

CAMBODIA

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

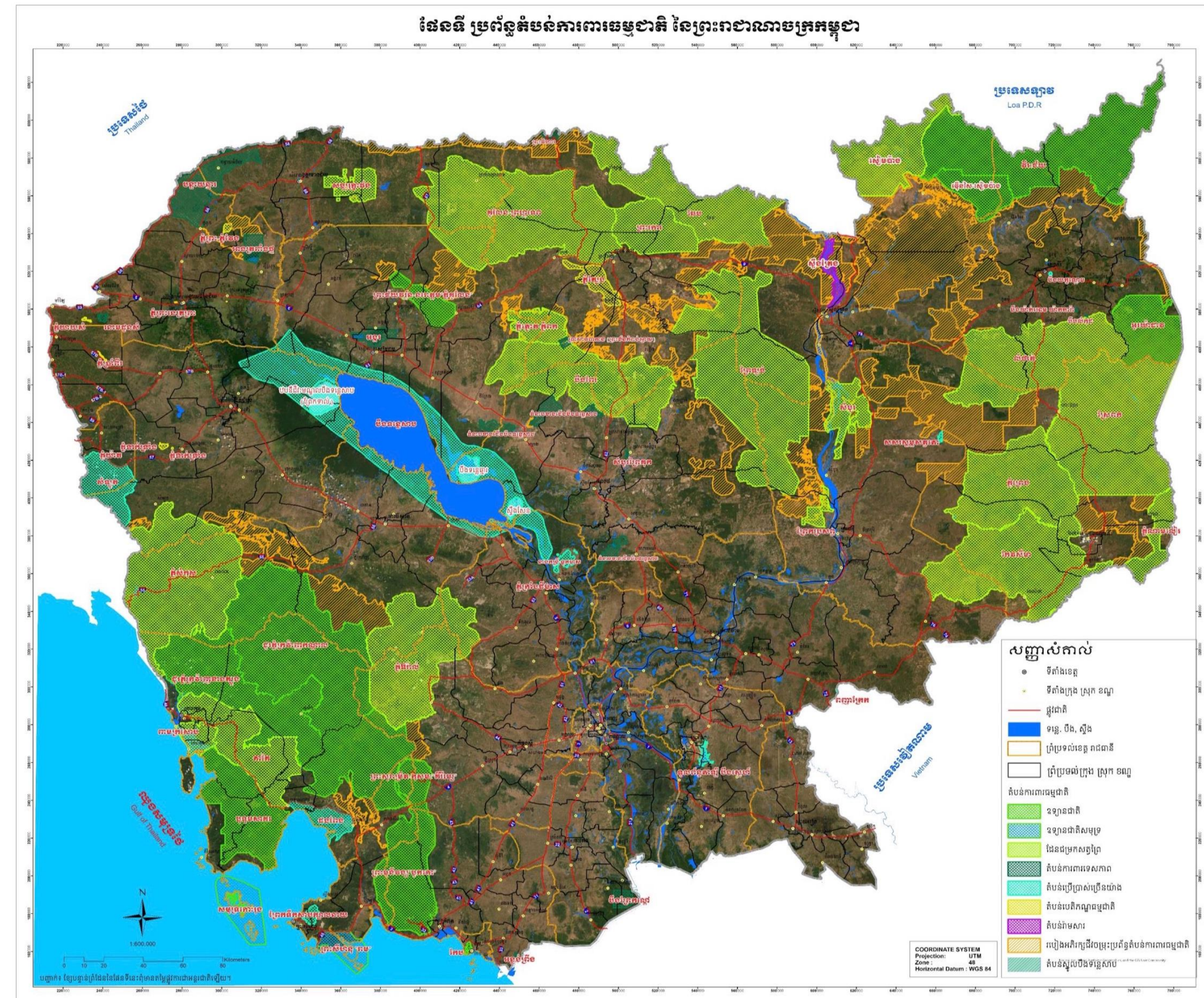
14 - 16 August, 2025



PROTECTED AREAS IN CAMBODIA

- Ministry of Environment perform its function as an executive body unit of the Royal Government of Cambodia on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- The General Directorate of Natural Protected Area under Ministry of Environment have mandate to conserve and manage all the Protected Areas in Cambodia.
- To date, there are 73 Protected Area cover about 7 million hectare (about 40% of country land area)
 - National Park 10 Areas
 - Marine National Park 02 Areas
 - Wildlife Sanctuary 19 Areas
 - Protected Landscape 14 Areas
 - Multiple Use Area 10 Areas
 - Ramsar Site 05 Areas
 - Natural Heritage Park 13 Areas

