

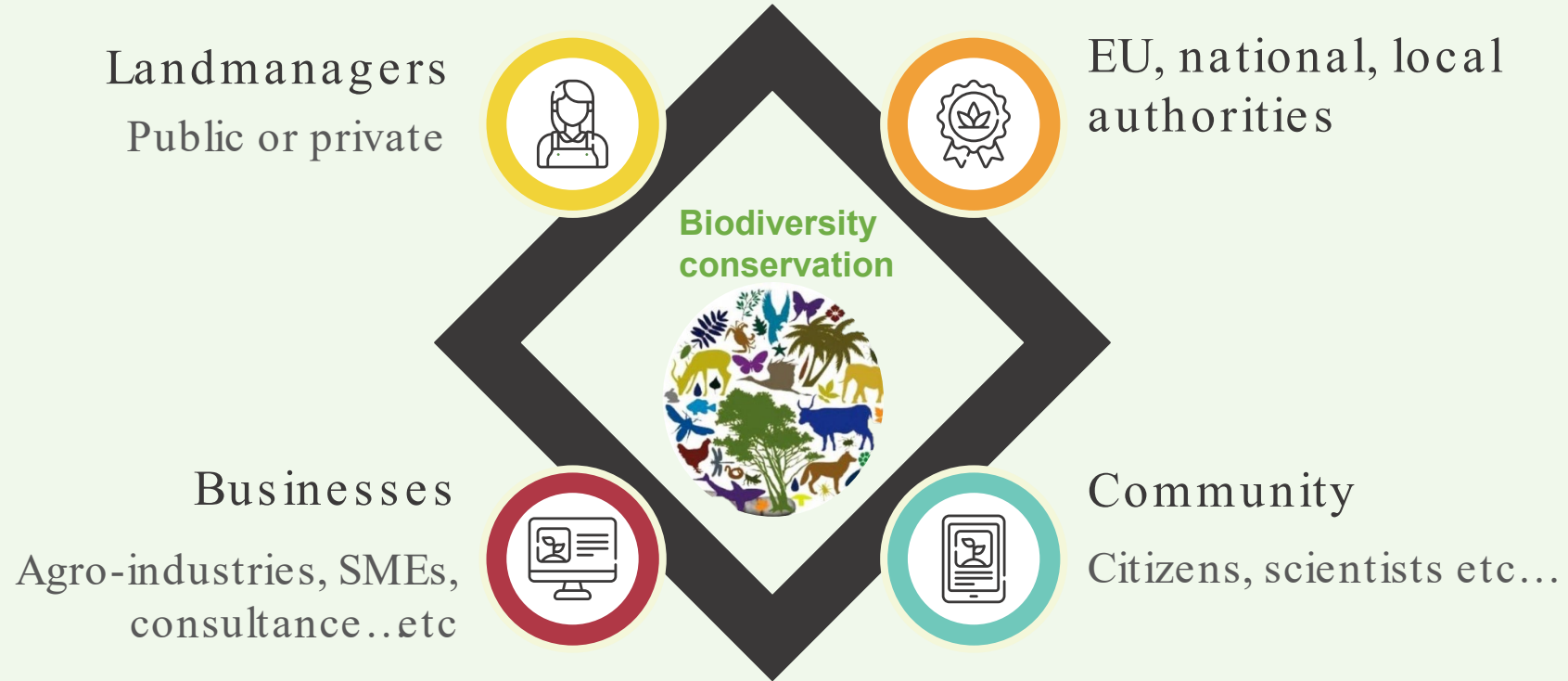
EU Biodiversity Governance


Empowering Land Managers for Action

2000 Biogeographical Seminar for the Continental, Alpine, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions

Them 3: Using OECMs to safeguard biodiversity

Stakeholders ecosystems





We don't have enough land available to reach the biodiversity targets

Example: Public land collectively covers approximately 19% of the national terrestrial territory and over 13% of the marine territory

Nature doesn't care who owns the land: private land is also home to biodiversity hotspots, valuable species and habitats

EU Biodiversity 2030

Some challenges...

Fragmented policies and regulations

Lack of coordination among Member States

Limited funding and resources

Insufficient stakeholder engagement

So what?

- Opening new doors for policy implementation
- Decreased opposition
- De-polarisation, social cohesion, rural development, ownership of policy
- Positive stories about nature conservation
 - Show what is possible
 - Not working against but with landowners (finding common ground)

Thinking out of box !!



BACKGROUND

Lessons learned : Birds and Habitats Directive

- Involvement of stakeholders at early stage
- Opportunity costs vs compensation
- Recognition and guidance vs constraints
- Business model perspective



TRADITIONAL CONSERVATION METHODS

Protected area coverage is a measure easy to apply and to understand for policy-makers but does not account for biodiversity, ecosystem services and social equity within and around protected areas, nor for the connectivity between them.

