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

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Cover photo: Historic wreck sites which are fully protected can qualify as OECMs and provide an undisturbed environment for marine wildlife to flourish. Photo Credit: ©Dan Laffoley

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FOREWORD

By CBD Executive Secretary and IUCN Director General

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For more information on the Task Force, including all outputs and case studies, please see: www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure
PAME	Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD
SDGs	UN Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCC	IUCN World Conservation Congress
WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (CBD Article 2).

Cultural and spiritual values: These include cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious, aesthetic and other non-material benefits, with a particular focus on those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g. traditional management practices on which key species have become reliant) and cultural practices that are themselves under threat.

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. (CBD Article 2).

Governance authority: The institution, individual, indigenous or communal group or other body acknowledged as having authority and responsibility for decision making and management of an area.

Habitat: The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs (CBD Article 2).

Indigenous peoples and local communities: The terms 'indigenous peoples' and 'local communities' are used in the same context as in the proceedings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In-situ conservation: The conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties. (CBD Article 2)

Protected area: The CBD defines a protected area as: "A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives". (CBD Article 2). IUCN has a closely related definition: "A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" (Dudley, 2008). The CBD and IUCN recognise the two as being equivalent (Lopoukhine and Dias, 2012). The IUCN definition is used in this guidance.

Sustainable use: The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations (CBD Article 2).

PART A – SCENE SETTING

1. INTRODUCTION

Why a definition of "other effective area-based conservation measures" is needed

The *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* provides an overarching framework for biodiversity conservation and management and includes twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have committed to achieve by 2020 (CBD, 2010). Target 11, under Strategic Goal C, aims to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. It states:

> *By 2020 at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 % 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* (emphasis added).

Protected areas provide the foundation of national biodiversity conservation strategies and delivery of Target 11 (Lopoukhine and Dias, 2012; Woodley *et al*., 2012) but may be insufficient to ensure the full ecological representation and well-connected systems for which Target 11 calls. Parties to the CBD added the term 'other effective area-based conservation measures' in recognition of the fact that some areas not currently recognised and reported as protected areas also contribute to the effective and sustained *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity.

Since 2010, CBD Parties have made substantial progress on expanding national and global protected area systems, including declaration of many very large marine protected areas. Unfortunately, there has been slower progress in defining, identifying, recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (Leadley *et al*., 2014). The principal reason for this is the lack of a definition of OECMs and guidance to Parties, which has led to uncertainty about what to report (Jonas *et al*., 2014). In 2012, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea, approved motion WCC-2012-Res-035, which called on IUCN's Commissions to work with the CBD to help develop guidance for Target 11 (CBD, 2012). In response, IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) established a Task Force on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in September 2015. The Task Force has held a series of workshops and consultations and made presentations on progress, including to CBD Parties and at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in 2016.

At the twentieth meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-20) and the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-13, December 2016), Parties discussed progress on priorities in the

Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, including on Target 11. Parties called on the Executive Secretary of the CBD to support further work on OECMs to provide scientific and technical advice on their definition, identification, management approaches, and contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. This request explicitly recognised the work of the WCPA Task Force (CBD, 2016).

These Guidelines have been prepared by the WCPA Task Force on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures to provide advice on identifying and reporting OECMs in marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments. They have been designed for application at various scales ranging from understanding whether an individual site is an OECM, to reporting OECM statistics at national levels. They provide a means to assess progress on achieving Target 11 and can contribute to longer-term conservation plans. The process took advantage of work done at a national level in Canada to develop guidance on OECMs (MacKinnon *et al*., 2015) and is complemented by work on the relationship between Key Biodiversity Areas, protected areas and OECMs led by BirdLife International and partners (BirdLife, 2017). Further information about the Task Force and its work can be found online (https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms).

The audience for the Guidelines

The primary audiences for these Guidelines are governments, United Nations (UN) agencies, private entities, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, local communities and other interested organisations, agencies and individuals involved in understanding, applying, and tracking Aichi Target 11 of the CBD Strategic Plan. The development of the OECM concept will also inform the CBD's post-2020 process and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the context of emerging landscape and seascape approaches to conservation.

What the Guidelines contain

OECMs are defined, and tools and approaches suggested for their identification and monitoring. Additional sections look at the relationship with the various CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the links between OECMs and protected areas, and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

Principles

OECMs will be applied within the framework of existing principles of the CBD, IUCN and partners with respect to biodiversity conservation, human rights and sustainable development.

Wider values of the OECM Guidelines

By applying these Guidelines and identifying OECMs alongside protected areas as contributing to Target 11, there is considerable potential to engage and support a

range of new partners in global conservation efforts. Recognition as an OECM may also provide additional incentives for conservation and sustainable management in areas of biodiversity significance outside protected areas, such as many Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (IUCN, 2016), as well as sites described under policy mechanisms such the Ramsar Convention, and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). Identification of potential or candidate OECMs may also contribute to their improved management and restoration (and eventual recognition as OECMs).

The following guidance aims to provide an informed audience with enough information to apply the OECM concept within national or local conservation strategies and to report OECM coverage to the CBD.

PART B – THE GUIDANCE

2. RECOGNISING OECMs – DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

This section sets out the definition of an OECM and provides guidance on each element of the definition.

