

What is needed for your site to be counted as a Protected Area (PA) or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM)?

Overview

- For a project area to be counted towards Canada's Target 1 (i.e., 17%), it must be a Protected Area (PA) or Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM).



Protected Area

A site that delivers enduring conservation, with conservation as the site's primary goal



Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure

A site that delivers enduring conservation, regardless of the purpose of the site

- Proposed sites must meet nine criteria in order to be countable as a PA or OECM.
- Provincial and Territorial governments recognize and report on PAs and OECMs. The Pathway Decision Support Tool (DST) (a series of questions and criteria) can help determine whether your area meets the required criteria.

Criteria for counting an area as PA or OECM to count towards Target 1

There are nine criteria outlined in the Pathway Decision Support Tool (DST) that must be met for an area to be eligible for accounting towards Target 1. The following are an introduction to the criteria. The full list and guidance can be found online at conservation2020canada.ca/accounting.

1. The area has boundaries
2. The governing authorities have the means to control activities within the boundaries
3. The governing authorities have the obligation to conserve the area
4. Conservation is year round
5. Conservation will be maintained in the long term
6. Site goals are sufficient to lead to conservation and biodiversity
7. Conservation objectives override or are not threatened by other site objectives
8. No governing authorities threaten onsite conservation
9. Biodiversity is conserved in-situ

Where can I find out more?

More information on the Pathway Decision Support Tool, including an introductory training video, the tool itself (an excel document), and case studies can be found online at [Accounting — Conservation 2020 \(conservation2020canada.ca\)](https://conservation2020canada.ca/accounting).

Where can I get help on using the Decision Support Tool or knowing if my site meets the criteria?

Recipients can reach out to the Screening Task Team at ec.ercataloguepw.ec@canada.ca with your questions. The team can help with understanding and using the Pathway Decision Support Tool, and can help prepare your argument for why your province or territory should count your area.