OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

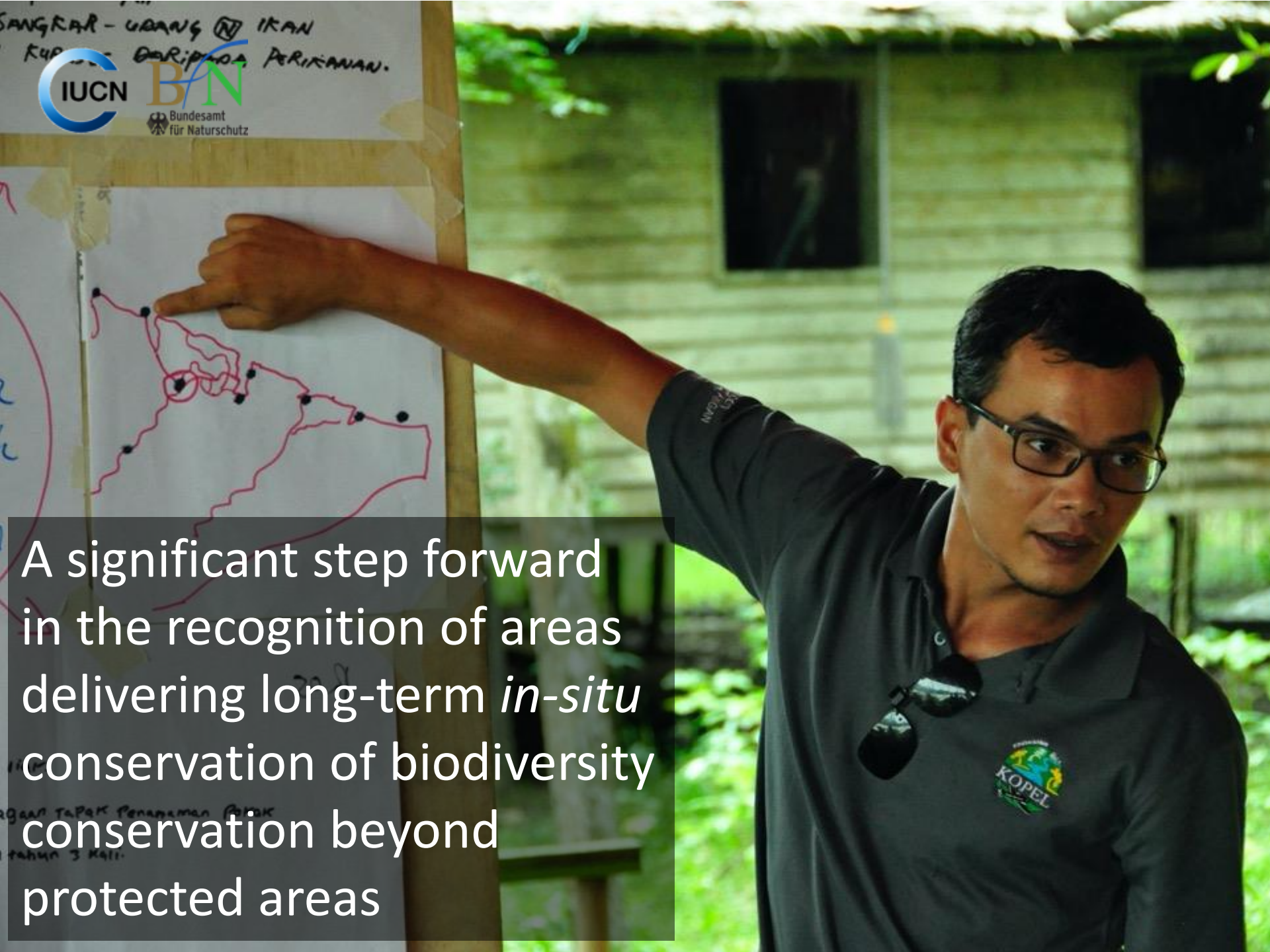
[NAME AND AFFILIATION OF PRESENTER]

OVERVIEW

- **Module A**: Introduction to OECMs
- **Module B**: Identifying potential OECMs
- **Module C**: Candidate OECMs
- **Module D**: Recognising and supporting OECMs
- **Module E**: Reporting OECMs
- **Module F**: Action Plans

INTRODUCTION TO OECMs

MODULE A



A significant step forward in the recognition of areas delivering long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity conservation beyond protected areas

Other effective area-based conservation measure

(CBD, 2018)

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.

PROTECTED AREAS

Have a *primary* conservation objective.

Their core function is to promote the long term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity.

OECMs

Achieve the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, regardless of their primary management objectives.