Cambodia has not officially identified or recognized any OECMs



OECM DEFINITION

Cambodia are contracting party to the CBD and also member of IUCN

IUCN definition for Protected Area :

- *A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.*

National definition for Protected Area :

- *Refer to state public property, including land or water, including coastlines and seas located in areas recognized by law or newly created areas within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment. These areas are both physically and biologically important, requiring legal management to protect and maintain biodiversity, natural resources, and cultural resources, and to be managed sustainably for the environmental, social, and economic benefits for all generations. (Environmental Code, 2023)*

CBD definition for OECM (decision 14/8) :

- *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. (CBD, 2018).*

OECM CRITERIA

Criteria A : Area is not currently recognize as a protected area

(a. other than a Protected Area)

Criteria B : Area is governed and managed

(b. geographically defined area)

(c. governed)

(d. managed)

Criteria C : Achieves sustained and effective contribution to *in situ* conservation of biodiversity

(e. positive outcomes for biodiversity)

(f. sustained long-term)

(g. *in-situ* conservation)

(h. biodiversity)

Criteria D : Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values

(i. ecosystem functions and services)

(j. cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values)

(Recognizing and reporting OECMs, IUCN-WCPA, 2019)



OECM CRITERIA

	Screening assessment	1. The site is not a PA 2. There is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values
	Full assessment	3. The site is a geographically defined area 4. The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values 5. Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site 6. Governance and management of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the in situ conservation of important biodiversity values 7. In situ conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be for the long term 8. Governance and management arrangements address equity considerations

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS & GOVERNANCE CONCERNS

Authority	Responsibility
 Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Management jurisdiction for protected areas and biodiversity conservation Develop and implement the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan Develop and implement the NBSAP CBD Focal Point – Implement the 30 x 30 target (PAs and OECMs)
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Management jurisdiction for Fish Conservation Areas and Community Fisheries, which are managed by the Fisheries Administration (FiA).
 Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)	Jurisdiction over water resources policy and management. The ministry is responsible for management of fresh and marine water resources. There are two other authorities specifically involved : - National Cambodia Mekong Committee: the national institution for coordinating the management, preservation, conservation and development of water and other related resources in the Mekong River Basin. - Tonle Sap Authority: coordinates the management, conservation and development of the Tonle Sap region.
 Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction	Responsible for governing land use, urban planning, construction projects, and for the resolution of land use conflicts.
Provincial Administration Local Authorities	Responsible for public administration at the respective provinces. Responsible for public administration at the respective communes or villages.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY

Cambodia NCD 3.0 (Adaptation Measures)

#	Title of the Measures and Descriptions	LMs
Livelihood and ecosystems		
50	Expand, establish and improve the management of coastal and marine protected areas Increase the coverage and improve the management of coastal and marine protected areas by applying ecosystem-based approaches that conserve biodiversity, restore critical habitats and ensure sustainable access to marine resources for local communities. These actions include recognizing and supporting Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), enhancing enforcement, and enabling communities to benefit from ecologically intact and well-managed ecosystems that sustain livelihoods, ecosystem services, and coastal resilience in line with national and international conservation targets.	MoE with MAFF MLMUPC

Considering to include OECMs in the NBSAP

PROCESS FOR RECOGNIZING OECMS

There isn't any adopted national/localized processes for recognizing OECMs, however, follow the IUCN guideline on OECM recognition and the process for PA nomination, the OECMs recognizing process could be considered as follow

