APAP Roadmap for OECMs

APAP Regional OECMs Consultation Workshop

July 8–9, 2024

Tokyo, Japan

Ministry of Environment
KNPS KOREA NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
環境省 Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan
Asia Protected Areas Partnership
IUCN
WCPA WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
WWF

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Acknowledgments

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We thank the APAP participants for their insightful presentations, case studies, and participation in the discussions that form the basis of this report and the recommendations in the final roadmap.

Report compiled and edited by Mitali Sharma, Independent Consultant. Reviewed by the APAP country delegates, including the host, MoEJ, and APAP Chair (Ministry of the Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Maldives), as well as the IUCN Global Protected and Conserved Areas Team, IUCN Asia Regional Office, IUCN WCPA, and WWF Thailand.

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Acronyms

ACB: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
APAP: Asia Protected Areas Partnership
ARO: Asia Regional Office (IUCN)
ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
CHT: Chittagong Hill Tracts
COP: Convention of the Parties
EWG: Experts Working Group (China)
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOLU: Forest and Other Land Use
GBF: Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
ITT: Indigenous and traditional territory
KBA: Key Biodiversity Area
KNPS: Korea National Park Service
LMMA: Locally-Managed Marine Area
MONRE: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Viet Nam)
MoEFCC: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India; Bangladesh)
MoEJ: Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
NBA: National Biodiversity Authority (India)
NDC: Nationally Determined Contribution
NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECM: Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
ONEP: Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Thailand)
PA: Protected Area
RCF: Regional Conservation Forum
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNEP-WCMC: United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
VCFs: Village Common Forests
WCC: World Conservation Congress
WCPA: World Commission on Protected Areas
WDPA: World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECM: World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

Context

The concept of “other effective area-based conservation measures” was first included as part of Aichi Target 11 in 2010, although it had not been formally defined until 2018 by Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Parties as part of CBD Decision 14/8. With a formal definition in place, when OECMs were included as part of the new Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022, their importance in scaling up conservation efforts and achieving area-based targets became far clearer. This helped catalyse action in Asia, prompting collaborative efforts between the Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP), Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MoEJ), Korea National Park Service (KNPS), and other stakeholders to strategise for the effective implementation of OECMs regionally.

Based on the decision taken collectively by APAP members at the 7th APAP Technical Meeting in 2023 in Dehradun, India, a Regional Consultation Workshop was held from July 8 to 9, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan. This workshop was generously hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MoEJ), with support from the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) Secretariat and Chair (Ministry of the Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Maldives), Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Korea, Korea National Park Service (KNPS), IUCN Headquarters, IUCN Asia Regional Office, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and WWF Thailand.

This consultation served as a pivotal exchange platform to strengthen OECMs across Asia. The countries that had made progress on their national strategies for OECMs were shortlisted, which included representatives from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Experts from IUCN WCPA, WWF Thailand, and other organisations were also present (full list of participants in Appendix B).

Based on the outcomes of this meeting, a roadmap on OECMs for APAP was developed, which will be presented at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF), and then at CBD Convention of the Parties (COP) 16 in October 2024 for wider dissemination. This will foster further collaboration and knowledge exchange on OECMs at the global level.

Workshop Summary

Day 1 (July 8, 2024)

Welcome Remarks and Inaugural Session

The first day of the workshop on July 8 began with welcome remarks from Dr. Dindo Campilan (Asia Regional Director, IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO)), Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino (IUCN Regional Councillor, South and East Asia), Mr. Akihiro Ueda (Director General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, MoEJ), Mr. Hassaan Mohamed (APAP Chair and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives), Prof. Yoshitaka Kumagai (Regional Vice Chair of East Asia, IUCN WCPA), Prof. Amran Hamzah (Regional Vice Chair of Southeast Asia, IUCN WCPA), and Ms. Clarissa Arida (Director, Programmes Department, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)).

The speakers celebrated the 10-year anniversary of APAP since it was first conceptualised, and highlighted the importance of OECMs and the unique opportunities they provide to engage with the GBF, recognise diverse nature areas, and work with the private sector.

The speakers also noted the role of APAP leading this work regionally and the importance of this workshop leading up to the RCF in Bangkok in September 2024, CBD COP 16 in October 2024, as well as the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025.

Welcome remarks and special addresses delivered by Dr. Campilan (top left), Mr. Ueda (top right), Mr. Mohamed (bottom left), and Mr. Hoshino (bottom right)

APAP Progress and Achievements

In the following session, the work of APAP was outlined by Ms. Saebyeol Seo (APAP Secretariat). APAP is a key platform for facilitating collaboration amongst governments and stakeholders in Asia. The idea for the partnership was endorsed during the 1st Asia Parks Congress in Japan, 2013, and APAP was launched during the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014.

APAP has four key objectives:

1. Providing a forum for Asian protected area agencies to share experiences and build capacity

2. Promoting best practices and developing innovative solutions to address challenges

3. Enhancing transboundary and regional cooperation

4. Raising awareness of the benefits of Asia's protected areas

APAP currently has 22 member organisations from 17 countries, and two Associate Members. APAP is involved in several efforts, such as hosting technical workshops and master classes to build regional capacity, translating IUCN guidelines, developing technical guidance, organising webinars to share knowledge, co-hosting national events in APAP countries, and supporting the Asian Youth Network for Protected Areas.

Presentation delivered by Ms. Seo

Introduction to OECMs

This session included presentations from Dr. Harry Jonas (Co-Chair, IUCN WCPA OECMs Specialist Group; recorded presentation), Ms. Jennifer Kelleher (Programme Manager, Equity, Rights and Diversity, Global Protected and Conserved Areas Team, IUCN Headquarters), Ms. Siska Sihombing (Programme Officer, Global Protected and Conserved Areas Team, IUCN Headquarters), Mr. M.K.S. Pasha (Coordinator, Regional Protected and Conserved Areas, IUCN ARO), and Ms. Clarissa Arida (Director, Programmes Department, ACB).

Presentations delivered by Ms. Sihombing and Ms. Arida

Overview of the OECMs Framework and Site-Assessment Tool

Dr. Harry Jonas provided an overview of the OECMs framework and site-assessment tool. The OECMs framework provides a momentous opportunity to better recognise and support conservation beyond protected areas. The IUCN WCPA OECMs Specialist Group developed a five-part process to support work on OECMs: (1) have enabling conditions in place, (2) identify sites, (3) report sites, (4) monitor sites, and (5) strengthen sites by (a) further recognising them, (b) supporting them, and (c) defending them against threats.

The IUCN WCPA site-level assessment tool can be used to identify whether a site meets the requirements to be an OECM. It has three steps and eight criteria. The key principles of this tool are (1) it is only meant for one site at a time, (2) rights should be

respected when using it, and (3) assessors should conduct assessments in a participatory way, involving rightsholders and stakeholders in the area.

Dr. Jonas emphasised the big picture of OECMs, noting that the OECMs framework offers many opportunities to identify socio-ecological systems that deliver ecosystem services, local values, and biodiversity values. However, there are challenges with achieving these, such as addressing the global knowledge gap, ensuring that rights are respected and that sites meet the right ecological conditions, and that sites are strengthened.

Links to key guidance by the IUCN WCPA OECMs Specialist Group mentioned in this presentation:

Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures (updated version will be published by COP 16)

Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) : first edition

Achieving GBF Target 3

Ms. Jennifer Kelleher provided an overview of achieving GBF Target 3 and IUCN's engagement with this target. GBF Target 3 is entirely hinged on systems of protected and conserved areas (PCAs) and Indigenous and traditional territories (ITTs). IUCN is particularly engaged with the following aspects of the target:

1. How much and what counts?: GBF Target 3 includes 30% for terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas separately, and PAs and OECMs must meet their definitions to count

2. Who counts?: OECMs offer an enormous opportunity to support ICCAs and other forms of governance, and four main governance types will count, as recognised by the IUCN and CBD: government, private, Indigenous peoples and local communities, and shared

3. What matters and how will we know?: Effectiveness is important and a feasible suite of indicators will be needed to understand this more. Capacity development for OECMs is a key priority, as is work on Act30, which is a global initiative to bring

together governments, Indigenous peoples, and local communities to support GBF Target 3 and strengthen non-state actors

Lastly, Ms. Kelleher mentioned that a key question for OECMs is “what is the offering of recognition and support to OECMs?”, which, in addition to receiving global recognition in the World Database of OECMs (WD-OECM), can be addressed through legal recognition for protection against threats, as well as other forms of technical and financial support.

IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

Ms. Siska Sihombing introduced the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas and focused on how it is relevant to OECMs. The mission of the Green List is to increase and recognise the number of effective protected and conserved areas in the world, which includes OECMs. Asia accounts for nearly 50% of the approved Green List sites globally. The IUCN Green List Standard, which is the criteria for sites to be included in the Green List, includes four main components: good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes. Since monitoring is important for both OECMs and Green List sites, the conservation outcomes of OECMs could be documented and measured through a monitoring system using the Green List framework, where relevant and appropriate.

Ms. Sihombing concluded that, overall, the IUCN Green List Standard provides the potential to have enhanced international recognition, inclusive and equitable governance, effective management, access to resources and capacity building, and support for national and global conservation goals.

