign a MOA on the hosting of the PNLC Secretariat with a clear TOR on the roles and responsibilities of IPB University as the PNLC Secretariat, the manpower and capital requirements, the support to be provided by PRF to IPB University, the funding options for the PNLC Secretariat, and the transition plan for the turnover	MOA with TOR	PRF and IPB University with inputs from PNLC Officers	Q3 2023
4	If needed, develop an ad hoc committee to guide the formulation and first-year implementation of the MOA	Approved TOR for ad hoc committee	Consensus	Early 2023
5	Formulate the workplan and budget of the PNLC for 2024	Approved PNLC work plan and budget for 2024	General Assembly	Early 2024
6	Secure the staff and capital requirements of IPB University as the PNLC Secretariat	Staffing and capital	IPB University	Q4 2024

Annex 4. Roles of the PNLC Secretariat.

- Organize the meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee of the PNLC
- Prepare the Code of Conduct, operational plan, and financial sustainability plan of the network
- Implement/coordinate the decisions and actions made by the General Assembly and Executive Committee
- Develop and maintain records of network-related operations and member information
- Disseminate relevant news, information, and opportunities to PNLC members
- Process all payments, donations, and in-kind contributions received by the PNLC
- Disburse and monitor the funds
- Prepare status reports on PNLC-related activities
- Publish the annual accomplishments of the network in the PEMSEA website
- Perform all other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee