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EXPERT WORKSHOP ON MARINE PROTECTED
AREAS AND OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-
BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR
ACHIEVING AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 11
IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS
Montreal, Canada, 6-9 February 2018

TECHNICAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON OTHER
EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION
MEASURES FOR ACHIEVING AICHI
BIODIVERSITY TARGET 11
Montreal, Canada, 6 to 9 February 2018

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

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Expert Workshop on Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in Marine and Coastal Areas, the revised Guidelines for Recognizing and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA).
2. The present document is also being made available as an information document for the Technical Expert Workshop on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, which will be held in parallel with the Expert Workshop on Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in Marine and Coastal Areas, including some joint sessions.
3. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.



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



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Version 1**



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

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173 [effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms](http://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms)

174 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

175	CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
176	COP	Conference of the Parties to the CBD
177	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
178	OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure
179	PAME	Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
180	SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD
181		
182	SDGs	UN Sustainable Development Goals
183	UN	United Nations
184	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
185	WCC	IUCN World Conservation Congress
186	WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
187	WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

Candidate OECMs: Geographically defined spaces that have been identified as potential OECMs by the governance authority and are being assessed against OECM criteria. This may also refer to potential OECMs that have been assessed, have not met the OECM criteria, and are being worked on with a view to being recognised and reported as OECMs.

Cultural and spiritual values: These include recreational, religious, aesthetic, historic and social values related to tangible and intangible benefits that nature and natural features have for people of different cultures and societies, with a particular focus on those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g. traditional management practices on which key species, biodiversity or whole ecosystems have become reliant or the societal support for conservation of landscapes for the maintenance of their quality in artistic expression or beauty) and intangible heritage, including cultural and spiritual practices.

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

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

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

Indigenous Peoples and local communities: These Guidelines follow the Convention on Biological Diversity's uses of the terms 'Indigenous Peoples' and 'local communities'.

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

Potential OECMs: A geographically defined space that has been identified as having OECM-like characteristics but which has not yet been assessed against OECM criteria.

Protected area: The CBD defines a protected area as: "A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives". (CBD Article 2). IUCN has a more detailed definition: "A clearly defined

geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (Dudley, 2008). The CBD and IUCN recognise the two as being equivalent in practice (Lopoukhine and Dias, 2012) as in both cases these areas are intended to achieve in-situ conservation.

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

PART A – SCENE SETTING

1. INTRODUCTION

Why a definition and an interpretation of ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ is needed

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a framework for effective implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) through a strategic approach, comprising a shared vision, a mission, and strategic goals and targets (‘Aichi Biodiversity Targets’), which will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders. Target 11, under Strategic Goal C, aims to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. It states:

*By 2020 at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water and 10 % of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected **systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape (emphasis added).*

Protected areas provide the foundation of national biodiversity conservation strategies and delivery of Target 11 (Lopoukhine and Dias, 2012; Woodley *et al.*, 2012). IUCN has provided guidance on the definition, management categories and governance types of protected areas (Dudley, 2008; Borrini-Feyerabend *et al.*, 2013). Parties to the CBD included ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ in Target 11 due to the fact that some areas outside the recognised protected area networks also contribute to the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. These include territories and areas governed by all four governance types, i.e., by governments, private actors, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and shared governance.

OECMs can contribute to the achievement of Target 11 in many ways, e.g., conserving important ecosystems, habitats and wildlife corridors, supporting the recovery of threatened species, maintaining ecosystem functions and securing ecosystem services, enhancing resilience against threats, and retaining and connecting remnants of fragmented ecosystems in developed areas. OECMs can also contribute to ecologically representative and well-connected conservation systems, integrated within wider landscapes and seascapes.

Since 2010, CBD Parties have made substantial progress on expanding protected area systems, including declaration of many very large marine protected areas (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2016). There has been slower progress in defining, identifying, recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures (Leadley *et al.*, 2014). The principal reason for this is the lack of an agreed definition of an OECM and the absence of guidance for Parties, resulting in

uncertainty about what to report (Jonas *et al.*, 2014). The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea, adopted Resolution 35 (WCC-2012-Res-035), which called on IUCN's Commissions to work with the CBD to help develop guidance for Target 11. At the 11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP11) in late 2012, CBD Parties were invited to undertake major efforts to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), amongst others, was invited to continue to provide technical guidance to achieve the full scope of Target 11, including on defining area-based conservation measures (CBD, 2012). In response, WCPA established a Task Force on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in September 2015. The Task Force has held a series of workshops and consultations and made presentations on progress, including to CBD Parties, and at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii.

At the twentieth meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-20) and the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP13, December 2016), Parties discussed progress on priorities in the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, including on Target 11. Parties called on the Executive Secretary of the CBD to support further work on OECMs, to provide scientific and technical advice on their definition, identification, management approaches, and contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. This request explicitly recognised the work of the WCPA Task Force (CBD, 2016). A document setting out the relevant CBD Decisions is available on the Task Force's webpage (below).

Development of the Guidelines

These Guidelines have been prepared by the WCPA Task Force on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures to provide advice on identifying and reporting OECMs in marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments. They are designed for application at various scales, ranging from understanding whether an individual area is an OECM to reporting OECM statistics at national levels as a means to assess progress on achieving conservation targets. The process took advantage of work done by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas to develop guidance on OECMs (MacKinnon *et al.*, 2015) and is complemented by work on the relationship between Key Biodiversity Areas ([KBAs](#)) (IUCN, 2016), protected areas and OECMs led by BirdLife International and partners (BirdLife, 2017). Further information about the Task Force on OECMs and its work can be found online ([Task Force webpage](#)).

The audience for the Guidelines

The primary audiences for these Guidelines are Parties to the CBD, government agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, local communities and other interested organisations, agencies and individuals involved in understanding, applying, and tracking progress towards Aichi Target 11. OECMs will also contribute directly and indirectly towards achievement of several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The implementation of these guidelines on defining,

recognising, and reporting on ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ will further inform the CBD process to develop a post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and achievement of the SDGs, particularly in the context of emerging landscape and seascape approaches to conservation.

