



FOURTH EXPERT MEETING OF THE IUCN-WCPA
TASK FORCE ON OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED
CONSERVATION MEASURES

TOWARDS RECOGNISING, REPORTING AND SUPPORTING OECMs

Vilm Island, Germany | 11-15 June 2019



TOWARDS RECOGNISING, REPORTING AND SUPPORTING OECMs: REPORT OF THE FOURTH EXPERT MEETING OF THE IUCN-WCPA TASK FORCE ON OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

Citation: Jonas, H. and Sandwith, T. (Editors) 2019. *Towards Recognising, Reporting and Supporting OECMs: Report of the Fourth Expert Meeting of the IUCN-WCPA Task Force on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland

Acknowledgements: The Co-Chairs of the Task Force, Kathy MacKinnon and Harry Jonas, are grateful to the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) for the financial contributions to the work of the Task Force; Gisela Stolpe and Martina Finger (BfN) for their logistical support in organising and supporting the meeting; the participants for their active participation, with special mention of Candice Stevens and Daniel Marnewick for their work on the 'OECM Assessment Methodology'; and to Trevor Sandwith for co-chairing the workshop.

Contacts: kathy.mackinnon@iucn.org and harry@futurelaw.org





OVERVIEW

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) [Task Force](#) on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures hosted its fourth meeting of experts on Vilm Island (Germany) from 11-15 June 2019. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany (BfN) and co-funded by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and IUCN-WCPA.

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed a definition, guiding principles, common characteristics and criteria for identification of **'other effective area-based conservation measures'** (OECMs) at the 14th Conference of the Parties ([Decision 14/8](#), November 2018). The Task Force is currently finalizing a Technical Report for *Recognising and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures*. State agencies, private entities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities are now turning to assess the extent of their potential OECMs and to begin to recognize and report them. This workshop brought together representatives of a number of the agencies and organisations who are carrying out these activities together with a range of supportive implementing partners.

The workshop had the following overarching aim: **Enhance the identification, assessment, creation and recognition, reporting, support and monitoring of OECMs**. Towards this aim, 23 participants from 15 countries:

1. Explored CBD Decision 14/8 and the draft IUCN Technical Report.
2. Shared and discussed examples of potential OECMs within (sub-)national contexts.
3. Provided inputs to a draft OECM Assessment Methodology.
4. Considered capacity development and training needs to further promote recognition and reporting of OECMs.
5. Developed inputs to the WCC and the development of the CBD post-2020 biodiversity framework.

In addition to the information sharing (Day 1) and the consideration of a range of issues related to the future recognition and reporting of OECMs (Day 3), the meeting's major outcome was a fully revised 'OECM Assessment Methodology' (Day 2 and 3 – see Agenda in **Annex I**). The organisers thank all participants, listed in **Annex II**, for their active participation and collective efforts to ensure the meeting's success.

This report is set out by theme, not necessarily in chronological order. Please visit the Task Force webpage to access the Technical Report and the draft OECM Assessment Methodology:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/oecms>

Presentations are available from BfN until further notice here:

https://ina-depot.bfn.de:443/ssf/s/readFile/share/764/-4605508534223836943/publicLink/presentations_OECM.zip



1. FUNDAMENTALS OF OECMs

1.1 Global Update on OECMs, Harry Jonas (WCPA Task Force on OECMs)

Adoption of a definition of ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’ by Parties to the CBD at COP 14 represents a significant step forward in the formal recognition of conservation beyond protected areas ([Decision 14/8](#)). An OECM is defined as:

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.

The Task Force supported that outcome and is now finalising a Technical Report entitled *Recognising and Reporting OECMs* (see **Figure 1**).



Figure 1: A flow chart illustrating the chronology and integrated nature of the IUCN Task Force work and CBD meetings.

OECMs can be governed by all four governance types (i.e., government, private Indigenous and community, and shared governance) and can arise out of management objectives that do and do not include biodiversity. OECMs can give greater recognition, support and security to areas of good governance and high biodiversity value *outside of protected areas*. They have a range of important contributions to make, including:



- Building on networks of protected areas by conserving important ecosystems, habitats and wildlife corridors outside and between protected areas,
- Supporting the recovery of threatened species,
- Maintaining ecosystem functions and securing ecosystem services,
- Enhancing resilience against harmful activities and threats,
- Retaining and connecting remnants of fragmented ecosystems,
- Contributing to ecologically representative and well-connected conservation networks, integrated within wider landscapes and seascapes (including transboundary areas),
- Providing an opportunity to engage and support a range of existing partners in local-to-global conservation efforts,
- Recognizing the efforts of sectors that have existing area-based management measures that contribute to biodiversity conservation,
- Inspiring the designation of OECMs in areas that are not yet conserved,
- Recognizing and encouraging the establishment of areas that achieve the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity within landscapes and seascapes managed primarily for sustainable (or even unsustainable) uses, and
- Shifting sectoral practices that may not yet be sustainable towards those that will yield long-term conservation outcomes.

Proposed next steps (2019-2020) include: finalising the IUCN guidance on OECMs in the form of a Technical Report; developing a detailed OECM Assessment Methodology for use internationally, which will include inputs from the Task Force members; producing additional training materials and starting to run capacity development programmes; engaging laterally with other international agencies' processes on OECMs to ensure coherence across all of our work; supporting recognition and support for OECMs, ideally through a multi-stakeholder project; and presenting progress at and developing inputs to the WCC and COP 15.

1.2 Reporting, Heather Bingham (UNEP-WCMC)

When adopting a definition of OECMs, the 14th CBD Conference of the Parties also encouraged parties to submit data on OECMs to the UNEP-WCMC for compilation in a global dataset. In order to fulfil this obligation, UNEP-WCMC has established a parallel database for OECMs under the Protected Planet initiative, to complement the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The Protected Planet initiative encompasses several databases that can be accessed and downloaded through its website, www.protectedplanet.net. UNEP-WCMC uses data in these databases to measure progress against international conservation goals, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.

Area-based measures that are found to qualify as protected areas or OECMs should



be reported to the WDPA or OECM database respectively. Such reporting should be done with the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant governance authorities, in particular where those governance actors are Indigenous Peoples or local communities. Data-providers will be encouraged to provide links to supporting information on how the measures reported on meet the definition of an OECM.

Table 1. Basic principles for verification of data for inclusion in the Protected Planet databases

Data submitted by governmental sources	In line with the official mandates for the WDPA, data submitted by governmental sources on protected areas or OECMs will be considered as State verified and will be included in the WDPA and OECM databases 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 Protected Planet databases. Data can be verified either by state verifiers or by expert verifiers. If neither party can verify the data, it does not enter the Protected Planet databases.
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 when submitting data, and are kept informed of its progress. In cases where no resolution can be found, data cannot enter the Protected Planet databases.
Frequency of data verification	UNEP-WCMC aims to update all data at least once every five years.

A key element of the definition is that OECMs should be “governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term biodiversity outcomes”. This is linked to the concept of management effectiveness. Therefore, monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of OECMs will be critical to ensure that sites continue to deliver conservation outcomes. Measuring Protected Area 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 use of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard will further support such documentation.

