Other effective conservation measures based on area (OECMs): conceptual guide and guidelines for their identification and monitoring in Central America

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International context

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. (CBD, 2018).

- Different contributions to the conservation of biodiversity are recognized in the territories. Not only protected areas.

- The CBD Work Program (2003) guides that protected area systems should recognize other categories

- The Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity (2011-2020) establishes in Goal 11 that biodiversity conservation objectives can be achieved through systems of protected areas and OECMs.

CBD Decision 14/8. Guiding principles

- OECMs must conserve biodiversity values.
- They represent an opportunity to preserve these values in the long term.
- They contribute significantly to the conservation of ecosystems, functions, and services; therefore, they contribute to conservation networks.
- They are comparable and complementary with protected areas that are effective in maintaining biodiversity conservation results and contributing to the ecological connectivity of protected area networks.

A new global framework for nature management until 2030

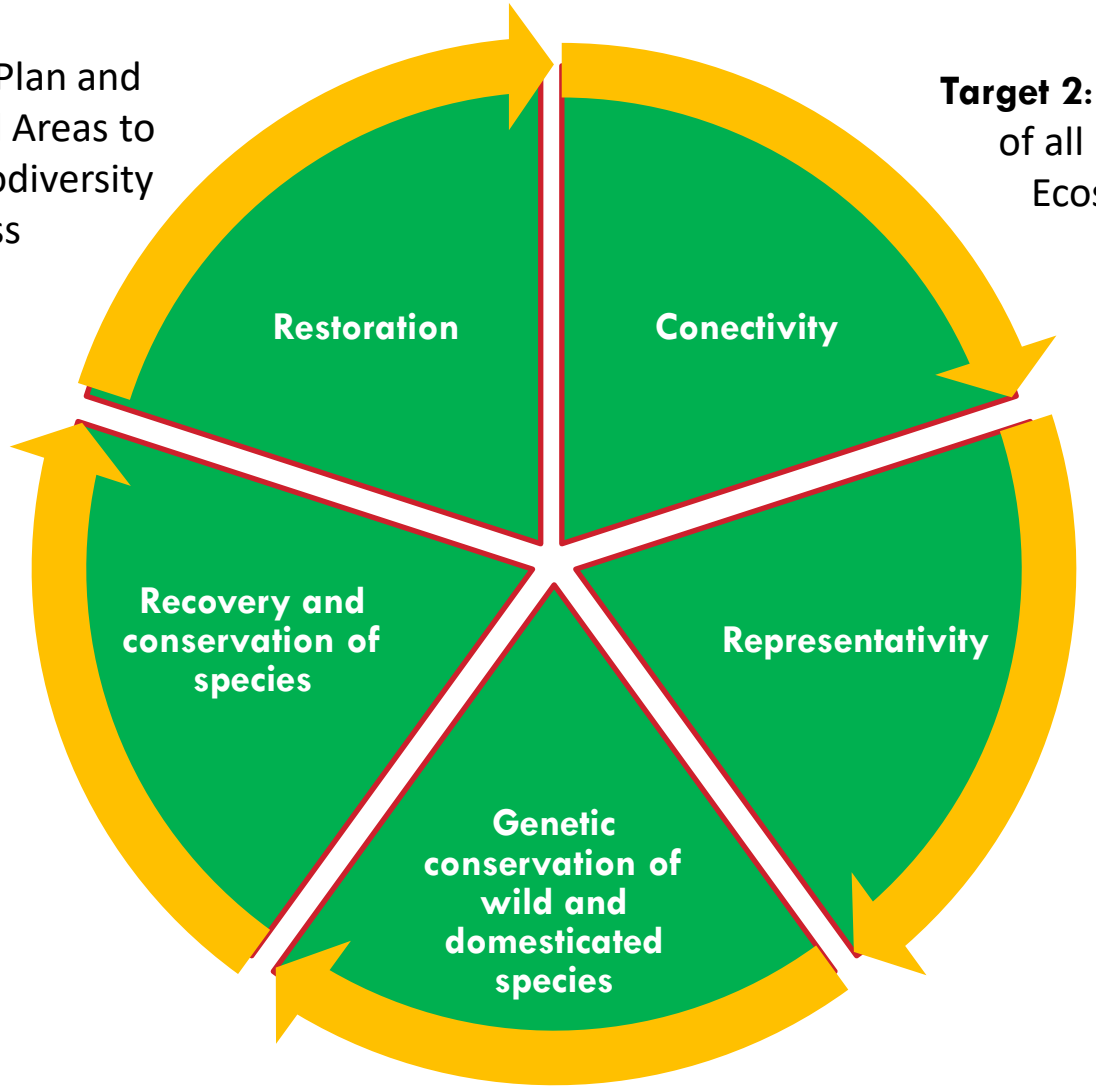
The Framework comprises 23 goals and 10 “milestones” proposed for 2030, on the path to “living in harmony with nature” by 2050. Key objectives include:

- Ensure that at least 30% of the world's terrestrial and marine areas, especially areas of importance for biological diversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through protected area systems and other effective conservation measures based on areas and integrated into the broader seascapes, fairly and equitably.
- Prevent or reduce the rate of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species.
- Reduce nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, pesticides by at least two-thirds, and eliminate the discharge of plastic waste.
- Use ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Redirect, reuse, reform, or eliminate incentives harmful to biodiversity
- Increase financial resources from all sources to at least US$200 billion per year.

