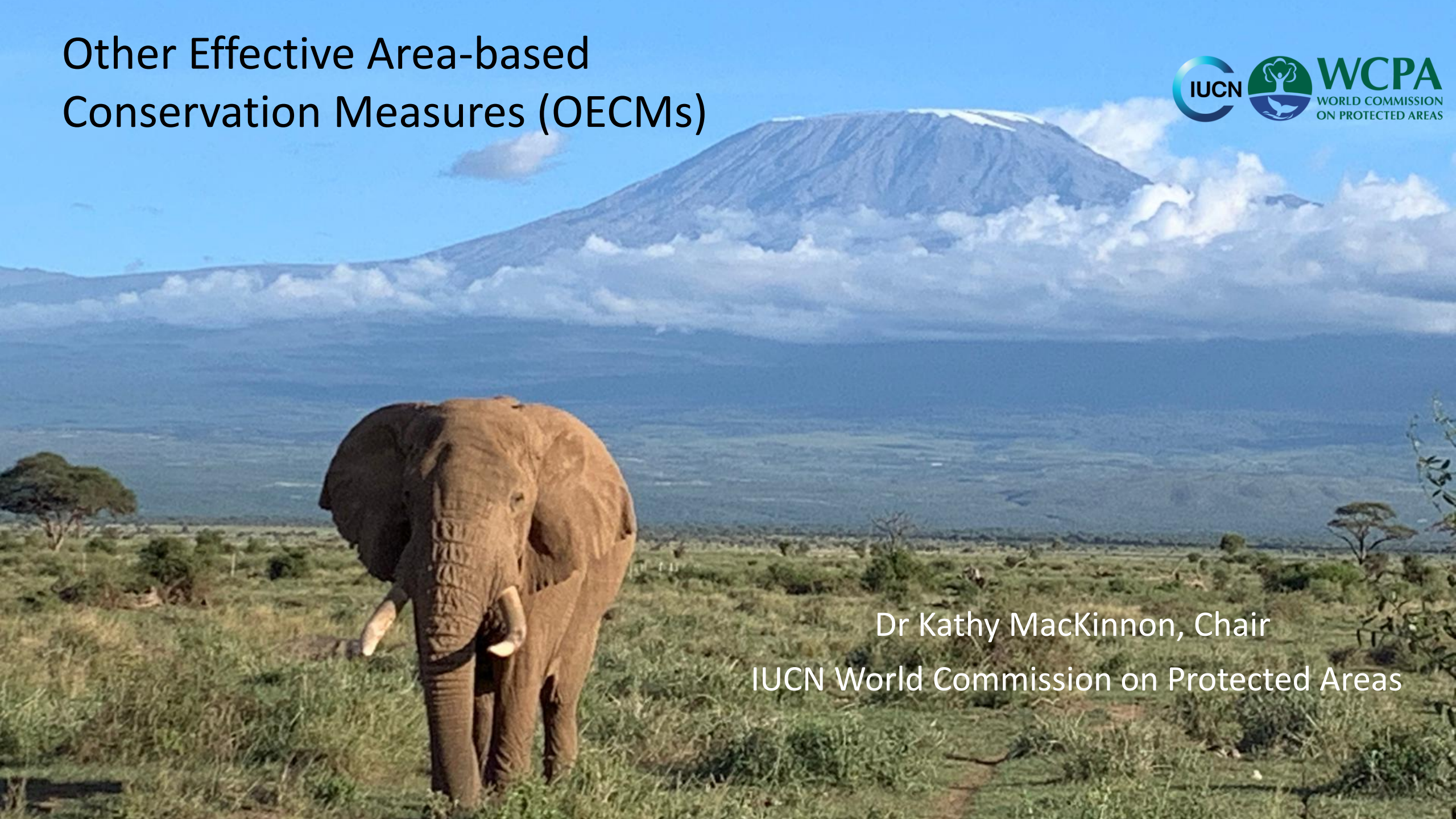
Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)



Dr Kathy MacKinnon, Chair

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Recognising OECMs

- COP14/8 Adoption of a definition of OECMs is a significant step in formal recognition of areas that provide effective conservation beyond protected areas
- Major opportunity to contribute to post-2020 targets for effective area-based conservation
- https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2019.PATRS.3.en

OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURE (COP 14/8)

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area …

which is governed and managed …

in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity …

with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION

Criterion A: Area is not currently recognized as a protected area Not a protected area

Criterion B: Area is governed and managed

- **Geographically defined space** Size and area are described, including in three dimensions where necessary. Boundaries are geographically delineated.
- **Legitimate governance authorities** - appropriate for achieving *in situ* conservation of biodiversity within the area; Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities is self-identified in accordance with national legislation Governance may be by a single authority and/or organization or through collaboration among relevant authorities and provides the ability to address threats collectively.
- **Managed** in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for the conservation of biological diversity. Relevant authorities and stakeholders are identified and involved in management. that contributes to sustaining the in situ conservation of biodiversity

C

Criteria for Identification (2)

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

- **Effective** The area achieves positive and sustained outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity.
- **Sustained over long term** The other effective area-based conservation measures are in place for the long term or are likely to be – expect sustained governance and management over “long term”
- **In situ conservation of biodiversity** Recognition of OECMs is expected to include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is important (e.g. communities of rare, threatened or endangered species, representative natural ecosystems, range restricted species, key biodiversity areas, areas providing critical ecosystem functions and services, areas for ecological connectivity.
- **Information and monitoring**. A monitoring system informs management on the effectiveness of measures with respect to biodiversity, including the health of ecosystems.

Criteria for Identification (3)

- **Criterion D**: Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values
- **Ecosystem functions and services** Ecosystem functions and services are supported, including those of importance to indigenous peoples and local communities, for other effective area-based conservation measures concerning their territories, taking into account interactions and trade-offs among ecosystem functions and services, with a view to ensuring positive biodiversity outcomes and equity. Management to enhance one particular ecosystem function or service does not impact negatively on the sites overall biological diversity.
- **Cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values** Governance and management measures identify, respect and uphold the cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values of the area, where such values exist. Governance and management measures respect and uphold the knowledge, practices and institutions that are fundamental for the in situ conservation of biodiversity

PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMs

Protected areas

Protected areas should have a *primary* conservation objective. Their core function is to promote the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity.

