



Co-founded by the  
European Union



## **OECMs and Fisheries in the Mediterranean**

**WWF presentation  
MEDAC WG3 - 23/11/2022**

# Agenda

1. Background: origins and definition
2. FAO sectoral guidance
3. Advancing OECMs in the Mediterranean



# Background: Definition & criteria

- Rooted in CBD Aichi Target 11 & CBD COP 14 Decision 14/08

“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.”

- 4 criteria, 26 subcriteria divided in 10 categories:
  - Not recognized as a Protected Area
  - 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

# Criteria for the identification of OECMs

<b>Criterion A: Area is not currently recognised as a protected area</b>	
Not a protected area	The area is not currently recognised or reported as a protected area or part of a protected area; it may have been established for another function
<b>Criterion B: Area is governed and managed</b>	
Geographically defined space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site and area are described, including in three dimensions where necessary</li> <li>• Boundaries are geographically delineated</li> </ul>
Legitimate governance authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance has legitimate authority and is appropriate for achieving in situ conservation of biodiversity within the area</li> <li>• Governance by IPs and LCs is self-identified in accordance with national legislation and applicable international obligations</li> <li>• Governance reflects the equity considerations adopted in the Convention</li> <li>• Governance may be by a single authority and/or organization or through collaboration among relevant authorities and provides the ability to address threats collectively</li> </ul>
Managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for the conservation of biological diversity</li> <li>• Relevant authorities and stakeholders are identified and involved in management</li> <li>• A management system is in place that contributes to sustaining the in situ conservation of biodiversity</li> <li>• Management is consistent with the ecosystem approach with the ability to adapt to achieve expected biodiversity conservation outcomes, including long-term outcomes, and including the ability to manage a new threat</li> </ul>

# Criteria for the identification of OECMs/2

## Criterion C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity

Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area achieves, or is expected to achieve, positive and sustained outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity</li> <li>• Threats, existing or reasonably anticipated ones are addressed effectively by preventing, significantly reducing or eliminating them, and by restoring degraded ecosystems</li> <li>• Mechanisms, such as policy frameworks and regulations, are in place to recognize and respond to new threats</li> <li>• To the extent relevant and possible, management inside and outside the other effective area-based conservation measure is integrated</li> </ul>
Sustained over long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OECMs are in place for the long term or are likely to be</li> <li>• “Sustained” pertains to the continuity of governance and management and “long term” pertains to the biodiversity outcome</li> </ul>
In situ conservation of biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures is expected to include the identification of the range of biodiversity attributes for which the site is considered important (eg communities of rare, threatened or endangered species, representative nature ecosystems, range restricted species, key biodiversity areas, areas providing critical ecosystem functions and services, areas for ecological connectivity)</li> </ul>
Information and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of OECMs should, to the extent possible, document the known biodiversity attributes, as well as, where relevant, cultural and/or spiritual values, of the area and the governance and management in place as a baseline for assessing effectiveness</li> <li>• A monitoring system informs management on the effectiveness of measures with respect to biodiversity, including the health of ecosystems</li> <li>• Processes should be in place to evaluate the effectiveness of governance and management, including with respect to equity</li> <li>• General data of the area such as boundaries, aim and governance are available information</li> </ul>

# Criteria for the identification of OECMs/3

## Criterion D: Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values

<p>Ecosystem functions and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ecosystem functions and services are supported, including those of importance to IPs and LCs, for OECMs concerning their territories, taking into account interactions and tradeoffs among ecosystem functions and services, with a view to ensuring positive biodiversity outcomes and equity</li> <li>● Management to enhance one particular ecosystem function or service does not impact negatively on the sites overall biological diversity</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Governance and management measures identify, respect and uphold the cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values of the area, where such values exist</li> <li>● Governance and management measures respect and uphold the knowledge, practices and institutions that are fundamental for the in situ conservation of biodiversity</li> </ul>

# FAO guidance

- After IUCN developed general guidance, FAO COFI mandate to develop sectoral practical **guidance on OECMs in marine capture fisheries** to support Members in the identification and implementation of OECMs
- **FAO/GFCM workshops** in December 2021 and February 2022 to contribute to this sectoral guidance (same process happened in other regions)
  - 1st workshop: introduction to OECMs and framing of the concept
  - 2nd workshop: case studies applying the OECM criteria to GFCM FRAs and spatial measures to identify potential OECMs



# Key questions for the identification of candidate OECMs

- Is the area a geographically defined space?
- Is the area currently recognized as a protected area?
- Does the area have a legitimate governance authority?
- Is the area contributing, or expected to contribute to achieving the in situ conservation of biodiversity?
- Are there any existing or anticipated threats to biodiversity in the area?
- Is any type of monitoring being conducted that could be used to assess the effectiveness of the current management measures with respect to their effect on biodiversity conservation in the area?
- Does the management system in place include measures to support the area's associated ecosystem functions and services?



# Process to identify and recognize OECMs

## Identification of potential OECMs

Quick screening to identify measures that could potentially meet the criteria and should go through full assessment, as well as the data gaps to go through full assessment.

## Analysis of candidate OECMs

Full assessment to identify if the criteria are met, on a case-by-case basis, and following a participatory process and FPIC.