What the Guidelines contain

These guidelines contain an annotated OECM definition, along with tools and approaches suggested for their identification and monitoring. Additional sections look at the relationship with the various CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the links between OECMs and protected areas, and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). OECMs are applied within a framework of existing principles set out by the CBD, IUCN and partners, with respect to biodiversity conservation, human rights and sustainable development.

Wider values of the OECM Guidelines

By applying these Guidelines and identifying OECMs alongside protected areas as contributing to Target 11, there is considerable potential to engage and support a range of new partners in global conservation efforts. Recognition as an OECM may also provide additional incentives for conservation and sustainable management in areas of biodiversity significance outside protected areas, such as Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as sites described under policy mechanisms such as Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas ([EBSAs](#)), noting that such areas must meet the definition of an OECM. The application of these Guidelines may also contribute to the improvement of the management of candidate OECMs.

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

PART B – THE GUIDANCE

2. RECOGNISING OECMs – DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

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

2.1 DEFINITION OF AN OECM

An ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’ (OECM), as referenced in Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, is defined in these Guidelines as:

A geographically defined space, not recognised as a protected area, which is governed and managed over the long-term in ways that deliver the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values.

This definition complements the IUCN definition of a protected area (Dudley, 2008). IUCN defines a protected area as:

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

The distinguishing criterion is that protected areas should have a **primary conservation objective**, whereas an OECM should **deliver the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, regardless of its objectives**.

Areas currently recognised and reported by governments as protected areas are listed on the World Database on Protected Areas ([WDPA](#)) and are included in international statistics and reports.

There are several reasons why areas that deliver important *in-situ* conservation outcomes may not be recognised by governments and reported as protected areas (Borrini-Feyerabend and Hill, 2015), and such areas should be recognised as OECMs – see Box 1.

Although both protected areas and OECMs contribute towards the same Target 11, they have a number of other important differences. See **Appendix I** for a comparison of OECMs and protected areas.

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

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

Types of approaches leading to recognition of OECMs

1. **‘Primary conservation’** - refers to areas that may meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area, but which are not officially designated as such because the governance authority does not want the area to be recognised or reported as a protected area. For example, in some instances Indigenous Peoples and local communities may not want areas of high biodiversity value that they govern to be designated as protected areas or recorded in government protected area databases. The governance authority has the right to withhold or give its consent to an area being recognised as an OECM, assuming it meets the OECM criteria.
2. **‘Secondary conservation’** - is achieved through the active conservation of an area where biodiversity outcomes are a secondary management objective. For example, enduring watershed protection policies and management may result in effective protection of biodiversity in watersheds, even though the areas may be managed primarily for objectives other than conservation. Sites managed to provide ecological connectivity between protected areas or other areas of high biodiversity, thereby contributing to their viability, may also qualify as OECMs.
3. **‘Ancillary conservation’** - refers to areas that deliver *in-situ* conservation as a by-product of management activities, even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective. For example, Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands protects shipwrecks and war graves from World War II. This protection has led to the ancillary conservation of important biodiversity (see Box 3).

Unrecognised and unreported areas that meet the definition of a protected area

IUCN recommends that areas that meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area, and are recognised as such by the governance authority, be reported in accordance with WDPA procedures as protected areas rather than as OECMs (see Figure 1 and Section 4). For example, some privately protected areas are not included by national governments in their reporting to the WDPA, even though they may satisfy all IUCN criteria for protected areas, and the private governing authority may wish them to be recognised.

Other intact natural areas

All of the above cases must be distinguished from other intact natural areas that are not subject to any deliberate form of conservation management but nevertheless currently harbour intact biodiversity; e.g. often due to remoteness or conflict conditions. These areas are not considered to be either OECMs or protected areas since such sites have little long-term security if conditions change, or if they are eventually subject to environmentally damaging activities.

