



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The OIC-Director, Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE TO THE DRAFT JOINT DA-DENR-DILG MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR RE: GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORKS (MPANs)**

DATE : 15 SEP 2020

This refers to the draft Joint DA-DENR-DILG Memorandum Circular re: *Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Area Networks (MPANs)* endorsed by the Asst. Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau.

BACKGROUND

1. Several laws promote the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) such as: RA 8550 (Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998) as amended by RA 10654; RA 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 10038; RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act); and the RA 7160 (Local Government Code), as amended.
2. MPAs are a defined area of the sea established and set aside by law, administrative regulation, or any other effective means in order to conserve and protect a part of or the entire enclosed environment through the establishment of management guidelines.
3. In the Philippines, there are an estimated 1,800 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that have been established, majority of which are locally managed and community-based.
4. In order to promote connectivity in terms of ecological, social and institutional linkage, studies suggest that the establishment of Marine Protected Areas Networks (MPANs) can provide more ecological benefits than individual MPAs. MPANs are a means by which MPAs could coordinate MPA establishment, and improve management through sharing of information, resources, and experiences.

SALIENT FEATURES

5. The draft JMC prescribes the requirements and process in establishing MPANs based on the three criteria to be used namely: ecological linkage, socio-economic linkage, and governance linkage.

Ecological linkage is the main consideration for MPAN establishment. However, socio-economic and governance linkages are equally important basis for networking. The MPAs proposing to establish MPAN must prove compliance with any of the following criteria, design principles and eligibility requirements of at least one of the linkage basis for purposes of the application for registration in the MPAN registry.

6. The guidelines shall serve as a guide for LGUs, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as well as the assistance on inter-LGU coordination to be provided by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

ACTIONS TAKEN

7. The draft policy was first tackled in the Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG) Meeting No. 2019-11 held on 19 December 2019. Several recommendations pertaining to the importance of ecological linkage and the role of the MPA Support Network were agreed upon during the said meeting. However, when it was presented again during PTWG Meeting No. 2020-05 held on 12 March 2020, the comments/issues of the PTWG were not taken into consideration. The proponent was then requested again to address the comments, after which a revised draft was resubmitted to this Office.

REQUESTED ACTION

The draft JMC has been revised by the proponent after taking into consideration the comments of the PTWG. In view of this, may we request **for your concurrence (or comments) to the said draft JMC. We would appreciate receiving your concurrence (or comments) on or before 23 September 2020. Otherwise, we will take it to mean as concurrence on your part if we do not receive feedback on the said date.** This is to facilitate our endorsement of the draft DAO for Usec/Asec vetting process.

For your information and appropriate action.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (JMC) No. _____
Date: _____

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, VICE GOVERNORS,
CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND VICE MAYORS OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH COASTAL AREAS, DA, DENR and
DILG FIELD OFFICES

SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORKS**

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Several laws promote the establishment of marine protected area (MPAs) including Republic Act (RA) No. 8550, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998*," as amended by RA 10654, RA 7586, otherwise known as the "*National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act*," as amended by RA 11038, RA 9147 or the "*Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act*," and RA 7160 or the "*Local Government Code*", as amended.

1.2. Majority of existing MPAs are small, community-established and managed areas, and not properly integrated into ecosystem or seascape approach, which limits the ability of MPAs to effectively contribute to achieving sustainable development, food security and biodiversity conservation goals.¹

1.3. Studies show that linking MPAs into networks will improve the capacities of each MPA and its relevant management body in law enforcement, biodiversity conservation, increasing fish stocks and other marine resources, among others.² MPA networks

¹ Green, A., White, A., Kilarski, S. (Eds.) 2013. Designing marine protected area networks to achieve fisheries, biodiversity, and climate change objectives in tropical ecosystems: A practitioner guide. The Nature Conservancy, and the USAID Coral Triangle Support Partnership, Cebu City, Philippines. pp. 2 to 5.

² Rebecca Weeks, Porfirio M. Aliño, Scott Atkinson, Pacifico Beldia II, Augustine Binson, Wilfredo L. Campos, Rili Djohani, Alison L. Green, Richard Hamilton, Vera Horigue,

(MPANs) will significantly improve and further increase MPA contribution to food security, ecological balance and poverty alleviation goals as well as to climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and building resilient ecosystems.

1.4. The establishment of MPANs is identified as a management strategy for achieving the sub-sector outcome for biodiversity and ecosystem services under Chapter 20 (Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment) of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022.³

1.5. The establishment of MPAN is aligned with Philippine obligations under the Conservation on Biological Diversity (CBD), specifically on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), among others. It is also consistent with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) as well as national programs such as the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) and Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) program, among others.

1.6. Based on Section 3(i) of the Local Government Code, local government units (LGUs) are the mandated frontliners and share with the national government the duty to conserve, manage and protect their respective coastal and marine areas.

1.7. This Guidelines lays down the basis, criteria, and processes in the establishment and management of MPANs to be followed by LGUs, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as well as the assistance on inter-LGU coordination and other to be provided by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

2. OBJECTIVES

This Guidelines aims to:

- A. Provide the basis, criteria and procedures for the establishment and management of MPANs composed of locally managed MPAs, which incorporates the concept of ecosystem approach;
- B. Define the roles and responsibilities of LGUs, DA, DENR, DILG and other relevant agencies/organizations in the MPAN establishment and management;
- C. Ensure the efficient management and harness the opportunities for synergies of MPAs to promote food security, marine biodiversity conservation, resilience and sustainable development; and
- D. Maximize inter-agency cooperation to achieve complementary and efficient use of resources in the establishment and management of MPA Networks.