Authorities responsible for OECMs should ensure that adequate monitoring is undertaken of the effectiveness of management to ensure long-term conservation outcomes. This information should also be reported to UNEP-WCMC for integration into the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME). For more information on reporting requirements to the WDPA and OECM database and verification of data, see: www.wcmc.io/oecm_guidance.



2. COUNTRY, GOVERNANCE TYPE AND SECTORAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Complementary Conservation Strategies in Colombia, Clara Matallana-Tobón (Humboldt Institute)

Colombia has a long history of private, Indigenous and community conservation. In 2010, a decree introduced the concept of ‘complementary conservation strategies’, and at the Colombian Protected Areas Congress in 2014 the term was defined. The international work on OECMs provided useful impetus to further the work, which included:

1. Compilation of existing information on complementary conservation strategies,
2. Analysis of similarities and differences between OECMs and complementary conservation strategies.
3. Capacity building at the national and regional level, with the support of different projects such as the Local Protected Area Project (GIZ, IUCN ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability), and
4. Site testing of the OECM definition and criteria.

Among other things, the work has identified the need for the following activities in the South American region: promoting technical workshops and capacity building to generate consensus and agreements on how to apply the OECM criteria; identifying and recognising OECMs and their different forms and levels of governance; discussing the necessity of having policy development in the different countries in order to recognize OECMs; conducting pilot studies to demonstrate that OECMs contribute to the fulfillment of the Aichi Targets for biodiversity; and deepening understanding of how and who will report OECMs and how the reporting is different from that for ICCAs.

Complementary conservation strategies are also discussed in an article in the [Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs: ‘Rethinking nature conservation in Colombia: a case study of other effective area-based conservation measures’](#) (Matallana-Tobón, et al., 2018).

2.2 Marine OECMs in Madagascar and a SNAPP-Coastal Outcomes project, Ravaka Ranaivoson (World Conservation Society)

Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the world and a biodiversity hotspot. It has 122 protected areas covering 7 million hectares, including 20 marine protected areas (MPAs: 730,677 hectares) and over 80 locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) covering 10% of the continental shelf.

There is a political willingness to advance a conservation agenda, as witnessed by the pledge at the World Parks Congress in 2014 to triple the coverage of MPAs by 2020.



However, only one MPA has been designated since then, which has put an emphasis on identifying marine OECMs. Associated challenges include defining ‘conservation effectiveness’, assessing the social and ecological impacts of OECMs, ensuring appropriate recognition of existing governance and management regimes, developing pathways for recognition of OECMs, and the question of whether OECMs require a new legal framework for LMMAs. Sustainable funding mechanism to support marine conservation is an ongoing issue that will also have high relevance for OECMs.

A major opportunity to promote OECMs and address the above issues is presented by a new Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on marine conservation. Another - at a global level, not only in Madagascar - is provided by the Science for Nature and People Partnership – Coastal Outcomes project to evaluate the social and ecological outcomes associated with governance of OECMs and MPAs. The SNAPP Coastal Outcomes working group comprises researchers, practitioners including OECM/MPAs managers, donors representatives.

2.3 Indigenous conserved areas in Indonesia, Cristina Eghenter (WWF-Indonesia and WGII)

There are over 60,000 hectares of Indigenous conserved areas currently documented by the Working Group ICCAs Indonesia (WGII), outside national parks, and recorded in Indonesia’s voluntary National Registry platform. These tend to be areas conserved through very strict or limited use, and are part of larger Indigenous territories.



Local communities traditionally manage the protected lake of Empangau, Indonesia.



© Viktor Fidelis/WWF Indonesia.

Dayak Kenyah Indigenous conserved areas in Kalimantan are based on the *Tana' Ulen* system. So far, there are over 80,000 hectares of Tana' Ulen identified and documented in two Indigenous territories in North Kalimantan, of which 26,000 hectares are potential Indigenous OECMs. *Tana' Ulen* systems likely fulfill the overarching criteria for OECM recognition: they have clear boundaries, regulations, strong governance including sanctions, long-term management, and economic, cultural and other values for local communities. They also promote connectivity and support Key Biodiversity Areas. In this context, there are policy opportunities to provide better recognition and support for such areas at local to national levels, including under the draft revision of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Law. Yet challenges remain, including relating to the appropriate support for Indigenous governance systems, reporting to the CBD, and related capacity development.

Dayak Kenyah Indigenous conserved areas are also discussed in an article in the [Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs: 'Indigenous effective area-based conservation measures: conservation practices among the Dayak Kenyah of North Kalimantan'](#) (Eghenter, 2018).

2.4 Kenya, Gladys Warigia Njoroge (Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association)

Wildlife conservancies began to be voluntarily created in the absence of a specific legal framework (1990s-2013). In 2013, the Wildlife Act included a definition of a 'conservancy', namely: "land set aside by an individual landowner, body corporate, group of owners or a community for purposes of wildlife conservation". The Act also states that any person or community who owns land on which wildlife inhabits may individually or collectively establish a wildlife conservancy or sanctuary.

Conservancies continue to grow in Kenya (see **Figure 2**), where designating new protected areas has become challenging. Wildlife conservancies include a range of benefits, including:

- Environmental: Rangeland management, habitat conservation/restoration, species conservation, climate change resilience, wildlife and fisheries management and support for research,
- Social: social cohesion, good governance, representative institutions, land-tenure security, peace and security, education and health, and
- Economic: Livestock marketing, tourism, carbon trading, enterprise development, sustainable wildlife/fish/plant products and agro-forestry.

Work ahead on conservancies includes a focus on ensuring long-term conservation effects and stability, the recognition and protection of land



rights, innovating on incentives and benefits to landowners, exploring the level of conservancy regulation, and ensuring harmonization of different conservation regimes, such as ICCAs, conservancies, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), among others.

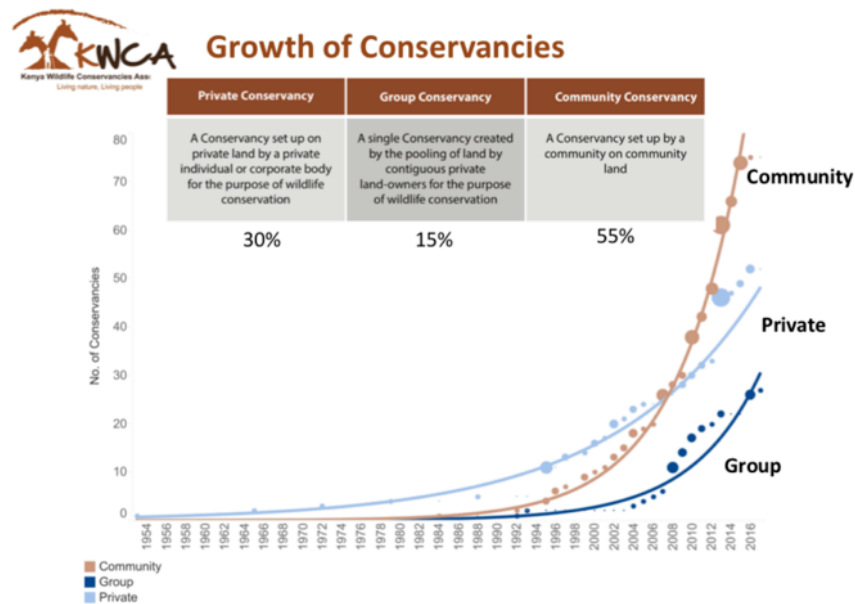


Figure 2: The growth in conservancies in Kenya.

