Other Effective Area-based Conserv
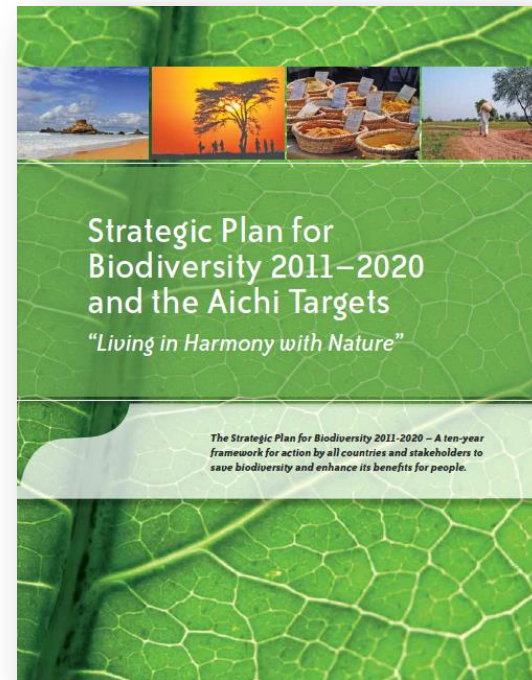**Measures (OECMs)**

Dr Kathy MacKinnon
Chair, World Commission on Protected

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

By 2020, at least **17 per cent** of terrestrial and inland water areas and **10 per cent** of coastal and marine areas, especially **areas of particular importance for biodiversity** and **ecosystem services**, are conserved through **effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative** and **well-connected systems of protected areas** **and other effective area-based conservation measures,** and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

Strategic Plan has 20 targets

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets
"Living in Harmony with Nature"

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 – A ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

A short history of the OECM concept

- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010 – Aichi Target 11
- IUCN asked to develop guidance for the Convention on Biological Diversity -- WCPA Task Force formed 2016
- Expert workshops held in U.K, Germany, Canada and potential OECMs tested in several countries – 2016- 2018
- IUCN draft guidance developed; global review – Jan 2018
- DFO developed and applied Canadian interim guidelines
- CBD Expert Workshops – February, 2018
- Consideration by CBD SBSTTA – July, 2018
- Decision 14/8 - definition and criteria COP 14, Nov. 2018

GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNISING AND REPORTING OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

(Draft) January 2018
Version 1

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/guidelines_for_recognising_and_reporting_oecms_-_january_2018.pdf
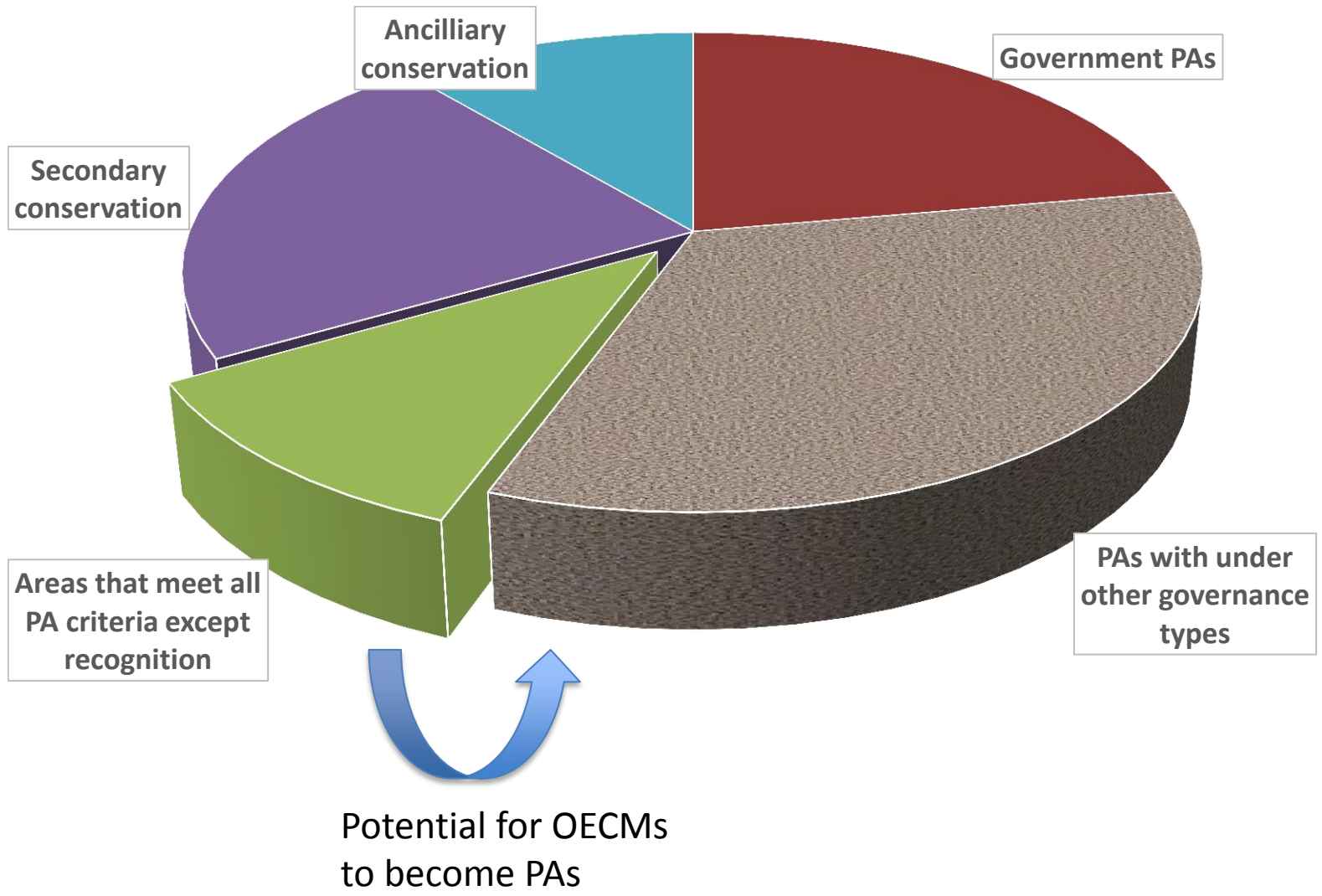
Updated post CBD decision
April 2019