2.1 DEFINITION OF AN OECM

An 'other effective area-based conservation measure' (OECM), as referenced in Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, is:

> *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.*

The definition of an OECM under Target 11 has strong similarities with the IUCN definition of a protected area (Dudley, 2008). IUCN defines a protected area as:

> *A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.*

The core difference is that while 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. Areas recognised by governments as protected areas are listed on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA, https://www.protectedplanet.net/) and included in international statistics.

365 OECMs are similar to, but different from, protected areas. It is not surprising that
366 they have characteristics in common given that they both represent key mechanisms
367 to deliver biodiversity conservation including CBD Target 11 objectives. See
368 **Appendix I** for a table comparing and contrasting characteristics of OECMs and
369 protected areas.
370
371 There are several reasons why areas might not be formally recognised and reported
372 as protected areas, yet still deliver important conservation outcomes (Borrini-
373 Feyerabend and Hill, 2015); such areas should be recognised as OECMs – see Box 1.
374

Box 1: Identifying Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

OECMs and protected areas both result in the long-term and effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. However, whereas protected areas have nature conservation as a primary management objective, and the primary objective in the case of conflict with other aims, OECMs may or may not have nature conservation as an objective.

Types of approaches leading to OECMs

1. **'Primary conservation**' - refers to 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**' - 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.

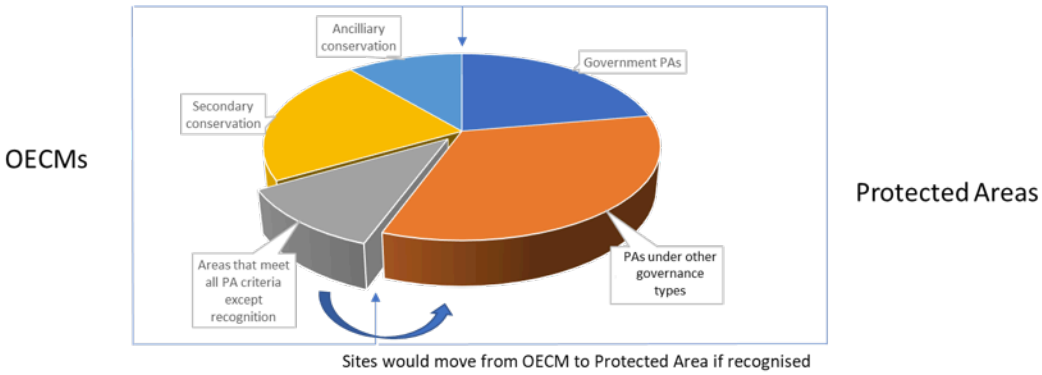
3. '**Ancillary conservation**' - refers to areas that deliver conservation outcomes as a by-product of management activities even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective. For example, Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands protects shipwrecks and war graves from World War II. This protection has led to the ancillary conservation of important biodiversity (see Box 3).

IUCN recommends that areas which meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area and are recognised as such by the governance authority, should be reported in official databases as protected areas rather than as OECMs (see Figure 1). For example, some privately protected areas are not included by national governments in their reporting to the WDPA, even though they may satisfy all IUCN criteria for protected areas.

Other intact natural areas

All of the above cases must be distinguished from sites that are not subject to any conscious management decisions but nevertheless retain their biodiversity; usually because of remoteness or conflict conditions. These areas are not considered to be either OECMs or protected areas since such sites have little long-term security if conditions change or they are eventually targeted for environmentally damaging activities.

The relationship between OECMs and protected areas is illustrated in Figure 1, below.



2.2 ELEMENTS OF THE DEFINITION

The following sub-sections elaborate on each element of the overall OECM definition provided above.

a. *'Geographically defined space'*

Geographically defined space implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated boundaries, which can include land, inland waters, marine and coastal areas or any combination of these. These boundaries may sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time, such as river banks or sea ice.

Box 2: A closer look at geographical space

Geographical space has three dimensions; this requires any governance or management regime for a two-dimensional area also to account for the third (vertical) dimension if all the biodiversity of the area is to be effectively conserved *in-situ*. Designations of OECMs or protected areas will often have limits in the third dimension (e.g. only apply to a certain depth underground or below the water surface, or have an altitude limit to allow passage of commercial aircraft). This has become particularly controversial in marine protected areas, where vertical zoning for commercial purposes undermines conservation objectives as it is extremely challenging to monitor or enforce, and disrupts ecological connectivity. The key point for both protected areas and OECMs is that height and depth dimensions need to be consistent with effective conservation management to protect the full range of biodiversity present.

While the size of OECMs may vary, they should be large enough to achieve the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, including all species or ecosystems for which the site is important, whether these are highly restricted species or habitats of more wide-ranging species.

b. *'not recognised as a protected area'*

The wording of Target 11 is clear that OECMs can contribute in their own right to the Target. This means that areas that are already designated as protected areas or lie within protected areas ***should not also be counted as OECMs***. While protected areas and OECMs are mutually exclusive at any point in time, both protected areas and OECMs have value for biodiversity conservation. Some OECMs could develop into protected areas over time, if nature conservation becomes the primary management objective.

c. *'governed'*

Governed implies that the area is under the authority of a specified entity, or an agreed upon combination of entities (see **governance authority** in glossary). OECMs can be governed under the same range of governance types as protected areas, namely:

1. Governance by governments (at various levels);
2. Shared governance (i.e., governance by various rights-holders and stakeholders together);
3. Governance by private individuals, organisations or companies; and
4. Governance by indigenous peoples and/or local communities (Dudley 2008; Borrini-Feyerabend *et al*., 2013).