Kenyan conservancies are also discussed in an article in the [Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs: ‘The role of potential OECMs in safeguarding space for nature in Kenya: A case study of wildlife conservancies’](#) (Waithaka and Warigia Njoroge, 2018).

2.5 Fisheries, Amber Himes-Cornell (Food and Agriculture Organization)

There is a range of important reasons to encourage mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries. These include the following:

- Unsustainable fishing is one of the most significant pressures on marine biodiversity and ecosystems,
- One cannot reverse trends in global biodiversity loss without addressing unsustainable fishing,
- Livelihoods, nutrition, and economic development provided by fishing contribute to enabling conditions for conservation,
- Fishers, fisheries management and fishing communities are taking action that has tangible benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems,
- Biodiversity objectives can only be met if pressure from fishing is sustainable, and
- Fisheries objectives can only be met if the ecosystems that support fish stocks are healthy and resilient.



In this context, there is an important role for OECMs in the fisheries sector. For example, area-based fisheries management measures (ABFMs) are widely used in fisheries management plans and processes and may meet the OECM criteria. OECMs provide an opportunity to recognize and account for biodiversity outcomes of area-based fishery measures (ABFMs) that are not recognized as protected areas. The fishery sector well poised to become a leader in identifying OECMs and show and strengthen the contribution of good fisheries management to the reduction of collateral impacts on biodiversity. These conditions provide an opportunity and incentive to shift sectoral practices that might not currently be biologically sustainable to those that yield long-term conservation benefits.

This suggests that there is a need for specific guidance on the operationalization of the OECM definition and criteria in the fisheries sector. This may be driven by States requesting their fisheries sectors to identify ABFMs that meet the OECM criteria or to strengthen them to meet the OECM requirements. The various actors will need to understand CBD Decision 14/8 and to implement it in all sub-sectors and all jurisdictions. Such guidance can also outline incentives for the sector, such as reducing negative impacts, improving the sector's image, support eco-labeling, and contribute to fulfilling national commitments. FAO is collaborating with the CBD Secretariat and other partners to develop guidance on how to operationalize OECMs in fisheries.

On 7-10 May 2019, an 'Expert Meeting on OECMs in the Marine Capture Fishery Sector' was held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome. The meeting's purpose was to facilitate discussion of experts with a wide range of conservation and fisheries perspectives on specific considerations for the identification, establishment and implementation of OECMs in the marine capture fisheries sector. The report is expected to be published in late-2019 and will form the foundation for draft technical guidance on operationalizing the OECM concept in the marine capture fisheries sector. That will then be submitted to the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) for consideration in 2020.

2.6 ICCAs, Dominique Bikaba (Strong Roots, DRC)

A close association is often found between a specific Indigenous People or local community and a specific territory, area, or body of natural resources. When such an association is combined with effective local governance and conservation of nature, we speak of "territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and





local communities” (ICCAs) or “territories of life”.

The following three characteristics identify an ICCA:

1. There is a close and deep connection between a territory or area and an Indigenous People or local community. This relationship is generally embedded in history, social and cultural identity, spirituality and/or people’s reliance on the territory for their material and non-material wellbeing.
2. The custodian people or community makes and enforces decisions and rules (e.g., access and use) about the territory, area or species’ habitat through a functioning governance institution.
3. The governance decisions and management efforts of the concerned people or community contribute to the conservation of nature (ecosystems, habitats, species, natural resources), as well as to community wellbeing.

For many custodian communities, the connection with their territories is much richer than any word or label can express. It is a bond of livelihood, energy and health. It is a source of identity and culture, autonomy and freedom. It is the connecting tie among generations, preserving memories from the past, and connecting those to the desired future. It is the ground on which communities learn, identify values and develop self-rule. For many it is also a connection between visible and invisible realities, material and spiritual wealth. With territory and nature go life, dignity and self-determination as peoples.

Dominique showed a film produced by the ICCA Consortium: [ICCAs and the ICCA Consortium - Conserving Territories of Life](#). A paper on ICCAs and OECMs produced by members of the ICCA Consortium is also relevant: [Will OECMs increase recognition and support for ICCAs?](#) (Jonas et al., 2017).

3. IDENTIFYING OECMs

3.1 Canada, David MacKinnon (Canadian Council on Ecological Areas)

Work to develop guidance on the identification and reporting of OECMs in the Canadian context was begun by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) in 2012, in recognition of the need for Canadian jurisdictions to know what to report towards Aichi Target 11. CCEA subsequently worked with the IUCN Global Task Force on OECMs and the CBD process to ensure that CCEA guidance was aligned with, informed by, and informed those processes. CCEA released draft guidance for identifying and reporting protected areas and OECMs in mid-2018¹ and shortly

¹ CCEA, 2018. (Draft) Protected Areas and Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures in Canada: A Guidebook for their Identification and for the Application of IUCN Protected Area Categories 2nd Edition. Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



thereafter, began working with the Pathway to Canada Target 1 (a pan-Canadian jurisdictional effort to protect and conserve 17% of Canada’s terrestrial and aquatic environments as protected areas or OECMs) and The Nature Conservancy of Canada to develop [nationally adapted guidance for identifying protected areas and OECMs in Canada](#) (Pathway to Canada Target 1 National Steering Committee, 2019). This guidance was adopted by ministers of all Federal and provincial terrestrial protected areas agencies in early 2019.

The Pathway guidance is highly consistent with CCEA’s draft guidance, as well as with CBD Decision 14/8 and the forthcoming IUCN Technical Report. In particular, with respect to OECMs, the Canadian guidance:

- Recognizes and promotes a variety of approaches to the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity,
- Engages a wider range of actors,
- Creates a level playing field for reporting on progress,
- Encourages that Targets are met with quality, not just quantity, and
- Aims to stem biodiversity loss.

The guidance embodies the foundational notions of the CBD and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, notably, the direct connection between CBD Article 8 on ‘in-situ conservation’, Strategic Plan Goal C on ‘safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity’, and Aichi Target 11.

The Canadian guidance recognizes that there are 20 Aichi Targets (19 Canadian Biodiversity Targets), many of which involve area-based measures, and all of which make important contributions to conserving biodiversity. It encourages the tracking of these measures according to their respective Targets, and the reporting of those that achieve the effective and enduring in-situ conservation of biodiversity against Aichi Target 11 (Canada Target 1). It also encourages the reporting of areas where sustainable use takes priority over in-situ conservation of biodiversity (e.g., sustainably managed forests, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable fisheries management measures) against their most appropriate Targets, e.g., Aichi Targets 6 or 7 (Canada Targets 6-9).

The Canadian guidance recognizes that OECMs are not ‘lesser’ forms of protected areas; i.e., that OECMs and protected areas should have comparable conservation outcomes and both should result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. Consistent with IUCN, the Canadian guidance draws the primary distinction between OECMs and protected areas as follows:

- **Protected areas** have deliberate and primary objectives to achieve the conservation of nature, and



- **OECMs** achieve the effective and enduring conservation of nature, regardless of their objectives.