Hoffmann, S. Challenges and opportunities of area-based conservation in reaching biodiversity and sustainability goals. Biodivers Conserv 31, 325–352 (2022)





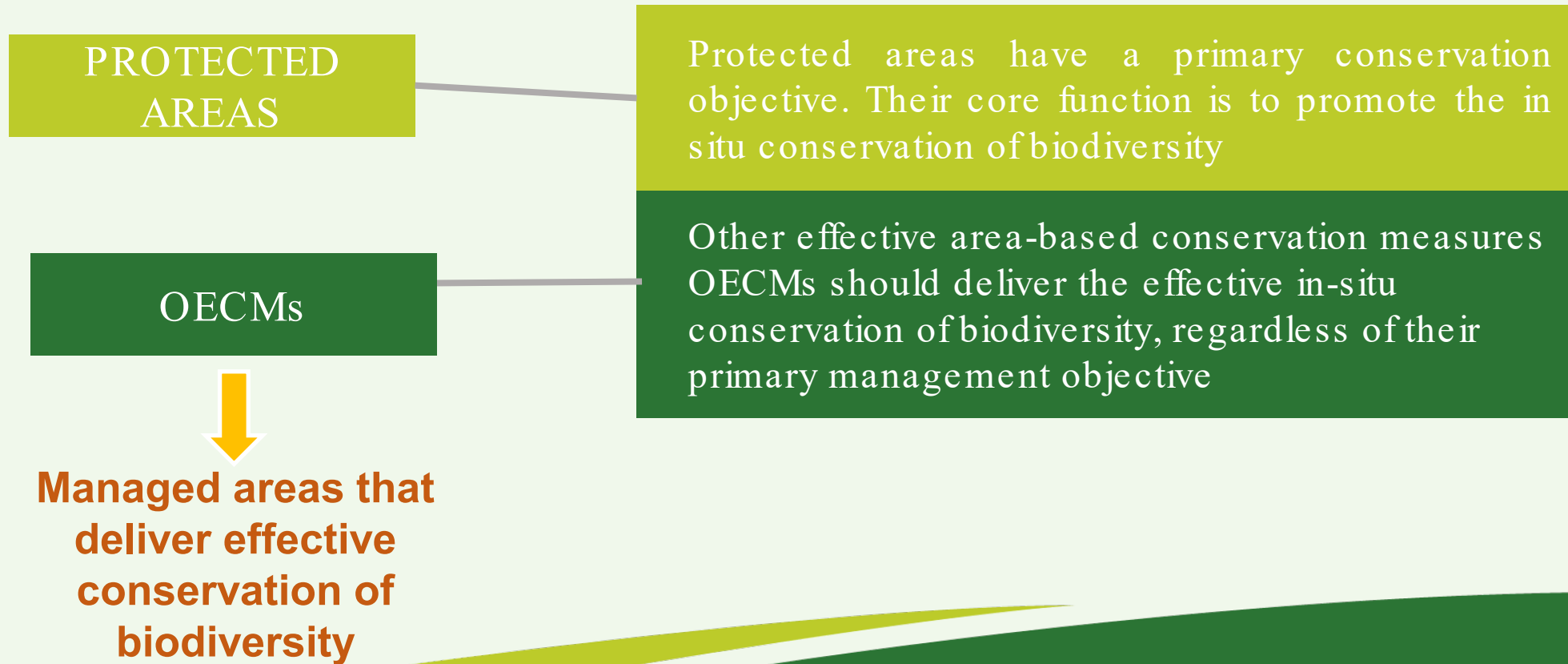
We need a new method governance !

OECMs are not

- protected areas
- managed with a primary conservation objective (not always)
- currently having a clear legal framework in the EU

