



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

# Other effective area-based conservation measures: principles to guide their recognition in Australia

## Consultation paper



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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

# Executive Summary

On 19 December 2022, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*. A key aspect of the framework is the global agreement to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world's land (including inland waters) and 30% of the world's marine and coastal areas by 2030.

The Australian Government has also set a national target to protect 30% of our land and 30% of our oceans by 2030 – the national '30 by 30 target'. On 21 October 2022, environment ministers from all jurisdictions agreed to work collectively to achieve the national 30 by 30 target. Around 22% of Australia's landmass is currently in formally designated [protected areas](#) and around 45% of Australia's oceans are in marine protected areas.

Meeting a 30% target for land domestically requires an additional 60 million hectares to be protected or conserved. Both protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) can contribute to the global and national 30 by 30 targets. Australia does not currently recognise or record OECMs.

Recognition of OECMs in Australia is an opportunity to:

- give greater recognition to areas important for biodiversity where formal protected area designation is not possible or supported
- recognise biodiversity conservation action that is occurring outside formally designated protected areas
- build ecologically representative and well-connected conservation networks
- recognise Indigenous land management in circumstances where dedication as a protected area is not desirable or appropriate
- recognise conservation efforts in areas where land is managed for other purposes, such as productive landscapes.

For Australia to meet a national target, and make a strong contribution to a global 30 by 30 target, identification, recognition, recording and reporting of OECMs will be required.

In October 2022, environment ministers agreed to develop a national framework to recognise OECMs to complement growth in protected areas. A strong, nationally agreed framework to recognise OECMs as complementary to protected areas will support their consistent and robust identification.

## **Recognition of an OECM in Australia is intended to:**

- be voluntary
- require assessment of each individual, potential site
- require presence of important biodiversity values, that are to be maintained in the long-term.

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# 1 Introduction

Australia does not currently recognise or record other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This paper articulates proposed principles for the recognition of OECMs in Australia.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has led the development of this paper, in collaboration with all Australian jurisdictions. Collaborative development of an OECM framework will enable Australian jurisdictions and stakeholders to work together to consistently identify and recognise land based OECMs. Identifying and recognising OECMs in marine areas may be considered in future.

OECMs deliver effective [in-situ](#) conservation of biodiversity, regardless of primary management objectives. They are defined by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) under [Decision 14/8 Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures](#) as:

*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, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.*

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has developed guidance to assist countries to recognise OECMs within their national circumstances. Taking into account the OECM definition, the [IUCN](#) guidance (IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs 2019), experience of other nations, and the protected area requirements in Australia, this paper outlines proposed principles for the recognition of land based OECMs in Australia. Where appropriate, consistency between requirements for protected and conserved areas are proposed. These principles are intended to provide a shared understanding of what an OECM is in the Australian context.

The final principles will be incorporated into a tool for assessing the eligibility of sites for recognition as OECMs in Australia; a site assessment tool.

Implementation issues e.g. monitoring, recording, compliance and reporting are under consideration. Consultation on these issues will occur at a later date.

**The purpose of this document is to support public consultation on principles proposed to guide recognition of OECMs. We are seeking your views on the following:**

- Are there principles missing?
- Is anything unclear in the principles?
- Do the principles give you confidence that high quality / robust sites will be identified?
- Do you have a view on the minimum long-term timeframe required for an OECM?
- Do you see opportunities for OECM recognition?



## 2 What is an OECM?

OECMs are a form of [in-situ](#), area-based conservation. Both OECMs and protected areas are intended to contribute to the conservation of important biodiversity and can contribute to national and global 30 by 30 targets. OECMs are not intended to be viewed as being of lesser value than protected areas in achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes. A site can be a formal protected area, or recognised as an OECM – it cannot be both. OECMs will not contribute to the National Reserve System, which is Australia’s network of protected areas on land. Eligibility for OECM recognition will be assessed at the site level.

Protected areas have a primary conservation objective. OECMs deliver effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, regardless of primary management objectives, and are defined by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as:

*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, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.*

Note: While ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ includes the term ‘measures’, it is not the intent that measures are actions, e.g. a ‘no hunting policy’ on its own is not an OECM. As noted in the definition, OECMs are geographically defined areas.

OECMs may be managed with conservation as a primary or secondary objective, or the ancillary result of long-term management activities.

- An example of an ancillary result is the coincidental protection of habitats, such as when water supply catchment areas are protected for water quality purposes, even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective.