OECMs and their contribution to the targets of the post 2030 framework

Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems



Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

Criteria for the identification of OECMs

Criterion A

Area is not currently recognized as a protected area

Criterion B

Area is governed and managed

Criterion C

Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity

Criterion D

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

Governance Types (Bornini-Feyerabend 2014)

Governance Type	Sub-types
Type A. Governance by government	• Federal or national ministry or agency in charge • Sub-national ministry or agency in charge (e.g., at regional, provincial, municipal level) • Government-delegated management (e.g., to an NGO)
Type B. Shared governance	• Transboundary governance (formal arrangements between one or more sovereign States or Territories) • Collaborative governance (through various ways in which diverse actors and institutions work together) • Joint governance (pluralist board or other multy-party governing body)
Type C. Private governance	• Conserved areas established and run by: ¤ individual landowners ¤ non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities) ¤ for-profit organisations (e.g., corporate landowners)
Type D. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities	• Indigenous peoples' conserved territories and areas – established and run by indigenous peoples • Community conserved areas and territories – established and run by local communities

Element that defines an OECM

Effective long-term conservation results, regardless of its objectives.

Key questions in the identification of OECMs

Is there important biodiversity in the area?

Is it a protected area?

Do those responsible for governance and management agree that the area could be considered an OECM?

Has it been stated that the area should rather be considered under Goals 5 and 10 on sustainable development?

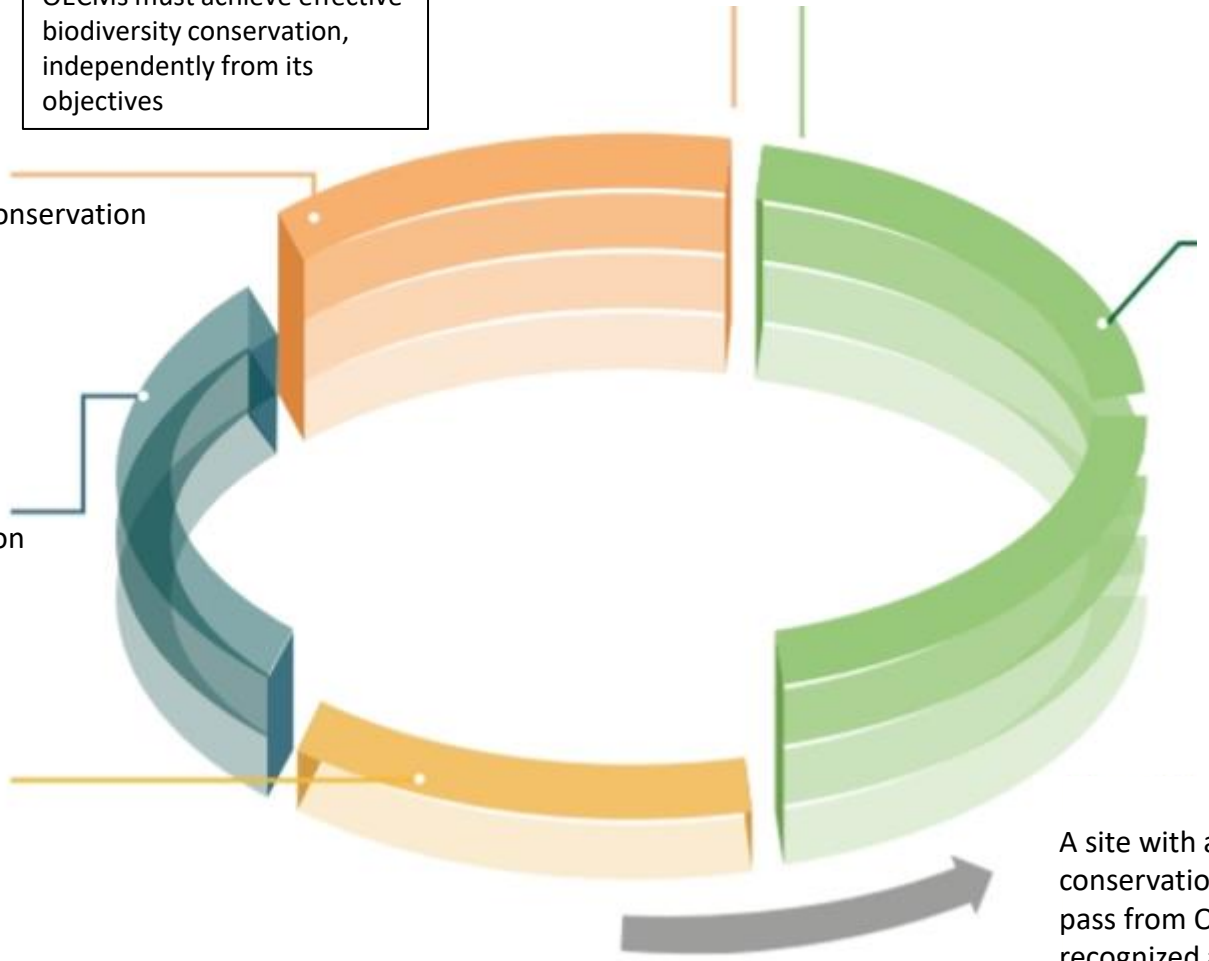
Criteria for the identification of OECMs

Criterion A	Criterion B	Criterion C	Criterion D
Area is not currently recognized as a protected area	Area is governed and managed	Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity	Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values
• .	• Under the authority of a specific entity or several, under an agreement. Defined governance. • It is managed to obtain positive results. It involves authorities and rights holders in management.	• They must be effective in achieving long-term biodiversity conservation. • Governance and management sustained over time • Provide biodiversity conservation results (representativeness, connectivity, ecosystem services).	• Many OECMs can respond to ensure ecosystem functions and services. • They include areas where the protection of species and habitats and the management of biodiversity can be achieved as part of cultural practices and associated values.

