# Areas likely or unlikely to qualify as OECMs – IUCN 2019



(Excerpt from ‘Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures”, IUCN 2019, (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PATRS-003-En.pdf>)

Protected areas and OECMs are both expected to result in the long-term and effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity. However, whereas protected areas have nature conservation as the primary management objective, OECMs may or may not have nature conservation as an objective.

Types of approaches that deliver effective conservation in other effective area-based conservation measures:

**Primary conservation**

*“Primary conservation”—refers to areas that may meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area, but which are not officially designated as such because the governance authority does not want the area to be recognised or reported as a protected area.*

Examples can include:

• Some territories or areas (marine, freshwater or terrestrial) governed by indigenous peoples, local communities or private entities that have a primary and explicit conservation objective and deliver the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, but where the governing body wishes the territories or areas to be recognised and reported as OECMs, rather than as protected areas.

• Privately conserved areas, which are managed with a specific conservation objective but which are not recognized as protected areas under national legislation (Mitchell et al., 2018), e.g. ecosystem restoration areas in Indonesia (Utomo and Walsh, 2018\*).

• Areas that include Key Biodiversity Areas, managed in ways that deliver long-term in-situ conservation of biodiversity through, for example, regulation or other effective approaches.

• Some permanently set-aside areas of a managed forest, such as old-growth, primary, or other high-biodiversity value forests, which are protected from both forestry and non-forestry threats.

• Some natural areas managed by universities for biological research.

**Secondary conservation**

 *“Secondary conservation”—is achieved through the active management of an area where biodiversity outcomes are a secondary management objective.*

Examples can include:

• Territories and areas managed by indigenous peoples and/ or local communities (ICCAs, or sections of these areas) to maintain natural or near-natural ecosystems, with low levels of use of natural resources practised on a sustainable basis and in a way that does not degrade the area’s biodiversity. This includes coastal and marine areas where local community-based harvesting and management practices result in de facto conservation of fish populations, habitats and other associated marine biodiversity such as some locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) (Jupiter et al., 2014).

• Traditional management systems that maintain high levels of associated biodiversity. These could include certain agricultural or forest management systems that maintain native species and their habitat (e.g. Eghenter, 2018; Mwamidi et al., 2018\*).

• Urban or municipal parks managed primarily for public recreation but which are large enough and sufficiently natural to also effectively achieve the in-situ conservation of biodiversity (e.g. wild grassland, wetlands) and which are managed to maintain these biodiversity values (e.g. Gray et al., 2018).

• Military lands and waters, or portions of military lands and waters that are primarily managed for the purpose of defence, but with specific secondary objectives focused on the conservation of biodiversity. Canadian Forces Base Shilo, located in the mixed-grass prairie ecosystem of south-central Manitoba (Canada), was proposed by Canada as an OECM in 2019.

• Watersheds or other areas managed primarily for water resource management that also result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. This can include, for example, water meadows, riverine forest, coastal forests, wetlands, streams, upland catchments, or other areas managed for long-term soil and slope stabilisation, flood mitigation, or other ecosystem services (e.g. Matallana-Tobón et al., 2018\*).

• Hunting reserves that maintain natural habitats and other flora and fauna as well as viable populations of hunted and non-hunted native species.

• Areas successfully restored from degraded or threatened ecosystems, to provide important ecosystem services but which also contribute to effective biodiversity conservation, e.g. freshwater and coastal wetlands restored for flood protection.

• Areas that contribute to conservation because of their role in connecting protected areas and other areas of particular importance for the conservation of biodiversity, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of larger ecosystems (e.g. Waithaka & Warigia Njoroge, 2018\*).

**Ancillary Conservation**

 *“Ancillary conservation”—refers to areas that deliver in-situ conservation as a by-product of management activities, even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective.*

Examples can include:

* Sacred natural sites with high biodiversity values that are conserved in the long-term for their associations with one or more faith groups (e.g. Matallana-Tobón et al., 2018\*).
* Military lands and waters, or portions of military lands and waters that are managed for the purpose of defence, do not have a secondary objective of biodiversity conservation, but achieve the effective conservation of biodiversity in the long term.

**Areas and management regimes unlikely to meet the IUCN criteria as an OECM**

 *“Given the diversity of situations where OECMs can occur, it is essential that all areas being assessed should be screened carefully to evaluate each specific case.”*

* Small, semi-natural areas within an intensively-managed landscape with limited biodiversity conservation value, such as municipal parks, formal/domestic gardens, arboreta, field margins, roadside verges, hedgerows, narrow shoreline or watercourse setbacks, firebreaks, recreational beaches, marinas and golf courses.
* Forests that are managed commercially for timber supply and are intended for logging, even though they may have some conservation values and support some species of interest. Such areas should be considered as contributing to Aichi Target 7.
* Agricultural lands which are managed in a manner that limits the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. This may include, for example, pastures that are grazed too intensively to support native grassland ecosystems or species, or grasslands replanted with monocultures or non-native species for the purposes of livestock production.
* Temporary agricultural set asides, summer fallow and grant-maintained changes to agricultural practice that may benefit biodiversity.
* Conservation measures that apply to a single species or group of species, over a wide geographical range such as hunting regulations or whale-watching rules; these are better considered as being part of wider species conservation measures (Targets 5, 6, 7 and/or 12).