



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

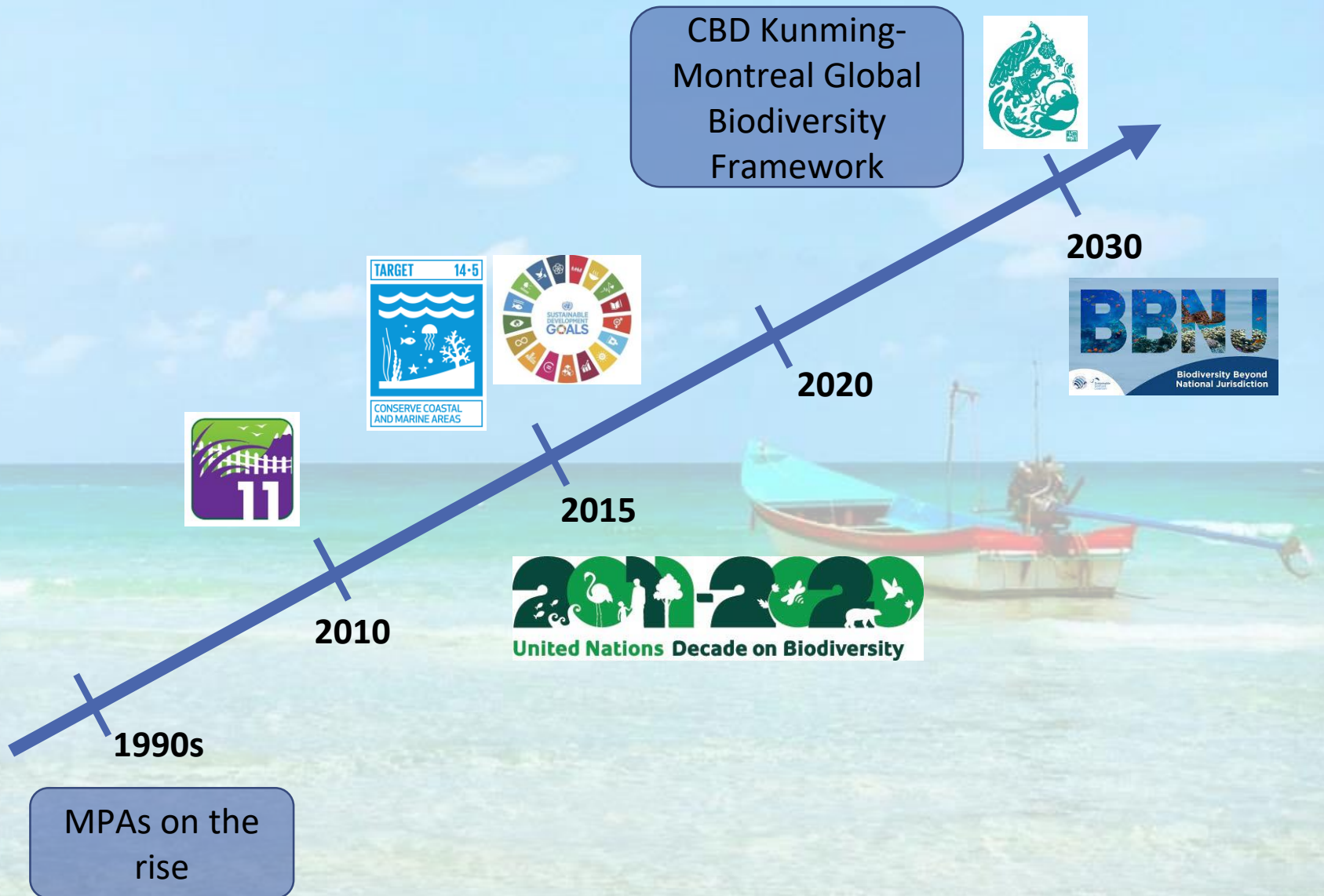
An important solution: Other effective area- based conservation measures (OECMs)

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International focus on area-based management



CBD Strategic Plan



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Aichi Target 11



By 2020, at least **17 % of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 % of coastal and marine areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through **protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures** that are effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, well connected systems, integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3



Target 3: Ensure and enable that by 2030 at **least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of **protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

OECD Definition

"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.** "



Need for sectoral OECM guidance

ABFMs can share many of the OECM characteristics

High potential of being or becoming OECMs



Early experiences of applying criteria generate questions



How to interpret the criteria?