As with protected areas, the governance of OECMs should strive to be 'equitable' and reflect human rights norms recognised in international and regional human rights instruments and in national legislation. Any recognition of OECMs requires the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant governance authority(ies).

d. *'managed'*

Managed specifies that the area is being managed in a way that leads to positive biodiversity conservation results. This means that an area where there is no management regime is not an OECM, even though its biodiversity may remain intact. As such, the high seas and other areas currently in a natural or near-natural state should not be considered as OECMs, unless subject to a management regime that is sustaining their biodiversity value and expected to endure. 'Managed' can include a deliberate decision to leave the area untouched.

Unlike protected areas, OECMs do not require a primary objective of conservation, but there must be a direct causal link between the area's overall objective and management and the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity over the long-term, as set out by the example of Scapa Flow, Scotland, in Box 3.

Accordingly, the management of OECMs 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) or a combination of both.

Box 3: Scapa Flow – an example of Ancillary Conservation

Scapa Flow is a natural harbour off mainland Orkney in the North of Scotland. The area is under the jurisdiction of the Orkney Islands Harbour Authority whose management objectives for the area are the safe management of the harbour whilst at the same time conserving the site's cultural heritage. The area is known for the number of historical wrecks, including a fleet of First World War German warships which were scuttled within the Harbour.

Scapa Flow covers an area of 324.5 km^2 and contains in the order of 1 billion cubic metres of water. Due to the strict protection afforded to its historical wrecks as a war grave it is considered to provide a high degree of protection to the benthic ecosystem within Scapa Flow, evidenced by thriving maerl beds, flame shell beds, horse mussel reefs and fan shells which are very rare elsewhere in Scotland. Although the area is not managed with a specific objective of nature conservation, protection of the site delivers a good example of ancillary conservation.

e. *'long-term'*

The governance and management of OECMs is expected to be ***long-term*** in intent (i.e., considered to be ongoing and effective in perpetuity, in ways that deliver the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity). Short-term or temporary management strategies do not constitute an OECM.

For example, a fishing closure that stays in place only until an overfished area recovers is not a long-term measure. On the other hand, seasonal arrangements (e.g. sites managed for migratory bird species) may qualify as OECMs if they are part of a long-term overall management strategy and contribute to the year-round *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity within the site.

f. *'effective and enduring'*

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.'

Practical steps must be in place for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of OECMs (see **Section 4**).

g. *'in-situ conservation'*

The CBD defines ***in-situ conservation, with respect to wild biodiversity,*** as:

> *"the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties" (*https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/default.shtml?a=cbd-08*).*

OECMs are expected to achieve the conservation of nature as a whole, rather than only selected elements of biodiversity. The CBD definitions of "biodiversity" and "*in-situ* conservation" clearly recognise that single species can only exist *in-situ* as part of an interconnected web with other species and the abiotic environment. Recognising the connection to biological diversity, geological diversity, or geodiversity, will also sometimes be an important management focus in OECMs.

h. *'biodiversity'*

Given the explicit link in Target 11 between OECMs and **biodiversity conservation** outcomes, it is implicit that OECMs must achieve the effective and enduring *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. While approaches for identifying the important biodiversity elements of such areas vary according to national, subnational, and local circumstances, global guidance now exists for identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN, 2016; http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/what-are-kbas) and for describing sites under policy mechanisms such as Ramsar sites and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) (https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/about). As is the case for EBSAs, the biodiversity conserved by an OECM can occur in areas both within and beyond national jurisdiction.

Recognition of an OECM requires identification of the full range of key biodiversity attributes for which the site qualifies. These key biodiversity values, as well as the broader conservation values of OECMs, should be described and tracked over time.

Box 4: A closer look at biodiversity

In addition to the guidance on ***effective and enduring*** and ***in situ*** **conservation criteria** (above), an OECM should protect the full complement of the site's biodiversity.

OECMs will exhibit one or more of the following outcomes by effectively protecting:

- Rare, threatened or endangered species and habitats, and the ecosystems that support them, including species and sites identified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Red List of Ecosystems, or national equivalents.
- Representative natural ecosystems.
- High level of ecological integrity or ecological intactness, which are characterised by the occurrence of the full range of native species and supporting ecological processes. These areas will be intact or be capable of being restored under the proposed management regime.

- Range-restricted species and ecosystems in natural settings.
- Important species aggregations, including during migration or spawning.
- Ecosystems especially important for species life stages, feeding, resting, moulting and breeding.
- Areas of importance for ecological connectivity or that are important to complete a conservation network within a landscape or seascape.
- Areas that provide critical ecosystem services such as carbon storage in addition to *in-situ* biodiversity conservation.

In this context, an intensively-managed farm with a small proportion of the original native plants and birds will likely not be an OECM (except perhaps if it is managed to maintain an endemic plant species). Conversely, 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. Just as for protected areas, there may be instances where an OECM is especially important for protecting a particular threatened species by protecting the entire ecosystem.