Implicit in this distinction is the recognition that OECMs may be governed by a wider variety of actors, including those without deliberate conservation intent, so long as there is a commitment to govern and manage the areas in ways that continue to result in the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity over the long term.

As noted, the new Pathway guidance is accords with CCEA draft guidance and includes a screening/assessment process comprised of two major steps and nine major criteria. The screening tool acknowledges the uncertainty that often arises when assessing areas against criteria. This uncertainty was addressed by CCEA guidance by identifying 'green', 'yellow', and 'red' situations of concordance or lack thereof with screening criteria. A similar approach has been adopted in the Pathway guidance, minus the colour scheme, but adding an "Intended Effect of Criterion" for each criterion to help assessors understand whether their measure is meeting a particular criterion.

Also included in the Pathway guidance is a background section on Canada Target 1, accompanying text guidance on using the screening tool (drawn largely from CCEA draft guidance), and a template for filling in the results of screening (also largely drawn from CCEA guidance). A key feature of the screening template is the opportunity to identify, where an area does not satisfy all criteria, what steps might be taken such that the area will qualify for reporting as a protected area or OECM.

Pathway guidance recognizes that guidance and knowledge on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in Canada is evolving, with recognition of three key elements identified through the work of an Indigenous Circle of Experts. These elements focus on the importance of Indigenous leadership, long-term conservation commitments, and the importance of Indigenous rights and responsibilities. IPCAs meeting either protected area or OECM criteria under Pathway guidance will be reported to the WDPA, subject to the free, prior, and informed consent of the governing authorities.

Canada's first area to be recognized as an OECM in accordance with the new pan-Canadian guidance is portions of Canadian Forces Base Shilo, a military base owned by the province of Manitoba and governed by the Department of National Defence (DND). Portions of the area contain native prairie ecosystems hosting many species at risk that are being left in an intact, natural condition under DND management and are expected to remain so. The area is being reported as an OECM with the consent of DND, and with the understanding that OECMs are intended or expected to remain in place for the long term.



Some of the issues raised in David's presentation are also noted in an article in the [Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs: 'Comparing screening tools for assessment of potential 'other effective area-based conservation measures' in Ontario, Canada'](#) (Gray et al., 2018).

3.2 South Africa, Candice Stevens (Wilderness Foundation Africa, South Africa) and Daniel Marnewick (BirdLife South Africa)

The South African Conservation Areas (OECM) Project was launched to assess effective conservation outside of South Africa's protected areas network, with the aim of providing a technical analysis of the prevalence and characteristics of OECMs (or Conservation Areas as defined in South Africa) in-country and to develop a methodology for international use. The Project includes national and international outcomes and is led by a national steering committee, including: the project leads, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA, now DEFF), the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and the case study coordinators.

The Project has followed specific progressive steps culminating in a number of milestones, which have translated into key lessons regarding the in-country OECM assessment process. The primary progressive steps of assessing South Africa's OECMs involved the following:

- National stakeholder engagement,
- Creating a Potential OECM List,
- Confirming a Candidate OECM List,
- Developing a grading system,
- Developing a South African OECM Assessment Tool, and
- Launching a Case Study to test a variety of sites with the Draft Assessment Tool.

Nationally, South Africa uses a unique, effective and economic approach to area-based conservation called 'biodiversity stewardship'. Biodiversity stewardship is a national initiative that establishes Protected and Conserved Areas on privately and communally owned land and has been responsible for over two-thirds of South Africa's achievements towards reporting on Target 11 in the last ten years. The OECM assessment process is being integrated into biodiversity stewardship and is creating an opportunity for the country's area-based conservation efforts to be more inclusive and integrated across landscapes.

The South African OECM assessment process has highlighted a number of important things to consider in the assessment process that may be useful in other in-country assessments, including:

- Garnering government support,



- Engaging with national stakeholders and experts,
- Allowing for slow and deliberate engagement with stakeholders on the concept of OECMs and being prepared for standard questions and/or responses,
- Anticipating variability across landscapes and initiatives,
- Ground-truthing case study sites, and
- Highlighting the importance of consent from governance authorities.

Some of the issues raised in the presentation are also noted in an article in the [Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs: 'PPAs or OECMs? Differentiating between PPAs and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures'](#) (Mitchell, et al., 2018).

Comments on the two OECM assessment-related presentations included the following:

- Would it be useful to have a part of the Assessment Methodology that can be adapted at the local-to-national level?
- Quantitative studies are important, but we should not discount the importance of qualitative discussions about the questions.
- Where areas are 'intended to achieve' OECM status, a time-bound plan should be included in the assessment. Perhaps such areas should then be considered candidate OECMs until they meet all the criteria?
- How often should these assessments be done? Should OECMs be assessed every five years? Or if and when conditions change?

4. GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

4.1 Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, Trevor Sandwith (IUCN-GPAP)

The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is the first global standard of best practice for area-based conservation. It is a programme of certification for protected and conserved areas – such as national parks, natural World Heritage sites, community conserved areas, nature reserves – that are effectively managed and fairly governed.

By giving recognition to well-managed and well-governed protected and conserved areas, the IUCN Green List aims to increase the number of natural areas delivering long-lasting conservation results for people and nature. Sites join the IUCN Green List by committing to achieving its standard. They become





certified once they demonstrate a high bar of environmental and social performance. The [IUCN Green List Standard](#) addresses four themes: good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and positive conservation outcomes.

The process from application to certification can take up to five years. During that time, sites are regularly evaluated and reviewed against a set of demanding criteria. Enrolled sites therefore benefit from expert guidance on how to improve their performance and impacts. They also become part of a network, fostering exchange and learning among conservation practitioners.

IUCN just listed 6 new areas to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, which now counts 46 sites in total.



A view of the Green List event held in Ras Muhammad National Park, Egypt, during CBD COP 14.
© Trevor Sandwith.

4.2 Malaysian Expert Group on the Green List, Agnes Lee Agama (SEARRP)

At first the Green List Standard seemed overwhelming to members of the Malaysian Expert Group, but as the members engaged with the adaptation process the group grew in confidence and developed a nuanced understanding of the Standard. Linkages between Green List Expert Groups (where established) may be a useful entry point for engaging local stakeholders on OECMs, particularly in jurisdictions where there is neither an existing enabling framework to recognise OECMs nor a community of practice working on area-based conservation outside of protected areas.

4.3 Key Biodiversity Areas, Daniel Marnewick (BirdLife South Africa)

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are: sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity”, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The [Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas](#) (IUCN 2016) sets out globally agreed criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide. The KBA Standard establishes a consultative, science-based process for KBA identification, founded on the consistent application of global criteria with quantitative thresholds



that have been developed through an extensive consultation exercise spanning several years.

Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments. Although not all KBA criteria may be relevant to all elements of biodiversity, the thresholds associated with each of the criteria may be applied across all taxonomic groups (other than micro-organisms) and ecosystems.

The KBA identification process is a highly inclusive, consultative and bottom-up exercise. Although anyone with appropriate scientific data may propose a site to qualify as a KBA, consultation with stakeholders at the national level (both non-governmental and governmental organizations) is required during the proposal process. For this purpose, countries are encouraged to establish KBA National Coordination Groups (NCGs), constituted of multiple stakeholders including government, KBA country partners, other private and civil groups, and data holders. NCGs should be mandated, as the national body, to receive, review and verify KBA proposals before submission to KBA Regional Focal Points or the KBA Secretariat. Sites confirmed by the KBA Secretariat to qualify as KBAs then appear on the [World Database for Key Biodiversity Areas](#).

