



Introduction to OECMs

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Presentation overview

- What are OECMs?
- Why should we recognise OECMs?
- How can we identify OECMs?

What are OECMs?



area other than a Protected Area



governed and managed



sustained long-term outcomes



in situ conservation of biodiversity



with associated functions,
services and other values

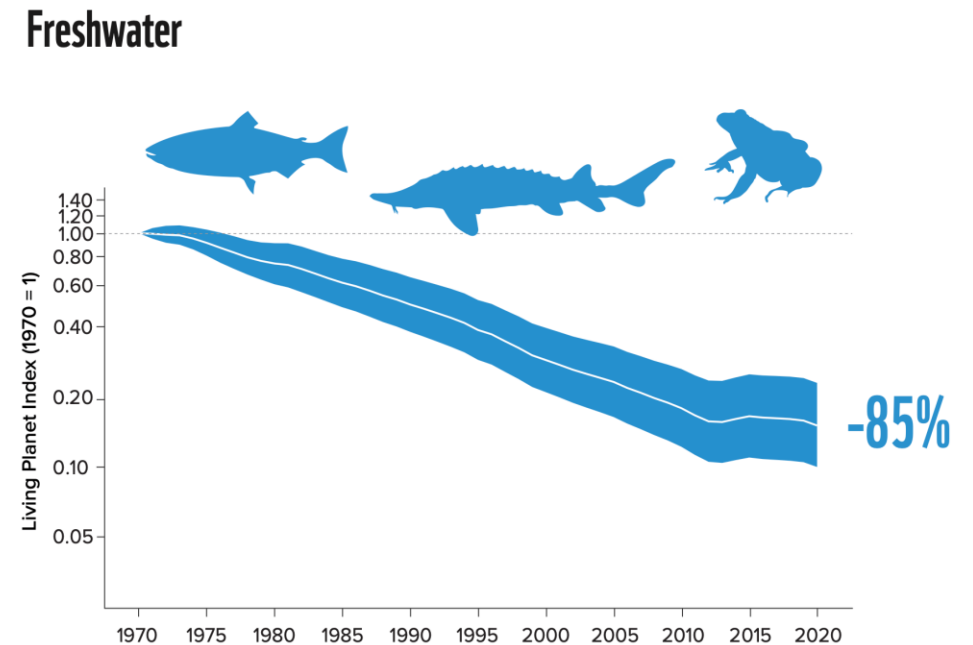
Definition of OECM:

“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”.

Definition and criteria for OECMs were agreed at CBD COP 14 in 2018 (Decision 14/8)

Why should we recognise OECMs?

- **Protected Areas alone are insufficient** to meet biodiversity conservation goals
- **Many areas outside formal Protected Areas** are effectively conserving biodiversity
- OECMs are **complementary to Protected Areas** and can support **ecological connectivity**
- They recognise **diverse governance types**
 - Indigenous territories, community-based conservation, sustainable fisheries, sacred sites
 - Government owned sites such as watershed protection areas, wetlands
 - Private entities conserving land and water (individuals, foundations, universities)
 - Sectorial actors' permanent set asides, wetlands in agricultural lands