FAO to set guidance

How to apply criteria in a flexible way?



FAO's strategy... Regional shared learning workshops

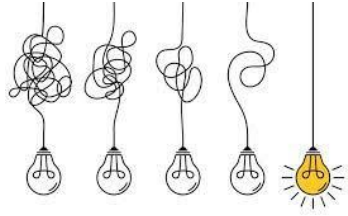
1) Capacity building

- Explain OECMs background and evolution in **Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework**
- **“Jargon translation”**: Outline definition and criteria and provide initial guidance/thoughts on application in fisheries
- **Provide** concrete **examples** of sites and processes
- Ask questions related to **application of OECM criteria** in fisheries

2) Collect experiences and learning to build global guidance on identifying OECMs in fisheries



What are we aiming to achieve?



- Demystify OECMs
- Encourage the fisheries sector to look at what they are already doing in marine capture fisheries management that contributes to biodiversity conservation
- Catalyze the planning of new or amended fisheries management measures that could be recognized as OECM in the future
- Provide guidance on getting started in OECM identification



Handbook on Marine Fisheries OECMs



- Orients countries to OECM evaluation in marine fisheries
- Contents:
 1. Describes Fisheries OECMs
 2. Discusses benefits of identifying and reporting Fisheries OECMs
 3. Outlines a process to identify, evaluate and report area-based fisheries management measures as OECMs



Fisheries OECMs

OECMs established in a fisheries context:



“established, spatially defined management and/or conservation measures other than protected areas, which produce positive, long-term, and *in situ* biodiversity outcomes, in addition to the intended fishery outcomes.”

Fisheries management measures likely to meet the OECM criteria will include those which take place within a specified area – for example:

- Fisheries closures/Fisheries Restricted Areas
- Locally marine managed areas/TURFs
- Gear bans



Benefits of recognizing Fisheries OECMs

For example:

- Recognition of effective fisheries management, including co-benefits for biodiversity
- Chance to enhance management, monitoring
- Reciprocal mainstreaming
- Enhanced dialogue between fisheries sector and conservation community
- Joint contribution toward global biodiversity conservation goals and SDGs



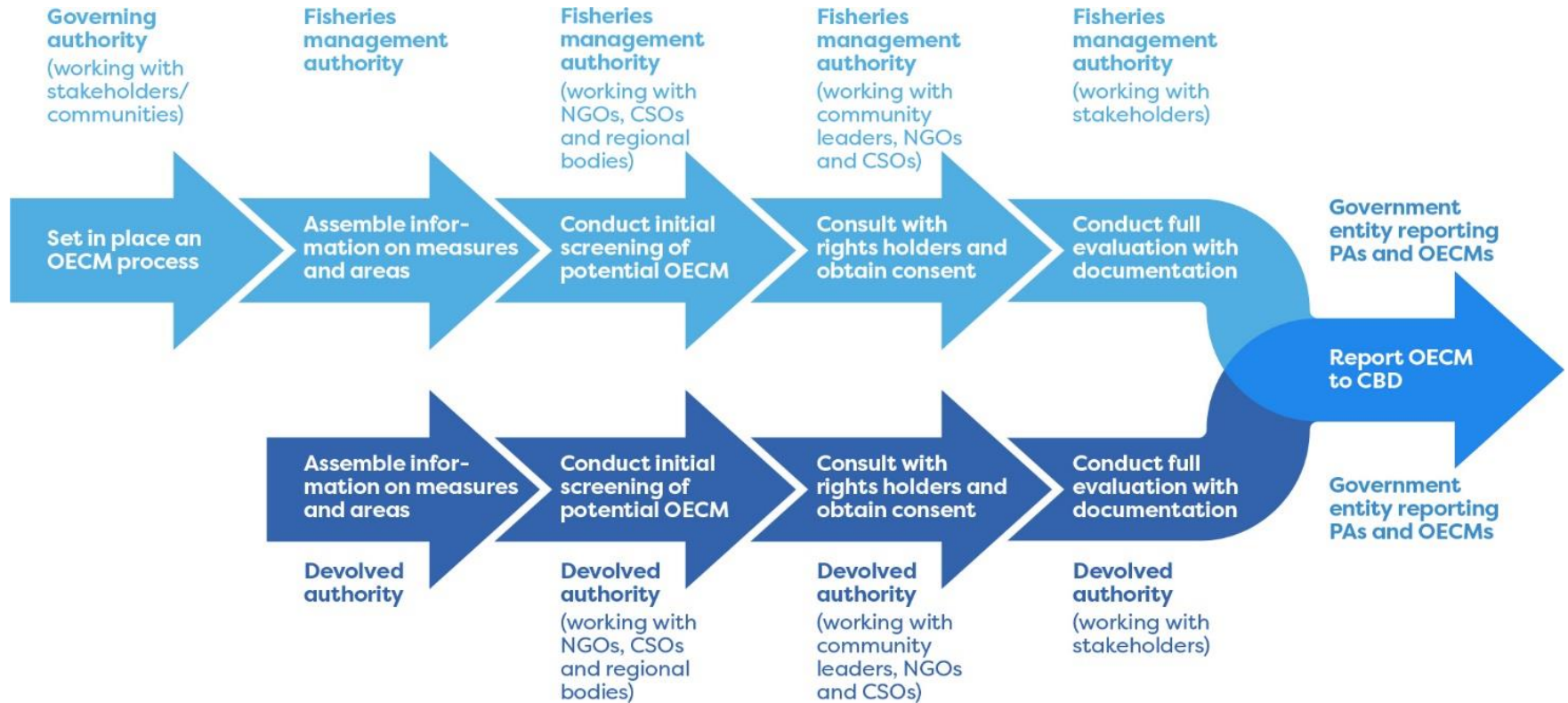
A Process for Identifying, Evaluating, and Reporting Fisheries ABMT as OECMs