OECMS

PROTECTED AREAS

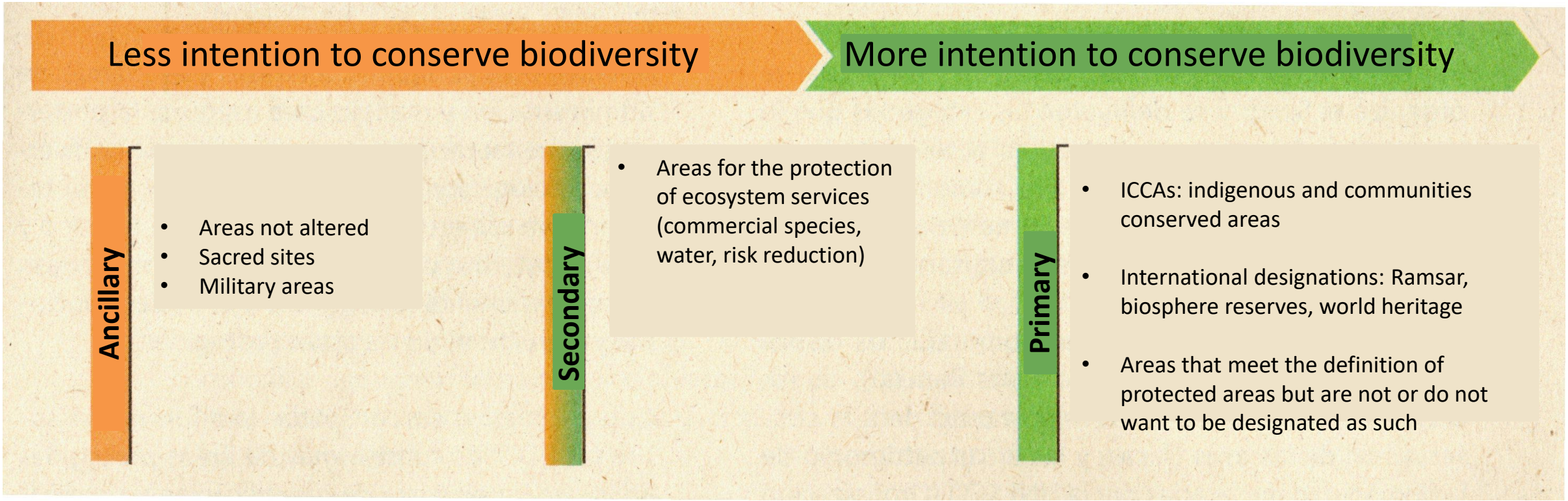
OECMs must achieve effective biodiversity conservation, independently from its objectives



"Primary conservation"—refers to areas that may meet all elements of the IUCN definition of a protected area, but which are not officially designated as such because the governance authority does not want the area to be recognised or reported as a protected area. For example, in some instances indigenous peoples and local communities may not want areas of high biodiversity value that they govern to be designated as protected areas or recorded in government protected area databases. Assuming an area meets the OECM criteria, the governance authority has the right to withhold or give its consent to the area being recognised as an OECM.

"Secondary conservation"—is achieved through the active management of an area where biodiversity outcomes are a secondary management objective. For example, enduring watershed protection policies and management may result in effective protection of biodiversity in watersheds, even though the areas may be managed primarily for objectives other than conservation. Sites managed to provide ecological connectivity between protected areas or other areas of high biodiversity, thereby contributing to their viability, may also qualify as OECMs.

"Ancillary conservation"—refers to areas that deliver in-situ conservation as a by-product of management activities, even though biodiversity conservation is not a management objective. For example, Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands protects shipwrecks and war graves. This protection has led to the ancillary conservation of important biodiversity (see Box 3).


Less intention to conserve biodiversity
More intention to conserve biodiversity
Ancillary
Areas not altered
Sacred sites
Military areas
Secondary
Areas for the protection of ecosystem services (commercial species, water, risk reduction)
Primary
ICCAs: indigenous and communities conserved areas
International designations: Ramsar, biosphere reserves, world heritage
Areas that meet the definition of protected areas but are not or do not want to be designated as such

Examples of OECMs.