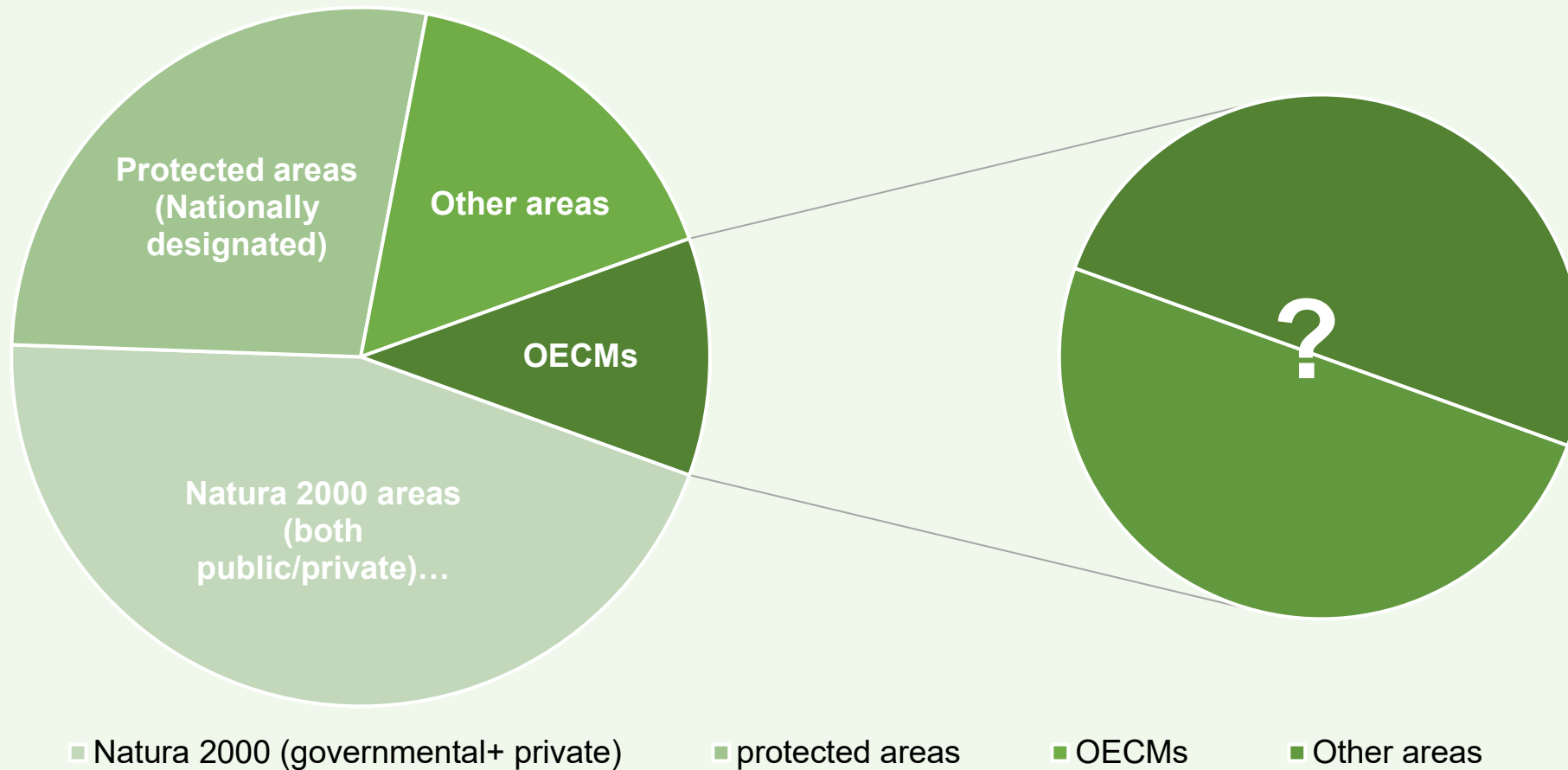
Going beyond protected areas

How OECMs can help ?



Biodiversity conservation

What place for OECMs?



FRAMEWORK : EU GUIDELINES

OECMs can be counted towards the EU target if:

- ✓ the area is covered by a national or international legislative or administrative act or a contractual arrangement aiming to achieve long-term conservation outcomes;
- ✓ conservation objectives and measures are in place; and
- ✓ effective management and monitoring of the biodiversity in the area is in place.

SWD(2022) 23 final, Criteria and guidance for protected areas designations, European Commission

Possible benefits of OECMs

- ❑ They can offer an alternative to the more restrictive existing land designations, and therefore open the potential to add a widely extended area to the network of areas for nature conservation: co-ownership
- ❑ Offering the framework for biodiversity conservation and business models to co-exist
- ❑ more flexibility in allowing management to change over time: new parameters linked to climate change
- ❑ can act as a signal for exploration of emerging Natural Capital markets (carbon/biodiversity credits), rather than it is seen as a barrier like designation is currently often perceived.

Private Land Conservation

What it is

- Beneficial for all parties (empowerment instead of opposition, new alliances, popular across party lines,...)
- Widening of the toolbox

What it is not

- a substitute for regulation
- not to replace hammers with screwdrivers - complementary

in the EU Biodiversity Strategy is not a "nice to have", but essential to ensure our survival and wellbeing



Viestrus and Inese combine farming and nature on their land in Latvia. The largest part of the farm's territory lies within the nature reserve and nature park zones. They host 11 different types of meadow and water habitats on the farm, which are specially protected in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. The Bekas farm is hosting more than 50 protected and endangered species of plants, animals and fungi



Private Land Conservation Tools

- Having a toolbox to fit the needs of landowners
- Testing conservation tools
- Creating overviews of what exists
- Finding synergies and exploring complementarity

Land Stewardship

Voluntary, flexible temporal agreement for conservation purposes.

Conservation Easements

Voluntary, for conservation purpose and in perpetuity or long-term contract. Usually restricts uses on land. Rights "run with the land".

Conservation Leases

Voluntary, to ensure that land use is compatible with nature conservation or restoration objectives

Privately Protected Areas

Geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature under private governance.

Result-based Payment Schemes

Farmer or land manager is given flexibility to choose the most appropriate practices to achieve a defined environmental result in exchange for a payment.

Temporary Nature

Voluntary and temporal instrument to allow landowners derogations from the requirements of species conservation law before endangered species emerge on the property.

WE ACT FOR BIODIVERSITY

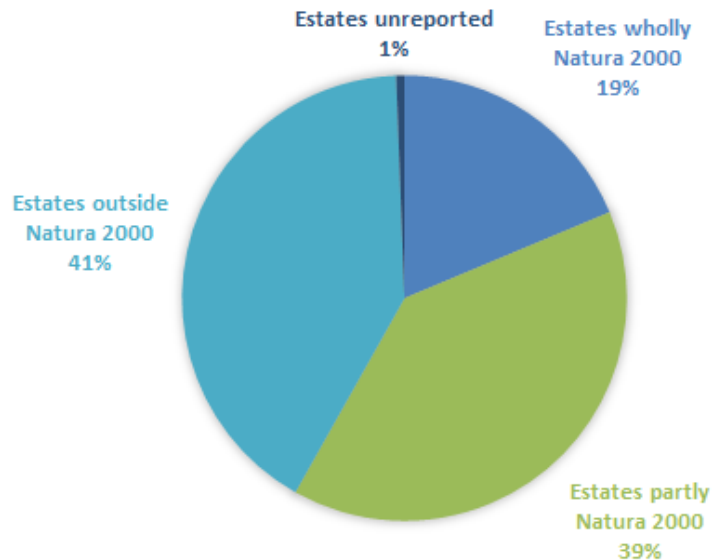


AT BE (WA) BE (FL) BG CZ DK EE FI FR DE IE IT NL PL PT ES RO SE UK (EN & WA) UK (SC)

Natura 2000 coverage of the Wildlife Estates Label



EXISTENCE OF NATURA 2000 AREAS IN WE:
SHARE OF ALL 382 WEL IN EFFECT
(WITH LESS THAN 5 YEARS OR RENEWED)



- ❑ 60% fall partly or wholly in Natura 2000 areas
- ❑ 724.500 ha (\approx 40% of the total area of WE) fall under the Natura 2000 Network
- ❑ 377.800 ha (\approx 20% of the total area of WE) have their complete territory wholly Natura 2000.

GROWING CONFIDENCE IN WILDLIFE ESTATES SCOTLAND: Designating WES as an OECM

28 May 2024



Working for Biodiversity

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Table 1

Inter-operability between WES and OECM Criteria:

OECM Criteria	HOW DOES WES MEET THIS REQUIREMENT
It should deliver the effective and enduring in-situ conservation of biodiversity, regardless of its objectives.	WES is applicable to all land managers – irrespective of the land management objectives. The continuous theme running through the accreditation scheme is the maintenance of and adherence to standards concerning biodiversity, conservation and sectoral best practice.
Size and area are described and boundaries are geographically delineated.	As part of the application process, applicants are required to specify, using a map, the land being managed by the owner or occupier.
Governance has legitimate authority and is appropriate for achieving in-situ conservation of biodiversity within the area.	Only owners or occupiers with management control may apply for accreditation. For example, tenant farmers must apply for accreditation in their own right - their landlord cannot do it on their behalf. There are no restrictions on the type of landowner or occupier whether it be, for example, a private individual, a community, a Trust, etc.
Managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for biodiversity conservation.	Demonstration of this is a core component of the accreditation and is supported through evidence of conservation work covering the previous 5-year term and the mandatory requirement to have a forward-facing Habitat Management Plan to cover the period of accreditation (5 years).
Relevant authorities and stakeholders are identified and involved in management.	As part of the holistic approach to accreditation, applicants are required to demonstrate levels of, stakeholder engagement and outreach relevant to land management whether it be through communities (including neighbouring land managers), e-NGOs, land management organisations, local authorities, access takers, Government agencies, scientific bodies, interest bodies or others.
A management system is in place that contributes to sustaining the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.	As noted above, a Habitat Management Plan is a pre-requisite of accreditation and must be supplied at the point of assessment. The plan must include key objectives, a route plan of how they will be achieved and also how success will be measured. This requirement goes above and beyond simply sustaining what exists already and, instead, builds continuously on success.
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.	WES encourages accredited members to integrate commercial activities with nature by taking a dynamic, integrated approach. Nature must be recognised as an evolving quantum that is integral to adaption and resilience. The ability to maintain the health of the water environment, the soil environment and floral biodiversity is key to this, as these are the bases of primary terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.



Doing the
work!