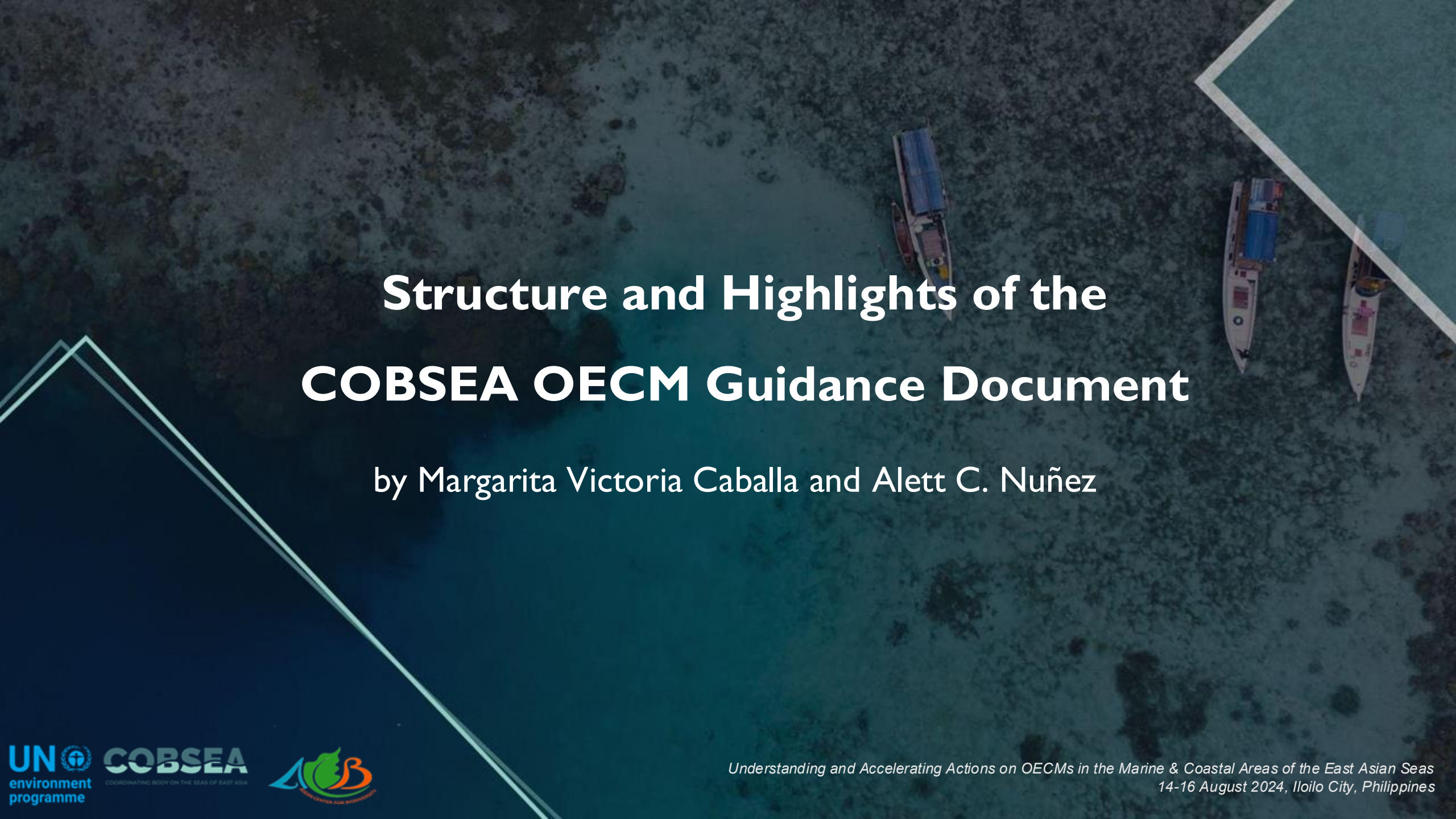
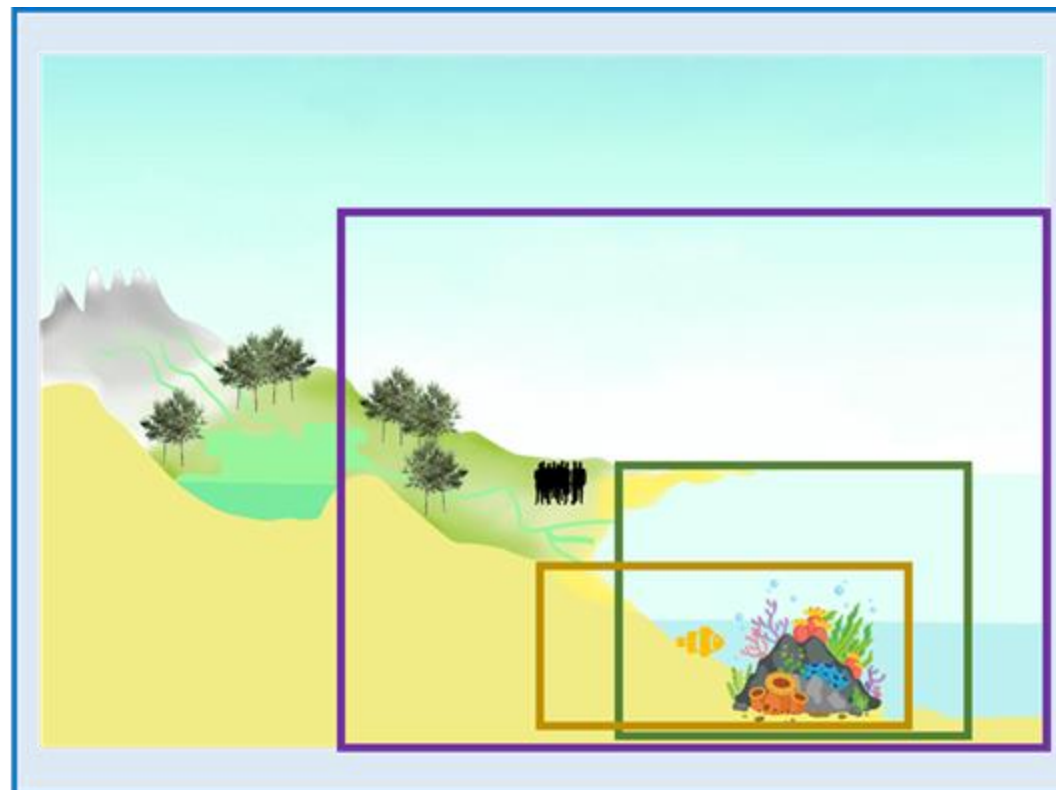