3 Approaches to OECMS

Primary Conservation – meets all elements of the IUCN definition of a PA, but which are not officially recognised as a PA by the relevant national government or local governance authority e.g. some ICCAs; some LMMAs; private lands managed for conservation.

Secondary conservation - achieved through the active conservation of an area where conservation outcomes are a secondary management objective. e.g. watershed protection, some military reserves

Ancillary Conservation   - outcomes as a by-product of management activities even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective. e.g. Scapa Flow shipwwrecks/war graves; sacred sites

Ancilliary conservation

Government PAs

Secondary conservation

PAs with under other governance types

Areas that meet all PA criteria except recognition

Potential for OECMs to become PAs

OECM CBD Definition

"Other effective area-based conservation measure" means "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, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values";

*"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".

CORE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAs AND OECMs

- Protected areas must have a ***primary conservation objective***.

- The defining criterion of an OECM is that it should ***deliver*** the <u>effective</u> and enduring *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, ***regardless*** of its objectives.

CBD - Geographically Defined Space

- Size and area are described, including in three dimensions where necessary.

- Boundaries are geographically delineated.

- IUCN's guidance on applying management categories to MPAs states that there is a "general presumption against the use of vertical zoning" (marine)

CBD - Legitimate Governance Authorities

- Governance has legitimate authority and is appropriate for achieving *in situ* conservation of biodiversity within the area;

- Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities is self-identified in accordance with national legislation;

- Governance reflects the equity considerations adopted in the Convention.

- Governance may be by a single authority and/or organization or through collaboration among relevant authorities and provides the ability to address threats collectively.

- IUCN recognises 4 governance types 1) government 2) private 3) indigenous and community and 4) mixed

CBD - Managed

- Managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for biodiversity conservation.

- Relevant authorities and stakeholders are identified and involved in management.

- A management system is in place that contributes to sustaining the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity.

- Management is consistent with the ecosystem approach with the ability to adapt to achieve expected biodiversity conservation outcomes, including long-term outcomes, and including the ability to manage a new threat.

CBD - Sustained Over the Long-Term

- The other effective area-based conservation measure is in place for the long term or is likely to be.

- "Sustained" pertains to the continuity of governance and management and "long term" pertains to the biodiversity outcome.

CBD - In-Situ Conservation in Biodiversity

- Recognition of other effective conservation area measures is expected to include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is considered important (e.g. communities of rare, threatened or endangered species, representative natural ecosystems, range restricted species, key biodiversity areas, areas providing critical ecosystem functions and services, areas for ecological connectivity).

CBD - Information and Monitoring

- Identification of an OECM should, to the extent possible, document the known biodiversity attributes, as well as, where relevant, cultural and/or spiritual values, of the area and the governance and management in place as a baseline for assessing effectiveness.

- A monitoring system informs management on the effectiveness of measures with respect to biodiversity, including the health of ecosystems.

- Processes should be in place to evaluate the effectiveness of governance and management, including with respect to equity.

- General data of the area such as boundaries, aim and governance are available information.

Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values

- Ecosystem functions and services are supported, including those of importance to indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Management to enhance one particular ecosystem function and service should not impact negatively on the sites overall biological diversity.

