



Introduction to Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

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Convention on Biological Diversity



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Entered into force in 1993
- 196 Parties



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Three Main Goals

Conservation of
biological diversity

Sustainable use of
biological diversity

Fair and equitable sharing of
benefits from genetic resources



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Aichi Biodiversity Targets



2010-2020
timeframe



Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

By 2020,

at least **17 % of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 % of coastal and marine areas,**

... especially areas of ***particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services,***

... are ***conserved through***

... ***protected areas*** and ***other effective area-based conservation measures***

that are...

... *effectively and equitably managed,*

... *ecologically representative,*

... *well connected systems, integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes*

Protected areas are a powerful tool for area-based conservation, but not the only tool

Other area-based tools (e.g., such as spatial sectoral regulation, indigenous managed areas, privately-managed areas) can also have important biodiversity benefits, can overcome some weaknesses of protected areas, and can complement protected areas to achieve conservation goals

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) provide an opportunity to recognize and account for biodiversity outcomes of area-based measures that are not recognized as protected areas

...and an incentive to shift practices that are not presently biologically sustainable to those that yield long-term conservation benefits

COP Decision 14/8 (2018)

Adopted definition of OECMs

“a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity,* with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values”

**As defined by Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in line with the provisions of the Convention*

Requested the CBD Secretariat to provide capacity-building, including training workshops, to enable the application of the scientific and technical advice and guidance on OECMs

Welcomed the scientific and technical advice contained in annex III, to be applied in a flexible way and on a case-by-case basis

Encouraged Parties and **invited** other Governments, relevant organizations, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, to apply the scientific and technical advice on other effective area-based conservation measures contained in annex III, ..., including by:

- (a) Identifying other effective area-based conservation measures and their diverse options within their jurisdiction;
- (b) Submitting data on OECMs to the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre for inclusion in the World Database on Protected Areas;

Criteria for the Identification of OECMs (decision 14/8)

Criterion A: Area is not currently recognized as a protected area

Not a protected area

The area is not currently recognized or reported as a protected area or part of a protected area; it may have been established for another function.

Criterion B: Area is governed and managed

Geographically defined space

- Size and area are described, including in three dimensions where necessary.
- Boundaries are geographically delineated.

Legitimate governance authorities

- Governance has legitimate authority and is appropriate for achieving in situ conservation of biodiversity within the area;
- Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities is self-identified in accordance with national legislation and applicable international obligations;
- Governance reflects the equity considerations adopted in the Convention.
- Governance may be by a single authority and/or organization or through collaboration among relevant authorities and provides the ability to address threats collectively.

Managed

- Managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for the conservation of biological diversity.
- Relevant authorities and stakeholders are identified and involved in management.
- A management system is in place that contributes to sustaining the in situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Management is consistent with the ecosystem approach with the ability to adapt to achieve expected biodiversity conservation outcomes, including long-term outcomes, and including the ability to manage a new threat.

Criteria for the Identification of OECMs (decision 14/8) (continued)

Criterion C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity

Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area achieves, or is expected to achieve, positive and sustained outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity.• Threats, existing or reasonably anticipated ones are addressed effectively by preventing, significantly reducing or eliminating them, and by restoring degraded ecosystems.• Mechanisms, such as policy frameworks and regulations, are in place to recognize and respond to new threats.• To the extent relevant and possible, management inside and outside the other effective area-based conservation measure is integrated.
Sustained over long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The other effective area-based conservation measures are in place for the long term or are likely to be.• “Sustained” pertains to the continuity of governance and management and “long term” pertains to the biodiversity outcome.
In situ conservation of biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures is expected to include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is considered important (e.g. communities of rare, threatened or endangered species, representative natural ecosystems, range restricted species, key biodiversity areas, areas providing critical ecosystem functions and services, areas for ecological connectivity).
Information and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of other effective area-based conservation measures should, to the extent possible, document the known biodiversity attributes, as well as, where relevant, cultural and/or spiritual values, of the area and the governance and management in place as a baseline for assessing effectiveness.• A monitoring system informs management on the effectiveness of measures with respect to biodiversity, including the health of ecosystems.• Processes should be in place to evaluate the effectiveness of governance and management, including with respect to equity.• General data of the area such as boundaries, aim and governance are available information

Criteria for the Identification of OECMs (decision 14/8) (continued)

Criterion D: Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values

Ecosystem functions and services

- Ecosystem functions and services are supported, including those of importance to indigenous peoples and local communities, for other effective area-based conservation measures concerning their territories, taking into account interactions and trade-offs among ecosystem functions and services, with a view to ensuring positive biodiversity outcomes and equity.
- Management to enhance one particular ecosystem function or service does not impact negatively on the sites overall biological diversity

