Singapore

OECMs IN MARINE AND COASTAL 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
COBSEA
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA
ACB
ASEAN CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY

Singapore’s context



Key land-use needs

- Defence
- Housing
- Industry and Commerce
- Land Transport Infrastructure
- Parks and Nature Reserves
- Community, Institution and Recreational Facilities
- Ports and Airports
- Reservoirs


Mangroves


Mudflats


Rocky shores


Coral reefs


Seagrass meadows

Protected Areas in Singapore

Protected Areas = 4 Nature Reserves

- Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (primary dryland forest and tall secondary forest)
- Central Catchment Nature Reserve (primary dryland forest, tall secondary forest, freshwater swamp forest)
- Labrador Nature Reserve (coastal hill forest)
- Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (mangroves)

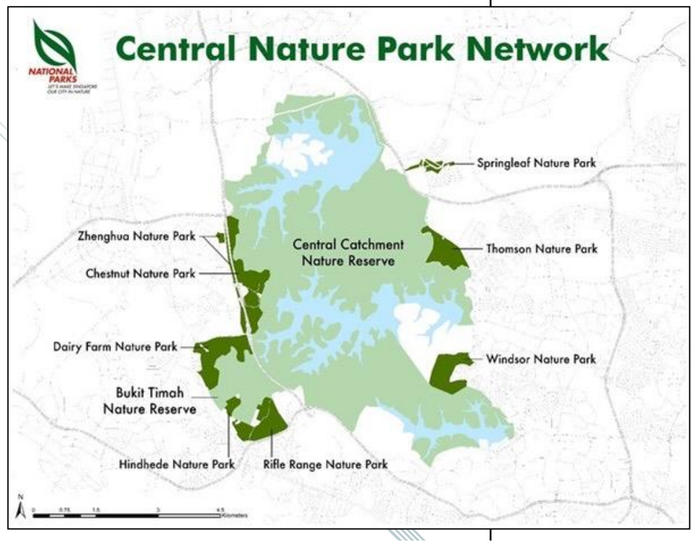
Other natural areas in Singapore

20 Nature Areas

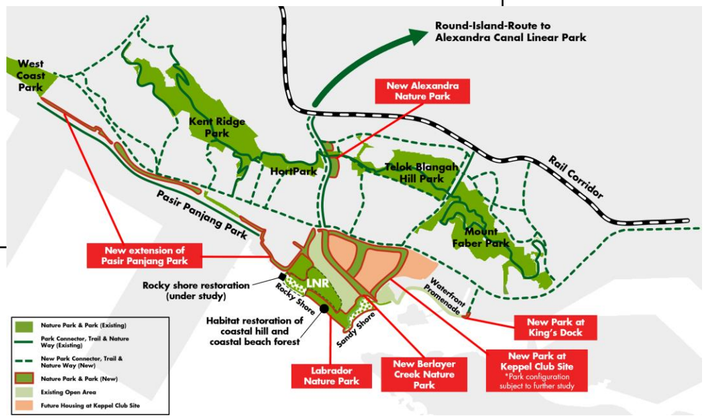
- Administratively protected under planning process
- Important complementary habitats across Sg
- Includes many coastal & marine habitats: Sisters' Islands MP, P. Ubin

Nature Park Networks

- Impt habitats surrounding Nature Reserves
- Green buffers for protection of core habitats
  - Additional habitats for biodiversity
  - Divert recreational pressure away from NRs
- 200 more ha by 2030







Institutional Arrangements & Governance Concerns

National Parks Board
- govt agency responsible for biodiversity conservation in Singapore
- National focal point to the CBD, relevant ASEAN Working Groups

Ministry of National Development
- NParks' parent ministry
- Nature/greenery seen as infrastructure

Urban Redevelopment Authority
- Singapore's land use planning authority
- Strategic planning – Long Term Plan (50 yrs) and Master Plan (10-15 yrs)

To make Singapore a great city to live, work and play

Maritime and Port Authority
- govt agency responsible for Sg's port operations and maritime interests

Singapore Land Authority
- Manages Sg's land resources

Legal and Policy Framework

Legal framework

National Parks Board Act

Parks and Trees Act

Wildlife Act

Policy framework

Singapore Green Plan 2030

City in Nature vision

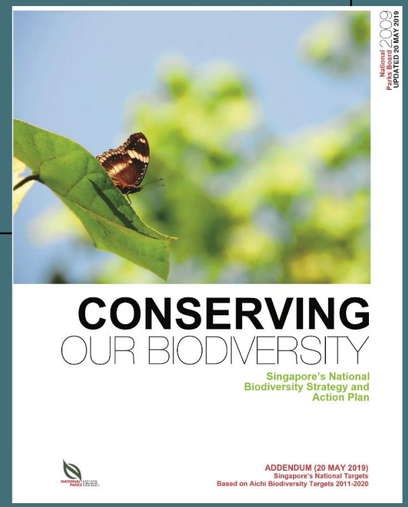
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Nature Conservation Masterplan

- Marine Conservation Action Plan







Marine Conservation in Singapore

Reopening of Sisters' Islands Marine Park

- Platform for outreach, educational, conservation and research
- Turtle hatchery to support Hawksbill turtle conservation
- re-opened in Oct 2024 after extensive enhancement works
- first floating boardwalk that also serves as a coral habitat and research site
- New outdoor classroom in an enhanced lagoon tidal pool to expand outreach efforts
- Net-zero energy park with solar farm and desalination plant