Rebecca Jumin , Kay Kalim , Ahsanal Kasasiah , Jimmy Kereseke , Carissa Klein , Lynette Laroya , Sikula Magupin , Barbara Masike , Candice Mohan , Rui Miguel Da Silva Pinto , Agnetha Vave-Karamui , Cesar Villanoy , Marthen Welly & Alan T. White (2014) Developing Marine Protected Area Networks in the Coral Triangle: Good Practices for Expanding the Coral Triangle Marine Protected Area System, Coastal Management, 42:2, 183-205, DOI: 10.1080/08920753.2014.877768. E-copy available at : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08920753.2014.877768>; UNEP-WCMC (2008). National and Regional Networks of Marine Protected Areas: A Review of Progress. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, pp. 24 to 25. E-copy available at : <https://archive.org/details/nationalregional08well>

³ PDP 2017-2022, p. 324-325, specifically “Network of MPAs, fish refuge and sanctuaries and managed access areas *will be pursued to improve ecological connectivity and management efficiency.*” (Emphasis supplied.)

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Joint Memorandum Circular, the following terms shall mean as follows:

A. "*Biogeographic area*" - an area of animal and plant distribution having similar or shared characteristics throughout;⁴

B. "*Biodiversity*" – the variability among all living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes or which they are part: this includes diversity within species, among species and of ecosystems;⁵

C. "*Biodiversity-friendly Enterprise*" or "*BDFE*" – involves the utilization of resources leaning towards sustainability and further enhancement of resources in which the community will have an increased appreciation of biodiversity through its ecosystem services;⁶

D. "*Ecological linkage*" refer to connectivity which describes the extent to which populations in different parts of a species' range are linked by the exchange of eggs, larvae recruit or other propagules, juveniles or adults;⁷

E. "*Socio-Economic linkage*" – refer to sharing of common markets, inclusion in the value chain, sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices, resource providers and resource users;

F. "*Governance linkage*" – refer to sharing of policy-making, planning, decision-making, law enforcement, interaction of national and local government agencies, sharing of best/good practices on governance; monitoring and evaluation; reports;

G. "*Ecosystem Approach*" – is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way;⁸

H. "*Fisheries Management Areas*" or "*FMA*" - a bay, gulf, lake or any other fishery area which may be delineated for fishery resource management purposes;⁹

I. "*MPA Management Bodies*" – refer to agencies or entities created or designated by law, executive or administrative issuance or ordinance with the administration or management of an MPA, such as PAMB;

J. "*Marine Protected Area*" or "*MPA*" - a defined area of the sea established and set aside by law, administrative regulation, or any other effective means in order to conserve and protect a part of or the entire enclosed environment through the establishment of management guidelines. It is considered a generic term that includes all declared areas governed by specific rules or guidelines in order to

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/science/biogeographic-region>

⁵ CBD, NIPAS Act, Section 4(a).

⁶ From BMB BPKMD based on draft DAO (as of 3 May 2020) on "Guidelines For The Development And Recognition Of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFE)."

⁷ Palumbi (2003).

⁸ CBD.

⁹ Fisheries Code, Section 4 (34).

protect and manage activities within the enclosed area.¹⁰ MPAs include the following:

- 1) *Locally Managed Marine Protected Area* or “LMMPA” – MPAs established by LGUs in accordance with Republic Act (RA) 7160 or “*Local Government Code of 1991*,” and/or RA 8550 “*Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998*,” as amended by RA 10654;
- 2) “*NIPAS MPAs*” – protected areas established and managed in accordance with RA 7586 “*National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act*,” as amended by RA 11038;
- 3) “*Fishery Refuge and Sanctuaries*” - designated areas where fishing or other forms of activities which may damage the ecosystem of the area is prohibited and human access may be restricted;¹¹ and

K. *Marine Protected Area Network* or “MPAN” - connectivity of at least two (2) MPAs based on ecological and/or socio-economic and/or governance considerations, at various spatial scales, and with a range of protection levels that are designed to meet objectives that a single MPA cannot achieve;

L. “*MPA Support Network*” or “MSN” - a network of various government, non-government and academic institutions that seeks to provide support to local MPA initiatives and to improve MPA management effectiveness through, among others, maintaining a platform for knowledge and information sharing, developing assessment tools for MPA management, maintaining a registry of MPAs, and by promoting awareness and recognition of effective MPAs. Established in November 2005 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), MSN includes DA-BFAR, DENR and DILG among its members;

M. “*Municipal waters*” - include not only streams, lakes, inland bodies of water and tidal waters within the municipality which are not included within the protected areas as defined under Republic Act No. 7586 (The NIPAS Law), public forest, timberlands, forest reserves or fishery reserves, but also marine waters included between two (2) lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel with the general coastline including offshore islands and fifteen (15) kilometers from such coastline. Where two (2) municipalities are so situated on opposite shores that there are less than thirty (30) kilometers of marine waters between them, the third line shall be equally distant from opposite shore of the respective municipalities;¹²

N. “*Representation*” or “*Representativeness*” – refers to the need for MPAs to represent or sample the full variety of habitat types, species assemblages, ecological processes or other natural features that are characteristic for a given region;¹³ and to provide for the need of marine organisms for specific habitats during each stage of their life cycle (ontogenetic habitat shifts);

O. “*Replication*” or “*Replicability*” – mean more than one site shall contain examples of a given feature in the given biogeographic area. The term “feature”

¹⁰ Fisheries Code, Section 4(60).

¹¹ Fisheries Code, Section 6

¹² Fisheries Code, Section 4(58), and LGC, Section 13 (r).