RANGE OF POTENTIAL OECMs

All achieve effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

Less intention to conserve biodiversity → More intention to conserve biodiversity

RANGE OF POTENTIAL OECMs

Effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

Less intention to conserve biodiversity → More intention to conserve biodiversity

Ancillary

'No-disturbance' areas

- Sacred sites
- Military areas
- Protected shipwrecks
- Other no-go areas

Secondary

Primary

RANGE OF POTENTIAL OECMs

Effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

Less intention to conserve biodiversity → More intention to conserve biodiversity

Ancillary

Secondary

Areas conserved through very low-impact use

- Community conserved areas
- Watershed protection areas
- Ecosystem service-related natural wetlands
- Long-term fishery closures

Primary

RANGE OF POTENTIAL OECMs

Effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

Less intention to conserve biodiversity → More intention to conserve biodiversity

Ancillary

Secondary

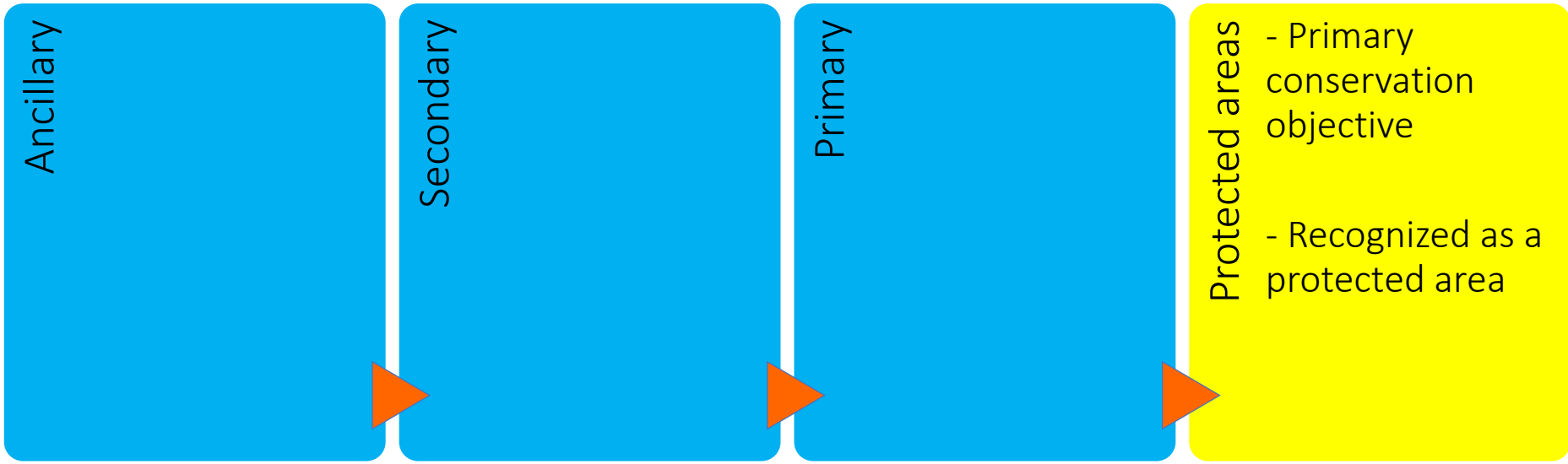
Primary

In unique cases: areas with a primary conservation objective…

… where the governance authority:

- is unable to secure PA designation or
- prefers not to be recognised as a PA

RANGE OF OECMs AND PROTECTED AREAS



AREAS UNLIKELY TO BE OECMs

Small, semi-natural areas within an intensively-managed landscape with limited biodiversity conservation value, e.g., municipal parks, formal/domestic gardens, firebreaks, marinas and golf courses.

Forests that are managed commercially for timber supply and are intended for logging.

