OECMs for Achieving KMGBF 2022 Targets

Source: IUCN

Why in News?

A new report titled "**Guidance on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)**" has been released by the **IUCN, World Commission on Protected Areas** (WCPA) and **WWF.**

- The **guidelines, with case studies**, focus on conserving land, water, and marine areas to achieve GBF Target 3 of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) 2022** to conserve 30% of these areas by 2030.

What are OECMs?

- **About OECMs:** An **OECM** is defined as a **geographically defined area** that is not a protected area, but is governed and managed to achieve **positive, sustained, long-term outcomes** for the **in situ conservation of biodiversity**.
  - These areas conserve **ecosystem functions and services**, including cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, or other local values.
  - e.g., **Agricultural lands, forests for timber** etc.
- **Criteria for Identifying OECMs:**

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- **Key Characteristics**:
  - **Not a Protected Area**: OECMs **aren't formal [protected areas (PAs)](#)** but contribute to biodiversity conservation.
  - **Governance Flexibility**: OECMs can be managed by **governments, private groups, Indigenous peoples, or local communities**.
  - **Multiple Objectives**: OECMs may focus on goals like **water management or agriculture, with biodiversity conservation** as a secondary benefit.
  - **Sustained Conservation**: OECMs must ensure long-term **in-situ biodiversity conservation** through effective governance and management.
  - **Voluntary Identification:** Identifying a site as an OECM is **voluntary** and **requires the governing authority's agreement.**
- **Significance:** OECMs recognize **vital sites for biodiversity** that aren't formally protected.
  - OECMs **expand the global conserved areas network**, boosting biodiversity coverage without strict formalities.
- **Case Studies:**
  - **Los Amigos Conservation Area:** It is located in the **Los Amigos watershed, Peru** and supports **12 globally threatened species, 12 primate species, and over 550 bird**

species.
    - ◦ **Wits Rural Facility:** It is situated in **South Africa** and is mostly managed to maintain intact **savannah** **and river habitats**.
    - ◦ **North Tyndal Protected Water Area:** It is located in **Nova Scotia, Canada** for biodiversity conservation by maintaining **native vegetation** and prohibiting **harmful land uses.**
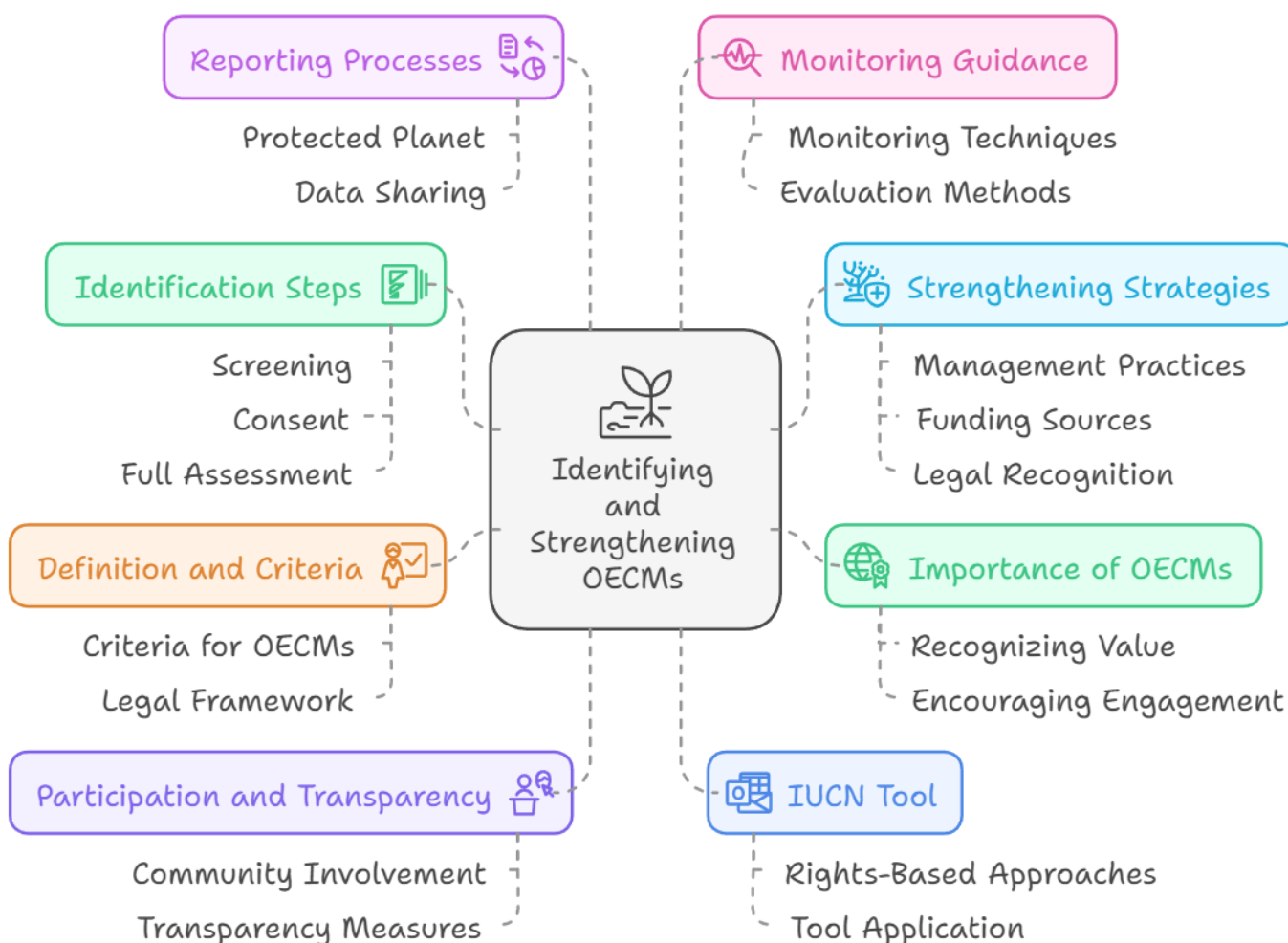 - ▪ **OECMs in India:**