¹³ Margules and Pressey (2000)

means “species, habitats and ecological processes” that naturally occur in the given biogeographic area;¹⁴

P. “*Resilience*” – refers to the underlying capacity of an ecosystem to maintain desired ecosystem services in the face of a fluctuating environment and human use;¹⁵ and

Q. “*Transboundary MPANs*” – refers to an MPAN that spans across boundaries of two or more countries.¹⁶

4. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This Guidelines serve shall apply to the establishment of Marine Protected Area Networks composed of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas or (LMMPAs) and/or NIPAS MPAs, excluding transboundary MPANs, as a management strategy for achieving sustainable development, food security and biodiversity conservation goals.

5. ESTABLISHING MPA NETWORKS

5.1. MPANs promote connectivity in terms of ecological, social, and institutional contexts. An MPA management body may initiate the establishment of a network with one or more MPAs, with technical assistance and guidance from relevant government agencies and the academe, based on ecological, socio-economic and/or governance linkages with the objective of sustaining healthy ecosystem goods and services and ensure the resilience of socio-ecological systems.

5.2. Ecological linkage is the main consideration for MPAN establishment. However, socio-economic and governance linkages are equally important basis for networking. The MPAs proposing to establish MPAN must prove compliance with any of the following criteria, design principles and eligibility requirements of at least one of the linkage basis for purposes of the application for registration in the MPAN registry:

A. Ecological linkage. MPAs should be ecologically connected in terms of critical or vulnerable habitats (spawning grounds, nurseries, MKBA), sink and sources of larvae habitats and key species of importance for conservation and fishery. Scientific studies or other scientifically reliable information showing ecological linkage should be submitted.

B. Socio-economic linkage. MPAs, though not ecologically connected, may establish MPAN for socio-economic considerations that will be beneficial to the members. Proposed MPANs must submit proof of strong socio-economic connections between the MPAs that address common need to facilitate learning, sharing of experiences and lessons learned in facing challenges, and undertaking collaborative activities that will result in equitable benefits such as enhanced capacities for managing MPAs, implementation of related biodiversity-friendly enterprises, improved value chain and tourism or eco-tourism activities.

C. Governance linkage. MPAs, though not ecologically connected, may establish MPAN for governance considerations that will result in mutual benefits.

¹⁴ CBD.

¹⁵ Folke et al. 2002:14

¹⁶ Based on CBD definition of transboundary protected area.
(<https://www.cbd.int/protected/pow/learnmore/goal13/#tab=1>)

Proposed MPANs must submit proof of governance connection resulting in more effective and efficient management of individual MPAs. Connections may include common legal or governing authority, law enforcement programs, cost-sharing arrangements, resource management issues, as well as shared vision, goals and strategies.

6. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MPA NETWORKS

6.1. MPAs may formalize the establishment of MPA networks through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as initial first step in the establishment of the MPAN, laying down the terms of reference of the MPAN arrangement.

6.2. The MPAN may use the MOU as a reference for developing other appropriate legal instruments, where necessary and applicable, in order to access funds, equipment, facility, personnel or other resources, as well as technical advisory and support for building capacities. Such legal instruments include, but not limited to the following:

A. MPAN between LMMPAs

1) Ordinance. Where all LGU-managed MPAs are within the same city or municipality, the concerned SB/SP may enact an Ordinance institutionalizing the MPAN and providing funds therefor and technical support and assistance.

2) Memoranda of Agreement. Where all LGU-managed MPAs are located in different cities or municipalities, the concerned LGUs may execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) supported by appropriate local ordinances. A procedure for the MOA on MPA Network establishment through inter-local cooperation or cooperative undertakings among LGUs or "LGU alliances" is provided in **Annex A** of this Joint Memorandum Circular.

3) Integrated Fisheries Ordinances. Where all LGU-managed MPAs are located in different cities or municipalities bordering FMA, the concerned LGUs may enact Integrated Fisheries Ordinances for the management of contiguous fishery areas and establishment of an MPA Network.¹⁷ An Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (IFARMC) may be established through such ordinance and assigned with management functions for the MPAN Network.¹⁸

B. MPAN between LMMPAs and NIPAS MPAs

1) Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP). Where LMMPAs are located within the NIPAS MPAs, such LMMPAs may be included and treated as Strict Protection Zones (SPZ) subject to compliance with the PAMP as approved by the PAMB in accordance with the NIPAS Act, as amended, and its implementing rules and regulations.

2) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Where locally-managed MPAs are outside of NIPAS areas, the locally-managed MPAs may execute a MOA with the DENR, through the DENR Regional Director and the Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) concerned. A procedure for such MOA between

¹⁷ Fisheries Code, Section 16. See also Fisheries Code IRR, Rule 16.5.

¹⁸ Fisheries Code, Section 76 and 77.

the locally-managed MPAs and the DENR is provided in **Annex B** of this Joint Memorandum Circular.

7. MPAN RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION

7.1. Registration and recognition shall for recording, monitoring and/or assistance purposes only. MPANs shall be registered with the DENR, through the BMB, for the purposes of accessing appropriate government services and assistance as well as for possible recognition of MPANs as other effective area-based conservation measure (OECMs) and MPAN contributions in achieving international commitments and targets including Aichi targets, Sustainable Development Goals, carbon targets and other national targets.

7.2. For registration, MPANs shall provide to the nearest DENR field office (Regional Office, PENRO or CENRO) the documents establishing the basis for networking (ecological, socio-economic or governance linkages) as well as the Memorandum of Agreement between the MPAs and other relevant documents. The DENR field offices shall forward the complete documents to BMB. BMB may seek assistance from MSN in the development and maintenance of a national MPAN registry.

