

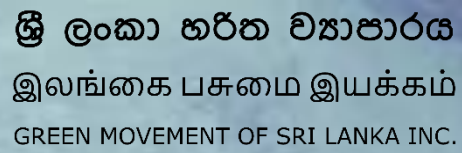


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இலங்கை பசுமை இயக்கம்
GREEN MOVEMENT OF SRI LANKA INC.

**International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific
Thematic Tracks (TT-5)**

Applying SEPLS to OECMs: From Concept to Real-World Impact

5 October 2026



OECMs and SEPLS in Sri Lanka: Current Status





Outline

1. National Steering Committee (NSC) Endorsement to the National Strategy for OECMs in Sri Lanka
2. OECMs in Sri Lanka: Key Steps, Progress and Current Status
3. Administrative Issues and Challenges in Implementing OECMs in Sri Lanka
4. Potential OECMs in Sri Lanka: Some Emerging Cases
5. Immediate Next Steps for OECMs Development in Sri Lanka
6. How SEPLS Approach Can Contribute to OECMs Development in Sri Lanka
7. Summary of GMSL's SDM Project



National Steering Committee (NSC) Endorsement to the National Strategy for OECMs in Sri Lanka

National Strategy for Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Sri Lanka

Draft Version 4

June 2026

Vision

Well-connected landscapes and seascapes in Sri Lanka, where 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' complement Protected Areas to ensure the equitable, long-term *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, sustain ecosystem services, support climate resilience, and contribute to national sustainable development.

Mission

To establish and institutionalise 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' as a nationally recognised biodiversity conservation approach, supporting Sri Lanka's biodiversity conservation targets through strengthened policy, legal, and governance mechanisms.



OECMs in Sri Lanka: Key Steps, Progress and Current Status

Established the NSC on OECMs in Sri Lanka on 10th September 2024.

Conducted a National Workshop on OECMs in 9-11 December 2024.

Technical Working Group on OECMs (need-based) Established at the 2nd NSC meeting held on 15th July 2025.

By the Ministry,

- ✓ Submission of OECMs background paper to the Cabinet is in progress
- ✓ Integration of OECMs into the National Biodiversity Policy is in progress

Subcommittee for the preparation of National Strategy for OECMs **established** at the 3rd NSC meeting held on 22nd October 2025.

At the 4th NSC meeting held on 10th March 2026:

1. Adopted the National Framework for OECMs in Sri Lanka.
2. Validated the draft National Strategy for OECMs.



Toward developing and adopting national criteria for OECMs recognition in Sri Lanka across terrestrial and inland waters, as well as coastal and marine areas,

Top-down approach:

Identification of potential OECMs using global spatial databases, geospatial information, and internationally recognized designations, including KBAs, EBSAs, IMMAs, Ramsar Convention etc.

Bottom-up approach:

Identification of potential OECMs through locally managed and community-based areas, including FMAs, SMAs, and ESAs.

- **The OECMs registration system in Sri Lanka is expected to be developed following the finalization of the National Strategy and the agreement on the registration process. The NSC plans to finalize these by November 2026.**



Administrative Issues and Challenges in Implementing OECMs in Sri Lanka

- **Institutional coordination:** Forest and Wildlife Departments and other relevant institutions require clear guidelines on their roles and responsibilities within the OECMs agreement.
- **Private land ownership:** Applying the OECMs concept to privately owned lands containing critical ecosystems presents challenges.
- **Institutional alignment:** Aligning the OECMs concept with conventional administrative practices and the operational procedures of government institutions remains a challenge.
- **Clear implementation framework:** The absence of a finalized registration system and agreed procedures may delay effective implementation.



