



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
Male', Republic of Maldives

Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Final Assessment

Potential OECM; CROSSROADS Potential OECM

CRITERIA	RESPONSE		
	YES	UNCERTAIN	NO
SCREENING			
Criterion 1: The site is not a PA	x		
Criterion 2: There is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values	x		
FINAL ASSESSMENT			
Criterion 3: The site is a geographically defined area	x		
Criterion 4: The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values	x		
Criterion 5: Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site	x		
Criterion 6: Governance and management of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the in-situ conservation of important biodiversity values.	x		
Criterion 7: In-situ conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be for the long term.	x		

- A site with a **'YES' response to every criterion** is a confirmed OECM, subject to consent and approval by the governing authority.
- A site with a combination of **'YES' and 'UNCERTAIN' responses or all 'UNCERTAIN' responses**, remains a candidate OECM, until further information or other changes allow it to be confirmed as an OECM.
- A site with **one or more 'NO' responses** in the full assessment stage, is not currently an OECM but might be re-assessed in the future if a change at the site means that all criteria are now met.



Final Assessment: Recognising an OECM

Potential OECM: Crossroads Potential OECM

Criterion and Response

Criterion	Questions	Response			Justification
		YES	UNCERTAIN	NO	
Criterion 3: The site is a geographically defined area.	Does the site have clear boundaries?	x			<i>The site has clear boundaries delineated and registered with the governing authority overseeing tourism policies and regulation in the Maldives.</i>
Criterion 4: The site is <u>confirmed</u> to support important biodiversity values	Does information confirm that the site supports at least one of the following important biodiversity values?	x			<i>Overall, the site supports majority of the values identified under this criteria, as given below. The site does not support or is uncertain for the values 2 and 4. This includes ecosystems under represented in PA networks, and endemic or range restricted species or ecosystems. The responses and justifications for each of the biodiversity value is given below. As majority of the values received a YES response, the overall response for the criteria is YES.</i>
	1. Rare, threatened or endangered species and ecosystems.	x			<i>Vulnerable, Endangered, and Critically Endangered species (24 species) have been identified within the Potential OECM and adjacent sites. Page 87-90 of the Ecological Survey Report identifies all IUCN Red List Species identified.</i>
	2. Natural ecosystems that are under-represented in protected area networks.			x	<i>Does not include natural ecosystems that are under-represented in protected area network in the Maldives.</i>



	3. High level of ecological integrity or intactness.	x			<i>The 3 sites of the Potential OECM have been identified to have high level of ecological integrity or intactness, compared to the adjacent reef area. Ecological survey carried out by the Ministry and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (now the Environmental Regulatory Authority (ERA)) in 2024 identified these 3 sites to be the most ecologically intact areas. Surveys carried out by the Crossroads OECM team in 2025 show that the status of the sites are either improving or do not have significant changes compared to 2023 and 2024.</i> <i>It is important to note that the Potential OECM site is within a reclaimed lagoon. The reclamation was carried out between 2017-2019. Therefore, the impact of this reclamation has been taken into account during this assessment.</i>
	4. Significant population/extent of endemic or range-restricted species or ecosystems.			x	<i>None recorded as of 2025.</i>
	5. Important species aggregations, such as spawning, breeding or feeding area.	x			<i>As per the ecological survey report, dolphin aggregation has been observed within site 3 of the Potential OECM between January - April and within the nearby channel from May- October. All cetaceans are legally protected in the Maldives, under the Fisheries Act (Law no. 4/2019).</i>
	6. Importance for ecological connectivity as part of a network of sites in a larger area.	x			<i>The site is nearby the Emboodhoo kan'duolhi Marine Protected Area (WDPA ID: 81026).</i>



Criterion 5: Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site	Is there one or more institution(s) or mechanism(s) that govern(s) and manage(s) the site?	x			<i>The site is governed by the resort (governance by private sector). It is managed under the Crossroads OECM Management Unit and is supported by the operating partners, as identified in the Management Plan. Pages 36-45 of the Management Plan identifies the governance and management strategies for the area.</i>
Criterion 6: Governance and mangement of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the <i>in-situ</i> conservation of important biodiversity values.	Do the governance and management of the site prevent and mitigate threats, and conserve the site's important biodiversity values, or are they expected to do so?	x			<i>The resort management is responsible for implementing management actions/strategies identified in the management plan, conduct daily patrols, monitoing, reporting and compliance, as well as engaging with stakeholders and local communities adjacent to the resort. Chapter 4 (pg. 14-35) of the Management plan provides risk assessments, strategies and action plans, chapter 7 (pg. 47-52) focuses on the enforcement and compliance and chapter 8 (pg. 53) identifies the monitoring and evaluation framework for the area.</i>



Criterion 7: In-situ conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be long-term	Is there a reasonable likelihood that the important biodiversity values for which the site is identified will be conserved in-situ in the long-term?	x			- The management plan identifies strategies for management, threat mitigation, restoration etc. and key roles and responsibilities are assigned to a designated unit for the OECM management. Roles and responsibilities of this unit are clearly defined. - The management plan also includes a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the sites. The management model for the Potential OECM is designed to meet the IUCN Green List standards and one of the identified long-term goals is to achieving Green List readiness for the OECM. - The sites are within the boundary of Crossroads Maldives Resort, which is leased - lessee for 50 years. The resort also has submitted a letter of commitment along with the Expression of Interest (EOI) application, where the resort commits to implementing the management and monitoring plans for the area. Furthermore, as Crossroads consists of multiple operating partners, the resort has also submitted letters of commitment from each of the partner hotels. - Should the area be recognised, the OECM status will be evaluated every 5 years, based on annual monitoring reports submitted by the resort owner as per the OECM Guidelines. Along with the Expression of Interest (EOI), the resort has submitted a letter indicating their commitment to conserving the area.
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