

Concept Note

NEAMPAN Workshop on Marine and Coastal OECMs in North-East Asia

24-25 June 2026

National Korea Maritime & Ocean University, Busan, Republic of Korea

*Co-organized by ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office (NEASPEC secretariat), Korea Maritime & Ocean University, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM),
in partnership with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea*

1. Background

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted in 2022, calls for the effective conservation and management of at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal areas by 2030 (Target 3), including through protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). In this context, OECMs are increasingly recognized as a complementary approach to protected areas, encompassing a wider range of governance and management practices that can contribute to biodiversity conservation.

While global progress on marine protected areas (MPAs) has been significant, the identification and recognition of OECMs, particularly in marine and coastal areas, remain at an early stage in many regions, including North-East Asia. In practice, countries in the region already implement various forms of area-based marine and coastal management, such as integrated coastal zoning, marine spatial planning, fisheries-related measures, and other sector-led management approaches. However, how these existing systems may relate to OECM concepts is not yet fully explored.

China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation each maintain diverse systems of area-based marine management. At the same time, discussion of OECMs in marine and coastal contexts remains relatively new in the subregion, and technical exchange among countries has so far been limited. Recent discussions in other regions have highlighted both progress and continuing challenges related to marine and coastal OECMs. These include questions related to the interpretation of criteria, practical guidance, governance considerations, biodiversity outcome monitoring, and alignment with existing policy frameworks. At the same time, OECMs may offer a valuable pathway to recognize and validate existing conservation-relevant practices, contributing to GBF Target 3 without necessarily requiring the designation of new protected areas.

Against this backdrop, the NEAMPAN workshop serves as a timely subregional dialogue to enhance shared understanding of marine and coastal OECMs. It provides an opportunity to exchange information on existing policies and practices, learn from experiences within and beyond the subregion, and reflect on practical considerations relevant to the subregional context. The workshop supports dialogue and mutual learning in a policy-relevant manner, while fully respecting national circumstances and existing policy frameworks.

2. Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- Enhance shared understanding of marine and coastal OECMs, including their relevance to GBF Target 3 and their relationship to existing area-based conservation approaches;
- Provide a platform for countries in North-East Asia to exchange national policies, practices, and ongoing discussions relevant to marine and coastal area-based management;
- Share lessons and practical experiences from other regions and stakeholders, including governance, monitoring, and policy considerations; and
- Explore possible areas for continued technical exchange and knowledge-sharing at the subregional level, including through NEAMPAN, as appropriate.

3. Expected participants

The workshop is expected to bring together NEAMPAN Steering Committee members, representatives from government (central/local), regional and international organizations, experts and practitioners, academia and research communities, and civil society organizations.

4. Venue

National Korea Maritime & Ocean University (KMOU), Busan, Republic of Korea

5. Language

English

Programme

[Day 1]	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:20	Opening session - Opening Remarks - Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia / NEASPEC secretariat - Welcoming Remarks - Mr. Dong Keun Ryoo, President, Korea Maritime and Ocean University - Mr. Young Nam Kim, Department Head, Marine Protection and Restoration Department & MPA Management Team, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM) Group Photo
09:20-10:20	Session 1. Global and Regional Context of Marine and Coastal OECMs The session will provide an overview of OECMs in marine and coastal areas, including their role in supporting GBF Target 3. It will introduce global development and regional perspectives, while clarifying key concepts in a practical and accessible manner. Moderator: Mr. Inho Yang, Associate Professor, Ocean Science & Technology School, Korea Maritime and Ocean University Presentations - Mr. Joseph Appiott, Coordinator for Marine, Coastal and Island Biodiversity, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Pre-recorded - Ms. Mitali Sharma, Coordinator, OECM Community of Practice, IUCN WCPA Asia - Mr. Romain Schumm, International Technical Expert - Ocean governance, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
10:20-10:40	Break
10:40-12:00	Session 2. National Policies and Practices Relevant to Marine and Coastal OECMs in North-East Asia The session will present national policies, frameworks, implementation progress, and practices related to marine and coastal area-based management in North-East Asia and consider how these may be relevant to OECM concepts. Moderator: Ms. Atty. Ma. Aleta C. Nuñez, OECM Consultant, UNEP-COBSEA