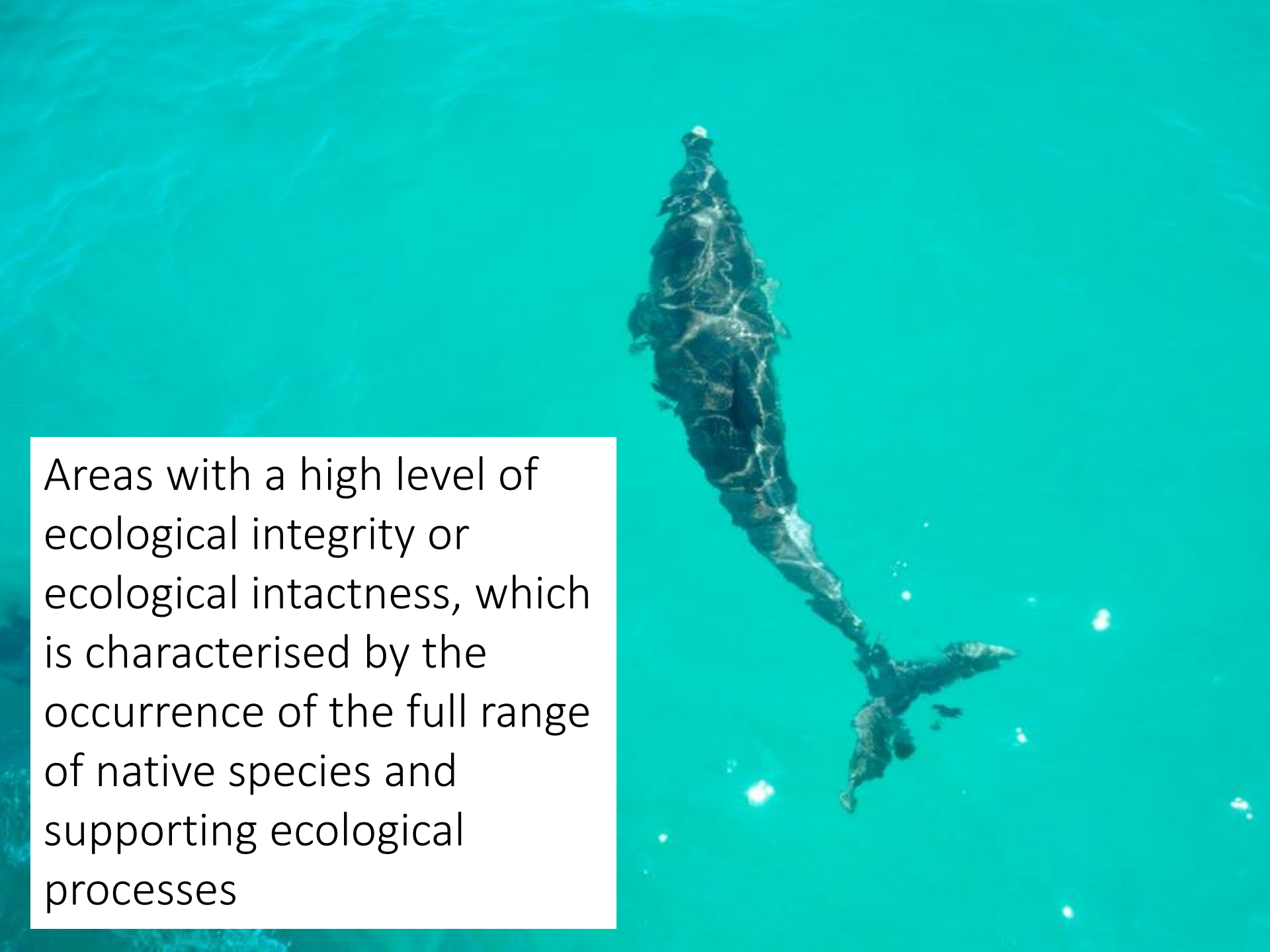
Fishery closures, and other spatial fisheries management tools that may be subject to periodic exploitation and/or be defined for stock management purposes, and that do not deliver *in-situ* conservation of the associated ecosystems, habitats and species with which target species are associated.

Agricultural lands which are managed in a manner that limits the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, e.g., pastures that are grazed too intensively to support native grassland ecosystems or species.

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.

OECMs can be governed by: 1) government agencies, 2) private actors, 3) Indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as in 4) shared arrangements

