

# **GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNISING AND REPORTING OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES**

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# Developing the Guidelines

- IUCN formally asked by the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop guidance
- WCPA Task Force formed
- 3 expert workshops were held in Cambridge, England (January 2016), Vilm, Germany (July 2016) and in Vancouver, Canada (February 2017)
- Large number of individuals and organizations, with global representation, have supported the Task Force's efforts
- Potential OECMs tested against the in several countries

# OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY OECMs

- Recognize and support effective governance and management of areas for biodiversity conservation outside PA networks
- Increase opportunities for all elements of in-situ conservation, including:
  - Representivity
  - Ecological connectivity (climate change adaptation)

# CBD STRATEGIC PLAN (2011-2020)

## TARGET 11

Targets | Qualifiers | Means

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected **systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

# Next Steps for OECM Guidance

- October 2017: Second draft of the Guidelines circulated to Task Force members and CBD Parties
- December 2017: Draft presented to CBD Parties at SBSTTA-21
- February 2018: CBD workshops on OECMs
- May 2018: Final draft submitted to the CBD and noted by SBSTTA-22

# DRAFT GUIDANCE ON OECMs

# CONTEXT: IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- The Strategic Plan has 20 Targets.
- All efforts to maintain biodiversity are of value, but not all should be mapped to Target 11.
- **Target 6:** Sustainable harvesting of fish, invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants
- **Target 7:** Sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

# CORE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAs AND OECMs

- Protected areas should have a ***primary conservation objective***.
- The defining criterion of an OECM is that it should ***deliver*** the effective and enduring *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, ***regardless*** of its objectives.



# DRAFT DEFINITION OF AN OECD

*A geographically defined space, not recognised as a protected area, which is governed and managed over the long-term in ways that deliver the effective and enduring in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values.*

# GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED SPACE

- Spatially defined area (3 dimensions) with agreed and demarcated borders, and includes land, inland waters, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these.
- Borders may sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time, such as a river banks or sea ice.
- While the size of OECMs will vary, they should be a large enough area to achieve the “in-situ conservation of biodiversity”, as defined by the CBD.
- IUCN’s guidance on applying management categories to MPAs states that there is a “general presumption against the use of vertical zoning”

# NOT RECOGNISED AS A PROTECTED AREA

- Areas that are already designated as PAs or lie within PAs cannot be counted as OECMs.
- Protected areas and OECMs are mutually exclusive at any point in time.
- Both PAs and OECMs can contribute to Target 11 (but PAs will be the key tool for in-situ conservation).

# GOVERNED

- OECMs recognize a range of governance types, as do protected areas:
  - Governments
  - Private individuals and organizations
  - Indigenous peoples and/or local communities
  - Combination (shared governance)
- Governance should be equitable and reflect human rights norms.
- The official recognition of an OECM should require the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant governance authority(ies).

# MANAGED

- Unlike protected areas, OECMs do not necessarily require a predominant conservation objective.
- The area should be managed in a way that leads to positive biodiversity conservation results.
- There must be a direct causal link between a) the area's overall long term objective and management and b) the enduring *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity.
- An area where there is no management regime, but which is for the time being incidentally intact, is not an OECM.
- The management should include 'effective means' of control of activities that could impact biodiversity, whether through legal measures or other means, such as customary laws and sanctions.

# LONG-TERM

- OECMs are expected to be governed and managed **over the long term** in ways that deliver the enduring in-situ conservation of biodiversity (i.e. in perpetuity).
- OECMs are not short-term or temporary measures.
- **Examples:**
  - A **fishing closure** which stays in place only until an overfished area recovers, is not a long-term measure. ❌
  - **Seasonal arrangements** (e.g. sites for migratory bird species) may qualify as OECMs, if they are part of a managed long-term conservation strategy, and contribute to year-round *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. ✅

# EFFECTIVE AND ENDURING IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

- OECMs should be demonstrated to be ***effective*** at delivering ***enduring in-situ*** conservation of biodiversity.
- This may include strict protection or certain forms of sustainable management consistent with the CBD definitions of “in-situ conservation” and “biodiversity.”
- The conservation values of OECMs should be described and tracked over time.

## Examples

- An **intensively managed farm** with a small proportion of the original native plants and birds will not be an OECM. ❌
- An **extensively managed area of native grassland**, dominated by native plants, and having healthy populations of a large variety of native birds and mammals, might well be an OECM if the management and governance regime ensures these outcomes over the long-term. ✅

# WITH ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

- ***Associated ecosystem services*** are those services that depend on the long-term conservation of biodiversity.
- ***Associated cultural and spiritual values*** relates to those cultural and spiritual values and traditional management practices that lead to the long-term conservation of biodiversity.



# SCREENING TOOL

- **Step 1:** Ensure that the area is not already recorded as a protected area and that Target 11 is the right focus (**2 Tests**)
  - WDPA (CARTS), Test against other Targets
- **Step 2:** Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics that are associated with an OECM under Target 11 (**3 Tests**)
  - Defined, Governed and Managed, Effective
- **Step 3:** Ensure that the conservation outcome can be sustained when challenged - through legal or effective means (**1 Test**)
  - Degree of Control

# THREE TYPES OF APPROACHES THAT LEAD TO OECMs

# 1. PRIMARY CONSERVATION

Areas that may meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area, but which are not officially recognised as such because the governance authority does not want the area to be designated as a protected area by the relevant national government.

For example, in some instances indigenous peoples and local communities may not want areas of high biodiversity value that they govern, including sacred natural sites, to be designated as protected areas or recorded in government protected area databases. If the governance authority agrees, such areas should be reported as OECMs.

## 2. SECONDARY CONSERVATION

- ‘Secondary conservation’ is achieved through the active conservation of an area where conservation outcomes are a secondary management objective.
- For example, enduring watershed protection policies and management may result in effective protection of biodiversity in forested watersheds, even though the areas are primarily managed for objectives other than conservation.
- In some cases, sites which are managed in ways that provide important ecological connectivity between protected areas or other areas of high biodiversity, thereby contributing to their viability, may also be considered as OECMs.

# 3. ANCILLARY CONSERVATION

Areas that deliver conservation outcomes as a by-product of management activities even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective.

For example, Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands protects shipwrecks and war graves from World War II. This protection has led to the ancillary conservation of important biodiversity.

The distinction between ancillary and secondary conservation may sometimes be difficult to make if some conservation objectives exist but the importance assigned to those objectives is low.

## 4. NOT OECMs

Areas which meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area and are recognised as protected areas by the governance authority, but which are not officially recognised and reported as such by the relevant government agency in its official protected area registry and/or the WDPA, are recommended to be reported as protected areas (*per IUCN recommendation WCC-2016-Res-036*) rather than as OECMs.

# Examples of what might count - OECMs

## Likely

- Some indigenous/community conserved areas
- Some coastal and marine areas protected from interference for reasons other than conservation, e.g. historic wrecks
- Some areas in production landscapes that are managed for conservation rather than exploitation (e.g., some FSC representative forests)
- Some watershed protection areas for cities
- Some Community Pastures with native prairie
- Some sections of military reserves with access restrictions and conservation goals and management

## Unlikely

- Urban parks and other formal gardens
- Temporary fishing closures that are in place only until an overfished area recovers
- Heavily grazed grassland or grassland replanted with monocultures or non-native species for livestock
- Large, landscape or seascape scale management policies targeting a limited number of biodiversity elements (e.g. fishing or hunting restrictions on individual species)
- Production forests with some biodiversity rules

Given the diversity of situations where OECMs can occur **it is essential that potential areas should be screened very carefully on a case-by-case basis.**

PLEASE CONTACT US

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