	Presentations - Ms. Chang Zhao, Associate Researcher, China Institute for Marine Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources – Virtual - Mr. Naohiro Maeda, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan - Mr. Young Nam Kim, Department Head, Marine Protection and Restoration Department & MPA Management Team, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM) - Mr. Anatolii Kachur, International Project Manager, Pacific Geographical Institute Far Eastern Branch Russian Academy of Sciences
12:00-13:30	Lunch (<i>hosted by KOEM</i>)
13:30-15:10	Session 3. Experiences from Other Regions This session will share experiences from other regions on how marine and coastal OECMs have been understood and considered in practice. The focus will be on policy approaches, governance models, and practical lessons that may be useful for North-East Asia. Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia Presentations - Ms. Jenny Hertzman, Senior Analyst, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) – Virtual - Ms. Andrea Mast and Ms. Victoria Winslow, Policy Analyst, Marine Planning and Conservation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – Pre-recorded - Ms. Atty. Ma. Aleta C. Nuñez, OECM Consultant, UNEP-COBSEA - Mr. Benjamin Belton, Regional Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) – Virtual - Ms. Estradivari Sant, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) & Coordinator, IUCN Asian OECM CoP – Virtual
15:10-15:30	Break
15:30-17:20	Session 4. Practical Experiences and Local Perspectives This session will explore site-level experiences and local perspectives on marine and coastal area-based management practices that may be relevant to OECMs. The focus will be on governance arrangements, stakeholder engagement, implementation challenges, and lessons learned. Moderator: Ms. Mitali Sharma, Coordinator, OECM Community of Practice, IUCN WCPA Asia Presentations Mr. Yan Zhang, Director, IUCN China Country Office – Virtual

	• Ms. Yun Hong, Executive Director, China Blue Sustainability Institute • Ms. Satoquo Seino, Associate Professor, Ecological Engineering Laboratory, Department of Civil Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University • Ms. Miju Kim, Senior Researcher, Marine Policy Research Department, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) • Mr. Ivan Rakov-Naumets, Head of Public Relations, FSBI “Land of the Leopard” – Virtual • Ms. Kyle Esperanza Zuleta, Programme Officer, East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
18:00 -	Dinner (hosted by ESCAP/NEASPEC) - depart for the dinner venue at 17:40 - return shuttle to the hotel at 19:20
[Day 2]	
09:00 – 10:30	Session 5. Special Session: Youth Perspectives on Marine Area-Based Conservation This session will provide a platform for students and young researchers to share their perspectives and research on marine and coastal conservation, encouraging youth engagement as well as contributing to broader discussions of area-based conservation. Moderator: Mr. Jungho Nam, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) Presentations • Ms. Gunasinghe Vishmi Saumya, Department of Marine Bioscience and Environment, KMOU: “Ecological role of shipwrecks as artificial reef habitats for fish assemblages in Sri Lanka: A video-based assessment” • Mr. Hayuningrat Sastra Jendra, Department of Marine Bioscience and Environment, KMOU: “Morphological and molecular diversity of marine sponges (<i>Porifera</i>) from reef and mangrove ecosystems in Bali, Indonesia” • Ms. Saavedra Camano Gennevy Omaisra, Department of Marine Bioscience and Environment, KMOU: “A study of coastal macrozoobenthos of Caribbean and Pacific coasts of Panama” • Ms. Souleima Dhahbi & Erin Karissa, Department of Convergence Study on the Ocean Science and Technology, KMOU: “Comparative governance models for marine biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) framework”
10:30-10:50	Break
10:50-12:00	Session 6. Subregional Dialogue: Ways Forward & Closing This session will facilitate an open and informal exchange of views among participants to exchange views on possible areas for continued exchange and knowledge-sharing related to marine and coastal OECMs in North-East Asia.

	Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia
12:00-13:00	Lunch (<i>hosted by KMOU</i>)
13:00-	Field Visit Visit to KMOU's Training Ship & (Optional) National Maritime Museum of Korea