BIODIVERSITY VALUES



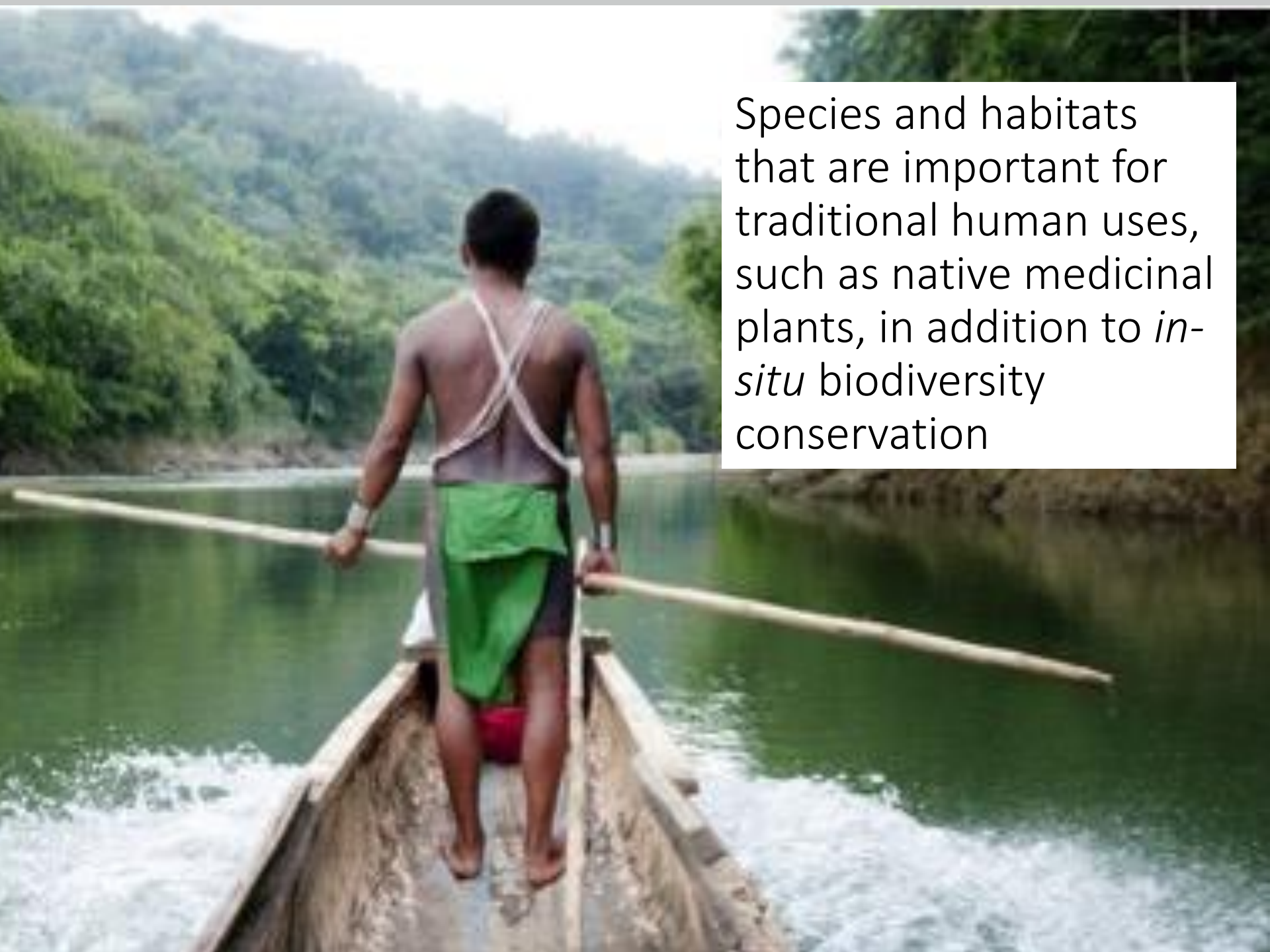
Areas with a high level of ecological integrity or ecological intactness, which is characterised by the occurrence of the full range of native species and supporting ecological processes


Areas with rare,
threatened or endangered
species and habitats

Areas with range-restricted species and ecosystems in natural settings

Areas with important species aggregations, including during migration or spawning

Areas of importance for ecological connectivity or that are important to complete a conservation network within a landscape or seascape



Species and habitats that are important for traditional human uses, such as native medicinal plants, in addition to *in-situ* biodiversity conservation

OPPORTUNITIES

Identifying and reporting OECMs increases ecological representation, improves protection of important biodiversity areas and enhances connectivity across landscapes and seascapes.

OPPORTUNITIES

‘OECMs’ – as a new international designation – gives greater validity to efforts by a diversity of actors to conserve biodiversity across areas important for biodiversity, outside of PAs.

OPPORTUNITIES

OECMs support ecosystem functions, livelihoods and address climate change.

OPPORTUNITIES

Identification and reporting of an OECM will likely enhance recognition of the local governance authority/ies and management regime.

