

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') to the Protected Planet initiative. This initiative encompasses a range of conservation-related information, including the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on OECMs (WD-OECM). Further information on these two databases is available in the [WDPA and WD-OECM Manual](#). Additional [guidelines on OECMs](#) are available from IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas.

What is the WD-OECM?

The WD-OECM is a companion database to the World Database on Protected Areas, the only global 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, and since 2018 have been further mandated to provide data on OECMs (Decision 14/8). The WD-OECM is now 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. Once the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is adopted, it is likely that both the WDPA and WD-OECM will be used for reporting on progress towards Target 2.

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 biodiversity¹ 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 oeem@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 available;
2. Basic descriptive information (see Table 1);
3. Information on the source of the data (more details in the [WDPA and WD-OECM Manual](#));
4. A signed data contributor agreement, available [here](#).

What descriptive information is required?

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.

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 WD-OECM. Assigned by UNEP-WCMC if not.
WDPA_PID	If the OECM is already listed in the WD-OECM. Assigned by UNEP-WCMC if not.
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' or 'Sacred Natural Site' (in original language))
DESIG_ENG	Name of designation in English (e.g. 'Watershed Management Area' 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)
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 the OECM has a marine component: 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 (legally 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. 0 if established.
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
CONS_OBJ	Ancillary (conservation is not a management objective, but is nevertheless a long-term and sustained outcome of management); Secondary (conservation is a secondary management objective); Primary (conservation is a primary management objective)
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 oeem@unep-wcmc.org