Probable	Not probable
Indigenous lands / communities' lands	Urban parks
Some marine and coastal areas that are protected for reasons other than biodiversity conservation (for example, sites with permanent fishing bans)	Temporary fishing bans
Some watersheds or part of them that serve cities.	Grasslands used intensively for cattle
	Seascapes or landscapes with objectives focused on the management/conservation of a limited number of biodiversity elements (for example, particular bans for individual species)
	Oceanic areas or forest management areas for large scale extraction

Potential OECMs according to Costa Rica's legal framework

- Biological corridors
- Private reserves (not declared as protected areas)
- Responsible Fishing Areas
- Biosphere reserves (sections not declared as protected areas)
- Fishing polygons and other restricted areas
- Lands managed for water conservation for communities
- Properties part of payment for environmental services programs or similar schemes
- Indigenous lands
- Lands owned by government institutions, municipalities, universities, demonstration farms

Guide for the ID of OECMs

- IUCN Guide – CBD Resolution
- Published scientific articles
- Input from the Colombian process
- Input from the Costa Rican process
- OECMs Guide for fishing

Worshops for the shared development of the Guide

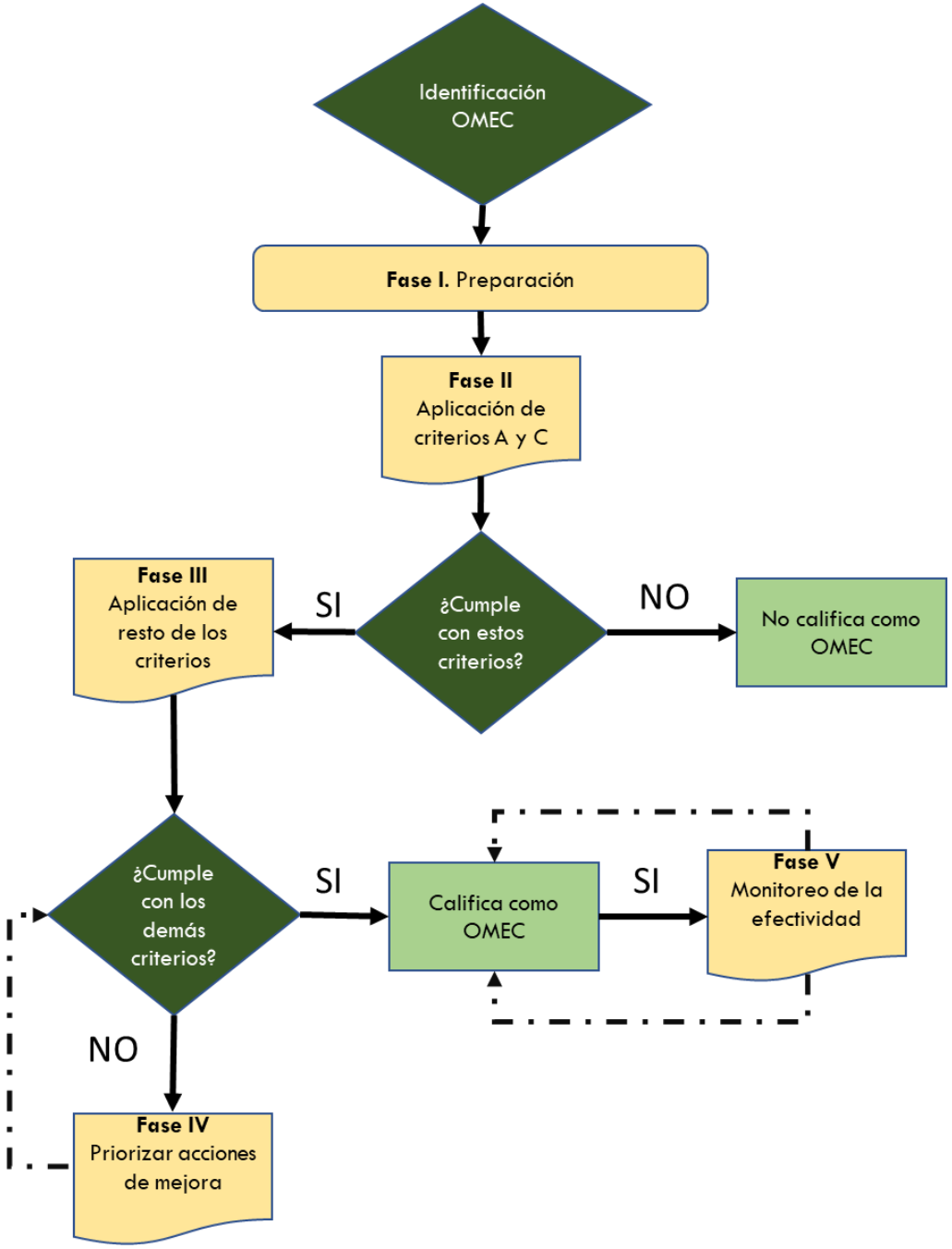
Costa Rica, May 2022

El Salvador

Costa Rica

Indications for the implementation of the Guide

Implementation of the Guide divided in stages

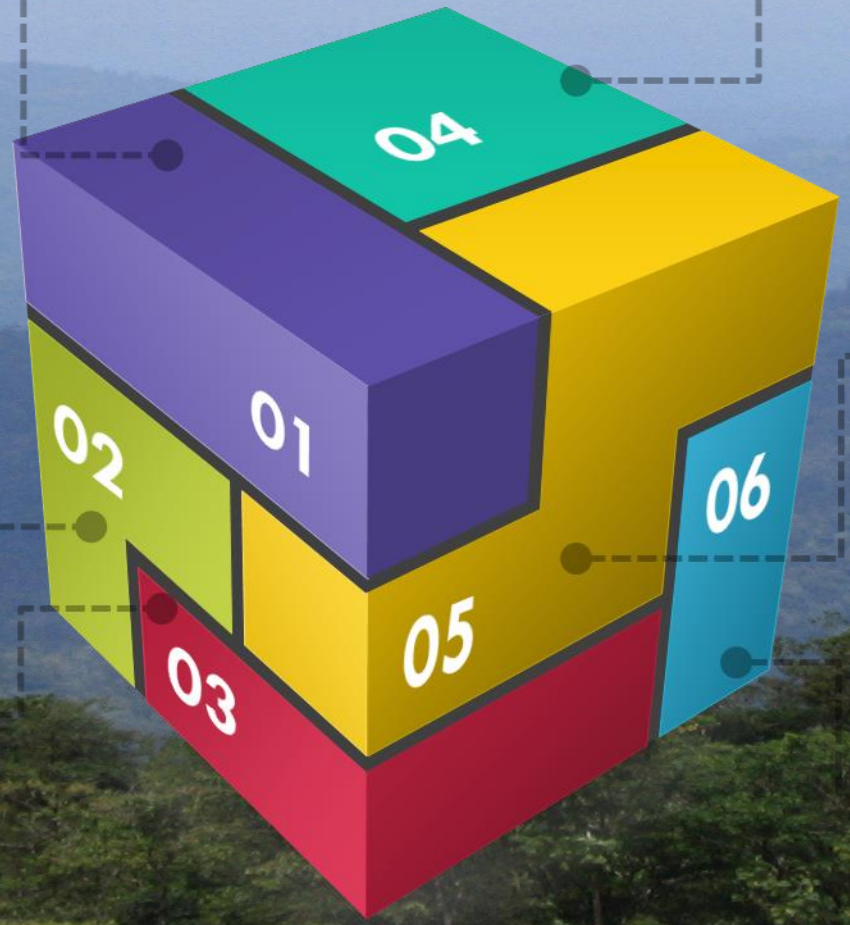


Stages

Preparation

Preliminary assessment

Assessment of criteria and indicators



Follow-up plan

Management effectiveness assessment

Report and dissemination of results

Structure for the assessment and monitoring of OECMs

Functions and associated ecosystem services as well as cultural and spiritual values

Site is not recognized as a protected area

Achieve a sustained and effective contribution for in situ biodiversity conservation

Site has a defined governance and is managed

Criterion A. The site is NOT recognized as a protected area

Sub-criterion	Indicator	Means of verification
