



## Concept Note

### SCS SAP–PEMSEA Collaboration on Learning Exchange and Study Tours Through Participation in the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) for Sustainable Coastal Development 16–18 September 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia

#### 1. Background and Rationale

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a regional coordinating mechanism for the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas in the East Asian Seas region. PEMSEA has 11 Country Partners (CP) and 22 Non-Country Partners (NCP) to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. The eleven Countries Partners (CP) are China, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, and Timor Leste. PEMSEA has a unique operating modality from the regional (Partnership Council, national (Country and non-country partners) and local levels (LGUs)

The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) for Sustainable Coastal Development was established in 2006 in Haikou, China. The PNLG is recognized as one of the major driving forces in operationalizing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) under the broad framework of PEMSEA. The PNLG has made major contributions to the SDS-SEA implementation through facilitating the implementation of ICM programs and addressing aspects of sustainable coastal and marine development. It also serves as an effective voice of local governments in fostering sustainable and inclusive blue economy in the region. The PNLG facilitates the sustainable development and environmental conservation of marine and coastal resources of East Asia through advocacy, knowledge sharing, forging multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships among local governments, national agencies, civil society groups including NGOs and people's organizations and the private sector.

The PNLG Forum is an annual local governance event focused on the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) that aims to improve coordination, communication and opportunities to share best practices on integrated management approaches. The PNLG Forum will be held in Jakarta with the theme "Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: Linking Climate, Nature & Energy".

The Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project) is a regional project which aims to 'assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea (SCS) through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthening regional co-ordination for SCS SAP implementation.' This will be achieved through the cooperation of participating countries, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, public-private sectors partnerships, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and leading scientists from the region. The SCS SAP Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented and executed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services, respectively in partnership with the Ministries responsible for environment in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The SCS SAP Project recognizes the value of experiential learning and peer-to-peer exchange in strengthening coastal and marine resource management. As provided in the project document and workplan, knowledge and best practice exchanges among governments, scientists, coastal managers, youth, and relevant organizations are essential for fostering regional collaboration and long-term sustainability. In line with this, the SCS SAP and PEMSEA have agreed to co-organize a learning exchange and study tour in conjunction with the 2025 PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

#### 2. Objectives and Expected Results

- Capacity Building: Enhance the knowledge and skills of SCS SAP local/site managers in integrated coastal management (ICM) approaches, tools, and processes.
- Networking: Facilitate connections between local government officials and habitat/pollution managers to share best practices in sustainable coastal development.

- Regional Integration: Strengthen collaboration between SCS SAP and PEMSEA to support long-term regional sustainability efforts.

### 3. Key Topics and Sessions

- SCS SAP–PEMSEA Collaboration: Joint initiatives on MPA networking, mapping, study tours, and participation in regional/global conferences (EAS, Busan, UNOC).
- SCS SAP Progress Updates: Regional and national implementation of the SAP, including SEA:STARS, SEA:LEARN, SEA:PUFFER, and small grants.
- SCS SAP Site-Level Achievements: Project sites presentations on achievements and experiences.
- PNLG Participation: Engagement in PEMSEA-led sessions and field visits to showcase local innovations and partnerships.

### 4. Participants

- 18 Local/Site Managers (3 per country from 6 participating countries)
- 6 National Coordinators (1 per country)
- SCS SAP Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)
- PEMSEA Secretariat and PNLG representatives

### 5. Session Format (SCS SAP Session – 17 September)

- Roundtable Setup: 2 countries per table; 4 participants per country (3 site managers + 1 national coordinator)
- Country Presentations: 20 minutes per country, featuring 3 site-level case studies
- Agenda Highlights:
  - Opening Remarks (SCS SAP Project Manager, PEMSEA Executive Director)
  - Keynote Address (TBD)
  - Country Presentations and Discussions
  - Closing Remarks (SCS SAP Project Manager)

### 6. Contact Persons

- SCS SAP: Reynaldo Molina ([reynaldom@unops.org](mailto:reynaldom@unops.org)) and Ob-Orm Utthasit ([obormu@unops.org](mailto:obormu@unops.org))
- PEMSEA: Abigail Cruzada ([acruzada@pemsea.org](mailto:acruzada@pemsea.org))

### 7. Draft PNLG and SCS SAP Agenda

Date	Time	Activity
15 Sept (Monday)	All day	Arrival and Registration
16 Sept (Tuesday)	09:00–16:00	PNLG Opening, Learning Forum, Welcome Dinner
17 Sept (Wednesday)	08:00–12:00	PNLG Site Visit
	14:00–15:30	PNLG General Assembly
	<b>14:00–17:00</b>	<b>SCS SAP Session, Country Presentations, Closing</b> - See detailed session agenda below
18 Sept (Thursday)	07:00–16:00	PNLG Field Trip
19 Sept (Friday)	All day	Departure

### 8. Detailed SCS SAP Session Agenda – 17 September 2025, Wednesday

Time	Activity
14:00–14:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative from the SCS SAP Project</li> <li>- Representative from PEMSEA</li> <li>- Representative from the Government of Indonesia</li> </ul>
14:15–14:30	SCS SAP Project Introduction, Updates and Collaboration with PEMSEA

	- Representative from SCS SAP Project
14:30–16:30	Country Presentations – 3 presentations per country - Representatives from Cambodia - Representatives from China - Representatives from Indonesia - Representatives from the Philippines - Representatives from Thailand - Representatives from Vietnam
16:30–17:00	Closing Remarks - Representatives from Participating Country and SCS SAP Project