GBF Target 3 and OECMs in Asia

Mr. M.K.S. Pasha described Asia’s efforts on GBF Target 3 and OECMs. A wide range of OECMs could be identified in Asia, such as geoparks, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs), sustainable production landscapes, and community conserved areas, and categorisation will be different across countries, depending on laws and area types.

A systematic spatial planning approach should be used as the foundational basis for further work on OECMs to understand which areas are important for biodiversity, cultural heritage, connectivity, and more, which also supports GBF Target 1. Countries should start with a national dialogue to determine national processes for OECMs. This should include identifying the groups responsible, a reporting pathway, a reviewing body, and a structure for conducting site assessments for proposed OECMs. Once an OECM has been established, the site could be aligned with the IUCN Green List Standard to strengthen it, and it could become a "Green Listed OECM", where relevant and appropriate.

Mr. Pasha also discussed the work of IUCN regionally, which includes helping countries with national strategies and dialogues, mobilising support and resources, supporting regional meetings, building capacity, and developing knowledge products.

ASEAN Initiatives for OECMs

Ms. Clarissa Arida outlined ASEAN initiatives for OECMs, which are led by the ACB. In 2019, the ACB hosted a regional workshop on Aichi Target 11 and OECMs, which aimed to reinforce action in the East and Southeast Asia regions towards fulfilling Aichi Target 11 by sharing strategies and approaches on how countries will recognise, report, and support OECMs. The ACB also held an Experts Meeting in 2021 on OECMs and the Post-2020 GBF, focusing on opportunities and challenges in the ASEAN region.

Aside from these meetings, OECMs have also been included in wider ASEAN strategies and projects, including the Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan for ASEAN that is under development, the ASEAN Heritage Parks Regional Action Plan (2023–2030), and an ASEAN project on "effectively managing ecological networks of marine protected areas in large ecosystems in the ASEAN region". Additionally, a recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-ACB consultation workshop in July 2024 identified OECMs as a key factor for mainstreaming forest biodiversity. Lastly, Ms. Arida mentioned that further ASEAN discussions on OECMs are planned at a ACB meeting in Singapore in mid-July, and next year in Viet Nam.

Philippines

During the ASEAN initiatives presentation, Ms. Arida also introduced progress on OECMs in the Philippines. The Philippines has 178 entries for OECMs in the WD-OECM. Several types of OECMs have been identified nationally, including:

1. Critical Habitats: “Nationally designated areas outside protected areas that are known habitats of threatened species and designated as such based on scientific data taking into consideration species endemicity and/or richness, presence of man-made pressures/threats to the survival of wildlife living in the area, among others”

2. Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas: “Natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples through customary laws or other effective means”

3. Local Conservation Areas: “Areas protected by Local Government Units through Local Ordinances to conserve terrestrial and marine biodiversity and natural resources”

Ms. Arida noted that the Philippines (led by the Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources) is developing national guidelines in the form of an Administrative Order for OECMs, which is undergoing review, and it aims to account for the rest of the nation’s commitment to GBF Target 3.

Country Presentations (Session 1)

The first country session had presentations from Dr. Raghuram Kosalai Pargunam (Technical Officer, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), India), Mr. Wanlop Preechamart (Director of Policy and Mechanism Implementation Section, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand), and Ms. Sunjoo Park (Researcher, Korea National Park Research Institute, Korea National Park Service (KNPS), Republic of Korea).

Presentations delivered by Dr. Pargunam and Mr. Preechamart

India

Dr. Raghuram Kosalai Pargunam introduced India's approach to OECMs. In India, the process for identifying, mapping, and documenting OECMs are under the remit of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), NBA, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2022, India published Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying OECMs and a case study compendium.

India has four main criteria for OECMs that are based on IUCN's guidance: Criterion A: Area must not be recognised as a protected area; Criterion B: Area should be effectively governed and managed, and it should be geographically defined; Criterion C: Area should achieve sustained and effective *in situ* conservation of biodiversity; Criterion D: Area should deliver associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values. Additionally, India created a 14-category classification system for OECMs that is organised into three major sub-groups: Terrestrial, Water Bodies, and Marine.

To declare OECMs, India developed a five-step process: (1) Submission of a proposal by land owner(s) voluntarily; (2) Screening of the proposal by NBA; (3) NBA recommends the site to the MoEFCC for consideration; (4) MoEFCC recognises the area as an OECM; (5) MoEFCC submits data to the WD-OECM.

India currently has 13 potential OECMs and one recognised OECM, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, which is in the process of being submitted to the WD-OECM.

A slide on potential OECMs in India from Dr. Pargunam's presentation

Thailand

Mr. Wanlop Preechamart introduced the implementation of OECMs in Thailand. Thailand developed a roadmap for the 30 by 30 target that focuses on OECMs, which includes finalising national criteria, national targets, incentive measures, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

Thailand's national criteria are aligned with the CBD and IUCN's criteria: (1) Outside protected areas; (2) There is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values; (3) A geographically defined area; (4) The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values; (5) Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site; (6) Governance and management to achieve the in-situ conservation; (7) Action to ensure the long-term conservation (addressing threats, solutions, effective management, etc.); (8) Recognition of equity and participation. Thailand also developed categories for OECMs with three main sub-groups: Terrestrial, Inland Water, and Marine and Coastal.

Examples of sites with the potential to become OECMs in Thailand include the Lower Songkhram River Basin, Nakhon Phanom, which is a Ramsar site, and the Toyota

Biodiversity and Sustainability Learning Center, Chachoengsao, owned by Toyota Motor Thailand Co., Ltd.

Thailand's future plans for OECMs include developing or finalising the following: a Biodiversity Act, an OECMs Expert Working Group, incentives and financing mechanisms, a tracking system for biodiversity and ecosystem changes in OECMs using geo-information technology, and a strategy for OECMs.

A slide on Thailand's roadmap from Mr. Preechamart's presentation

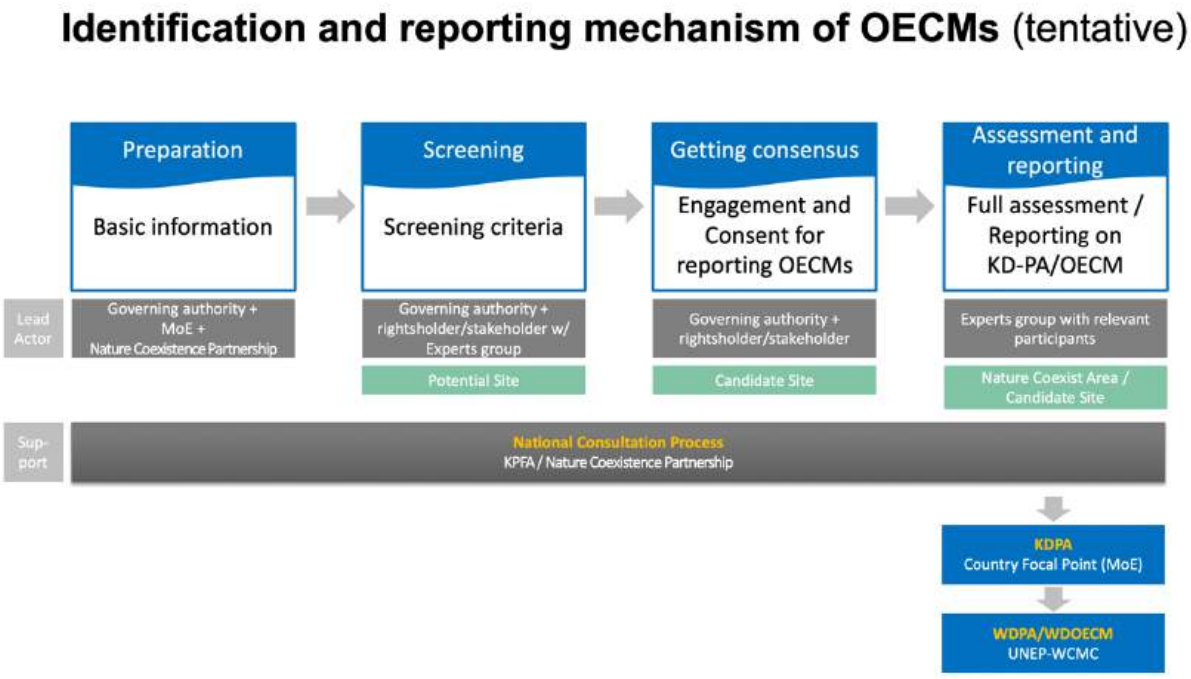
Republic of Korea

Ms. Sunjoo Park introduced the Republic of Korea's approach to OECMs. The Republic of Korea has been implementing a project on OECMs since 2022 that aims to raise public awareness, identify potential OECMs, and develop a national process for their recognition. OECMs are integrated into Korea's NBSAP, aiming for 30% protected coverage of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030. This includes establishing an integrated GIS database for biodiversity management and establishing an institutional foundation for OECMs.

To improve stakeholder perception and acceptability, the Republic of Korea reached a consensus to use Korean terminology instead of the term "OECM", and tentatively decided on the term "Nature Coexistence Area" (자연공존지역).