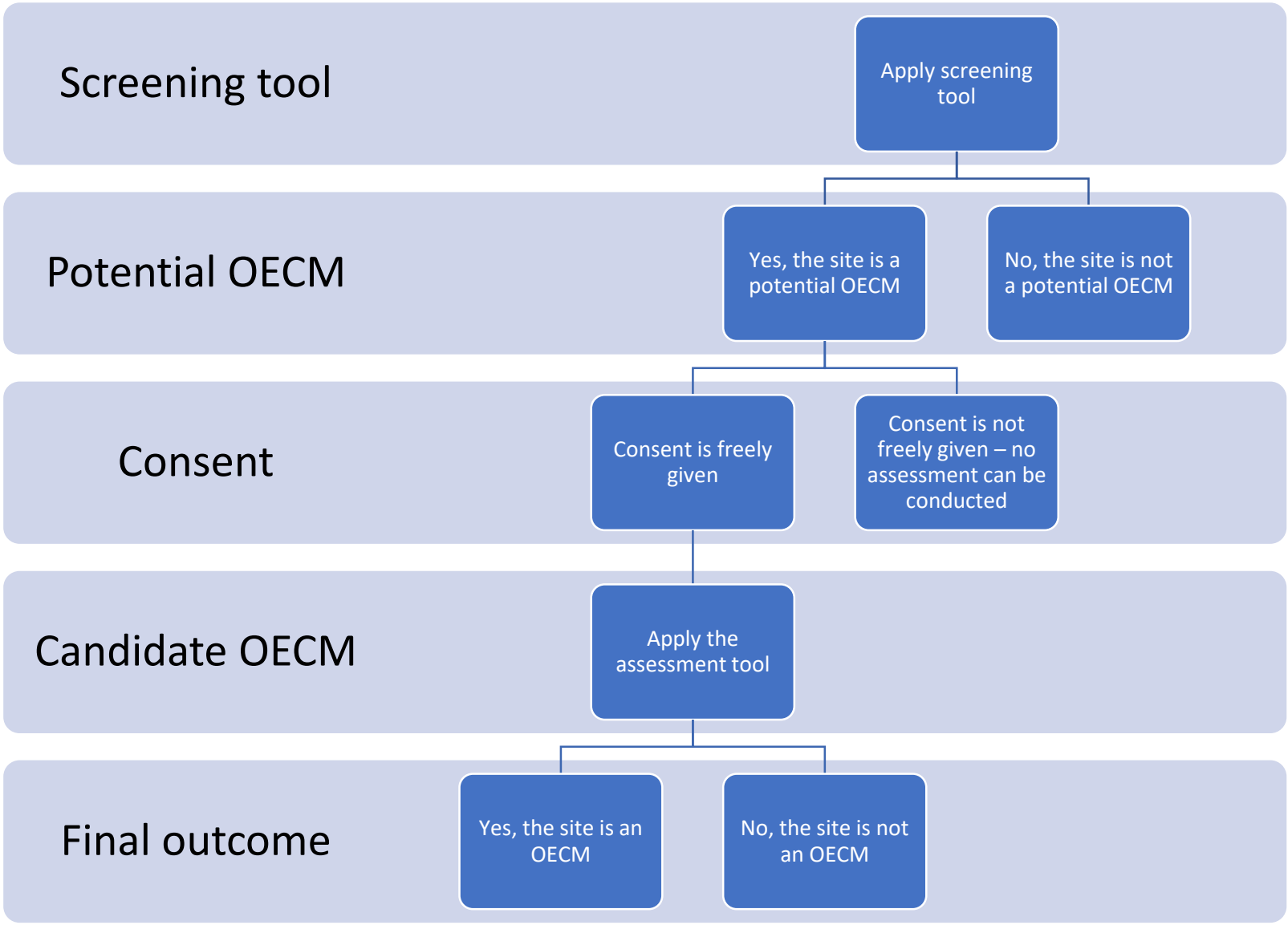
OPPORTUNITIES

OECMs promote the increased integration of biodiversity conservation into sectoral and spatial planning as well as practices, including in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

OPPORTUNITIES

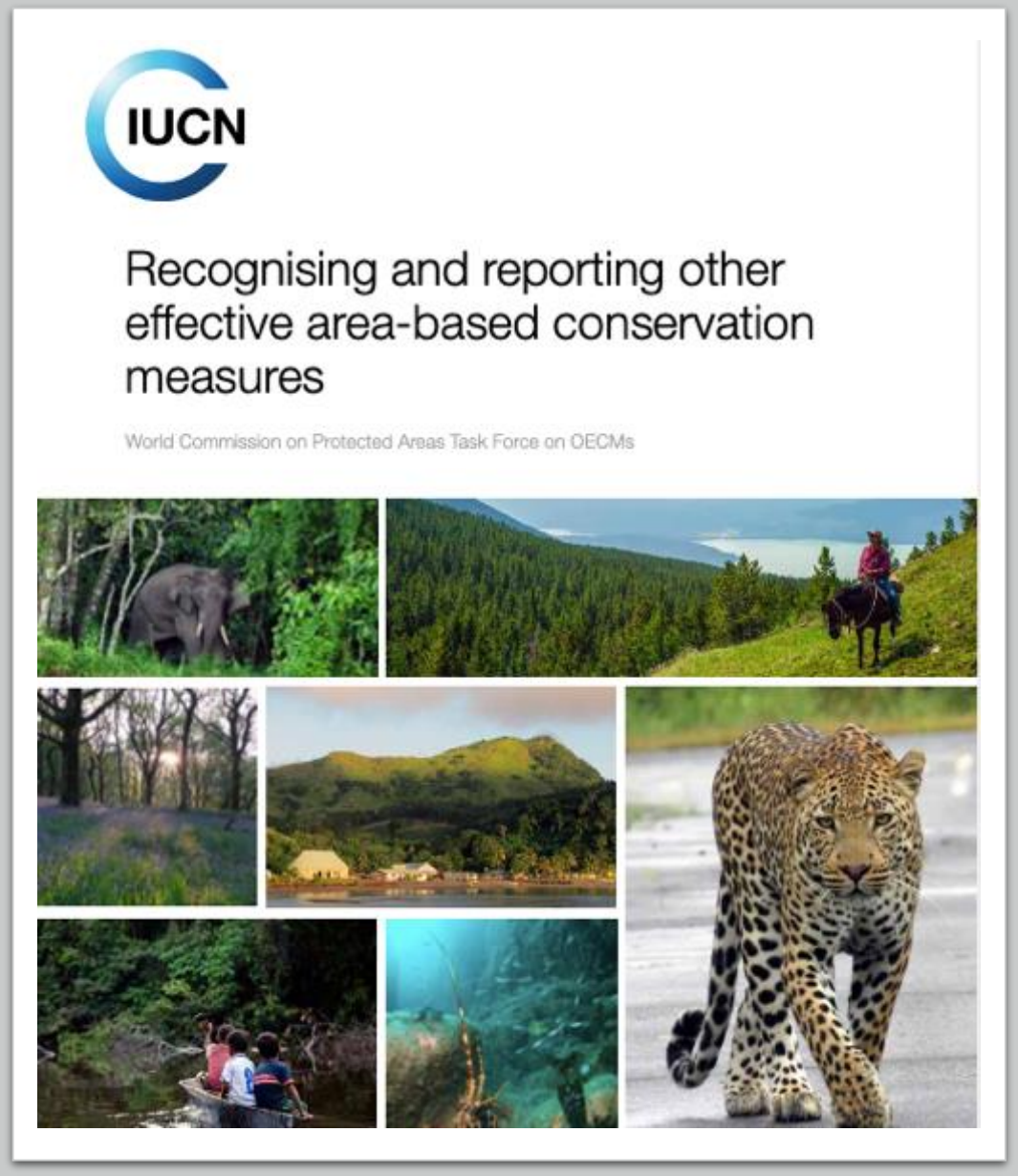
None of these opportunities are guaranteed …