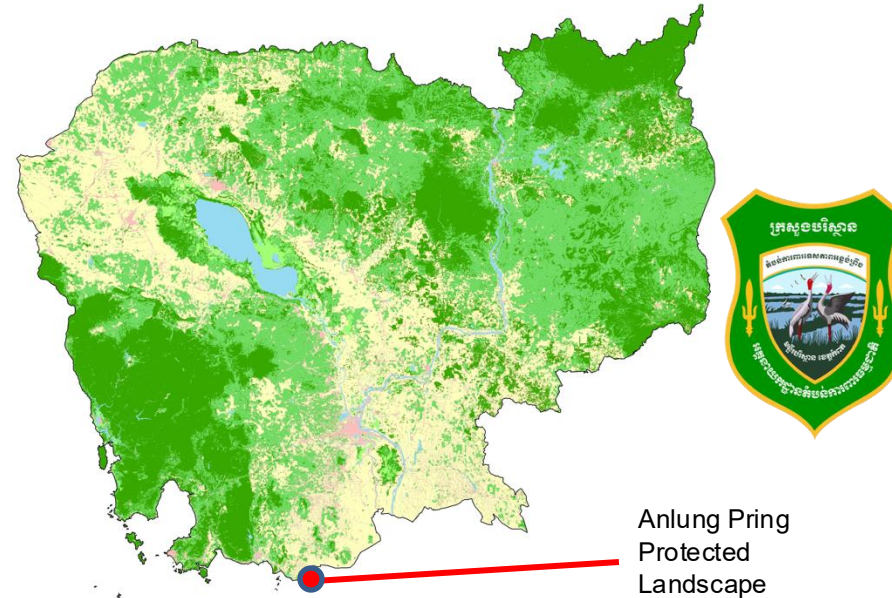
- Initial screening and identify potential OECMs site
- Assess the site criteria for OECMs
- Approval or consent from site management authorities, institutions, or site ownership
- Relevant stakeholders consultation
- Develop the OECMs information sheet
- Support and approval from respective provincial administration
- Submission to responsible Ministry (MOE) or Government for approval
- Report to WD-OECM



CONSIDERED AS POTENTIAL OECMs

Site description:

- Anlung Pring Protected Landscape located in Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune, Kampong Trach district of Kampot province in southern Cambodia. Anlung Pring (AP) is located in the Lower Mekong Delta
- Total Area of 219 Ha and It is one of the 40 IBAs in Cambodia namely Kampong Trach Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
- Support about 30% of Sarus Crane population in Cambodia during the non-breeding season
- AP has nominated as Cambodia first Flyway Network Site in 2019 based on its supporting various of migratory birds including Spotted Greenshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Garganey, and of course the Sarus Crane



Anlung Pring Protected Landscape



Considered as Potential OECMs

- To better conserve the Sarus Crane, the Ministry of Environment, and Department of Environment in Kampot Province in collaboration with NatureLife Cambodia has established Sarus Crane-friendly rice initiative.
- Involve local communities who own rice fields AP and aims to provide supplemental feeding to Sarus crane during the non-breeding period, while promoting wildlife-friendly agricultural practices and enhancing local livelihood.
- Surrounding rice field
- Not PA, owned by local communities
- Comprise 18.41 ha of land which leased by NLC and 37.6 ha owned by the farmers
- Support Sarus Crane and other biodiversity



CONSIDERED AS POTENTIAL OECMs

Site	Location	Ecosystem Type	Key Biodiversity
Peam Krasop Community Fishery	Koh Kong	Seagrass Meadows	Dugong, Dolphines
Prek Thnout Community Fishery	Kampot	Coral Patches, estuary, mangrove	Groupers, snappers, mangrove, migratory birds
Trapeang Sangkae Community Fishery	Kampot	Intertidal muddy and sand flats Mangroves, Seagrass	Migratory shorebirds such as Red-necked Stint, Long-toed Stint, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Lesser and Greater Sand-plovers, Kentish Plovers, Nordmann’s Greenshank
Preak Kampong Smach Marine Fisheries Management Area/ Chompo Khmao Community Fishery	Preah Sihanouk	Mangrove, estuary, peatland	Fishing Cat, Migratory birds

The potential OECMs sites will need to consult with relevant Ministries, Institutions, Fisheries Administration, local authorities and local communities



FUTURE PLANS

- Considering mainstream OECMs in Strategies, NBSAP, NPASMP
- Conduct capacity building and awareness raising on OECMs
- KBAs and IBAs reassessment if the resource is available
- Lesson learnt and best practice from others regarding to OECMs
- Considering to identified potential OECMs site and consult with relevant stakeholders
- Expanding and improving the management of protected areas, including recognition of OECMs,
- Collaboration with partners both regional and international on OECMs





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