New Marine Park at South Lazarus-Kusu Reefs

- Identified through NParks' Ecological Profiling Exercise as an ecologically significant habitat with high biodiversity and habitat connectivity
- Kusu reefs have good coral diversity and habitat quality with 141 species, acts as sources for other local reefs
- Features one of Singapore's last natural rocky shores and a mature coastal forest with rare native plants
- Important site for coastal and marine research locally



OCBC Seagrass Restoration Project

- Singapore's first seagrass restoration initiative to enhance conservation and carbon sequestration efforts
- Pilot project will focus on transplantation, benefits of seagrass restoration, seagrass reproductive biology, engaging and involving the community in the conservation and restoration efforts
- Fully funded by OCBC, with opportunities for public and staff volunteers to support research and transplantation



100K Corals Initiative

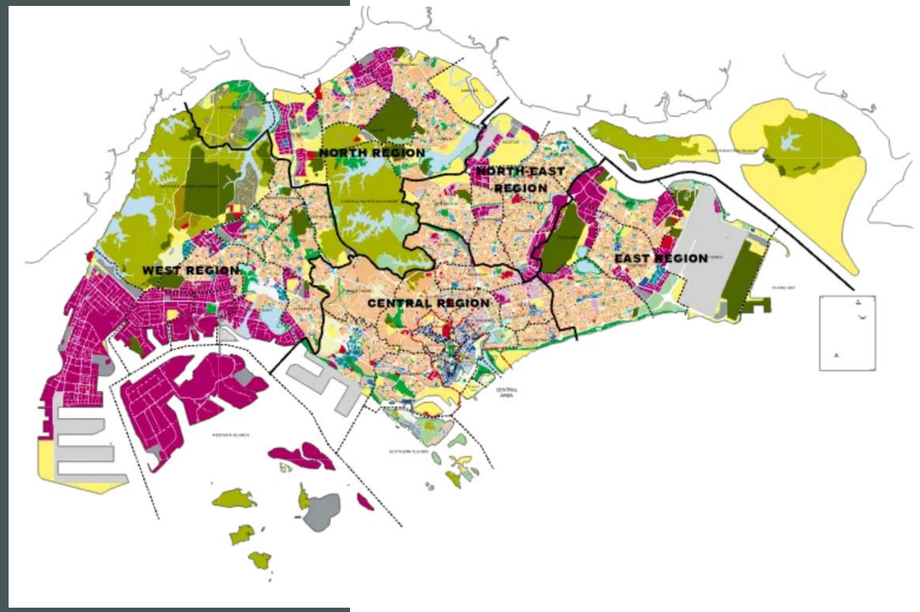
- plant 100,000 corals over the next decade and beyond
- Coral nubbins cultivated at a new facility before transplantation to restore degraded reefs or establish new coral communities
- Smart technology optimises large-scale coral cultivation, integrating real-time monitoring for environmental stability
- Trialling CoralAID Mineral Accretion (CAMA) technology to accelerate coral growth using low-voltage electricity

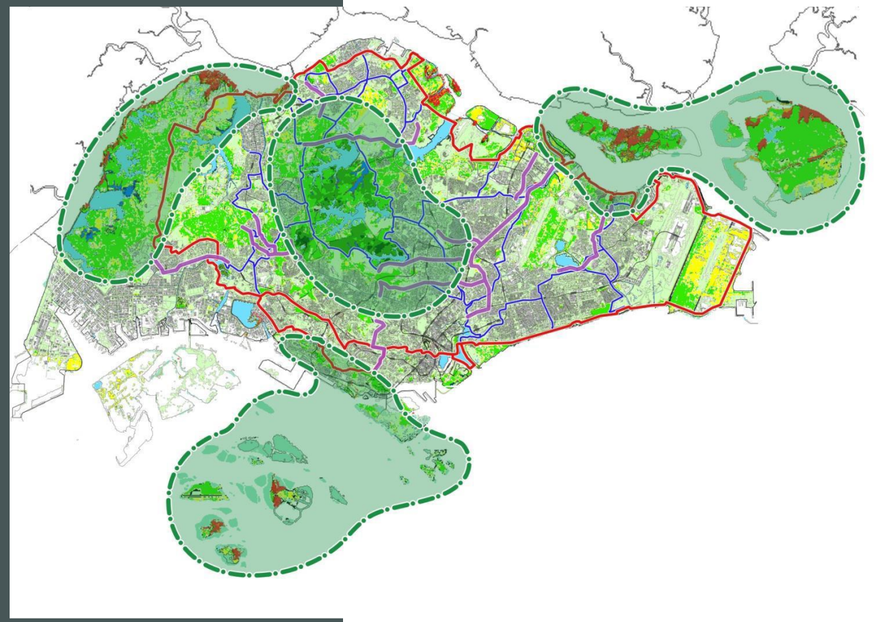


Processes

Presently working with agencies on designation of OECMs in Sg

- Mainstreaming of OECM concept
- Addressing concerns of agencies
  - New concept, adding to numerous existing schemes
    - e.g. KBAs, EBSAs
  - Constraints to policy space, and Singapore's limited land/sea area
- No IPLCs or subnational authorities
- Identifying potential sites
  - Managing authority
  - Current usage
  - Future plans
- Monitoring and reporting - NParks





Thank you

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