



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
Environmental Management Bureau

**FROM :** THE UNDERSECRETARY  
Field Operations and Supervising Undersecretary EMB & MGB  
Luzon and Visayas

**THE UNDERSECRETARY**  
Field Operations and Supervising Undersecretary EMB & MGB  
Mindanao

**SUBJECT :** GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COASTAL  
AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
COMPONENT ON WATER QUALITY MONITORING WITHIN  
THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS  
MARINE PROTECTED AREA FOR FY 2024 AND BEYOND

**DATE :** 19 MAR 2024

One of the components of the DENR priority program is the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) which is being implemented through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the DENR Regional Field Offices. The CMEMP, pursuant to the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2016-26 aims to comprehensively manage, address, and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems thereby increasing their ability to provide ecological goods and services to improve the quality of life of the coastal population, particularly ensuring food security, climate change resiliency, and disaster risk reduction.

In line with the implementation of CMEMP, the BMB has developed further guidance on one of its components on the development of management strategies for the establishment and strengthening of NIPAS MPAs and MPA Networks. This includes the conduct of Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment.

As such, initial guidelines for the conduct of water quality monitoring and assessment within the NIPAS MPAs, in coordination with the Environmental Management Bureau have been formulated. The guidelines prescribe the implementation and coordination network of the DENR Regional Offices with the EMB Regional counterpart who shall provide the necessary technical assistance for Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment within NIPAS MPAs.

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The guidelines also prescribe the development of a Water Monitoring Plan (WQMP) for the NIPAS MPAs which shall be facilitated through the establishment of monitoring stations and pilot-testing of the adopted assessment protocols. Methodologies and parameters to be included in the WQMP shall refer to and adopt the provisions of DAO 2016-08 and DAO 2021-19.

Relative thereto, all EMB Regional Offices are hereby directed to coordinate with their DENR Regional and Field Offices counterparts to provide the following assistance:

1. Establishment /re-establishment of monitoring stations;
2. Preparation and collection of water samples;
3. Guidance on capacity building for the handling of water quality monitoring equipment;
4. Landing of water quality monitoring equipment, if necessary;
5. Analysis of water quality parameters;
6. Interpretation of water quality analysis results.

Starting 2025, the EMB will be in charge and responsible for the programming of Water Quality Monitoring counterpart funds covering Legislated and Proclaimed NIPAS MPAs including priority seascapes in the regular water quality monitoring program.

For information and compliance.

  
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