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

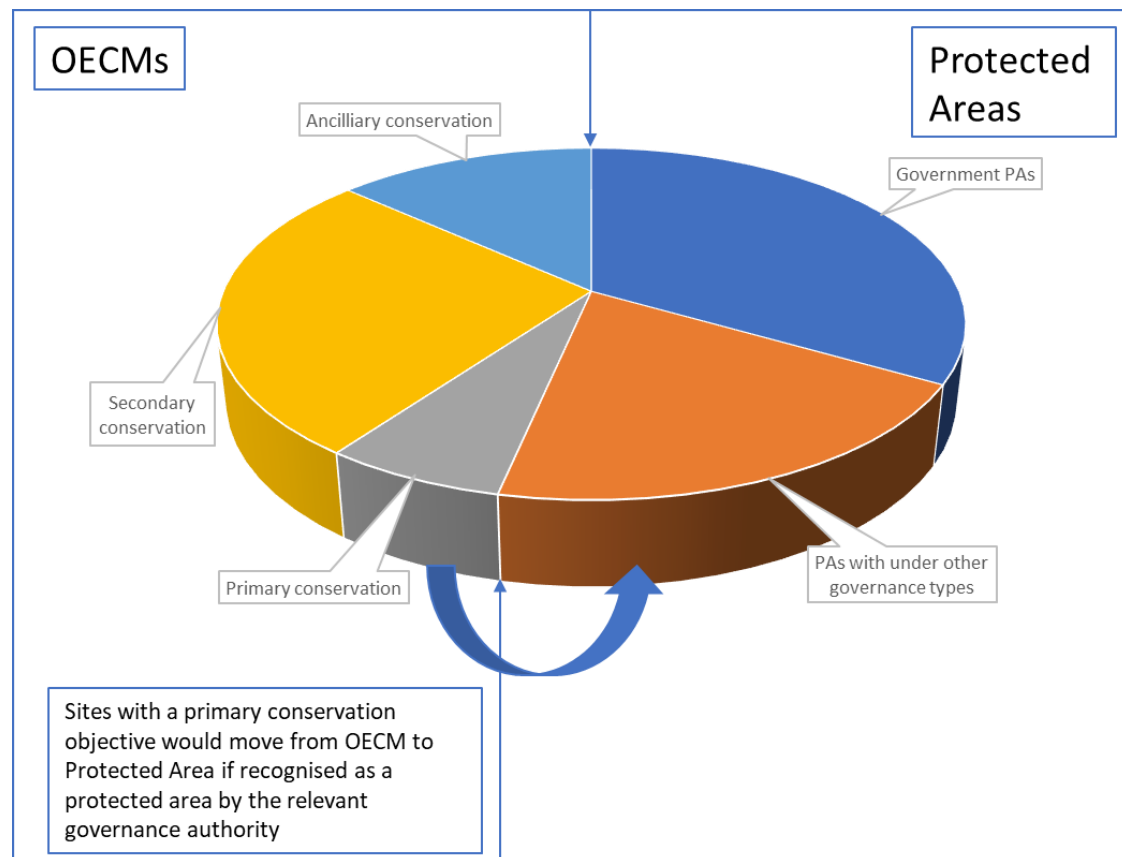


Figure 1. The relationship between OECMs and protected areas (Note: sizes of segments are illustrative only and not based on actual data)

2.2 ELEMENTS OF THE DEFINITION

The following sub-sections elaborate on each element of the overall OECM definition:

A geographically defined space, not recognised as a protected area, which is governed and managed over the long-term in ways that deliver the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values.

a. 'Geographically defined space'

Geographically defined space implies a spatially-defined area with agreed and demarcated boundaries, which can include land, inland waters, marine and coastal areas or any combination of these. In exceptional circumstances, boundaries may be defined by physical features that move over time, such as river banks, the high water mark or extent of sea ice – see Box 2.

Box 2: A closer look at geographical space

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

While the size of OECMs may vary, they should be of sufficient size to achieve the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, including all species or ecosystems for which the site is important, whether these are highly restricted species or habitats of more wide-ranging species. ‘Sufficient size’ is highly contextual and is dependent on the ecological requirements for the persistence of the relevant species and ecosystems.

b. ‘not recognised as a protected area’

The wording of Target 11 is clear that OECMs can contribute in their own right to the area-based targets for terrestrial and marine conservation. This means that areas that are already designated as protected areas or lie within protected areas **should not also be recognised or reported as OECMs**. While protected areas and OECMs are mutually exclusive at any point in time, both protected areas and OECMs have value for biodiversity conservation. Some OECMs may become recognised as protected areas if, for example, nature conservation becomes the primary management objective, or where it already meets the definition of a protected area and the governing authority now requests its recognition.

c. ‘governed’

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

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

As with protected areas, the governance of OECMs should be equitable and reflect human rights norms recognised in international and regional human rights instruments and in national legislation, including relating to gender equity. Any recognition or reporting of OECMs governed by Indigenous Peoples and/or local

communities requires the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant governance authority(ies).

d. 'managed'

Managed specifies that the area is being managed in a way that leads to positive biodiversity conservation outcomes. This means that an area where there is no management regime is not an OECM, even though its biodiversity may remain intact. For example, unmanaged areas of the high seas, areas under military conflict, and other areas currently in a natural or near-natural state should not be considered as OECMs in the absence of a management regime that provides effective and enduring *in-situ* biodiversity conservation. 'Managed' can include a deliberate decision to leave the area untouched.

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

Accordingly, the management of OECMs should include 'effective means' of control of activities that could impact biodiversity, whether through legal measures or other effective means (such as customary laws or binding agreements with the landowners).

Box 3: Historic Wreck Sites e.g. Scapa Flow – an example of Ancillary Conservation

Strict protection of historic wreck sites for cultural and historical reasons are a common feature in many ocean basins around the world. This purpose coincidentally provides protection of associated marine habitats, species and ecosystems. There are extensive examples in the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean as a legacy of historical conflicts across the ages. In the UK, Scapa Flow is perhaps the best known example of where such 'ancillary conservation' is achieved.

Scapa Flow is a natural harbour off mainland Orkney in the North of Scotland. The area is under the jurisdiction of the Orkney Islands Harbour Authority whose management objectives for the area are the safe management of the harbour whilst at the same time conserving the site's cultural heritage. The area is known for the wrecks of First World War German warships that were scuttled within the Harbour and the Royal Oak, The Second World War the flag ship of the Royal Navy, which was sunk by a German U-Boat and is a designated war grave.

Scapa Flow covers an area of 324.5 km² and contains in the order of 1 billion cubic metres of water. The strict protection afforded to its historical wrecks also coincidentally provide a high degree of protection to the benthic ecosystem, evidenced by thriving maerl beds, flame shell beds, horse mussel reefs and fan shells which are very rare elsewhere in Scotland. Although the area is not managed with a specific objective of nature conservation, protection of the site is achieved through ancillary conservation.

e. **‘long-term’**

The governance and management of OECMs is expected to be **long-term** in intent (i.e., considered to be ongoing and without any end point, in ways that deliver the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity). Short-term or temporary management strategies do not constitute an OECM. For example, a commercial fishing closure that stays in place only until an overfished area recovers, is not an OECM.

On the other hand, sites with a range of management approaches, including seasonal arrangements (e.g. sites managed for migratory bird species) may qualify as OECMs if the seasonal measures are part of a long-term overall management regime that results in the year-round *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity within the site. Additionally, there may be cases where short-term regulatory instruments are renewed continuously and are *de facto* long-term measures.

f. **‘effective’**

OECMs should be **effective** at delivering the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity i.e. the biodiversity outcomes associated with the management should be understood to be effective and likely to continue long-term.

Effective conservation outcomes may arise from strict protection or certain forms of sustainable management consistent with the CBD definitions of ‘*in-situ* conservation’ and ‘biodiversity.’ Most areas managed for industrial production, that also have biodiversity benefits, including sustainably managed commercial forests, should not be considered as OECMs; rather they should be reported under other Aichi Targets (e.g. Target 7).

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

g. **‘in-situ conservation’**

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

“the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties” ([CBD definition](#)).

