

A. PROTECTED AREA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

A.1. Protected Area Management

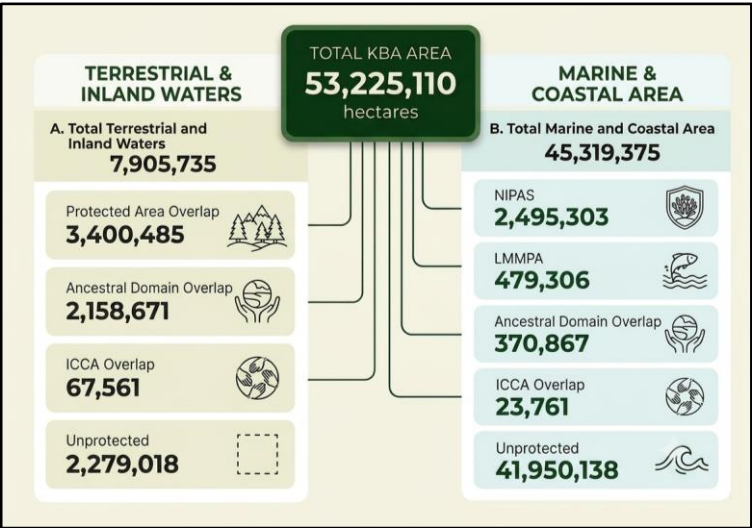
Protected areas are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. As of 2025, the NIPAS consists of **251 Protected Areas (PAs)** covering **7,879,063.91 hectares**. This is composed of 121 Legislated PAs, 13 Proclaimed PAs, and 117 Initial Components.



Of the country’s 30,000,000-hectare total land area, approximately 4,586,555.79 hectares (**15.29%**) are Terrestrial PAs, while of the 220,644,600 hectares of total water area (including the Exclusive Economic Zone), 3,292,508.12 hectares (**1.49%**) constitute Marine PAs.

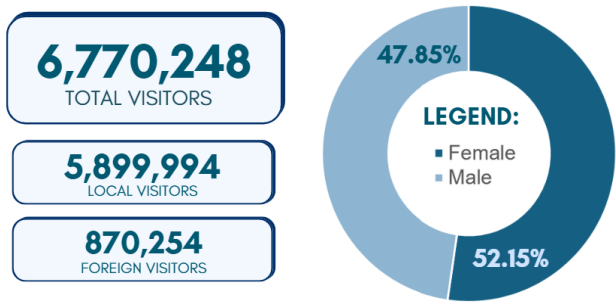
Additionally, **14 of these 251 PAs are recognized as ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs)**. These sites are distinguished by their unique biodiversity, exceptional ecosystems, and outstanding values in wilderness, culture, research, and tourism.

ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS (AHP) IN THE PHILIPPINES					
Key Site Data for 14 Natural Treasures (as of present)					
ID	SITE NAME	REGION	PROVINCE/BODY	AREA (ha)	DESIGNATION DATE
1	Mt. Apo Natural Park	Region XI	Davao	54,974.00	1984
2	Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park	Region IV-B	Occidental Mindoro	75,445.00	1984
3	Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park	Region X	Bukidnon	47,270.00	2009
4	Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park	Region X	Misamis Occidental	53,262.00	2011
5	Mt. Makiling Nature Reserve	Region IV-A	Laguna	4,244.00	2013
6	Tubbataha Reef Natural Park	-	Sulu Sea	97,030.00	2014
7	Mt. Hamiguitan Range Natural Park	Region X	Davao Oriental	6,834.00	2014
8	Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument	Region X	Camiguin	2,227.62	2015
9	Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	Region XIII	Agusan del Sur	19,196.56	2018
10	Mt. Inayawan Range Natural Park	Region X	Lanao del Norte	4,346.12	2022
11	Pasonanca Natural Park	Region IX	Zamboanga City	12,374.70	2022
12	Balinasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park	Region VII	Negros Oriental	8,016.05	2024
13	Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary	BARMM	Tawi-tawi	242,958.28	2024
14	Apo Reef Natural Park	Region IV-B	Occidental Mindoro	15,799.23	2024



As of February 2026, the country's KBAs have been re-evaluated using the updated global assessment criteria in order to align with the 2016 IUCN Standard. **The Philippines has 315 identified Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covering a total of 53,225,110 hectares.** These include 29 Integrated KBAs with a combined area of 37,475,010 hectares, 102 Marine KBAs covering 8,319,589 hectares, and 184 Terrestrial KBAs covering 7,257,568 hectares.

