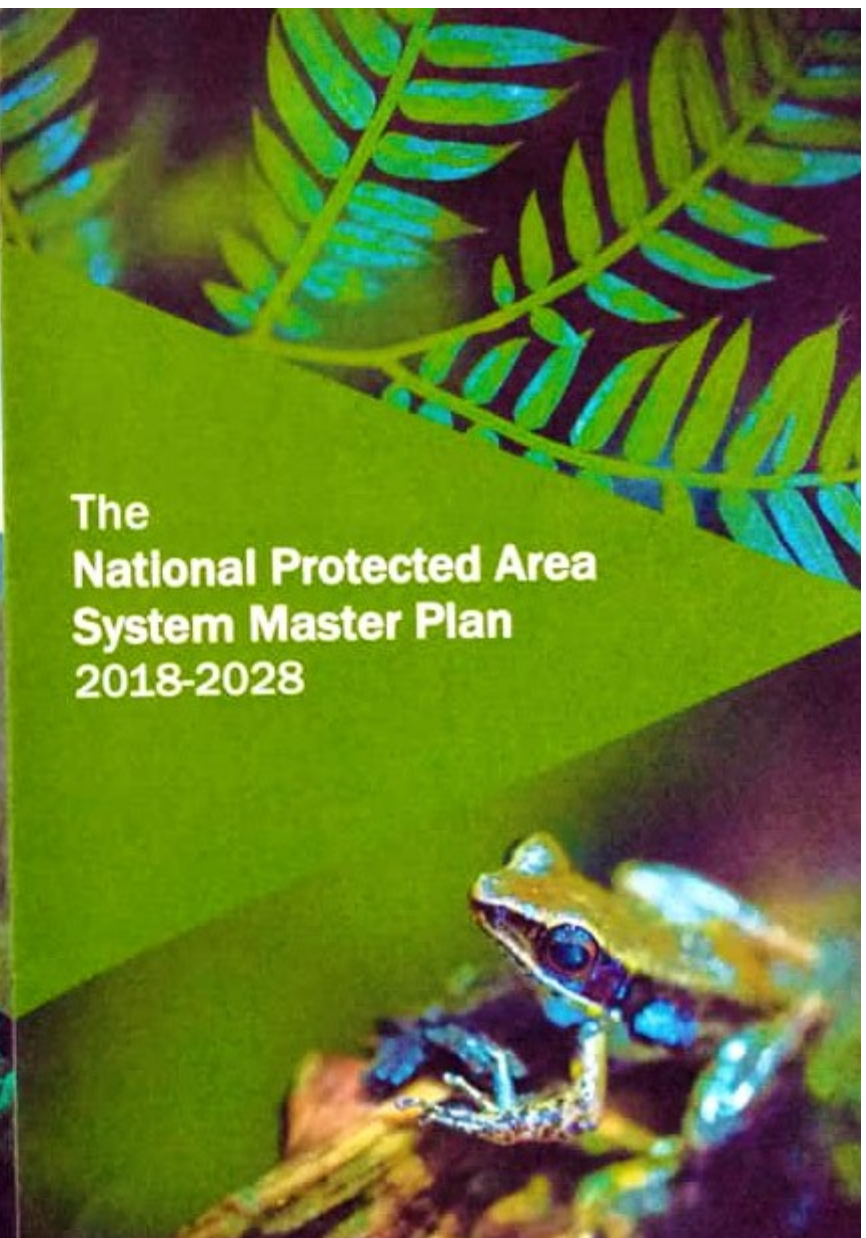




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# The National Protected Area System Master Plan 2018-2028

### What is the National Protected Area System Master Plan?

The National Protected Area System Master Plan is a system approach to protected area planning and management aimed to provide for a more strategic perspective for addressing the current portfolio of protected areas, rationalize the protected area system, and provide for better arguments for relating protected areas with broader national development objectives.



### Why develop the National Protected Area System Master Plan?

Protected areas are one of the most effective means of conserving biodiversity *in situ*. This is especially important for the Philippines—a country with one of the highest biodiversity per unit area but is continuously threatened by destructive human activities exacerbated by a changing global climate.

However, an analysis of the current system of protected areas in the country shows that there is a mismatch between the coverage of protected areas and biologically rich areas. Of the identified 10.6 M hectares of key biodiversity areas in the country, only 3.84 M ha is protected under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). This means that the current

protected area system may not be ecologically representative, while a number of ecologically important areas remain unprotected.

In terms of management, a study conducted by the Protected Area Management Enhancement (PAME) Project in 60 NIPAS areas revealed a moderate management capacity in these areas in 2017. Challenges in protected area management include weak management planning, inadequate baseline information on species diversity and threats, poor mobilization of external resources, low capacity of technical and operational staff, inequitable representation of stakeholders, uncoordinated research work that does not impact the current management, and low awareness appreciation of conservation values.

There is also a need to take into account the other effective area-based conservation measures outside the NIPAS, such as Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) and Critical Habitat (CH).

The National Protected Area System Master Plan was formulated to address these challenges and to contribute to human well-being. The Master Plan contributes to the fulfillment of the Ambisyon Natin 2040, Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022



and complements the Environment and Natural Resources Framework Plan, the Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development, the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), Action Plan to Prevent

Species Extinction, as well as the Philippines' Coral Triangle Initiatives National Plan of Action. The Master Plan also contributes to the fulfillment of the targets of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals by including habitats, flyways and migration routes in the establishment of protected areas.

## Vision

A comprehensive, ecologically-representative, equitably and effectively managed national system of protected areas has contributed to the maintenance of ecological integrity, sustained biodiversity and functioning of ecosystem services as foundation for inclusive growth and development and improved human well-being.



## Goal 1: Rationalization of the National Protected Area System



Conduct an **assessment** such as biophysical, socio-economic, ecosystem services valuation, threats, drivers of biodiversity degradation, among others, on existing potential ecologically important areas to determine suitability for protection



**Delineate** protected areas with **Presidential Proclamation**

**Demarcate** protected areas with **legislation**



**Establish** under NIPAS through Presidential Proclamation and legislation those assessed to be suitable



**Disestablish** or **modify** the boundaries of protected areas that do not have potential ecologically important values



**Recognize** ecologically important areas through appropriate effective-area based conservation measures such as **LCA, ICCA or Critical Habitat**

## Goal 2: Improving the capacity to manage protected areas

**Equitably and capably manage PAs and the NPAS**



- NPAS Oversight Committee
- Site-level governing body
- Capacity building
- Organizational development
- Support policies
- Protected Area Academy

**Protect species and ecosystem services in PAs and NPAS**



- Delineation/Demarcation
- Management Plan
- Management zoning
- Biodiversity assessment and monitoring
- Socio-economic assessment and monitoring
- Monitoring and evaluation framework
- Communication, education and public awareness programs
- Law enforcement

**Adequately and sustainably finance PAs and the NPAS**



- Financial and business plans
- Financing mechanism
- Revenues from non-DENR sources
- Strategic marketing plans
- Market-based and non-market-based sources

**Sustain fair and equitable sharing of benefits from PAs and NPAS**



- NPAS Investment Plan
- Payment for Ecosystem Services
- Support of donors and financing institutions
- Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises
- Capacity building of PA communities

Source: www.dennr.gov.ph (2017)

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