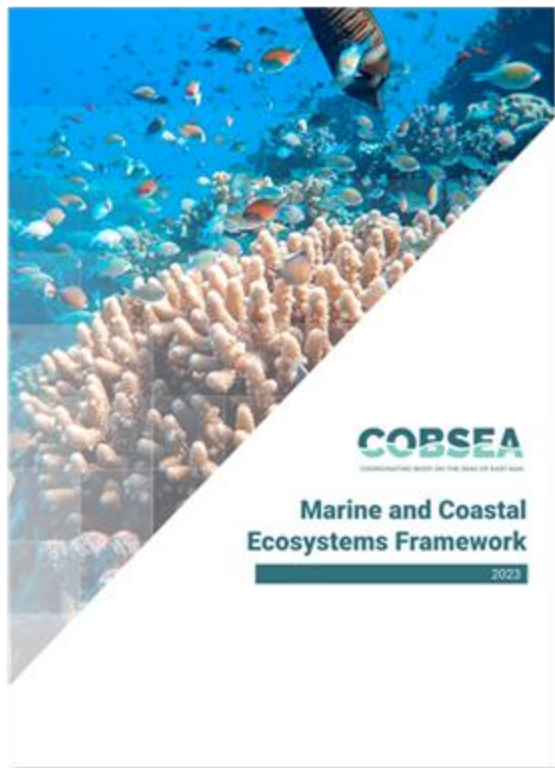




