

**5th Executive Committee Meeting
Agenda Item 8.2**

ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY AS A PEMSEA PARTNER

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence established through the agreement by the governments of ASEAN Member States for policy formulation, capacity development, awareness-raising, and links with the international donor community for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The ACB: i) facilitates discussion and resolution of cross-country biodiversity conservation issues; ii) implements a proactive approach in monitoring and assessing biodiversity conservation status as a strategic approach towards identifying critical issues and future trends; iii) enhances common understanding of biodiversity conservation issues strengthening ASEAN regional positions in negotiation and in compliance with relevant multilateral agreements; iv) promotes regional public awareness to develop champions and enhance support at different stakeholder levels on biodiversity concerns; and v) undertakes innovative resource generation and mobilization measures to pursue impact activities that will enhance biodiversity conservation in the region. These activities are all relevant to the objectives and desired outcomes of the SDS-SEA.
- 1.2 On 25 April 2009, the ACB submitted a letter of intent to become a non-Country Partner of PEMSEA, as attached in Annex 1.
- 1.3 Subsequently, the PRF and the ACB developed a Letter of Cooperation (LOC) which contains: i) information exchange; ii) capacity development; iii) policy and advocacy; iv) EAS Congress 2009; and v) other areas as mutually agreed to be implemented within the limits of their existing work programmes and available budgets, as attached in Annex 2.

2.0 Action requested from the 5th EC Meeting:

- 2.1 The Meeting is invited to review the application letter of ACB for consideration to include as a non-Country Partner of PEMSEA.

ANNEX 1: Request letter from ACB

ANNEX 2: Letter of Cooperation between ACB and PEMSEA

ANNEX 1



ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

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25 April 2009

Prof. Raphael P. M. Lotilla
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility
P. O. Box 2502, Quezon City 1165
Philippines

Subject: ACB's interest as non-Country Partner of PEMSEA

Dear **Prof. Lotilla**,

On behalf of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), I would like to express ACB's keen interest with PEMSEA as a non-Country Partner.

ACB was established by the ASEAN and European Union as an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence that aims to facilitate regional and global cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Its core objectives are to facilitate cooperation among ASEAN Member States (AMS); create mechanisms for sharing information, best practices, and lessons learned; provide capacity building and technology transfer services; and enhance understanding and awareness of biodiversity conservation in the Southeast Asian region.

Recognizing PEMSEA's efforts in the East Asian region, ACB believes that the proposed partnership will extend ACB's advocacy to countries beyond its priority area of operations. This partnership represents another significant step to ACB in promoting biodiversity conservation at the global and regional levels.

On acceptance by PEMSEA of this expression of interest, ACB will adhere to the Haikou Partnership Agreement, the Partnership Operating Arrangements for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and agree to enter into a partnership arrangement with PEMSEA through a Letter of Cooperation on the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Rodrigo U. Fuentes
Executive Director, ACB

LETTER OF COOPERATION
Between
the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and
the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
(PEMSEA)

The following Parties agree to cooperate on specific activities that are of mutual interest in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity and resources in the Seas of East Asia:

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), which is supported by the Global Environment Facility, with the United Nations Development Programme as Implementing Agency, as well as by the United Nations Office for Project Services as Executing Agency, and which is facilitating a partnership arrangement among the stakeholders of the Sea of East Asia to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA); and

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence established through the agreement between the governments of ASEAN Member States, for policy formulation, capacity development, awareness-raising, and links with the international donor community for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Scope or Areas of Cooperation

To initiate cooperation within the limits of their existing work programmes and available budgets, PEMSEA and ACB agree to the following cooperative activities:

A. Information Exchange

Establish and maintain an information exchange and awareness campaign that will promote the respective mandates and activities of PEMSEA and ACB including, but not limited to:

- Exchanging information, documentary outputs, and regular magazines or publications with regard to sustainable marine and coastal environment and biodiversity in the Seas of East Asia, including announcements of respective programs, initiatives and achievements in PEMSEA's Tropical Coasts and ACB's ASEAN Biodiversity Magazine;
- Establishing and maintaining links between PEMSEA and ACB websites in order to disseminate information, experiences, and lessons in the sustainability of the coastal and marine environment and biodiversity;
- Co-publishing an issue of Tropical Coasts Magazine focusing on Food Security, including the contribution of articles, and cooperation in securing contributors of articles;

B. Capacity Development

Participate in joint or complementary capacity development initiatives and other events related to the sustainable development and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity resources and areas, including, but not limited to:

C. Policy and Advocacy

Explore opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation in implementing an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation using regional and global multilateral environment agreements as frameworks and platforms for multi-sectoral cooperation; and

Continuously support common advocacy efforts within the bounds of PEMSEA's and ACB's mandates.

D. EAS Congress 2009

Co-convene a workshop on marine protected areas during the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 to be held on 25-27 November 2009 in Manila.

- Contribute paper presentations to other workshops of the EAS Congress 2009;
- Setting up an ACB exhibit at the EAS Congress 2009;

E. Other Areas As Mutually Agreed

ACB and PEMSEA shall implement other cooperative activities under the ambit of this Letter of Cooperation as mutually agreed.

This LOC will enter into force on the date of signing and will remain in effect until 31 March 2011.

This LOC can only be amended or extended with the mutual consent of the Parties in writing with the approval of their competent organs and only before the expiration of the LOC.

Either Party may terminate the LOC by providing in writing to the other Party the notice of termination at least thirty (30) days before the proposed date of termination.

by:

by:

Mr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes
Executive Director
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Date:

Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility
Date:
