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

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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.** "



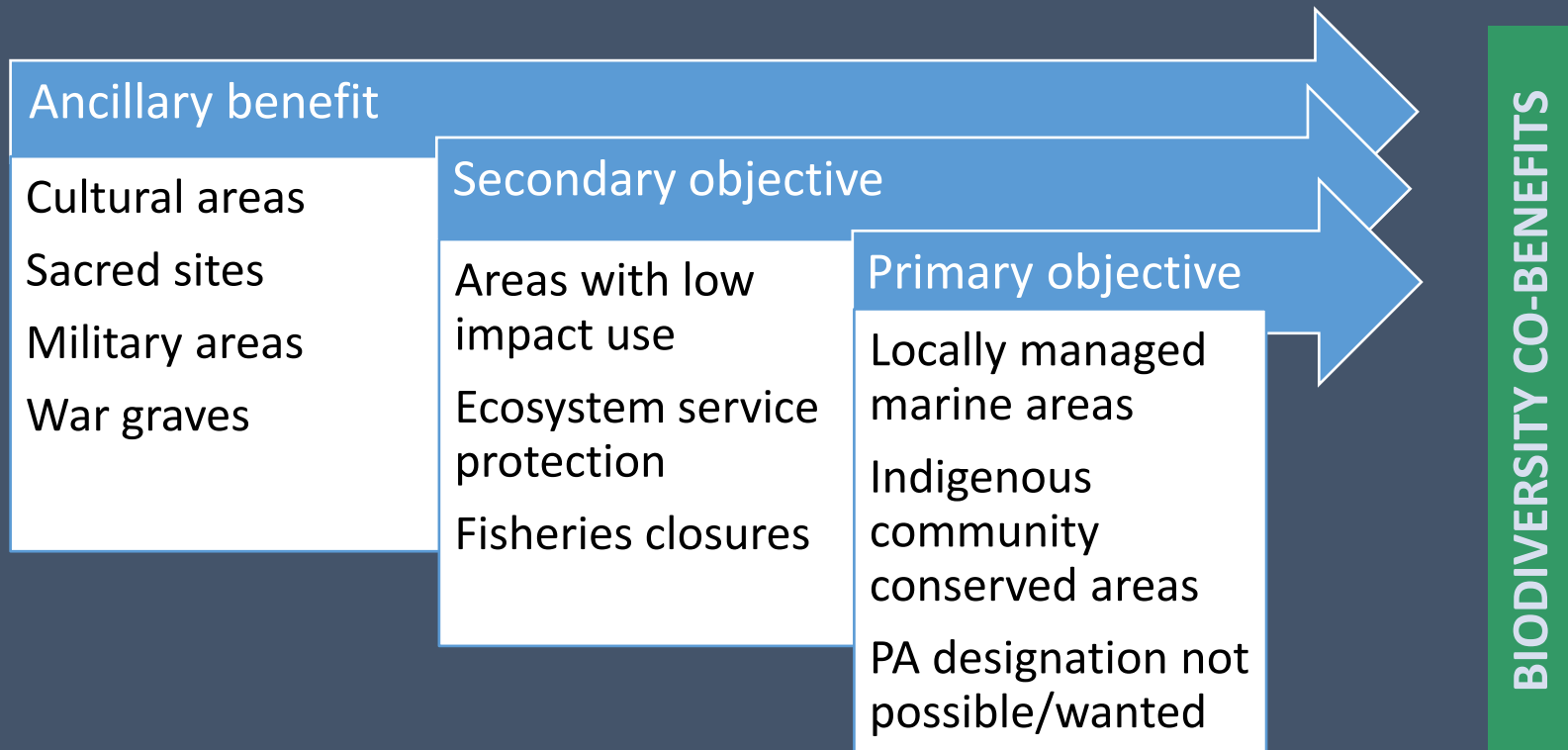
Protected areas

vs.

