



PHILIPPINES

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in Coastal and Marine Areas

Understanding and Accelerating Actions on OECMs
in the Marine and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas

Iloilo City, The Philippines
14 - 16 August, 2025

UN 
environment
programme

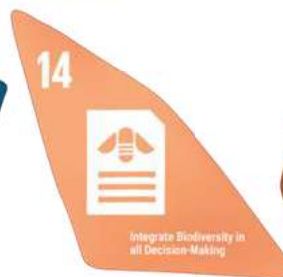
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Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM)

A geographically defined area other than a protected area which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

Reference: Draft DENR Administrative Order providing Guidelines on the Identification, Selection, Recognition and Registration of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures



THE 23 TARGETS OF THE PBSAP 2024-2040



LEGEND



Guiding Principles on OECMs



Evidence-based



Participatory and inclusive



Ecological Representativeness



Ecological Connectivity



Equity

OECD Recognition in PH Laws, Policies and Programs

Section 2, Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by RA 11038

“To this end, there is hereby established a National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which shall encompass ecologically rich and unique areas and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and threatened species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as ‘protected areas’. **The System shall recognize conservation areas and the management regimes being implemented by local government units (LGUs), local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs).**”

OECD Recognition in PH Laws, Policies and Programs

Rule 2.2.b, Implementing Rules and Regulations of the NIPAS Act of 1992, as amended by RA No. 11038

The NIPAS should complement the designation, creation or establishment of similar conservation areas under other domestic laws, and the management regimes of LGUs, local communities, and indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs). This must likewise be consistent with, and supportive of the obligations of the Philippines under treaties and international laws. For this purpose, the metes and bounds of these areas may be necessary.

Other Enabling Laws

RA 9147
Wildlife Resources
Conservation and
Protection Act

RA 10654
Amended
Philippine
Fisheries Code of
1998

RA 7160
Local
Government
Code

RA 8371
Indigenous
Peoples' Rights
Act

RA 7611
Strategic
Environmental
Plan (SEP) for
Palawan Act

Other Enabling Laws

National OECM Technical Working Group (NOTWG)

Regional OECM Technical Working Group (ROTWG)

Initial List of Potential OECMs

- Areas under Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMA)
- Coastal greenbelts
- Critical Habitats (CH)
- Critical Watersheds
- Globally/Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (G/NIAHS)
- ICCAs
- Important bird areas
- Local Conservation Areas (LCAs)
- Archaeological area
- Fisheries refugia
- Fisheries reserve
- Inland wetlands
- Military reserves
- Marine Protected Area Networks (MPAN) (LGU-LGU managed)
- Municipal waters that intersect KBAs
- NGO-led conservation areas
- Other internationally-recognized areas outside NIPAS
- Privately-owned lands (by individual or corporations) and islands/concessions
- Reference ecosystems in mining tenements
- Sacred natural sites
- Shipwrecks
- Significant cave
- Transboundary MPANs
- University-owned areas

Major Criteria

Geographically Defined

**Supports
Biodiversity Values**

**Supports Key Ecosystem
Services**

**Functional Governance
in Place**



Philippines

273

Total Protected Areas ¹

17 With management effectiveness evaluations

● Terrestrial and Inland Waters Protected Areas

● Marine Protected Areas

● Other effective area-based conservation measures

178

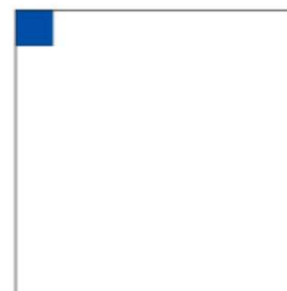
Total Other effective area-based conservation measures ¹

