

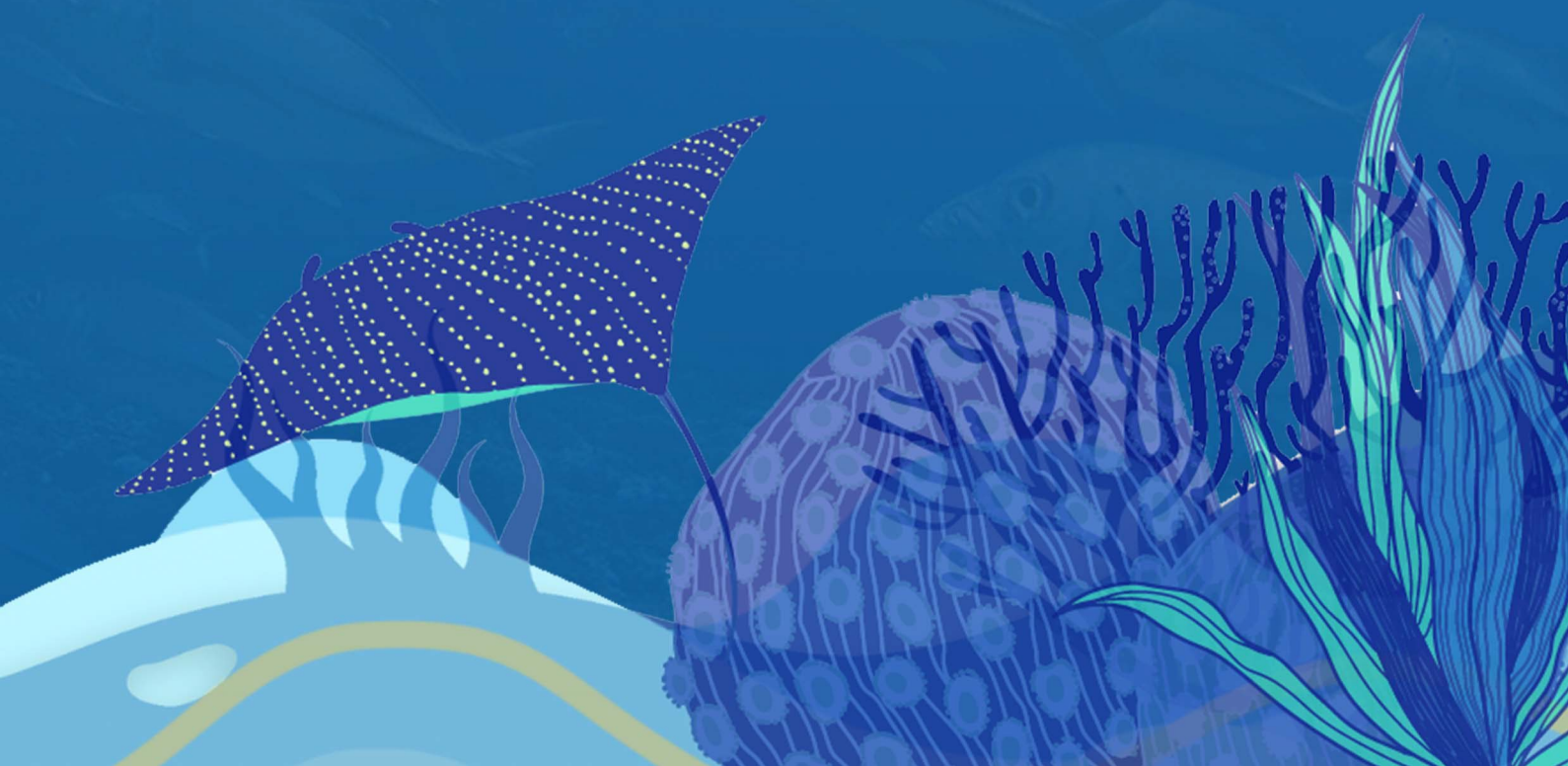


GEF/UNDP/ASEAN EFFECTIVELY MANAGING NETWORKS
OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
IN THE ASEAN REGION (ASEAN ENMAPS)

PIMS 6375 / GEF PROJECT ID NO. 10873

Inception Report

July 2024





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(ASEAN ENMAPS)**

Inception Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tables and Figures	ii
Acronyms	iii
Executive Summary	vi
1 Introduction	1
2 Project Overview	3
3 Progress during Inception Period	9
4 Situation Analysis	14
5 Overview of the Project Implementation Process	16
6 Social and Environmental Safeguards, Gender Mainstreaming and Stakeholder Engagement	25
7 Recommendations/Ways Forward	27
Appendices	31
1 ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop Programme of Activities	31
2 Highlights of the ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop	33
3 Total Pick-Up	36
4 List of Participants to the ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop	40
5 Roles and Responsibilities of Project Organisation Structure	45
6 Work Plan and Budget 2024–25	52
7 Environmental and Social Safeguards Risks	56

TABLES AND FIGURES

Tables

1	ASEAN ENMAPS project results framework	4
2	ASEAN ENMAPS pilot sites	6
3	Project M&E milestones and requirements	17
4	Action items identified to enhance data collection and reporting	19
5	Budget allocation per component per year, 2024–28	23
A1	Total pick-up of ASEAN ENMAPS Project launch and Inception Workshop	36
A2	Annual work plan and budget, 2024–25	52
A3	Environmental and Social Safeguards Risks	56

Figures

1	ASEAN ENMAPS project development history	14
2	Updated ASEAN ENMAPS Project governance structure	20

ACRONYMS

ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ACB GB	ACB Governing Board
AHP	ASEAN Heritage Parks
AMS	ASEAN Member State
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN ENMAPS	Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Official on Environment
AWGCME	ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment
AWGNCB	ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation on Biodiversity
AWP	annual work plan
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Philippines)
BARMM-MENRE	Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, BARMM (Philippines)
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau (Philippines)
BPPS	Bureau of Policy and Programme Support
BPPS NCE RTA	Regional Technical Advisor for Nature, Climate, and Energy of the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support
BERDS	Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Research and Development Services
BoBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub
CEPA	communication, education, and public awareness
CME	coastal and marine environment
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines)
DENR-BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR (Philippines)
DOA	Delegation of Authority
DoF	Department of Fisheries (Thailand)
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism

ICM	Integrated coastal management
IPPF	Indigenous People's Planning Framework
IPP	Indigenous People's Plan
ISLME	Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem
IUU	illegal, unreported, and unregulated
IW	International Waters
IW:LEARN	International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network
LME	large marine ecosystems
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Indonesia)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	marine protected area
MPAN	marine protected area network
MSP	marine spatial planning
MTR	Mid-term Review
NCB	nature conservation and biodiversity
NSC	National Steering Committee
ONEP	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Thailand)
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PIF	Project Information Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PM-CTA	Project Manager–Chief Technical Adviser
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
ProDoc	Project Document
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTA	Principal Technical Advisor
QWP	quarterly work plan
SAP	Strategic Action Program
SEP	stakeholder engagement plan
SESA	social and environmental assessments
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure

SoSLME	South China Sea Large Marine Ecosystem
SPA	Special Presidential Authority
SuSLME	Sulu–Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecosystem
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TIWS	Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The GEF/UNDP project titled Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS) is a five-year initiative running from 2024 to 2029. The project aims to develop and improve the management of marine protected area networks (MPANs) and marine corridors within selected Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in the ASEAN region (i.e. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand) for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and support for sustainable fisheries and other ecosystem goods and services.

The project is structured to build upon national efforts to advance the development and management of marine protected areas (MPAs), MPANs, and their associated marine corridors. It employs integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning, and ecosystem-based fisheries management strategies. The project comprises 3 components, aims for 4 major outcomes, and includes 11 key outputs to achieve its goal and objectives.

ASEAN ENMAPS was successfully launched on 6 June 2024 in Manila, Philippines, alongside the Inception Workshop. The following day, on 7 June 2024, the inaugural meeting of the Project Steering Committee was convened to finalise the project's governance and management arrangements, results framework, work plan and budget for 2024–25, monitoring and evaluation requirements, social and environmental safeguards, and to chart the ways forward.

The Inception Workshop was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity; Governing Board of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity; beneficiary countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand); the United Nations Development Programme – Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok Regional Hub; Thailand's Department of Fisheries, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation; Ranong Mangrove Forest Administration for World Heritage Division; and the Biodiversity Management Bureau and the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The ASEAN ENMAPS Project Management Unit, hosted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, acted as the Secretariat.

This Inception Report outlines the operational strategy and approaches for the project, detailing its implementation from 2024 to 2029, with a particular focus on initiating project activities in 2024–25 at both the regional level and the pilot sites in the three participating ASEAN Member States. It also presents key results and recommendations from the Inception Workshop.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development Challenge

Southeast Asia harbours a third of the world's coastal and marine habitats that include coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries, sandy and rocky beaches, seagrass and seaweed beds, and other soft bottom communities that provide important ecosystem services to the globally significant biodiversity and local communities in this part of the world. Services include provision of breeding, nursing, and feeding grounds for fisheries, which support local, national, regional and global value chains. It is estimated that the total potential sustainable annual economic net benefits per square kilometre of healthy coral reefs in ASEAN ranges from USD 23,100 to USD 270,000 arising from fisheries, shoreline protection, tourism, recreation, and aesthetic values. Coastal ecosystems also provide critical habitat for terrestrial biodiversity, including migratory shorebirds, as well as deliver important regulatory services, such as protection against storm surge and other factors that are increasingly more unpredictable due to the impacts of climate change.

However, the rich coastal and marine environment of the ASEAN region are under threat from unsustainable use of resources, infrastructure development, pollution, and inadequate policies and enforcement. The increase in population is also associated with the expanded utilisation of resources. A geometrically growing human population in the ASEAN region that is concentrated on the coastal zone is dependent on coastal resources and fisheries for food and livelihood and is expected to reach about 500 million by 2050. The Indonesian Seas, Bay of Bengal, and Sulu-Celebes Seas have shown increased fishing effort, thereby threatening food supplies if kept unchecked. Overfishing and destructive fishing has been identified as the most widespread local threats to marine resources in the region. If unsustainable fishing practices continue in the Southeast Asian Region, it is projected that there could be no exploitable fish stocks left by as early as 2048.

The project *Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region* (ASEAN ENMAPS) is designed to address these challenges by facilitating transformative changes in the collaborative management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other coastal and marine resources in large marine ecosystems (LMEs) in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Building on national initiatives, the project will facilitate the development and management of MPAs, MPA networks and associated marine corridors through integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning, and the ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

1.2 Purpose of the Inception Workshop and Report

The Project Document (ProDoc) was signed by UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) on 1 March 2024, followed by the signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) on 15 March 2024 between UNDP (as the implementing agency) and ACB (as the implementing partner/GEF executing entity), which mobilised the current project implementation.