A1. The site is **NOT** registered as a protected area	A1.1. There is no evidence of official declaration of the site as a protected area. A.1.2. The site is not spatially overlapped with a protected area	Laws Decrees

Criterion B. The site has a defined governance and is managed

Sub-criterion	Indicator
B4. The site has a defined management model	B4.1. The site has an instrument that allow planning and monitoring of management according to a set of objectives and goals. B.4.2. The management system assures the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. B.4.3. The relevant groups of interest are linked with the management.

Sub-criterion	Indicator
B1. Geographically defined area	B1.1. The site has geographically defined boundaries

Sub-criterion	Indicator
B2. **Governance** of the site assures the achievement of long-term and sustained conservation results.	B.2.1. The quality of the governance is acceptable to achieve the in-situ conservation results.

Sub-criterion	Indicator
B3. The site is governed and managed by legitimate authorities	B.3.1. The authorities responsible for the governance and management of the site are legally recognized.

Criterion	Indicator
B4. The site has a defined **management** model.	B4.1. The site has an **instrument** for planning and monitoring of the management according to a set of objectives and goals. B.4.2. The management system **assures** the in-situ biodiversity conservation. B.4.3. The relevant **groups of interest** are linked to the management. B.4.4. The management system is **adaptative,** assures long-term results, and includes the possibility of managing future threats to biodiversity.

Criterion C: Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to the in-situ biodiversity conservation

Sub-criterion	Indicator
C1. The sites are **effective** in achieving positive results in in-situ biodiversity Conservation.	C1.1. The site contributes clearly to the defined conservation priorities at the regional, national, and subnational levels. C1.2. The **critical threats** to biodiversity are identified and actions are developed to mitigate them. C.1.3. The site has an **instrument that allows the monitoring** and the constant improvement of the conservation actions.