Polygons/Points ratio



● Polygons 68% ● Points 32%

Marine protected area Coverage



1.62%

Coverage

31,875km²

Marine and coastal area covered

1,965,991km²

Total marine and coastal area

PAME

0.1%

With management effectiveness evaluations

1,935km²

Areas assessed

Recognition Process

1. Identification and Assessment of Potential OECMs

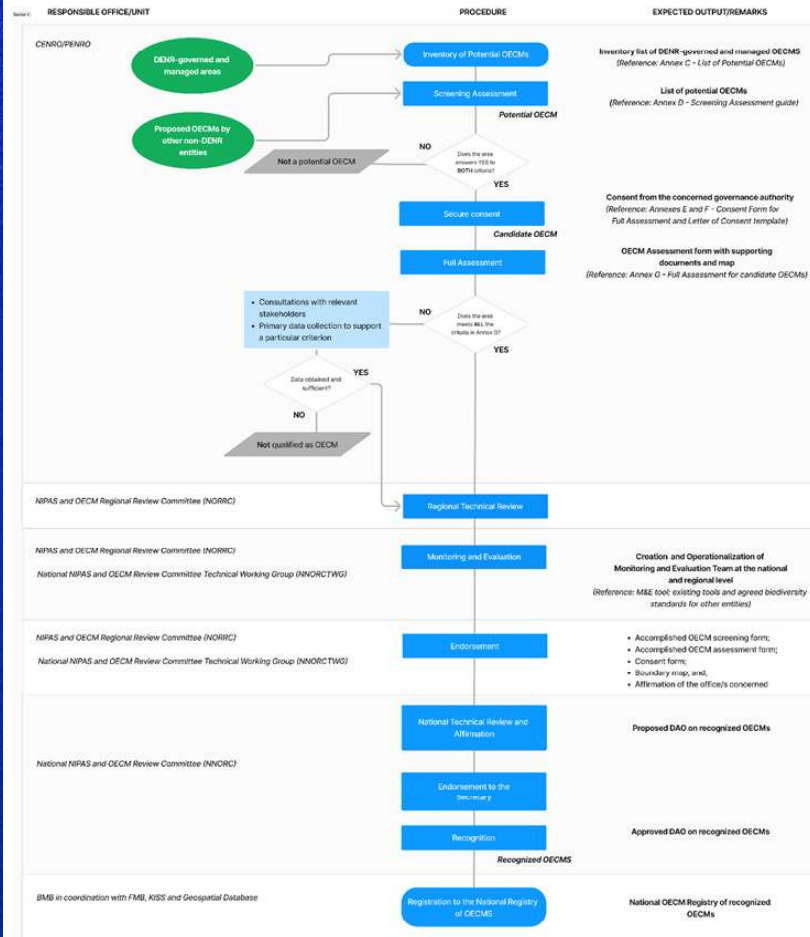
1. *Inventory of Potential OECMs*
2. *Screening for Potential OECMs*
3. *Secure Consent*
4. *Full Assessment*

