

Abstract

SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

WORKSHOP 1.3:

Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia: from Nation to Region

Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Program



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The tropical region of the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) is crucial in linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans and plays an important role in global ocean circulation. The ATS region has been facing significant challenges from lack of information of the ecosystem-level and from major transboundary threats and management issues in this region. Annual loss due to IUU activities in Arafura Sea between the years of 2001-2005 was estimated around 1.25 million tons. The Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Program is a 4-year (2010-2014) GEF/UNDP program which involved three littoral countries, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Australia. The objectives are to ensure the integrated, cooperative, sustainable, ecosystem-based management and support the use of the living coastal and marine resources, including fisheries and biodiversity, of the ATS, through the formulation of inter-governmental adoption and initial implementation of a Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP). In relation with the objectives, several expected outputs were achieved: (1) ATS - Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), (2) Initial implementation of SAP components, through targeted demonstration projects, (3) Strengthened regional cooperation mechanism of the littoral countries, and (4) Agreement of the Strategic Action Programme until 2025 that will be evaluated every 5 years. The SAP responds to the findings of the TDA in the following environmental quality objectives: (1) Recovering and sustaining fisheries; (2) Restoring degraded habitats for sustainable provision of ecosystem services; (3) Reducing land-based and marine sources of pollution; (4) Protecting key marine species and (5) Adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The Government of Indonesia is committed to provide a secretariat office for this cooperation at their facility in Bali. During the ATSEA Ministerial Meeting In May 2014, the ATSEA SAP was endorsed by the Ministers of Australia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste through a Ministerial Declaration that signifies the commitment by the ATS governments to safeguard the precious marine and fisheries resources.



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Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Tonny Wagey:

Dr. Tonny Wagey earned his Master and PhD degrees in Fisheries and Oceanography from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. From 2010-2014, he served as the Regional Project Manager of the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Project namely the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA), involving the partnership of three countries: Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Australia, working together to sustain the extraordinary marine and coastal resources of this region. The ATSEA project has resulted in the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration supporting the Arafura and Timor Seas Strategic Action Plan, in May 2014.

As a senior scientist at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Wagey has been promoting the importance of healthy ocean towards sustainable development at the national and international fora. He was the Executive Secretary of the "Lead Shepherd" of Fisheries Working Group of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Dr. Wagey was also involved in the committee of the first World Ocean Conference in 2009, resulting in the agreement of the Manado Ocean Declaration, calling for global measures on mitigation and adaptation to climate change in oceans and marine life. He is now on leave as government employee and working as a UNDP consultant to develop the ATSEA Phase-2 Project Document.