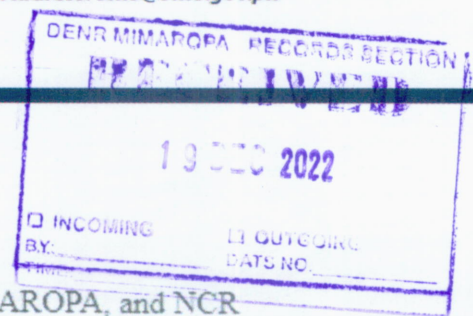


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Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR :** The Regional Executive Director  
 DENR Regions 1-13, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and NCR

**FROM :** The OIC Director

**SUBJECT :** **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BAMS-BMS  
 HARMONIZATION FOR COASTAL AND MARINE**

**DATE :** DEC 07 2022

This is in line with the harmonization of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (BAMS) and Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) for Coastal and Marine.

Please be informed that the Bureau conducted a consultation last August 23-25, 2022 as part of the ongoing effort to refine and finalize the methodologies and protocols for the assessment and monitoring of coastal and marine ecosystems. Part of the agenda is the discussion on the harmonization of the BAMS and BMS for coastal and marine. The harmonization activity was attended by representatives from the technical divisions of the Bureau.

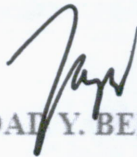
The applicability of the existing methodologies/processes of the BMS was compared to the standard methods in the current implementation of BAMS for coastal and marine, as well as, to the other components of CMEMP (i.e., maintenance and protection and social marketing) through a matrix (*see attached*). The outputs of the discussion as well as the proposed recommendations are as follows:

1. Field diary is proposed to be adopted in the CMEMP **Maintenance and Protection** component and enhance the latter's current implementation by providing a standardized format in reporting the observations during the regular patrolling activities within the MPA. However, the recording of wildlife will be limited to marine megafauna and other noticeable/observable species.
2. Recommendation to adopt the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in the CMEMP **Maintenance and Protection and Social Marketing** to engage the communities in providing data for the management (e.g. interview with coastal communities for data triangulation and conduct of citizen science for increased community participation). Monitoring of fishery, however, will be conducted by using proxy indicators from fish visual census (density, diversity, and biomass), instead of CPUE.

3. Photo documentation will be partly covered in the standard procedures of the **BAMS and Maintenance and Protection** by taking photos of the monitoring stations and patrolling routes, respectively. The photos, however, will not follow the five (5) viewpoints as prescribed in the BMS.
4. Since **BAMS** for coastal and marine already employs **annual** monitoring of coastal and marine habitats and uses more updated methodologies (i.e., belt transect, fixed transect, and photo transect method), transect swim/cruise of the BMS is proposed to no longer be implemented in NIPAS MPAs. This is to avoid duplication of data collection, as well as, maximize the funding allocation for monitoring activities.
5. Overall, most of the processes and indicators of BMS may already be covered by **BAMS** and other components of CMEMP, except for recording of people encountered and resource use.

Foregoing considered, may we recommend **all NIPAS PAs to remove or refrain from targeting the BMS for coastal and marine starting CY 2023**. The Coastal and Marine Division shall provide further guidance relative to the mainstreaming of the BMS processes and indicators to the applicable components of CMEMP as discussed above, to avoid confusion and redundancy.

For your information and consideration.



**NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO**



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



**BMB202205170**

BMS	Applicability to BAMS CM			Applicability to Other CMEMP Components
	Coral Reefs	Seagrass	Mangroves	
A. Field Diary				
Recording of people encountered and their activities				
Recording of signs of people's presence in the PA + type of disturbance				Partly covered in maintenance and protection (threats)
Recording of wildlife				Partly covered in habitat assessment (noted as observations)
Recording of physical changes (natural or anthropogenic)				Maintenance and protection
Second-hand info on resource use and species				
B. FGD				
Monitor fishery	Density , diversity, Biomass (not CPUE)			
Resource use				
Perceived trend of the resources				KAP and citizen science
Threat				Maintenance and protection
Presence of priority/indicator species				Maintenance and protection
C. Transect Swim/Cruise				
Priority marine organisms				Maintenance and protection; but no specific trend analysis per each species
Resource use				
Threats				Maintenance and protection
Major seabed habitat (substrate)			N/A	
D. PhotoDocumentation				
Most seriously threatened areas in the areas (e.g. logging, swiddening, etc.)				Partly yes, if covered by maintenance and patrolling routes (but not following the 5 viewpoints)