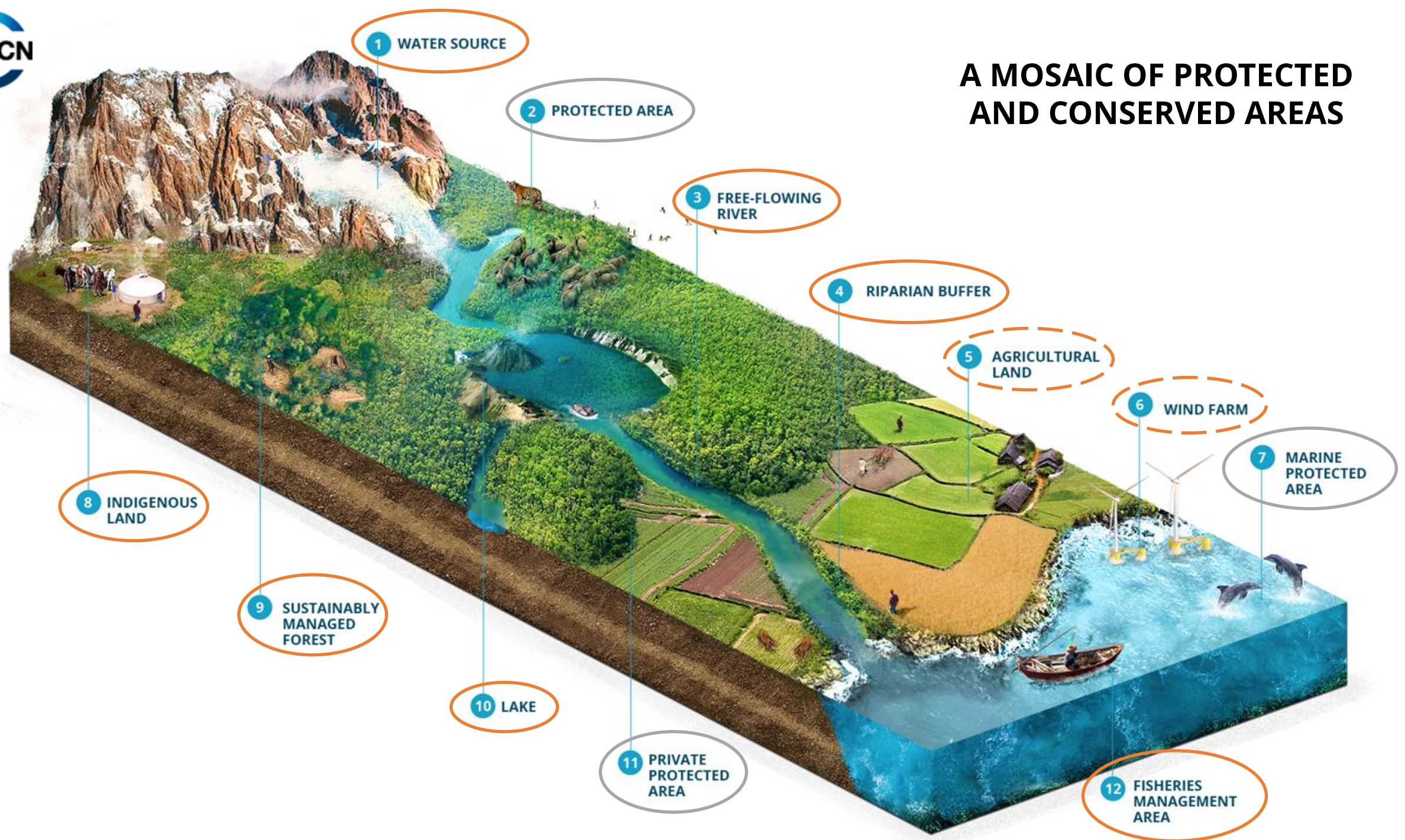
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

KMGBF Target 3 – “30x30” Target – is the world’s most ambitious conservation target to date

“ Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, **inland water**, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas **of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services**, are **effectively conserved and managed** through ecologically representative, **well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, recognizing **indigenous and traditional territories** where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, **recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories** ”



A MOSAIC OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS



COP15 (Doc.23.18) – Draft Resolution on “Achieving the equitable and effective conservation of wetlands as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)”

Preliminary analyses in the 2024 Protected Planet report found that coverage of “inland waters” by Protected Areas (PAs) and OECMs is only at about 16%, meaning we are just half way to the 30% by 2030 target

A substantial increase and enhancement of the area of wetlands under equitable and effective conservation management is necessary to address the ongoing loss and degradation of wetlands globally

The resolution seeks to align the approach to PAs and OECMs between CBD and the Convention on Wetlands and recognises that Ramsar Sites and other wetlands that meet the OECM criteria have the potential to significantly contribute to achieving the KM-GBF Target 3 for inland waters

Encouraging Contracting Parties and other partners, to contribute towards the achievement of 30x30 by:

- Conserving wetlands under systems of PAs and OECMs
- Effectively manage wetlands by developing and updating site management plans, undertake regular monitoring, record up-to-date boundaries, and ensuring that equitable governance mechanisms are in place, to achieve long-term effective conservation outcomes of the site



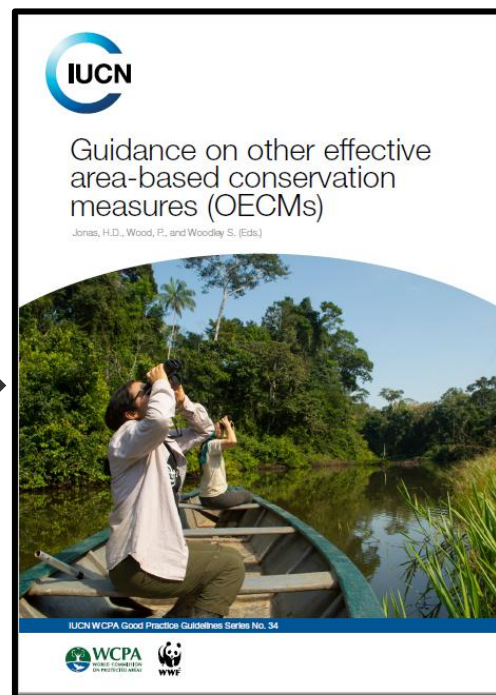
How can we identify OECMs?

