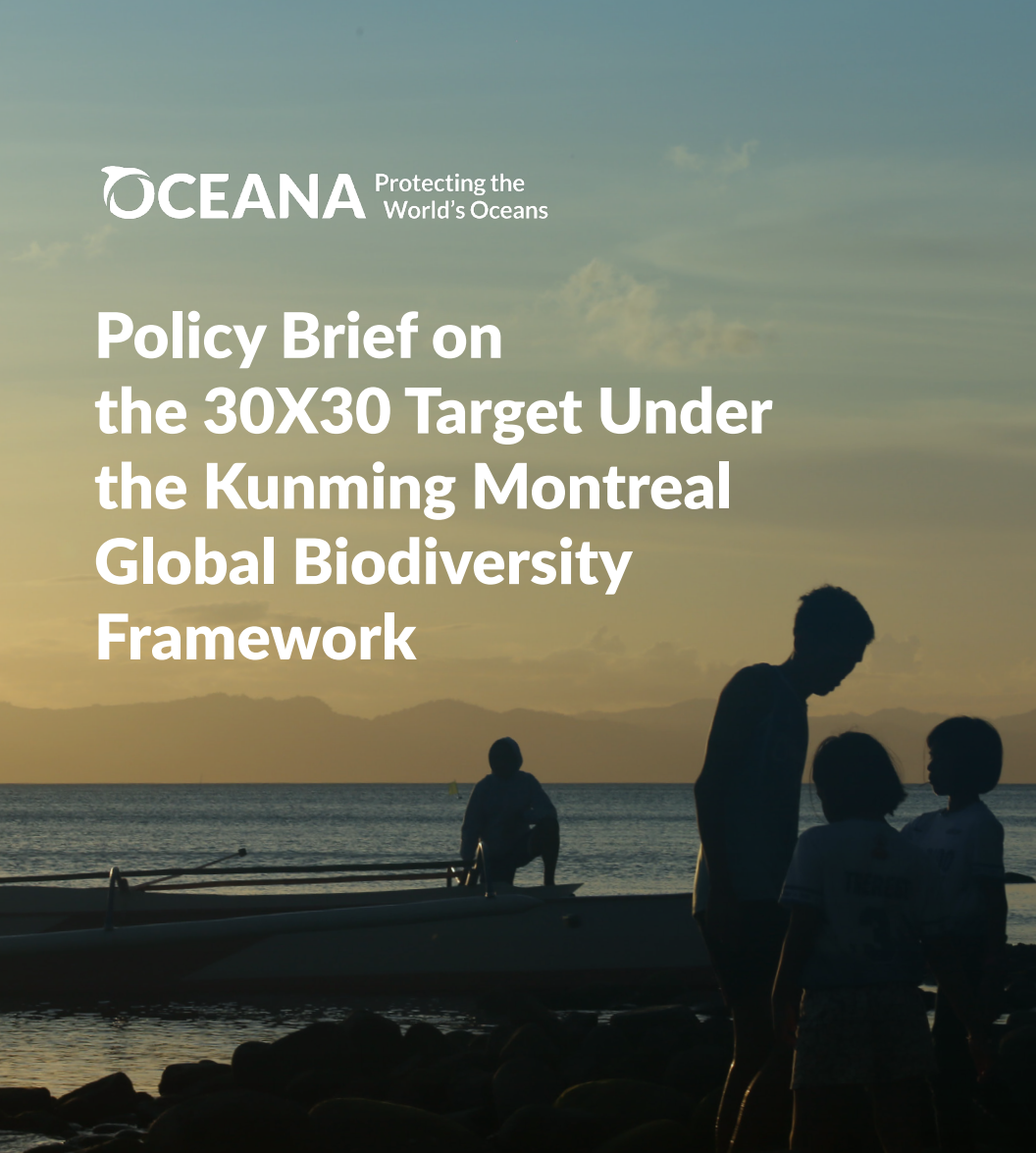


Policy Brief on the 30X30 Target Under the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



In December 2022, over 196 countries, including the Philippines, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The mission of the Framework for the period up to 2030, is to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation.

The framework includes 23 targets aimed at reversing habitat and species loss. Target 3 of the KMGBF, also known as 30X30 target, calls for the effective conservation and management of at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, by the year 2030.

Despite the commitments made in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets back in 2010, the decline of biodiversity has only worsened over the past decade. This loss of biodiversity poses an urgent and critical crisis that demands immediate attention. Several studies have highlighted the potential benefits that can be achieved by implementing effective management strategies for ocean protection and conservation on a global scale. Specifically, increasing the coverage by at least 30% can yield positive outcomes for biodiversity, fisheries, and marine carbon stocks (Saia et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2020; Woodley et al., 2019; O'Leary et al., 2016; Gaines et al., 2010; Roberts et al., 2003).