As climate change alters ecosystems, understanding of what is natural, effective and enduring in a particular place may also change. OECMs may need to be recognised and managed with adaptation to climate change in mind.

i. *'ecosystem services'*

Healthy and functioning ecosystems provide a range of services. ***Ecosystem services*** include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation and disease; and supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient recycling. Management for these ecosystem services will be a frequent driver in the recognition of OECMs. However, management to enhance one particular ecosystem service should not impact negatively on the site's overall biodiversity conservation values.

j. *'cultural and spiritual values'*

OECMs include areas where the protection of key species and habitats and management of biodiversity may be achieved as part of long-standing and traditional cultural and spiritual practices. In such cases, it will be essential to assure the recognition and protection of the associated **cultural and spiritual values** and practices that lead to positive biodiversity outcomes. Conversely, management for cultural and spiritual values within an OECM should not impact negatively on biodiversity conservation values.

PART C – EXPLANATORY NOTES

3. IDENTIFYING OECMs IN PRACTICE – THE RAPID ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

All efforts to conserve biodiversity are valuable but only those area-based measures which contribute directly to long-term *in-situ* conservation should be considered as contributions to Target 11. A key challenge for Parties to the CBD and others is to determine whether areas can be recognised as OECMs or should be mapped against other Aichi Targets that relate more to sustainable use (Laffoley *et al*., 2017 – see **Appendix II**).

To support decision-making processes, WCPA has developed a simple three-step screening tool, directly linked to the definition and the explanation of terms in **Section 2**.

3.1 SCREENING TOOL

The screening tool has three key elements.

- **Criterion 1**. Ensure that the area is not already recorded as a protected area and that Aichi Target 11 is the right focus (i.e., that the area is providing *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity).
- **Criterion 2**. Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics that are associated with an OECM.
- **Criterion 3**. Ensure that the conservation outcome is likely to be sustained.

Each element is elaborated below (**Section 3.2**). Potential OECMs must pass all screening criteria. The 'guidance notes' against specific tests refer to the key elements of the definition, set out in **Section 2.2**.

Box 5: Notes towards effective application of the screening tool

In order to be effective in terms of time and resources, a six-stage process to apply the guidance on using the screening tool is recommended:

Stage 1: Thoroughly read and discuss the guidelines and the screening criteria and assemble the review team consisting of people familiar with the diversity of approaches being taken locally to area-based conservation.

Stage 2: Prior to applying the screening tool, compile a comprehensive set of maps and information on possible locations that might qualify as OECM having compared them to maps of known designated or proposed protected areas so the relationship is readily understood.

Stage 3: Apply each of the three elements of the screening tool to each proposed OECM.

Stage 4: Identify potential OECM areas that pass all three tests as well as those that may be 'near misses.' The latter step is important so that there is an audit trail for future reference of those areas that do not pass the screening tool tests. Record reasons for decisions for each area, each step, and each test.

Stage 5: Undertake further investigations of each area that passes the tests through discussions with relevant bodies and organisations with governance responsibility to confirm identification as OECMs.

Stage 6: For all areas - especially areas governed by indigenous peoples and local communities - confirm that recognition as an OECM and subsequent reporting is in accordance with the free, prior and informed consent of the governance authority.

3.2 APPLYING THE SCREENING TOOL

Criterion 1. Ensure that the area is not already recorded as a protected area and that Aichi Target 11 is the right Target.

1. The area is neither already recognised nor proposed as a marine, freshwater or terrestrial protected area, nor does it lie within one (see *guidance note* ***b***).

2. Within the context of reporting to the CBD, ensure Target 11 is the most relevant Aichi Biodiversity Target. There are 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, many encompassing area-based approaches. Some site-based approaches will better contribute to other Targets (e.g., Target 6 on sustainable management of fisheries, Target 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry) and are likely therefore not OECMs, although contributions towards the Aichi Targets are not necessarily mutually exclusive and one action may contribute to several Targets (see **Appendix II** on the relationship between Target 11 and other associated Targets).

Criterion 2. Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics that are associated with an OECM.

1. **LOCATION**: The area is a geographically defined space. Wider measures for species and/or environment that are not 'area-based' fail this test, e.g. species-specific national or regional hunting bans, whale-watching rules, or temporary fishing closures (see *guidance note* ***a***).

2. **GOVERNED AND MANAGED**: The area is governed and managed over the long-term and there is a direct causal link between: a) the area's overall objective and management and b) the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity over the long-term. Areas where there is no governance authority nor conscious management are not OECMs (see *guidance notes* ***c, d*** *and* ***e***). Accordingly, an area currently in a natural or near-natural state is not automatically an OECM.

3. **EFFECTIVE IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**: The area delivers the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services.

This may be achieved through a variety of management practices, including those associated with cultural and spiritual values. Areas that deliver conservation outcomes only over the short-term or areas that are *intended* or offer *potential* to conserve nature but do not yet deliver conservation outcomes do not qualify as OECMs (see *guidance notes **f, g, h, i,** and **j***).

Criterion 3. Ensure that the conservation outcome can be sustained

1. **DEGREE OF CONTROL**: This refers to the *probability* of the conservation *outcome* being sustained under normal circumstances through legal or other means, such as customary laws and sanctions (see *guidance note **d***). This third test emphasizes the difference between current conservation efforts that can be reversed easily and an OECM that can sustain conservation outcomes over the long-term.

Areas that pass **ALL** three steps can be considered to be provisional OECMs, subject to more detailed review involving empirical evidence/data to support the preliminary assessment.