OECMs

- Should have a primary conservation objective
- Core function is to promote the in-situ conservation of biodiversity

- Primary objective is often not biodiversity conservation
- Co-benefits for biodiversity due to the management in place



The OECM Criteria

Criterion A: The area is not currently recognized as a protected area	
Criterion B: The area is governed and managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area is a geographically defined space• The area has legitimate governance authorities• The area is managed
Criterion C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to <i>in situ</i> conservation of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area is effective• Sustained over long term• <i>In situ</i> conservation of biodiversity• Information and monitoring
Criterion D: Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecosystem functions and services• Cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values



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



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



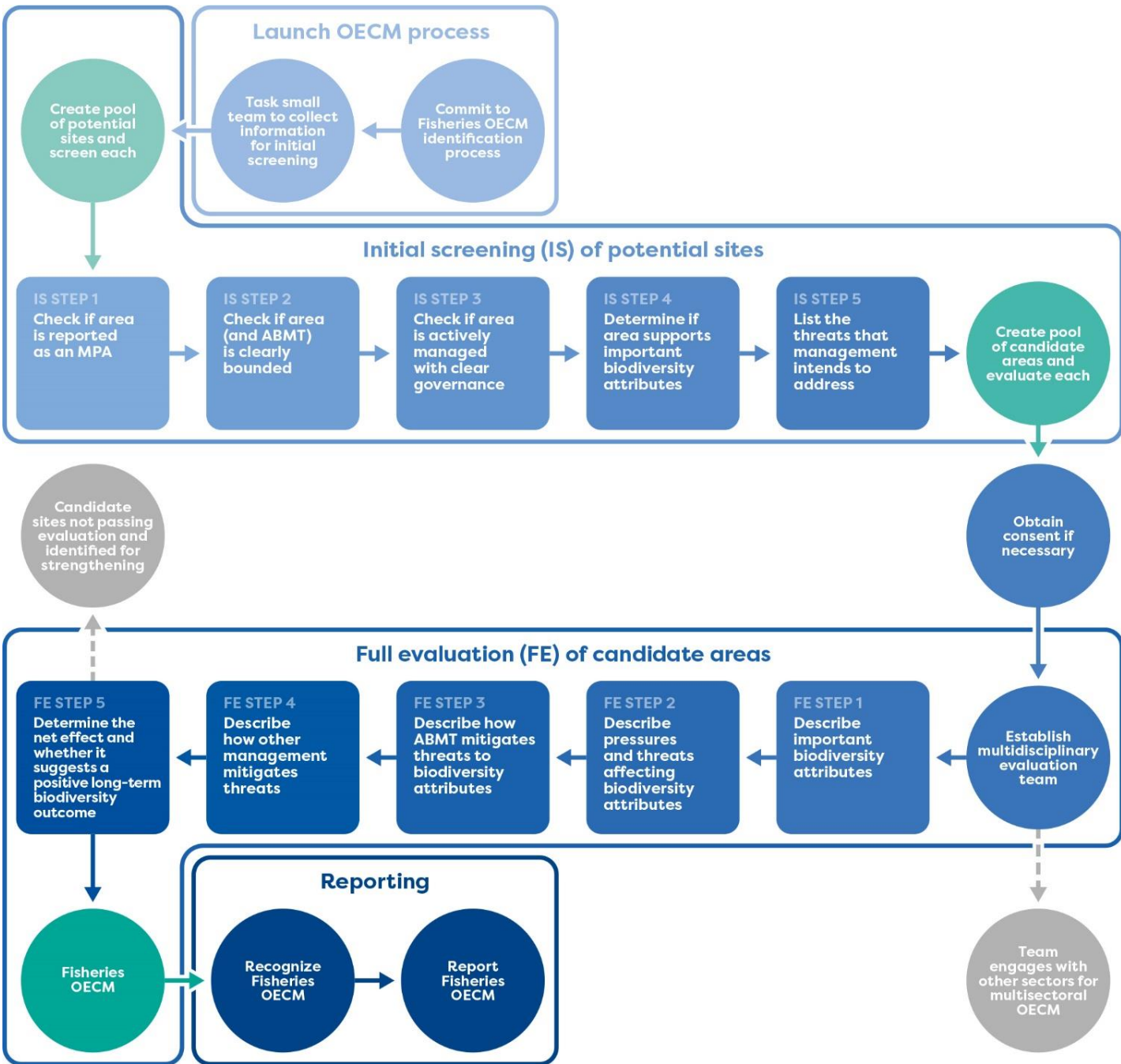
A Process for Identifying, Evaluating, and Reporting Fisheries ABMT as OECMs

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



Operationalizing the Criteria

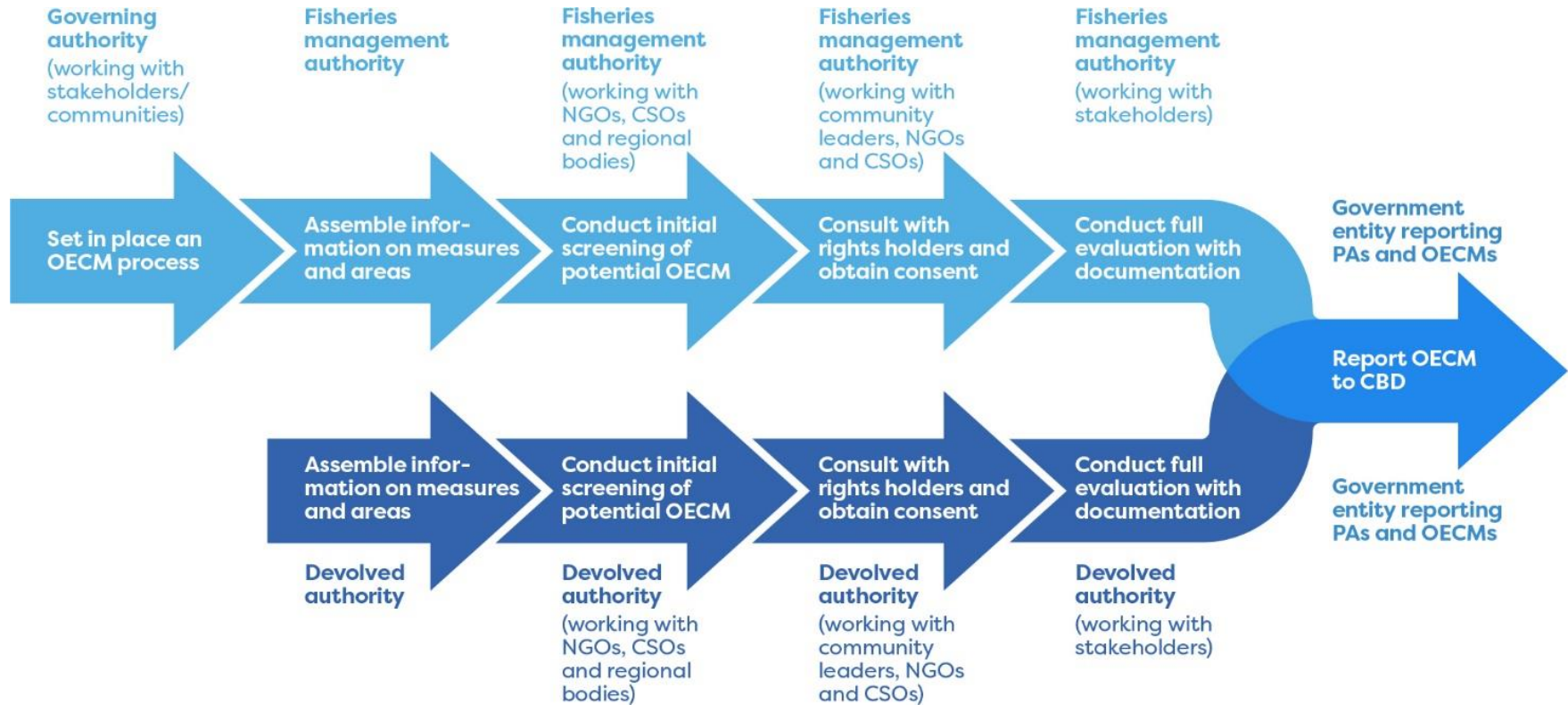


1. Launching – Establishing & Overseeing the Process

- CBD decision and relevant reporting mechanisms enable **governing authorities** of individual areas to **recognize** and **report** their areas as OECMs, but...
 - Value in setting up subnational/national governance framework to **coordinate** screening of candidate areas and formal recognition of OECMs
 - Establishing an agreed, systematic process can help streamline efforts, enhance collaboration and minimize conflict.
- For Fisheries OECMs
 - Governance and oversight of the process will likely be initiated by fisheries management agencies
 - ...working with stakeholders, rights holders, other sectors, academics, communities, NGOs, CSOs
 - ... in some cases, the process may be initiated by a devolved authority, such as Indigenous peoples and local communities.