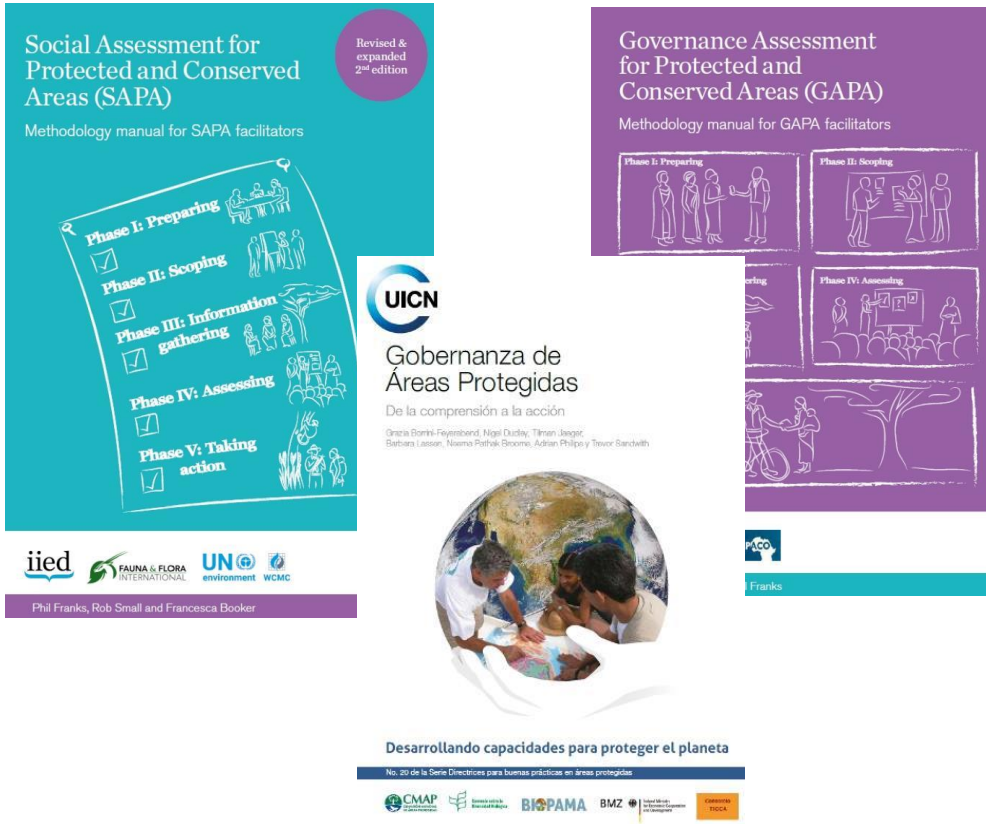
Sub-criterion	Indicator
C2. The conservation results remain in space and time.	C.2.1. The site has the required **financial and legal support** to assure long-term conservation.

Criterion D. Associated ecosystem functions and services as well as cultural and spiritual values

Criterion	Indicator
D1. Ecosystem functions and services are conserved.	D.1.1. The site assures the **functionality of ecological processes** in the long term. D1.1.2. The **conservation of the ecosystem service** does not compromise the conservation of biodiversity.

Sub-criterion	Indicator
D2. The cultural, socioeconomic and other relevant values are respected and managed properly at a local scale.	D.2.1. Governance and management **identify and respect the cultural, spiritual, and socioeconomic values** when they exist. D.2.2. Governance and management **respect knowledge, practices, and institutions** that are fundamental for the conservation of the site´s biodiversity.

How to assess the quality of the governance?



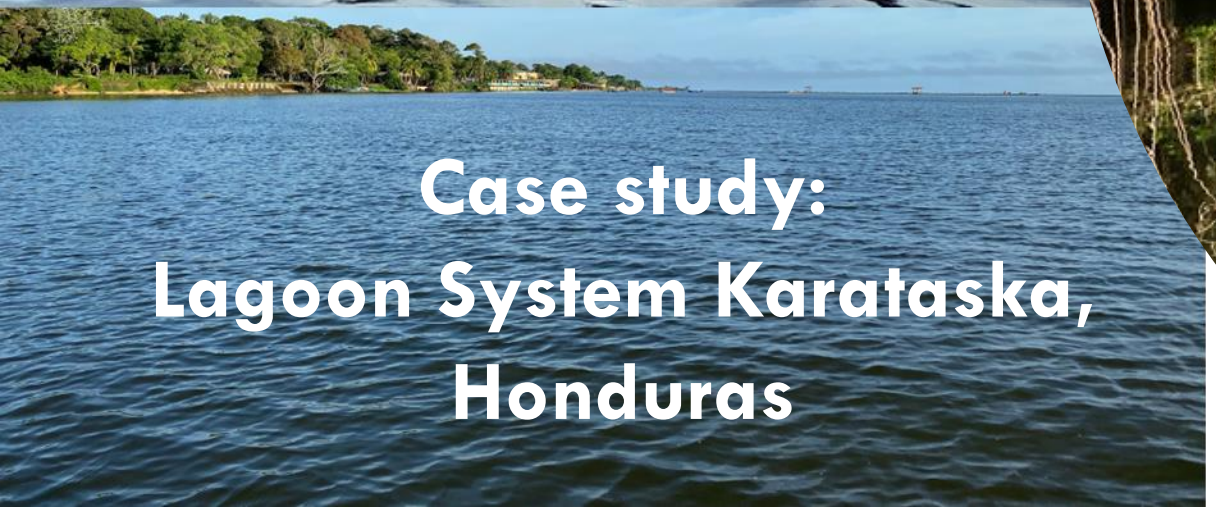
Indicators of good governance

Participation	Transparency	Accountability	Mitigation of negative effects	Distribution of benefits
• Mechanisms of participation • Mechanisms to assure the representation of local stakeholders • Mechanisms of communication among representatives and represented	• Information flow for decision making and participation • Formats suitable for interested groups	• Decision-making responsibilities • Performance evaluation • Management of financial resources	• Social impact assessment • Impact mitigation plans	• Evaluation of benefits and their impact on human well-being • Actions to optimize the distribution of the benefits of biodiversity conservation

Additional resources

- Conceptual framework
- Glossary
- Analysis of barriers and opportunities
- Bibliography
- Case studies
- Tool for registration and monitoring of criteria

Criterio D. Funciones y servicios ecosistémicos asociados, así como valores culturales, espirituales						
Subcriterio	Indicador	Valoración			Medios de verificación	Evidencia faltante
		Si	No	Parcial		
D1. Se conservan las funciones y servicios ecosistémicos	D.1.1. La gestión del área asegura la funcionalidad de procesos ecológicos a largo plazo.					
	D1.2. La conservación y uso de los servicios ecosistémicos no compromete la conservación de la biodiversidad.					