OECMs are expected to achieve **the conservation of nature as a whole**, rather than only selected elements of biodiversity. The CBD definitions of “biodiversity” and “*in-situ* conservation” clearly recognise that a single species can only exist *in-situ* as part of an interconnected web with other species and the abiotic environment. Therefore conservation measures targeting single species or subsets of biodiversity should not allow the broader ecosystem to be compromised. Recognising the connection to

biological diversity, geological diversity, or geodiversity, will also sometimes be an important management focus in OECMs.

h. 'biodiversity'

Given the explicit link in Target 11 between OECMs and **biodiversity conservation outcomes**, it is implicit that OECMs must achieve the effective and sustained *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. While approaches for identifying the important biodiversity elements of such areas vary according to national, subnational, and local circumstances, global guidance now exists for identifying Key Biodiversity Areas and for describing areas such as Ramsar Sites and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas. The biodiversity conserved by an OECM can occur in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.

Recognition of an OECM should include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is considered important and be based upon the best available knowledge – see Box 4. These key biodiversity values, as well as the broader conservation values of OECMs, should be described and tracked over time.

Box 4: A closer look at biodiversity

OECMs will effectively protect one or more of the following elements of native biodiversity:

- Rare, threatened or endangered species and habitats, and the ecosystems that support them, including species and sites identified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Red List of Ecosystems, or national equivalents.
- Representative natural ecosystems.
- High level of ecological integrity or ecological intactness, which are characterised by the occurrence of the full range of native species and supporting ecological processes. These areas will be intact or be capable of being restored under the proposed management regime.
- Range-restricted species and ecosystems in natural settings.
- Important species aggregations, including during migration or spawning.
- Ecosystems especially important for species life stages, feeding, resting, moulting and breeding.
- Areas of importance for ecological connectivity or that are important to complete a conservation network within a landscape or seascape.
- Areas that provide critical ecosystem services, such as clean water and carbon storage, in addition to *in-situ* biodiversity conservation.
- Species and habitats that are important for traditional human uses, such as native medicinal plants.

In this context, an intensively-managed farm with a small proportion of the original native plants and birds will likely not be an OECM. Conversely, an area of native grassland, dominated by native plants, and having healthy populations of a large variety of native birds and mammals, might well be an OECM if a lower-intensity management and governance regime ensures these outcomes over the long-term. Just as for protected areas, there may be instances where an OECM is especially important for protecting a particular threatened species by protecting the entire ecosystem.

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

i. *'ecosystem services'*

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

j. *'cultural and spiritual values'*

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

PART C – EXPLANATORY NOTES

3. IDENTIFYING OECMs IN PRACTICE – THE SCREENING TOOL

All efforts to conserve biodiversity are valuable but only those area-based measures that contribute directly to long-term *in-situ* conservation should be considered as relevant to Target 11. Other conservation efforts will be more appropriately reported against other Aichi Targets that relate more to sustainable use (Laffoley *et al.*, 2017 – see **Appendix II**).

To support decision-making processes, WCPA has developed a simple four-step screening tool, directly linked to the definition and the explanation of terms in Section 2. Any area being considered for recognition as an OECM should be screened for its eligibility against these criteria by or with the consent of the governing authority.

3.1 SCREENING TOOL

The screening tool applies four eligibility criteria.

- **Criterion 1.** Ensure that the area is not already recognised and/or recorded as a protected area.
- **Criterion 2.** Ensure that Aichi Target 11, as opposed to other Aichi Targets, is the right focus (i.e., that the area is providing *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity).
- **Criterion 3.** Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics of an OECM.
- **Criterion 4.** Ensure that the conservation outcome will be sustained in the long-term.

The elements of each criterion are elaborated in Section 3.2. Potential OECMs must pass all four screening criteria.

Box 5: A recommended approach for using the screening tool

The following application of the screening tool is recommended:

Step 1: For cases in which a party other than the governing authority is managing the process - including areas governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to whom the principle of free, prior and informed consent applies - confirm the interest of the governing authority in having the area evaluated and potentially reported as an OECM.

Step 2: Thoroughly read and discuss the guidelines and the screening criteria and assemble a review team consisting of people familiar with the diversity of approaches being taken locally to area-based conservation.

Step 3: Prior to applying the screening tool, compile a comprehensive set of maps and information on possible locations that might qualify as OECM having compared them to

maps of known designated or proposed protected areas so the relationship is readily understood.

Step 4: Apply each of the four screening criteria to each area being assessed as an OECM.

Step 5: Identify those areas that meet all four criteria as OECMs, subject to more detailed review involving empirical evidence. Report those areas that then meet all the criteria, including consent from the governance authority, to the WDPA.

Step 6: For those areas that do not meet the criteria, record reasons for decisions against each criteria. This information may be helpful in identifying whether any changes to the governance or management might lead to the area qualifying as an OECM. Where desired, reapply **Steps 1-5**, as appropriate.

3.2 APPLYING THE SCREENING TOOL

This section provides guidance on how to apply the screening tool. All references to 'elements' refer to the elements of the definition, described in Section 2.2.

Criterion 1. Ensure that the area is not already recorded as a protected area

The area is neither already recognised or proposed as a marine, freshwater or terrestrial protected area, nor does it lie within one ([see element b](#)).

Criterion 2. Ensure that Aichi Target 11, as opposed to other Aichi Targets, is the right focus.

Within the context of reporting to the CBD, ensure Target 11 is the most relevant Aichi Biodiversity Target. There are 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, many encompassing area-based approaches. As elaborated in Box 6, some area-based approaches will better contribute to other Targets (e.g., Target 6 on sustainable management of fisheries, Target 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry) and may therefore not be OECMs. See **Appendix II** on the relationship between Target 11 and other associated Targets and **Appendix III** for a decision tree on selecting the most appropriate Aichi Target for a given conservation measure.

Box 6: Ensuring that Aichi Target 11 is the right focus

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets call for a comprehensive set of approaches to stem biodiversity loss, including raising awareness of biodiversity, eliminating perverse incentives for its degradation, implementing sustainable production plans, reducing habitat loss, preventing species extinction, reducing direct pressures on biodiversity to sustainable levels, and conserving biodiversity *in-situ*.