OECMs can have legal protection that is unrelated to the protection of species and habitats, for example, water supply catchment areas.

- These areas do not meet the protected area definition as they do not have a primary conservation objective, however, they are either managed with biodiversity conservation as a secondary objective, or biodiversity conservation outcomes are the ancillary result of the legal protection.

Due to the importance of the biodiversity values of individual sites, while examples have been given above, it is not possible to categorise broad land use categories (e.g. agricultural lands, environmental offsets) as either eligible or ineligible as OECMs.

Examples of areas that, dependent on site-specific values, may meet OECM eligibility criteria are:

- travelling stock routes, urban parks managed for recreation that are large enough and sufficiently natural to also achieve in-situ conservation of biodiversity, and natural areas managed by universities for biological research.

Examples of areas that are unlikely to meet the eligibility criteria are:

- forests managed exclusively for timber supply, agricultural grasslands that are grazed too intensively to support native grassland ecosystems and firebreaks.

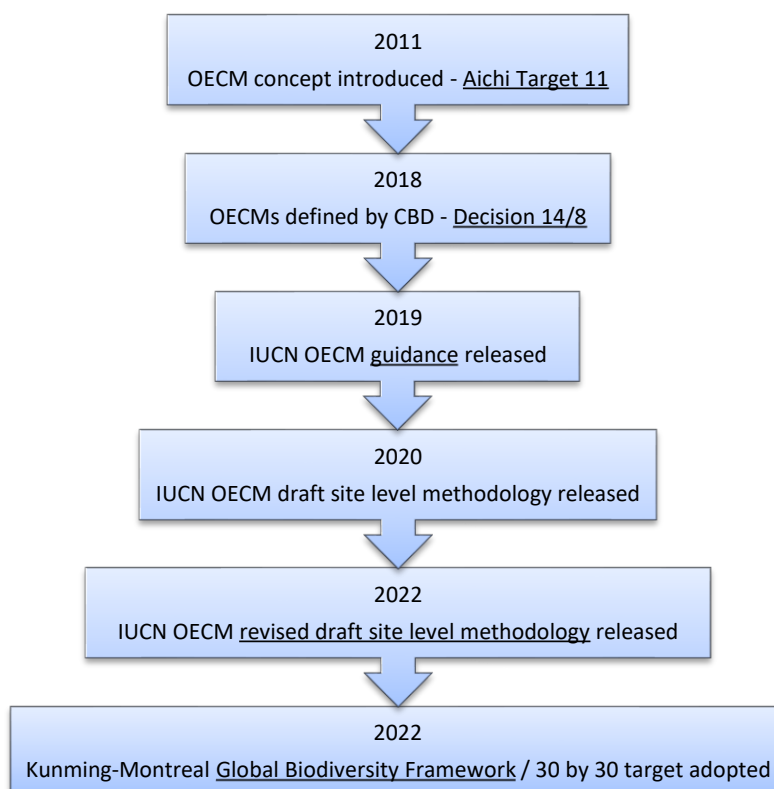
For areas with important biodiversity values but where the site does not yet meet the requirements for OECM recognition, the framework, and associated site assessment tool, will provide guidance to landholders on what is required for their site to achieve OECM recognition. For example, additional information on biodiversity values might need to be collected or changes to management arrangements made for a property to achieve OECM recognition. This could be an opportunity to strengthen conservation activities on a property.

## 2.1 The international framework to guide recognition

OECMs were introduced in Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020. The definition, IUCN guidance, and site level methodology are more recent.

Some countries have established national processes for recognising and reporting OECMs and are providing data to the World Database on OECMs. The number of OECMs being reported internationally is increasing. The [World Database on OECMs](#) (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2022) shows that there were 143 OECMs across 3 countries in December 2020, and this had increased to 775 OECMs across 9 countries in June 2022. These include land and ocean areas.

The international guidance and the experience of others has informed this paper. Canada, the European Union, South Africa, and Colombia are all actively considering / recognising OECMs, and have presented at a range of international fora.



## 3 Why are we talking about OECMs?

### 3.1 Australia's contribution to a global '30 by 30' target

Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity have negotiated a strategic plan for the period to 2030, referred to as the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF). Targets in the GBF replace the 2011-2020 Aichi biodiversity targets and guide international and national biodiversity action and investment for at least the next ten years.