Structure and Highlights of the COBSEA OECD Guidance Document

by Margarita Victoria Caballa and Alett C. Nuñez

COBSEA Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Framework



Blue Economy

- Sustainable ocean ecosystems
- Economic and livelihood opportunities
- Community participation and empowerment
- Equitable and inclusive benefit sharing

Marine & Coastal Spatial Planning

- Support and guidance on MCSP
- Institutionalization of MCSP
- Transboundary and regional collaboration
- Vertical and horizontal integration

Marine Protected Areas

- Establishment of Regional MPA Network
- Strengthening of MPAs and MPA Networks in the region

Habitat Conservation and Restoration (Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Seagrass, Coastal Wetlands)

- Small grants fund programme
- Green Fins Project
- Monitoring, restoration and protection

Cross-Cutting Priorities and Supporting Mechanisms

Community Participation | Knowledge Management

COBSEA WGMCE-2 and IGM 26 Agreement



Explore opportunities on knowledge sharing and learning exchange on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures	COBSEA	tbc									Highlighted as a priority by several participating countries
--	--------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

COBSEA OECD Guidance Document



1.0 Why and What



2.0 What More? Considerations for Understanding and Implementing OECD in East Asian Seas: Recognizing Existing Systems



3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing marine and coastal OECDs in the East Asian Seas



4.0 Ways Forward

- *easy-to-read short visually appealing*
- *serves as a practical toolkit*
- *provides **summaries and menu of options** regarding existing definition, criteria, types, processes and considerations re marine & coastal OECDs*
- *feature **good practices or examples** that may be applied and customized by countries*
- *lists & hyperlinks some **relevant resources***

to help countries accelerate their actions on marine and coastal OECDs especially in the East Asian Seas.



1.0 Why and What

1.1 Overview: OECMs, Criteria, Unique Considerations (CBD Dec 14/8)

Definition, 15/4 /KM-GBF)

1.2 State of Marine and Coastal OECMs in the East Asian Sea (Your Survey Responses, Pls)



Criterion A	Area is not currently recognized as a protected area
Criterion B	Area is governed and managed -a geographically defined space -legitimate governance authorities -managed
Criterion C	Achieves sustained and effective contribution to <i>in situ</i> conservation of biodiversity -effective -sustained over long term -in situ conservation of biological diversity -information and monitoring
Criterion D	Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values

Available Resources

- [Status of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures \(OECMs\) in Asia \(2023, IUCN\)](#)
- [Guidance to Advance OECM in Asia, IUCN, 2024](#)



2.0 What More?

Considerations for Understanding and Implementing OECM in East Asian Seas: Recognizing Existing Systems

2.1 Clarifying Definition and Criteria

2.2 Understanding Governance Types & Securing Buy-Ins

2.3 Identifying Types of Marine & Coastal OECMS

2.4 Providing Leadership or Oversight at the National Level



2.0 What More?

Considerations for Understanding and Implementing OECM in East Asian Seas: Recognizing Existing Systems

2.1 Clarifying Definition and Criteria

CBD COP Dec/14/8/2018 for Definition & Criteria

Customizing Term for OECMs

Ex. Korea's areas of co-existence with nature

Adopting CBD's Definition & Criteria

- **De Facto/In Practice**
- **Formal** (ex. OSPAR)

Customizing CBD's Definition & Criteria

- **Elaborating/expanding** (ex. Canada's specific criteria)
- **Nationalizing/Simplifying** (ex. Japan's Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites)
- **Common Understanding** (ex. HELCOM)

Case by Case Approach

- This may be applicable to areas managed by other sectors (extractives, military, port authorities, etc) or to fisheries OECMs

Available Resources

[IUCN's Guidance on OECMs, 2024](#)
[IUCN and WWF's 30x30: A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable, and Effective Implementation of Target 3, 2023](#)
[Nature Conservancy's Best Practice in Delivering the 30x30 Target, 2023](#)
[Maldives' Guidelines for Recognising OECMs in Areas Leased for Tourism Operations, 2022](#)
[IUCN's Recognizing and Reporting OECM, IUCN, 2019](#)

2.2 Understanding Governance Types & Securing Buy-Ins & Consent (CBD Dec 14/18, 15/4)

Government

ex. a) *subnational government* from province, city/town, district/village;
 (b) *national government* agencies in charge of environment, fisheries, defense, culture, tourism, ports or planning
 (C) *at regional scale across participating countries* such through COBSEA, PEMSEA, CTI-CFF, ACB, etc))

Private Individuals/ Organizations

ex. private island owners, aquaculture owners, coastal tourism site owner, industrial companies such as in India's mangrove areas & wet marshland within industrial townships

- ✓ Approach
- ✓ Mandates & Interests
- ✓ Coordination
- ✓ Free & Prior Informed Consent for IPs

IPLCs

ex. over their ancestral waters, sacred sites, fisherfolk organization managed mangrove areas

Shared Governance

ex. local government with a local community, national government with local government, private entity with government

Available Resources

- [Estravadi, et al, re Mapping of Indonesia's potential OECMs 2024](#)
- [Jonas, et al, 2024](#)
- [India's Compendium of OECM, 2022](#)



2.0 What More?

Considerations for Understanding and Implementing OECM in East Asian Seas: Recognizing Existing Systems