Area-based conservation measures can contribute to the achievement of several Aichi Targets, but not all area-based measures achieve their objectives through the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity consistent with Target 11 criteria.

For example, many fisheries closures apply to specific geographic areas and therefore are

area-based measures, but may only be closed to the fishing of specific depleted commercial fish species, the use of certain habitat-damaging or non-selective gear types, or at certain times of year when vulnerable species are present at a vulnerable life stage (e.g., spawning aggregations). They may continue to allow fishery and non-fishery activities (e.g., seismic testing, oil drilling), as long as such activities do not compromise the purposes for which they have been established. As such, they may be effective tools in helping to ensure that fisheries are managed sustainably (the objective of Aichi Target 6), without necessarily achieving the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity (the objective of Aichi Target 11).

Similarly, forestry management plans are applied on an area basis and may vary in their degree of ecological impact. Lower-impact approaches may retain more species, habitat structures, and ecosystem functions than higher-impact approaches, and some may indeed achieve the CBD meaning of “sustainable use” – i.e., the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity. However, because of their extractive, ecosystem-altering impacts, they may not necessarily also achieve the *in-situ* conservation of all biodiversity. Such measures might best be considered as contributions to Aichi Target 7, which calls for areas under forestry to be managed sustainably by 2020. The threshold between a Target 7 and a Target 11 measure may be difficult to decide in cases of customary use of biological resources in largely natural settings by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. In such cases, it may be useful to look at how well protected such areas are from forestry and non-forestry threats alike over the long-term to determine whether an area is an OECM.

Other Aichi Targets for which area-based measures may frequently be employed include Target 10 (minimize multiple anthropogenic threats on coral reefs), Target 12 (prevent the extinction and improve the conservation status of threatened species), Target 14 (restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services), and Target 15 (conserve and restore degraded ecosystems). Where such measures achieve their objectives through the long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, they may also be contributions to Target 11.

Criterion 3. Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics of an OECM.

- 1. LOCATION:** The area must be a geographically defined space. Wider measures for species and/or environment that are not ‘area-based’ fail this test. For example species-specific national or regional hunting bans, whale-watching rules, or temporary fishing closures ([see element a](#)) are regional species-specific measures and not *in-situ* area-based conservation.
- 2. GOVERNED, MANAGED AND LONG-TERM:** The area is governed and managed over the long-term and such arrangements are expected to be ongoing. There should be a direct causal link between: a) the area’s overall objective and management and b) the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity over the long-term. Areas where there is neither a governance authority nor conscious management are not OECMs ([see elements c, d and e](#)). Accordingly, an area currently in a natural or near-natural state is not automatically an OECM.
- 3. EFFECTIVE IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY:** The area delivers the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services.

There should be a clear understanding that the area is effectively conserving native biodiversity and the ecosystem processes that support biodiversity. This may be achieved through a variety of management practices, including those associated with cultural and spiritual values. Areas that deliver conservation outcomes only over the short-term or areas that are *intended* or offer *potential* to conserve nature but do not yet deliver conservation outcomes do not qualify as OECMs ([see elements f, g, h, i, and j](#)).

Criterion 4. Ensure that the conservation outcome can be sustained

This refers to the *probability* of the conservation *outcome* being sustained through legal or other effective means (such as, customary laws or formal agreements with landowners, [see element d](#)). This test emphasises the difference between current conservation efforts that can be reversed easily and an OECM that can sustain conservation outcomes over the long-term.

Areas that pass **ALL** four criteria can be considered to be candidate OECMs, subject to more detailed review involving empirical evidence to support the preliminary assessment and agreement with the governance authority.

3.3 EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL OECMs

The following situations **can be considered as potential OECMs**. These examples cover the range of governance types for purposes of illustrating their applicability.

Primary conservation

Examples include:

- Some territories or areas governed by Indigenous Peoples, local communities or private entities that have a primary conservation objective and deliver the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, but where the governing body wishes the territories or areas to be recognised and reported as OECMs, rather than as protected areas.
- Privately conserved areas, which are managed with a specific conservation objective but which are not recognised as protected areas under national legislation (e.g. Harapan Ecosystem Forest Restoration Area, Indonesia).
- Areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas that are managed in ways that deliver long-term *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity through, for example, regulation or other effective approaches.
- Some permanently set-aside areas of forest, such as old-growth, primary, or other high-biodiversity value forests, which are protected from both forestry and non-forestry threats.
- Some natural areas managed by universities for biological research.

Secondary conservation

Examples include:

- Territories and areas managed by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities (or sections of these areas) to maintain natural or near-natural ecosystems, with low levels of use of natural resources practised on a sustainable basis and in a way that does not degrade the areas' biodiversity. For example, coastal and marine areas where local community-based harvesting and management practices result in *de facto* conservation of fish populations and other associated marine biodiversity (such as traditional harvesting of kelp and herring roe practised by the Haida people).
- Traditional management systems that maintain high levels of associated biodiversity. These could include certain agricultural systems that maintain native species and their habitat, such as pastures of native grassland managed in ways that support livestock grazing while maintaining native biodiversity.
- Urban or municipal parks managed primarily for public recreation but which are large enough and sufficiently natural to also effectively achieve the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity (e.g. wild grassland, wetlands) and which are managed to maintain these biodiversity values.
- Military lands and waters, or portions of military lands and waters that are primarily managed for the purpose of defence, but with specific secondary objectives focused on the conservation of biodiversity.
- Watersheds or other areas managed primarily for water resource management that also result in the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. This can include, for example, water meadows, riverine forest, coastal forests, wetlands, streams, upland catchments, or other areas managed for long-term soil and slope stabilisation, flood mitigation, or other ecosystem services.
- Permanent or long-term fisheries closure areas designed to protect complete ecosystems for stock recruitment, to protect specialised ecosystems in their entirety, or protect species at risk through the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity as a whole, and are demonstrated to be effective against fishery and non-fishery threats alike.
- Hunting reserves that maintain natural habitats and other flora and fauna as well as viable populations of hunted and non-hunted native species.
- Areas successfully restored from degraded or threatened ecosystems, to provide important ecosystem services but which also contribute to effective biodiversity conservation (e.g. freshwater and coastal wetlands restored for flood protection).
- Areas that contribute to conservation because of their role in connecting protected areas and other areas of particular importance for the conservation of biodiversity, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of larger ecosystems (e.g., community conservancies within the Taita ecosystem, Kenya).