A.2. Protected Area Visitors and Revenue Generated

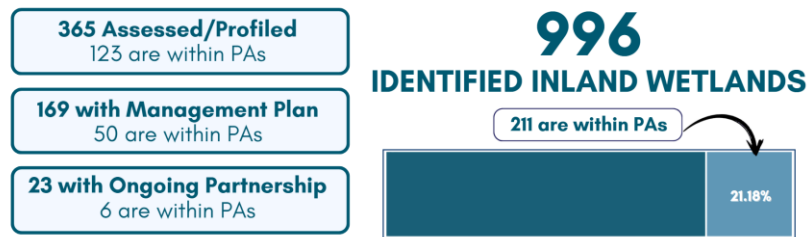
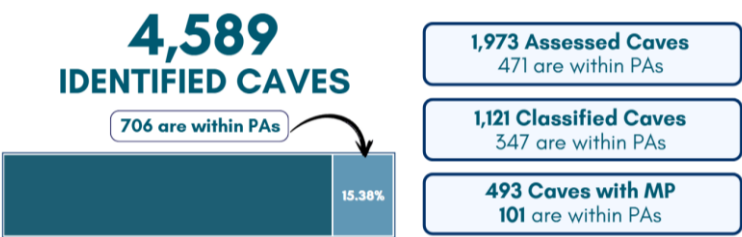


For 2025, a total of 6,770,248 PA visitors were recorded. Local residents accounted for the vast majority of visitors at 87.15%, while foreign tourists made up the remaining 12.85%. In terms of sex, females comprised the majority of visitors at 52.15%, with males accounting for the remaining 47.85%.

Approximately, PhP 1.38B was generated from protected area operations and has been deposited in the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF).

A.3. Caves and Inland Wetlands

As of 2025, the Bureau identified **4,589 caves** nationwide, **706 (15.38%)** of which are located within PAs. Currently, only **493 caves (10.74%)** have an established management plan (MP), with **101** of these sites situated within PA boundaries.



Regarding Inland Wetlands, the Bureau has recorded **996 identified sites**, with **211 (21.18%)** situated within PAs. Management plans (MPs) have been established for **169 (16.97%)** of these wetlands, including **50 sites** that are currently managed within the PA framework.

Furthermore, **10 of these wetlands** are designated as **Ramsar Sites**. These are wetlands of International Importance designated under the Ramsar Convention to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

Moreover, there are **7 Flyway Network Sites** - these are specific habitats recognized as vital resting or breeding grounds for migratory birds along the **East Asian- Australasian Flyway (EAAF)**, ensuring their survival during long-distance seasonal journeys.

SITE ID	NAME OF SITE	REGION	PROVINCE/BODY	AREA (ha)	YEAR RECOGNIZED
EAAF007	OLANGO ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	Region VII	Province of Cebu	1,382.29	1996
EAAF062	NAUJAN LAKE NATIONAL PARK	Region IV-B	Province of Oriental Mindoro	21,655	1999
EAAF123	TUBBATAHA REEF NATURAL PARK	BARMM	Sulu Sea	97,030	2014
EAAF135	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL COASTAL WETLANDS	Region VI	Negros Occidental	89,607.81	2016
EAAF158	LAKE MAINIT	Region XIII	Agusan del Norte	13,990.13	2025
EAAF159	AGUSAN MARSH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	Region XIII	Agusan del Sur	40,490.96	2025
EAAF160	SIBUGAY WETLAND NATURE RESERVE	Region IX	Zamboanga Sibugay	255,890.08	2025

B. PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

As of 2025, the Philippines recorded **22,480+ species of wild fauna**, which includes an estimated 21,000+ species of invertebrates. Of this total, **781 species are endemic** to the country. In the same period, **known wild flora reached 11,435+ species**, including an estimated 1,200+ bryophytes. Among these, **4,928 species are recognized as endemic** to the Philippines.