2.3 Identifying Types of OECMS in Marine and Coastal Areas

General Categories of Area-Based Conservation/Management Measures

(CBD/COP/14/14)

- (1) Territories and areas governed and managed by IPLCs
- (2) Area-based fisheries management measures
- (3) Other sectoral area-based management
 - (3.1) Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
 - (3.2) Areas of Particular Environmental Interest

Specific Country Examples

- a) COBSEA Countries' Types, if any
- b) Maldives's Islands Leased to Tourism Devt
- c) India's Important Coastal Biodiversity Areas (ICBAs), Important Marine Biodiversity Areas (IMBAs) and Ecologically/Culturally/Internationally Significant Coastal and Marine Areas ((ECISCMA)

Fisheries OECMs (FAO Handbook, 2022)

- (1) *vulnerable marine ecosystems*
- (2) *area-based fishery closures (fisheries reserves and no-take areas*
- (3) *community-based fisheries management areas including marine managed areas (MMAs), locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) prevalent in the South Pacific and responsible fishing areas (RFAs) common in Latin America*
- (4) *rotational closures and seasonal closures,*
- (5) *gear-restricted areas;*
- (6) *areas covered by marine conservation agreements.*

Wetlands OECMs (Convention on Wetlands' Briefing Note, 2025)

- (1) *Ramsar Sites(s) nested **within a broader wetland OECM***
- (2) *Ramsar Site and wetland OECM **adjacent to each other**, joined together with a partial common border*
- (3) *Ramsar site (s) and wetland OECM geographically **separated from each other but could be contributing** to in situ conservation of and wise use of functionally-linked wetland biodiversity and hydrology; and*
- (4) *Ramsar Site formed partly as a protected area and partly as an OECM.*

provided, each site meets the CBD four-fold criteria!

Available Resources

[Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel's Briefing Note on OECMs for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, 2025](#)
<https://www.30x30.solutions/coastal-marine/>, 2024
[IUCN's FAQ on Establishing Marine OECMs under the CBD, 2024](#)
[Maldives' Guidelines for Recognising OECMs in Areas Leased for Tourism Operations, 2022](#)
[India's Compendium of OECM, 2022](#)
[FAO's handbook for identifying, evaluating and reporting OECMs in marine fisheries, 2022](#)



2.0 What More?

Considerations for Understanding and Implementing OECM in East Asian Seas: Recognizing Existing Systems