7.3. To the extent allowed under their respective mandates, the DA, DENR and DILG shall assist recognized and registered MPANs, MPAN Management Bodies and other qualified persons in availing of appropriate fiscal, capacity-building and other incentives provided by law, including, but not limited to, those provided under Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987; Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997; Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippines Fisheries Code, as amended; Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act; Republic Act No. 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009; and Republic Act No. 10771 or the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016." The DA, DENR and DILG shall promote the recognition outstanding MPANs through awards and other incentives as may be allowed by law.

8. MPAN MANAGEMENT BOARD

8.1. A Management Board shall be established to formulate strategies to coordinate policies, programs and initiatives necessary for the effective implementation and management of an MPAN and to monitor the compliance with the MPAN Management Plan.

8.2. The Management Board shall be composed of the following board members:

- A. Mayor/s and governor/s of member LGUs, or their respective duly authorized representative with technical expertise;
- B. Representatives from DA, DENR and DILG;
- C. Representatives from each constituent MPAs, preferably the MPA manager;
- D. A representative from a duly registered non-governmental organization (NGO) with an extensive practice and known track record on MPA and MPAN establishment and management;
- E. A representative from the academe with expertise in MPA and MPAN establishment and management.

8.3. In MPANs involving NIPAS MPAs, the LGU representative/s shall be, as much as possible, the same LGU representative/s in the PAMB concerned.

8.4. In case where all or a majority of LMMPAs are within the NIPAS MPA, the PAMB shall remain as the sole management body. The PAMB may create a coordinating

committee for LMMPAs within the NIPAS MPA. The coordinating committee shall be composed of the Mayor/s of the city/cities or municipality/municipalities where the LMMPAs within the MPAs are located, or their duly designated representative/s. The coordinating committee may invite the Mayor/s of the city/cities or municipality/municipalities of the LMMPAs located outside the NIPAS MPA.

8.5. As much as possible, at least forty percent (40%) of the members of the Management Board shall be women, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9710 or the 'The Magna Carta of Women'

8.6. The Management Board shall be presided by a Chairperson to be elected by the board members among themselves. The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Management Board and may be:

- A. The representative of the City/Municipal Mayor, in cases where all MPAs are within the municipal waters of a single city or municipality;
- B. A representative of the City/Municipal Mayor selected by collegial agreement among the LGUs or the Representative of the Provincial Governor, where the MPAs are located in the municipal waters of two or more cities or municipalities within the same province; or
- C. The representative from the DENR, in cases where the MPAs are located in the municipal waters of cities or municipalities belonging to two (2) or more provinces.

8.7. There shall be a Vice-chairperson to be elected by the board members among themselves. The vice-chairperson assists the Chairperson and, in the absence of the latter, preside in the meetings of the Management Board.

8.8. A Technical Secretariat for each MPAN shall be created which shall be composed of the technical personnel from the LGUs and the concerned field offices of the DA, DENR and DILG. The Technical Secretariat shall provide technical support to the Management Board and shall also perform administrative functions such as organization of the meetings, taking minutes of meetings, and preparing reports as well as board resolutions.

8.9. The Technical Secretariat shall be composed of at least six (6) members who shall have the following minimum qualifications:

- A. At least one (1) member shall be a Marine Biologist or a Fisheries Technologist or have significant training and experience in marine biology, fisheries, or MPA management;
- B. At least one (1) member shall be a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines;
- C. At least one (1) City/Municipal Agricultural Officer or City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- D. In cases involving NIPAS MPAs, the PASu/s concerned or his/her duly authorized representative.

8.10. The Technical Secretariat shall be headed by a member from the DENR or DA-BFAR.

8.11. The Management Board may organize committees based on identified needs. Committees may include Technical (Assessment/Research, Enforcement, Tourism, as necessary), Administrative (Finance and Administration), Planning and M&E, IEC/CCA, and Audit among others.

8.12. The Management Board shall meet at least once every quarter. The Management Board may be also be convened as the need arises as determined by the Chairperson.

8.13. The Management Board shall submit periodic reports to the BMB for documentation purposes.

9. MPAN MANAGEMENT PLAN

9.1. Each MPAN shall adopt and implement an MPAN Management Plan, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and with the assistance of relevant NGAs.

9.2. The MPAN Management Plan shall include the following as basic elements:

- A. Situational analysis or issue identification and prioritization;
- B. Vision, mission, goals, and objectives;
- C. Technical Description to establish and map the MPAN network metes and bounds. The body of water between linked MPAs to form the network shall likewise form part of the network metes and bounds; and
- D. Management programs and strategies to address the issues identified and prioritized which can be collaboratively implemented with partners including
 - 1) Technical (Assessment/Research, Enforcement, Tourism, as necessary),
 - 2) Administrative (Finance and Admin), Sustainable Financing and Audit, Planning, Financial Management Scheme (Contribution and Fees)
 - 3) Monitoring & evaluation (M&E) and reporting mechanisms
Capacity Building,
 - 4) Coordination of management programs and harmonization with other management plans (PAMP, CLWUP, WQMA LGU Compliance Plan, ICM Plan, CRM Plans,)
 - 5) Broader partnerships with other stakeholders

9.3. The MPA Network Management Plan shall be periodically updated based on the results of the monitoring and evaluation, among others.

9.4. The proposed MPA Network Management Plan shall be approved by the Management Board.

10. GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

10.1. LGUs share with the national government agencies the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance in their marine and coastal areas as well as in the management and improvement of water quality within their territorial jurisdictions.¹⁹ As front liners, LGUs shall lead in the protection and management of the

¹⁹ LGC, Section 3[j] and Clean Water Act, Section 20.

marine and coastal resources within their respective municipal waters in accordance with applicable national fisheries and environmental laws and policies.