Process tailored to governing authority

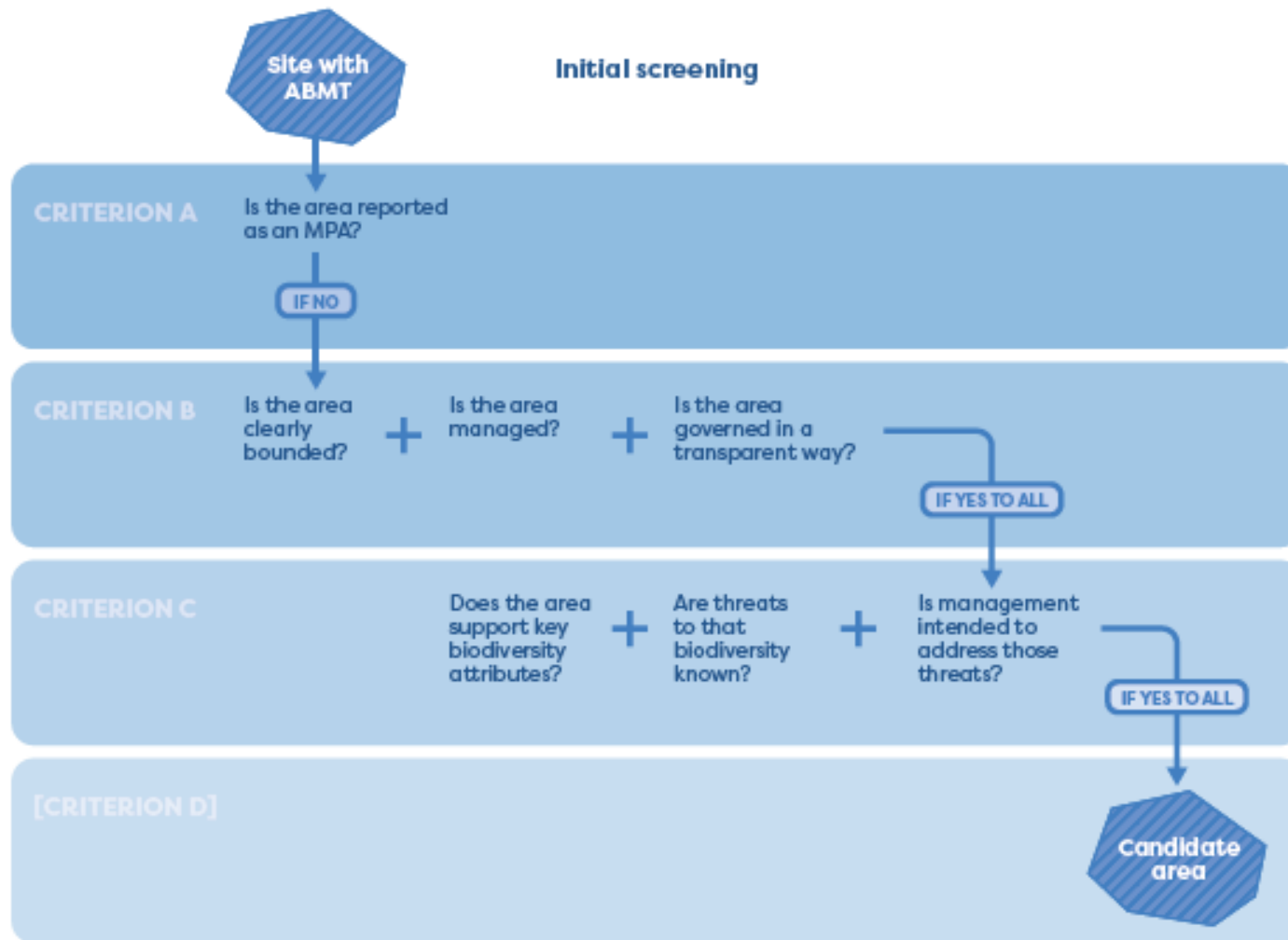


Considerations in establishing an OECM Process

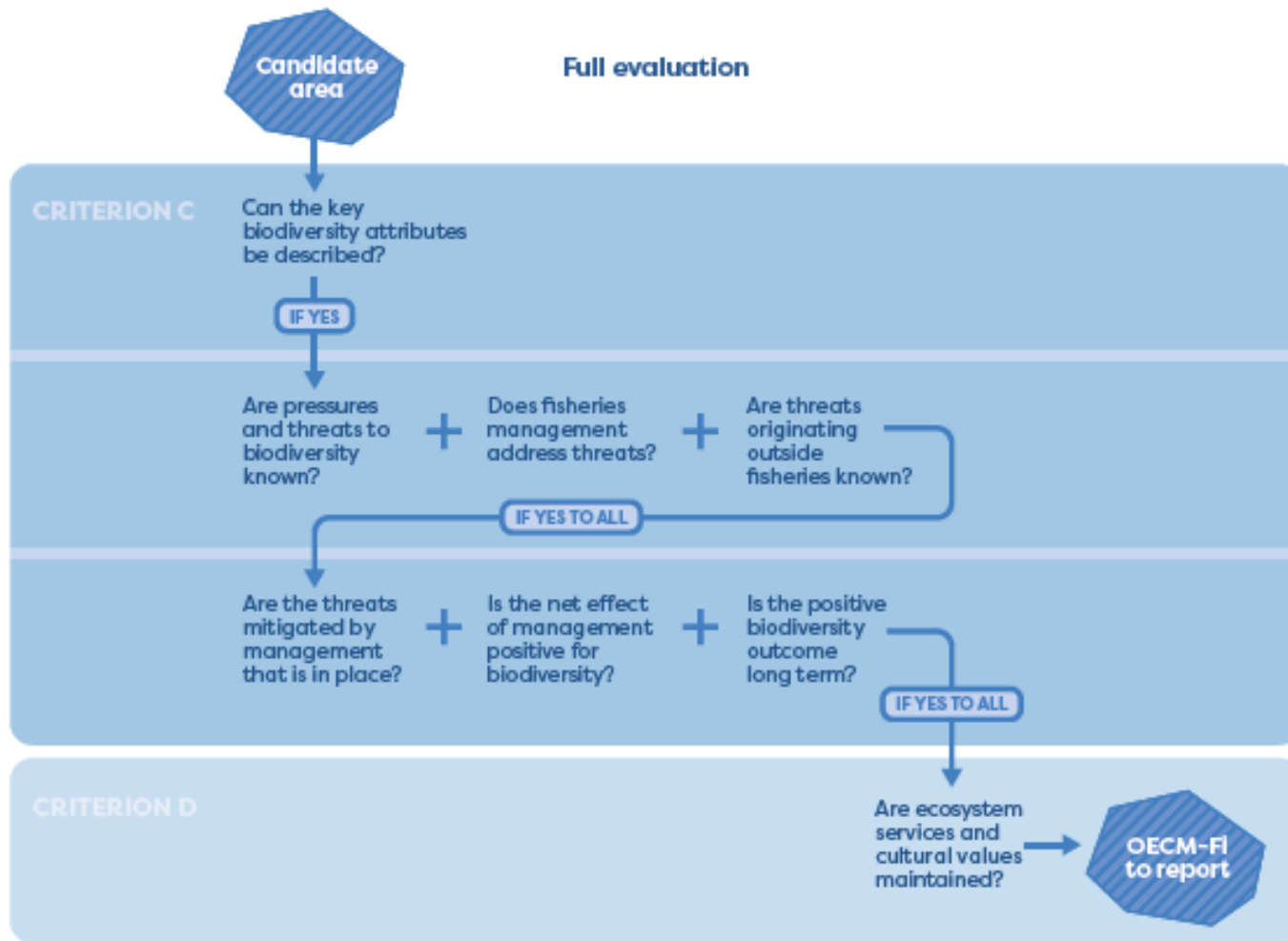
- Need appropriate **consultation with relevant governance authorities**, land-owners, rights owners, stakeholders and public
- Recognition of OECMs **should be supported by measures to enhance governance capacity of legitimate authorities and secure their positive and sustained outcomes for biodiversity**
- Can be done by a **sectoral authority** or by an **inter-sectoral group**