In this context, and without constraining national-to-local level processes, initial work on OECMs will also benefit from engaging with existing work on KBAs.

5 OECM METHODOLOGY, SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

5.1 Introduction to the OECM Methodology, Daniel Marnewick (BirdLife South Africa)

Daniel Marnewick introduced the development of the South African OECM Assessment Methodology. The main sources for the development of the South African OECM Assessment Methodology were CBD Decision 14/8, the draft IUCN-WCPA OECM technical report on 'Recognising And Reporting Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures', and the draft Protected Areas and OECM Assessment Tool developed by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas ([MacKinnon, et al., 2015](#); CCEA, 2018).

The OECM Assessment Tool was framed for the South African national context. For this purpose it was workshopped at two national stakeholder workshops and three



sector focal groups. The tool was further refined during its use at the case study site assessments.

For the purposes of using this national Assessment Tool to develop a Global Assessment Tool, the national context was removed and all references were aligned with the above CBD decision and IUCN-WCPA OECM technical report. The Global Assessment Tool was then presented and workshopped at this meeting.

Box 1: Terminology

It was agreed that we would use the following terms:

- **OECM Assessment Methodology:** The overall methodology, including the introduction, screening tool, assessment tool and guidance on reporting.
- **Screening tool:** The one page tool that assists in identifying whether potential OECMs should be assessed as candidate OECMs.
- **Assessment tool:** A tool in the form of a comprehensive spreadsheet designed to support rigorous assessment of individual candidate OECMs against the CBD Decision's criteria for OECMs.

The IUCN Technical Report also makes a distinction between 'potential' and 'candidate' OECMs:

- **Potential OECM:** A geographically defined space that has been identified as having OECM-like characteristics but where the governance authority has yet to decide to assess it using the screening tool, whereupon it becomes a "candidate OECM".
- **Candidate OECMs:** Geographically defined spaces that have been identified as potential OECMs by the governance authority and are being assessed against the CBD criteria.

5.2 Initial Feedback on the Assessment Tool

The general consensus from the workshop participants was that the tool is user-friendly and effective, allowing each element of the OECM definition to be examined in order for a Candidate OECM to be fully assessed. However, key points were noted regarding improvements, amendments and editing required.

Key points that arose in the discussion included the following:

- There is confusion regarding the 'screening tool': What is its purpose and how does it interact with the rest of the assessment tool? The initial conclusion was to retain the screening tool sheet in the spirit for which the screening tool was originally intended, i.e., to screen 'potential OECMs' with the aim of determining whether they should be assessed as 'candidate OECMs'.



- A grading system is a useful way of moving beyond the ‘pass-fail’ approach and supports governance authorities to enhance aspects of their candidate OECMs that require improvements if they are to meet the criteria. The tool uses a traffic light (red-yellow-green) approach. In general, participants liked this traffic light approach.
- More emphasis is required on associated cultural, spiritual and other values. An additional sheet should be created to respond to this deficiency.
- More evidence and verification is needed to ensure the assessment results are objectively verified.
- An overarching ‘OECM Assessment Methodology’ is required, to include an introduction to OECMs and the approach to assessing and reporting OECMs, the screening tool, the assessment tool, guidance on reporting and data storage, etc.
- More information is required on how to deal with areas of difficulty, such as overlaps with privately protected areas (PPAs), double reporting on PAs, etc.
- There is a need to align the language in the overall OECM Assessment Methodology with the CBD decision.

5.3 Group work

Participants then broke into three working groups co-facilitated respectively by the following individuals:

1. David MacKinnon and Agnes Lee Agama.
2. Candice Stevens and Clara Matallana.
3. Daniel Marnewick and Flora Yifan He.

Each group worked through the following parts of the assessment tool: geographically defined; governance and management; biodiversity values and conservation effectiveness; and the screening tool. The facilitators then worked as a group to synthesize the inputs and revised the overall OECM methodology, including the screening and assessment tools.

5.4 Key changes made to the Assessment Tool

The issues identified through the group work were then addressed in an updated version of the OECM Assessment Methodology and included the following suggestions:

- Reformat the ‘Introduction’ sheet to better set out the background to OECMs and areas of interpretation;
- Align the CBD/COP/DEC/14/8 decision (CBD decision) and the IUCN-WCPA OECM Technical Report on *Recognising And Reporting Other Effective Area-*



Based Conservation Measures to ensure they convey accurate information and the right message;

- Add 'Intended Effect of Criteria' to the assessment sheets to provide further guidance on how to interpret 'yellow' answers, per the guidance adopted by the Pathway to Canada Target 1;
- Partition the various sections of the Assessment Tool for ease of reference;
- Organize the OECM characteristics in the 'Results Summary' sheet according to the criterion in the CBD decision and the OECM technical report;
- Reword Test 4 in the 'Screening Tool' sheet to better describe the potential to meet multiple CBD Targets;
- Align the 'Area Information' sheet with requirements for global reporting on OECMs, and develop a new 'Global Reporting' sheet to facilitate OECM reporting to UNEP-WCMC;
- The Screening Tool should remain a part of the Assessment Methodology and its role as entry-level screening could be emphasized.
- Add a new sheet for all 'Associated values';
- Further explore 'Equitable' as a term under 'Governance';
- Create a separate consent form sheet in the Assessment Methodology;
- Move certain elements to 'Effectiveness', e.g., area size, threats, more on monitoring;
- Standardise key words and terminology throughout, e.g., 'area' instead of 'site', 'system' instead of 'regime', 'delineated' instead of 'demarcated', etc.

5.6 Further comments

- There is a need to develop a motion for the IUCN World Conservation Congress whereby Members resolve that the (finalised) Technical Report and OECM Methodology are IUCN policy.
- Linked to this idea is the need for broader policy harmonization, which entails reviewing all IUCN resolutions to identify those relevant to OECMs and ensuring that the draft motion, and its subsidiary documents, is consistent with the resolutions.

