



OECCMs

Guiding Principles and Criteria

Webinar Other Effective area-based Conservation
Measures (OECCMs) in the Baltic Sea – 23 Nov 2021

OECEM – CBD COP Decision 14/8 (2018)

- *Adopted* the definition of “OECEM”
- *Welcomed* the scientific and technical advice on OECEMs, contained in **Annex III** to the decision, **to be applied in a flexible way and on a case-by- case basis;**
- ***Encourages Parties* ...**, to apply the scientific and technical advice on OECEMs contained in annex III, including by:
 - (a) **Identifying OECEMs** and their diverse options within their jurisdiction;
 - (b) **Submitting data on OECEMs** to the UNEP-WCMC for inclusion in the World Database on Protected Areas;
- *Invites* IUCN and WCMC to expand the World Database on Protected Areas by **providing a section on OECEMs;**
- *Invites* IUCN, FAO, and other expert bodies to continue to **assist Parties in identifying OECEMs and in applying the scientific and technical advice;**

Other
effective
area-based
conservation
measure

(CBD, 2018)

A geographically defined area

... other than a protected area

... which is **governed and managed**

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

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

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF OECMs

- OECMs have a **significant biodiversity value**, or have objectives to achieve this, **which is the basis for their consideration to achieve Target 11** of Strategic Goal C of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- OECMs have an important role in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, complementary to protected areas and contributing to the coherence and connectivity of protected area networks, as well as in mainstreaming biodiversity into other uses in land and sea, and across sectors. **OECMs should, therefore, strengthen the existing protected area networks, as appropriate;**
- OECMs reflect an opportunity to provide *in situ* conservation of **biodiversity over the long-term** in marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. **They may allow for sustainable human activities while offering a clear benefit to biodiversity conservation.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF OECMs

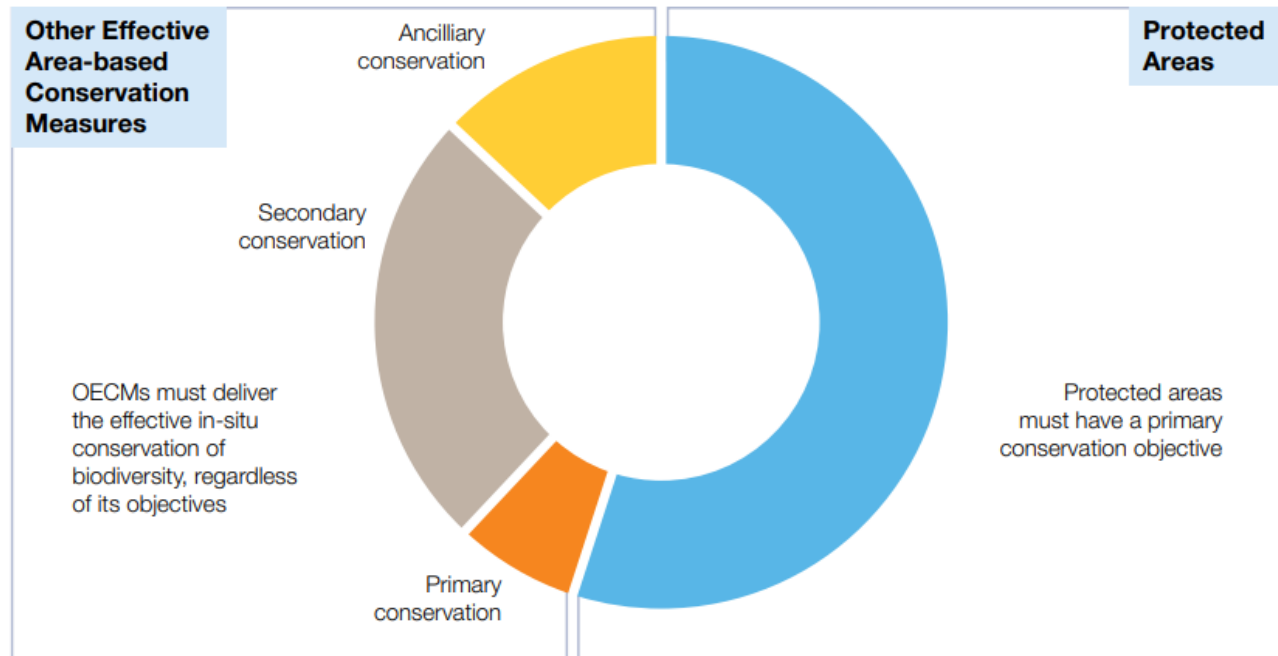
- OECMs, with relevant scientific and technical information and knowledge, have **the potential to demonstrate positive biodiversity outcomes** by successfully **conserving *in situ* species, habitat and ecosystems and associated ecosystem functions and services** and by **preventing, reducing or eliminating existing, or potential threats, and increasing resilience.**
- Management of other effective area-based conservation measures is **consistent with the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach**, providing the **ability to adapt to achieve biodiversity outcomes**, including long-term outcomes, inter alia, the ability to manage a new threat;

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

Not a protected area

- The area is not currently recognized or reported as a protected area or part of a protected area; it may have been established for another function.



A site with a primary conservation objective would move from OECM to Protected Area if recognised as a protected area by the relevant governance authority

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

- Governance has legitimate authority – and is 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 and applicable international obligations;
- Governance reflects the equity considerations adopted in the Convention.
- 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

- 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.
- A management system is in place that contributes to sustaining the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity.
- Management is consistent with the ecosystem approach with the ability to adapt to achieve expected biodiversity conservation outcomes, including long-term outcomes, and including the ability to manage a new threat.

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

- The area achieves, or is expected to achieve, positive and sustained outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity.
- Threats, existing or reasonably anticipated ones are addressed effectively by preventing, significantly reducing or eliminating them, and by restoring degraded ecosystems.
- Mechanisms, such as policy frameworks and regulations, are in place to recognize and respond to new threats.
- To the extent relevant and possible, management inside and outside the other effective area-based conservation measure is integrated.

Sustained over long term

- The other effective area-based conservation measures are in place for the long term or are likely to be.
- “Sustained” pertains to the continuity of governance and management and “long term” pertains to the biodiversity outcome.

***In situ* conservation of biological diversity**

- Recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures is expected to include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is considered 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

- Identification of other effective area-based conservation measures should, to the extent possible, document the known biodiversity attributes, as well as, where relevant, cultural and/or spiritual values, of the area and the governance and management in place as a baseline for assessing effectiveness.
- A monitoring system informs management on the effectiveness of measures with respect to biodiversity, including the health of ecosystems.
- Processes should be in place to evaluate the effectiveness of governance and management, including with respect to equity.
- General data of the area such as boundaries, aim and governance are available information.

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, socio-economic 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.