2.4 Providing Leadership or Oversight at the National Level



Institutional Arrangements



National Strategy/Roadmap



National Legal or Policy Framework



National List or Registry & Database



3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing OECM in the East Asian

3.1 Identifying OECM: Screening, Securing Consent & Full Assessment

3.2 Recognizing OECMs

3.3 Reporting

3.4 Supporting/Strengthening OECMs

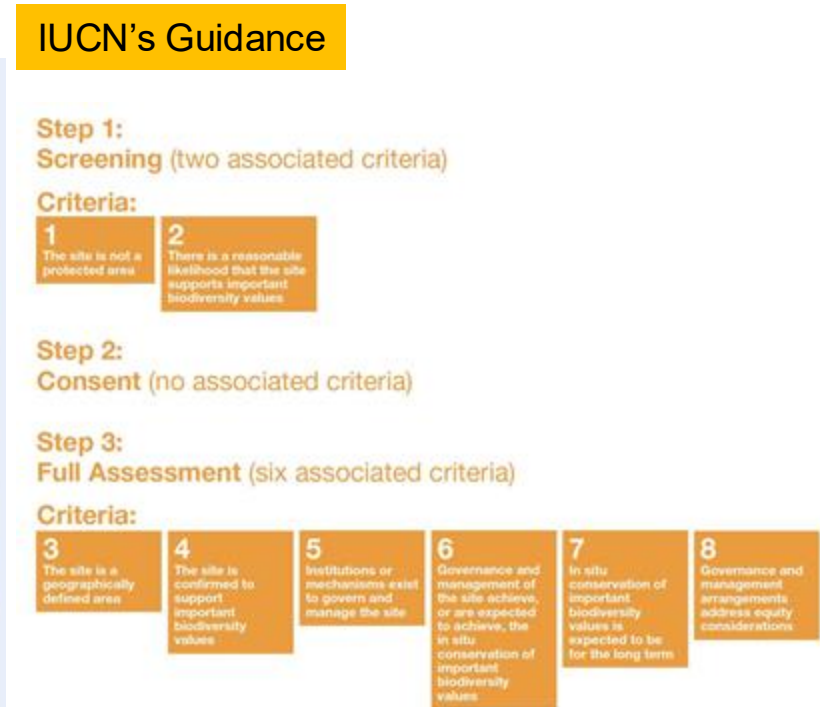
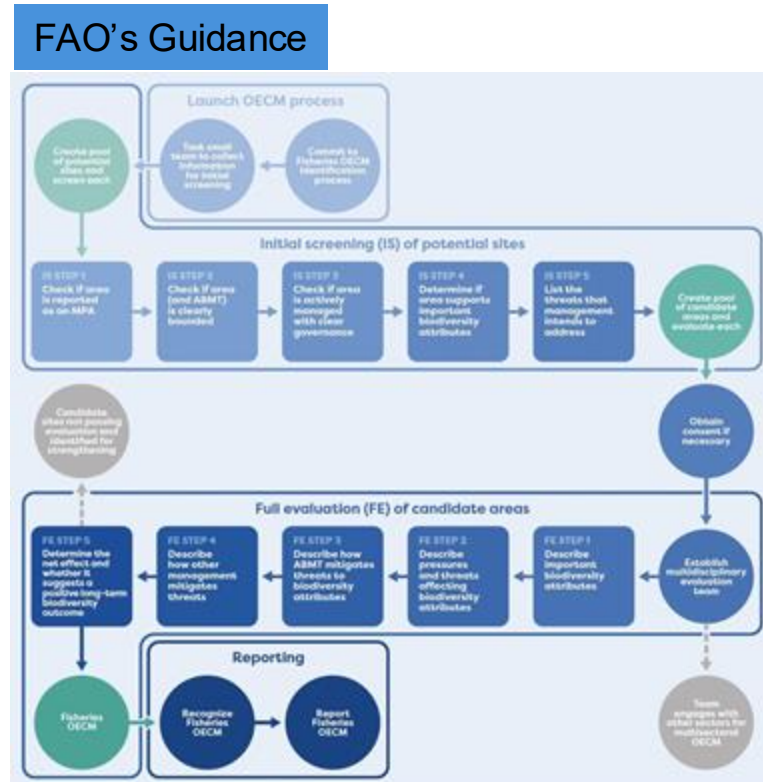
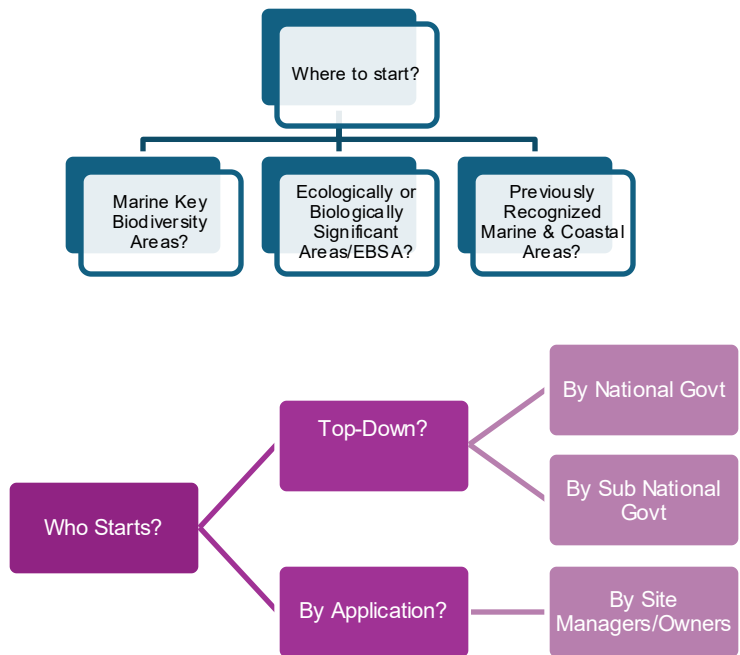
3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation





3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing OECM in the East Asian

3.1 Identifying OECM: Screening, Securing Consent & Full Assessment



Specific Countries' Examples

- *COBSEA Participating Countries:*
ex. Philippines' Decision Tree/Flow Chart
- Sweden for Marine & Coastal OECMs
- Maldives for Leased Islands for Tourism

