

IUCN WCPA Technical Note Series No. 1:

Privately protected areas: international reporting and their relationship with OECMs

IUCN defines a **privately protected area** (PPA) as a protected area under private governance - i.e. individuals and groups of individuals; non-governmental organisations; corporations – both existing commercial companies and sometimes corporations set up by groups of private owners to manage groups of PPAs; for-profit owners; research entities or religious entities.

In 2018, signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provided a definition of “**other effective area-based conservation measures**”¹ (OECMs), bringing clarity to the wording of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

of the CBD. Protected areas have nature conservation as a primary management objective, **OECMs** are areas of effective *in situ* nature conservation as an objective. OECMs come in

various forms (e.g. nature conservation as a by-product of management, i.e. where the primary objective is not nature conservation, e.g. some military training grounds).

OECMs are areas where biodiversity outcomes are a *secondary* objective (e.g. management areas);

OECMs are areas that meet the definition of a protected area, but where the governance

⁴ does not wish the area to be reported as a protected area. This is likely to be a relatively rare category of OECM, and would be used to avoid unintended consequences, such as in countries where government regulations forbid human occupation in a protected area.

Reporting PPAs

It has become apparent that guidance is needed about how PPAs might be reported on internationally in cases where the **governance authority** recognises them as protected areas but the **government** does not report them to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress confirmed that *privately protected areas should be recognised as protected areas*.⁵

¹ refers to the en

However, some governments have not reported all types of protected areas or OECMs to the WDPA and World Database on OECMs (WD-OECM) in the past, either because they decided not to, or are not aware that these areas can be reported. In further instances, governments may not have access to the necessary data for reporting. In all such cases PPAs and private OECMs may still be reported, and additional guidance and

For more information on PPAs see: <http://privateconservation.net/index.html>

For more information on OECMs see: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/oecms>

For further guidance on reporting to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM, please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org

References and sources of further information

- Bingham, H., Fitzsimons, J.A., Redford, K.H., et al. 2017. Privately protected areas: advances and challenges in guidance, policy and documentation. *PARKS* 23(1):13–28. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland. https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/PARKS-23.1-Bingham-et-al-10.2305IUCN.CH_.2017.PARKS-23-1HB.en_.pdf
- Convention on Biological Diversity. 2018. *Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (Decision 14/8)*. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-08-en.pdf>
- Donald, P.F., Buchanan, G.M., Balmford, A., et al. 2019. The prevalence, characteristics and effectiveness of Aichi ~~target~~ -based conservation measures" (OECMs) in Key Biodiversity Areas. *Conservation Letters*. e12659. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12659>
- Dudley, N. (Editor). 2008. *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86pp. WITH Stolton, S., P. Shadie and N. Dudley (2013). *IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21, IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.
- IUCN-WCPA. 2019. *Recognising and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures. Technical Report*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.
- Mitchell, B.A., Stolton, S., Bezaury-Creel, J., et al. 2018. *Guidelines for privately protected areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 29. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-029-En.pdf>
- Mitchell, B., J. Fitzsimons, C. Stevens, et al. 2018. 'PPA or OECM? Differentiating between privately protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures on private land'. *PARKS* 24 (Special issue). IUCN: Gland, Switzerland. https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PARKS-24-SI-Mitchell-et-al-10.2305-IUCN.CH_.2018.PARKS-24-SIBAM.en_.pdf
- Stolton, S., Redford, K.H. and Dudley, N. 2014. *The Futures of Privately Protected Areas*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PATRS-001.pdf>
- UNEP-WCMC. 2019. *User Manual for the World Database on Protected Areas and world database on other effective area-based conservation measures: 1.6*. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual

This IUCN WCPA Technical Note No. 1 should be cited as:

Bingham, H., Dudley, N., Jonas, H., Marnewick, D., Mitchell, B., Stevens, C. and Stolton, S. 2020. *Privately protected areas: international reporting and their relationship with OECMs*, IUCN WCPA Technical Note No. 1, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 3pp.