Succeeding these milestones, an Inception Workshop was organised at the outset of the project on 6 June 2024 in Manila, Philippines to bring together stakeholders, foster understanding and ownership, and to officially launch the project. Specifically, the purpose and objectives of the Inception Workshop are as follows:

1. Familiarise key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualised that may influence its strategy and implementation;
2. Discuss the project management governance and structure, roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms;
3. Review the results framework, monitoring and evaluation plan, annual work plan, and other relevant plans and management frameworks (i.e. safeguards, gender); and
4. Formally launch the project.

The said Inception Workshop also provided a platform for the ASEAN ENMAPS project stakeholders to plan and agree on the operational strategy and approaches of the Project, particularly focusing on how it will be implemented in 2024–29 at the regional level and in the pilot MPA sites in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. It also details the project management governance and structure, the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.

This Inception Report reflects the matters discussed during the Inception Workshop and reaffirms the commitment of the Project partners and stakeholders, promotes understanding and awareness of their roles and responsibilities in project implementation, monitoring and reporting and in generating the required outputs while taking into consideration the specific contexts in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand in relation to effectively managing networks of MPAs in LMEs in the ASEAN region.

2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Strategy

The overall strategy of the ASEAN ENMAPS Project is anchored on the transformative approach, which will be implemented through the following:

- Application of science-based approaches to define MPA networks in specific LMEs, support necessary management decisions to determine the scale of connectivity in the LMEs, and identify biological and spatial boundaries in conservation corridors between and among MPAs;
- Improving the management of individual MPAs and the network of MPAs through a range of interventions such as capacity building on integrated coastal management (ICM) and adaptive management approaches, which will also be streamlined in the development or refining of management plans; and
- Knowledge management that will ensure that learning gleaned from project implementation reaches the target stakeholders.

The project strategy has a strong upscaling focus, including engagement with ASEAN working groups and LME cooperative governance mechanisms, as well as leveraging complementary investments across the ASEAN region.

2.2 Project Goal

The overall goal of the project is to scale up the current MPA initiatives in the three participating AMS (i.e. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand) into functional networks of MPAs such that these MPAs can support the communities that rely on them. As such, ASEAN ENMAPS is aligned with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (i.e. SDGs 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets (i.e. Targets 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 20, and 21).

2.3 Project Objective

The ASEAN ENMAPS project aims to develop and improve the management of marine protected area networks (MPANs) and marine corridors within selected Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in the ASEAN region for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and support for sustainable fisheries and other ecosystem goods and services.

2.4 Project Components, Outcomes, and Outputs

To achieve the project objectives, ASEAN ENMAPS is divided into 3 components, with 4 major outcomes and 11 key outputs (Table 1). **Appendix 1** presents a more detailed Project Results Framework with the baseline, midterm targets, and project-end targets.

Table 1. ASEAN ENMAPS project results framework

Component	Outcome	Output	Results
1. Multifaceted approach to supporting and expanding MPANs	1.1 New or strengthened MPA networks conceptualised through ecological, socio-economic, and governance linkages across proposed marine corridors	1.1.1 Scientific studies and modelling, social and environmental assessments, and institutional analyses completed to inform functional connectivity within the target LMEs	Four sub-regions within the target LMEs, where ecological, socioeconomic and institutional connectivity confirmed Nine MPA networks and associated marine corridors designed and endorsed
2. Strengthening the enabling environment for management and governance of MPANs	2.1 Improved management of target MPAs through addressing key threats, strengthening integrated approaches and enhancing financial sustainability	2.1.1 MPA management plans enhanced, and priority actions implemented, recognising ecological, socioeconomic and institutional linkages and addressing threats that disrupt connectivity and marine ecosystem functionalities 2.1.2 Integrated management approaches strengthened and implemented in at least one site per country 2.1.3 Priority investment projects studied, developed and pilot tested, contributing towards achievement of financial sustainability of MPAs and inclusion of local communities 2.1.4 Entrepreneurial skills and sustainable livelihood initiatives enhanced, helping local communities and partners be more meaningfully engaged in	Total of 1,750 people (of whom 50% are women) actively involved in community monitoring, control, and surveillance; reducing the threat of IUU and destructive fishing Three Blue Economy investment projects under implementation at demonstration scale Management plans for nine MPA networks and associated marine corridors agreed through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) among key partners in the three countries Six dialogues convened with transboundary partners on potential collaborative management of MPA networks and marine corridors

Component	Outcome	Output	Results
		MPA management, with an emphasis on inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups	
	2.2 Management and governance arrangements of MPA networks and associated marine corridors initiated	2.2.1 Marine corridor cooperation mechanisms collaboratively identified and agreed upon by stakeholders at appropriate governance levels	
		2.2.2 Marine corridor management interventions designed, and implementation initiated	
3. Learning, knowledge management and networking	3.1 Adaptive management and sustainability facilitated through monitoring & evaluation, communications and knowledge management, and portfolio-wide learning	3.1.1 Capacities in integrated marine ecosystem management strengthened through trainings on the application of tools and methodologies such as ICM, MSP, nature-based solutions, investment planning and biodiversity-sensitive fisheries management	Improved institutional capacities on integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems, as measured by the project-specific capacity development scorecard Total of 30 knowledge products produced and disseminated (10 showcasing gender mainstreaming results)
		3.1.2 Communications and knowledge management strategy and action plan developed and implemented	1,000 visits to knowledge sharing space(s)
		3.1.3 IW:LEARN and IW portfolio-wide learning through cross LME exchanges, IW conference, workshops, and trainings	Participation in two GEF IW Conference Total of ten Experience Notes produced and disseminated through IW:LEARN channels
		3.1.4 Project implementation and results monitored, evaluated and reported	(two focused on gender mainstreaming and Indigenous Peoples issues)

Note: ICM = integrated coastal management

LME = large marine ecosystem

MPA = marine protected area

MPAN = marine protected area network

MSP = marine spatial planning

IW:LEARN = International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network

2.5 Pilot Sites

Consistent with the priorities of the GEF Focal Area on International Waters, the geographic focus of the ASEAN ENMAPS are in the four LMEs within the ASEAN region, namely: the Bay of Bengal in Thailand, South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes Sea in the Philippines, and the Indonesian Seas in Indonesia. The delineation and identification of the LMEs are set by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which has also been guiding the GEF Focal Area on International Waters.

A total of 11 pilot sites were selected within the LMEs and across the three beneficiary countries. The selection criteria include ecological connectivity, governance network including the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs), and investment priorities for coastal and marine protection of the AMS, among others.

Consultations for site selection were conducted between ACB and the national focal points of the participating AMS during the preparation of the Project Information Form (PIF). This was confirmed during the project document preparation/Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase. The 4 LMEs and 11 pilot MPAs, which were confirmed during the PPG phase, are described in Table 2.

Table 2. ASEAN ENMAPS pilot sites

ASEAN LME	Pilot Site	Priority Issue in LME
South China Sea (Philippines)	Agoo–Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape	Accounted for 12% of the global fish catch in 2015, with annual fish catch showing a steady increase from 90,000 tons in 1950 to over 6 million tons in 2010
	Bani–Bolinao–Burgos–Infanta–Dasol–Agno Marine Protected Area Network	Human activities have contributed to nutrient loading in the LME Nitrogen load is very high and will remain so in 2030 if not acted upon Subject to threats such as overfishing, destructive fishing, pollution, and environmental degradation Reefs at risk are recorded between 12% and 17% of coral cover under very high and high threat, respectively Transboundary arrangements present for fisheries, with existing regional networks within the SoSLME for pollution and biodiversity SAP implementation phase of the project is in progress, and transboundary environmental concerns are expected to be revisited Instability in the region has hindered collaborative fisheries management and conservation efforts, exacerbating overfishing and destructive practices

ASEAN LME	Pilot Site	Priority Issue in LME
		Construction of artificial islands and extensive fishing by some claimant nations have degraded critical habitats, threatening the sustainability of fish stocks Geopolitical strife undermines regional cooperation necessary for implementing effective marine protected areas and sustainable fishing practices, thereby jeopardising food security and livelihoods for millions dependent on these waters
Sulu-Celebes Sea (Philippines)	Tubbataha Reef Natural Park (AHP)	Socio-economic activities and climate change are among the associated risks
	Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape	Total fish catch in the SuSLME steadily increased from 2001 to 2010, recording an average of 1 million tons in the recent decade
	Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary	Heightened demand both at the local and international market have also led to increased fishing effort from both the artisanal and industrial fishers Climate change also a recognised driver of ecosystem degradation; global warming has caused coral bleaching, thus affecting marine biodiversity Faces significant political challenges that impede sustainable fisheries management Poaching, driven by weak enforcement and governance across the tri-national boundaries of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, undermines regulatory efforts and deplete fish stocks Illegal activities are exacerbated by conflicting maritime claims and a lack of coordinated policy among the bordering nations Corruption within local authorities often allows illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing to persist, further straining fish populations and marine resources Inadequate infrastructure for monitoring and enforcement hinder collaborative conservation efforts and amplify the impact of climate change on the ecosystem
Indonesian Seas (Indonesia)	Kepulauan Togean National Park	Pressures from human activities put ISLME at very high risk
	Kepulauan Wakatobi National Park (AHP)	Increasing demand for fish from the industrial and artisanal fisheries put pressure on its fish stocks Between 15% and 27% of coral reefs are under very high threat and high threat, respectively; with increasing thermal stress in the oceans, 34% of the coral reefs are estimated to be at very high to critical level of threat by 2030 Has existing transboundary arrangements for fisheries catering to tuna and tuna-like fisheries

ASEAN LME	Pilot Site	Priority Issue in LME
		Has existing collaboration within the Indonesian Seas, although measures integrating or coordinating it with transboundary fisheries is not yet in place Coral Triangle Initiative is among the active projects in the region engaging in transboundary cooperation among the concerned countries
Bay of Bengal (Thailand)	Tarutao National Park (AHP)	Has very high overall risk factor combining the measures from Human Development Index, fisheries, pollution, and ecosystem health indicators
	Ranong Biosphere Reserves (Ramsar site)	Annual fish catch shows an increasing trend from 1950 to 2010, with the latest recorded data at approximately 4 million tons per year; fishing efforts have also drastically increased
	Mu Ko Surin National Park (AHP)	Home to more than 81 million coastal inhabitants, which have put pressure under very high risks of pollution, ecosystem degradation, and vulnerability
	Mu Ko Similan National Park (AHP)	Transboundary integration still needs to be addressed, despite efforts from earlier BOBLME projects on convening concerned government agencies to collaborate

Note: AHP = ASEAN Heritage Park
BOBLME = Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
ISLME = Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem
SAP = Strategic Action Program
SuSLME = Sulu–Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

3 PROGRESS DURING INCEPTION PERIOD

3.1 Recruitment of Core Personnel of the Project Management Unit

The recruitment process for the core personnel of the Project Management Unit (PMU) commenced following the signing of the ProDoc. In May–June 2024, the Project Manager-Chief Technical Adviser, the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Communication Specialist, Accounting Officer, Procurement Officer, and Logistics Officer had joined the ASEAN ENMAPS PMU through a competitive selection process adhering to UNDP's and ACB's staffing rules and procedures. This process involved advertising project positions, reviewing applications, shortlisting candidates, conducting interviews, and processing staff appointments from March 2024 to May 2024. The ACB Regional Project Coordination Committee (RPCC) comprising ACB personnel, serves as an interim committee, was established to temporarily undertake necessary tasks and functions needed to mobilise the project until all officers and specialists of the project are recruited.