Target 3, often referred to as the '30 by 30' target (see below), aims to ensure 30% of the world's land and 30% of the world's ocean is conserved by 2030 through protected areas and OECMs.

*Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.*

There are a number of global targets in the GBF that address biodiversity conservation. For example, target 2 aims to *ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of areas of the world's degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration*. This is distinct from target 3. Some areas under restoration may be better suited to being reported within Australia's contribution towards target 2, rather than towards target 3.

### 3.2 Australia's national '30 by 30' target

The Australian Government has set a national target to protect and conserve 30% of land and 30% of marine areas by 2030. All state and territory Environment Ministers have agreed to work collectively to meet the national target, and to develop a national framework for the recognition of OECMs to complement protected area growth.

Recognition of OECMs in Australia is an opportunity to:

- give greater recognition to areas important for biodiversity where formal protected area designation is not possible or supported
- recognise biodiversity conservation action that is occurring outside formally designated protected areas
- build ecologically representative and well-connected conservation networks



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- recognise Indigenous land management in circumstances where dedication as a protected area is not desirable or appropriate
- recognise conservation efforts in areas where land is managed for other purposes, such as productive landscapes.

With around 22% of Australia’s landmass currently in protected areas, meeting a 30% target for land areas domestically through protected area growth alone will be difficult. Other factors may also make achieving the 30 by 30 target difficult through formal protected areas alone, e.g. land is not always available for purchase, ecosystems are fragmented and landscapes degraded.

Identification, recognition, recording and reporting of OECMs will support Australia to meet a national target and make a strong contribution to a global 30 by 30 target. A strong, nationally agreed framework to recognise OECMs as complementary to protected areas will support their consistent and robust identification.

## 4 Principles to guide OECM recognition in Australia

This section sets out the proposed principles for the recognition of land based OECMs in Australia. The draft principles are intended to guide the type of areas that could be recognised as OECMs. Each principle is provided followed by a brief explanation. There are currently principles proposed for eleven topics.

### 4.1 Consent

#### PRINCIPLE – CONSENT

- Consent of the site’s governance authority must be obtained before an eligibility assessment is undertaken.

Assessment of a site’s eligibility, and any subsequent recognition, will be voluntary and requires the consent of the [governance authority](#). Further information on governance authorities is at [section 4.6](#).

#### 4.1.1 Free, prior and informed consent

#### PRINCIPLE – FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT

- Assessment and recognition of potential OECMs governed by First Nations people, requires the free, prior and informed consent of those governance authorities.

The concept of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a non-binding concept established through the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP 2007).

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Human Rights Council 2011) define the elements of FPIC as follows:

- Free – implies no coercion, intimidation or manipulation
- Prior – implies that consent is obtained in advance of the activity associated with the decision being made, and includes the time necessary to allow Indigenous peoples to undertake their own decision-making processes
- Informed – implies that Indigenous peoples have been provided all information relating to the activity and that information is objective, accurate and presented in a manner and form understandable to Indigenous peoples
- Consent – involves consultation being undertaken in good faith and in a culturally-safe manner, so as to facilitate full and equitable participation in a dialogue that enables the parties to find appropriate solutions in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

## 4.2 Biodiversity values

### PRINCIPLE - BIODIVERSITY VALUES

- OECMs must have important biodiversity values, documented in detail at the time of the site assessment. These values are to be maintained in the long-term.

The in-situ conservation of biodiversity is at the heart of OECM recognition. A comprehensive knowledge of a site's biodiversity values at the time a site is assessed is critical to understanding the overall value of the site. Biodiversity values should be documented in detail at the time of assessment. Sites are only eligible if they have important biodiversity values that will be maintained in the long-term.

Climate change is having widespread impacts on Australia's biodiversity. Ecological change is already occurring, with biodiversity being affected in many ways. The changing climate may make it difficult for some biodiversity values to be maintained in the long-term.

### 4.2.1 Prioritisation of areas of particular importance for biodiversity

#### PRINCIPLE – PRIORITISATION OF AREAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR BIODIVERSITY

- Areas of particular importance for biodiversity should be prioritised for assessment and designation as a formal protected area, or recognition as an OECM.

The 30 by 30 target is about protecting and conserving quality areas, not just about reaching the 30% target. One aspect of the global 30 by 30 target is ensuring [areas of particular importance for biodiversity](#) are conserved.