3.3 EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL AND UNLIKELY OECMs

The following situations **can be regarded as potential OECMs** where they are effective in protecting biodiversity *in situ* long term. Importantly, some of these examples may apparently conform to the IUCN definition of protected areas, but are not recognised as protected areas by those with control over governance or reporting.

- Some indigenous peoples' and local community conserved territories and areas (or sections of these areas) managed to maintain natural or near-natural ecosystems, with light/low levels of use of natural resources practised on a sustainable basis and in a way that does not degrade the area's biodiversity.
- Sacred natural sites with high biodiversity values that are protected and conserved long-term for their associations with one or more faith groups.
- Areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas that are well managed by regulation or other effective tools (http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home).
- Traditional area-based agricultural systems with high levels of associated biodiversity that achieve the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, including low-level livestock grazing on native grasslands managed so that they maintain the full variety of native biodiversity.
- Some permanently set-aside areas of forest (i.e., not part of the harvest schedule), such as ancient, old-growth, primary, or other high-biodiversity forest areas within commercial or community-managed forests.
- Coastal and marine areas protected for reasons other than conservation, but that nonetheless achieve the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity (e.g., historic wrecks, war graves, etc.)

- Urban or municipal parks managed primarily for public recreation but which are large enough and sufficiently natural to also effectively achieve the in-situ conservation of biodiversity (e.g. wild grassland, wetlands).
- Watershed and areas managed to mitigate flood and other disaster risk but which also protect important biodiversity (e.g. water meadows, riverine forest, coastal forests and wetlands, natural forest protected for long-term soil and slope stabilisation).
- Military lands and waters, or portions of military lands and waters that are primarily managed for the purpose of defence, but also achieve the conservation of biodiversity in the long term and show effective outcomes.
- Permanent or very long-term fisheries closure areas designed to protect complete ecosystems for stock recruitment, to protect specialised ecosystems in their entirety, or protect species at risk through the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity as a whole, and are demonstrated to be effective against fishery and non-fishery threats alike.
- Water catchment areas that are maintained in a natural condition to provide a source of water with conservation of biodiversity as a secondary consideration.
- Hunting reserves that maintain natural habitats and other flora and fauna as well as viable populations of hunted and non-hunted native species.
- Areas created by active restoration of degraded and threatened ecosystems, to provide important ecosystem services but which also contribute to effective biodiversity conservation (e.g. freshwater and coastal wetlands restored for flood protection).
- Privately managed areas, which are managed with a specific conservation and restoration objective but are recognised as different from protected areas under national legislation (e.g. Harapan Ecosystem Forest Restoration Area, Indonesia).
- Areas that contribute to conservation because of their role in connecting protected areas and other areas of high biodiversity, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of larger ecosystems e.g. community conservancies within the Taita ecosystem, Kenya.

The following areas and management regimes are **unlikely to qualify as OECMs**:

- Small, semi-natural areas within an intensively-managed landscape containing limited biodiversity, such as municipal parks, formal/domestic gardens and arboreta, field margins, roadside verges, hedgerows, unsprayed borders of agricultural fields, firebreaks, recreational beaches, marinas and golf courses.
- Forests that are managed commercially for timber supply and are intended for logging. Such areas should be considered under Aichi Target 7.
- Fishery closures or temporary set-asides with a single species, species-group, or habitat focus, that may be subject to periodic exploitation and/or be defined for stock management purposes, and that do not deliver *in-situ* conservation of the associated ecosystems, habitats and species with which target species are associated.
- Heavily grazed grassland, and grassland replanted with monocultures or non-native species for livestock.

- Temporary agricultural set-asides, summer fallow and grant-maintained changes to agricultural practice that may benefit biodiversity.
- Conservation measures that apply to a single species or group of species, over a wide geographical range such as hunting regulations or whale-watching rules; these are better considered as being part of wider species conservation measures (Targets 5, 6, 7 and/or 12).

Neither of the above two lists is meant to be exhaustive or without exception, but they do indicate which kinds of areas may qualify as OECMS. The definitions and criteria applied using the three-step test will be the appropriate route to ensure consistent identification of possible OECMs. 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.**

3.4 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNANCE AUTHORITIES

Governance authorities can propose an area as a potential OECM and either self-assess or seek support to determine whether the area qualifies to be recognised as an OECM using this guidance. They should have the right to object to the external nomination or recognition of their area as an OECM in cases where free, prior and informed consent has not been given. This applies to all four governance types, as set out above (in *guidance note **a***).

When an area is recognised as an OECM, it places a responsibility on the governance authority to continue to govern and manage the area in ways that achieve the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. While national circumstances will differ, it is hoped that any related legislation provides greater support and recognition to existing governance systems and does not seek to supplant or unnecessarily alter those local arrangements.

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING OECMs

All data providers are encouraged to review the complete suite of area-based conservation measures and existing protected areas networks in line with these Guidelines. Area-based measures that are found to qualify as protected areas or OECMs should be reported to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). Data providers are also encouraged to track, at least internally, their 'candidate OECMs', and report them to the WDPA once they fully satisfy all OECM criteria. The WDPA is updated on a monthly basis and made available and downloadable online through Protected Planet (www.protectedplanet.net). UNEP-WCMC uses data in the WDPA to measure progress against international conservation goals, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. For more information on the WDPA and verification of data see **Appendix III**.