The Republic of Korea also created a roadmap for GBF Target 3 that includes considerations for OECMs. To support the identification of OECMs nationally, a "K-OECM Toolkit" is under development, which reflects the Korean context for OECMs based on global standards. It has four main criteria and two sub-criteria: (1) Not a Protected Area; (2) Geographically defined area; (3) Governance and management, 3-1. effective and sustained); (4) Biodiversity value, 4-1. long-term conservation outcome. The Republic of Korea has also developed a tentative identification reporting mechanism for OECMs.

Pilot studies on the identification process for OECMs were conducted on the following four sites (see Appendix C), and a database is being constructed for candidate OECMs.



A slide on the identification and reporting mechanism for OECMs in the Republic of Korea from Ms. Park's presentation

Country Presentations (Session 2)

The second country session had presentations from Mr. Mitsuo Wada (Section Chief, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, MoEJ), Mr. Md. Sharifuzzaman (Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Officer, Forest Department, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Bangladesh), and Mr. Rudijanta Tjahja Nugraha (Officer, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia).

Presentations delivered by Mr. Wada and Mr. Nugraha

Japan

Mr. Mitsuo Wada introduced Japan's progress on OECMs. Japan has a roadmap for the 30 by 30 target that includes the "promotion of OECMs" as a key aspect. To promote the roadmap and strengthen connections with partners, Japan launched "the 30 by 30 Alliance for Biodiversity", which is a multi-stakeholder platform that includes businesses, local governments, and NGOs, and it has nearly 800 partners. Japan recently launched a national system to certify "Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites" and most of the areas will be registered as OECMs. These sites contribute to biodiversity conservation through private entities' initiatives.

A trial certification system was introduced in 2022 with the support of the Alliance partners. The MoEJ began full operation of the certification scheme last spring and has certified 184 sites as of February 2024. Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites that do not overlap with protected areas will be registered on the WD-OECM as Japan's first OECMs, spanning 48,000 hectares.

Japan's national criteria for OECMs have been prepared based on the IUCN's guidance for OECMs, as shown below.

Criteria for Certifying "Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites"

1. Demarcation	2. Governance and management	3. Biodiversity conservation value	4. Contribution to Conservation
✓ Demarcated boundary illustrated on map and its GIS data ✓ Size of the area calculated ✓ Name of the area	**Specified authorities** ✓ Governance and management authorities specified ✓ Agreement from the both **Equitability of the management** ✓ Communication methods for stakeholders etc. **Management methods** ✓ Management purpose and methods identified ✓ Conformity with laws related **Continuity of management** ✓ No planned dissolution of the authorities	**List of Biodiversity conservation value:** ✓ Important habitats identified government etc. ✓ Sites with wilderness status ✓ Valuable secondary nature ✓ Ecosystem consisting of native sp. with associated ecosystem services ✓ Sites providing materials for traditional craftworks ✓ Habitats of endangered sp. etc ✓ Important areas for migratory sp. ✓ Areas contributing to buffering and connectivity for PAs	**Effectiveness of management** ✓ Contribution to long-term conservation to be confirmed ✓ Conservation is in-effect through the year ✓ Threats identified and counter-measures identified/considered ✓ No construction affecting the value planned **Monitoring and assessment** ✓ Monitoring to be implemented ✓ Result of management to be assessed by expert groups etc.

A slide on Japan's criteria for OECMs from Mr. Wada's presentation

Japan's certification process has seven main steps:

1. Optional prior consultation with the regional offices or the Headquarters of the MoEJ can be conducted upon the applicants' request

2. An application by the governance or management authority of the potential OECM is submitted to the MoEJ

3. A preliminary screening review is conducted by an environmental consultant. In this screening, the site will be reviewed to determine if it meets the criteria, and if necessary, a site survey will be conducted

4. An expert review is conducted by biodiversity experts

5. The MoEJ provides final confirmation

6. Certification is given by the Minister of the Environment of Japan

7. The certification is renewed every 5 years to guarantee that nature is conserved

There could be many types of OECMs in Japan, including *satoyama* (socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes), urban green spaces, shrine forests, and more; the types of areas are not limited if the site meets the criteria.

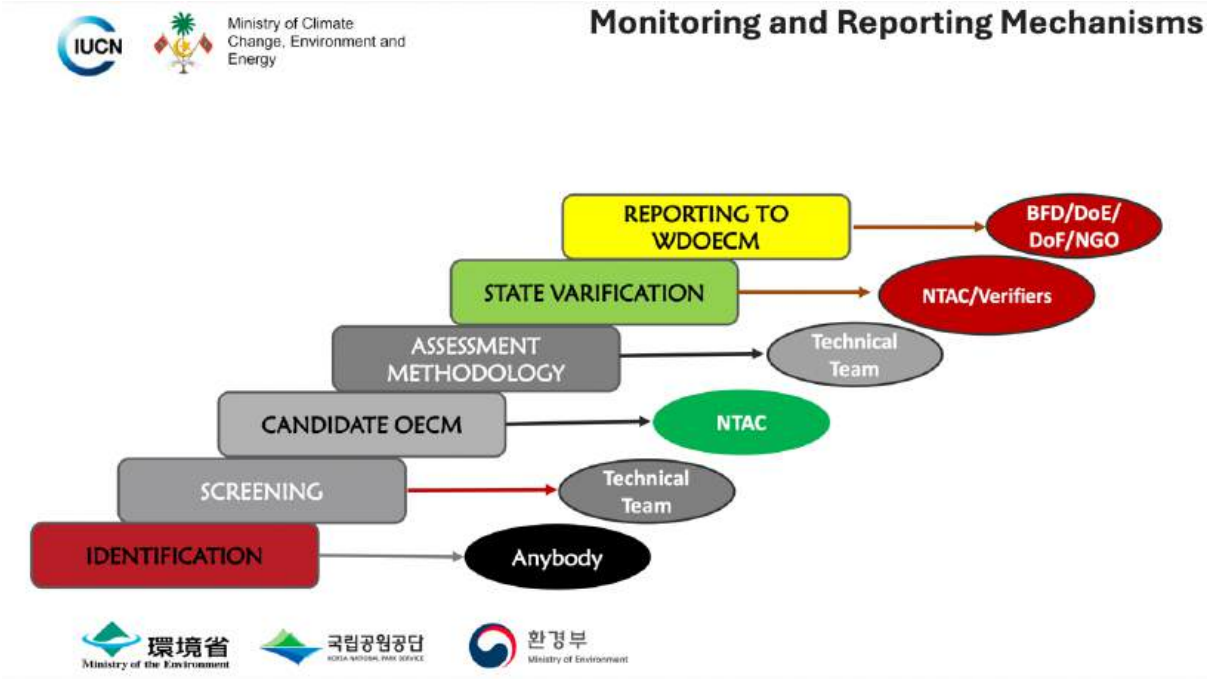
A new law on OECMs, "the Act on Promoting Activities to Enhance Regional Biodiversity," was enacted in April 2024 to further promote voluntary activities by the private sector.

Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Sharifuzzaman introduced Bangladesh's progress on OECMs. The Bangladesh Forest Department has been developing a national programme on OECMs in collaboration with various stakeholders since CBD COP 15. Under the SUFAL Innovation Grant Program of the Bangladesh Forest Department, Arannayk Foundation, an NGO, undertook a project to facilitate the establishment of a national mechanism for OECMs and to identify at least 45 OECMs in Bangladesh for national recognition and reporting (see Appendix C for information on the proposed OECMs).

The MoEFCC established a National Technical Advisory Committee on OECMs with representatives from relevant ministries, departments, NGOs, research institutes, and universities. The Committee has endorsed a list of technical experts as "Assessors" for potential/candidate OECMs and has formed a "Verification Team" for final verification and endorsement for national recognition and reporting. Arannayk Foundation trained the Assessors on the IUCN WCPA methodology to assess OECMs, and the 45 candidate OECMs identified by Arannayk Foundation are under assessment by designated Assessors. To support Bangladesh's efforts on OECMs, IUCN has undertaken an initiative to create customised implementation guidelines for Bangladesh, and a draft "Guidance for National Strategy for OECMs in Bangladesh" has been developed.

To further strengthen OECMs, amendments are being made to the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, and a clause aimed at declaring OECMs has been proposed in the draft amendments. This includes considerations for providing support, where applicable, to owners, organisations, institutions, or communities with declared or recognised OECMs.



A slide on Bangladesh's OECM process from Mr. Sharifuzzaman's presentation

Indonesia

Mr. Rudijanta Tjahja Nugraha introduced opportunities and challenges for implementing OECMs in Indonesia. Opportunities include: (1) integrating OECMs into Indonesia's NBSAP as a strategy to support GBF Target 3; (2) integrating OECMs into efforts for Indonesia's Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 Policy, which is a legally binding climate target that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forest management. The policy's goal is for the FOLU sector to sequester more carbon than it emits by 2030. Conserving 390,000km^2 of High Conservation Value areas is part of the policy's mitigation actions, and OECMs could be integrated into these efforts; (3) revising Indonesia's law for Conservation of Nature Resources and Ecosystems, which comprises areas that protect biodiversity, and OECMs could be integrated into that.

Indonesia has not recognised OECMs yet, but there are 570,000km^2 of potential preservation areas in Indonesia that should be protected, including buffer zones, ecological corridors, High Conservation Value areas, and Indigenous and local community conserved areas. Challenges include difficulties with verifying and reporting OECMs.