CONSERVATION STATUS	FAUNA (DAO 2019-09)	FLORA (DAO 2026-20)
Total	1,106	1,237
Critically Endangered	60	270
Endangered	61	304
Vulnerable	440	433
Other Threatened Species	545	230

Based on the DAO on threatened species, there are **1,106 threatened fauna and 1,237 threatened flora species**. Of these, **27 are considered as Priority Threatened Species**, including the Philippine Eagle, Tamaraw, Philippine Cockatoo, Philippine Pangolin, Dugong, and various species of flying foxes, crocodiles, and marine turtles, etc.

As of April 2026, there are **13 declared Critical Habitats (CHs)** to ensure conservation and protection of threatened species. During the same period, 144 additional sites have been proposed as CHs.

YEAR	NAME OF CRITICAL HABITAT	REGION	LOCATION	AREA (in has)
2011	1. Cabusao Wetland CH	R5	Cabusao, Camarines Sur	26.93
2011	2. <i>Rafflesia schadenbergiana</i> CH	R10	Baungon, Bukidnon	2
2012	3. Carmen Critical Habitat	R13	Carmen, Agusan del Norte	5,756.20
2012	4. Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary CH	R2	Cabagan, Isabela	178
2013	5. Adams Wildlife Critical Habitat	R1	Adams, Ilocos Norte	3,253.26
2014	6. Dumaran Critical Habitat	R4B	Dumaran Island, Palawan	1,628
2016	7. Magsaysay Critical Habitat	R10	Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental	611.872
2017	8. Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat	R4B	Puerto Princesa City	41,350
2020	9. Mangatarem CH	R1	Mangatarem, Pangasinan	4,444.80
2021	10. Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Coastal Wetland	R3	Sasmuan, Pampanga	405.50
2022	11. Lawak Island Critical Habitat	R4B	Palawan	3.79
2024	12. Lake Manguao Critical Habitat	R4B	Palawan	600
2025	13. <u>Tagusao-Sowangan</u> Critical Habitat	R4B	Palawan	97



In terms of wildlife enforcement and trade and transport of wildlife, **523 Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units (WTMUs)** are deployed nationwide. Furthermore, **2,372 Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs)** have been designated or deputized to apprehend violators and seize illegal wildlife products.

C. MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES/AREA

C.1. Corals, Mangroves, and Seagrass

The data below outlines the total area of the Philippines' key coastal ecosystems—coral reefs, mangrove forests, and seagrass beds—and the proportion of these habitats situated within Protected Areas (PAs).



CORAL REEFS

Total Area: 1,257,684 ha
Within PAs: 77,409.48 ha (6.15%)



MANGROVE FORESTS

Total Area: 311,400 ha
Within PAs: 112,892.58 ha (36.25%)



SEAGRASS

Total Area: 498,341 ha
Within PAs: 56,028.78 ha (11.24%)

C.2. Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises

- As of 2025, there are **139 established People's Organizations (POs) managing Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFE)** utilizing resources in our marine protected areas.
- These organizations engaged an estimated **7,978 individuals** in BDFE and resource-based livelihood activities, all implemented in accordance with DAO 2021-13 providing Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) in Protected Areas under National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and Conservation Areas, Providing for Incentives and Supporting Mechanisms
- Overall, there are **174 BDFEs** supported by the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP).

C.3. Marine Protected Area Networks (MPAN) Establishment and Strengthening

- As of 2025, Sixty-Four (64) Marine Protected Area Networks have been established on the basis of ecological, institutional, and economic connectivity.
- MPA networks link individual conservation areas to protect marine ecosystems collectively. By connecting habitats and migration pathways, networks boost ecological resilience, conserve biodiversity, and replenish commodities while improving administrative and financial efficiency across governments and authorities.

C.4. Marine Scientific Research Stations

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