The Handbook outlines a four-phase process:

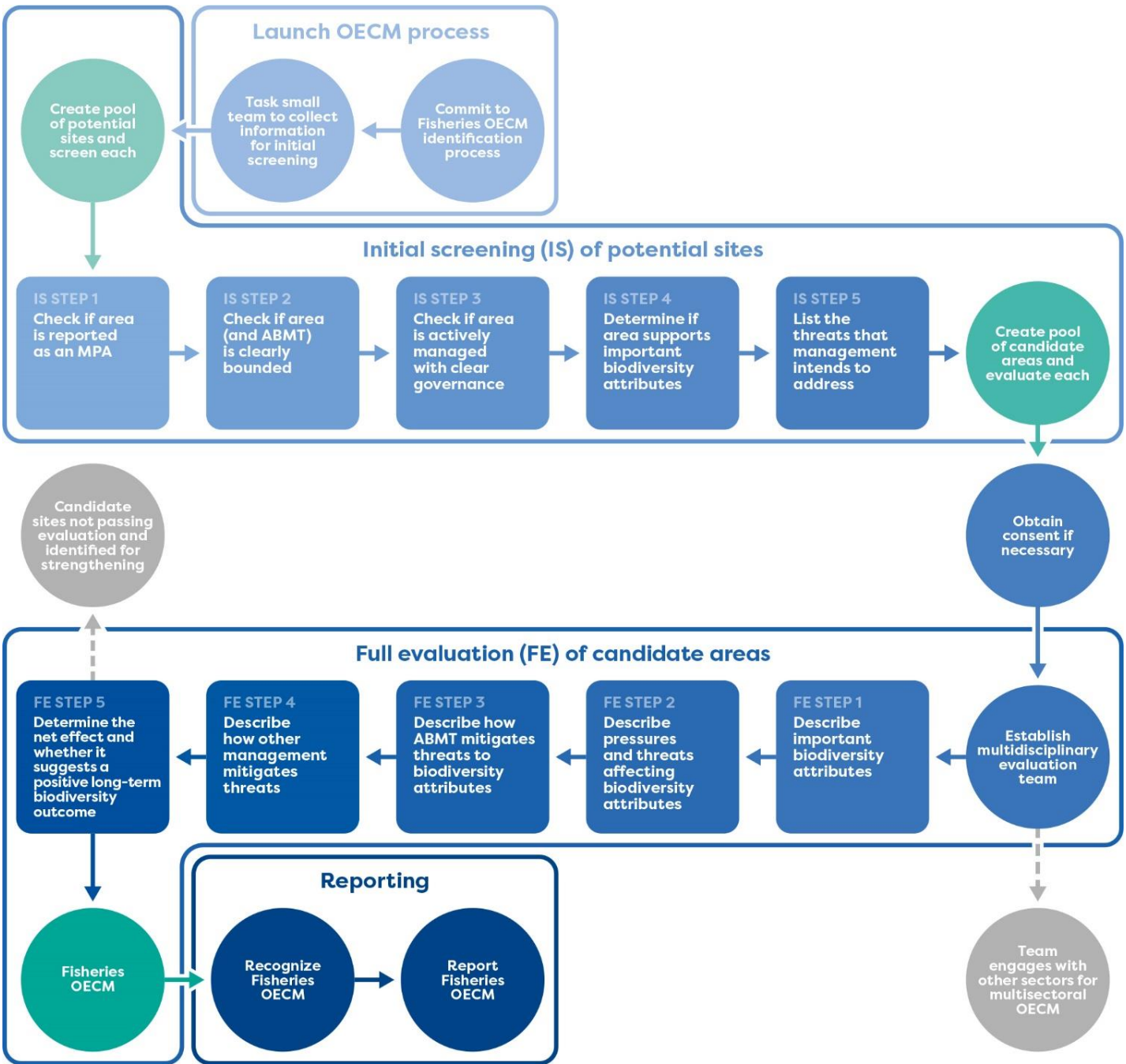
1. **Launching:** Establish a simple evaluation pathway that fits with the governing authority of the area.
2. **Initial Screening:** Determine whether fisheries ABMT meet certain basic characteristics. Those passing initial screening can then be identified as candidate OECMs
3. **Full Evaluation:** For those sites that emerge as candidate OECM, full evaluation can support countries to determine which areas can be recognized and reported as OECMs
4. **Reporting:** Fisheries ABMT determined to align with the CBD definition and criteria can be reported and counted toward global spatial conservation targets