Country Presentations (Session 3)

The third and final country presentation session included presentations from Ms. Yiyun Sun (Programme Officer, IUCN China), Dr. Nguyen Xuan Dung (Head, Ecology and Natural Landscape Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam), and Ms. Hawwa Junainath (Conservation Officer, Environment Management and Conservation Department, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives).

Presentations delivered by Ms. Sun and Dr. Dung

China

Ms. Yiyun Sun introduced China's progress on OECMs. China established an Experts Working Group (EWG) for OECMs in May 2023, which consists of ten experts from the government, universities, and NGOs. The EWG has the following responsibilities:

- Leveraging global insights and developing the Chinese term for OECMs, as well as assessment criteria, classification systems, and monitoring methods

- Exploring a cross-industry/disciplinary assessment and recognition mechanism for OECMs, blending top-down and bottom-up approaches, and initiating pilot initiatives

- Analysing policies such as territorial spatial planning and the NBSAP for potential integration with OECMs to provide policy recommendations

- Mapping the status of OECMs nationally and drafting the Stocktaking Report

- Investigating OECM information sharing in China using existing data platforms

- Boosting OECM awareness and engagement

- Exploring diverse funding with broad social participation

The aforementioned Stocktaking Report on OECMs in China was developed with The Nature Conservancy and a local foundation in China. It introduces the general concept and categories of OECMs, summarises policies and the legal framework for OECMs in China, and includes case studies (see Appendix C for examples shown in the presentation). The report is in the process of being finalised. Next steps for the EWG include developing a national OECM toolkit.

A slide on the EWG's next steps from Ms. Sun's presentation

Viet Nam

Dr. Nguyen Xuan Dung introduced Viet Nam's progress on OECMs. Viet Nam uses criteria from the CBD and IUCN to identify OECMs, and includes considerations for ecosystems within Viet Nam. The following have been identified as areas that could be OECMs, based on the criteria and a list of potential ecosystems: Special Use forests, protected fishery areas, biodiversity corridors, important wetlands, buffer zones of marine and coastal protected areas, and *in situ* biodiversity facilities.

Vietnam is committed to supporting the 30 by 30 target, which involves progressing work on OECMs through the following actions:

- Promoting the implementation of tasks in the National Strategy on Biodiversity and activities to implement GBF goals related to OECMs

- Institutionalising the criteria, identification process, and guidelines for establishing and effectively managing areas other than PAs

- Identifying and evaluating types of potential OECMs nationwide

- Testing different types of OECM models in terms of the type of operation, managing agency, area size, and land and water surface use

- Codifying the CBD's guidelines on OECMs through the following opportunities:

    - Amending Viet Nam's Biodiversity Law

    - Developing and promulgating legal documents such as the Government Decree and the Prime Minister's Decision related to OECMs

    - Developing mechanisms and policies to encourage diverse stakeholders to participate in the establishment and management of OECMs

    - Developing resource mobilisation plans

- Promoting international cooperation and scientific and technological research on implementing OECMs

- Strengthening capacity and communication, and raising awareness on OECMs

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive programme to implement OECMs nationwide

Maldives

Ms. Hawwa Junainath introduced the Maldives' work on OECMs. The Maldives currently only recognises areas within islands leased for tourism development as OECMs. Tourism in the Maldives has, for years, contributed to the conservation and safeguarding of ecosystems, and now these efforts can be formally recognised through OECMs. In 2022, the Maldives published national guidelines for OECMs, which is based on the IUCN's guidance.

The Maldives' national criteria include five main components:

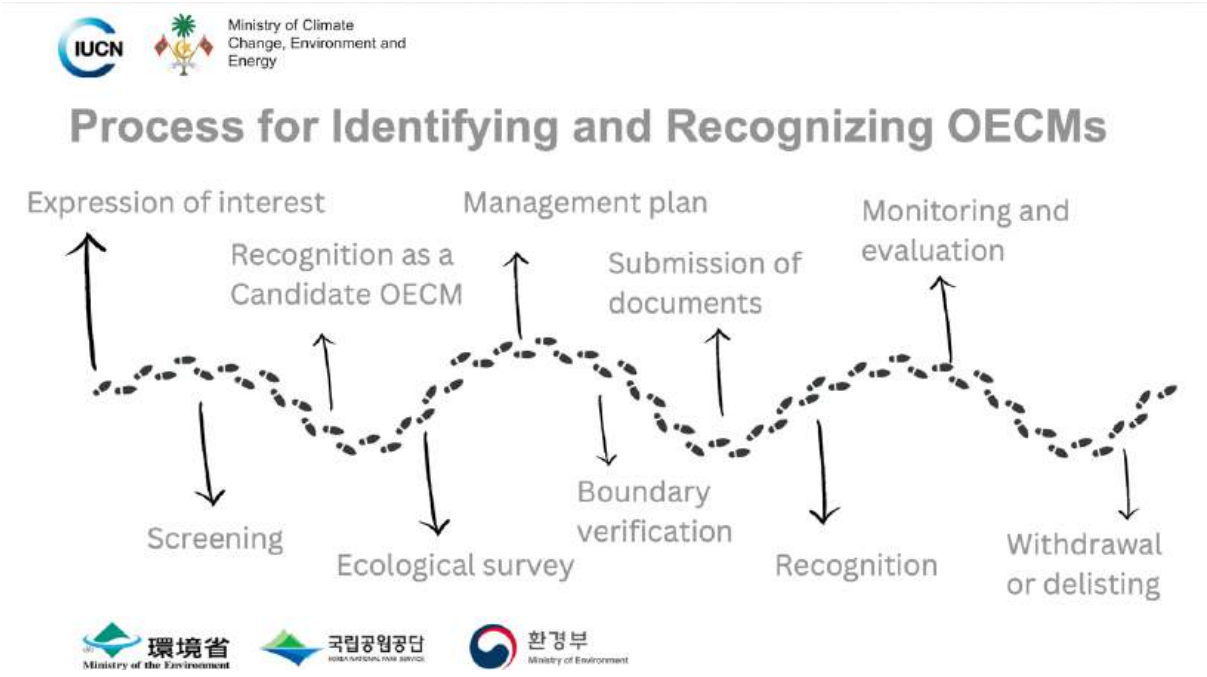
- Proposed areas are not areas protected under the Law no. 4/93 (Environmental Protection and Preservation Act)

- Proposed areas are areas with rich biodiversity and are managed

- All activities in the areas ensure the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

- The areas ensure the provision of ecosystem services (cultural, economic, social, and other values)

- Activities in the areas should not have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services



A slide on the Maldives' OECM process from Ms. Junainath's presentation

Sites that pass the final Assessment for OECMs will be recognised and published as OECMs in the Government's Gazette, reported to the WD-OECM, and will also be included on the Ministry's website. Monitoring reports need to be submitted annually to the Ministry, which will be used to evaluate the OECMs.

Currently, two candidate OECMs (marine areas surrounding Hurawalhi Island Resort and Six Senses Laamu) are in the final stage of assessment. The Ministry also received expressions of interest from two additional sites in 2023.

Day 1 Summary

- *Acknowledged* the 10-year mark of APAP and the significant progress that has been made since then
- *Recognised* the value of OECMs as a global label for area-based conservation efforts outside of PAs and as a movement for diversity, including their enormous role in including non-state actors and in achieving GBF Target 3
- *Acknowledged* the role of OECMs beyond biodiversity, recognising their role in wider systems and networks for ecosystem services, connectivity, cultural

values, and more

- *Highlighted* the role of APAP to promote this effort regionally at the RCF in September, CBD COP 16, and the WCC next year
- *Recognised* the IUCN Green List Standard as a way to strengthen OECMs and as a framework for increasing effectiveness and monitoring conservation outcomes, where relevant and appropriate
- *Highlighted* diverse examples of OECMs across Asia, different strategies, potential laws, knowledge products, screening tools, opportunities, and challenges
- *Highlighted* the need to make the benefits and incentives of OECMs clearer in countries to make it easier to increase the number of OECMs
- *Highlighted* the need for a systematic approach and including spatial planning for OECMs to ensure that the right types of areas are being conserved
- *Acknowledged* the role of laws for OECMs and the level of strictness that could be beneficial or detrimental to progress, noting that it is a voluntary process

Day 2 (July 9, 2024)

Concluding Session

The second day of the workshop included presentations from Mr. M.K.S. Pasha (Coordinator, Regional Protected and Conserved Areas, IUCN ARO; on behalf of Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Programme Officer, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, IUCN ARO) and Ms. Marine Deguignet (Senior Programme Officer, Protected and Conserved Areas Team, IUCN Headquarters; recorded presentation on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)).

Marine OECMs: Opportunities and Challenges

Mr. M.K.S. Pasha, on behalf of Ms. Maeve Nightingale, outlined the opportunities and challenges for marine OECMs to contribute to global biodiversity targets and national conservation goals. Marine areas are often overlooked, as countries typically focus on terrestrial areas more. Most countries are not even achieving 10% coverage for marine areas. Examples of marine OECMs include LMMAs, archaeological sites (historic shipwrecks), and fishery closures.

Opportunities for marine OECMs include contributing significantly to national biodiversity goals and global targets, generating important data on the marine environment, enhancing ecosystem connectivity and resilience by integrating MPAs and OECMs, and promoting cross-sectoral dialogue and integrated coastal management planning.