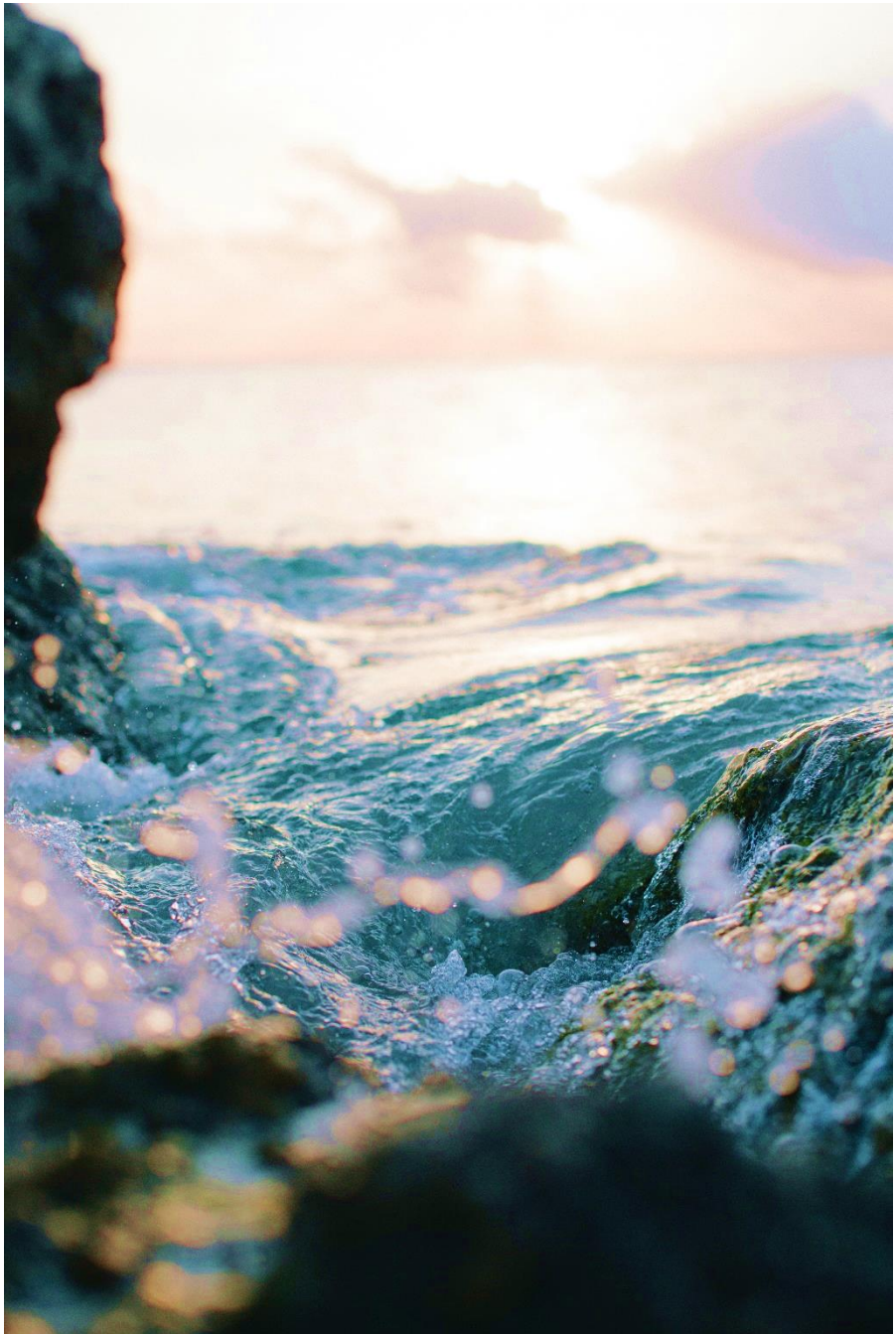
Cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values

- Governance and management measures identify, respect and uphold the cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values of the area, where such values exist.
- Governance and management measures respect and uphold the knowledge, practices and institutions that are fundamental for the in situ conservation of biodiversity.

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

New global goals and targets for biodiversity

- Currently under development and negotiation by CBD Parties under the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- Will be submitted for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15) in April/May 2022
- Draft target 3 on area-based conservation
 - “Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, 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 landscapes and seascapes.”



OECMs provide a valuable opportunity to better understand and recognize diverse types of area-based management tools that are tangibly contributing to biodiversity outcomes

OECMs also provide an opportunity and incentive to shift sectoral practices that might not currently be biologically sustainable to those that yield long-term conservation benefits

Utilizing OECM concept can also attract further support (e.g., financial, technical) to enhance management and for improved biodiversity monitoring of area-based measures

Will be a powerful tool to achieve new global biodiversity goals



Thank you

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