10.2. LGUs with MPAs shall consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources in establishing an MPAN and for this purpose, may seek technical or advisory assistance of DA, DENR and DILG. LGUs without MPAs may join or be requested to join an MPAN for social and governance considerations.

10.3. LGUs shall enact Ordinances in support of existing environmental laws, to protect the environment and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger it, such as dynamite fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of eutrophication of rivers and lakes, or of ecological imbalance.

10.4. Consistent with the applicable Fisheries Management Area (FMA) Plan, Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) and other similar plans as required by existing laws and policies,²⁰ LGUs shall draft, adopt and harmonize their local environmental plans including, but not limited to:

- A. Coastal resource management (CRM)
- B. Integrated Coastal Resources Management Plan (ICRMP)
- C. Local fisheries management plans
- D. Water Quality Compliance Plans

10.5. LGUs to consider MPAN concerns in the formulation of the above local environmental plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), Coastal Resource Management Plan (CRMP), and other related plans and investment programs..

10.6. LGUs shall mobilize their respective local communities to participate in related undertakings and activities supporting the MPANs.

10.7. Subject to applicable laws, rules, regulations and issuances on judicious use of funds, LGUs may establish or join MPANs based on socio-economic and governance considerations.

10.8. In NIPAS MPAs, LGUs may charge add-ons to fees imposed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) provided that such add-ons shall be based on the contribution of the LGUs in the maintenance and protection of the NIPAS MPAs.²¹

11. SPECIFIC ROLES OF LGUS

11.1. The Province, through the Governor, shall:

- A. In coordination with the mayors of component cities and municipalities, adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve marine resources of the province;²²
- B. In the case where the MPAN is located in one province and upon the request of all constituent MPAs, act as the Chairperson of the MPAN
- C. Ensure that that the acts of its component units with regards to MPANs are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions;²³
- D. Ensure that the MPAN and MPAN Management Plan is considered in the formulation/updating of the Provincial Development Physical

²⁰ FAO 263 and NIPAS Act Section 16

²¹ NIPAS Act, Section 26.

²² Local Government Code, Section 465(b)(3)(v).

²³ 1987 Constitution, Article X, Section 4.

Framework Plan (PDPFPs) and other related plans, based on applicable guidelines from the DENR and/or the DILG and/or the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).”

11.2. The City/Municipality, through the Mayor, shall:

- A. Lead in the establishment of MPANs composed of LMMPAs. The Municipality/City shall coordinate with DENR and the PAMB in the establishment of MPANs with NIPAS MPAs in accordance with this Joint Memorandum Circular;
- B. Ensure that the acts of its component units with regards to MPANs are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions;²⁴ and
- C. Ensure that the MPAN and MPAN Management Plan is considered in the formulation/updating of the CLUP, CDP, CRMP and other related plans and investment programs.

12. GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

12.1. The DA, DENR, DILG and other relevant national government agencies shall share available data and provide policy guidance and the needed technical assistance to guide the LGUs in the establishment and management of MPA Networks, including the building and improving the capacities of MPAN managers particularly in MPAN management planning, development of financial mechanisms, and MPAN awareness campaigns, among others.²⁵

12.2. The DA, DENR, DILG shall cause the posting of these Guidelines in their respective websites.

13. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DA

13.1. The DA, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall provide:

- A. Technical assistance (e.g. habitat assessment and monitoring) in the establishment of MPAN;
- B. Capacity-building for law enforcement, deputation of fish wardens, and assistance during seaborne patrol operation;
- C. Technical assistance in the rehabilitation of damaged habitat, restocking, protection and management; (e.g., Crown of Thorns collection, marine debris, waste recycling, stranding of cetaceans/reptiles, oil spill);
- D. Fisheries-related alternative livelihood projects for fisherfolk affected by the establishment of MPAN;
- E. Relevant information, communication plan and development of IEC materials on management and regulation of fisheries resources;
- F. Guidelines on good fishing practices for the conservation of MPAN,
- G. Legal assistance in the formulation of local fisheries ordinance and litigation of fishery-related cases;
- H. Policy intervention, following the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) framework, as needed; and

²⁴ 1987 Constitution, Article X, Section 4.

²⁵ Local Government Code, Section 17(h).

- I. Guidelines on Fisheries Administrative Orders and Joint Administrative Orders (e.g., Davao Gulf management area (fishing closure, small pelagics))

13.2. The DA, through the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), shall provide:

- A. Relevant science-based fishery data, information and technology such as fish landing and catch effort, validation of fish identification, reference points, connectivity, spill-over effects;
- B. Capacity building of monitoring teams to enhance identification and validation skills, laboratory expertise, and other science-based information to support establishment of fish refugia and sanctuaries; and
- C. Policy recommendation and/or developed/improved technologies, as needed

14. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DENR

14.1. The DENR shall be the lead agency in NIPAS MPAs and shall spearhead activities such identifying and addressing threats to coastal and marine resources, recommending rehabilitation measures for degraded areas, developing and maintaining mangrove nurseries, conducting information, education and communication (IEC) activities on coastal and marine resources conservation and good practices in NIPAS MPAs.

14.2. The DENR shall support the promotion and adoption of biodiversity-friendly enterprise (BDFE). It shall also provide technical assistance and support to coastal and marine law enforcement.

14.3. The DENR shall ensure that fees and charges from the use of resources and facilities of NIPAS MPAs, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefitting from the NIPAS MPAs, and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the NIPAS MPAs are deposited in the Integrated Protected Areas Fund (IPAF).