Map of OECMs in India

Saffron Heritage Site

Jabarkhet Nature Reserve

Gadoli and Manda Khal
Fee Simple Estates

Apatani Landscape

Aravalli Biodiversity Park

Jagatpur Lake

Zabo Agricultural
System

Kadwa Kosi
Floodplains

Chadva Rakhal

Anandwan Biodiversity Park

Godrej's Pirojshanagar Mangroves

Coromandel Birds Paradise

TVS Motor's Nature Conservation Reserve

SAI Sanctuary

Categories

- Unique Agricultural Systems (UAS)
- Biodiversity Parks
- Industrial Estates for Conservation Purposes
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBBAs)
- Individual Green Lands

- **Difference Between OECMs from PAs:**

Aspect	Protected Areas (PAs)	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures

		(OECMs)
Definition	Area dedicated to **long-term conservation of nature.**	Site conserving biodiversity, but **not necessarily as the primary goal.**
Primary Objective	Focus on **biodiversity,** ecosystem services, and cultural values.	Biodiversity as a **secondary** or incidental outcome.
Legal Recognition	Formally recognized and legally protected.	Voluntary, may lack formal protection.
Role in Conservation Networks	**Core of conservation networks,** vital for long-term protection.	**Complements PAs**, enhancing ecological connectivity.
Conservation Outcome	**Strict regulations** for biodiversity protection.	**May support biodiversity**, but not focused on conservation.
Complementary Role	**Central to achieving** conservation targets (e.g., 30% by 2030).	**Enhances ecological representation** and connectivity.

What are Eight Sections Containing Guidelines for OECMs?

Framework for Identifying and Strengthening OECMs

What is KMGBF 2022?