The identification of areas of particular importance for biodiversity in Australia may assist in guiding prioritisation of areas for assessment and designation as formal protected areas, or recognition as OECMs. Work is underway to assess methodologies for identifying areas of particular importance for biodiversity, for protection and conservation.

### 4.2.2 Restoration sites

#### PRINCIPLE – RESTORATION SITES

- A site that is severely degraded, damaged or destroyed and not yet under restoration is not appropriate for OECM recognition.
- A site under ecological restoration may be recognised as an OECM, once delivering demonstrable and significant biodiversity outcomes. Restoration actions must include actions that address the cause of the original degradation / biodiversity loss.

Only sites that are delivering the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be recognised as OECMs. Sites that are not yet being actively restored, are severely degraded, damaged, or destroyed are not appropriate for OECM recognition.

Recognising the importance of and the need to encourage restoration efforts, sites that are under active, demonstrably effective restoration activities, and already delivering significant biodiversity outcomes may be recognised.

Restoration actions would need to include actions that address the cause of the original degradation / biodiversity loss. Additional monitoring may be required. Regular use of monitoring tools that measure or identify habitat condition may be required to track the level of restoration that is occurring, with set minimum thresholds for improvement.

Restoration activities that are not able to contribute to the 30 by 30 target could form part of Australia's contribution towards target 2 under the CBD *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*. Target 2 is focused on degraded areas of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems being under effective restoration.

## 4.3 Protected area consideration

#### PRINCIPLE - PROTECTED AREA CONSIDERATION

- A site's suitability for protected area designation should be considered first. Suitability for OECM recognition should be considered in circumstances where formal protected area designation is not appropriate, achievable or desirable.

Protected area designation should be considered in the first instance, particularly for areas of very high biodiversity value. Protected areas provide the strongest, long-term legal protection of biodiversity via either legislative means or conservation covenants recorded on land title. They are managed in accordance with established IUCN protected area management categories, and contribute to the National Reserve System.

OECMs are a complementary mechanism to build Australia's protected and conserved areas. While there is no legal protection, they provide opportunities to protect natural areas and mitigate risks from human activities. OECM recognition should be considered for areas that do not meet the protected area definition, or where formal protected area designation is not possible or supported. For example:

- Where biodiversity conservation is a primary objective, but there are impediments to applying formal protected area designation, e.g. pastoral leasehold lands where lease requirements do not allow for a protective mechanism such as a covenant, but do allow for conservation.
- Where the primary purpose is not biodiversity conservation, but the land is managed for biodiversity conservation as a secondary or ancillary purpose, e.g. urban parklands.
- Where connectivity can be achieved between existing protected areas, but the connecting land has a primary purpose not compatible with protection.

There may be instances where neither protection nor OECM recognition are feasible, and other conservation options may be available.

There may be a range of entry points for a site to be considered for protection or conservation. For example, a site may be located within a region identified as an area of particular importance for biodiversity; or it may be identified through a jurisdictional mechanism, or put forward by a landholder for consideration. A decision can then be made as to whether a site should be considered for protection, or recognition as an OECM.

## 4.4 Geographically defined area

### PRINCIPLE - GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED AREA

- OECMs must be geographically defined, that is, have clear and agreed boundaries that can be accurately identified on maps and on the ground.

OECM boundaries must be clear and agreed, and of a sufficient size to achieve the long-term in-situ conservation of biodiversity, including all ecosystems, habitats and species communities for which the site is important. Given the site specific nature of scale, no minimum or maximum site size is proposed.

- Where a proposed OECM is part of a larger property, the footprint of the OECM must be clearly described, to differentiate it from other parts of the property.
- In instances where boundaries are in dispute, e.g. where there is an unresolved native title claim, OECM recognition would not be appropriate until the claim is settled, or where there is a clear, established process in place in a jurisdiction. For example, the [NSW Biodiversity Conservation on Crown Lands Policy](#) addresses native title claims.

## 4.5 Land tenure

### PRINCIPLE - LAND TENURE

- OECMs can be recognised on all forms of land tenure in Australia.
- To be recognised on leasehold land, conservation must be compatible with lease conditions / legislation.

Distinct from land use, land tenure in Australia is the legal mechanism under which land is owned, e.g. Crown land, leasehold, freehold etc. It is proposed that, OECMs be recognised on all forms of land tenure.