## Strengthening of candidate OECMs

Proposal to strengthen the candidate OECM if some criteria are not met, based on the gaps identified in the full assessment.

## Reporting of OECMs

Reporting of the measures that meet the criteria in the World Database of OECMs (WCMC) by governance actors or the entity in charge.

## Inclusion of OECMs in global database

Verification of the measures by WCMC, if it meets the criteria, OECMs are included in the global database. Their contribution is recognised in the global conservation targets.

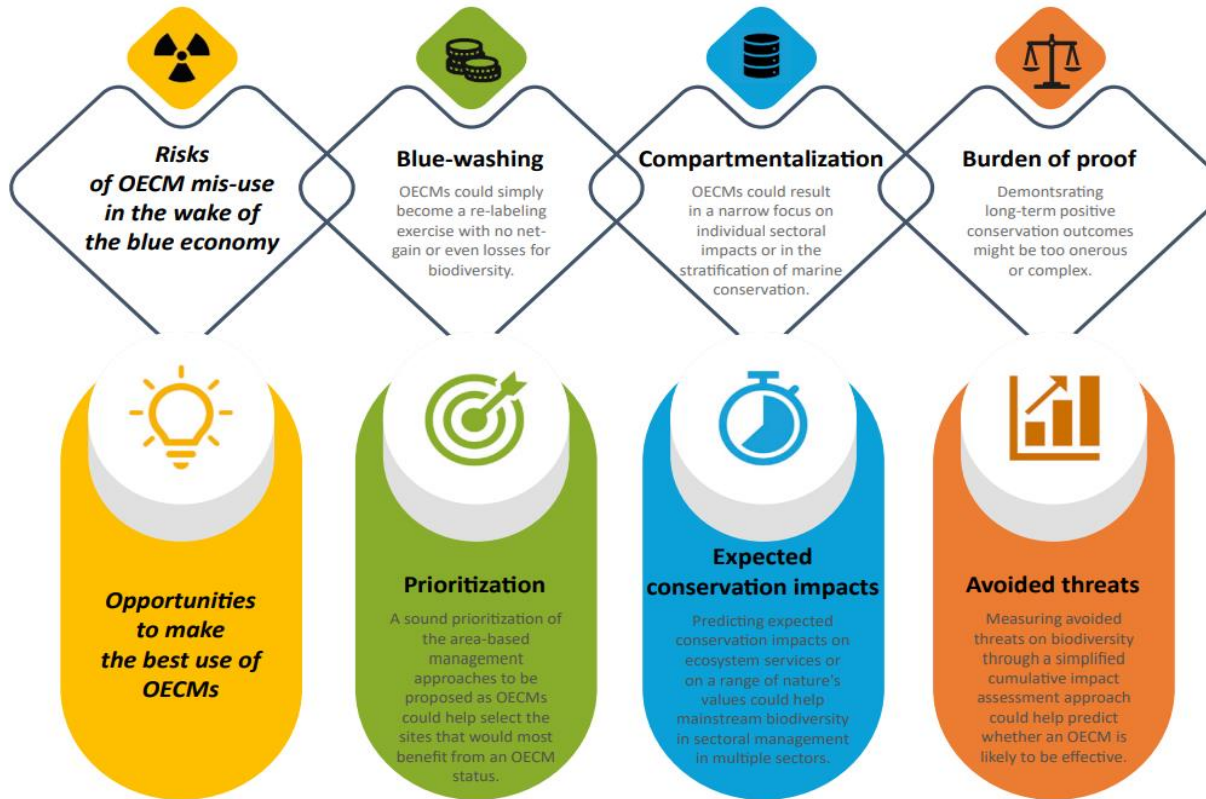
# Advancing OECMs in the Mediterranean



The process to identify and recognize OECMs is very relevant in the context of the Mediterranean:

- **GFCM 2030 Strategy** Target 1 and, in particular, its output 1.3 refer to “efficient area-based conservation measures, technical and nature-based solutions strengthened to conserve biodiversity and enhance the productivity of marine living resources”
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy** Target of 30% of EU seas protected by 2030: this will be achieved by establishing and managing effectively marine protected areas AND OECMs

# Risks and opportunities related to OECMs



J. Claudet, N.C. Ban, J. Blythe, J. Briggs, E. Darling, G.G. Gurney, J.E. Palardy, E.P. Pike, V.N. Agostini, G.N. Ahmadi, S.J. Campbell, G. Epstein, Estradivari, D. Gill, A. Himes-Cornell, H.D. Jonas, S.D. Jupiter, S. Mangubhai, L. Morgan, **Avoiding the misuse of other effective area-based conservation measures in the wake of the blue economy**, *One Earth*, Volume 5, Issue 9, 2022, Pages 969-974, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2022.08.010>.

Figure 1. Risks and opportunities to avoid the misuse of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the wake of the blue economy

# Why identify fisheries OECMs in the Mediterranean?

- When done properly, OECMs have the potential to recognize the contributions of the fisheries sector in restoring marine biodiversity
- Some FRAs already established in the Mediterranean seem to be good candidates for OECMs, some might only require a few adjustments to be strengthened to be recognized as OECMs