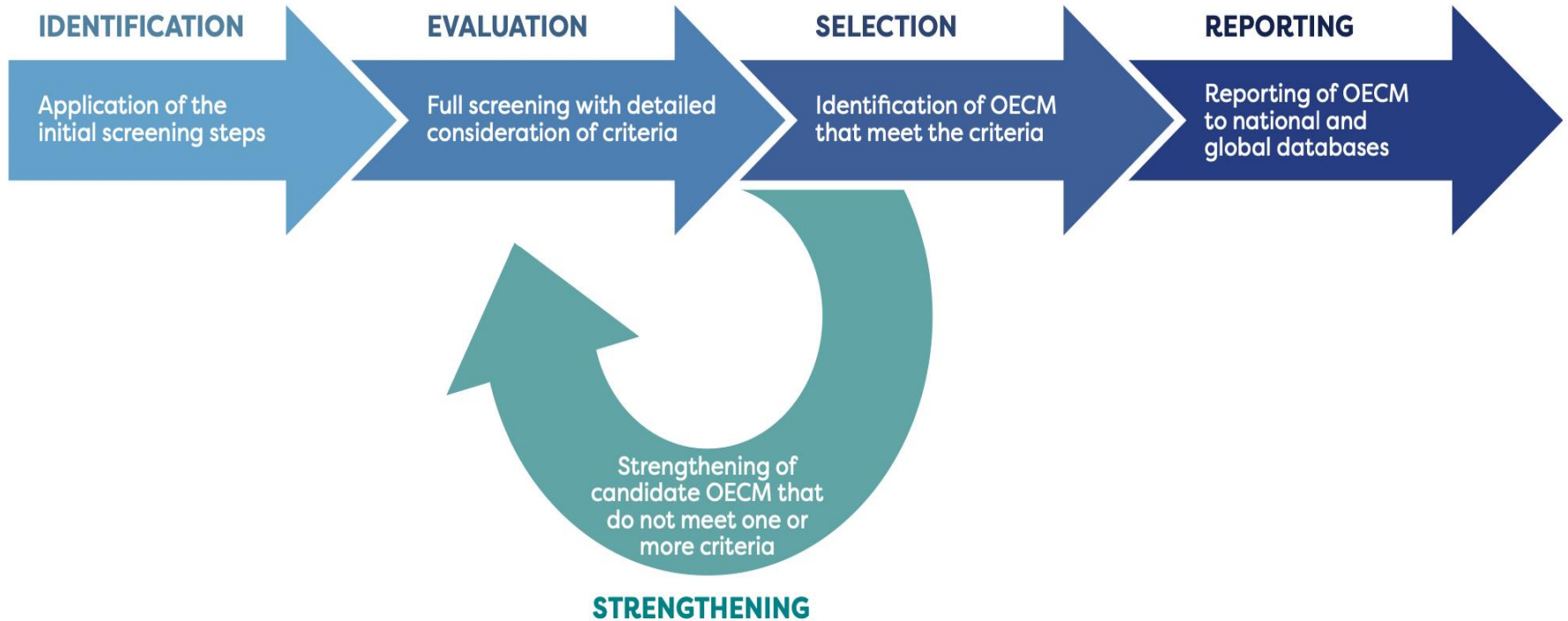
2. Initial Screening – Do ABMT meet basic characteristics?



3. Full Evaluation – Taking a closer look at candidate sites



4. Reporting



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**





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A colorful illustration of a river ecosystem. The river flows through green, hilly terrain. Various aquatic life forms are depicted: a large orange fish, a black octopus, a brown eel, a white jellyfish, a brown turtle, and a red crab. The water is blue, and the banks are lined with green vegetation.

Thank you

For more information, contact:
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