Process tailored to governing authority



Operationalizing the Criteria



Why Report OECMs?



- Visible contribution of in-situ conservation
 - Countries' national biodiversity objectives
 - Global targets (CBD, SDGs, climate change, etc.)
- OECMs likely to be widespread but cannot be properly counted until identified and mapped
- Supports integrating OECMs into landscape/seascape management
- Enables improved coordination with protected areas
 - Improving conservation measures in corridors
 - Improved management of large resilient landscapes
- Enables OECMs to access funding to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes



Where do OECMs fit into the future?

Potential of OECMs

- Increased interest from countries/organizations to identify & report OECMs
- Increased cooperation to support conservation

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- New targets adopted --- **30%** of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas conserved



Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

- Key objective: Advance cooperation and coordination in the use of area-based management tools



Securing small-scale fisheries

- Key objective: Supporting the rights of small-scale fishing communities and recognizing the positive biodiversity outcomes they are contributing to



- Opportunity to recognize areas and stakeholders' efforts that contribute to in-situ conservation
- Opportunity to contribute **jointly** to biodiversity conservation goals and SDGs
- Essential element to meet post-2020 targets
- Process of identifying and evaluating OECMs can enhance **dialogue between conservation and other sectors** and enhance mainstreaming of biodiversity
- No one has all the answers! **Important to ask questions and share early experiences**



STEP 1

Help fisheries be an example for other sectors

Supporting implementation of the K-M framework
Fisheries OECM identification, evaluation and reporting



Facilitate learning exchanges between countries



Regional and national workshops



Produce additional guidance based on country needs



Questions from the GFCM SAC (June 2023)

Who has the competence to designate OECMs, what is the cost? Is it deemed feasible to complete Step one before the SRCs of 2024?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognition NOT designation• Decision to be made by the countries and potentially by GFCM
What criteria will be used for selecting the experts that shall be entrusted with the full assessment of the FRA(s) against OECMs criteria?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision to be made by the countries and potentially by GFCM
Does qualifying as OECMs imply a review of existing management measures in the site concerned?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, with a focus on outcomes
Who should ask for the identification of a FRA as OECMs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision to be made by the countries and potentially by GFCM
In case territorial competence over a given FRA should change, would the competent Management Authority change accordingly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision to be made by the countries and potentially by GFCM
Is OECM recognition potentially reversible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – once reported, a country can always remove it from the WD-OECM