There are circumstances where OECM recognition may not be possible or appropriate:

- Similar to protected areas, there may be impediments to the recognition of OECMs on leasehold land, including the compatibility of conservation with lease terms, and duration of leases. Noting that pastoral lease requirements vary between jurisdictions, it is suggested that leased land only be eligible if conservation is compatible with lease conditions / governing legislation, and the lease is of a long-term nature.
- Where there is an unresolved native title claim, OECM recognition would not be appropriate until the claim is settled (or there is an established process in place in jurisdictions – see section 4.4), given that agreed demarcated boundaries are required for OECM recognition.

## 4.6 Governance

### PRINCIPLE - GOVERNANCE

- The following governance types will be recognised: governments; private individuals or organisations; First Nations people; and shared or jointly managed areas.

Recognised governance types for OECMs are proposed to be the same as those identified for protected areas in [Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009-2030](#) - governments, private individuals or organisations, First Nations people, and shared management areas.

## 4.7 Site management

### PRINCIPLES – SITE MANAGEMENT

- Management objectives and activities must not be incompatible with biodiversity conservation.
- Sites with a primary or secondary conservation objective should have a site management plan or arrangement that includes (at a minimum), a section on biodiversity conservation that outlines the conservation objectives for the site, adaptive management actions, and relevant jurisdictional land management requirements.
- Sites should meet minimum management requirements set by jurisdictions, relating to invasive / feral species management, fire risk management, and any other minimum requirements set out in jurisdictions' regulations.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in caring for Country should be considered in OECM management arrangements.

Management activities must not be incompatible with biodiversity conservation. For example, environmentally damaging activities that impact biodiversity outcomes should not occur on the site. If there is a distinct footprint where incompatible activities may occur, that area may be excluded from the OECM.

Sustainable use that is consistent with conservation outcomes is allowable. Sustainable use is defined under the CBD as the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations ([CBD Article 2](#)).

Recognising that biodiversity conservation does not have to be a primary management objective for OECMs, management arrangements for a site may not relate only to biodiversity conservation. Where the primary objective of a site's management is not biodiversity conservation, but it is a secondary objective, site management arrangements should include, at a minimum, a section on biodiversity conservation that outlines the conservation objectives for the site, actions to adaptively manage it, and relevant jurisdictional land management requirements.

Sites should be actively managed to comply with the relevant jurisdiction's existing land management requirements / regulations relating to invasive / feral species management, fire risk management, and any other minimum land management requirements.

Given the long-term nature of OECMs, and consistent with the requirement for formally designated protected area sites, OECM sites should be managed adaptively, including in response to the changing climate.

For ancillary OECMs, i.e. where biodiversity conservation is not a primary or secondary management objective, references to biodiversity conservation in management arrangements is not required.

Where appropriate, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in caring for Country should be considered in OECM management arrangements. First Nations peoples have managed the Australian landscape for over 65,000 years, through changing seasons, shifting climates, and across all environments.



## 4.8 Sustained long-term

### PRINCIPLE – SUSTAINED LONG-TERM

For a site to be recognised as an OECM with a primary or secondary biodiversity conservation management objective, and ancillary OECMs where applicable, at a minimum, there must be:

- a clear long-term intention for the continuation of management arrangements that deliver in-situ biodiversity conservation outcomes
- a commitment to a minimum timeframe for management arrangements that deliver in-situ biodiversity conservation outcomes, determined at the time of site assessment
- no intention to sell or develop the site in a manner incompatible with biodiversity conservation
- no land use zoning on the site that is incompatible with biodiversity conservation.

OECM recognition in Australia requires a clear, long-term intention for management and governance arrangements for a site to continue, and a commitment, at the time of assessment, to a minimum timeframe for biodiversity conservation arrangements.

At the time of assessment, there should be no intention to sell or develop a site in a manner that is incompatible with biodiversity conservation. This indicates a long-term management intent, rather than an absolute prohibition on sale or development of a site. For example, sites could be sold through conservation revolving funds due to ongoing requirements for management activities to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes.

## 5 Examples

Below are examples that illustrate how some of the principles will work in practice to guide the recognition of OECMs. These are for illustrative purposes only to help with understanding of the principles. Any specific circumstance would have to be assessed at the site level to determine if OECM recognition is desirable or appropriate.