Recruitment efforts will continue throughout the third and fourth quarters of 2024, focusing on staffing the National Technical Units and completing the staffing requirements of the PMU.

3.2 Pre-inception Workshop Consultations

3.2.1 Beneficiary countries

After the official documents were signed in March 2024, the ACB conducted several meetings with representatives from the beneficiary countries as part of its mobilisation activities, the consultation meetings held are as follows:

Indonesia. On 15 May 2024, the ACB convened a virtual meeting with Indonesian officials, specifically representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), including the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation of Species and Genetics and the Directorate of Conservation on Natural Resources and Ecosystem. The meeting focused on key sections of the ProDoc such as the project management structure and financial management. Indonesia proposed augmenting the staffing to strengthen the national project implementation unit. The ACB acknowledged the recommendation and indicated that it will be addressed further during the Inception Workshop.

Philippines. The ACB initiated advance coordination meetings regarding the ASEAN ENMAPS Project between January and March 2024. Discussions focused on the Philippines' requirement for national agencies to obtain the authorisation from the Office of the President prior to the implementation of all international projects including those supported by foreign grants through the Special Presidential Authority (SPA). Currently, the request for SPA is now being processed by relevant national agencies for processing, namely the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Foreign Affairs, and Department of Finance.

On the recommendation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the ACB facilitated a consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM-MENRE) concerning the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS). Through an MOU, full management of TIWS was transferred to the MENRE-BARMM. In line with this, MENRE's focal point, the Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Research and Development Services (BERDS), requested a briefing from ACB executives about the ASEAN ENMAPS Project, marking their first MPA project to be implemented under a regional initiative. The meeting was organised on 30 April 2024 in Davao City and was attended by officials of the MENRE, BERDS, and TIWS including the MENRE Minister. MENRE provided recommendations on implementing the project in TIWS in accordance with the provisions outlined in Philippine Republic Act No. 11054, proposing the creation of a Tripartite MOU among DENR, BARMM-MENRE, and ACB to establish a framework for project coordination and implementation for TIWS.

Thailand. After the GEF approval of ENMAPS in December 2023, the ACB initiated email communications and held discussions with Thailand's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP). Matters concerning project structure and governance, implementation arrangements, and activities outlined in the Project Document were noted for further discussion during the upcoming Inception Workshop.

3.2.2 UNDP-ACB

A series of meetings/consultations were held between UNDP BRH and ACB on 7 May, 3 June, and 5 June 2024 with regard to the following:

1. Preparations for the Project Launch and Inception Workshop and First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC);
2. ASEAN ENMAPS project work plan and budget;
3. Financial planning and management;
4. Project governance and management arrangements;
5. UNDP GEF compliance requirements

Preparations for the Project Launch and Inception Workshop and First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

The preparations for the Project Launch and Inception Workshop and First PSC Meeting were discussed during the pre-inception meetings, including the media and visibility strategy, invited participants, and finalisation of the programme and agenda.

Key representatives from the three participating countries (i.e. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand) confirmed their onsite participation at the Inception Workshop and First PSC Meeting. Representatives from the other AMS were invited to participate via Zoom.

Media and visibility included live streaming on Facebook, invitation of selected media organisations to cover the event, pre- and post-event social media posts, and issuing a joint press release. PTV-4, Philippine Information Agency, and BusinessMirror covered the event.

The programme and agenda of the Inception Workshop and First PSC Meeting were finalised according to UNDP's recommended format. A detailed overview of the programme and agenda was discussed during the June 5th meeting to preemptively address potential issues that may arise during these events.

ASEAN ENMAPS project work plan and budget plan

Chapter IV of the ProDoc provided the indicative activities per component per country to achieve the objectives of the project. Based on this, the PMU developed the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Budget Plan for the year 2024–25.

In Year 1 of ASEAN ENMAPS project implementation, the project will focus on regional activities. Component 1 will concentrate on the validation of baseline information on surface currents that will inform connectivity patterns at the LME level and at the highest resolution possible at the sites, and the conduct of environmental, social and related assessments. Component 2 will mobilise site-based project implementation, while Component 3 will publish project results in scientific journals as well as package and popularise key findings and translate them into Bahasa and Thai languages. The annual work plan and budget was agreed upon by ACB and UNDP during the pre-inception meeting.

Project governance and management arrangements

Chapter VII of the ProDoc details the roles and responsibilities in the governance mechanism of the project, the project governance structure, the segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation in the PSC, the roles and responsibilities of the PSC, and the composition of the PSC.

The project governance and management arrangements were defined in detail including the composition of the PSC members as follows: the ACB Governing Board (GB)/ASOEN serves as the Chair of the Board, UNDP as Co-Chair, and the representatives of the three beneficiary countries---Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The PSC is the high-level oversight of the project providing overall guidance and project oversight, reviews project performance, and management decisions by consensus.

The establishment of a national coordination mechanism, as suggested in the ProDoc, was affirmed during the Inception Workshop. However, the ProDoc only described the potential composition of the national coordination mechanism, which could be the various cooperating national agencies and other key stakeholders involved in the project (see Line 250 of signed ProDoc), and that it will be finalised during the project inception. Thus, it was agreed that each beneficiary country will establish a national coordination mechanism by creating the National Steering Committee (NSC) or National Technical Working Group (NTWG), and its composition will be left to each beneficiary country to decide during the national inception meeting.

UNDP GEF compliance requirements

The UNDP reiterated to ACB the M&E milestones and requirements throughout the project cycle and of the results-based management (RBM) tools available. The roles in the different steps of the cycle were clarified to facilitate compliance with both UNDP and GEF policies procedures.

The M&E milestones and requirements include the Inception Workshop, Project Implementation Report (PIR), Project Midterm Review (MTR), and the Project Terminal Evaluation (TE). As discussed also, in relation to the M&E plan and core indicators, it was emphasised that any adjustments in the targets and indicators should be limited to output-level indicators (i.e. activities); adjustments at the objectives and outcomes level are considered major changes.t

Any change of more than 10% in fund allocation per output is considered major and should be avoided. Prior approval from UNDP is required to make any adjustment in fund allocation.

The ACB will regularly report to UNDP through the following (1) quarterly technical and financial reports using the standard UNDP reporting template, (2) FACE form, and (3) the annual PIR.

ACB acknowledged the milestone and processes. The PSC was informed of these GEF and UNDP compliance requirements during the First PSC Meeting.

3.3 Project Launch and Inception Workshop

The Project Launch and Inception Workshop was held on 6 June 2024 in Manila, Philippines (See **Appendix 1** for the Programme of Activities).

3.3.1 Project Launch

The launch was inaugurated by Forester Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and concurrent OIC Director of the DENR-BMB. Ms. Katri Kivioja, Programme Specialist of UNDP BRH and Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Executive Director of ACB, gave their welcoming messages and opening remarks. (See **Appendix 2** for the highlights of the project launch and inception workshop).

The workshop was chaired by Mr. Sofiane Majoub, Regional Technical Advisor for Water and Ocean, Asia and the Pacific, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. The Project Inception Workshop was conducted via a hybrid mode with onsite participants and online components via Zoom. Representatives from the beneficiary countries, UNDP, and ACB (through the PMU) participated onsite, while the representatives from the other AMS attended via Zoom (See **Appendix 3** for the list of participants).

ACB implemented the media and visibility plan for the event to publicise and popularise the launch. The plan included live streaming the Opening Session live via Facebook,¹ presenting the ASEAN ENMAPS institutional video to the participants and on social media,² releasing pre-event and post-event social media posts, and issuing a joint UNDP-ACB press release.³ The joint press release generated a total of 33 pick-ups (as of 16 June 2024) from media, developmental, and nature conservation organisations (See **Appendix 4**).

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/ASEANBiodiversity/videos/1141908333738637>

² <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-JG7GWR6B45LP7Yr3SkX8vXlhayCyA4j/view?usp=sharing>

³ <https://www.aseanbiodiversity.org/news-events-jobs/acb-undp-launch-marine-conservation-project-in-asean/>

4 SITUATION ANALYSIS

Informed by an earlier concept, the ASEAN ENMAPS GEF PIF was submitted to GEF in 2019 and underwent the GEF PPG process until the approval of the Project Document in December 2023.

The negotiations with the beneficiary countries in 2020–21, (i.e. governments of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand); regional initiatives (e.g. PEMSEA); UNDP; and local projects resulted in co-financing amounting to USD 57,907,646. These negotiations also resulted in the identification of the 11 pilot sites in the four LMEs associated with the three participating countries. The ProDoc was signed on 1 March 2024, whereas the PCA was signed on 15 March 2024. ASEAN ENMAPS will be implemented from 2024 to 2029. Figure 1 shows the ASEAN ENMAPS Project milestones starting from 2019.



Figure 1. ASEAN ENMAPS project development history

Note: AMS = ASEAN Member States
PCA = Project Cooperation Agreement
PIF = Project Information Form
PPG = Project Preparation Grant

4.1 Project Outcomes

4.1.1 Component 1: Multifaceted approach to supporting and expanding MPANs

Outcome 1.1: New or strengthened MPA networks conceptualised through ecological, socioeconomic and governance linkages across proposed marine corridors. To achieve this outcome, scientific studies and modelling and analysis will be conducted to determine the ecological, socio-economic, and institutional connectivities and

linkages of the MPANs. The expected results of this outcome are the confirmation of the ecological, socio-economic, and institutional connectivity of the four sub-regions within the target LMEs.

4.1.2 Component 2: Strengthening the enabling environment for management and governance of MPANs

Outcome 2.1. Improved management of target MPAs through addressing key threats, strengthening integrated approaches and enhancing financial sustainability. The project will achieve this outcome by enhancing the MPA management plans of the pilot sites and by implementing the priority actions identified from the results of the first outcome. These priority actions will be based on the ecological, socioeconomic, and institutional linkages that will address the identified threats that disrupt connectivity and marine ecosystem functionalities. The project will also implement integrated management approaches (i.e. ICM, MSP) in at least one site per country and will study, develop, and pilot test priority investment projects. Complementary to these initiatives, activities to enhance the entrepreneurial skills and sustainable livelihood of the local communities, with emphasis on the inclusion of women, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups, will be prioritised.

Outcome 2.2. Management and governance interventions for selected MPANs are operational. The planned interventions to accomplish this outcome will focus on the identification and designing of the marine corridor cooperation mechanisms for the implementation of marine corridor management interventions in the MPANs. To this end, management plans are expected to be developed and agreed upon through MOUs among the key partners of the beneficiary countries. Dialogues will also be convened with transboundary partners on potential collaborative management of MPANs and marine corridors.