Effectiveness of OECMs is a key part of the definition. Therefore, monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of OECMs will be critical to ensure that sites continue to deliver conservation outcomes. Measuring Protected Areas Management

Effectiveness (PAME) will in many cases be the most pragmatic way to measure the effectiveness of OECMs, but the PAME tools should be supported by additional quantitative information on biodiversity outcomes. The development of the IUCN 'Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas' will further support such documentation (IUCN, 2017). Authorities responsible for OECM sites should ensure that adequate monitoring is undertaken of the effectiveness of management to ensure conservation outcomes, and this information should also be reported to UNEP-WCMC.

For any queries regarding reporting please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

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APPENDIX I

Similarities and Differences Between OECMs and Protected Areas

All elements are equivalent except for the second (whether or not the site is recognised as a protected area, with nature conservation is its primary management objective).

	Draft OECM Guidelines	Relevant CBD and IUCN Guidance on Protected Areas
1. Geographically defined space	Geographically defined space implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated borders, and includes land, inland waters, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. These borders can sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time, such as a river banks or sea ice. While the size of OECMs varies, they should be large enough to achieve the "in-situ conservation of biodiversity", as defined by the CBD.	A clearly defined geographical space includes land, inland water, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. A "space" has three dimensions, and thus includes a vertical dimension. The vertical dimension is important for both terrestrial (e.g. to control air space) and marine (e.g. to control activities over a reef). Clearly defined" implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated borders. These borders can sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time (e.g., river banks) or by management actions (e.g., agreed no-take zones). While the size of protected areas varies, they should be large enough to achieve their conservation objectives.
2. Not recognised as a protected area	Areas that are already designated as protected areas or lie within protected areas should not also be counted as OECMs. While protected areas and OECMs are mutually exclusive at any point in time, both protected areas and OECMs have value for biodiversity conservation and some OECMs may be recognised as protected areas over time.	The IUCN definition of a protected area is: A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. The CBD definition of a protected area is: a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.
3. Governed	Governed implies that the area is under the authority of a specified entity. OECMs can be governed under the same range of governance types as protected areas, namely: governance by governments (at various levels); shared governance (i.e. governance by various rights-holders and stakeholders together); governance by private	IUCN envisages four distinct types of governance: governance by governments (at various levels); shared governance (i.e. governance by various rights-holders and stakeholders together); governance by private individuals and organizations; and governance by indigenous peoples

	individuals, organizations or companies; and governance by indigenous peoples and/or local communities. As with protected areas, the governance of OECMs should strive to be 'equitable' and reflect human rights norms recognised in international and regional human rights instruments and in national legislation. Any recognition of OECMs should require the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant governing bodies.	and/or local communities.
4. Managed	'Managed' specifies that the area is being managed in a way that leads to positive biodiversity conservation results. This means that an area where there is no management regime is not an OECM. Thus areas of open ocean under no management or control and areas currently in a natural or near-natural state should not be considered as OECMs unless subject to an active management regime that is sustaining its biodiversity value. 'Managed' can include a decision to leave the area untouched. Unlike protected areas, OECMs do not necessarily require a predominant conservation objective, but there must be a direct causal link between a) the area's overall objective and management and b) the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity over the long-term. The management of OECMs 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).	Assumes some active steps to conserve the natural (and possibly other) values for which the protected area was established; note that 'managed' can include a decision to leave the area untouched if this is the best conservation strategy. 'Legal or effective means' in the context of protected areas means that protected areas must either be gazetted (that is, recognised under statutory civil law), recognised through an international convention or agreement, or else managed through other effective but non-gazetted means, such as through recognised traditional rules under which community conserved areas operate or the policies of established non-governmental organizations.
6. Long-term	OECMs are expected to be governed and managed over the ***long-term*** (i.e., in perpetuity) in ways that deliver the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. OECMs do not result from short-term or temporary management strategies. For example, 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 managed long-term and contribute to year-round *in-situ*	Protected areas should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy. Temporary measures, such as short-term grant-funded agricultural set-asides, rotations in commercial forest management or temporary fishing protection zones are not protected areas as recognised by IUCN.

	conservation of biodiversity.	
7. Effective and enduring	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". Practical steps must to be in place for monitoring and reporting on OECMs.	Implies some level of [conservation] effectiveness. Although the PA category will still be determined by objective, management effectiveness will be recorded on the World Database on Protected Areas and over time will become an important contributory criterion in identification and recognition of protected areas.
8. In-situ conservation	OECMs are expected to conserve species within broader ecosystems and habitats as opposed to focusing on a single species or group of species, without also protecting the wider environment.	The CBD defines '*in-situ* conservation' as: "the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties". IUCN guidance on 'conservation' in the context of protected areas is: the *in-situ* maintenance of ecosystems and natural and semi-natural habitats and of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.
9. Biodiversity	Given the explicit link in Target 11 between OECMs and biodiversity conservation outcomes, it is implicit that OECMs must achieve the effective and enduring *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. The conservation values of OECMs should be described and tracked over time.	'Biodiversity' is defined by the CBD as: the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. The CBD further defines 'ecosystem' as: "a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit". IUCN guidance on protected areas references 'nature'. Nature *always* refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species and ecosystem level, and often *also* refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values. This includes 'associated ecosystem services' which are related to but do not interfere with the aim of nature conservation.

