

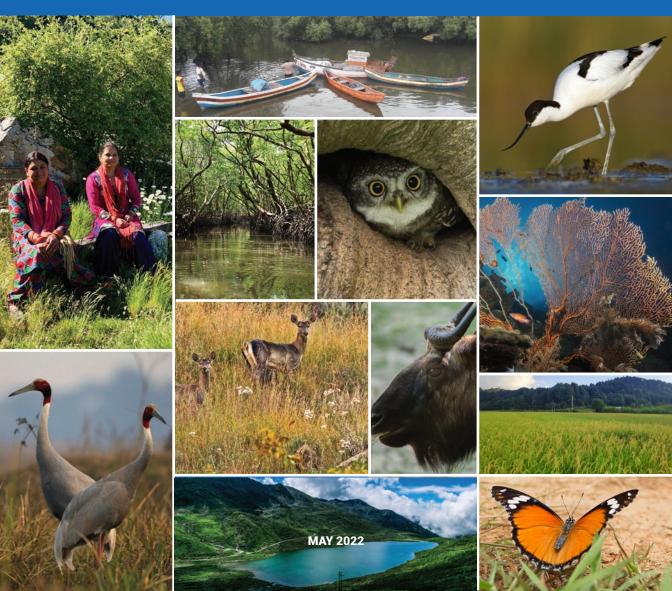






## Criteria and Guidelines for

# Identifying Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India



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India



**About the Publication** 

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) are a new conservation approach,

separate from protected areas, where effective conservation of biodiversity is achieved mainly

as a by-product of other management objectives. A wide variety of sites in India have the

potential to become OECMs.

The publication provides the criteria and guidelines developed by the Ministry of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Biodiversity Authority of India (NBA) and

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to identify OECMs in India. A 14-category

classification, clustered under three broad groups- terrestrial, waterbodies, and marine, has

been developed by India, covering a broad spectrum of potential OECMs in India including

unique agricultural systems, biodiversity parks, industrial estates, coastal waterbodies, and

important marine biodiversity areas.

The MoEFCC, NBA and UNDP invite central and state departments, bilateral and multilateral

funding agencies, civil society organisations, defence establishments, industry, academic

and research institutes, and local communities to share information on local conservation

initiatives, which could be identified as potential OECMs. In this regard, the booklet also extends

guidance about the application procedure.

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The views expressed in this publication, including UNDP or the UN Member States, nor do

citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute an endorsement. UNDP must be

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The guidelines for identifying Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India are the outcome of a series of expert consultations led by the MoEFCC with support from the NBA, Government of India, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Primary inputs were received from the final report of the Small Group created in 2020 by the MoEFCC for developing the criteria and guidelines for identifying OECMs in India. Member organisations of the Small Group include the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), NBA, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-India, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), UNDP, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) India, Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), and The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI).

The further development of the OECMs guidelines was taken forward through a series of consultative meetings conducted by the NBA with support from UNDP, with domain experts including the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).

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#### **Abbrevations**

**ABS** Access and Benefit Sharing

**BSIP** Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity

**CMS** Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

**CoP** Conference of Parties

**CPCB** Central Pollution Control Board

**CRZ** Coastal Regulation Zone

**CSR** Corporate Social Responsibility

**CVCAs** Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas

**CZMP** Coastal Zone Management Plan

**ECSCMAs** Ecologically/Culturally Significant Coastal & Marine Areas

**EIA** Environmental Impact Assessment

**e-PBR** electronic People's Biodiversity Register

**FAO** Food and Agricultural Organization

**FSI** Forest Survey of India

ICBAs Important Coastal Biodiversity Areas
IMBAs Important Marine Biodiversity Areas

**IUCN** International Union for Conservation of Nature

**MoEFCC** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**NBA** National Biodiversity Authority

NCSCM National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management

**OECMs** Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

**PAs** Protected Areas

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