14.4. The DENR, through the PAMB, shall coordinate with LGU/s in the establishment of MPANs between and among LMMPAs and NIPAS MPAs.

14.5. The DENR, in coordination with the DILG, will establish performance incentive mechanism/s for LGUs engaged in the establishment and maintenance of MPANs.

14.6. DENR shall provide the following support and assistance:

- A. Conduct of environmental quality assessment, such as conditions of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves and habitat vulnerability assessment;
- B. Development and implementation of capacity building programs;
- C. Assist in MPAN management planning;
- D. Raise awareness on MPAN;
- E. Conduct capacity building and assessment programs; and
- F. In coordination with academe and research institutions, provide scientific information or data relevant to MPAN, such as connectivity studies;

14.7. Through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) provide assistance on the following:

- A. Policy review;²⁶
- B. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of these Guidelines;²⁷
- C. Development and implementation of capacity building program;²⁸
- D. Development and maintenance of a registry under the CMEMP of all MPANs as well as priority areas for MPAN establishment²⁹ and
- E. Recognition of best practices³⁰

14.8. Through the DENR Regional Offices,³¹ provide assistance with field implementers on the following:

- A. Conduct of environmental quality assessment, such as conditions of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves and habitat vulnerability assessment;
- B. Development and implementation of capacity building program;
- C. MPAN management planning;
- D. Raising awareness on MPAN;
- E. Collaboration with LGUs, the academe, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders on MPAN establishment and management;³²; and
- F. Administration to MPAN managers of relevant management effectiveness tools such as Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) and Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), among others.

14.9. Specifically, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), shall:

- A. Provide technical assistance to LGUs on LMMPAN establishment and management;
- B. Conduct of awareness campaign and capacity building programs to LGUs and other stakeholders;
- C. Monitoring and evaluation; and
- D. Perform other related functions as may be assigned by higher authority.

14.10. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), or the implementing PENRO in case there is no CENRO, shall:

- A. Conduct of environmental quality assessment, such as conditions of corals, seagrass beds, and mangroves and habitat vulnerability assessment;
- B. For MPAN involving NIPAS MPAs, initiate the establishment of MPAN based on the criteria and procedure set forth in this guidelines;
- C. Provide technical assistance to LGUs on LMMPAN establishment and management;
- D. Conduct of awareness campaign and capacity building programs to LGUs and other stakeholders;
- E. Document lessons learned and good practices on MPAN;
- F. Monitoring and evaluation; and
- G. Perform other related functions as may be assigned by higher authority.

²⁶ BMB Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2017-03 "Adoption of the BMB Functional and Organizational Structure on Technical Matters." (10 May 2017), Section 2 item b, and Section 3 items 4.1.a and 4.2.1.

²⁷ BMB MC No. 2017-03, Section 3, items 4.1.b and 4.2.12.

²⁸ BMB MC No. 2017-03, Section 3, item 4.2.3

²⁹ BMB MC No. 2017-03, Section 3, items 4.1.c, 5.2.f and 5.2.h

³⁰ BMB MC No. 2017-03, Section 3, item 5.2.i

³¹ DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-01 "Functions of Regional Offices Under the Rationalized Organizational Structure of DENR" (7 January 2019).

³² DAO No. 2016-26 "Guidelines for the Implementation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP)" (17 October 2016), Section 6.

14.11. For MPAN involving NIPAS MPAs, the Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) and/or the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), where appropriate, shall:

- A. Enter into a MOA/MOU for the establishment of MPAN. The MOA/MOU shall be signed by the DENR Regional Director concerned;³³
- B. Provide technical assistance to LGUs on LMMPAN establishment and management;
- C. Conduct of awareness campaign and capacity building programs to LGUs and other stakeholders;
- D. Through the PASu, draft and facilitate PAMB resolutions for the establishment of MPAN;
- E. Implement MPAN management plan
- F. Through the PASu, ensure integration of MPAN and its activities in the Protected Area Management Plan; and
- G. Through the PASu, document lessons learned and good practices on MPAN;

14.12. The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)³⁴ shall provide:

- A. Geospatial data such as maps, and where appropriate, to certify the metes and bounds of MPAN;
- B. Technical assistance and capacity building to LGUs relating to map reading, and the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) for MPAN management; and
- C. Assist in raising awareness/information dissemination by indicating the locations of registered MPA and MPANs in the appropriate nautical charts and maps.

15. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DILG

15.1. The DILG shall:

- A. Assist technical agencies in coordinating with target LGUs;
- B. Through the Regional Offices, disseminate this Joint Memorandum Circular to all concerned LGUs within their respective regional jurisdictions;
- C. Consider the inclusion of MPA Network establishment in the Fisheries Compliance Audit (Fish CA), and the Nationwide Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA); and
- D. Provide policy support to the technical agencies, which may include the issuance of supplementary Memorandum Circulars.

16. MPAN SUPPORT

16.1. The participation of all stakeholders, including the youth, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and senior citizens, shall be promoted to provide a comprehensive

³³ DAO No. 2016-07 "DENR Manual of Authorities for Technical Matters", Page 29.

³⁴ DAO 1998-31 "Prescribing the Guidelines Implementing Executive Order No. 192 Dated 10 June 1987 with Respect to the Creation of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)" (27 April 1988)

implementation of MPAN activities. Partnerships and institutional arrangements with the private sector and other national government agencies, such as through membership and participation in MSN, shall be promoted in furtherance of MPAN establishment and effective management.

16.2. The academe, scientific and research institutions and people's organizations may join the MPANs as support network to provide technical and advisory assistance to MPANs.