- **About:** Adopted at **CoP 15 (Montreal, Canada)** in December 2022, it aims to **halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030.**

- It supports the **[Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](#)** and builds upon the **achievements and lessons** learned from the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.**
- **Objectives:** It includes **23 action-oriented global targets** for urgent action by 2030, aiming to **restore at least 30%** of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine **ecosystems.**
  - This target refers to **global efforts**, **not** a requirement for **each country** to **allocate 30% of its land and water.**
- **Future Outlook:** The framework envisions a **collective commitment** to **living in harmony with nature by 2050**, guiding current actions and policies on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

CBD COP15

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1993 - a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity

CBD Conference of Parties is the Governing body of the Convention

MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

COP 1 (1994)
- Nassau, Bahamas
- Proposed 29 December as International Day for Biological Diversity

EXCOP 1
- 1st extraordinary meeting of UN CBD COP
- At Cartagena, Colombia (Feb 1999) & Montreal, Canada (Jan 2000)
- Adoption of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

COP 6 (2002)
- The Hague, Netherlands
- Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted

COP 5 (2000)
- Nairobi, Kenya
- UNGA adopted 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity

COP 10 (2010)
- Nagoya, Japan
- Nagoya Protocol (Access to Genetic Resources and Fair & Equitable Sharing of Benefits) adopted
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- GBO 3

COP 8 (2006)
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) Report 2 (GBO 1 in 2001)

COP 11 (2012)
- Hyderabad, India

COP 14
- Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

COP 15

PHASE-I
- Theme - Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
- Held in Kunming, China (October 2021)
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund

PHASE-II
- Held in Montreal, Canada
- Adopted Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - 4 goals & 23 targets to be achieved by 2030.
- 30 by 30 Target - restore 30% degraded ecosystems and protect at least 30% of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030
- No single country met all 20 Aichi targets (expired in 2020) within its own borders

Note: CBD COP-16 took place in **Cali, Colombia** in 2024 with the theme **"Peace with Nature".**

- India launched the **updated [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)](#)** at **COP 16** to the CBD aligning with the KMGBF.
- **Cali Fund** was established to ensure **[fair and equitable sharing of benefits](#)** from the use of **[digital sequence information (DSI)](#)** on genetic resources.

What is India's Biodiversity Target Under KMGBF?

- **Conservation Areas**: Aim to **conserve 30%** of areas to enhance biodiversity.
- **Invasive Species**: Target a **50% reduction** in **[invasive alien species.](#)**
- **Rights and Participation**: Ensure the involvement of **indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth** in conservation.
- **Sustainable Consumption**: Promote sustainable consumption and **cut food waste by half.**
- **Benefit Sharing**: Encourage **fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources** and **[traditional knowledge](#)**.
- **Pollution Reduction**: Reduce pollution, **halving nutrient loss** and pesticide risk.
- **Biodiversity Planning**: Manage areas to **prevent loss of high biodiversity regions**.

IUCN

- Created in **1948**, IUCN is the **world's largest and most diverse environmental network**.
- IUCN is a membership union composed of over **1,400 organizations**, including both **government and civil society** groups.
- IUCN is a **leading provider of conservation data, assessments, and analysis**, offering tools and knowledge to support global environmental efforts.
- It prepares the **[IUCN Red Data Book](#)** (now known as the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**) in which species are classified into categories based on their risk of extinction e.g., Critically Endangered, Endangered etc.

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

- It is the world's leading network of expertise on protected and conserved areas, with over **2,500 members** across **140 countries**.
- It offers strategic advice to policymakers on **establishing, managing, and strengthening protected areas.**

WWF

- **WWF**, founded in **1961**, is an **international NGO** focused on environmental conservation and protecting **vulnerable species and ecosystems.**
- Its mission is to **halt environmental degradation** and create a future where humans live in harmony with nature.

Conclusion

The release of the **OECM** guidelines by **IUCN and WWF** supports the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,** aiming to **conserve 30% of land, waters, and marine areas** by 2030. India's biodiversity targets align with global goals to **enhance conservation, reduce invasive species, and promote sustainable consumption.**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by (2018)

(a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(b) The UNEP Secretariat

(c) The UNFCCC Secretariat

(d) The World Meteorological Organisation

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region. (2019)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/oecms-for-achieving-kmgbf-2022-targets