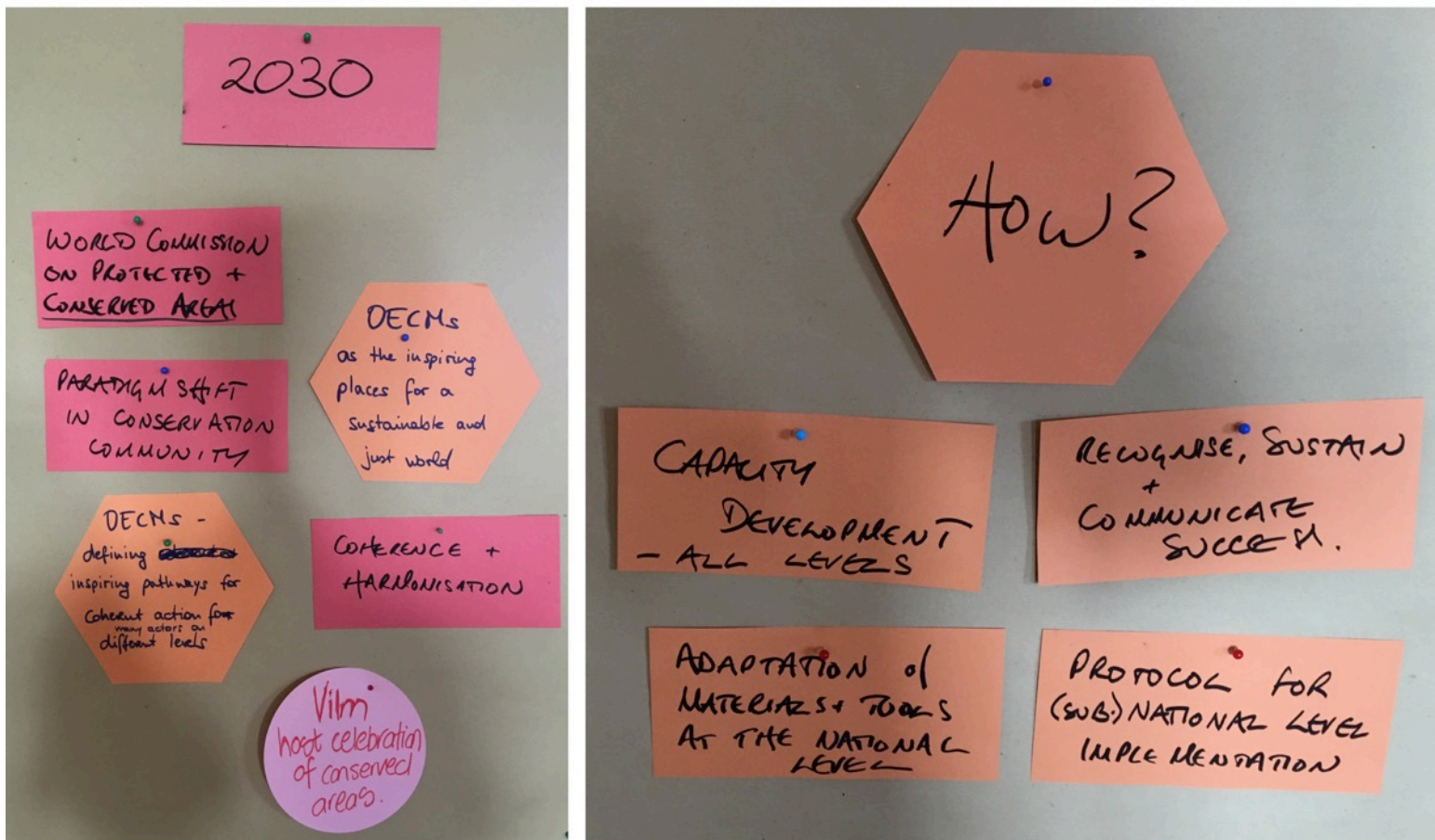
6. TEN-YEAR VISION FOR OECMs

Participants worked together to set out a 2030 vision and nascent strategy for OECMs. Introducing the session, Trevor Sandwith stated the following:

OECMs represent a key opportunity to expand the effectiveness of nature conservation activities in regional landscapes and seascape at large. This is an opportunity to address our large global crises/challenges (climate change,

biodiversity, desertification, disaster risk reduction), engage society, see conservation as a basis for human well-being, and engage all actors in society.

The following issues emerged. Due to time constraints the exercise was not comprehensive and some ideas were not fully elaborated. Nevertheless, participants felt the exercise was valuable as a means to frame forward-looking activities and should be built upon at future gatherings.



Participants proposed the following elements of a **vision for OECMs by 2030**:

- OECMs represent a paradigm shift in 'conservation' and linkages between biodiversity and climate change, as well as conservation and sustainable uses of natural resources. There is recognition that areas and actors beyond those traditionally associated with (often government governed) protected areas can also effectively conserve biodiversity *in-situ*, including areas within landscapes and seascapes otherwise devoted to production and managed by actors other than protected area organizations and agencies.
- By 2030, OECMs will have provoked related changes in lexicon, such as name changes to the IUCN Global Programme on Protected *and Conserved* Areas



and the IUCN World Commission on Protected *and Conserved* Areas – as markers of deeper changes in mentality, law and practice.

- OECMs will represent inspiring places for a sustainable and equitable world.
- OECMs will promote coherence and harmonization of conservation and sustainable use across landscapes and seascapes.
- OECMs will inspire pathways for action from many actors, across and between sectors and at different levels from local to national to global.
- OECMs will inspire innovations in protected areas laws, other sectoral laws and integrated land use planning laws, including the recognition of customary laws, traditional knowledge and other rights inside these sectors.

Participants organized their further thoughts under three broad headings.

1. OECMs promote respect for human rights, equity and good governance. They may also help secure livelihoods and improve food security: OECMs will help highlight and recognise a diversity of actors and quality of arrangements for effectiveness in conservation and equity/fairness in conservation and sustainable development paths. This includes the following considerations:

- Respect rights by integrating human rights and conservation,
- Recognise a diversity of actors and governance arrangements (e.g., ICCAs),
- Support linkages between sustainable fisheries and conservation,
- Integrate conservation and sustainable development,
- Recognise and support all types of OECMs, and
- Increase empowerment and collective action in achieving biodiversity conservation.

2. OECMs assist in addressing global challenges, including via sectoral approaches: OECMs are standard setters for ambitions in conservation and development; healthy ecosystems support healthy people. Related points include the following:

- OECMs encourage the strengthening of sectoral area-based measures to engage all relevant governing authorities and address all relevant threats, including for example, those from forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and mining, such that in-situ conservation is achieved in greater portions of sustainable use and other production landscapes and seascapes,
- Achieve the ecosystem approach,
- Take the opportunity presented by OECMs to rethink protected areas law within landscapes and seascapes in order to better integrate them, and
- OECMs provide an opportunity to rethink the diversity of actors in protected areas as well as legal innovation within the protected and conserved areas sector, especially related to governance, equity and rights.



3. OECMs promote an integrated land-use planning approach to local challenges:

OECMs are catalysts for coherent action on the ground and to achieve a mosaic across landscape and seascape, within and across levels (international to local) and sectors. Related considerations include the following:

- Biodiversity should be reflected in land-use and marine spatial planning processes, and
- At the international level, OECMs should reach across to the conventions and processes such as the Rio Convention and the Climate Change convention, as there is an opportunity to link these into the national adaptation plans. If they are linked to the Nationally Determined Contributions, there will be further financial opportunities.

The exercise generated a range of **open questions**, including:

- How can we ensure consistency across sectors?
- Can parts of productive landscapes be recognized as OECMs?
- How can we ensure that recognition does not lead to the governance vitality of such areas being suppressed in some ways?

Participants also reflected on further **considerations and needs**, which included:

- Awareness raising and capacity development at the local-to-national levels,
- International donor education (harmful effects of short-term projects in a landscape or seascape),
- Sustainable and innovative financing,
- Adaptation of materials and tools at the national level,
- A communications strategy to raise awareness about OECMs, and
- Development of a protocol for national and regional level implementation of the OECM concept.