Marine OECMs pose additional challenges as marine ecosystems are less studied and understood compared to terrestrial ones. They typically require additional considerations due to their transboundary nature and vertically zoned environment.

Reporting Data on OECMs

Ms. Marine Deguignet outlined the process for reporting data on OECMs to the WD-OECM. The WD-OECM operates alongside the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and compiles data from governments, non-governmental organisations, and other sources, adhering to Protected Planet data standards.

Data submission involves several steps:

1. Obtaining consent: The governance authority must consent before the OECM assessment and once again for data provision

2. Formatting data: Data must be formatted according to specific guidelines detailed in a user manual

3. Submitting data: The formatted data should then be sent to UNEP-WCMC via email

Verification of data in the WD-OECM has three entry fields: state-verified, expert-verified, and not reported (applicable to unverified data that were already in the database prior to the inclusion of the verification field). The role of data providers is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the data submitted. Expert verification, while rare, supports the integration of data from non-state actors. National governments typically verify data under their governance, but non-government experts may flag potential errors for review.

Breakout Group Discussions

First Discussion:

Questions that country participants had to answer in their groups:

- Is there a reporting mechanism in your country? If yes, please share details.
- Is it the same mechanism as for protected areas?
- Is there a monitoring mechanism in your country? If yes, as above.
- Are there different processes for state and non-state actors, including private actors and local communities? If yes, please explain or offer insights and recommendations for learning and exchange

India, Japan, the Maldives, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea have reporting mechanisms. India, Japan, the Maldives, and the Philippines also have a monitoring process in place. The Republic of Korea does not have a monitoring process yet but is considering using the IUCN Green List Standard for it. Currently, the government is responsible for reporting the data to the WD-OECM in all these countries, but proposals for sites can be submitted by non-state actors. Other countries are exploring options for these mechanisms.

India: India has two expert committees for OECMs in India: one to identify OECMs, and another to develop a reporting mechanism, and they have a mandate to conduct these activities. After the screening process and recognition of an area as an OECM, the MoEFCC submits the data to the WD-OECM. An expert committee will be responsible for overseeing monitoring activities.

Japan: Each land owner/manager's file submission is examined by the MoEJ along with experts to recognise their claims. Then, the collated data is reported by the MoEJ to the WD-OECM. The MoEJ requests sites to conduct monitoring activities at least every five years and is launching a platform to help with this. What to monitor depends on each OECM site (biodiversity value such as endangered species). Japan has published guidance on monitoring (in Japanese) to help with this.

Maldives: The Ministry will work with relevant parties to recognise sites as OECMs. The PA department will also be reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. Regardless of the type of OECM, one agency is tasked with reporting them. For monitoring, the tourism operators (private sector) must submit ecological monitoring reports to the Ministry annually. The Ministry will review these monitoring reports every five years.

Philippines: The Philippines has an inclusive and participatory process for reporting and monitoring and it is the same department involved for protected areas. It is also the same process for state and non-state actors.

Republic of Korea: The Republic of Korea will use the same reporting mechanism for PAs for OECMs as well. KNPS first obtains data from each agency, after which the data are reported to the Korean Database for Protected Areas. Lastly, the Ministry submits the data to the WD-OECM.

Mr. Kosuke Terai summarising his breakout group's discussion

Second Discussion:

Topics that country participants had to discuss in their groups:

- Opportunities and challenges for OECMs in Asia
- Mainstreaming OECMs in NBSAPs
- Freshwater, marine, and production landscape OECMs

Bangladesh:

Opportunities:

- A Ramsar site in Tangaur Haur could be a potential OECM in Bangladesh. It is also an agricultural production landscape
- There are a total of 385 Village Common Forests (VCFs) covering more than 18,000 hectares in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) (Khargachari, Bandarban, and Rangamati districts), which are rich in biodiversity. The Indigenous peoples are managing these VCFs and using them sustainably. The Bangladesh Forest Department is currently working on 45 VCFs to recognise them as OECMs. The MoEFCC is working with the Ministry of CHT Affairs to gradually recognise the other VCFs as OECMs

Challenges:

- Identifying marine OECMs, as the governing bodies of marine areas are not interested in being recognised as OECMs; they think it will cause a hindrance to their fishing activities and create limits
- Incentives could be beneficial but they could also be bad for conservation if they lead to dependencies

China:

Opportunities:

- Using tools such as the IUCN Green List Standard to support monitoring of sites since China has Green Listed PAs already

- Using partnership platforms like APAP or other regional platforms like RCF to share experiences and build capacity

- Involving non-state actors: large companies have indicated interest and have implemented OECMs in their company's industrial parks. Many minority groups have owned land for decades that might not be suitable as PAs but could be OECMs

Challenges:

- Have not developed a clear mechanism for reporting and monitoring

- Limited resources for funding and experts, especially for local communities

OECMs have already been included in China's updated NBSAP. One reason is that the Expert Working Group has an expert from the Ministry of Environment and Ecology.

India:

Opportunities:

- To increase corridors, spatial planning, biodiversity, and other values

- There are more than 80 Ramsar sites that could be ideal OECMs if the different governing bodies agree

- Some organic and pesticide-free production landscapes and agricultural sites have been identified as potential OECMs due to their biodiversity importance

Challenges:

- Reporting data to the WD-OECM due to polygon issues (being resolved by an Expert Committee)

- There are concerns from stakeholders on what will happen to their land if it is recognised as an OECM: restrictions, maintaining it in the same manner, and for how long (working group is addressing this)

- Where the funding will come from

- Incentives for OECMs (an expert group is exploring the option to provide benefits linked to taxes, corporate social responsibility, awards, and more)

- Uncertainties with the required size of the OECM and if any deviation happens, as well as the length of tenure

OECMs will be included in India's NBSAP.

Indonesia:

Opportunities:

- Many types of areas covering a large area size in Indonesia could be suitable as OECMs (production landscapes and community areas)

- OECMs could be integrated into Indonesia's NBSAP to support GBF Target 3, a policy on carbon sinks, and a conservation law (detailed in Indonesia's presentation; see pages 19–20)

Challenges:

- Many resources need to be provided for assessing, identifying, and monitoring OECMs

Japan:

Opportunities:

- Conserve secondary nature, especially areas facing degradation. By identifying them as OECMs, species can be conserved in those areas

- Upgrade/enhance the value of certified areas and boost conservation efforts. Various actors like local communities and the private sector have been involved

- Enhance the effectiveness of conservation through interactions amongst designated OECM sites for managers to learn from best practices

Challenges:

- Providing incentives and technical support for land managers

Maldives:

Opportunities:

- Expanding the types of OECMs to fishery-OECMs and community-managed ones (will be added in the revised national guidelines for OECMs)

- Expanding the number of tourism resort OECMs: organising awareness-raising sessions for resorts to encourage them to establish OECMs and getting the support of the Tourism Ministry to push the OECM agenda

- Revising the current national guidelines to incorporate the lessons learned from 2022 and 2023 to improve best practices

Challenges:

- Frequent staff turnover in resorts, especially marine biologists, which is causing communications issues as new staff has to be trained

- Issues with recognising boundaries: the government does not have a database of resort area boundaries, which is needed for OECMs (being addressed)

- Not many tourism operators are aware of OECMs (being addressed)

- Capacity issue with expanding to local islands: how frequently or how much they can report (considering having an environment officer at every council)

Republic of Korea:

Opportunities:

- The chance to double connectivity, diversify stakeholders, have greater access to financial resources, increase stewardship and pride, and harmonise conservation and local demands

Challenges:

- People misunderstanding the concept of OECMs and the difference between OECMs and PAs

- Risk avoidance of PAs and green/blue washing

- Uncertainty in long-term outcomes

- Insufficient biodiversity information; more needs to be collected

- Concerns about self-determination, motivation, and follow-up actions (understanding the benefits for locals and motivation for local governments; need to develop concrete roles and structures for this)

- Creating an integrated system of financing, conservation, and partnerships

Thailand:

Opportunities:

- To work with more groups of people
- Increase ecoregion representation; Thailand has worked on marine, terrestrial, and freshwater areas for OECMs
- Certification can help increase the reliability of products in local communities

Challenges:

- Providing incentives/benefits to local communities; different from the private sector (Thailand might conduct a study on this)
- Understanding how to make OECMs effective
- Providing financial support, especially to local people
- Understanding the economic value of OECMs (Thailand might conduct an assessment on this)
- Understanding how to educate people to work on OECMs
- Working through the process of OECMs (identifying and reporting)
- Preparing a longer-term budget

Viet Nam:

Opportunities:

- Involving the private sector. They expressed an interest to invest into OECMs, but they point to a lack of policy or financing mechanism (e.g., biodiversity credit) for it

Challenges:

- Land use rights for private managers

OECMs have been mentioned in Viet Nam's NBSAP, but only very generally. In the revision, Viet Nam aims to make it clearer and more detailed.

Participants involved in a group discussion

Closing Remarks

The workshop closed with remarks from Mr. Hassaan Mohamed (APAP Chair and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives), Dr. Dindo Campilan (Asia Regional Director, IUCN Asia Regional Office), and Mr. Makoto Kobayashi (Deputy Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, MoEJ) that summarised the contents of the workshop and the way forward, emphasising the bigger picture:

Different countries are at different stages of developing national plans for OECMs, and this workshop provided a learning experience for members. OECMs are a key part of GBF Target 3, but they are also a key component of involving non-state actors in conservation efforts and increasing collaboration.