Ancillary conservation

Examples include:

- Sacred natural sites with high biodiversity values that are protected and conserved long-term for their associations with one or more faith groups.

- Coastal and marine areas protected for reasons other than conservation, but that nonetheless achieve the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity (e.g., historic wrecks, war graves, etc.)
- Military lands and waters, or portions of military lands and waters that are managed for the purpose of defence, but also achieve the effective conservation of biodiversity in the long term.

3.4 EXAMPLES OF AREAS UNLIKELY TO MEET THE OECM CRITERIA

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

- Small, semi-natural areas within an intensively-managed landscape with limited biodiversity conservation value, such as municipal parks, formal/domestic gardens, arboreta, field margins, roadside verges, hedgerows, narrow shoreline/watercourse setbacks firebreaks, recreational beaches, marinas and golf courses.
- Forests that are managed commercially for timber supply and are intended for logging, even though they may support some species of interest. Such areas should be considered as contributing to Aichi Target 7.
- Fishery closures, temporary set-asides or gear restriction areas with a single species, species-group, or habitat focus, that may be subject to periodic exploitation and/or be defined for stock management purposes, and that do not deliver *in-situ* conservation of the associated ecosystems, habitats and species with which target species are associated. Such areas should be considered for contributing to Aichi Target 6.
- Agricultural lands which are managed in a manner that limits the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity. This may include, for example, pastures that are grazed too intensively to support native grassland ecosystems or species, grassland replanted with monocultures or non-native species for livestock.
- Temporary agricultural set-asides, summer fallow and grant-maintained changes to agricultural practice that may benefit biodiversity.
- Conservation measures that apply to a single species or group of species, over a wide geographical range such as hunting regulations or whale-watching rules; these are better considered as being part of wider species conservation measures (Targets 5, 6, 7 and/or 12).

Neither of the above two lists are meant to be exhaustive or without exception, but are intended to indicate which kinds of areas may qualify as OECMs and which would not. When considering any area, the definitions and criteria applied during the four-criterion screening test will be the appropriate route to ensure consistent identification of possible OECMs. Given the diversity of situations where OECMs can occur **it is essential that all areas being assessed should be screened very carefully to evaluate each specific case.**

3.5 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNANCE AUTHORITIES

Governance authorities can identify an area as a possible OECM and either assess it themselves or seek support to determine whether the area qualifies as an OECM using this guidance. They have the right to object to the external nomination or recognition of their area as an OECM in cases where their consent has not been given. This applies to all four governance types, as set out above (see [element a](#)).

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

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING OECMs

The concept of ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ is a product of Decisions by the Parties to the CBD, and therefore reporting on OECMs is likewise an obligation of State Parties. All national data providers are encouraged to review the complete suite of area-based conservation measures and existing protected areas networks in line with these Guidelines. Area-based measures that are found to qualify as protected areas or OECMs should be reported to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). Data providers are also encouraged to monitor recognised OECMs, and report them to the WDPA. The WDPA is updated on a monthly basis and made available and downloadable online through the [Protected Planet](#) platform. UNEP-WCMC uses data in the WDPA to measure progress against international conservation goals, such as Target 11. For more information on reporting requirements to the WDPA and verification of data, see **Table 1** and **Appendix IV**.

Table 1: Basic Principles for Verification of the WDPA Data

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

the data is removed from the WDPA.

Effectiveness of OECMs is a key part of the definition. Therefore, monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of OECMs will be critical to ensure that sites continue to deliver conservation outcomes (Woodley *et al.*, 2015). Measuring Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) will in many cases be the most pragmatic way to measure the effectiveness of OECMs, but the PAME tools should be supported by additional quantitative information on biodiversity outcomes. The use of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard will further support such documentation (IUCN, 2017). Authorities responsible for OECMs should ensure that adequate monitoring is undertaken of the effectiveness of management to ensure long-term conservation outcomes, and this information should also be reported to UNEP-WCMC.

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

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APPENDIX I

Similarities and differences between OECMs and Protected Areas

The following table illustrates the similarities and differences between protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

	Draft OECM Guidelines	Relevant CBD and IUCN Guidance on Protected Areas
a. Geographically defined space	<p>Geographically defined space implies a spatially-defined area with agreed and demarcated borders, and includes land, inland waters, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. These borders can sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time, such as a river banks or sea ice.</p> <p>While the size of OECMs can vary, they should be large enough to achieve the “<i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity”, as defined by the CBD.</p>	<p>A clearly defined geographical space includes land, inland water, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. Clearly defined” implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated borders. These borders can sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time (e.g., river banks) or by management measures such as zoning.</p> <p>While the size of protected areas varies, they should be large enough to achieve their conservation objectives.</p>
b. Not recognised and reported as a protected area	<p>Areas that are already designated as protected areas or lie within protected areas should not also be recognised or reported as OECMs. While protected areas and OECMs are mutually exclusive at any point in time, both protected areas and OECMs have value for biodiversity conservation and some OECMs may be recognised as protected areas over time.</p>	<p>The IUCN definition of a protected area is: A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.</p> <p>The CBD definition of a protected area is: a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.</p>
c. Governed	<p>Governed implies that the area is under the authority of a specified entity. OECMs can be governed under the same range of governance types as protected areas, namely: governance by governments (at various levels); shared governance (i.e. governance by various rights-holders and stakeholders together); governance by private individuals, organisations or companies; and governance by indigenous peoples and/or local communities.</p> <p>As with protected areas, the governance of OECMs should strive to be ‘equitable’ and accord with human rights norms</p>	<p>IUCN envisages four distinct types of governance: governance by governments (at various levels); shared governance (i.e. governance by various rights-holders and stakeholders together); governance by private individuals and organisations; and governance by indigenous peoples and/or local communities.</p>