7. TRAINING MATERIALS AND FUNDING CAPACITY

It was agreed that it would be useful to start to develop a series of training materials to support recognition and reporting of OECMs. This work will include support from BfN and Phase 1 will culminate with a Campus session at the World Conservation Congress (June 2020). Some of the 'solutions' could be uploaded to PANORAMA.

Participants also brainstormed opportunities to progress the work through existing projects and by raising new funding.

Existing efforts: There is the untapped potential within the OECM Task Force, as it is likely that a range of members are working on initiatives that include aspects related to OECMs. The Chairs of the Task Force will send out a call to ask members to examine existing and forthcoming opportunities to operationalize our strategy.



There are also ongoing projects within IUCN (PLUS Project in DRC) and FAO (on sustainable wild meat, sustainable fisheries) with which the Task Force should more actively engage. The SNAPP-Coastal Outcomes Project (referenced above) is also ongoing and includes work on OECMs.

Forthcoming projects that are in the pipeline:

- **IUCN-GPAP:** Projects with a potential OECM component include BIOPAMA, PANORAMA, the Green List (including through support by the Republic of Korea).
- **GIZ** support in three African countries to pilot tools on governance and equity assessment.
- **GSII-ICCA:** UNDP-SGP in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Natural Justice and others, looking ahead to Phase 2, including national governance assessments examining ICCAs within the broader landscape.
- **UNDP-SGP:** Small grants administered at the national level to support sub-national activities
- **FAO:** IAPA (Integración de las Áreas Protegidas del Bioma Amazónico) project with IUCN and WWF in the South America/Amazon region in the second phase, making the link with IUCN SUR. A first workshop on OECM for Amazon basin countries took place in March 2019.
- **The ICCA Consortium and WWF:** Partnering with World Resources Institute, Conservation International, UNEP-WCMC and the GEF-SGP on ICCAs.
- **GIZ Colombia:** GIZ is keen to institutionalise OECMs in conjunction with the technical advice from Humboldt.
- **UNDP Colombia:** GEF-Small Grants Program. Three organizations Humboldt Institute, Resnatur and Fundación Natura Colombia in partnership with the Local protected Area Project (GIZ, IUCN, ICLEI) are implementing a grant in order to start a pilot process to identified and report OECM.
- **GEF portfolios:** There are 15-20 agencies, partners could offer OECM-related services to the projects.
- **Conservation International:** CI is building a Conservation Atlas of diversity and dynamics of area-based conservation, together with WWF, Nia Tero, ISEAL Alliance, among others. The data can serve as a pre-candidate pool used for OECM screening. Happy to be a resource on training, database design, tracking long-term dynamics of OECM, etc.

8. TASK FORCE COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Under the general heading of ‘communications and governance’, the following issues were agreed:

- The Task Force should become a Specialist Group once it has finalised its key deliverables, namely the technical advice that supported the adoption of CBD



Decision 14/8 (done) and the Technical Report on *Recognising and Reporting OECMs* (imminent).

- The Task Force/Specialist Group should send out updates and news to all members at least every quarter.
- The Task Force/Specialist Group should consist of *members* (who are also members of the WCPA) as well as a broader *network* for people who are not members of the WCPA but would like to receive updates.
- Task Force members should be encouraged to share information within the group and across the network.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

It was noted that CBD Decision 14/8 provides voluntary guidance on OECMs and also calls upon IUCN, IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, IIED and other organisations to advise parties to the CBD on the application of the guidance.

There are several opportunities to raise awareness of OECMs, to use tools and protocols and to showcase application across a wide political geography, for enhanced implementation. It was also noted that a management team within the WCPA Specialist Group on OECMs could coordinate and implement these activities. The group identified the following events, listed in **Table 2**.

Table 2: International and regional opportunities to raise awareness about OECMs

Opportunity	Timing	Suggested Activities
European Development Days	17-18 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trevor Sandwith on panel on inclusive governance
UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with a focus on SDG 16	8-18 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be discussed.
Asia Protected Areas Partnership	24-25 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present on and discuss OECMs in the Asian context (Harry J+)
CBD Open-Ended Working Group on the post-2020 framework	August 2019, Nairobi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the architecture for the Aichi Target successors and governance/OECM elements • Prepare a proposed text that could be discussed with parties, groups
UNCCD COP	September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be discussed
Latin American and Caribbean Protected Area Congress	14-17 October 2019, Lima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session/side event on OECMs (Clara MT) • Country cases (Andrew Rhodes, Clara MT) • Lima Declaration (Paula B,



		<p>Julia M)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put OECMs into the governance “track” (Carmen M/Thora A) Launch guidelines in Spanish/Portuguese
European preparatory meeting for CBD SBSTTA-23	14-18 October 2019, Vilm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss inclusion of text for post-2020 framework (Kathy M)
ASEAN Heritage Parks Congress	21-24 October 2019, LAO PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on OECMs (Harry J)
CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 23)	November 2019, Montréal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side event on OECM and tools/protocol (Harry J+) Discuss proposed text with parties, groups Follow up by refining proposed text
OSPAR (MPA effectiveness)	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gisela S to advise
UNFCCC / COP 25 Santiago	2 – 13 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present OECM as a way to reinforce resilience of ecosystem / surrounding communities
International Day of Forest	21 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheila W to advise
European preparatory meeting for CBD SBSTTA-24	14-18 April 2020, Vilm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss elements of the post-2020 framework and draft COP decisions (Gisela, Kathy)
Pacific Islands Conference on nature Conservatin and Protected Area	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support events on Pacific Islands OECM
CBD SBSTTA 24	May 2020, Montréal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side event on OECM, governance, GL (Harry J+) Discuss proposed text with parties, groups, champions
UN Oceans conference Lisbon	June 6, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the importance of OECM to government representatives
IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020	June 2020, Marseille	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in a “protected planet” pavilion to showcase, launch, advise Contribute a proposal for a Conservation Campus on OECM by end July 2019 Plan to launch tool/protocol at high profile event involving German BMZ minister, or workshop (Workshop proposals must be in by end July 2019) Steward motion on OECMs



UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be discussed
European discussion on CBD positions prior to COP15	International Academy for Nature Conservation, Vilm, July-September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce proposed decision text to European negotiators
CBD COP 15	Kunming, China, November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch SAGE methodology Discuss with parties and all regional groups, ILC
World Forestry Congress	Korea, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present OECM opportunities in forest habitats
IMPAC-5	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present on marine OECMs
African PA Congress	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support events on African OECMs
2nd Asia Parks Congress	March 2021, Sabah, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support events on Asian OECMs
FAO Technical Committees	Various dates through 2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber HC and Sheila W to provide opportunities

10. FUTURE MEETINGS ON OECMS

Gisela Stolpe, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany (BfN) invited the future WCPA Specialist Group on OECMs to host its first meeting on the Isle of Vilm in 2021, between either 25 January and 5 February or 28 February and 5 March.

Trevor Sandwith suggested that the Isle of Vilm could become a location for hosting an annual gathering of governance authorities of OECMs to celebrate their existence, vitality and diversity.