Other effective area-based conservation measures

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

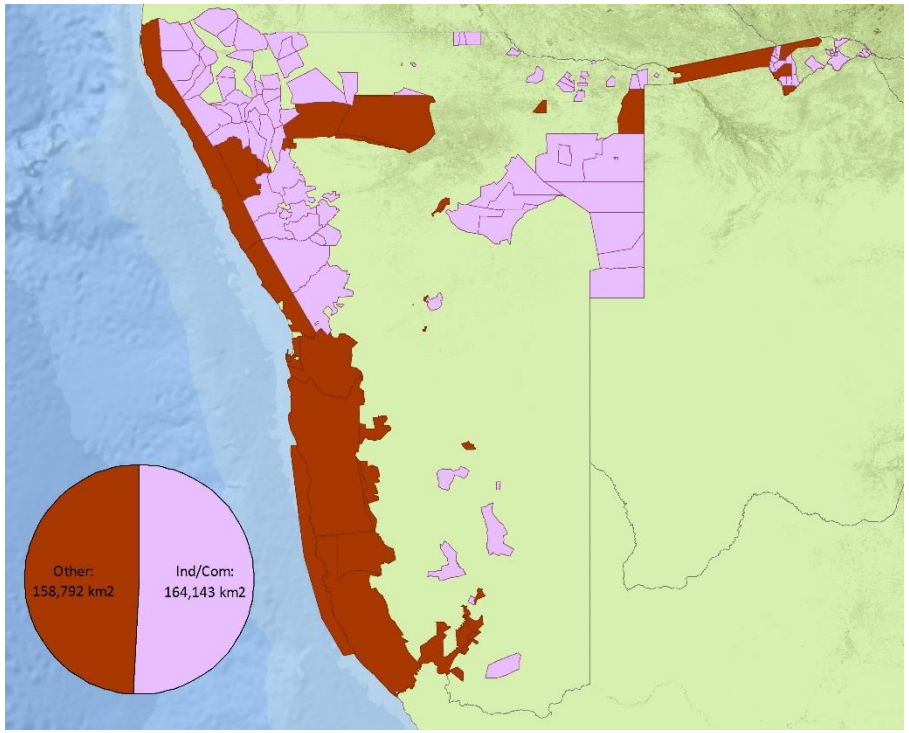
Added values of Recognising OECMs

- OECMs recognise areas delivering effective conservation of biodiversity beyond national PA systems – add to coverage targets.
- Inclusive – recognise role of areas under diverse governance and management types (indigenous lands, community, private, government)
- Increased protection of important areas of biodiversity, KBAs, IPAs
- Birdlife assessed 754 Key Biodiversity Areas outside PAs in 10 countries, >50% are fully covered by *potential* OECMs, >80% include *potential* OECMs
- Enhance Ecological Representation, Connectivity
- Protect Species communities at risk
- Protect important Ecosystem Services (esp. C and water)
- Contribute to mitigation of Climate Change
- Increase opportunities to meet all elements of T11 & SDGs:

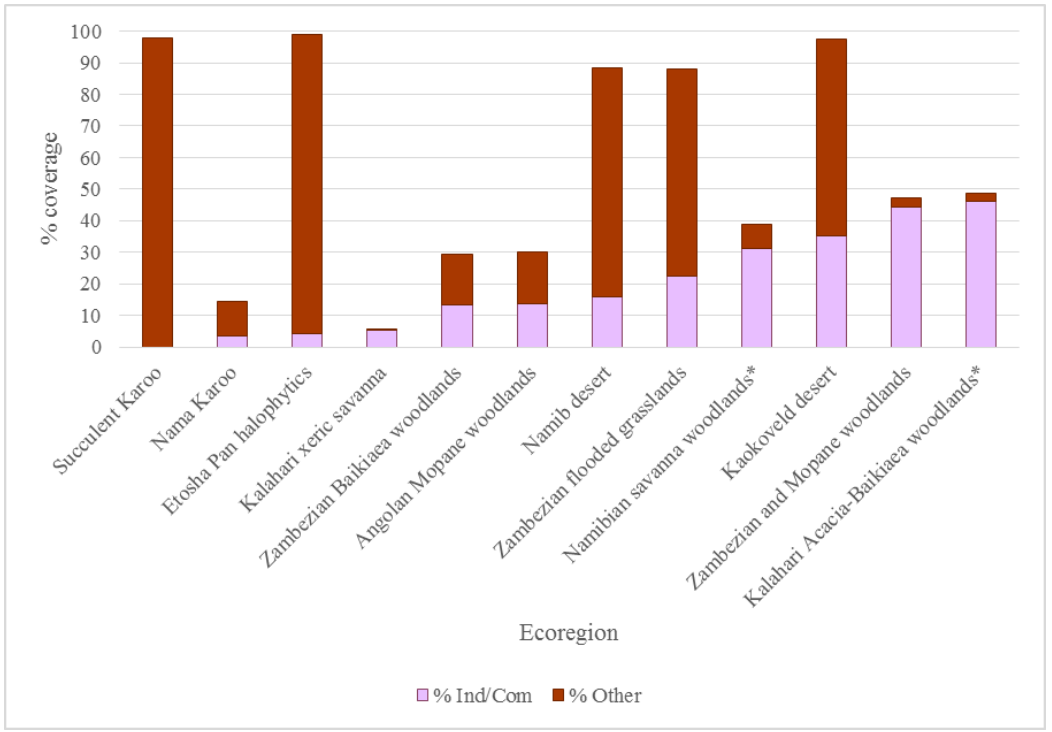
Quality not just quantity

Contributing to conservation: areas governed and managed by local communities - Namibia