	recognised in international and regional human rights instruments and in national legislation. Any recognition of OECMs should require the consent of the relevant governing bodies.	
d. Managed	<p>‘Managed’ specifies that the area is being managed in a way that leads to positive biodiversity conservation outcomes. This means that an area where there is no management regime is not an OECM. Therefore areas of open ocean without management or control and areas currently in a natural or near-natural state should not be considered as OECMs. ‘Managed’ can include a decision to leave the area untouched.</p> <p>The management of OECMs should include ‘effective means’ of control of activities that could impact biodiversity, whether through legal measures or other means (such as customary laws and sanctions).</p>	<p>Assumes some active steps to conserve the natural (and possibly other) values for which the protected area was established; note that ‘managed’ can include a decision to leave the area untouched if this is the best conservation strategy.</p> <p>Protected areas must have a ‘Legal or effective means’ of control. This means that protected areas must either be gazetted (that is, recognised under statutory civil law), recognised through an international convention or agreement, or else managed through other effective but non-gazetted means, such as through recognised traditional rules under which community conserved areas operate or the policies of established non-governmental organisations.</p>
e. Long-term	OECMs are expected to be governed and managed over the long-term (i.e., in perpetuity) in ways that deliver the <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity. OECMs do not result from short-term or temporary management strategies. For example, a fishing closure which stays in place only until an overfished area recovers, is not a long-term measure. Seasonal arrangements (e.g. sites for migratory bird species) may qualify as OECMs if they are managed long-term and contribute to year-round <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity.	Protected areas should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy. Temporary measures, such as short-term grant-funded agricultural set-asides, rotations in commercial forest management or temporary fishing protection zones are not protected areas as recognised by IUCN.
f. Effective	<p>OECMs should demonstrate effective sustained <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity. This may include strict protection or certain forms of sustainable management consistent with the CBD definitions of “<i>in-situ</i> conservation” and “biodiversity”.</p> <p>Practical steps must to be in place for monitoring and reporting on OECMs.</p>	Implies some level of conservation effectiveness. Although the PA category will still be determined by objective, management effectiveness will be recorded on the World Database on Protected Areas and over time will become an important contributory criterion in identification and recognition of protected areas.
g. In-situ	OECMs are expected to conserve species within broader ecosystems and habitats	The CBD defines ‘ <i>in-situ</i> conservation’ as: “the conservation of ecosystems and

conservation	as opposed to focusing on a single species or group of species, without also protecting the wider environment.	<p>natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties”.</p> <p>IUCN guidance on ‘conservation’ in the context of protected areas is: the <i>in-situ</i> maintenance of ecosystems and natural and semi-natural habitats and of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.</p>
h. Biodiversity	Given the explicit link in Target 11 between OECMs and biodiversity conservation outcomes, it is implicit that OECMs must achieve the effective <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity. The conservation values of OECMs should be described and tracked over time.	<p>‘Biodiversity’ is defined by the CBD as: the variability among living organisms from all sources including, <i>inter alia</i>, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. The CBD further defines ‘ecosystem’ as: “a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit”.</p> <p>IUCN guidance on protected areas references ‘nature’. Nature <i>always</i> refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species and ecosystem level, and often <i>also</i> refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values.</p>
i. Ecosystem services	Healthy and functioning ecosystems provide a range of services. Ecosystem services include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation and disease; and supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient recycling. Management for these ecosystem services will be a frequent driver in the recognition of OECMs. Such management - for example for one particular ecosystem service - should not impact negatively on the site’s biodiversity conservation values.	<p>‘Ecosystem services’ can include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.</p> <p>The IUCN definition of a protected area includes associated ecosystem services as well as biodiversity values.</p>
j. Cultural and spiritual values	OECMs include areas where the protection of key species and habitats	Includes those cultural and spiritual values that do not interfere with the

	<p>and management of biodiversity may be achieved as part of long-standing and traditional cultural and spiritual practices. In such cases, it will be essential to assure the recognition and protection of the associated cultural and spiritual values and practices that lead to positive biodiversity outcomes. Conversely, management for cultural and spiritual practices within an OECM should not impact negatively on biodiversity conservation values in the long-term.</p>	<p>conservation outcome (<i>all</i> cultural values in a protected area should meet this criterion), including in particular: a) those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g., traditional management practices on which key species have become reliant); and b) cultural practices that may themselves be under threat.</p>
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APPENDIX II

The Broad relationship between the Aichi Targets and Target 11

(Adapted from Laffoley et al, 2017).

