

**WORKSHOP FOR NORTH-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA
ON THE BBNJ AGREEMENT**

**OVERVIEW OF OCEAN GOVERNANCE
FRAMEWORKS AND CHALLENGES IN
NORTH-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA,
WITH A FOCUS ON THE BBNJ AGREEMENT**

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OUTLINE

- **IFBs IN NORTH-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**
- **‘NOT UNDERMINE’ AND ‘COOPERATION’**
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OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL BODIES

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

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

IOC/UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC)

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF)

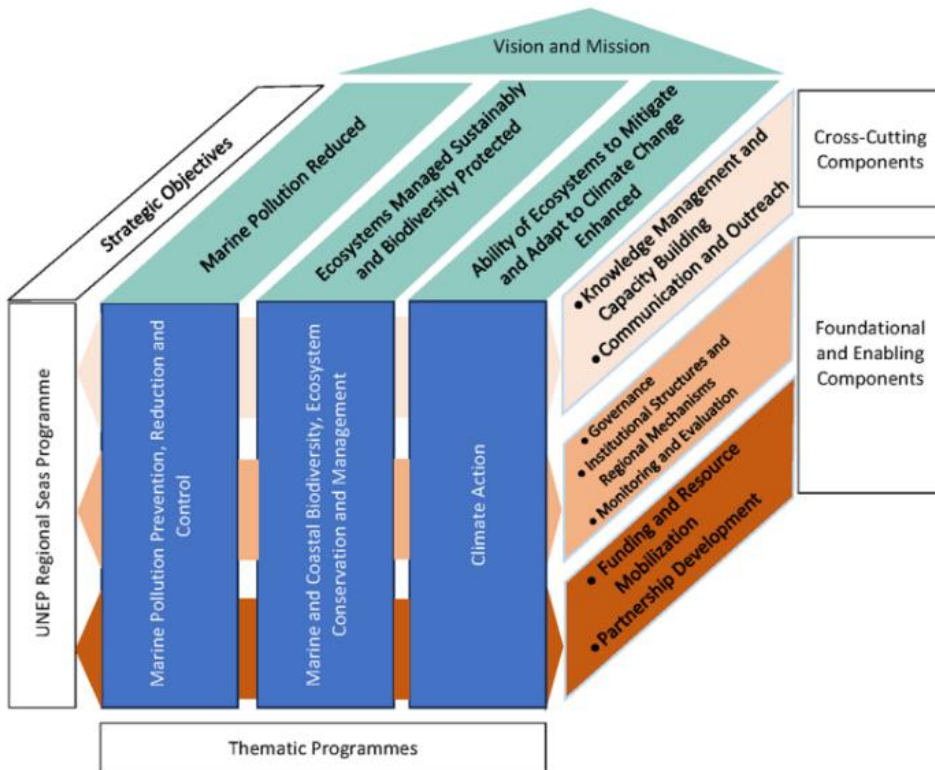
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

- One of the 18 **Regional Seas Programmes** under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand
- Geographic: marine and coastal areas of the East Asian Region
- Seas of East Asia Action Plan, members: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, RO Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- Strategic Directions 2023-2027
 - Thematic programmes include **marine and coastal biodiversity**, ecosystem conservation and management
 - Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Framework, 2023
 - Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE)



Strategic Objective: To develop integrated and harmonized strategies, policies, knowledge products, and tools for the **sustainable management of the marine and coastal ecosystems and protection of biodiversity** in the East Asian Seas region to ensure a coordinated strategic approach to the conservation and governance of marine and coastal resources and a transition to a sustainable blue economy.

<https://www.unep.org/cobsea/news/story/cobsea-countries-adopt-new-strategic-directions-2023-2027>

- One of the 18 **Regional Seas Programmes** under UNEP
- Geographic scope: the marine environment and coastal zones from about 121E to 143E longitude, and from approximately 33N to 52N latitude.
- Four Regional Activity Centres in every member state and one Regional Coordinating Unit in Toyama and Busan:
 - Data & Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC), Beijing, China
 - Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre,(POMRAC), Vladivostok, Russia
 - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness & Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC), Daejeon, RO Korea
 - **Special Monitoring Coastal Environmental Assessment** Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC), Toyama, Japan

To **conserve marine and coastal biodiversity** is one of the four priority areas in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (2018-2023), including the plan to develop a Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation in the NOWPAP region

Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC), evaluates threats to **marine and coastal biodiversity** in the Northwest Pacific, including invasive species, harmful algal blooms, eutrophication, and habitat changes. CEARAC's assessments have produced valuable technical data to aid national policies addressing environmental threats such as eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, marine litter, and pressures on seagrass habitats.