4.1.3 Component 3: Learning, knowledge management, and networking

Outcome 3.1. Adaptive management and sustainability facilitated through M&E, communications and knowledge management, and portfolio-wide learning. The expected results of this outcome is the improved institutional capacities on integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems of the MPA stakeholders, which will be measured by the project-specific capacity development scorecard. Knowledge products will be developed to document the learnings of the project for upscaling initiatives.

5 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Milestones and Requirements

5.1.1 M&E milestones and requirements

Chapter VI of the ProDoc details the M&E plan of the project. Project-level M&E will be undertaken in accordance with the UNDP requirements. Mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will also be conducted based on GEF Monitoring Policy and GEF Evaluation Policy. Table 3 provides the Project M&E milestones and requirements with their corresponding submission schedules and the agreements that transpired during the Inception Workshop.

The Inception Workshop should be conducted within 60 days of the first disbursement day. It is conducted mainly to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the project stakeholders and to review the Results Framework. An Inception Report will be submitted within one month of the conduct of the Inception Workshop. The Report updates the project stakeholders on the project inception, the key issues in project implementation, and the recommended actions. This report also includes the Work Plan for Year 1, allowing minor changes in the project environment since the project was submitted and adjustments to the project activities and timelines.

The PIR is the mechanism to annually monitor the progress of the project and to ensure that the project is delivering the services at the project sites on the ground. This will be prepared by ACB as the Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity), with inputs from the project stakeholders (i.e. GEF operational focal points). The PIR process starts from late May to early June of every year and ends in September.

The project proponents can implement changes in accordance with the UNDP-GEF guidelines. The allowed changes include adjustments at the output or activity level and corrections to the baselines. However, the following cannot be changed: (1) downgrading planned results (objectives and outcomes) and (2) altering core GEF indicators. Any modification exceeding 10% in any GEF indicator is considered a major change. Although the proponents can appeal such changes, GEF approval is not guaranteed.

The Midterm Review is a monitoring tool that is punctuated by the Midterm Review Report and is conducted by an external evaluator. It identifies the challenges and recommends corrective actions to ensure that the project is on track towards the services that the project is committed to deliver. The PMU is required to address the issues that will be identified in the MTR. This evaluation will be conducted on 1 September 2026.

Table 3. Project M&E milestones and requirements

GEF M&E Requirements	Time Frame	Remarks
Inception Workshop Report	Inception Workshop conducted Report drafted	Completion of report within one month from the conduct of the workshop Allows minor changes in project environment since project was submitted Allows minor adjustments in project activities and timeless
UNDP M&E requirements	Quarterly, annually	QWP and AWP Reviews the baselines and lessons learned
Baseline establishment	Year 1	–
SESP, ESMF/ESMP, IPPF/IPP	Recurring	–
GEF Project Implementation Report	Annual First PIR due in July 2025	PIR to be prepared by PMU and stakeholders to consolidate the progress of implementation Adjustments made in the activities should be reflected on the PIR
GEF Core Indicators and Project Results Framework	Annually, mid-term, and at closure	5 GEF Core Indicators indicated as objective-level indicators in the Project Results Framework Adaptive management tools and approaches allow adjustments to the Results Framework
Mid-term Review	1 September 2026	PMU needs to address the implementing issues that will be identified in the review External evaluator will review the report
Terminal Evaluation	1 December 2028	External evaluator will review the report

Note: AWP = annual work plan
 ESMF/P = Environmental and Social Management Framework/Plan
 IPP/PF = Indigenous People's Plan/Planning Framework
 PIR = Project I IPP/PF = Indigenous People's Plan/Planning Framework
 M&E = monitoring and evaluation
 PIR = Project Implementation Review
 PMU = Project Management Unit
 QWP = quarterly work plan
 SESP = Social and Environmental Screening Procedure

The Terminal Evaluation assesses the effectiveness of the project in achieving the results, evaluates the sustainability of the project, and weighs the relevance of the project impacts. This will be conducted by an external reviewer in December 2028.

5.1.2 Assurance activities

UNDP is the overall oversight agency of the project. It provides overall guidance in the planning, results delivery, monitoring, managing changes in project implementation, and in reporting project development.

Project planning (i.e. budget and work plan) is done annually in line with the UNDP financial year calendar, with the AWP endorsed by the PSC. The resulting budgetary figure in the AWP becomes the financial target for the year and is monitored every month through the UNDP dashboard. This target has to be met every year. The subsequent fund instalments will be downloaded to ACB subject to the submission of the **quarterly** technical and financial reports and subject to meeting the 80% disbursement requirement.

Aside from project reporting, spot checks, scheduled audits, and programmatic output verification will be conducted. Spot checks will be conducted at least once a year (excluding the year of audit) for executing agencies with a minimum of USD 50,000 expenditure in a year. These checks will verify that expenditures are backed by supporting documentation. The scheduled audits are done at least once every other year for executing agencies with annual expenditure that exceeds USD 200,000.

The workshop participants acknowledged the M&E requirements and reporting activities.

5.2 Project Results Framework

Chapter V of the ProDoc details the Project Results Framework of ASEAN ENMAPS. The Project Results Framework is the main tool for monitoring the progress of project implementation. It includes the results indicators, baseline, and target values. Table 4 summarises the actions identified during the inception period to enhance data collection and reporting against the targets identified in the Results Framework.

The agreed next steps are as follows:

1. Conduct national inception workshops per country to establish specific activities per site, to level-off with the delivery of results, and to harmonise report delivery
2. Consider developing a program/system/app to help in progress monitoring
3. Revalidate baseline indicators and adjust targets accordingly

The Project Results Framework was acknowledged at the workshop and was forwarded to the PSC for approval.

Table 4. Action items identified to enhance data collection and reporting

Challenge	Response/Recommended Actions
Preparatory activities leading to the conduct of National Inception Meetings/Workshops need to commence immediately as soon as the ENMAPS National Project Manager and the Site Officers are on board	National Inception will be conducted per country to level-off on the specific activities to be implemented per site and to discuss mechanisms to harmonise reporting
Foreseen difficulty in quarterly progress reporting process and report collection	ACB will develop a simpler form based on the UNDP quarterly progress reporting template for the reporting per site; reporting shall be based on the specific questions in the form. ACB is also exploring the possibility of developing an internal monitoring system/application.
Sustainability of the project	Develop a regional governance mechanism and financing plan/strategy to ensure project sustainability Component 3 of the project on knowledge management is designed to help ensure project sustainability Seven AMS originally planned to participate in the project; negotiations with other AMS can be done to expand the coverage and ensure project sustainability ACB continues to work with other partners, particularly ACB's partnership with the private sector on Blue Economy, which can be tapped to sustain the project
Adjustment/validation of the baseline data targets	Baseline data will be validated and can be adjusted as long as the reduction is within the 10% threshold. Other justifiable reasons for adjustment are if there are discrepancies in the baseline indicators. Baseline indicators for Indonesia will be revalidated and adjusted accordingly.

5.3 Project Governance and Management Arrangements

The project governance and management arrangements, together with the inputs during the pre-inception meetings, were presented at the Inception Workshop. Figure 2 shows the Project Governance Structure.

5.3.1 Oversight

The PSC is the high-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner/Executing Agency. It is responsible for the annual (and as needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and for the decisions on any management actions or remedial measures.

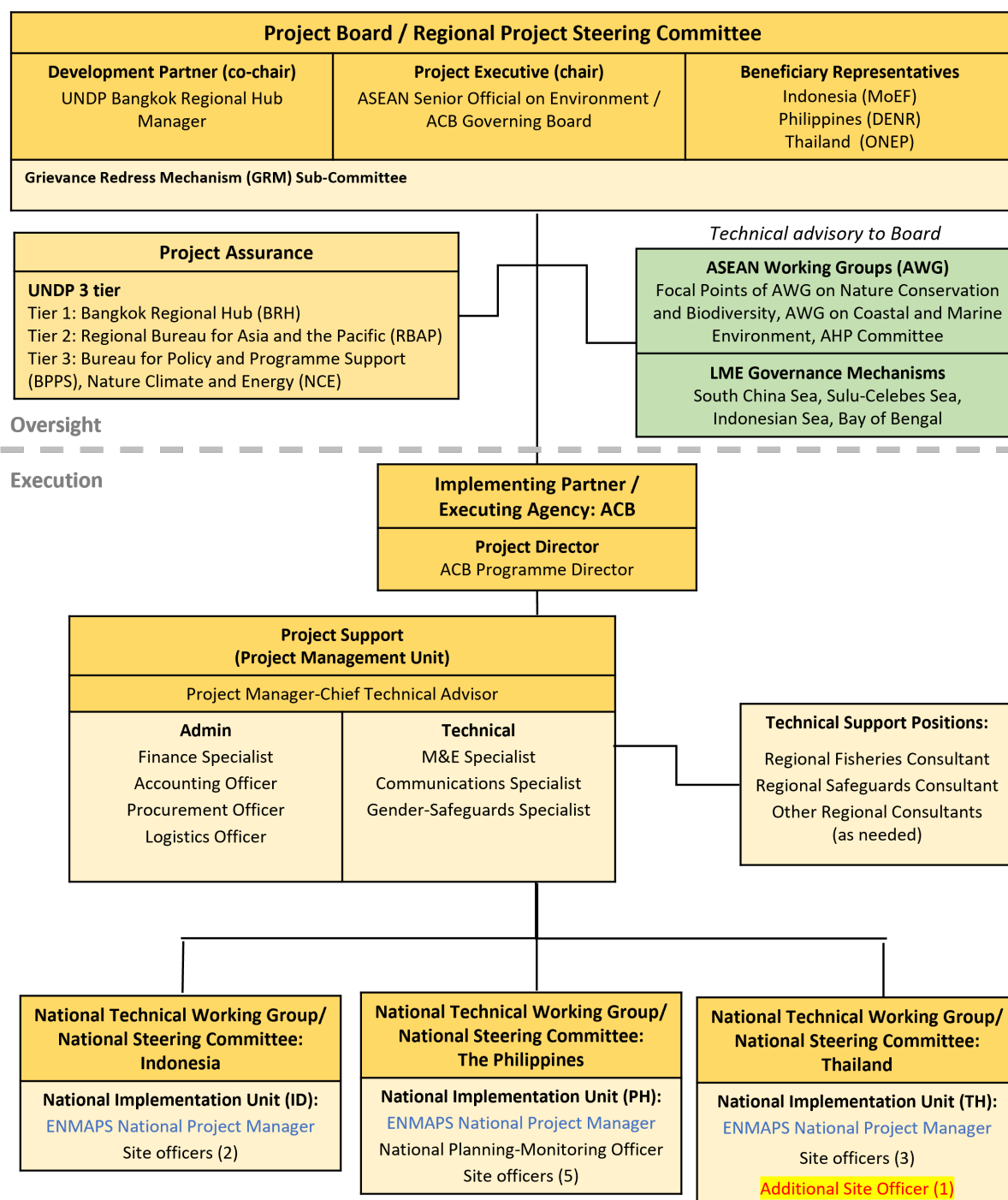


Figure 2. Updated ASEAN ENMAPS Project governance structure

Note: DENR = Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines)
MoEF = Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Indonesia)
ONEP = Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Thailand)

The PSC also reviews project performance based on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting and is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. The Committee also approves the strategic project execution decisions of the implementing partner.