It is important to not only focus on OECMs, but to learn from the climate side of conservation efforts; their work on carbon credits and nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation provides valuable lessons on the way forward for biodiversity efforts. Although the private sector is interested, there are many ways to showcase biodiversity conservation outcomes beyond credits. Similarly, since many countries have been uncertain on what nature-based solutions mean for climate change despite their inclusion in policies, it will be necessary to ensure that people understand what OECMs mean and how they will be implemented for their inclusion in NBSAPs to be effective.

Although OECMs are only explicitly mentioned in GBF Target 3, it is crucial to not forget the bigger picture of the GBF: there are 23 targets and four goals. OECMs should not be limited to only GBF Target 3 as they can contribute to many others. Furthermore, the GBF is also only one framework amongst several others, and it is important to connect it to other efforts on climate change, land health, and more to avoid creating silos of individualised efforts. Thus, increasing collaboration between departments and sectors will be necessary to spread the word on OECMs and build connections, not forgetting that OECMs are one part of wider efforts for biodiversity.

The road to increasing OECMs will pose challenges, such as those related to management, incentives, and boundaries, but with strategic planning and collaborative efforts, these can be overcome.

Field Trip to an OECM Site

The MoEJ brought participants to a certified OECM site in Wakaba-Ward, Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture, called “Doyatsu no sato” to highlight the values of the site and outline the management efforts involved. “Doyatsu no sato” is a restored *satoyama* site that spans 10.17 hectares. It is owned and managed by the local community, who led the field trip.

The main management purpose of the site is environmental education and recreation, while also contributing to biodiversity conservation. The site contains pesticide-free

rice paddy fields, community forests, grassland, ponds, and more. As a result of the management efforts, rice cultivation, and forest restoration throughout the year, it has become a spot where many species, including rare ones, are found, including 462 plant species, 43 bird species, ten mammal species, and eight reptile species. The local community is also responsible for monitoring the site, which they do regularly. They will be submitting their findings to the MoEJ once the MoEJ's monitoring platform has been established.

Field trip to the "Doyatsu no sato" OECM

APAP Roadmap for OECMs (2024–2030)

Based on the fruitful discussions that took place at the workshop, which emphasised the importance of OECMs in achieving GBF Target 3 by conserving natural areas outside of protected areas, the APAP Secretariat has developed the "APAP Roadmap for OECMs (2024–2030)". This roadmap serves as a voluntary yet ambitious timeline and work plan to advance efforts on OECMs in APAP member countries towards 2030. The roadmap is expected to be revised and updated on a rolling basis by reviewing progress at national and regional levels, as well as the lessons learned by member countries, which will be shared at future APAP meetings.

Vision: Contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss in Asia by conserving spaces with important biodiversity values outside of protected areas

Mission: Support and increase the capacity of APAP member countries to establish OECMs using the OECMs framework developed by the IUCN WCPA OECMs Specialist Group: (1) have enabling conditions in place, (2) identify sites, (3) report sites, (4) monitor sites, and (5) strengthen sites by (a) further recognising them, (b) supporting them, and (c) defending them against threats

Objectives and timeline:

Phase 1 (2024–2026):

- Raise awareness and capacity for OECMs within national authorities with the support of APAP, ensuring they understand the relevance and requirements of OECMs

- Incorporate OECMs into national targets, such as NBSAP (deadline: before COP 16) and/or Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets (deadline: early 2025), and other relevant environmental policies, where possible. Where relevant, link them to climate objectives on nature-based solutions (clarifying their role), as well as other GBF Targets (e.g., Target 1 on spatial planning, Target 2 on restoration, Target 4 on threatened species, Target 8 on climate change, Target 12 for cities and health and well-being, and more)

- Conduct spatial planning assessments to identify areas that could potentially meet the criteria for OECMs, ensuring that the most ecologically important areas are prioritised, including Key Biodiversity Areas, key spots for connectivity, primary forests, underrepresented areas (marine and freshwater), and sites with Critically Endangered species. Areas that could be restored into OECMs if they have the potential to support important biodiversity values should also be considered, as well as urban areas, recreation areas, and production landscapes that have sustainable activities and do not threaten biodiversity

- Finalise a national strategy for OECMs through an inclusive consultative process, following the guidance in Section 2.2., Sharma & Pasha (2024) and the IUCN WCPA's latest "Guidance on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)" publication (to be released before CBD COP 16), incorporating IUCN WCPA's framework for identification, reporting, monitoring, and strengthening

- Create a national roadmap for OECMs based on the present APAP Roadmap for OECMs and the aforementioned national strategy for OECMs to support implementation

- Identify leads to implement the national strategy and roadmap, designating roles for those who will lead the identification, reporting, monitoring, and strengthening of OECMs nationally. New working groups can be created to support this

- Further increase the technical capacity of these specific leads to conduct their activities, ensuring that their work is aligned with IUCN WCPA's "Guidance on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)" publication; a key aspect is ensuring that the rights of non-state actors are respected, especially if any legislation is devised

- Align reporting cycles for OECMs and PAs to ensure consistency

- Use tools and frameworks for monitoring that enable conservation outcomes to be assessed, such as the IUCN Green List Standard, where relevant and appropriate, or other similar ones that could be used for OECMs. National tools

and frameworks for OECMs could also be developed to support this

- Develop national incentives for non-state actors to support OECMs, understanding the balance between the types of incentives that could be provided and ensuring that these are not misused

- Mainstream the concept of OECMs amongst the private sector and the public to increase their understanding and interest

Phase 2 (2027–2030):

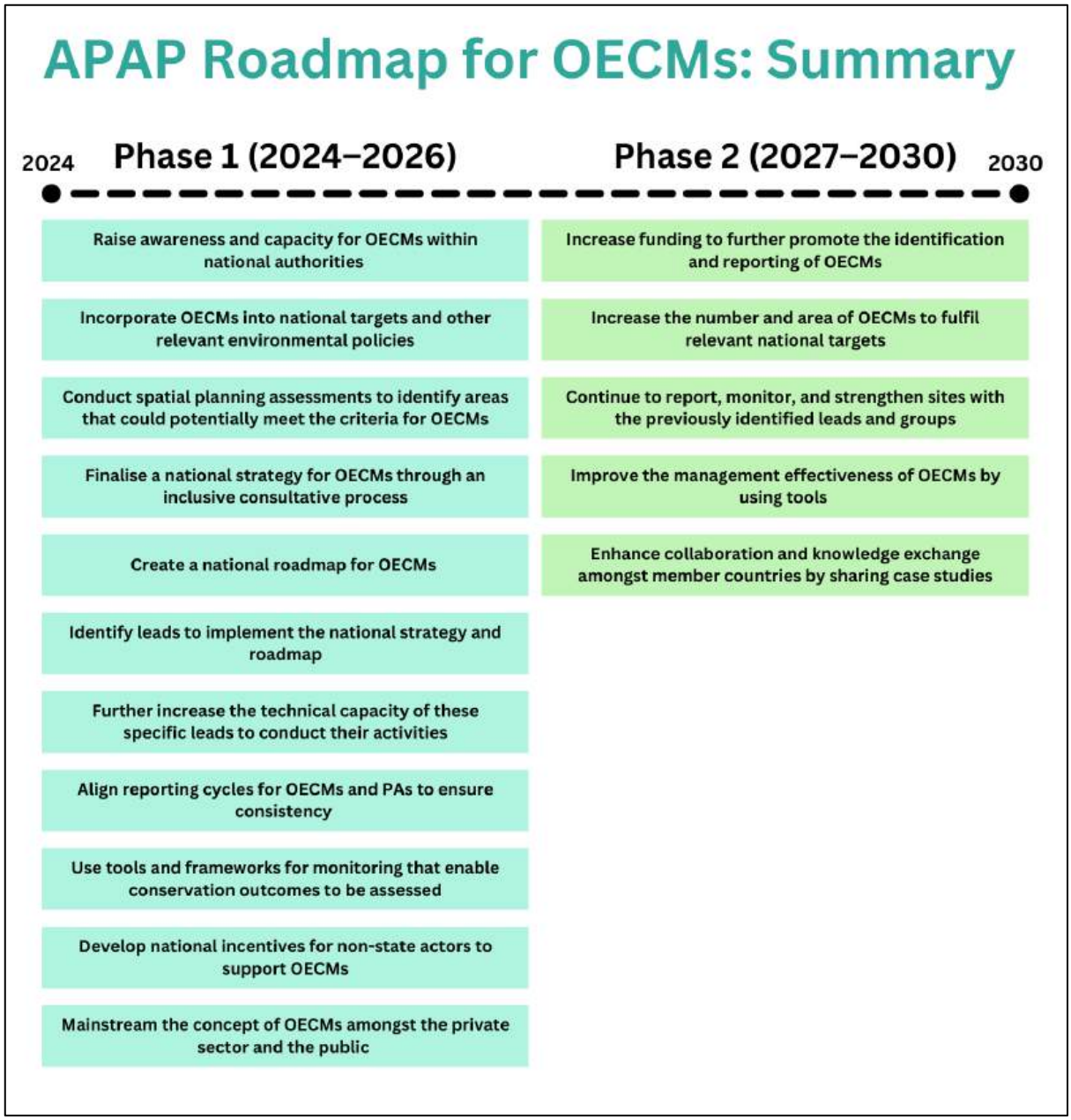
- Increase funding to further promote the identification and reporting of OECMs using diverse financing mechanisms, such as partnering with the private sector, learning lessons from other countries that have done this before