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

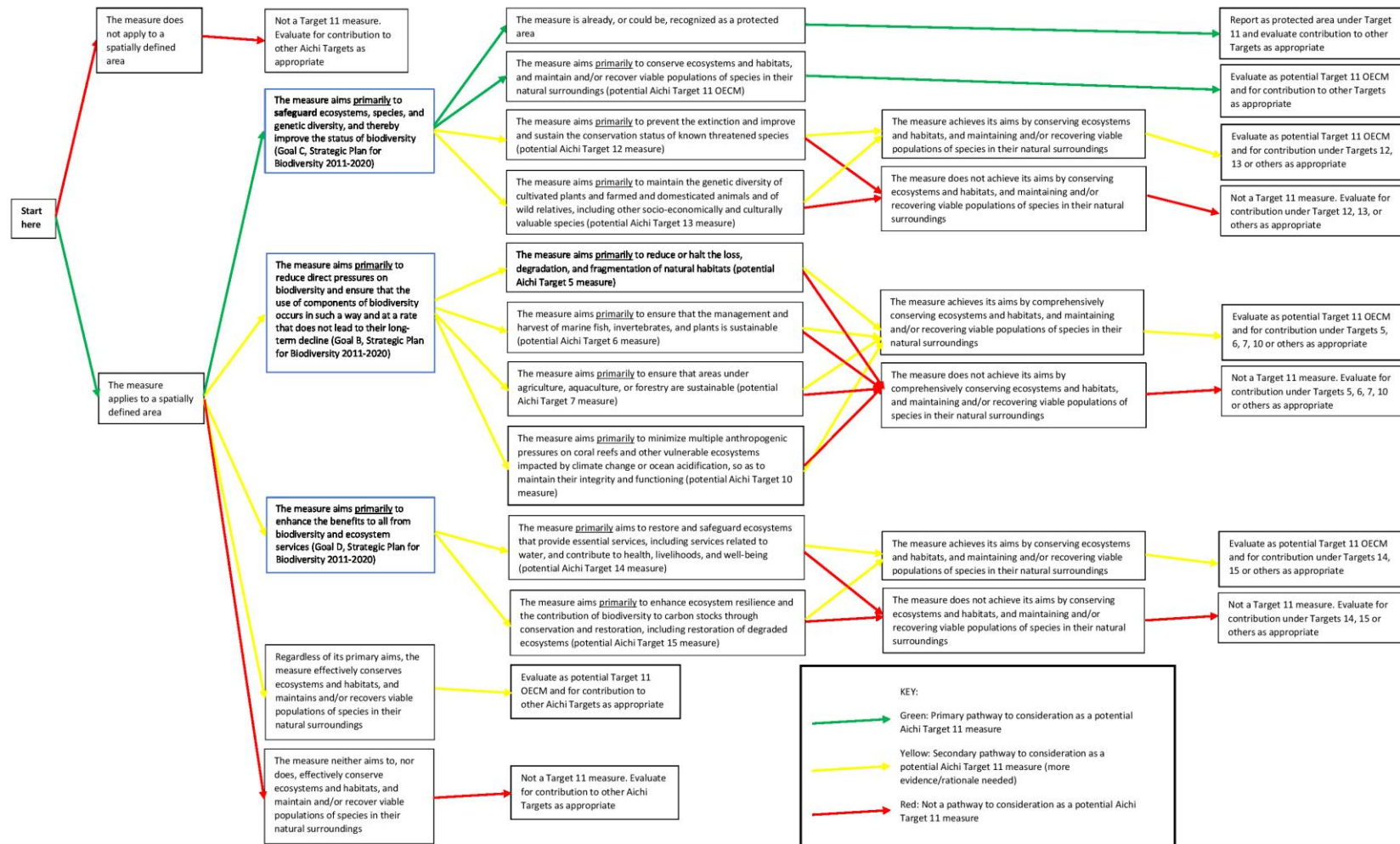
	fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	term, should map to Target 6. Sustainable use of biological resources may be an objective for some Target 11 areas. The key difference between Target 11 and Target 6 area-based measures is that Target 11 areas achieve the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

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

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APPENDIX III

Decision Support: Is Aichi Target 11 the most appropriate Aichi Target against which to evaluate a conservation measure?



961 APPENDIX IV

962 World Database on Protected Areas

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

966 What is the World Database on Protected Areas?

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

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

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

982 Reporting, data collection and validation

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

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

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

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

- 999 **3.** Source of information must be provided to ensure that ownership of the data
1000 is maintained and traceable.
- 1001 **4.** The WDPa Data Contributor Agreement must be signed to ensure that there
1002 is a written record of the data provider agreeing that the data be included in
1003 the WDPa and the terms for which it is made available.

1004 UNEP-WCMC reserves the right to verify all data provided to the WDPa to ensure
1005 that: 1) the data is standardised to make it compatible with the WDPa, and; 2) the
1006 data submitted is verified by an authoritative source. Basic principles for verification
1007 of the WDPa data are summarised in **Table 1** (see **Section 4** above).

1008 **Using the WDPa to measure progress against Targets**

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1010 UNEP-WCMC uses data in the WDPa to measure progress against international
1011 conservation goals, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. For this purpose, three
1012 statistics are generated, for national, regional and global level:

- 1013 • Protected area coverage;
- 1014 • OECM coverage; and
- 1015 • Combined coverage.

1016

1017 To calculate coverage, UNEP-WCMC removes overlaps between sites, and excludes
1018 certain categories of sites (those that are proposed, reported as points and UNESCO
1019 Man and Biosphere Reserves). Although conserved areas and protected areas would
1020 not normally occupy the same area (see Section 3.2 b), there may be occasional
1021 cases of overlap. In such cases, the area of overlap is treated as a protected area
1022 only. This method avoids double-counting. Further information on how UNEP-WCMC
1023 calculates coverage statistics is available here:

1024 <https://protectedplanet.net/c/calculating-protected-area-coverage>

1025

1026 **Monitoring OECMs**

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1028 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) will in many cases be the most
1029 pragmatic way to measure the effectiveness of OECMs, especially where the PAME
1030 tools are supported by additional information on biodiversity outcomes. Over 40
1031 tools have been developed for PAME assessments (see Leverington et al. (2010)).
1032 The adoption of existing PAME systems means that it will be easier for the authority
1033 to report on the monitoring to UNEP-WCMC, and that assessments will be in a
1034 standardised format between sites and over time.

1035

1036 Some basic principles for an OECM monitoring program to track effective
1037 conservation are described in steps 1-4 below. Steps 1-3 can also be used to support
1038 the decision as to whether a site is an OECM, or remains an OECM on repeat
1039 assessments.

- 1040 1. Describe all significant biodiversity values on the site, with a record of the
1041 sources of information to support this. Consider representativeness,

1042 intactness, landscape context, rare, threatened, endemic and significant
1043 species and habitats and ecological integrity.

- 1044 2. Identify pressures and threats to the site that will impact the biodiversity
1045 values.
- 1046 3. Review the management inputs and measures undertaken on the site to
1047 assess their effectiveness, whether they are sufficient to maintain the
1048 biodiversity features, and if they cover the full scope of biodiversity on the
1049 site, and address controllable threats to in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
- 1050 4. Review the effectiveness in terms of the conservation outcomes on the site,
1051 through measuring status of priority attributes, setting and reviewing targets
1052 and indicators that measure status and trends over time, measuring
1053 mitigation of threats, monitoring and managing adaptively.

1054 Reporting to the Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
1055 (GD-PAME) to UNEP-WCMC follows a similar approach to that outlined above for the
1056 WDPA. For any queries regarding reporting, collation, use, or processing of the GD-
1057 PAME, please contact: **protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org**.
1058