The PSC is composed of five members: Project Executive (Chair) represented by the ACB GB/ASEAN Senior Official on Environment (ASOEN), UNDP BRH as the Development Partner (Co-Chair), and one representative from each beneficiary country, namely: Indonesia (MoEF), the Philippines (DENR), and Thailand (ONEP).

The ACB GB/ASOEN is allotted only one seat in the PSC Committee, which is the incumbent GB/ASOEN Chair; however, this position and responsibility would require endorsement and mandate from the whole GB/ASOEN. Meanwhile, the representation of the beneficiary countries in the ASEAN ENMAPS PSC can be taken on by any national agencies endorsed by their respective national steering committee. Each PSC member is entitled to one vote in the committee; thus, each country beneficiary is entitled to only one vote. In case a consensus cannot be reached, UNDP will mediate to ensure that the non-consensus will not hinder project implementation.

Project Assurance is headed by UNDP, while the Technical Advisory Committee is headed by three members (i.e. representatives from the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation on Biodiversity [AWGNCB], ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment [AWGCME], and the AHP Committee).

One point highlighted in this report concerns the BARMM-MENRE (Philippines) and its involvement in the PSC. BARMM-MENRE oversees the Turtle Island Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the pilot sites. Unlike DENR, BARMM-MENRE operates autonomously and seeks to ensure its representation in the PSC.

During the Inception Workshop, it was agreed that each country beneficiary would have a single seat on the PSC. Having one representative per country beneficiary in the PSC will maintain streamlined and efficient decision-making processes. This structure ensures that each country's voice is equally heard and valued, preventing potential imbalances in influence that could arise from multiple representatives. Additionally, having one representative per country fosters clear and direct communication, facilitating more cohesive and unified strategic planning. To this end, it was decided that the MoEF, DENR, and ONEP will represent Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, respectively, in the PSC.

To address unique governance contexts, such as BARMM-MENRE's autonomy, mechanisms are in place to ensure their perspectives are integrated within the NSC. This approach, confirmed by DENR's commitment, ensures that all relevant viewpoints are considered without complicating the PSC's structure. The autonomy of each country to determine the composition of their NSC further supports tailored representation that reflects their individual needs and priorities.

5.3.2 Execution

ACB, as the Implementing Partner/GEF Executing Entity, is headed by the Project Director, which is the ACB Programmes Department Director. The Project Manager-Chief Technical Adviser (PM-CTA) leads the PMU and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project, for mobilising all project inputs, and for supervising the project staff and consultants. The PM-CTA is also responsible for coordinating with the relevant national authorities and with UNDP on the operational matters during the project implementation. In addition, the PM-CTA is responsible for directly communicating with the three governments' coordinating authority regarding the project activities.

The establishment of a national coordination mechanism as suggested in the ProDoc was affirmed during the Inception Workshop. However, the ProDoc only described the potential composition of the national coordination mechanism, which could be the various cooperating national agencies and other key stakeholders involved in the project (see Line 250 of signed ProDoc), and that it will be finalised during the project inception. Thus, it was agreed that each beneficiary country will establish a national coordination mechanism by creating an NTWG or NSC, and its composition will be left to each beneficiary country to decide during the national inception meeting.

Each beneficiary country will have its own National Implementation Units. The implementation units will be composed of a National Technical Officer and Site Officers: Indonesia will have two site officers, the Philippines with five officers, and Thailand with three site officers. This group will be responsible for implementing site-level activities and for monitoring the indicators.

Thailand proposed to have an additional site officer to cover both Muko Surin and Muko Similan National Parks. The original arrangement had been to have only one Site Officer to cover both parks since Muko Surin and Muko Similan are twin parks. Thailand proposed to revisit this arrangement considering the necessity of having four Site Officers. It was then recommended that the remuneration of the additional Site Officer be charged to the funds allotted for national implementation in Thailand. Thailand did not affirm nor contest this recommendation. To gain clarification, this item will be put into the agenda for discussion during the PMU's meeting with Thailand regarding the implementation of the project in the country.

Indonesia expressed their intention to enter into an Activity Agreement with ACB for the implementation of site-level activities. Furthermore, Indonesia proposed for an additional administrative staff member to be responsible for the logistics and financial requirements of the activities under the Activity Agreement. ACB then recommended for Indonesia to send an official communication to facilitate further discussions between ACB and UNDP on this matter. ACB expressed that they will study the proposal comprehensively as this would have significant implications to the quarterly reporting to UNDP, and consequently to the fund disbursements.

The project governance structure was then endorsed to the PSC for approval. **Appendix 5** provides a more comprehensive description of the PSC composition and TORs of the various parties, with oversight and execution functions of the project.

5.4 Work Plan and Budget

5.4.1 Overview of five-year work plan

The breakdown of the project financing over the five-year implementation period was discussed in detail during the workshop. The majority of the funding is allocated to Component 2 at USD 8.5 million or 67.7% of the total project grant. Component 2 focuses on site-level activities, particularly capacity building for stakeholders.

Table 5 presents an overview of the budget allocation per component from 2024 to 2028.

Table 5. Budget allocation per component per year, 2024–28

Component	Budget Allocation Per Year (in USD)					Total
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Component 1. Multifaceted approach to supporting and expanding MPANs	282,058	400,596	169,722	73,122	74,502	1,000,000
Component 2: Strengthening the enabling environment for management and governance of MPANs	735,678	2,268,930	2,132,685	1,801,461	1,561,246	8,500,000
Component 3: Learning, knowledge management, and networking	363,006	442,379	621,282	520,935	503,759	2,451,361
UNDP Project Management Cost	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
ACB Project Management Cost	97,820	82,404	85,524	88,980	92,772	447,500
Total Project Grant	1,508,562	3,224,309	3,039,213	2,514,498	2,262,279	12,548,861

5.4.2 Annual work plan for 2024–25

The AWP presented covers the Quarters 3 and 4 (July to December) of 2024 and Quarters 1 and 2 (January to June) of 2025.

Most of the key activities of Component 1 in 2024–25 are concentrated on conducting research, namely: regional training needs analysis, resource assessments, social and environmental assessments (SESA), and institutional analysis of governance challenges and opportunities for MPAs. Component 2 will focus on regional activities, particularly project management mobilisation and stakeholder consultations. Lastly, the activities lined up in Component 3 are the conduct of communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) scoping study and audience research; training needs assessment design; and development of ASEAN ENMAPS visibility and branding and CEPA materials.

Note that the activities proposed in Component 2 concentrate only on the pilot sites in Indonesia and Thailand. This is in view of the pending issuance of the Special Presidential Authorisation under the Philippines Memorandum Circular No. 16.⁴

The annual work plan 2024–25 was then endorsed to the PSC for approval. **Appendix 6** presents the annual work plan for CY 2024–25 with the corresponding budget allocation.

⁴ The Philippine Memorandum Circular No. 16 requires agencies or instrumentalities of the Philippine government to secure the authorisation from the Office of the President for agreements covered under borrowings, guarantees, and foreign grants.

6 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS, GENDER MAINSTREAMING, AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Social and Environmental Safeguards

A number of project-related risks were identified and presented during the workshop based on UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure. Based on the initial SESP, the Project identified 12 risks related to three programming principles (i.e. human rights, gender and equality, and accountability) and seven project standards (biodiversity conservation; climate change; community health, safety, and security; cultural heritage; displacement and resettlement; IPs; labour; and pollution prevention). The SES requirements were likewise determined. Appendix 7 shows the environmental and social safeguards identified risks (based on the UNDP SESP) presented during the workshop.

The project will establish, together with and approved by the project stakeholders, a transparent, fair, and free-to-access project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). This will be put in place at the start of the implementation and will be adapted to the needs and circumstances of each of the three countries.

Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the PMU, ACB, UNDP, or the GEF. The full details of the GRM will be agreed on by all relevant stakeholders during the SESA development phase and will be available within the first half year of the project and before the start of implementation of field-based activities.

6.2 Gender Mainstreaming

Annex 11 of the ProDoc details the gender analysis and gender action plan of the project, which was conducted during the project preparation phase. The study assessed the risks and potentials for gender mainstreaming in the project activities in line with GEF and UNDP gender equality and social inclusion strategies, guidance, and standards.

Two key results in the project components (i.e. Components 2 and 3) are geared towards gender equality. Component 2 will engage 1,750 people (of whom 50% are women) actively involved in community monitoring, control, and surveillance and in reducing the threat of IUU and destructive fishing. Component 3 will produce and disseminate 30 knowledge products, with 10 of them showcasing gender mainstreaming results.

In view of these, gender mainstreaming will be implemented in the project following the action plan. M&E data will be collected in accordance with the social and gender indicators cited in the ProDoc.

6.3 Stakeholder Engagement

A stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) is included in the ProDoc (Annex 7) to ensure that project activities are conducted in an inclusive fashion, building from the consultations conducted during the project preparation phase. Stakeholder engagement supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships critical for a sound project design and implementation.

The SEP details each stakeholder group, engagement approach, the types of information to be disclosed per stakeholder group, and the communication methods that would be effective to communicate with each stakeholder group. Moreover, the SEP identifies the indicative activities per year of the project implementation.

The project will accordingly implement the SEP in conducting its activities and will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the annual, midterm, and end-of-project targets reporting.

7 WAYS FORWARD

The ASEAN ENMAPS Project Inception Workshop has brought stakeholders together to foster understanding and ownership of the project. Specifically, the workshop has provided a platform for the project stakeholders to plan and agree on the operational strategy and approaches of the Project, particularly focusing on how it will be implemented in 2024–29 at the regional level and in the pilot MPA sites in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

This section outlines the key strategies and action plans derived from the workshop's proceedings, emphasising the need for strengthened regional cooperation, capacity building, and the implementation of innovative management practices.

7.1 Conduct National Inception Meeting

National inception meetings in each beneficiary country will be conducted to discuss and agree on the specific activities to be conducted at each project site, while ensuring clarity and alignment of objectives. Mechanisms to harmonise the reporting of indicators across all sites shall also be established and agreed upon to facilitate consistent and comparable progress tracking throughout the project.

The composition guidelines of the NSC shall also be defined by each beneficiary country during the national inception meeting. These guidelines will ensure that the NSC includes representatives from relevant national agencies and stakeholders. Additionally, it is crucial to establish clear roles and responsibilities within each NSC to ensure effective coordination and decision-making. This can be achieved by developing a TOR document that outlines the expectations and duties of committee members.

To address the concerns of BARMM-MENRE, their autonomy could be reflected by ensuring their representation in the NSC. Additionally, it is essential to guarantee inclusive representation by ensuring that BARMM-MENRE's voice is heard and considered at national-level decisions through DENR's representation in the PSC. This approach will foster collaboration and ensure that MENRE-BARMM's unique needs and perspectives are integrated into the decision-making process.