Case study: Lagoon System Karataska, Honduras

Karataska Lagoon System


CRITERIO
E1
E2
E3
E4
E5
INDICADOR
E1.1
E1.2
E1.3
E1.4
E1.5
E1.6
E2.1
E2.2
E3.1
E3.2
E3.3
E3.4
E4.1
E4.2
E5.1
E5.2
E5.3
EVIDENCIAS
CUMPLE (SI / NO)


PLAN COOPERATIVO
LA MOSQUITIA
Criterio
B3
B4
Indicador
B3.1
B4.1
B4.2
B4.3
B4.4


C1
C11
SI
C12
SI
C13
NO
C2
C21
D1
D11
NO
D12
NO
D2
D21
SI
D22
SI
E2
E3
E4
E5


CRITERIO
INDICADOR
¿APLICA? (SI/NO)
RECOMENDACIÓN
B1
B-3
B4
C1
C2
D1
D2
E1
E2
E3
E4
E5
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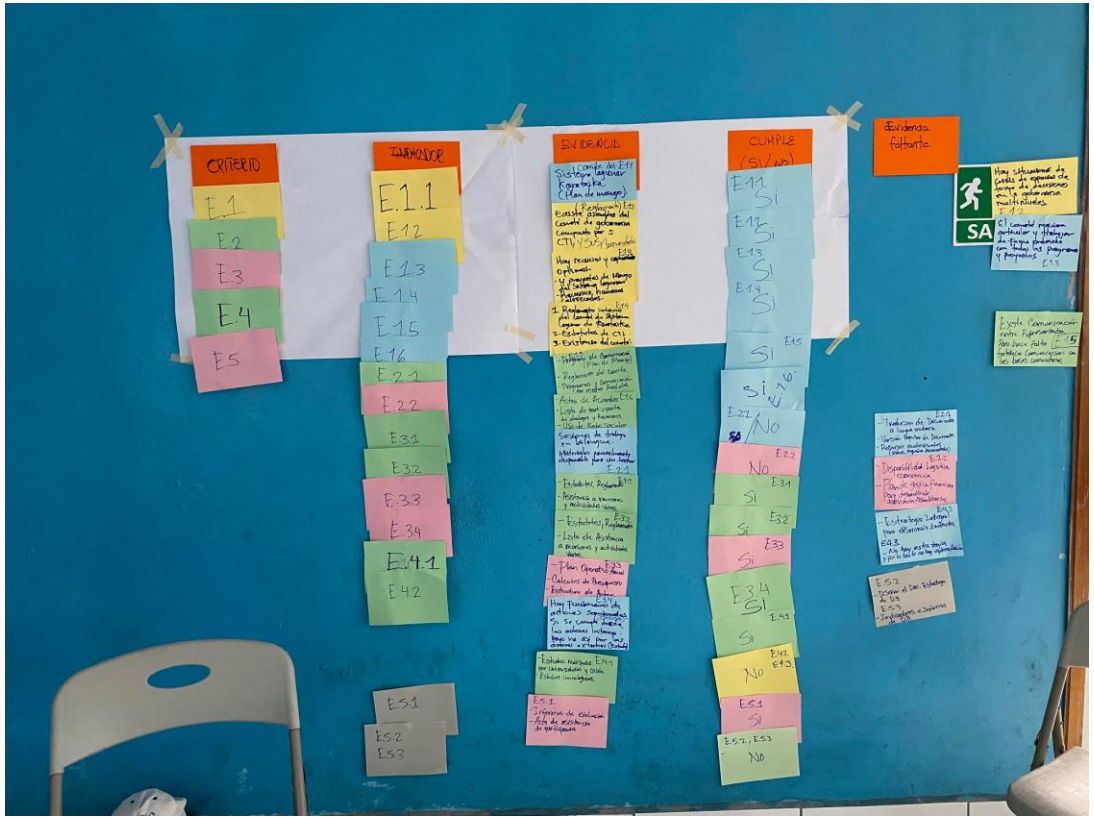
Si


CRITERIO
INDICADOR
EVIDENCIA
CUMPLE (SI/NO)
Evidencia faltante
E.1
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E.1.1
E1.2
E.1.3
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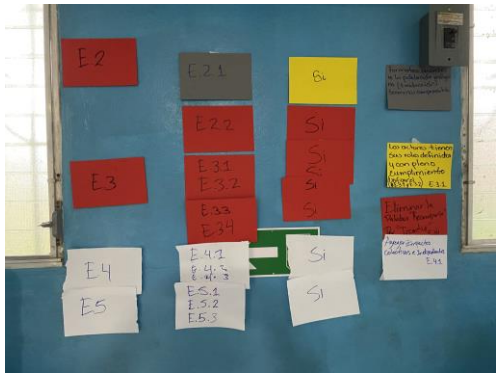
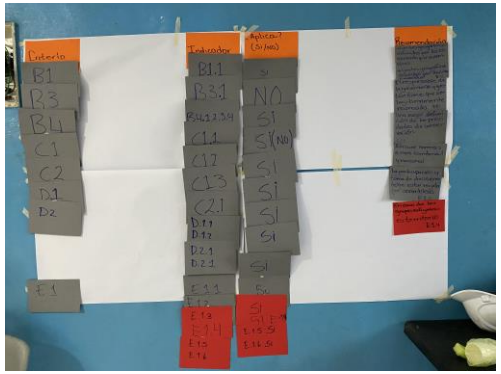