IDENTIFYING OECMs AT A SITE LEVEL



IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL OECMs

MODULE B



Guidance on identifying, recognising, supporting and reporting OECMs can be found in the IUCN guidelines

www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/oecms

Site-level assessment

OECMs should be assessed at the site level and on a case-by-case basis

Preparation 1

At a country level, a good starting point is to begin by identifying areas that might be potential OECMs. One way to do this is to hold a multi-stakeholder meeting that begins by reviewing a map of all the existing mapped protected areas.

Preparation 2

Participants can identify:

- any areas that are important for conserving species and ecosystems that are outside of the current protected area system
- who is responsible for each area: government, municipality, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, private actors or several of these).

Preparation 3

Once several areas have been identified, the process of considering them for identification as OECMs can begin.

Use the screening tool to assess whether they could be OECMs (i.e., **potential OECMs**).

POTENTIAL
OECMs

A geographically defined space that has been identified as having OECM-like characteristics by applying the screening tool but where the governance authority has yet to consent to it becoming a ‘candidate OECM’.

Screening tool

Criterion A: Area is not currently recognised as a protected area.

1.1 Is the whole site, or the part being assessed as an OECM, **outside** of a protected area?

Screening tool

Criterion B: Area is governed and managed

2.1 Is the site **geographically defined**, with agreed and delineated boundaries?

2.2 Is the site under the **governance authority/ies** of a specified entity or an agreed upon combination of entities?

2.3 Is the site subject to a **management** system with clear objectives and measures that achieve in-situ biodiversity conservation and manage threats?

2.4 Is the governance and management '**sustained**', i.e., expected to continue for the foreseeable future?

Screening tool

Criterion C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to *in situ* conservation of biodiversity
Test 3

3.1 Is there a strong likelihood that the area contains important **biodiversity values**?

3.2 Is there a strong likelihood that the governance and management of the site achieves or is expected to achieve **long-term positive and effective *in-situ* conservation** of biodiversity, **over the long-term**, through legal or other effective means?

Screening tool

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

4.1 Is there a strong likelihood that the governance and management of the site supports associated **ecosystem functions and services,** and that the enhancement of any of these services do not negatively impact the sites' biodiversity?

4.2 Is there a strong likelihood that governance and management measures identify, respect and uphold the associated **cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values** of the area, where such values exist, as well as respect and uphold the **knowledge, practices and institutions** that are fundamental for the in situ conservation of biodiversity.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IN OECMs

2021-2030 is the UN Decade on restoration. Areas proposed for, or under active restoration efforts, should not be recognised as OECMs until they are delivering demonstrable and significant biodiversity outcomes. IUCN's guidance is therefore that restoration areas proposed as OECMs should meet all the following conditions:

1. Restoration is taking place in an ecosystem of high biodiversity value so that the area, once restored, will qualify as an OECM by virtue of its conservation value and contribution to strengthening existing protected area networks;

2. Any restoration efforts should (i) have reduced the threats that caused the original degradation and biodiversity loss, (ii) show successful ecosystem recovery based on the principles of ecological restoration and (iii) contribute to long-term maintenance of a resilient and evolving ecosystem; and

3. Demonstrate active ecological restoration or natural regeneration of a type and at a scale that is expected to regain and maintain ecological integrity and a full complement of species.

CONSENT AND CANDIDATE OECMs

MODULE C

CANDIDATE OECMs

A geographically defined space that has been identified as a ‘potential OECM’ by the governance authority and the governance authority has consented to it being assessed against the CBD criteria.

