Course syllabus

Introduction to Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Module 1: Basic terminology: what is an OECM?

Module 1 sets out the definition of an OECM, the origins of this important framework, and provides guidance on the difference between OECMs and protected areas. It discusses the criteria for identifying OECMs agreed upon by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a simple typology of governance and management options for OECMs, and the relevance of social and economic values in OECMs.

What OECMs are, why they matter, and how they contribute to global biodiversity goals. Understand the key terms and how OECMs differ from protected areas.

Module 2: Key considerations and enabling conditions

Module 2 reviews the benefits of identifying and reporting OECMs; underscores the importance of rights, participation, and transparency in OECM-related processes; provides advice about elements of national OECM processes; and discusses the importance of laws and policies as enabling conditions for OECMs.

Explore governance types and management practices that support OECMs, and understand the enabling conditions needed for their long-term effectiveness.

Module 3: Identification: site-level assessment tool

Module 3 introduces IUCN WCPA's *Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)* and underscores the importance of rights-based approaches and consent. It details the three steps for identifying an OECM, namely: screening, consent, and full assessment. It also reviews and discusses the application of the eight criteria used in the site-level assessment tool. Lastly, it includes two short optional topics explaining how new OECMs can be created and how ecological restoration might proceed within OECMs.

How to assess potential OECMs using the site-level assessment tool and apply it in practical, real-world contexts.

Module 4: Reporting and Monitoring OECMs

The first part of Module 4 explains the processes involved in reporting OECMs, with a focus on the global Protected Planet databases managed by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The second part offers guidance on monitoring OECMs. The final part helps you distinguish between what to report for Target 3 and Target 10.

How to report OECMs to national systems and the World Database on OECMs, and support their ongoing monitoring and review.

Module 5: Strengthening OECMs

This module highlights the need to enhance the capacity of supportive actors to support OECMs, improve management and monitoring of OECMs, enhance legal recognition, secure funding, and protect OECMs and their defenders.

Explore practical ways to improve and sustain the effectiveness of OECMs over time through adaptive management and stakeholder collaboration.