- Increase the number and area of OECMs to fulfil relevant national targets

- Continue to report, monitor, and strengthen sites with the previously identified leads and groups, updating methods based on new important guidance developed during this timeframe as needed

- Improve the management effectiveness of OECMs by using tools such as the IUCN Green List Standard, where relevant and appropriate, or other similar ones that could be used for OECMs, including nationally-developed ones

- Enhance collaboration and knowledge exchange amongst APAP member countries by sharing case studies. Member countries that are further along in establishing OECMs could develop a case study document with guidance, country criteria, monitoring methods, and more; IUCN can support translation and dissemination



A summarised and visual version of the APAP Roadmap for OECMs

Discussion items raised by APAP members for future consideration:

- Use existing CBD Technical Centres to support the validation and verification process for sites governed by governments and/or non-state actors before data on OECMs are submitted to UNEP-WCMC, or use these centres to support UNEP-WCMC's existing expert verification process

- Define specific criteria for longevity and conservation commitments for different types of OECMs (ancillary, secondary, and primary) and governance types, and develop supportive agreement structures for non-state actors to acknowledge these commitments whilst recognising their rights

Appendices

Appendix A: Workshop Agenda

Day 1: 8 July 2024	Time	Details	Lead/ Facilitator
Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee	8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Participants arrive and register. Tea/coffee and light refreshments served.	
Welcome Remark and Inaugural Session	9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	- *Introduction for workshop* - *Welcome Address:* Representative from Ministry of Environment Japan (MoEJ) - *Opening Remarks:* Chair and Co-Chair, Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP) - Group Photo (before 9:20 AM) - *Special Address:* IUCN Councillor IUCN-WCPA Vice Chairs	APAP Secretariat MoEJ APAP Chair and Co-Chair (Maldives)
Workshop outline	9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	- APAP Progress and Achievements - To provide an outline of the workshop and its objectives	APAP Secretariat IUCN
Introduction to OECM	9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	*Session Chair: APAP Chair* and Co-Chair - Recorded Presentation by OECM Specialist Group - IUCN-WCPA: Detailing the OECM Framework and its significance -Presentation by IUCN ● Overview of work on OECMs, Global ● IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas ● Spotlight from the Asia region on OECMs	IUCN, APAP Secretariat
Tea/Coffee Break	10:30 AM - 10:45 AM		
Country Presentations (Session 1)	10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	*Session Chair: IUCN-WCPA Vice Chair* - Showcasing OECM Work and Progress: ● **India** ● **Thailand** ● **Republic of Korea**	APAP Secretariat
Lunch Break	12:15 PM - 1:30 PM		
Country Presentations (Session 2)	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	*Session Chair: MoEJ* - Showcasing OECM Work and Progress: ● **Japan** ● **Bangladesh** ● **The Philippines (ACB)** ● **Indonesia**	APAP Secretariat
Tea/Coffee Break	3:00 PM - 3:15 PM		
Country Presentations (Session 3)	3:15 PM - 5:30 PM	*Session Chair: IUCN Councillor* -Showcasing OECM Work and Progress: ● **China** ● **Viet Nam**	APAP Secretariat

		• **Maldives**	
Open Discussion and Q&A	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Interactive session with all participants, facilitated by APAP Member	IUCN HQ and APAP Secretariat
Dinner Hosted by Ministry of Environment Japan (MoEJ)	6:00 PM	**Venue:** in the same building. Networking opportunity over dinner.	MoEJ

Day 2: 9 July 2024	Time	Details	Lead/ Facilitator

Concluding Session	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	*Reflection on Day 1*
		Session Chair: IUCN-WCPA Vice Chair
		Global Monitoring and Reporting of OECMs to the WD-OECM
		Recorded Presentation from Protected Planet (IUCN, UNEP-WCMC) on reporting OECMs to the global database
		Breakout groups into sub-regional groups, Country feedback on reporting and monitoring:
		• Is there a reporting mechanism in your country?
		  ○ If yes, please share details.
		  ○ Is it the same mechanism as for protected areas?
		• Is there a monitoring mechanism in your country? If yes, as above.
		• Are there different processes for state and non-state actors including private actors and local communities?
		• If yes, please explain or offer insights & recommendations for learning and exchange
			IUCN ARO WCMC, IUCN HQ, APAP Secretariat

Tea/Coffee Break	10:45 AM - 11:00 AM		
Specialized Sessions and Group Discussions	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Group Discussion: *Session Chair: IUCN-WCPA Vice Chair* • Opportunities and Challenges for OECMs in Asia • Mainstreaming OECMs In NBSAP • Freshwater and Marine, Production Landscape OECMs	IUCN HQ, IUCN ARO, WCPA, APAP Secretariat
Tea/Coffee Break	12:00 PM - 12:15 PM		
Closing Remarks	12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Strategic Recommendations and Summary of Action APAP Chair, APAP Co-Chair, MoEJ, Country Delegates, Vote of Thanks IUCN	IUCN HQ APAP Chair, APAP Co-Chair, MoEJ, Country Delegates
Lunch Break	12:30 PM - 1:30 PM		

Field Trip: 9 July 2024	Time	Details
Field Trip	1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	**Location:** Selected OECM site in or around Tokyo **Activities:** Guided tour, practical demonstrations, and interaction with local conservation practitioners **Objective:** Observe and discuss real-world application of OECM principles
Closing of the meeting		Dinner own arrangement

Appendix B: List of Participants

Organisation	Department	Position	Surname	Given Name
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Management Plan Unit of Forest Department	Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Officer	SHARIFUZZAMAN	MD
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Wildlife Department	Assistant Director General	AWASTHI	SUSHIL KUMAR
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	National Biodiversity Authority	Technical Officer	KOSALAI PARGUNAM	RAGHURAM
Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia			RUDIJANTA	TJAHJA NUGRAHA
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	National Park Division	Chief	IGATA	ERI
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	National Park Division	Chief	SUZUKI	AYAKO
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	Biodiversity Policy Division	Deputy Director	KAWAI	HIDEKI
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	Biodiversity Policy Division	Deputy Director	KOBAYASHI	MAKOTO
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	Biodiversity Policy Division	Unit Chief	WADA	MITSUO
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan			YASUKO	MIYAZAWA
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan			NAGISA	KAZUNO
Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy	Environment Management and Conservation Department	Deputy Minister	MOHAMED	HASSAAN
Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy	Environment Management and	Senior Conservation Officer	AMAL	AISHATH

	Conservation Department			
Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy	Environment Management and Conservation Department	Conservation Officer	JUNAINATH	HAWWA
Korea National Park Service	Korea National Park Research Institute	Researcher	PARK	SUNJOO
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	Biodiversity Management Division	Director of Policy and Mechanism Implementation Section	PREECHAMART	WANLOP
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam (MONRE)	Ecology and Natural Landscape Division Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency	Head of Division Ecology and Natural Landscape Division	DUNG	NGUYEN XUAN
IUCN Asia Regional Office		Regional Director, Asia	CAMPILAN	DINDO
IUCN Asia Regional Office		Coordinator Regional Protected and Conserved Areas	PASHA	MOHAMMAD KHALID SAYEED
IUCN Asia Regional Office		Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Officer	TERAI	KOSUKE
IUCN Asia Regional Office		Programme Officer, Protected Areas	SEO	SAEBYEOL
IUCN Headquarters		Programme Manager, Equity, Rights and Diversity	KELLEHER	JENNIFER
IUCN Headquarters		Programme Officer	SIHOMBING	SISKA MARTINA
IUCN Headquarters		30X30 Programme Advisor	PARK	JIBOO
IUCN Headquarters		Junior Professional Officer	MATSUZAKI	HANA
IUCN China Office		Programme Officer	SUN	YIYUN
IUCN Vietnam Office		Governance And Policy Coordinator	NGUYEN	DUC TUAN
IUCN Japan Liaison Office		Coordinator	FURUTA	NAOYA

IUCN WCPA		Vice Chair of East Asia	KUMAGAI	YOSHITAKA
IUCN WCPA		Vice Chair of South East Asia	BIN HAMZAH	AMRAN
ASEAN Centre For Biodiversity		Programmes Department	ARIDA	CLARISSA
WWF Thailand		Senior Program Manager	JITVIJAK	SUPHISIT
WWF Thailand		Global Biodiversity Program Manager	JONGNARANGSIN	PITUCK
IUCN Consultant			SHARMA	MITALI
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	National Park Division	Officer	SATO	MAKO
Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan	Biodiversity Strategy Office	Director	SUZUKI	WATARU
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)		Deputy Secretary General	MIYAKE	RINA
UNU-IAS		Researcher	NISHI	MAIKO
UNU-IAS		Researcher	SUBRAMANIAN	SUNNETHA
WWF Japan	Conservation Division	Biodiversity Policy Group Leader	KOGOSHIMA	AKIHIRO
IUCN Regional Councillor		Regional Councillor – South and East Asia	HOSHINO	KAZUAKI
Tokyo University			MIZOKAMI	SAYUKI
Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)		Program Officer	YOUNG	NAOMI
APN		Acting Director	STEVENSON	LINDA