IUCN - Examples of what might count as OECMs

Likely

- Some indigenous/community conserved areas
- Some areas in production landscapes managed for conservation rather than exploitation (e.g. ecosystem restoration area, Indonesia)
- Some watershed protection areas for cities
- Some Community Pastures with native prairie
- Some sections of military reserves with access restrictions and conservation goals and management
- Some coastal and marine areas protected for reasons other than conservation, e.g. historic wrecks

Unlikely

- Urban parks & other formal gardens
- Temporary fishing closures in place only until an overfished area recovers
- Heavily grazed grassland or grassland replanted with monocultures or non-native species for livestock
- Large, landscape or seascape scale management policies targeting a limited number of biodiversity elements (e.g. fishing or hunting restrictions on individual species)
- Production forests managed for logging even though they may have some biodiversity values

Potential areas should be screened very carefully on a case-by-case basis.
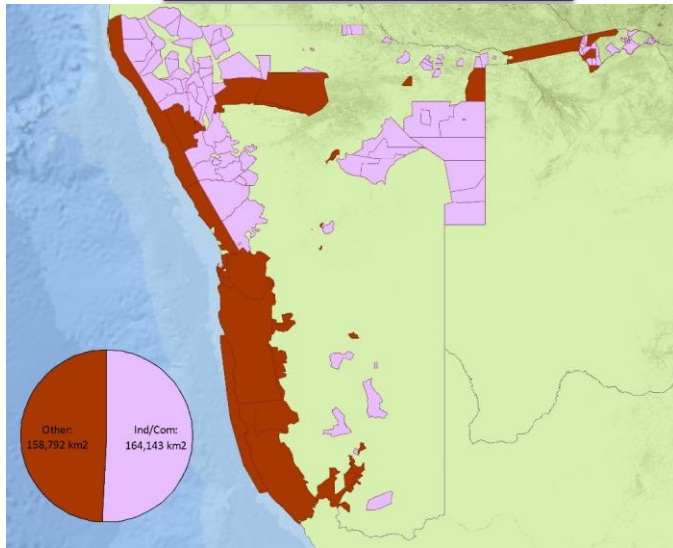
Added values of OECM

- Additional progress T11 – add to coverage targets
- OECMs recognise areas for effective conservation of biodiversity beyond national PA systems.
- Inclusive – recognise role of areas under multiple governance and management types
- Increase opportunities to meet all elements of T11 & SDGs:
  - Increased protection for important areas of biodiversity, KBAs
  - Ecological Representation, Connectivity
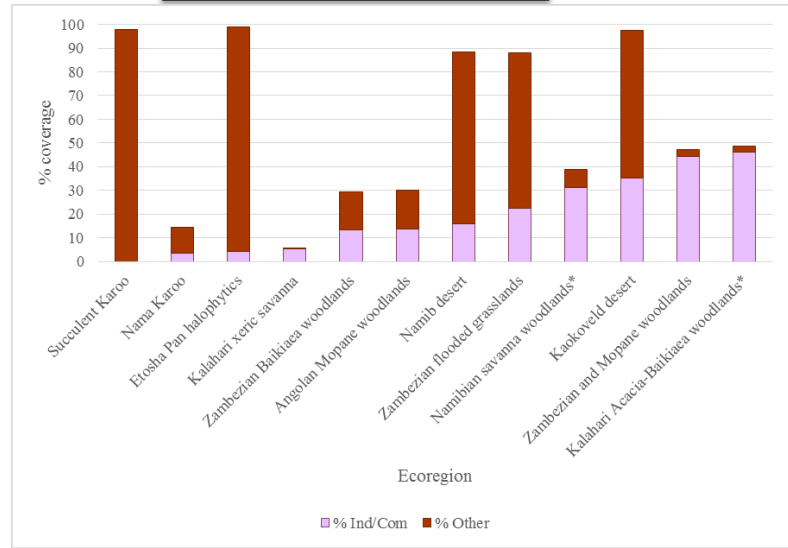 - Species communities at risk
  - Adapting to climate change

  Quality not just quantity

Contributing to conservation: areas governed and managed by local communities - Namibia

Protected Area Distribution

% Protection of Ecoregions

34 non-community/IP protected areas cover 159,000km^2; 112 communal conservancies and community forests add 164,000km^2

Source: Corrigan et al. 2018

Screening Tool

- Criterion 1: Ensure that the area is not already recorded as a protected area, or part of a PA

- Criterion 2: Ensure that the area has the essential conservation characteristics associated with an OECM, effective conservation, supportive governance and management

- Criterion 3: Ensure that the conservation outcome can be sustained longterm – e.g. by legal/other effective means

- Criterion 4: Ensure in situ area-based conservation target, rather than sustainable use, is appropriate focus

Potential OECMs should be screened on a case-by-case basis

Areas subject to industrial level exploitation should not be considered as OECMs but may contribute to other targets e.g. fisheries, forestry, agriculture

OECMs: a conservation opportunity

- CBD decision and guidance strong

- CBD request to IUCN to assist interpretation

- KBA study (Birdlife International) - many KBAs outside PA estate would meet the definition of OECM

- Canada DFO OECMs show some promise

- Maintain standards – don't count areas/measures more appropriate to other Aichi targets (e.g. T6,T7)

- Test nationally in lead up to 2020, strong implementation post 2020