### 1) Example 1: Urban parks

*Scenario: Two local councils want to report their recreational urban parks as OECMs to recognise conservation efforts of their residents. One of the parks is significantly larger than the other. Can both become OECMs?*

Outcome: As recreation is the primary management objective, both parks cannot be formally designated as protected areas, so OECM recognition is the right mechanism (section 4.3). Site assessment that specifically examines in-situ biodiversity is required. There is no minimum size requirement for an OECM, however, the site must be large enough and sufficiently natural to achieve in-situ conservation of biodiversity. While the larger park may be more likely to achieve this, it could be that the smaller park provides remnant habitat for some species. Both parks would need to have site management arrangements that include (at a minimum), a section on biodiversity conservation that outlines the conservation objectives for the sites, adaptive management actions, and relevant

jurisdictional land management requirements (section 4.7). Both councils would also have to give a clear indication that they intend to continue the management arrangements that deliver in-situ biodiversity conservation outcomes in the long-term (section 4.8).

2) Example 2: Water supply catchment area that is legally protected

*Scenario: A water supply catchment area has high biodiversity values, and has legal protection in place for water supply purposes. The land managers are comfortable with the OECM recognition as long as it doesn't mean extra work.*

Outcome: This is an example of an ancillary OECM where conservation is an ancillary result of long-term management activities that are conducted to achieve an unrelated outcome. For ancillary OECMs, i.e. where biodiversity conservation is not a primary or secondary management objective, references to biodiversity conservation in management arrangements is not required (section 4.7). The landowner would have to demonstrate long-term intent for the continuation of management arrangements that deliver in-situ biodiversity conservation outcomes (section 4.8).

3) Example 3: A farm

*Scenario: A farm has been proposed as a potential OECM. The landowner does not want to have the land recognised as an OECM even though the property has important habitat for a listed threatened species and would make a valuable contribution to Australia's protected and conserved areas.*

Outcome: Assessment and recognition as an OECM is voluntary. OECM recognition will not be imposed on landowners, and consent is fundamental (section 4.1).

## 6 Next steps

This consultation process is an opportunity to input to how OECMs will be recognised in Australia. We will consider your feedback and use it to further inform development of the OECM framework. We will also continue to follow how other countries are recognising and reporting OECMs.

Once finalised, guiding principles will be incorporated into a site level assessment tool.

Consultation will be undertaken on implementation issues over the coming months. This will include consideration of the initial site assessment process, whether OECMs should be recorded in the [Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database](#) (CAPAD) or in a separate database, reporting of OECM statistics domestically and internationally, and monitoring and compliance requirements.

# Glossary

Term	Definition
Areas of particular importance for biodiversity	<a href="#">Aichi Target 11 Quick Guide</a> '...areas high in species richness or threatened species, threatened biomes and habitats, areas with particularly important habitats (key biodiversity areas, high conservation value areas, important plant areas, sensitive marine areas etc.) and areas which are important for the continued provision of ecosystem services (such as areas important for water supply, erosion control, sacred sites, etc).'
<a href="#">Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009-2030</a>	Agreed by all Australian governments in 2009, sets priority actions and targets for a nationally coordinated approach to establishing and managing the National Reserve System.
<a href="#">CAPAD</a>	The Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database (CAPAD) is the national database with information on Australia's protected areas. CAPAD is published every 2 years. CAPAD is compiled using data from state and territory governments and non-government organisations.
Governance authority	The institution, individual, indigenous peoples or communal group or other body acknowledged as having authority and responsibility for decision-making and management of an area (IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs 2019)
In-situ conservation of biodiversity	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 ( <a href="#">CBD Article 2</a> ).
<a href="#">IUCN</a>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<a href="#">National Reserve System</a>	A system of formally recognised parks, reserves and protected areas on public, private and Indigenous land dedicated to the long-term protection of Australia's biodiversity. It is comprised of national parks and nature reserves, Indigenous Protected Areas, private protected areas and shared management areas.
Protected areas	Australian protected areas eligible to be included in the National Reserve System. Note – these are not protected areas under the EPBC Act, nor are they protected places as identified in the Threatened Species Action Plan.

## References

Convention on Biological Diversity 2022, Conference of the Parties, [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), accessed 13 January 2023.

IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs 2019, [Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures](#), Gland, Switzerland, accessed January 2023.

UNDRIP 2007, [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), adopted on 13 September 2007, accessed January 2023.

UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2022, [Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas \(WDPA\) and World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures \(WD-OECM\)](#), Cambridge: UK, accessed June 2022.

UN Human Rights Council (2011). [Final report of the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making: report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), Geneva: UN, accessed January 2023.