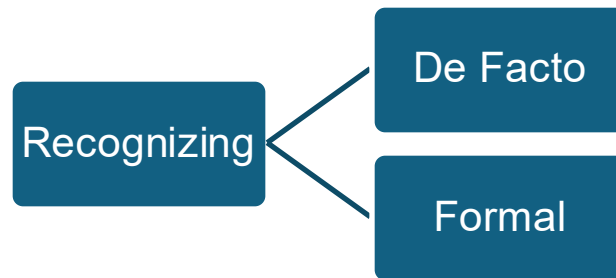
Available Resources

[IUCN's Guidance on OECMs 2024](#)
[APAP Roadmap for OECM, Consultation Workshop, 2024](#)
[IUCN Site-Level Tool for Identifying OECMs, 2023](#)
[FAO's handbook for identifying, evaluating and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures in marine fisheries, 2022](#)
[India's Criteria and Guidelines for OECMs, 2022](#)



3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing OECM in the East Asian

3.2 Recognizing Marine & Coastal OECMs



Considerations:

Time-Bound?
De-Listing/Withdrawal?

Specific Countries' Examples

3.3 Reporting Marine & Coastal OECMs



Available Resources

- [IUCN Site-Level Tool for Identifying OECMs, 2023](#)
- [IUCN Recognising and Reporting OECMs, 2019](#)

Available Resources

- [Protected Planet: Marine protected areas and OECMs](#)
- [WDPA-WDOECM Manual](#)
- [OECM-Providing Protected Planet Data Quick Guide](#)
- [Protected Planet Report 2024](#)



3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing OECM in the East Asian

3.4 Supporting/Strengthening OECMs

Means of Support & Timing (Pre-Identification, Maintaining, M&E?)

1) Technical Assistance?

Understanding/socializing concepts, criteria, principles & processes, etc

Documenting biodiversity attributes and threats/net positive gains

Access to expertise to determine/monitor/evaluate biodiversity attributes and threats, and net positive biodiversity gains

Capacity-building for effective & equitable management

Facilitation of communication and coordination across sectors

Support for national associations or alliances of OECMs according to governance types to provide peer support mechanism (CBD Decision 14/8)

2) Financial Incentives?

Grants for documentation, management, monitoring, community-based projects

Subsidies for area-based management actions

Tax breaks for actions leading to net positive biodiversity gains

3) Policy Support?

Clarifying rules to cater to sites' needs

Providing legal basis for benefit-sharing, as may be apt

National recognition/certification as OECM & its publication as a source of pride for the site

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation



Delivering Positive Outcomes & Impacts

CBD/KM-GBF Minimum Indicators

Tools & Methods including Special Studies

Indicators, Proxies

Site Level M&E
+ Feedback to Stakeholders

National M&E/
Compilation
+ Feedback to Stakeholders

Regional/
Global Reporting

Available Resources

[Monitoring Framework for the KM-GBF, CBD Decision 15/5, 19 December 2022](#)

[SBSTTA Recommendation 26/1, 18 May 2024](#)

[IIFB Marine OECM Guide, 2025 \[Under Review\] \(update once document is released\)](#)

[IUCN's Framework for Monitoring Biodiversity in PAs and OECMs, 2024](#)

[IIED's Site Level Assessment of Governance and Equity \(SAGE\) Tool for SAGE manual for facilitators 2023](#)

[Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool \(METT-4\), 2021](#)

[Philippines' SEAT: Measuring socioeconomic benefits of MPA, 2018](#)

[Philippines' MPA MEAT, 2011](#)

[IUCN Green List v. 2017](#)

[IUCN's Governance of Protected Areas 2012](#)



3.0 How? A Nuanced & Pragmatic Approach to Implementing OECM in the East Asian

3.1 Identifying OECM: Screening, Securing Consent & Full Assessment

3.2 Recognizing OECMs

3.3 Reporting and Evaluation

3.4 Supporting/Strengthening OECMs

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation





4.0 Ways Forward

4.1 Accelerating National Actions



shutterstock.com - 2374622881

Publicizing commitment
as a rallying point



Forging partnerships

4.2 Building Synergies across the Region

- ✓ Using regional platforms for learning, mentoring
- ✓ Exploring opportunities for transboundary OECMs, if any

COBSEA	PEMSEA	ACB	CTI
Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Singapore Viet Nam	Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Vietnam	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore Viet Nam	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines
(+)	DPR Korea, Japan, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste	Brunei	Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands Timor-Leste
(-)	Malaysia Thailand	People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea,	

COBSEA OECM Guidance Document

Feedback?
Suggestions?



Health Break

Thank you!