17. FUNDING

17.1. The DA, DENR and DILG shall include in their respective future budget proposals the funding requirements for the implementation of this Joint Memorandum Circular. In the interim, the DA, DENR and DILG shall allocate the necessary amounts from appropriate funds subject to compliance with DBM, COA rules and regulations.

17.2. LGUs shall allocate funds for the administration of the MPAN. LGUs shall also consider establishing trust funds for the operational requirements of MPANs.

17.3. As may be allowed under the NIPAS Act, as amended, and its implementing rules and regulations, the Integrated Protected Areas Fund (IPAF) may be utilized for MPANs involving NIPAS MPAs, subject to existing accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations."

18. SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS

18.1. To ensure convergence, the DA, DENR and DILG shall formulate, review and amend where necessary, the following:

1. Standard procedures for MPAN on monitoring and evaluation, reporting and feedback
2. Platform for knowledge management
3. Communication and coordination mechanisms to ensure consistent management intervention and strategy to address common threats
4. Incentive and disincentive system
5. Sustainability plan to ensure awareness and mainstream national programs to local initiatives, budgets and policies
6. Biodiversity-friendly enterprise (BDFE)

19. LEGAL REFERENCES

19.1. Constitution and National Laws

- A. Constitution, Article II, Section 16; Article XII, 2; and Article XIII, Section 7.
- B. Republic Act No. 8550 "*Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998*" or "*Fisheries Code*", as amended by RA 10654.
- C. Republic Act No. 7586 "*National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*" or "*NIPAS Act*", as amended by RA 11038
- D. Republic Act No. 7160 "*Local Government Code of 1991*"
- E. Republic Act No. 9275 "*Clean Water Act*"

19.2. International Conventions

- A. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- B. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- C. Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

19.3. Executive Issuances

- A. Executive Order No. 533 Adopting Integrated Coastal Management as a National Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the Country's Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources and Establishing Supporting Mechanisms for its Implementation (6 June 2006)
- B. Executive Order No. 578 "Establishing the National Policy on Biological Diversity, Prescribing its Implementation Throughout the Country, Particularly in the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem and the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor" (8 November 2006)

19.4. Department Issuances

- A. DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-26 "Guidelines for the Implementation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program (CMEMP) (17 October 2016)
- B. Fisheries Administrative Order No. 263 series of 2019 "Establishment of Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) for the Conservation and Management of Fisheries in the Philippines" (28 January 2019)
- C. Department of Agriculture General Memorandum Order No. 3, series of 1990 entitled "Guidelines for Establishment of Fish Sanctuaries"

19.5. National Plans and Programs

- A. Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.
- B. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- C. Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) program
- D. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP)

20. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

20.1. This Guidelines shall be periodically reviewed in order to address gaps and to further improve the establishment and management of MPANs.

21. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

21.1. If any clause, sentence or provision of this Joint Memorandum Circular shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by a competent court, its remaining parts shall not be affected thereby.

22. REPEALING CLAUSE

22.1. All orders, circulars, rules and regulations inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of these Joint Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23. EFFECTIVITY

23.1. This Joint Memorandum Circular shall be effective fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and upon its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR).

24. APPROVING AUTHORITIES

WILLIAM D. DAR
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources

EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary
Department of the Interior and Local Government

16. FEEDBACK

16.1. For related inquiries, please contact _____ at
_____ or email address _____.

ANNEX A

A procedure for the establishment of an MPA Network between or among LGUs through an Inter-Local Cooperation or Cooperative Undertakings or LGU alliances

Legal Basis

1. Article X, Section 13 of the Constitution states that LGUs “may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance with law.”
2. Section 3 (f) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991” reiterates, as an operative principle of decentralization, the power of LGUs to enter into Inter-Local Cooperation or Cooperative Undertakings among LGUs or “LGU alliances”.
3. In particular, Section 33 of the Local Government Code states that LGU alliances are established through appropriate local ordinances and LGUs involved “may, upon approval by the sanggunian concerned after a public hearing conducted for the purpose, contribute funds, real estate, equipment, and other kinds of property and appoint or assign personnel under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the participating local units through Memoranda of Agreement.”
4. Article 61 (d) of Presidential Administrative Order No. 270 (21 February 1992) on “Prescribing the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Local Government Code of 1991” or the “IRR of the Local Government Code” provides the procedure for the establishment of LGU alliances.
5. Section 455 (b)(1)(vi) and Section 444 (b)(1)(vi) of the Local Government Code authorizes the City or Municipal Mayor, upon authorization by the sangguniang concerned, to represent the city or municipality in all business transactions and sign on its behalf all bonds, contracts, and obligations, and such other documents made pursuant to law or ordinance.
6. Section 455(b)(3)(vii) and Section 444 (b)(3)(vii) of the Local Government Code authorizes the City or Municipal Mayor to adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, mineral, marine, forest, and other resources of the municipality;

Procedure

Applying the procedure for establishing an LGU alliance in the IRR of the Local Government Code to the context of MPA Network establishment among LGUs, the following steps are recommended:

1. The Proponent or Champion (and LGU official, national government agency, NGO, PO, etc.) shall collect and consolidate available scientific studies to support the establishment of an the MPA Network, including information on the ideal size, coverage, composition, and other relevant details.
2. The Proponent or Champion shall help establish a common goals, vision and mission of the MPA Network among the potential LGU members and/or stakeholders.
3. With the assistance of DILG, DENR and DA, the Proponent or Champion shall recommend the establishment of an MPA Network to the local chief executive (LCE) and the local development council (LDC) of each of the LGU concerned.
4. The concerned LCEs shall negotiate among themselves on the relevant details of the MPA Network, including the coordinating or implementing structure, the duties and responsibilities of each LGU, and other terms and conditions. The negotiations may be conducted through a technical working group composed of duly appointed representatives of the LCEs. The resulting agreement shall be embodied in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
5. The LCEs concerned shall submit the MOA to their respective sanggunians and obtain authority to sign the MOA and enter into inter-local cooperation for the establishment of an MPA Network.
6. Each sanggunian shall conduct as many public hearings as may be required to obtain the views and opinions of the affected sectors.
7. Each sanggunian shall issue a Resolution authorizing the LCE to sign the MOA.
8. The MOA shall be signed by all the LCEs concerned.
9. Within ten (10) days from signing of the MOA, the LCEs concerned shall formally submit a copy of the MPA to their respective sanggunians for their approval.
10. Each sanggunian shall adopt an Ordinance ratifying the MPA Network and appropriating funds for it.
11. The MPA Network shall begin the preparation of the MPA Management Plan.

Recommended Provisions in the MOA

Ideally, the MOA should contain the following provisions:

1. Conduct of periodic review of the MOA.
2. Authority of the MPA Network Management Body to adopt resolutions, subject to ratification by the each sanggunian concerned.
3. Harmonization of policies among member LGUs

4. Legal mechanism for non-compliance, such as mediation, conciliation, arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms.
5. The preparation and adoption of an MPA Network Management Plan.
6. The preparation and adoption of a Manual of Operations for the MPA Network.
7. Financial mechanism and contribution of each LGU
8. Fund management
9. Assignment of LGU personnel to the MPA Network

Reference

Philippine Development Forum, German Technical Cooperation, European Union Delegation to the Philippines, and Canadian International Development Agency (2010). *Critical Ingredients in Building and Sustaining Inter-Local Cooperation*. with the financial and technical support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union, and the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). pp. 89. E-copy available at:

https://www.ab.gov.tr/files/ardb/evt/1_avrupa_birligi/1_9_politikalar/1_9_8_dis_politika/Critical_ingredients_in_building_and_sustaining_inter-local_cooperation.pdf

ANNEX B

A procedure for the establishment of an MPA Network through an agreement between LGU/s and PAMB/s

Legal Basis

1. Section 3 (i) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" states that local government units (LGUs) "shall share with the national government the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction."
2. Section 35 of the Local Government Code provides that LGUs may enter into cooperative arrangements with people's organizations (POs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability-building and livelihood projects, and to develop local enterprises designed to improve productivity and income and to promote ecological balance, among others.
3. Section 2 of RA 7586, as amended by RA 11038, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act" states that the NIPAS "shall recognize conservation areas and the management regimes being implemented by local government units (LGUs), local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs)."
4. Section 10(h) of NIPAS Act authorizes the DENR Secretary to enter into enter into contracts and/or agreements with private entities or public agencies as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of the NIPAS.
5. DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2016-07 or the "Manual of Authorities for Technical Matters" (Page 26 of 65) devolved to the DENR Regional Directors the authority to execute agreements for the management of protected areas under NIPAS.
6. Section 11-A (b) of the NIPAS Act authorizes the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) to approve agreements and other related documents, among others, for the management of the protected areas;
7. Section 465 (b)(1)(vi), Section 455 (b)(1)(vi) and Section 444 (b)(1)(vi) of the Local Government Code authorizes the Provincial Governor, the City or Municipal Mayor, upon authorization by the sangguniang concerned, to represent the province, city or municipality in all business transactions and sign on its behalf all bonds, contracts, and obligations, and such other documents made pursuant to law or ordinance.
8. Section 465(b)(3)(v), Section 455(b)(3)(vii) and Section 444 (b)(3)(vii) of the Local Government Code authorizes the Provincial Governor, the City or Municipal Mayor

to adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, mineral, marine, forest, and other resources of the municipality.

Procedure

1. The Proponent or Champion (an LGU official, national government agency, NGO, PO, Protected Area Superintendent PASU, etc.) shall collect and consolidate available scientific studies to support the establishment of an the MPA Network, including information on the ideal size, coverage, composition, and other relevant details.
2. The Proponent or Champion shall help establish a common goals, vision and mission of the MPA Network among the PAMB of the potential NIPAS protected area and the LGU members and/or stakeholders.
3. With the assistance of DILG, DENR and DA, the Proponent or Champion shall recommend the establishment of an MPA Network to the local chief executive (LCE) and the local development council (LDC) of each of the LGU concerned.
4. With the assistance of DILG, DENR and DA, the Proponent or Champion shall recommend the establishment of an MPA Network to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the NIPAS protected area concerned.
5. The concerned LCE/s and PAMB/s shall negotiate among themselves on the relevant details of the MPA Network, including the coordinating or implementing structure, the duties and responsibilities of each party, and other terms and conditions. The negotiations may be conducted through a technical working group composed of duly appointed representatives of the LCE/s and PAMB/s. The resulting agreement shall be embodied in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
6. The PAMB shall approve the MOA and recommend it for the signing of the DENR Regional Director.
7. The LCE/s concerned shall submit the MOA to the sanggunian/s concerned and obtain authority to sign the MOA.
8. Each sanggunian shall conduct as many public hearings as may be required to obtain the views and opinions of the affected sectors.
9. Each sanggunian shall issue a Resolution authorizing the LCE to sign the MOA.
10. The MOA shall be signed by all LCE/s and the DENR Regional Director/s concerned.
11. Within ten (10) days from signing of the MOA, the LCEs concerned shall formally submit a copy of the MPA to their respective sanggunians for their approval.

12. Each sanggunian shall adopt an Ordinance ratifying the MPA Network and appropriating funds for it.