7.2 Harmonising Monitoring Report

To ensure efficient and effective reporting, implementing easy-to-use reporting tools will be developed. Trainings will be provided to site-level teams to enable them to use the new reporting forms effectively. Additionally, a feedback mechanism will be established to continuously improve these forms based on user input. Developing a

monitoring system or app is crucial for enhancing reporting efficiency. Input from stakeholders will be gathered to ensure the system or app meets their needs and optimises the reporting process.

7.3 Revalidating Baseline Indicators

The baseline indicators of each beneficiary country will be revalidated to ensure their accuracy. Based on the findings from this revalidation, the necessary adjustments will be proposed for adoption for both the baseline indicators and the target indicators.

It is necessary to adjust project targets for Indonesia, as it is deemed to be very ambitious, while ensuring that the adjustments are still within the UNDP GEF guidelines. Justifications must be provided for these adjustments, especially if discrepancies in baseline indicators are identified.

7.4 Activity Agreement

Indonesia is recommended to promptly draft and transmit an official communication to formally confirm their intention to enter into an Activity Agreement with ACB. This communication should comprehensively outline the scope of site-level activities proposed under the Agreement.

ACB will then undertake a detailed analysis of Indonesia's proposal for its potential impact on the quarterly reporting and subsequent fund disbursements. This would enable ACB to ensure alignment with UNDP procedures and maintaining compliance with stringent financial accountability standards.

7.5 Work Plan 2024–25

7.5.1 Component 1: Research activities

Detailed resource assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem health within the MPAs are necessary to establish or revalidate the baselines at the pilot sites and inform management and conservation strategies.

SESA will also be undertaken to ensure sustainable and inclusive outcomes. Engaging local communities in this process is crucial to incorporate their insights and address their concerns.

Furthermore, an institutional analysis of governance challenges and opportunities should be conducted to identify existing issues within governance structures. This analysis should lead to the development of actionable recommendations aimed at

strengthening governance and institutional frameworks for improved MPA management.

Lastly, comprehensive training needs analysis shall be conducted with a regional scope, identifying gaps and requirements for capacity building. This analysis must involve stakeholders at various levels to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are captured.

7.5.2 Regional mobilisation

It is crucial to ensure that the PMU is fully operational and staffed with qualified personnel. This involves establishing the PMU and providing necessary training and resources for effective project management and implementation. Secondly, facilitating regular stakeholder consultations is essential to engage stakeholders, gather their input, build consensus, and secure stakeholder buy-in. Establishing mechanisms for continuous feedback from stakeholders will further enable adaptation and improvement of project activities based on their inputs.

The project will focus initially on the pilot sites in Indonesia and Thailand. The planned activities at these sites will proceed while awaiting permissions for the sites in the Philippines. Simultaneously, a contingency plan should be developed to swiftly expand activities to Philippine sites once permissions are granted. This proactive approach ensures that momentum is maintained and that project activities can begin promptly across all targeted sites as regulatory approvals are obtained.

7.5.3 Component 3: CEPA activities

To effectively enhance CEPA efforts within the ASEAN ENMAPS project, several strategic steps are outlined. Conducting a CEPA scoping study and audience research is essential to identify the key target groups for CEPA activities, clearly defining the scope and objectives of these activities based on research findings.

The design of the Training Needs Assessment should focus on customising training programs specifically tailored to address the identified needs from the assessment. Implementing these training programs aims to bolster stakeholder capacity in CEPA, thereby ensuring effective dissemination of project goals and objectives.

7.6 Project Sustainability

It is essential to conduct an impact assessment to evaluate the success of the current phase and develop a regional governance mechanism and financing plan to support long-term sustainability. Engaging stakeholders in this planning process is crucial to ensure their buy-in and support. Additionally, leveraging Component 3 of the Project

on Knowledge Management will facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building, integrating sustainability initiatives into these activities.

Negotiating with additional AMS requires developing and implementing a strategy to engage and secure their support, emphasising the project's benefits and successes to encourage participation. Finally, strengthening partnerships, particularly with the private sector on Blue Economy initiatives, and exploring additional funding opportunities will be vital to ensuring the project's long-term sustainability and success.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop Programme of Activities

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Time	Item
8:30 - 9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00 - 9:45	OPENING AND PROJECT LAUNCH Ms. Angelica De Castro <i>Master of Ceremonies</i> Programme Officer for Coastal and Marine Programmes Department, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) WELCOMING REMARKS For. Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs OIC Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources REMARKS Ms. Katri Kivioja (online live) Programme Management Specialist UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub for Asia and the Pacific Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim Executive Director ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
9:45 - 10:00	PRESENTATION: ASEAN ENMAPS Project Institutional Video
10:00 - 10:15	PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES
10:15 - 10:30	Morning Break
10:30 - 10:35	INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES by Ms. Angelica De Castro

Time	Item
INCEPTION PROPER	
10:35 - 10:50	PRESENTATION Objectives of the Inception Workshop Project Overview: Goal, Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs Dr. Sheila G. Vergara Project Manager and Chief Technical Adviser ASEAN ENMAPS
10:50 - 11:00	PRESENTATION Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, Project Risk Mr. Michael Francis Falconi Regional Safeguards Consultant ASEAN ENMAPS
11:00 – 11:30	PRESENTATION GEF Compliance, M&E Milestones and Requirements Mr. Sofiane Mahjoub Regional Technical Advisor for Water & Ocean UNDP Asia & the Pacific UNDP Compliance Requirements: Assurance Activities, Monitoring and Reporting by Mr. Ugyen Dorji Program Management and Oversight Specialist Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP Asia & the Pacific
11:30–11:45	PRESENTATION Project Results Framework Project Governance and Management Arrangements Dr. Sheila G. Vergara
11:45–12:00	Q&A
1:30 - 2:00	PRESENTATION ASEAN ENMAPS Work Plan and Budget Dr. Sheila G. Vergara Atty. Genalyn Soriano Head of Finance and Administration, ACB
2:00–2:15	Q&A
3:00 - 3:15	CLOSING OF THE MEETING CLOSING REMARKS

Appendix 2. Highlights of the ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop

Background

The Project Inception takes place following the signing of the Project Document and Project Cooperation Agreement. ACB and UNDP have scheduled the Project Inception Workshop for 6 June 2024. Additionally, the First Project Steering Committee Meeting will be held on 7 June 2024, immediately after the Inception Workshop, to discuss and act upon key recommendations from the workshop.

Highlights of the Project Inception Workshop

1. The transformative approach of the ASEAN ENMAPS project was highlighted in the presentations, which will be implemented through: i) science based approaches including connectivity patterns, information on the socio-economics, governance, policies and potential community engagement to inform the identification of marine protected area components, biodiversity corridors and networks; ii) integrated coastal management implementation, and iii) knowledge management that will ensure that learning gleaned from project implementation reached the target stakeholders
2. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) compliance monitoring and evaluation requirements were presented, such as project implementation reviews, midterm and terminal evaluations, social and environment risks identification and possible approach to address risks, adaptive management and quality assurance.
3. Concerns on adjusting the results framework was emphasised. Project proponents wishing to implement changes must do so in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidelines. Allowed changes include adjustments at the output or activity level and corrections to the baselines. However, the following cannot be changed: (1) downgrading planned results (objectives and outcomes) and (2) altering core GEF indicators. Any modification exceeding 10% in any GEF indicator is considered a major change. While the project can appeal such changes, approval is not guaranteed.
4. Reiteration of the ASEAN ENMAPS expected results per component:
 - a. Component 1: Four (4) sub-regions within the target LMEs, where ecological, socioeconomic and institutional connectivity confirmed; and Nine (9) MPA networks and associated marine corridors designed and endorsed.
 - b. Component 2: 1,750 people (of whom 50% are women) actively involved in community monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), reducing the threat of IUU and destructive fishing; Three (3) Blue Economy investment projects under implementation at demonstration scale;

Management plans for nine (9) MPA networks and associated marine corridors agreed through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) among key partners in the three countries; Six (6) dialogues convened with transboundary partners on potential collaborative management of MPA networks and marine corridors.

- c. Component 3: Improved institutional capacities on integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems, as measured by the project-specific capacity development scorecard; 30 knowledge products produced and disseminated (10 showcasing gender mainstreaming results); 1,000 visits to knowledge sharing space(s); two GEF IW Conference participated in; ten (10) Experience Notes produced and disseminated through IW:LEARN channels (two focused on gender mainstreaming and Indigenous Peoples issues).
5. The Meeting agreed on the Project Governance and Management Arrangements particularly on the five (5) members composition of the Project Steering Committee at the Regional level such as Development Partner: UNDP, Project Executive: ASOEN/ACB Governing Board; and Project Beneficiary Representatives: Indonesia (MoEF), Philippines (DENR), and Thailand (ONEP). It was further clarified that the GB/ASOEN will be represented by one seat only and that is the incumbent GB/ASOEN Chair. However, it was underlined that this position needs to be mandated by the GB/ASOEN. It was also clarified that the representation of the Beneficiary Countries in the ENMAPS PSC can be taken on by any national agencies that will be endorsed by their respective national steering committee for the ENMAPS.
6. The Meeting agreed on the terms of reference of the Project Steering Committee to include high-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner; and approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner.
7. The Meeting agreed to further discuss the composition and structure of the National Steering Committee.
8. The breakdown of the project financing was discussed in detail. The majority of the funding will be allocated to Component 2, which focuses on site-level activities, particularly capacity building for stakeholders. It was also emphasised that the GEF has set quotas for each country, allowing each participating country to determine its own level of co-financing for the project. It was stressed that the funds contributed by each participating country will be spent within their respective countries to ensure that investments strengthen the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and achieve the project goals.

9. Presented the total allocation for 2024 (Q2-Q4) and 2025 (Q1-Q2) as:

COMPONENT	BUDGET ALLOCATION (USD)	
	2024 (Q2-Q4)	2025 (Q1-Q2)
Component 1. Multifaceted approach to supporting and expanding networks of marine protected areas (MPAs)	151,594	241,124
Component 2: Strengthening the enabling environment for management and governance of MPA networks	151,195	193,502
Component 3: Learning, knowledge management and networking	156,797	129,183
Project Management	182,970	148,583
GRAND TOTAL	642,556	712,392

10. It was agreed that with regard to the composition of the PSC members, there should only be one representative per country. This is stipulated in the ProDoc; similarly, there is only one GEF focal point per country. Alternatively, each participating country can have a national steering committee that will include the participating MPAs.
11. The fund disbursement was likewise underscored in the inception workshop. It was stressed that the subsequent fund installments will be downloaded to ACB subject to the submission of the technical and financial reports and meet the 80% disbursement requirement.
12. The Indonesia team communicated their intention to enter into an Activity Agreement with ACB for implementing site-level activities. ACB recommended that Indonesia send an official communication to facilitate further discussions between ACB and UNDP on this matter.