1. Endorsement

1. Recognition

1. Incentivization

ANNEX A. Flowchart for the Identification and Recognition of OECMs

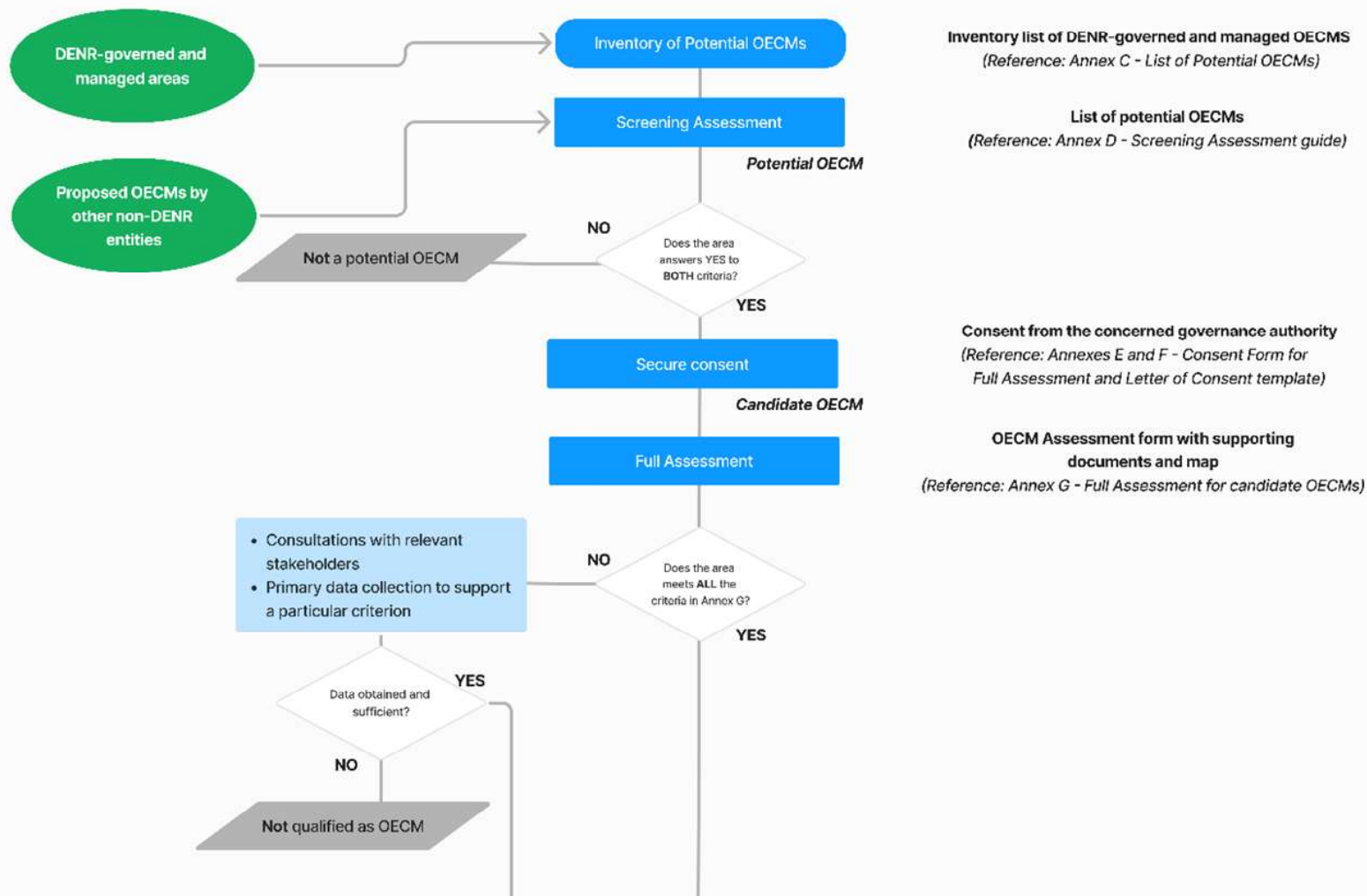


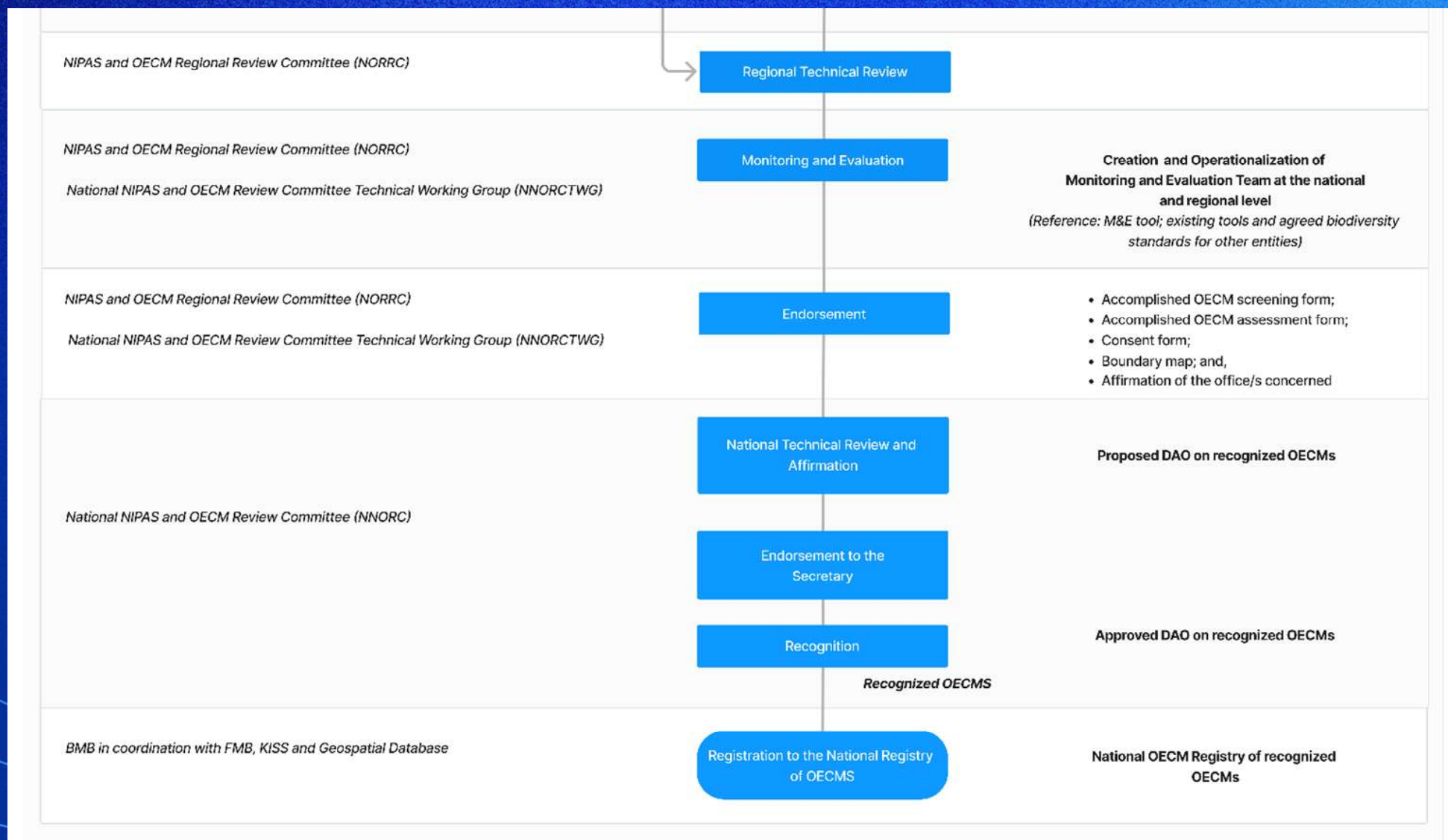
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE/UNIT

PROCEDURE

EXPECTED OUTPUT/REMARKS

CENRO/PENRO





Stakeholder Consultations and Meetings



Stakeholder Consultations and Meetings





Ways Forward

- Pilot testing of the process on recognizing OECM in 2026
- Establishment of National OECM Registry by 2026
- Conduct capacity building for government personnel and other entities managing the recognized OECM



Thank you!

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