Kiriamma Ulpatha (Inland Waters)



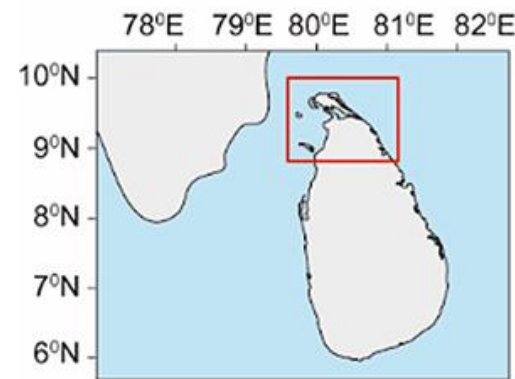


Erumaitivu-Kakkativu Seascape (Coastal and Marine)





Northern Coastal Belt (Coastal and Marine)



(C)



Mangroves



Seagrass



Sand dune

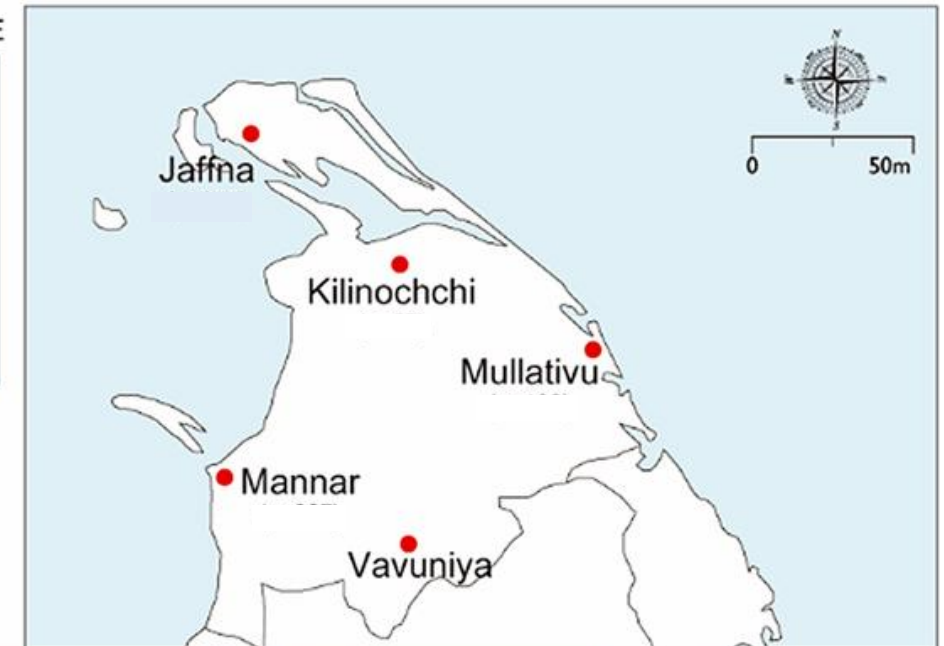


Beach



Saltmarsh

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Immediate Next Steps for OECMs Development in Sri Lanka

- Establishment of NSC subcommittee to develop and adopt national criteria (together with FPIC) for OECMs recognition in Sri Lanka, based on the CBD Criteria.
- National and Regional Workshops on OECMs in Sri Lanka.
- Awareness -Capacity-building Workshops on possible OECMs.

How SEPLS Approach Can Contribute to OECMs Development in Sri Lanka

Community involvement

SEPLS encourages local communities to participate in managing and protecting biodiversity while maintaining their livelihoods.

Sustainable use of resources

It promotes sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other activities that support both people and biodiversity.

Conservation and connectivity

SEPLS can identify and strengthen important areas outside protected areas, helping to create potential OECMs and ecological connections between protected areas.



Summary of GMSL's Satoyama Development Mechanism project

- ✓ Conduct field visits and engage in discussions with stakeholders and government officials in the Northern Province as part of the regional workshop under the SDM Project.



Stakeholder discussions - Northern Province



Ampalavanpokkanai, Northern Province



Mankulam, Northern Province



Field visit



Stakeholder discussions - Iranappalai, Northern Province

- ❑ The SDM project site has potential to qualify as an OECMs, as it operates within a landscape that includes ecosystems proposed for consideration under Sri Lanka's developing national OECMs strategy.



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Thank You!

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