



**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC8) and 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP11)**

*Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26–28 June 2024 and 01-05 July 2024*

**MoP-11-INFO-10**

# Information notes on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

The SIOFA Secretariat

<b>Meeting</b>	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Document type</b>	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Distribution</b>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract</b>	Integrating area-based management measures across sectors is vital for global biodiversity goals. OECMs, recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity, offer promising alternatives to traditional protected areas, particularly in fisheries, supporting both conservation and livelihoods.

<sup>1</sup> Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

<sup>2</sup> Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

# Information notes on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Integrating area-based management measures across sectors is essential for achieving global biodiversity and sustainability targets, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture.

Global environmental strategies emphasize innovative conservation approaches that align with sustainable development and biodiversity goals. Area-based management measures (ABMTs) are crucial, but traditional protected areas are not the sole solution. OECMs offer a promising alternative, particularly for sectors like fisheries that are vital for both biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

## *Understanding OECMs*

OECMs are geographically defined areas managed outside traditional protected zones, achieving sustained biodiversity conservation. Recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018, OECMs validate that various sectoral management tools can deliver significant biodiversity benefits. The CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) decision 14/8 defines OECMs as areas contributing to in-situ biodiversity conservation alongside associated ecosystem functions and services.

## *The Potential of Fisheries OECMs in Biodiversity Conservation*

Fisheries OECMs are ABMTs in the fisheries sector that yield positive biodiversity outcomes while achieving fishery objectives. Benefits of recognizing Fisheries OECMs include:

- Sustainability Targets: Contributions to national and international biodiversity and sustainability goals.
- Management Successes: Opportunities to showcase and replicate effective fisheries management practices.
- Effectiveness: Enhanced monitoring and management capabilities.
- Cross-Sector Cooperation: Improved collaboration between fisheries and conservation communities.
- Marine Planning: Greater inclusion of fisheries perspectives in marine spatial planning.

## *Advantages of Fisheries OECMs*

Identifying and reporting Fisheries OECMs provides significant benefits beyond biodiversity, enhancing socio-ecological resilience and human well-being. These include improved knowledge, adaptive capacity, management effectiveness, empowerment, and equity at various levels.

## *FAO's Guidance on Fisheries OECMs*

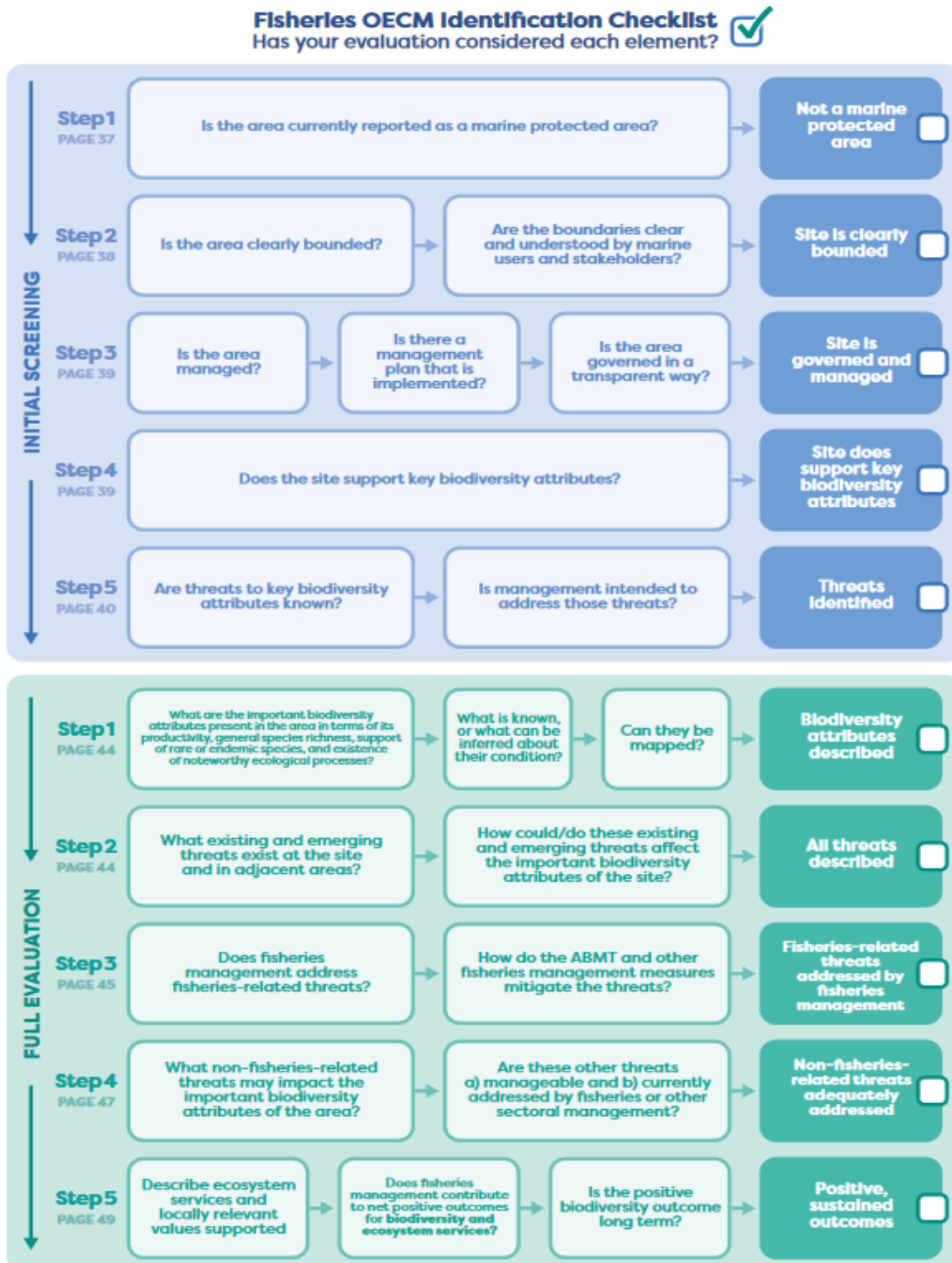
The FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division offers a Fisheries OECM Handbook to aid the effective implementation of Fisheries OECMs. The handbook outlines a four-phase process for fisheries management agencies:

- Launching: Establish a suitable evaluation pathway.
- Initial Screening: Identify candidate Fisheries OECMs based on key characteristics.
- Full Evaluation: Conduct comprehensive evaluations to determine which areas qualify.

- Reporting: Report qualifying areas to the CBD and World Database on OECMs, contributing to global conservation targets.

OECMs provide a valuable framework for integrating biodiversity conservation into various sectoral management practices. Fisheries OECMs, in particular, offer substantial potential for long-term biodiversity outcomes while supporting the fisheries sector's sustainability and resilience. The FAO's Fisheries OECM Handbook serves as a practical guide for identifying, evaluating, and reporting Fisheries OECMs, contributing to global conservation and sustainability efforts.

Checklist for screening and evaluation:



Graphic from: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - A handbook for identifying, evaluating, and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures in marine fisheries.*