Providing data on other effective area-based conservation measures to the Protected Planet initiative: guidelines

Further to CBD CoP decision 14/8, this document provides preliminary guidelines on submitting data on **other effective area-based conservation measures** (also known as 'OECMs') for inclusion as companion data to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in Protected Planet. Protected Planet encompasses a range of conservation-related information, including the WDPA, and will house an additional dedicated and linked database on OECMs. Further information on the WDPA is available in the WDPA Manual. Additional guidelines on OECMs are being developed by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas.

What is the WDPA?

The WDPA is the global authority database of protected areas. Parties to the CBD have been mandated since 2004 (Decisions 7/28; 9/18; 10/31) to provide data on protected areas to the WDPA. In 2018, they were further encouraged to provide data on OECMs (Decision 14/8). The database on OECMs will be used alongside the WDPA for reporting to the CBD, including on progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15. UNEP-WCMC is inviting submissions of data on OECMs to populate this database as a priority.

What are OECMs?

As defined in CBD CoP decision 14/8, an OECM is '*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[1] with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values.*' In many cases, the difference between an OECM and a protected area relates to its objectives: a protected area must have biodiversity conservation as a primary objective, whereas an OECM must *deliver* biodiversity conservation regardless of its primary objectives. Like protected areas, OECMs can align with any of the IUCN governance types.

How do I provide data?

Governments are encouraged to provide data on OECMs (and protected areas) under all governance types with the consent of the relevant stakeholders and rightsholders, including indigenous peoples, local communities and private actors.

The following items should be sent to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org:
1. Spatial data from Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Polygon data are preferred, but points can also be provided where polygons are not yet available;
2. Basic descriptive information (see Table 1);
3. Information on the source of the data (more details in the WDPA Manual);
4. A signed data contributor agreement, available here.

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[1] The term 'in situ conservation of biodiversity' refers to terms defined by Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and should be interpreted in line with the provisions of the Convention. In-situ conservation means 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.

What descriptive information is required?

Table 1: the information required is as follows. Blue rows are mandatory fields:

Field name	Details and accepted values for OECMs (in bold)
WDPAID	If the OECM is already listed in the WDPA but needs to be moved to the OECM database, please provide its WDPAID
WDPA_PID	If the OECM is already listed in the WDPA but needs to be moved to the OECM database, please provide its WDPA_PID
PA_DEF	**0** (meets the definition of an OECM. Protected areas have a value of '**1**' in this field)
NAME	Name of the OECM
ORIG_NAME	Name of the OECM in original language
DESIG	Name of designation (e.g. 'Watershed Management Area', 'Permanent Fisheries Closure' or 'Sacred Natural Site' (in original language))
DESIG_ENG	Name of designation in English (e.g. 'Watershed Management Area', 'Permanent Fisheries Closure' or 'Sacred Natural Site')
DESIG_TYPE	**National** (legally designated at the national level, e.g. 'Watershed Management Area'); **Regional** (designated through a regional convention); **International** (designated through an international convention, e.g. UNESCO Global Geopark); **Not Applicable** (not legally designated at any level, but established through other means such as customary law)
MARINE	**0** (entirely terrestrial); **1** (partly terrestrial and partly marine); **2** (entirely marine)
REP_M_AREA	Area in km^2 of the marine part of the OECM
REP_AREA	Area in km^2 of the entire OECM
NO_TAKE	Applicable only if MARINE = 1 or 2: is any part of the OECM closed to the removal of living or dead natural resources, inclusive of all methods of fishing, extraction, dumping, dredging and construction? **Not Applicable** (if MARINE = 0); **Not Reported** (if unknown); **None** (if there is no no-take area); **Part** (if part of the OECM is a no-take area); **All** (if the entire OECM is a no-take area)
NO_TK_AREA	Area in km^2 of the no-take area
STATUS	**Proposed** (proposed for legal designation as an OECM); **Designated** (designated as an OECM); **Established** (not legally designated or proposed for legal designation, but instead established through other means such as customary law); **Inscribed** (World Heritage Sites only)
STATUS_YR	The year in which the STATUS came into effect.
GOV_TYPE	**Federal or national ministry or agency**; **Sub-national ministry or agency**; **Government-delegated management**; **Transboundary governance**; **Collaborative governance**; **Joint governance**; **Individual landowners**; **Non-profit organisations**; **For-profit organisations**; **Indigenous peoples**; **Local communities**
OWN_TYPE	**State**; **Communal**; **Individual landowners**; **For-profit organisations**; **Non-profit organisations**; **Joint ownership**; **Multiple ownership**; **Contested**
MANG_AUTH	Name of management authority
MANG_PLAN	Link or reference to the OECM's management plan
SUPP_INFO	Link or reference to supporting information on the OECM, such as details of how it fulfils each element of the OECM definition
SUB_LOC	ISO 3166-2 sub-national code where the OECM is located
PARENT_ISO3	ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 character code of country where the OECM is located
ISO3	ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 character code of country or territory where the OECM is located

Contact us:

We will be happy to provide further guidance on submitting data on OECMs. Please contact us at protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org