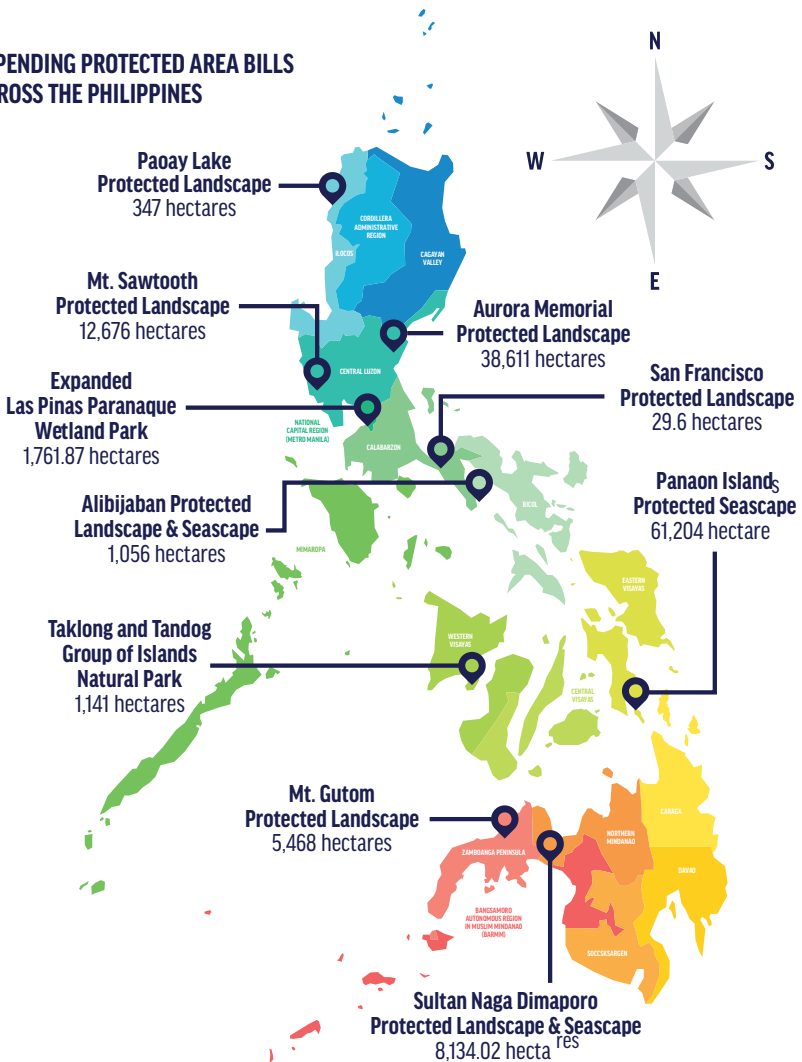
The Philippines is one of the world's 18 mega-biodiverse countries, holding roughly two-thirds of Earth's biodiversity and between 70% and 80% of the planet's plant and animal species. As a major biodiversity hotspot, it is home to at least 700 threatened species, underscoring its significance as a global conservation priority. This extraordinary biodiversity is sustained by a variety of ecosystems, landscapes, and habitats.¹ However, these critical areas are extremely vulnerable not only to the impacts of climate change, which exacerbates challenges such as habitat loss, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events, but also to the pressures of human activities. The urgency to ensure effective management of areas which hold rich biodiversity and natural resources is made more compelling than ever, as the nation faces increasing threats that endanger these life support systems.

The Philippines has pledged its support for the 30x30 global target. It has joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC), a global initiative that aims to address the alarming rate of biodiversity loss and safeguard crucial ecosystems that contribute to economic stability, and it is also part of the Global Ocean Alliance (GOA), which specifically focuses on the conservation of the global ocean. The GOA aims to protect 30% of the global ocean through the establishment of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) by 2030.

The Philippines is actively working on its 30x30 international commitment. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-

Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) has outlined a plan to enhance the conservation of marine and terrestrial areas by identifying a proposed spatial coverage that would contribute to the global 30x30 target. Since joining the HAC and GOA, they have committed to protect 35.03 million hectares or 15.91% of Philippine seas and 22% of terrestrial and inland water by 2030. This conservation effort encompasses existing and proposed NIPAS MPAs, MPA Networks (excluding NIPAS MPAs), Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs), and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) for protection.

11 PENDING PROTECTED AREA BILLS ACROSS THE PHILIPPINES



The 11 Protected Area Bills pending in the Senate are categorized under Cluster 1 by DENR BMB. These are integral to the Philippines' 30x30 conservation goals and if enacted, they would significantly contribute to achieving the 4.39% marine conservation target and 16.25% terrestrial conservation target. The swift approval of these bills is crucial for ensuring the sustainable management and protection of these vital areas. This will embed stewardship and enhance governance, law enforcement, citizen participation, collaboration, and support from national agencies and local governments. Passing the pending 11 protected area bills would safeguard 130,834.80 hectares of land and sea, making substantial progress toward our 30x30 commitment for land and oceans.