10. Ecosystem services	Healthy and functioning ecosystems provide a range of services. ***Ecosystem services*** include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation and disease; and supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient recycling. Management for these ecosystem services will be a frequent driver in the recognition of OECMs. Such management - for example for one particular ecosystem service - should not impact negatively on the site's biodiversity conservation values	'Ecosystem services' can include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.
11. Cultural and spiritual values	OECMs include areas where the protection of key species and habitats and management of biodiversity may be achieved as part of long-standing and traditional cultural and spiritual practices. In such cases, it will be essential to assure the recognition and protection of the associated cultural and spiritual values and practices that lead to positive biodiversity outcomes. Conversely, management for cultural and spiritual practices within an OECM should not impact negatively on biodiversity conservation values.	Includes those cultural and spiritual values that do not interfere with the conservation outcome (*all* cultural values in a protected area should meet this criterion), including in particular: a) those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g., traditional management practices on which key species have become reliant); and b) cultural practices that may themselves be under threat.

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APPENDIX II

The Broad Relationship Between the Aichi Targets and Target 11

(Adapted from Laffoley et al, 2017).

Target	Text	Relationship to Target 11
T3	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.	Positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that result in the area-based *in-situ* conservation of nature, such as tax incentives for owners of privately conserved areas, are examples of Target 3 measures that also contribute to the achievement of Target 11.
T4	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	Sustainable production plans (T4 measures) may include unexploited reference, 'insurance policy', or 'seed source' set-aside areas, which help to ensure that use of a broader area is sustainable. If such set-asides are effective for the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, they may contribute to Target 11.
T5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	The establishment of Target 11 areas is one important means of achieving Target 5. Establishing areas that are effective for the long-term *in-situ* conservation of nature, whether protected areas or OECMs, can prevent loss of natural habitats, and degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems, especially if such areas are well managed. In a marine context this might be particularly valid in the case of habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and submarine mounts.
T6	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the	Target 11 areas can help ensure that exploitation of the elements of biodiversity in the wider seascape is sustainable by: providing benchmarks against which the effects of management decisions can be evaluated; 'insurance policy' and 'seed source' functions to enable recovery from management failures; and/or provide 'spillover' benefits in the wider seascape. Species or habitat conservation measures which apply broadly across wider seascapes rather than to distinct and well-defined geographic areas which are not in place for the long-

	impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	term, should map to Target 6. Sustainable use of biological resources may be an objective for some Target 11 areas. The key difference between Target 11 and Target 6 area-based measures is that Target 11 areas achieve the *in-situ* conservation of nature as a whole, and this outcome cannot be compromised by allowed uses.
T7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Target 11 areas embedded within landscapes managed primarily for agriculture, aquaculture, or forestry can help ensure that such activities do not cause irreversible biodiversity loss over wider landscapes by providing benchmarks against which the effects of management decisions can be evaluated. They can also provide 'insurance policy' and 'seed source' functions to enable recovery from management failures, 'spillover' benefits, and contributions to connectivity in the wider landscape.
T9	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Target 11 areas with management objectives to maintain or restore ecological integrity may be a focus for Target 9 measures to eradicate alien species.
T10	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	Target 11 measures can have value in protecting coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems from anthropogenic pressures such as habitat degradation and species overexploitation. However, Target 11 measures cannot, on their own, fully address threats from climate change and ocean acidification, which necessitate reductions in global greenhouse gases
T12	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Target 11 measures are a major tool for preventing extinction and aiding recovery of threatened species, through the long-term *in-situ* conservation of species and their associated ecosystems. . Target 12 measures focused on single species and which are not area-based, not long-term, or not achieved through in-situ conservation of biodiversity as a whole, are not also Target 11 measures. Target 11 measures can prevent extinction and aid recovery of threatened species, thus contributing to Target 12.
T14	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and wellbeing, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local	Target 11 measures can be a means of achieving Target 14 by protecting ecosystems that provide a variety of services. Some measures aimed at achieving Target 14 may also be recognised as contributions to Target 11 if they are achieved through the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, regardless of their primary objectives. In

	communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	a marine context this might be maintenance of coral reefs or mangroves as part of coastal protection against storms and ocean surge, for example.
T15	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Target 11 areas, because of their generally higher levels of ecological integrity than exploited landscapes and seascapes, are often more resilient, more diverse, and store more carbon. Protecting intact areas, and protecting and restoring degraded areas, are two ways Target 11 measures can contribute to Target 15. Target 15 measures that achieve their objectives through the long-term *insitu* conservation of biodiversity may be recognised as Target 11 areas.
T18	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Target 11 measures can contribute to Target 18 by helping ensure that the areas in which traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities have developed, and where their customary uses of biological resources occur, remain ecological intact and able to sustain such activities for the long term. Conversely some traditionally managed indigenous areas may contribute to Target 11, for example some sacred natural sites that are not part of the formal protected area network.

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APPENDIX III

World Database on Protected Areas

All data on OECMs should be submitted to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre to be added to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

What is the world database on protected areas?