11. CONSERVED AREAS AND OECMS

Over the course of the meeting, there were a number of formal and informal discussions about the relationship between the terms ‘conserved areas’ and OECMs. Harry Jonas presented on Day 1 his interest [since 2014](#) to see ‘conserved areas’ become shorthand for OECMs, in particular to help the concept become less technocratic sounding at national-to-local levels and also to link it to the increased use of the term ‘protected and conserved areas’. Beyond the ‘protected and conserved areas’ estate one would describe areas of ‘de facto conservation’.

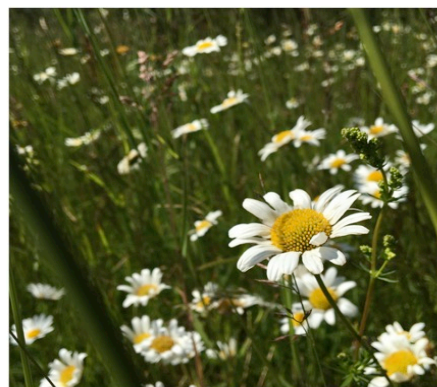
It was recalled that in 2015, Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend and Ro Hill described ‘conserved areas’ as area-based measures that, regardless of recognition and dedication, and at times even regardless of explicit and conscious management practices, achieve de facto conservation and/or are in a positive conservation trend and likely to maintain it in the long term ([Borrini-Feyerabend and Hill, 2015](#)). The authors point out the following:



According to this definition, conserved areas have a major overlap with protected areas (as defined by the IUCN but also by national governments throughout the world)—but they do not coincide. For instance, some area-based measures that are nationally defined as protected areas do not manage to conserve nature (they are protected areas but not conserved areas, and some use the derogatory term ‘paper parks’ to describe them) and others are conserved areas but not protected areas (they do not fit the IUCN definition, or they do not fit the definition of the relevant country, or both) or, even if they fit such definitions, the concerned peoples simply do not wish them to be recognised as protected areas.

Another concept was put forward at the meeting that borrows from the Borrini-Feyerabend and Hill approach but attempts to deal with the conceptual issues created by having overlaps between protected areas and conserved areas. This formulation proposes that ‘conserved areas’ are areas of de facto conservation *outside* of protected areas.

While no decisions were made, it was agreed that conceptual clarity will enable progress at the local-to-international levels on ‘protected and conserved areas’. Trevor Sandwith proposed further thought and the development of a motion as part of the WCC preparations.





ANNEX I: AGENDA

11 JUNE	
13:00	Meet at Hauptbahnhof (main station) Berlin to travel to Vilm
18:30	Dinner
After dinner	Introductory session, including an overview of Vilm Island
12 JUNE	
7.30-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-9:15	Opening and Introductions: Harry Jonas and Trevor Sandwith
9:15-10:30	Foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD decision 14/8 and the draft IUCN Guidelines: Harry Jonas • Reporting: Heather Bingham • Production of mini-case studies
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Potential OECMs <p>a. Within countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia: Clara Matallana-Tobon • Kenya: Gladys Warigia Njoroge • Madagascar: Ravaka Ranaivoson • Indonesia: Cristina Eghenter <p>b. Sectoral and stakeholder examples and updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples and local communities: Dominique Bikaba • Fisheries: Amber Himes-Cornell and Eskild Kirkegaard
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:20	Introducing the International Climate Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IKI: Frank Barsch
14:20-15:45	Identifying OECMs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's approach to identifying OECMs: David MacKinnon • South Africa's approach to identifying OECMs and the draft 'OECM Assessment Toolkit': Daniel Marnewick and Candice Stevens
15:45-16:15	Break
16:15-17:15	Exploring the Green List <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas: Trevor Sandwith • Malaysian example of adapting the indicators for the Green List: Agnes Lee Agama
17:15-17:30	Looking ahead to Day 2
17:30-18:30	Timeout - island walk
18:30	Dinner
After dinner (optional)	Two films: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film about community conservation with an introduction by



	<p>Dominique Bikaba.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green List with an introduction by Trevor Sandwith.
13 JUNE	
7.30-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-9:30	<p>Framing the Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap on the OECM Assessment Toolkit and the Green List Discussion about methodology (including developing groups and rapporteurs) and expected outputs.
9:30-10:30	<p>Testing the Methodology</p> <p>Breakout groups on the following element of the assessment tool (half hour each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographically defined (half hour) Feedback discussion – led by Group 1* <p>NB: For each feedback session, one group will present their work and others will then explain how they did things similarly/differently.</p>
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	<p>Developing the Core Sections of the Assessment Tool</p> <p>Breakout groups on the following elements of the assessment tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and management (1 hour) Feedback discussion – led by Group 2
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Breakout groups on the following elements of the assessment tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity values and conservation effectiveness Feedback – led by Group 3
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	<p>Additional Issues</p> <p>Here we will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory sections Reporting sections The kinds of flexibility we need to build into the tool for sectoral and/or stakeholder specific considerations
17:30-18:30	Timeout - walk around island
18:30	Dinner
14 JUNE	
<p><i>Note: we are providing ourselves flexibility on the agenda for day 3 to be able to respond to issues that arise during the meeting. The following is a tentative programme.</i></p>	
7:30-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-11:00	<p>Capacity Building and Funding Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open discussion/group work about the kinds of capacity building needs that may arise and consideration of related training materials Further discussion about how to fund the work ahead



11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	WCC and COP 14 Developing inputs to the WCC and CBD COP 15 – including proposing sessions and events
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:30-15:30	Reviewing the Assessment Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by drafting team of the Assessment tool reflecting participants’ inputs and discussion.
15:30-16:30	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing from participants about next steps for their agency or organization. • Discussion about comms within and beyond the Task Force members.
16:30-18:30	Timeout
18:30	Dinner
15 JUNE	
7.30-9.00	Breakfast
9:20	Departure by boat and train after breakfast



ANNEX II: PARTICIPANTS

1. **Agnes Lee Agama**, South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership (Malaysia)
2. **Thora Amend**, WCPA (Germany)
3. **Ludi Apin**, Sabah Parks (Malaysia)
4. **Clarissa Arida**, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (Philippines)
5. **Dominique Bikaba**, Strong Roots Congo and ICCA Consortium (DRC)
6. **Heather Bingham**, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UK)
7. **Cristina Eghenter**, WWF-Indonesia and ICCA Consortium (Indonesia)
8. **Gregor Fischenich**, GIZ (Colombia)
9. **Amber Himes-Cornell**, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Italy)*
10. **Harry Jonas**, Future Law and IUCN WCPA Task Force on OECMs (Malaysia)
11. **Jenny Kelleher**, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (Switzerland)
12. **Eskild Kirkegaard**, International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and IUCN CEM Fisheries Management Group (Denmark)
13. **Dan Laffoley**, IUCN WCPA Marine (UK)
14. **David MacKinnon**, Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (Canada)
15. **Daniel Marnewick**, BirdLife (South Africa)
16. **Clara Matallana**, Humboldt Institute (Colombia)
17. **Ravaka Ranaivoson**, Wildlife Conservation Society (Madagascar)
18. **Trevor Sandwith**, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (Switzerland)
19. **Candice Stevens**, Wilderness Foundation Africa (South Africa)
20. **Gisela Stolpe**, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
21. **Gladys Warigia Njoroge**, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (Kenya)*
22. **Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff**, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Italy)
23. **Flora Yifan He**, Conservation International (USA)

* Remote attendance