Any recognition or reporting of OECMs governed by **Indigenous peoples and/or lo communities** should be based on self-identification and requires the free, prior informed consent of the traditional governance authority(ies).

Free, prior and informed consent

‘FPIC’ relates to the community making the uncoerced and clear agreement to the proposed OECM activity or project development, before any activities have begun, based on all relevant information (also in formats/languages that are accessible to the relevant community).

Full assessment of a site

Once consent has been provided, a candidate OECM can be assessed using the IUCN ***Site-level methodology for identifying OECMs***.

If a site meets the criteria of an OECM, it can be recognised, supported (Module D) and reported (Module E).

Please contact us for support if required: **oecm@wcpa.iucn.org**

www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/oecms

RECOGNISING AND SUPPORTING OECMs

MODULE D

Legal Recognition

OECMs can be recognised through a wide range of existing (sub-)national level laws, policies or programmes.

For example, South Africa is moving towards recognition of OECMs through its Biodiversity Stewardship programme.

Legal Recognition

OECMs may require innovative new laws or policies through which to enhance their recognition.

Legal Recognition

OECM-related legislation should provide greater support and recognition to existing governance systems and not unnecessarily alter those local arrangements that are effective.

There is therefore a positive obligation of states and other actors to understand the local relationships between governance, management and conservation outcomes.

Legal Recognition

Any related measures should, wherever possible, be developed with the full and effective involvement of the relevant right-holders and stakeholders.

The forms of legal recognition applied to sites should be agreed with the legitimate authority.

Support

Recognition of OECMs should be augmented by appropriate forms of support.

Support could include knowledge, technical capacity, financial contributions for training, financial incentives for current management activities (e.g. payment for ecosystem services) and institutions.

Support

Support may also include increased security of land tenure, use, and access rights or context specific combinations.

REPORTING OECMs

MODULE E

Why report?

OECMs are likely to be widespread but they cannot be properly counted until they are identified and mapped.

Identifying and recognising OECMs helps to track achievement of national and global conservation targets.

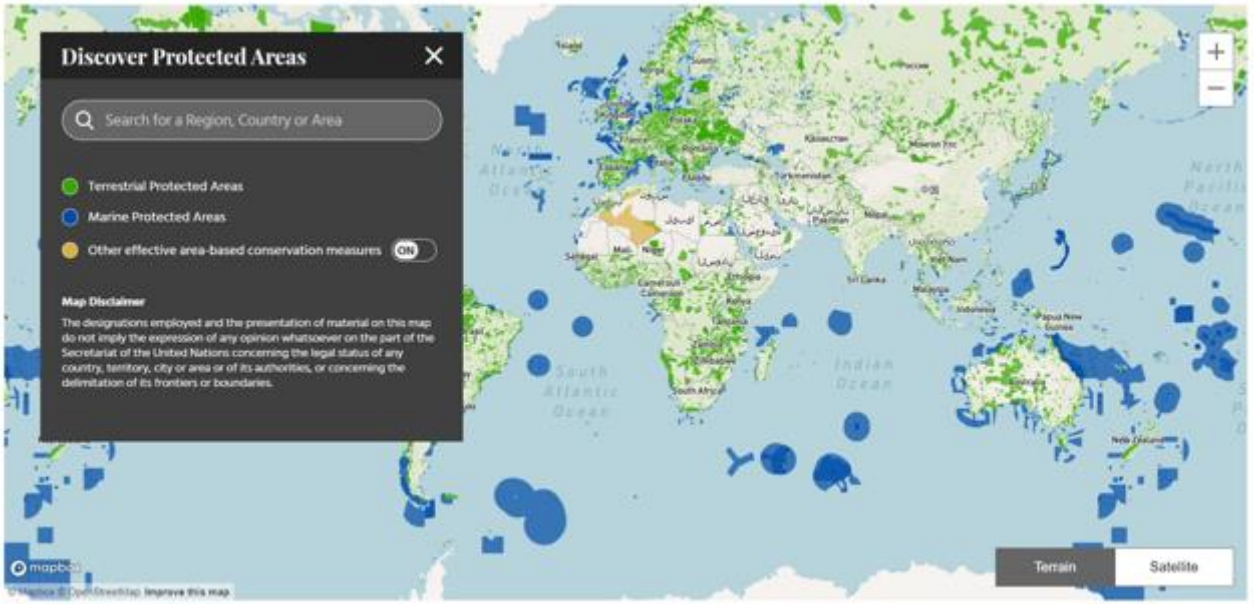
World Database on OECMs

The World Database on OECMs has been established to help record all identified OECMs in a standardized way.

Once an OECM has been identified, it can be reported to the World Database on OECMs.

How to report

Often this will be done by the national government, but private entities, Indigenous peoples and local communities can also report their sites to the World Database on OECMs.



www.protectedplanet.net

How to report

Government agencies can provide their data direct to the WD-OECM.

Data from private entities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities must first be verified.