Protected Area Distribution



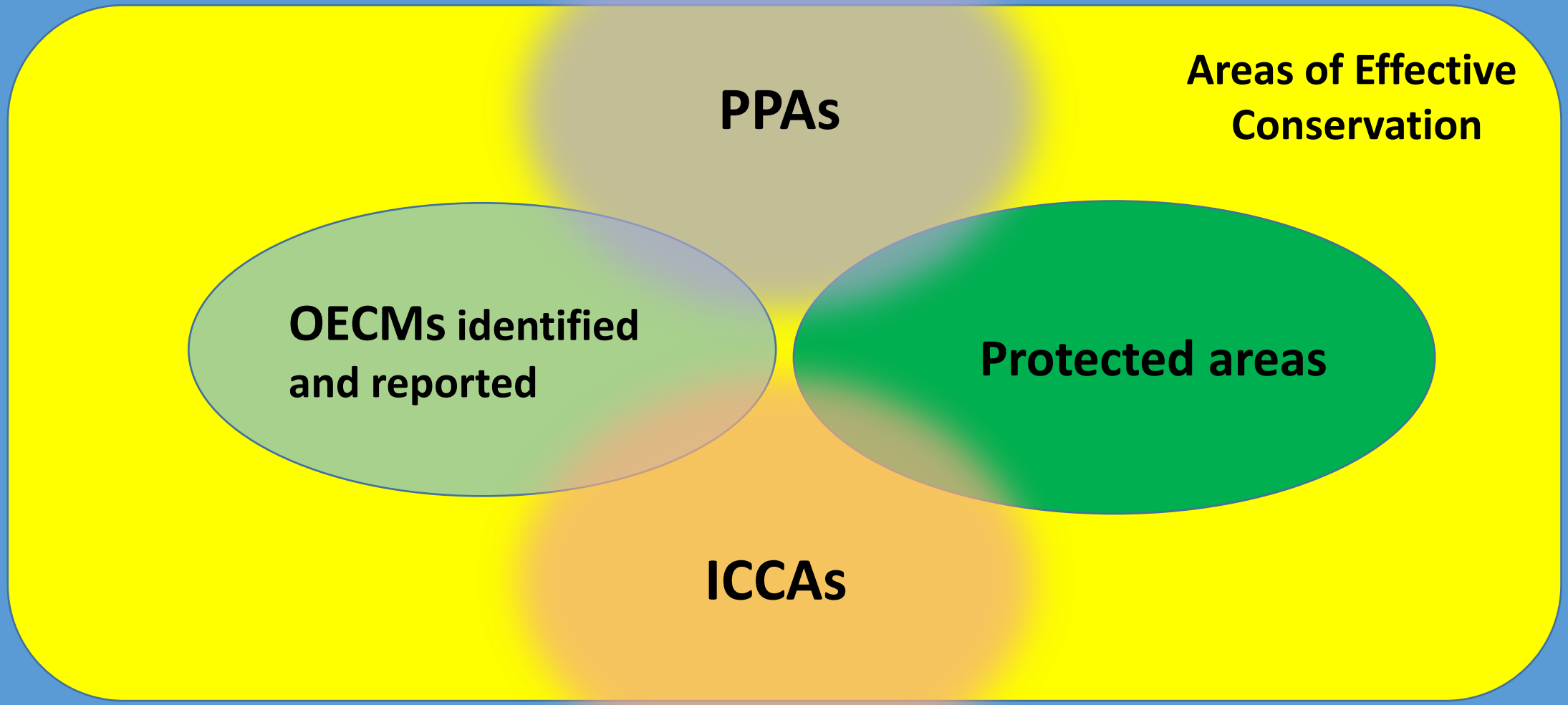
% Protection of Ecoregions



34 non-community/IP protected areas cover 159,000km^2; 112 communal conservancies and community forests add 164,000km^2

Source: Corrigan et al. 2018

Wider landscape and seascape



OECMs and 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 Lists
- Representative natural ecosystems.
- High level of ecological integrity or ecological intactness, characterised by the occurrence of the full range of native species and supporting ecological processes.
- 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.

IUCN - Examples of what might count as OECMs

Likely

- Some indigenous/community conserved areas
- Some areas in production landscapes managed for conservation rather than exploitation (e.g. ecosystem restoration area, Indonesia)
- Some watershed protection areas for cities
- Some Community Pastures with native prairie
- Some sections of military reserves with access restrictions and conservation goals and management
- Some coastal and marine areas protected for reasons other than conservation, e.g. historic wrecks
- Some Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)

Unlikely

- Urban parks & other formal gardens
- Temporary fishing closures in place only until an overfished area recovers
- Heavily grazed grassland or grassland replanted with monocultures or non-native species for livestock
- Large, landscape or seascape scale management policies targeting a limited number of biodiversity elements (e.g. fishing or hunting restrictions on individual species)
- Production forests managed for logging even though they may have some biodiversity values

Potential areas should be screened very carefully on a case-by-case basis.