

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL



For Assessing Areas Against Pan-Canadian Standards for
Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation
Measures (OECMS) for Terrestrial and Inland Waters



Cape Jourdain, New Brunswick. Photo: Cary Donaldson

PATHWAY TO CANADA TARGET 1

Introduction to the Decision Support Tool

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Decision Support Tool (DST)

- Includes standards and interpretation guidance for 9 screening criteria
- + reporting template tool
- All 9 criteria are aligned with International definitions and guidance on PAs and OECMs
- Table 1: Standards common to both **protected areas** and **OECMs**
 - Geographical Space
 - Effective Means-1
 - Effective Means -2
 - Long-term
 - Timing
- Table 2: Standards that differ between **protected areas** and **OECMs**
 - Primacy of Objectives
 - Scope of Objectives
 - Governing Authorities
 - Biodiversity Conservation Outcomes



TABLE 1. STANDARDS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS and OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

Protected areas (PA) or OECMs should meet the standard for all criteria described in Column A. An area may also meet the standard for a protected area or OECM when it is better described by column B if further evaluation demonstrates the area is meeting the intended effect for that criterion. If not, or if the area is best described by column C, then the area does not meet the standard.

Criteria	Intended Effect of Criterion	Standards for Criteria		
		A. Clearly meets the standard for PA or OECM	B. May meet the PA or OECM standard but requires further evaluation in order to make a decision	C. Does not meet the standard for PA or OECM
Geographic al Space	Demarcates the area to facilitate the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.	The geographical space has clearly defined and agreed-upon borders.	The geographical space is intended to be clearly defined but may not be easily or widely recognizable.	The geographical space is not clearly defined.
Effective means -1	Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed.	The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent incompatible activities and manage all other activities within the area, such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved.	The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent, control and/or manage activities within the area such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved.	The mechanism(s) does/do not provide sufficient ability to prevent and/or manage activities within the area that are likely to have impacts on biodiversity.
Effective means -2		The mechanism(s) compel(s) the authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.	The mechanism(s) does/do not compel the authority(ies) to prohibit activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity but incompatible activities are not likely to occur.	The mechanism(s) does/do not compel the authority(ies) to prohibit activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity and/or incompatible activities are being allowed or are likely to occur.
Long-term	The area is permanently protected or conserved and the mechanism is not easily reversed.	The mechanism(s) is/are intended to be in effect for the long term and not easily reversed.	The mechanism(s) is/are expected to be in effect for the long term and not easily reversed.	The mechanism(s) is/are not intended or expected to be in effect for the long term or may be easily reversed.
Timing	Biodiversity is protected or conserved year-round.	The mechanism(s) is/are in effect year-round.	Seasonal mechanism(s) is/are combined with other mechanism(s) to result in the year-round in-situ conservation of biodiversity.	The mechanism(s) is/are not in effect year-round.

Effective Means-1 – do you have the tools you need?

Criteria	Intended Effect of Criterion	Standards for Criteria		
		A. Clearly meets the standard for PA or OECM	B. May meet the PA or OECM standard but requires further evaluation in order to make a decision	C. Does not meet the standard for PA or OECM
Effective means-1	Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed.	The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent incompatible activities and manage all other activities within the area, such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved.	The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent, control and/or manage activities within the area such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved.	The mechanism(s) does/do not provide sufficient ability to prevent and/or manage activities within the area that are likely to have impacts on biodiversity.

Intent: Incompatible activities do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed

Key Question: Do(es) the mechanism(s) provide the ability to prevent, control and/or manage activities within the area such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved?

Effective Means – 2: Are the tools being used to prevent incompatible activities?

Criteria	Intended Effect of Criterion	Standards for Criteria		
		A. Clearly meets the standard for PA or OECM	B. May meet the PA or OECM standard but requires further evaluation in order to make a decision	C. Does not meet the standard for PA or OECM
Effective means -2	Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed.	The mechanism(s) compel(s) the authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.	The mechanism(s) does/do not compel the authority(ies) to prohibit activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity but incompatible activities are not likely to occur.	The mechanism(s) does/do not compel the authority(ies) to prohibit activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity and/or incompatible activities are being allowed or are likely to occur.

Intent: Incompatible activities do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed

Key Question: Do(es) the mechanism(s) compel the governing authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity?

For More Information

<https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting>

<https://www.ccea.org/>