How to report

Data needs to be provided in a specific format. This is described in more detail in the User Manual:

www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual

How to report

1. Ensure the area is outside of a protected area.
2. Consent should be sought from the governance authority (the people who make decisions about how the OECM is managed)
3. Format the data correctly
4. Send the data to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org

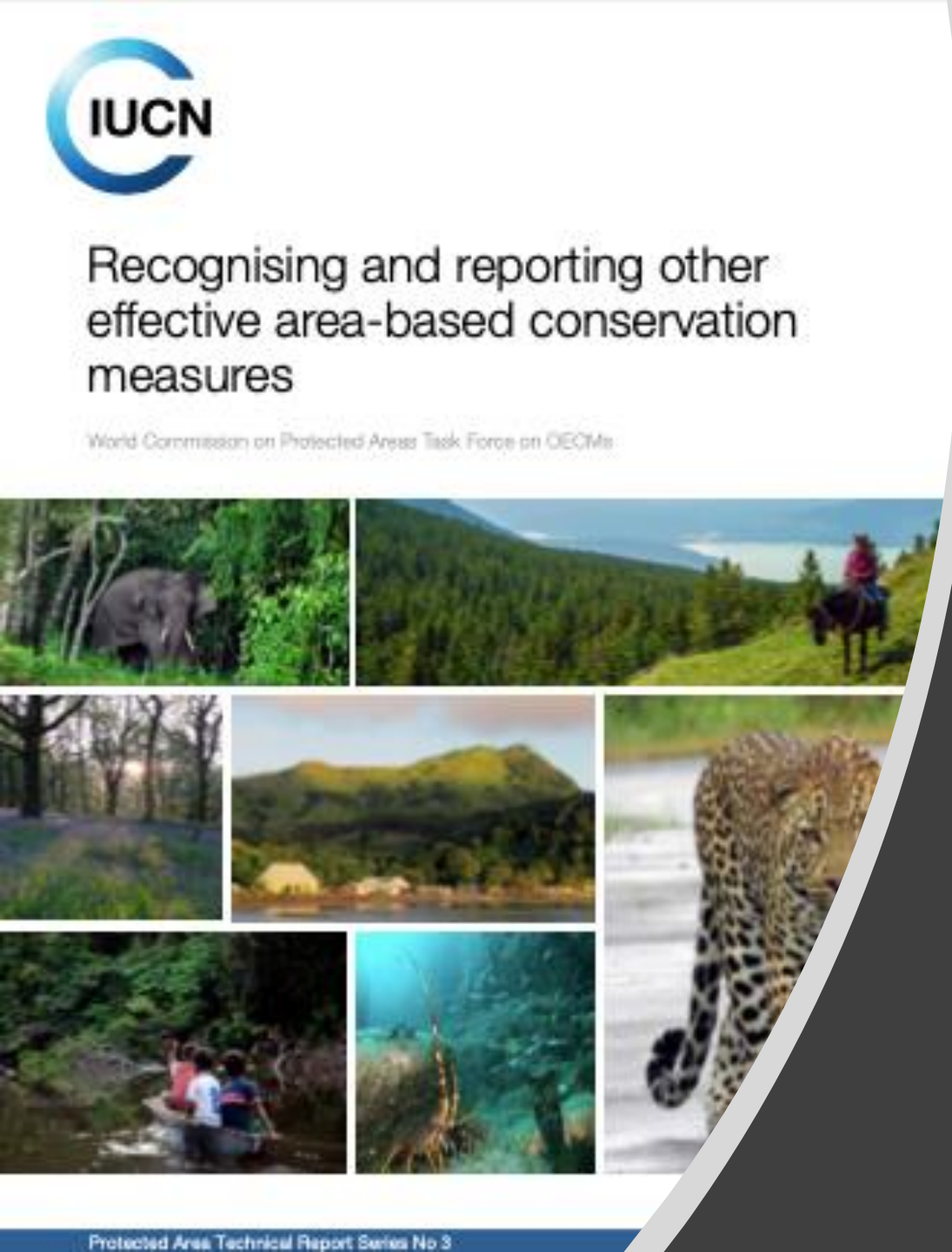
What do I need to send?

1. Spatial (GIS) data: a polygon or point for each OECM
2. Tabular data, e.g. name and governance type. You can include a link to supporting information if available, e.g. the results of the IUCN methodology
3. A signed data-contributor agreement

www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual

ACTION PLANS

MODULE F



Translate the IUCN guidelines and methodology into national languages

Hold meetings among key rightsholders and stakeholders and raise awareness about OECMs

Work towards a national assessment to identify potential OECMs

Provide training to a diversity of governance authorities and actors on how to use the IUCN site-level methodology and begin to identify OECMs

Analyse the kinds of financial and non-financial support that potential and identified OECMs are receiving to determine additional needs to maintain biodiversity values over the long term

Resources produced by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN)

For more information please email:

oecm@wcpa.iucn.org