E2
E.2.1
B4
E.2.2
Si
E3
E.3.1
E.3.2
Si
E.3.3
E.3.4
Si
E4
E.4.1
Si
E5
E.5.1
E.5.2
E.5.3
Si


Criterio
Indicador
¿Aplica? (Si/No)
Recomendación
B1
B3.1
B4
C1
C2
D1
D2
E1
NO
Si
Si
Si
Si
Si
Si
Si
Si

Overall results of the assessment

Criterion	Total indicators	Indicators achieved	Performance (%)
Criterion A	2	2	100
Criterion B	7	4	57
Criterion C	4	2	50
Criterion D	4	2	50
Total	17	10	59

Governance results

Principles	Total indicators	Indicators achieved	Performance (%)
1.Full and effective participation of all relevant actors in decision-making	6	6	100
2. Transparency is based on timely and adequate access to relevant information	2	0	0
3. Accountability for compliance with responsibilities and other actions and inactions.	4	4	100
4. Effective measures to mitigate negative effects on indigenous populations and local communities.	3	1	33
5. Benefits are distributed equitably among the actors.	3	1	33
Total	18	12	67

Criterion A: It is not a protected area

Criterion	Indicator	Evidence	Meets (Yes/No)	Missing information
A1	A1.1	No legal document reported	Yes	
	A1.2	No legal document reported	Yes	
B1	B1.1	Fishing and freshwater management plan	Yes	
B2	B2.1	Not all the governance indicators are met	No	

Criterion	Indicator	Evidence	Meets (Yes/No)	Missing evidence
B3	B.3.1	Operational regulations of the Governance Committee // Fishing mgt plan //Resolution of the ITC acknowledging committee // Legal framework that acknowledges ITC	Yes	
B4	B.4.1	Fishing and freshwater plan (2020)	No	Monitoring plan of the fishing and freshwater plan is pending.
	B.4.2		NO	Plan needs to be officialized to be effective, although there is partial implementation by the ITC // Monitoring plan
	B.4.3	Legal framework that acknowledges ITC // Governance Committee and their operational regulations // Surveillance Committee	Yes	
	B.4.4		No	Lacks monitoring plan // Organizational capacity for the implementation.
C1	C.1.1	There are technical studies that demonstrate the importance and the conservation priorities. Part of the information is compiled in the Fishing Mgt Plan.	Yes	
	C.1.2	Fishing Mgt Plan // Technical reports (DIGEPESCA, Governance Committee)	Yes	
	C.1.3		NO	Lacks monitoring plan
C2	C.2.1		NO	There are no long-term mechanisms to secure financial sustainability.
D1	D.1.1		NO	There is evidence that exists (governance, management) // Sporadic studies // But lacks technical evidence.
	D.1.2		NO	Studies show illegal practices that degrade biodiversity (cucumbers and mangroves)// The corrective measures detailed in the Management Plan are not implemented.
D2	D.2.1	Biocultural Protocol // ITTO Convention 169 // Indigenous safeguards (8)// Community property (titles)	Yes	Due to external influences, traditions are being lost.
	D.2.2	Biocultural Protocol // ITTO Convention 169 // Indigenous safeguards (8)// Community property (titles)	SI	

Criterion	Indicator	Evidence	Meets (Yes/No)	Missing Evidence
E1	E.1.1		Yes	
	E.1.2[5]		Yes	
	E.1.2		Yes	
	E.1.3[6]		Yes	
	E.1.4		Yes	
	E.1.5[7]		Yes	
	E.1.6		Yes	
E2	E.2.1		No	Translation of content into mother tongue // Documents with popular version // Audiovisual resources (videos, short documentaries
	E.2.2		No	Logistical and economic availability // Financial management plan for the development of activities of the Assembly of Territorial Councils.

Criterion	Indicator	Evidence	Meets (Yes/No)	Missing Evidence
E3	E.3.1		Yes	
	E.3.2		Yes	
	E.3.3		Yes	
	E.3.4		Yes	
E.4	E.4.1		Yes	
	E.4.2		No	Comprehensive strategy to reduce impacts
	E.4.3		No	There is no strategy and therefore there is no implementation
E.5	E.5.1		Yes	
	E.5.2		NO	Design the document with the benefit distribution strategy.
	E.5.3		NO	Benefits distribution indicators and reports.

Conclusions

About the case study

1. To provide evidence that the governance and management are contributing to conserve biodiversity and to maintain the ecosystem services.

2. Develop a strategy that allows to identify, understand, and mitigate potential negative effects that the site management could be generating to local communities.

3. Identify and understand the distribution of the benefits that the site management generates to local communities.

About the method

- Feasible: easy application and understandable
- Focused on generating actions based on evidence
- Allows mid term planning
- Can be complemented with protected áreas management effectiveness data.