- Tools and guidance available

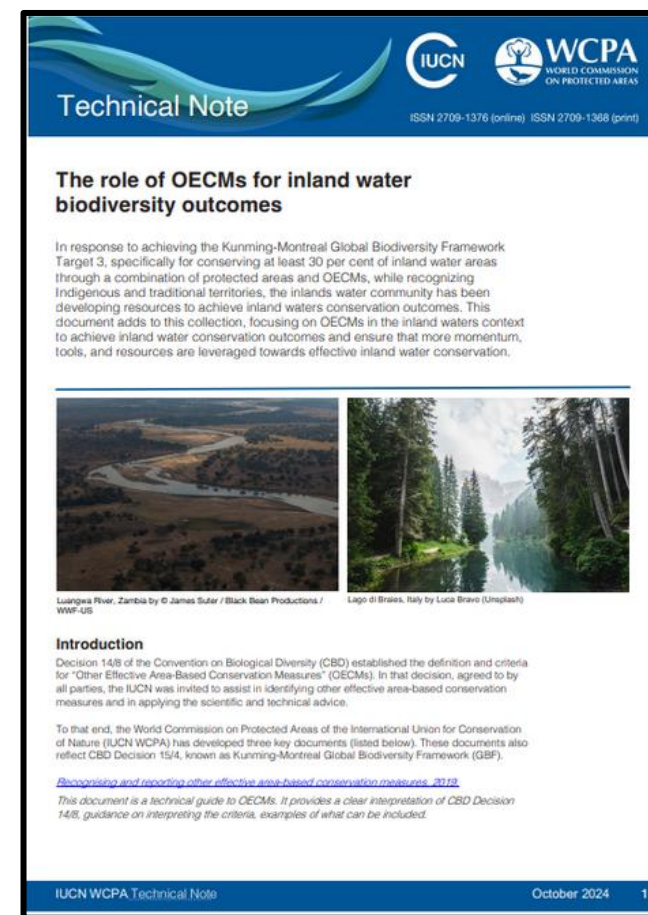
2019



2024



2023



OECM identification process

Step 1: screening of proposed OECM (2 criteria)

Output: a site that meets the screening criteria is a *potential OECM*

1. The site is not a protected area
2. There is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values

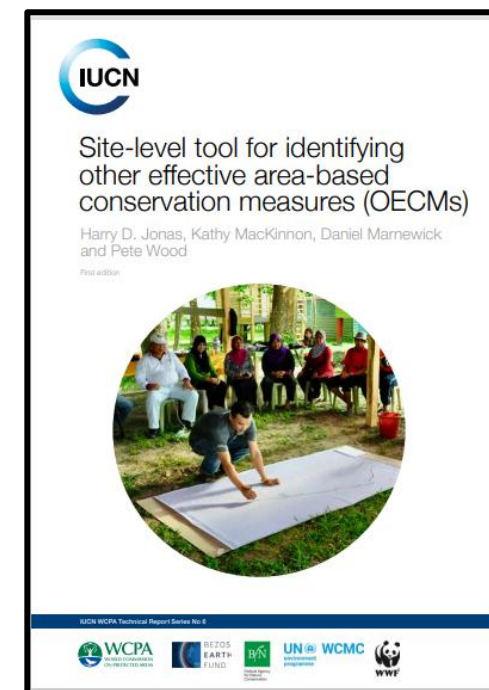
Step 2: consent for full assessment

Output: a potential OECM where governing authority, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and (as appropriate) other rights-holders have given consent to carry out a full assessment is a *candidate OECM*

Step 3: full assessment (6 criteria)

Output: a candidate OECM that meets all criteria is *confirmed as an OECM*. Sites that do not meet all criteria remain as candidate OECMs pending further information or changes to meet the criteria

3. The site is a geographically defined area
4. The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values
5. Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site
6. Governance and management of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the *in situ* conservation of important biodiversity values
7. In situ conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be for the long term
8. Governance and management arrangements address equity considerations



IUCN projects to support OECM identification and recognition

- Assisting countries to develop national Target 3 roadmaps and dialogues including OECMs
- Dissemination and translation of the technical guidance and tools
- Global Learning Hub: Raising awareness, increasing capacity through training modules, webinars and field trips, and global library of case studies (PANORAMA)
- Regional platforms for sharing experiences and lessons
- Law and policy reviews underway in several countries and regions