The WDPA is the most comprehensive global database of marine and terrestrial protected and conserved areas, comprising both spatial data (i.e., boundaries and points) with associated attribute data (i.e., tabular information), collected in a standardised way. Source information is also maintained for all datasets submitted (Figure 5.1). The WDPA is updated on a monthly basis and made available and downloadable online through Protected Planet (www.protectedplanet.net), with the exception of data that have restrictions placed on them by data providers.

The WDPA is the official data source used for several global reporting mechanisms, developing indicators and tracking progress towards protected areas and OECM targets, including for the CBD Strategic Plan Aichi Biodiversity targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WDPA User Manual (UNEP-WCMC, 2016) provides detailed information and guidance about the data held within the WDPA, including its history, how it is collated, managed and distributed, the data standard, and support on how it should be interpreted and used for analyses and research.

Reporting, data collection and validation

1. Although anyone can submit data to the WDPA, the governance and/or management authority for the protected area(s) and/or OECM have priority over data submissions of the same area(s) from other sources. When the governance authority is not able to provide an update due to lack of capacity, lack of data or other circumstance, they may suggest another provider to be contacted for an update. All sites must meet the IUCN definition of a protected area or 'other effective area-based conservation measure'.

Only one version of any protected area or OECM is stored in the WDPA.

All data in the WDPA must meet the WDPA data standards. Standards are important to ensure all information is supplied in a common format that is interoperable and useful for a wide variety of reporting and analytical purposes. There are four key requirements that need to be met to comply with the WDPA data standards:

1. All sites should meet the IUCN definition of a protected area or 'other effective area-based conservation measure'.
2. Spatial data from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and an associated list of standardised attributes must be provided.

3. Source of information must be provided to ensure that ownership of the data is maintained and traceable.
4. The WDPA Data Contributor Agreement must be signed to ensure that there is a written record of the data provider agreeing that the data be included in the WPDA and the terms for which it is made available.

UNEP-WCMC reserves the right to verify all data provided to the WDPA to ensure that: 1) the data is standardised to make it compatible with the WDPA, and; 2) the data submitted is verified by an authoritative source. Basic principles for verification of the WDPA data are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Basic Principles for Verification of the WDPA Data

Data submitted by governmental sources	In line with the official mandates for the WDPA, data submitted by governmental sources will be considered as state verified and will be included in the WDPA after data formatting and quality control.
Data submitted by non-governmental sources	Incoming data from non-government data providers undergoes a verification process before being added to the WDPA. Data can be verified either by state verifiers or by expert verifiers, depending on the wishes of the data provider. If neither party can verify the data, it does not enter the WDPA.
Resolution of conflicting data	Where there is conflict between the opinions of the data provider and data verifier (for example, disputes over the correct boundary of a site), this will be discussed with both parties in an attempt to reach a solution. Data providers are made aware of the verification process before submitting data, and are kept informed of its progress. In cases where no resolution can be found, data cannot enter the WDPA.
Frequency of data verification	UNEP-WCMC will aim to review Expert Verified data on a five-yearly basis. During this process, the data provider is contacted and asked to confirm that the data remains accurate. If the data provider cannot be reached, the data verifier is contacted. If there is a negative response, or if no response is received within five years, then the data is removed from the WDPA.

Using the WDPA to measure progress against Targets

UNEP-WCMC uses data in the WDPA to measure progress against international conservation goals, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. For this purpose, three statistics are generated, for national, regional and global level:

- Protected area coverage;
- OECM coverage; and
- Combined coverage.

To calculate coverage, UNEP-WCMC removes overlaps between sites, and excludes certain categories of sites (those that are proposed, reported as points and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves). Although conserved areas and protected areas would not normally occupy the same area (see Section 3.2 b), there may be occasional cases of overlap. In such cases, the area of overlap is treated as a protected area

only. This method avoids double-counting. Further information on how UNEP-WCMC calculates coverage statistics is available here:
https://protectedplanet.net/c/calculating-protected-area-coverage

Monitoring OECMs

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) will in many cases be the most pragmatic way to measure the effectiveness of OECMs, especially where the PAME tools are supported by additional information on biodiversity outcomes. Over 40 PAME tools have been developed for a review of PAME (see Leverington et al. (2010)). The adoption of existing PAME systems means that it will be easier for the authority to report on the monitoring to UNEP-WCMC, and that assessments will be in a standardised format between sites and over time.

Some basic principles for an OECM monitoring program to track effective conservation are described in 1-4 below. Steps 1-3 can also be used to support the decision as to whether a site is an OECM, or remains an OECM on repeat assessments).

1. Describe all significant biodiversity values on the site, with a record of the sources of information to support this. Consider representativeness, intactness, landscape context, rare, threatened and significant species and habitats and ecological integrity.
2. Nominate the priority attributes, and document their current and potential uses. Use this information to identify pressures and threats to the site, and help to identify stakeholders to engage in the site governance and management planning.
3. Review the management inputs and measures undertaken on the site to assess their effectiveness, whether they are sufficient to maintain the biodiversity features, and if they cover the full scope of biodiversity on the site, and address controllable threats to in-situ conservation of biodiversity
4. Review the effectiveness in terms of the conservation outcomes on the site, through measuring status of priority attributes, setting and reviewing targets and indicators that measure status and trends over time, measuring mitigation of threats, monitoring and managing adaptively.

Reporting to the Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) to UNEP-WCMC follows a similar approach to that outlined above for the WDPA. For any queries regarding reporting, collation, use, or processing of the GD-PAME please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.