PEMSEA

A regional coordinating mechanism for the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas in the region of East Asian Seas. PEMSEA has 11 Country Partners and 21 Non-Country Partners to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

Country partners: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, the Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor Leste and Viet Nam

Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
Implementation Plan 2023-2027: Integrated Coastal Management, MPAs, Ecosystem-based Management, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation

IOC-UNESCO established IOC-WESTPAC in 1989

Main mandate is to develop, coordinate and implement regionally specific marine scientific research, ocean observations and services based on priority interests of the Member States and to implement the IOC global programmes and activities in the region. 22 Member States, including Australia, RO Korea, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam

IOC-WESTPAC aims to support countries by providing insights into biodiversity status, ecosystem functions, and the effects of increasing human activities and climate change. This is achieved through field sampling, laboratory experiments, species identification, and restoration techniques, which help inform management, policies, and decisions.

<https://ioc-westpac.org/work-areas/marine-biodiversity-and-ecosystem/>

PICES is an intergovernmental science organization, established in 1992 under the Convention for a North Pacific Marine Science Organization

PICES aims to promote and coordinate marine research in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas. PICES members are Canada, Japan, PRC, RO Korea, Russia, and the US.

Article II of the PICES Convention

The area which the activities of the Organization concern shall be the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, especially northward from 30 degrees North Latitude...Activities of the Organization, for scientific reasons, may extend farther southward in the North Pacific Ocean.

The topics of WGs under PICES cover ecology of seamounts and biodiversity of biogenic habitats

CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries to address environmental issues, including climate change and marine biodiversity in the Coral Reef Triangle

Six custodians of the Coral Triangle area: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste

Threatened Species Working Group aims to implement Goal 5 of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action: threatened species status improving.

This working group aspires to improve the status of marine species listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or listed under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including sharks and rays, sea turtles, seabirds, marine mammals and corals, to prevent their extinction and supporting healthier marine and coastal ecosystems

SEAFDEC was established in 1967 as an autonomous inter-governmental body. Its mission is to promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

11 Member Countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Five technical departments:

the Training Department (Thailand); the Marine Fisheries Research Department (Singapore); the Aquaculture Department (the Philippines); the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (Malaysia); and the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (Indonesia)

SEAFDEC, with its commitment to promoting sustainable management of fisheries across inland, coastal and marine ecosystems and habitats, is exploring measures to future implementation of the BBNJ Agreement

For regional fishery bodies, as both the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the BBNJ Agreement are implementing agreements to UNCLOS, it is essential to understand the relations between these two instruments, how they can contribute to enhancing effective implementation of the global legal regime under UNCLOS

- Article 10 of the BBNJ Agreement

NEASPEC is a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework addressing environmental challenges in Northeast Asia. Its establishment in 1993 was a follow-up of the 1992 Earth Summit, to promote environmental cooperation in the subregion, with six member states, China, DPR Korea, Japan, Mongolia, RO Korea and Russia.

NEASPEC takes a step-by-step and practical approach to enhance subregional cooperation and it works on five programmatic areas jointly identified by member States as subregional priorities, including nature conservation and marine protected areas (NEAMPAN)

NEASPEC established NEAMPAN in 2013 with a goal to establish an effective, functional representative network of MPAs in the subregion, to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity, and more efficient MPA management.

This network of MPAs provides a platform for information sharing, joint assessment, monitoring, as well as partnership with other regional and global MPA networks.

As of 2021, a total of 12 sites have been nominated, including six from China, one from Japan, three from RO Korea and two from Russia.

Established in 2005, ACB demonstrates ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss. As an intergovernmental organization, it facilitates cooperation and coordination among ASEAN member states, and coordinates with regional and international organisations on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

ASEAN Heritage Park Programme is a signature programme for protected areas in Southeast Asia. It highlights outstanding wilderness and biodiversity values in Southeast Asia and helps the region generate awareness of the conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage

- Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP)

‘NOT UNDERMINE’ AND ‘COOPERATION’

By introducing both the articles/approach on ‘not undermine’ and ‘cooperation’, negotiations and the text of the BBNJ Agreement comprehensively consider the background of existing institutional landscape of IFBs, and emphasise cooperative and coordinated relationships between the BBNJ Agreement and IFBs, and avoidance of legal inconsistencies

Examples

Article 5 on ‘not undermine’

Article 8 on international cooperation

Article 17(b) on cooperation

Article 29(2) on collaboration

CHALLENGES OPPORTUNITIES

The choosing of a coordinated and cooperative approach for the regions

Fragmented memberships

Mandates of IFBs do not specifically mention ABMTs, EIAs and other approaches in BBNJ Agreement

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA
Mr. Georgy Volovik, NOWPAP
Mr. Wenxi Zhu, IOC-WESTPAC
Ms. Theresa Mundita S. Lim (ACB)
Ms. Gusung Lee, PEMSEA
Ms. Sonia Batten, PICES (remote)