Appendix 3. Total Pick-Up

Table A1. Total pick-up of ASEAN ENMAPS Project launch and Inception Workshop

No.	Date	Title	Website/ Media Outfit	Link
1	3 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project	Eco-Business	https://www.eco-business.com/press-releases/asean-undp-launch-marine-conservation-project/#:~:text=The%20Asean%20Centre%20for%20Biodiversity,marine%20conservation%20project%E2%80%93%20Effectively%20Managing
2	3 Jun 2024	Asean and UNDP launch marine conservation project Press releases Asia	BuffaloBrewPub	https://buffalobrewpub.ca/orange/0a9196241aka52/
3	4 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project	Presidential Communications Office	https://www.facebook.com/pcogovph/photos/manila-philippines-the-asean-centre-for-biodiversity-acb-and-the-united-nations-d/864100372409357/?_rdr
4	4 June 2024	New Marine Conservation Project Launched in Southeast Asia	Protected Planet via FB	https://www.facebook.com/protectedplanet/posts/pfbid0YQtgFQidi6PJz48wHqHsL6F5MEbWD9E5t2xQr2Cw3yPY4cLiR9uNWHXXMF89CsPHI
5	4 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project	Radyo Pilipinas Iligan via FB	https://www.facebook.com/RadyoPilipinasIligan/posts/pfbid02ARkdibtpo3We4JPTPZ6zhNNYZUEU5WDSrvYiJSaJFftdvpoDQjFK2q46y22zKUmil
6	6 June 2024	ASEAN and UNDP launch joint GEF-funded marine conservation project	undp.org	https://www.undp.org/nature/press-releases/asean-enmaps
7	6 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project with Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand	PIA CALABARZON FB Page	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/UL1AgwWspfb5GSFA/?mibextid=xfxF2i
8	8 June 2024	Southeast Asia harbors 1/3 of world's coastal and marine habitats, including coral reefs, mangroves,	UNDP Climate on X	https://x.com/UNDPClimate/status/1799256916129964066

No.	Date	Title	Website/ Media Outfit	Link
		seagrass and seaweed beds, and more. What better way to celebrate @WorldOceansDay than launch of the @gef @undp @asean joint marine conservation project?		
9	8 June 2024	What better way to celebrate hashtag#WorldOceans Day than the launch of the Global Environment Facility, UNDP, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity joint marine conservation project?	UNDP in Asia and the Pacific on LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undp-in-asia-and-the-pacific_worldoceansday-oceanaction-oceandecade-activity-7205024716804268032-4f8J?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
10	8 June 2024	What better way to celebrate #WorldOceansDay than the launch of the Global Environment Facility, UNDP, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity joint marine conservation project?	UNDP in Asia and the Pacific on Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ivGz7znmSckYsUVv/?mibextid=xfxF2i
11	8 June 2024	What better way to celebrate #WorldOceans Day than the launch of the Global Environment Facility, UNDP, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity joint marine conservation project?	UNDP Asia and the Pacific on Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/p/C78AqgRN0j4/?img_index=1
12	8 June 2024	ASEAN and UNDP Announce Landmark Marine Conservation Project for World Ocean Day 2024	Responsibleus.com	https://responsibleus.com/asean-and-undp-announce-landmark-marine-conservation-project-for-world-ocean-day-2024/
13	8 June 2024	ASEAN and UNDP launch a joint GEF-funded marine conservation project	grinningface.ca	https://www.grinningface.ca/vir458/tjfaic81265k1dcd05.php
14	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	Philippine Information Agency	https://www.pia.gov.ph/asean-undp-launch-marine-conservation-project-in-key-sea-areas/

No.	Date	Title	Website/ Media Outfit	Link
15	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA CALABARZON via FB	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/nXAX3jczgc24J19z/?mibextid=xfxF2i
16	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA Laguna	https://www.facebook.com/piagovphlaguna/posts/pfbid07Vw4MupYT5oyHthh5Y5VrgKqUvKYQAZJotF3nzix9ZxibUXJGtQPQWMogEAvPjgPI
17	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA Cavite	https://www.facebook.com/piagovphcavite/posts/pfbid02pEUT716tSLRgVfK95qPWSd9V7SPJWLXDKoZgaDggGETbwwrH2j3UA4okJAGaWQHcl
18	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA Batangas	https://www.facebook.com/piagovphbatangas/posts/pfbid04EnFLtctWsWaBcbjqZVcxYEhVBxN3HYZoreatYPpXHfUwZp6FZZegfkV9ip6BJZgl
19	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA Rizal	https://www.facebook.com/piagovphrizal/posts/pfbid024GRCci3M1MCbzxdUUhPysvBs7qkepde2GhUX8YeVDw9gWQf991TQtMfNQh93D6sCI
20	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas	PIA Quezon	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/6SiTsGSKBDWJfACr/?mibextid=xfxF2i
21	10 June 2024	ASEAN, UNDP launch joint marine conservation project in key sea areas	Rising Tigers Magazine	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=516090450742117&set=a.206099371741228
22	10 June 2024	ACB and UNDP launch GEF-funded marine conservation project with ASEAN countries	Nusanterra	https://nusanterra.com/blog/week-24-conservation-finance-news
23	11 June 2024	MENRE emphasizes interagency collaboration in marine protection at 1st ASEAN-ENMAPS steering committee meeting	MENRE-BARMM via FB	https://www.facebook.com/MENREBARMM/posts/pfbid037bPeZbkx1N7qatmSsRztntSWmuPtywJqporBUbFGPLBFJDbgpczjE9jsBMoRjXHGI
24	11 June 2024	MENRE's commitment to marine protection highlighted at ASEAN ENMAPS launching	MENRE-BARMM via FB	https://www.facebook.com/MENREBARMM/posts/pfbid0ZBtLXg2gMhmU5JKGo5RYSTEWWwupXfCdvgZha6w4hFdxKAU7wv615c2XtXpwwfMAWI

No.	Date	Title	Website/ Media Outfit	Link
25	12 June 2024	MENRE's commitment to marine protection highlighted at ASEAN ENMAPS launching	MENRE Bangsamoro	https://menre.bangsamoro.gov.ph/menres-commitment-to-marine-protection-highlighted-at-asean-enmaps-launching/
26	12 June 2024	MENRE emphasizes interagency collaboration in marine protection at 1st ASEAN ENMAPS Steering Committee Meeting	MENRE Bangsamoro	https://menre.bangsamoro.gov.ph/menre-emphasizes-interagency-collaboration-in-marine-protection-at-1st-asean-enmaps-steering-committee-meeting/
27	14 June 2024	DENR-BMB will hire more workers for protected areas	Philippine Information Agency	https://www.pia.gov.ph/denr-bmb-will-hire-more-workers-for-protected-areas/
28	14 June 2024	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and UNP launch GEF funded MPA project	Capital for Climate	https://www.capitalforclimate.com/newsletter/5-7-billion-across-21-deals-in-transition-finance-4-9-billion-nature-based-solutions-341-million-carbon-removal-187-million-hard-to-abate-industries-213-million-and-the-blue-economy-70-million
29	16 June 2024	Responding to challenges in marine biodiversity through ASEAN ENMAPS	BusinessMirror	https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/responding-to-challenges-in-marine-biodiversity-through-asean-enmaps/

Appendix 4. List of Participants to the ASEAN ENMAPS Project Launch and Inception Workshop

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Appendix 5. Roles and Responsibilities of Project Organisation Structure

A5.1 General Roles and Responsibilities in the Project Governance Mechanism

A5.1.1 Executing Agency

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is the Executing Agency for this project, entrusted by the UNDP Administrator to execute the specified UNDP assistance. The ACB is fully responsible and accountable for the effective use of GEF resources and the delivery of project outputs.

The Executing Agency is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

1. Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, ensuring timely and comprehensive reporting of results and financial data;
2. Managing project risks, both pre-identified and new ones that may arise;
3. Procuring goods and services, including hiring human resources;
4. Managing finances, overseeing expenditures against project budgets;
5. Approving and signing the multiyear work plan;
6. Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and
7. Signing the financial report or the funding authorisation and certificate of expenditures.

A5.1.2 Project Stakeholders and Target Groups

The primary stakeholders in this project include national and regional conservation and fisheries ministries and departments in the three beneficiary countries, management bodies of the 11 designated MPAs, and local government units where the MPAs are located. Key stakeholders also include civil society organisations, private sector businesses, and academic research institutes involved in marine biodiversity conservation and sustainability. The target groups are local communities, including Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable populations, particularly those involved in fishing and tourism near the MPAs.

Results of the respective national inception meetings, and surveys conducted for the gender and safeguards compliance and fisheries may indicate new sets of stakeholders both at the national and local levels.

A5.1.3 UNDP

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Executing Agency to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Executing Agency, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the PSC Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the PSC. The Regional Hub Manager (or his/her designate) attends PSC meetings as a voting member.

A5.2 Project Governance Structure

UNDP Regional Hub Manager assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. S/he attends the PSC meetings as a voting member. A UNDP Regional Programme Management Unit representative will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the PSC, and therefore attend PSC meetings as a non-voting member.

Second line of defense:

- Regional Bureau oversees Regional Hub Manager and Regional Hub compliance at portfolio level.
- The Regional Technical Advisor, Nature and Climate Energy of the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support of the Nature, Climate, and Energy (BPPS NCE RTA) oversees technical quality assurance and ensures that the project complies with GEF policies and procedures. S/he attends the PSC meetings in the assurance role, as a non-voting member. BPPS NCE Principal Technical Advisor (PTA) oversees RTA function.
- UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and BPPS Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

A5.3 Segregation of Duties and Firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP Representation on the PSC

In cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a:

- Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and
- Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

A5.4 Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organisation Structure

A5.4.1 Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Main roles of the PSC

- 1) *High-level oversight of the project executed by the Executing Agency.* This involves conducting annual and as-needed assessments of major project risks and deciding on management actions or remedial measures to address them. The Committee reviews project performance evidence through monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs, and the combined delivery report. The PSC is tasked with taking corrective actions as needed to ensure the project achieves its desired results.
- 2) *Approves strategic decisions made by the Executing Agency* to assess and manage risks, monitor progress towards achieving projected results and impacts, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's execution.

Requirements to serve on the PSC

- 1) Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- 2) Meet annually; at least once.
- 3) Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a PSC member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- 4) Discharge the functions of the PSC in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- 5) Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure PSC meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the PSC

1) Consensus decision making

- The PSC provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report; The PSC is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
- To ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, PSC decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- In case consensus cannot be reached within the PSC, the UNDP representative on the PSC will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

2) Oversee project execution

- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Executing Agency for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the Executing Agency.
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

3) Risk Management

- Provide guidance on evolving or materialised project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Executing Agency. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances

4) Coordination

- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the PSC

- 1) Project Executive. This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the PSC. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Executing Agency). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the PSC with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is the ASEAN Senior Official on Environment (ASOEN)/ACB Governing Board (GB).
- 2) Beneficiary Representatives. Beneficiary representatives on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) advocate for the interests of stakeholders who will benefit from the project's outcomes. They ensure that project results align with beneficiary perspectives, often representing civil society, industry associations, or relevant government entities. Each participating country nominates representatives, such as Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture, and Thailand's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Department of Fisheries. These representatives participate in PSC decisions, each country having one vote, to finalise their roles during the project's inception phase.
- 3) Development Partners. Development Partners represent entities providing funding, strategic guidance, or technical expertise to the project. In this context,

the BRH Manager holds this role. BRH may designate the Resident Representative or Deputy Resident Representative from a participating country office to attend Board meetings on behalf of UNDP. Additionally, UNDP will co-chair the PSC alongside the Development Partner, ensuring collaboration and oversight in project management and decision-making.

