MEMORANDUM

TO	:	**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS** 4B, 5, 7 8, 9 and 13
FROM	:	**THE UNDERSECRETARY** Field Operations Luzon, Visayas and Environment Field Operations Mindanao
SUBJECT	:	**REDUCING MARINE PLASTICS IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION**
DATE	:	MAY 1 9 2023

With reference to the abovementioned subject, we would like to provide your Offices with a copy of the said PEMSEA Project that will be implemented through the cooperation with local government units from 2023-2028 in the following areas: Puerto Princesa, Bulan, Daanbantayan, Calbayog City, Dipolog City and Tandag City.

The project aims to improve local governance on marine plastic management, demonstrate best practices and innovative solutions for reducing marine plastics and marine plastic management, conduct beach monitoring on marine plastics and litter, and raise capacity and awareness and improve communication of stakeholders and public on the impact of marine plastics on the environment, man health and economy.

Relative thereto, may we request your Offices to extend the necessary assistance to the said PEMSEA project for its successful implementation.

For compliance.

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, *CESO I*   **JOSELIN MARCUS E. FRAGADA, *CESO III***

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Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asian Seas Region

Project governance:
The Project is managed by a Project Steering committee, including PEMSEA (the implementing agency), the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea (the funding agency), and representatives from the Philippines and Timor-Leste (the participating countries).

Implementation will be carried out via cooperation with national project teams and local project teams, who will be established and financed in cooperation with the local government units of each project site.

Timeframe:
Six years, from 2023 to 2028.

Goal:
Reducing ocean-bound plastic through locally-targeted actions in the Philippines and Timor-Leste, to protect and improve the health and well-being of marine ecosystems and local communities through the coordinated efforts of governments, industry, civil society, and other stakeholders.

Objective:
improve local governance on marine plastic management, demonstrate best practices and innovative solutions for reducing marine plastics and marine plastic management, conduct beach monitoring on marine plastics and litter, and raise capacity and awareness and improve communication of stakeholders and general public on the impact of marine plastics on the environment, human health and economy.
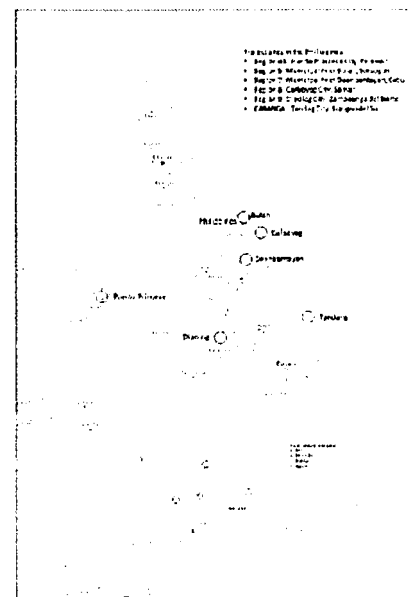
Site selection:
The project will take place in 10 local sites in total. These were selected in cooperation with the national and local governments.

Philippines
Puerto Princesa
Bulan
Daanbantayan
Calbayog City
Dipolog City
Tandag City

Timor-Leste
Dili
Liquica
Manatuto
Atauro

Key components and outcomes:
1. Local governance on marine plastics management:
   a. Improved understanding of marine plastic pollution at the local site level,
      i. Baseline assessment on marine plastics occurrence and management,
   b. 10-year marine plastics management strategies and action plans formulated, adopted, and initiated in all local sites,
      i. 10-year marine plastics management strategy and action plan developed,
      ii. management strategies and action plans endorsed by the local governments for adoption and implementation,
2. Demonstration of best practices and innovative solutions for reducing marine plastics and marine plastic management:
   a. Best practices and innovative solution for reducing marine plastics and improved management identified and demonstrated,
      i. Identification of best practices and innovative solutions applicable to the local sites, including socioeconomic and developmental considerations,
      ii. Detailed feasibility studies on pilot projects conducted,
      iii. Pilot projects implemented through agreements signed between national agencies, local governments, the private sector, and other interested parties, to construct, operate, and monitor and evaluate each project,
   b. Nurturing recycling and upcycling businesses who utilize marine plastic as material,
      i. Studying the local business climate and identifying potential for marine plastics recycling and upcycling,
      ii. Implement a small grant program (SGP) for nurturing marine plastics recycling and upcycling,
3. Beach monitoring on marine plastics and litter:
   a. Beach monitoring for marine plastic litter conducted at each site in collaboration with local organizations and academic institutions,
      i. Selecting beach monitoring sites and developing marine plastics data cards,
      ii. Carrying out beach monitoring at selected sites in cooperation with local organizations with a view towards long-term sustainability,
   b. Identifying trends in marine plastic litter occurrence through beach monitoring,
      i. Establishing a data center for marine plastics and litter monitoring within the SEA Knowledge Bank,
      ii. Analyzing beach monitoring results for long-term trends,
4. Capacity, awareness and communication on marine plastics management:
   a. Enhanced capacity and awareness of marine plastics and litter management,
      i. Capacity building activities conducted for improving skills and knowledge on marine plastics management including participation in regional and global forums, and organization of training,
      ii. Awareness activities conducted for reducing marine plastics along the coasts and improved plastics management,
   b. Improved communication and participation among all partners and stakeholders,
      i. Stakeholders on marine plastic management at the local sites identified and mobilized,
      ii. Regional knowledge and communication platform for the project operationalized,
   c. Project progress and outputs monitored, evaluated, and reported,
      i. Project governance established and progress reported.