Appendix C: Case studies from the country sessions

India: India's First Recognised OECM: Aravalli Biodiversity Park, National Capital Region of Delhi (provided by the National Biodiversity Authority, India)

- The Aravalli Biodiversity Park is a *geographically defined area* spanning 380 acres of wilderness carved out of a nearly 40-year-old abandoned mining site that was restored into a lush green forest in 10 years
- It has semi–arid vegetation, *rich biodiversity*, with more than 300 endemic plant species, and animals such as leopards, foxes, sambhar, and jackals
- Aravallis are considered as the green lungs of Delhi. The Aravallis provide 7.07% of oxygen to Delhi (capital of India)
- It is *governed and managed*; it is a joint venture between the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) and iamgurgaon (IAG)
- The Aravallis stop the monsoon clouds and bring rains to Nainital and Shimla. The hill functions as the groundwater recharge for the region
- More detailed information on this site can be found in the case study compendium here

Republic of Korea: Sites that were pilot tested (provided by KNPS)

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DMZ GT Cheorwon Crane Land
(Conservation Asset of National Nature Trust)

- **Site designation:**
  National Trust Act, Article 2. 4.
- **Governance and management:**
  Cheorwon Crane Protection Association
  commissioned by the National Nature Trust
- **Relevant Stakeholder:**
  Local Government, Crane Conservation Bodies, Military Units
- **Main biodiversity values**
  IUCN Red-list (White-naped crane, Red-crowned cranes), National Natural Monuments 202, 203

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THE CARTHUSIAN ORDER (monastery)
(Conservation Agreement of National Nature Trust)

- **Site designation:**
  National Trust Act, Article 19.
- **Governance and management:**
  The Carthusian Order
- **Relevant Stakeholder:**
  Roman Catholic Diocese, Local Government, Local residents
- **Main biodiversity values**
  Importance for ecological connectivity as part of a network of sites in a landscape (the Sobaek mountain range)

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Research Forest of Pusan National University

- **Site designation:**
  Research forest (Regulation on Academic Forest affiliated to PNU)
- **Governance and management:**
  Pusan National University
- **Relevant Stakeholder:**
  Local residents for leisure
- **Main biodiversity values**
  85% Native tree species over 40 years of age

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Geumgang River Special Conserved Area

- **Site designation:**
  River Area (Special Conserved Area)
  (National River Act, Article 44)
- **Governance and management:**
  MoE
- **Relevant Stakeholder:**
  Local government, private land owner
- **Main biodiversity values**
  Key Biodiversity Areas, EAAFP Flyway site

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Bangladesh (provided by the Bangladesh Forest Department):

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Potential OECMs in Bangladesh

Category	Sub-categories	Governance Type	Total No.	Total Area	Status
Terrestrial OECMs	Village Common Forests in CHT	Indigenous Communities	385	18,407 ha	Arannayk Foundation (AF) studied 50 VCFs
	Institutional lands	Government Academic inst. Religious inst.	To be explored	-	AF studied 7 potential sites
	Private land	Individual Corporate	To be explored	-	AF studied 3 potential sites including a tea garden
Blue Belt OECM (nearshore areas)	-	Government	1	2,701 km^2	Identified as candidate OECMs by WCS
Inland Water OECMs	Inland Fresh Water (Haors, Baors, Lakes, River, Other Wetlands)	Government	Numerous	4.57 M ha (approx.)	Potential

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China (provided by IUCN China):

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Case A1 Governance by Government: State Forest Farms

Site name	**Jingxi Forest Farm in Beijing/ 北京京西林场**
Type	Primary Conservation - Governance by Government
Size	11,640 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• 145 species of wild animals: Chinese Goral, Leopard Cat, etc. • 119 species of birds: Brown Eared Pheasant, Golden Eagle, etc. • 7 species of amphibious reptiles.
Governing Authority	Administrative Office of Jingxi Forest Farm, Beijing Municipal Forestry and Parks Bureau
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes	• Enhanced forest resilience: Improvement in forest fire emergency response capacity due to infrastructure development and afforestation initiatives. • Increased forest coverage: Significant rise in forest coverage rate **from 26.9% in 2017 to 37.4%** in 2022 through afforestation efforts. • Biodiversity conservation and public involvement: Successful biodiversity restoration and conservation projects facilitated by collaboration

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Case B1 Shared Governance: Habitats of Phayre's Leaf Monkey in Yunnan Province

Site name	**Habitat of Phayre's Leaf Monkey in Mangxinhe River, Mangshi, Yunnan Province /云南芒市芒杏河中缅灰叶猴栖息地**
Type	Primary Conservation - Shared Governance
Size	1,600 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• 6 groups totaling about 500 Phayre's Leaf Monkey(Trachypithecus melamera), EN in IUCN Red List, the largest population in a single area. • 385 vertebrate species recorded. • 848 species of vascular plants identified
Governing Authority	Association for Protecting the Nature of the Mangxeng River, Mangshi, China
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes	• Membership and capacity growth: Increased membership and improved capacities in management, coordination, and conservation. • Enhanced monitoring: Implementation of advanced monitoring technologies leading to more effective and comprehensive monitoring of wildlife. • Community involvement: Increased local participation in conservation efforts, benefiting both the community and the wildlife. • Conservation success: Effective mitigation of threat factors resulting in an increase of Phayre's Leaf Monkey to **500+ individuals across six groups**.

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CaseB2 Collaborative governance: City Park Close to Nature

Site name	**Natural Conservation Area in Peking University /北京大学校园自然保护小区**
Type	Secondary conservation - Shared governance
Size	50 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• Documented over 240 bird species, 600 higher plant species, 11 mammal species, 26 fish species, 11 amphibian and reptile species, 27 butterfly species, and 26 dragonfly species • This included 4 species of national first level protected animals, 32 species of second level protected animals, one species listed on the IUCN Red List as CR, one as EN, and five as VU.
Governing Authority	Peking University Faculty, Peking University Center for Nature and Society, Student Associations
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes	• Management Plans and Conservation Areas: Developed plans that delineate biodiversity conservation areas and establish biodiversity-friendly measures to cultivate and maintain the habitats. • Near-Natural Restoration and Monitoring: Students and faculties participate the maintainance to ensure a near-natural state of multi-species native vegetation and incorporated regular long-term biodiversity monitoring. • Innovative Model for Biodiversity Protection: Pioneer a university and urban green space biodiversity protection model through planning, management, and research.

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Case C1 Civil Protected Areas: governance by non-profit organisations

Site name	**North China Leopard Civil Protected Area in Heshun County, Shanxi Province/ 山西省和顺县华北豹公益保护地**
Type	Primary conservation - Private governance
Size	245 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• Maintaining a relatively intact trophic structure and animal communities. • Umbrella species: North China leopards, nationally protected (VU), number 40-50. • A total of 12 species in 5 orders and 9 families of mammals, and 133 species in 41 families and 18 orders of birds.
Governing Authority	Led by Heshun County Party Committee and County Government, executed by Cat Alliance and Heshun County Ecological Association.
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes 	• North China Leopard population and distribution survey: Conducted monitoring and assessment, serving as a crucial basis for conservation efforts. • Human-animal conflict solution: Encouraged budgeting for "leopard-eating cattle" compensation and piloted wild boar control with the community in Heshun County. • Anti-poaching action: Collaborated with law enforcement and volunteers for coordinated patrols, educating and catching suspected poachers. • Conducted monitoring and assessment, serving as a crucial basis for conservation efforts.

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Case C2 Private Governance: China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) OECM Practice

Site name	**CNPC Daqing Oilfield Biodiversity Reserve at Laohushan, Daqing, Heilongjiang Province/ 中国石油大庆油田老虎山自主贡献型生物多样性保护地**
Type	Secondary conservation - Private governance
Size	217 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• 118 species of plants • 32 species of birds
Governing Authority	Daqing Oilfield Ecological Environment Management Company
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes 	• Cumulative investment of **116 million yuan** from 2015 to 2022 for the project. • Installation of water catchment systems to enhance the watering system and repair of earth pit slopes into terraces or gentle slopes. • Planting over **59,000 trees** and shrubs of various types and covering **15.35 hectares** with ground cover.

Site name	**Vatica guangxiensis Conservation Area at Pingtan, Guangxi Province /中国广西那坡平坛青梅保护小区**
Type	Primary conservation-Governance by IP&LC
Size	13.69 hectares
Main Biodiversity Value	• Vatica guangxiensis is the sole surviving mother tree, nationally protected as CR on the IUCN Red List.
Governing Authority	Village Management Team
Conservation Efforts & Outcomes	• Conservation Actions: Pingtan Village protects Vatica guangxiensis, with Napo County's Forestry Bureau overseeing management. The community maintains vines, forests, and conducts ongoing monitoring and artificial propagation. • Collaborative Efforts: Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association, supported by national and regional forestry bureaus and Nanning Botanical Garden, aids Pingtan Village in boosting conservation and community involvement. • Conservation Effectiveness: They have reduced threats to Vatica guangxiensis by curbing nearby economic forest expansion and accidental cutting risks.

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