A5.4.2 Project assurance

Project assurance involves the responsibility of each PSC member, with UNDP holding a distinct role in ensuring objective and independent oversight and monitoring of its projects. UNDP conducts quality assurance, supporting the PSC and PMU by monitoring compliance with UNDP's risk management, social, and environmental standards. This function remains independent of project execution, and the PSC retains sole responsibility for project assurance, unable to delegate these duties to the Project Manager.

UNDP's three-tier project assurance function

Tier 1: UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. The UNDP BRH Manager assumes full responsibility for overseeing and assuring the quality of the project, ensuring it adheres to GEF requirements and UNDP's operational standards. A representative from the Regional PMU of UNDP BRH supports this assurance role, presenting findings to the PSC. The PMU representative attends PSC meetings as a non-voting member, supporting the Hub Manager in overseeing regional projects effectively.

Tier 2: UNDP Regional Bureau. The Regional Bureau Deputy Director assumes full responsibility and accountability to provide oversight to BRH to ensure compliance with all UNDP regulations and rules.

Tier 3: UNDP BPPS NCE. The unit that provides technical quality assurance and ensures that the project complies with GEF policies and procedures.

The designated UNDP representative with project assurance role is required to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting member. This role includes ensuring that necessary documentation is provided to enable board members to fulfill their duties effectively. Although UNDP's project assurance role may cover activities at various levels (global, regional), at least one representative, specifically the UNDP RTA BPPS NCE, must attend board meetings and fulfill these responsibilities as part of their duties.

A5.4.3 Project management: Project execution

The Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor (PM-CTA) oversees the day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Executing Agency, including mobilising project resources, supervising staff and consultants, and presenting key deliverables

to the board for review and approval. The PMU, led by the PM-CTA, includes various officers such as Regional Fisheries Officer, Gender-Safeguards Officer, M&E Officer, Communications Officer, Finance Specialist, Accounting Officer, Procurement Officer, and Logistics Officer. The PM-CTA is hired by the Executing Agency (ACB) through a selection panel involving UNDP, ACB, and a participating country representative. A designated PMU representative, typically the PM-CTA, attends board meetings as a non-voting member to support board processes.

Coordination

ACB will coordinate the project using national focal points from AWGs (e.g. CME and NCB). Coordination will also involve the AHP network. Additionally, the project will align with governance mechanisms across LMEs including the Sulu-Celebes Seas, South China Sea, Indonesian Seas, and the Bay of Bengal.

National implementation and coordination

National Implementation Units will be set up in each of the three beneficiary countries, composed of National Technical Officers and Site Officers. These positions are fully dedicated and funded under the project's technical components, tasked with providing technical assistance and supporting project activities. National Technical Officers will work within national focal entities, while Site Officers will be integrated into the management administrations of targeted sites. These units are essential components of the regional project management structure.

A national coordination mechanism in the form of National Steering Committee will be established, led by the national focal entities and include representatives from the UNDP country offices, National Technical Officers, cooperating national ministries/agencies, local agencies, and other key stakeholders (e.g. NGOs).

Appendix 6. Work Plan and Budget, 2024–25

Table A2. Annual work plan and budget, 2024–25

Output	Key Activities	Budget Allocation (USD)	
		2024 (Q2-Q4)	2025 (Q1-Q2)
COMPONENT 1. Multifaceted approach to supporting and expanding networks of MPAs			
Outcome 1.1: New or strengthened MPA networks conceptualised through ecological, socio-economic, and governance linkages across proposed marine corridors			
Output 1.1.1. Scientific studies and modelling, social and environmental assessments, and institutional analyses completed to inform functional connectivity within the target LMEs	Regional Training Needs Analysis on Capacity Scores on Ecosystem-Based Approaches in Fisheries Management	151,594	241,124
	Update and synthesise available marine, fisheries, and connectivity science information in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand		
	Conduct social and environmental assessments to evaluate the impact of proposed MPA networks		
	Analyse institutional frameworks to understand governance challenges and opportunities for MPAs		
COMPONENT 2. Strengthening the enabling environment for management and governance of MPANs			
Outcome 2.1: Improved management of target MPAs through addressing key threats, strengthening integrated approaches and enhancing financial sustainability			
Output 2.1.1. MPA management plans enhanced, and priority actions implemented, recognizing ecological, socioeconomic and institutional linkages and addressing threats that disrupt connectivity and marine ecosystem functionalities	Review of MPA management plans	58,735	78,147
	Conduct of Resource Inventory of MPAs in Indonesia and Thailand		

Output	Key Activities	Budget Allocation (USD)	
		2024 (Q2–Q4)	2025 (Q1–Q2)
	Stakeholders' consultation for enhancing/ developing MPA management plans		
Output 2.1.2. Integrated management approaches strengthened and implemented in at least one site per country	Project management mobilisation	19,534	19,534
Output 2.1.3. Priority investment projects studied, developed and pilot tested, contributing towards achievement of financial sustainability of MPAs and inclusion of local communities	Project management mobilisation	23,534	23,534
Output 2.1.4. Entrepreneurial skills and sustainable livelihood initiatives enhanced, helping local communities and partners be more meaningfully engaged in MPA management, with an emphasis on inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups	Project management mobilisation	27,287	27,287
Outcome 2.2: Management and governance arrangements of MPANs and associated marine corridors initiated			
Output 2.2.1. Marine corridor cooperation mechanisms collaboratively identified and agreed upon by stakeholders at appropriate governance levels	Project management mobilisation	11,686	11,686
Output 2.2.2. Marine corridor management interventions designed, and implementation initiated	Stakeholders' consultation for enhancing/ developing MPA management plans	10,419	33,314
Component 3: Learning, knowledge management and networking			
Outcome 3.1: Adaptive management and sustainability facilitated through M&E, communications and knowledge management, and portfolio-wide learning			
Output 3.1.1: Capacities in integrated marine ecosystem management strengthened through trainings on the application of tools and methodologies such as ICM, MSP, nature-based solutions, investment planning and biodiversity-sensitive fisheries management	Preparation of project communication peripherals Training needs assessment design	14,983	14,983

Output	Key Activities	Budget Allocation (USD)	
		2024 (Q2-Q4)	2025 (Q1-Q2)
Output 3.1.2. Communications and knowledge management strategy and action plan developed and implemented	Conduct of CEPA scoping study, which includes baseline studies, audience and stakeholders research as inputs to the Communications and knowledge management strategy and action plan Development and initial roll-out of Communications and knowledge management strategy and action plan for ENMAPS Development of ENMAPS visibility and branding	22,551	23,121
Output 3.1.3. IW: LEARN and IW portfolio-wide learning through cross LME exchanges, IW conference, workshops, and trainings	Capacity building for ENMAPS personnel on writing project results and impacts Packaging of research studies Sharing of experience and promoting coastal and marine biodiversity conservation through MPAs and ecosystem-based fisheries management among ASEAN governments and stakeholders and at UN CBD scale across various platforms Development of CEPA materials	86,407	18,704
Output 3.1.4. Project implementation and results monitored, evaluated and reported	Audience and Stakeholder Research CEPA Scoping Study Validation of core indicators baseline data as part of the mobilisation activities at the national level Preparation of comprehensive quarterly reports summarizing progress against targets Year 1 report preparation and submission Year-end assessment and evaluation	32,856	72,375

Output	Key Activities	Budget Allocation (USD)	
		2024 (Q2-Q4)	2025 (Q1-Q2)
PROJECT MANAGEMENT COST	Engagement of PMU staff/mobilisation	182,970	148,583
	Procurement of office/admin supplies		
	Procurement of IT equipment		
	Conduct financial audit for year 1 (for procurement of UNDP)		
GRAND TOTAL		642,556	712,392

Appendix 7. Environmental and Social Safeguards Risks

Table A3. Identified environmental and social safeguards risks in ASEAN ENMAPS Project based on UNDP SESP

Overarching Principle/ Project-Level Standard	Rating	Risks	SES Requirements
Principle: Human Rights	Substantial	Risk 1, Risk 2, Risk 4, Risk 6, Risk 7, Risk 9, and Risk 12	SESA, ESIA, ESMP, IPP, SEP
Principle: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Substantial	Risk 1 and Risk 4	GAP, SESA, ESIA, ESMP
Principle: Accountability	Substantial	Risk 1, Risk 9, Risk 12	SEP, SESA, ESIA, ESMP
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	Moderate	Risk 1 and Risk 5	SESA, ESIA, ESMP
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	Substantial	Risk 1 and Risk 8	ESIA, ESMP
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety, and Security	Moderate	Risk 1, Risk 6, Risk 11	ESIA, ESMP
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	Substantial	Risk 1, Risk 2, and Risk 10	ESIA, ESMP, SEP, IPP, GAP
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	Substantial	Risk 1 and Risk 3	SESA, ESIA, ESMP, SEP, IPP, LAP
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	Substantial	Risk 1, Risk 2, Risk 3, and Risk 6	SESA, ESIA, ESMP, IPP, SEP, GAP

Note: (1) Risk 1 = "Upstream" management policies/programmes may cause various environmental and social impacts
Risk 2 = Adverse impacts on the rights, lands, resources and territories, or cultural heritage
Risk 3 = Increased enforcement of unsustainable practices, potentially leading to economic displacement
Risk 4 = Non-involvement, discrimination of women, and gender-based violence
Risk 5 = Poorly designed or executed project activities causing damages
Risk 6 = Potential OSH and security risks to workers of livelihood activities
Risk 7 = Support to youth start-ups or youth-led SMEs may cause unintended environmental strain as part of the supply chain
Risk 8 = Vulnerability of communities to the effects of climate change and/or disaster hazards
Risk 9 = Duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations
Risk 10 = Potential damage and degradation of cultural heritage sites
Risk 11 = Exposure from a possible public health crisis
Risk 12 = Private sector partners do not meet SES requirements in activities
(2) ESIA/MP = Environment and Social Impact Assessment/Management Plan
GAP = gender action plan
IPP = Indigenous Peoples Plan
LAP = local action plan
SEP = Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SESA = Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments

By signing below, we hereby certify that the information provided in this report is complete, true, and correct to the best of our knowledge.

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

Project Executive

Incumbent Chair, ASEAN ENMAPS Project Steering Committee

Incumbent Chair, ACB Governing Board/

ASEAN Senior Official on Environment

Date

DR. SOFIANE MAHJOUB

Development Partner

Co-chair, ASEAN ENMAPS Project Steering Committee

Manager, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

Date



