

4<sup>th</sup> Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar for  
the Continental, Alpine, Pannonian, Steppic  
and Black Sea Regions

# Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Commoner IUCN  
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"by our hands we endeavour, by our  
various operations in this world, to  
make, as it were, another nature"

LX 152, Cicero, 45 BC



27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

*Unil*  
UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
Institut de géographie  
et durabilité

Fondation  
de  
France



Who Am I?  
Why my focus on  
European rural  
community based  
OECMs



In gratitude to the  
people of Makoko,  
Iko Essai, Tandi,  
Santa Clara, Mourex



# Global Objectives on Biodiversity Target 3

“Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine 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.”

Kumming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022



“equitably governed systems”



“recognizing indigenous and traditional territories”



“respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities”

What does these mean in European context?

# Other Effective area -based Conservation Measures

## Background

“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, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values”

CBD, 2018



“area other than a Protected Area”



“governed and managed”



“sustained long-term outcomes”



“In situ conservation of biodiversity”

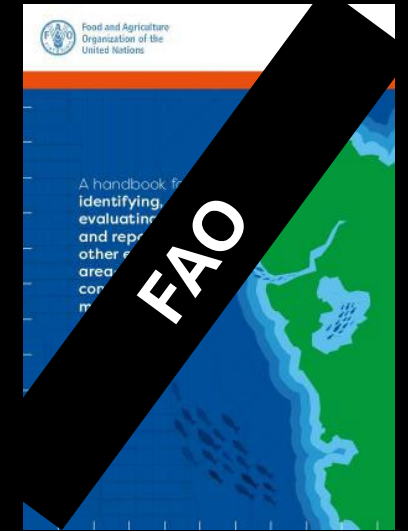
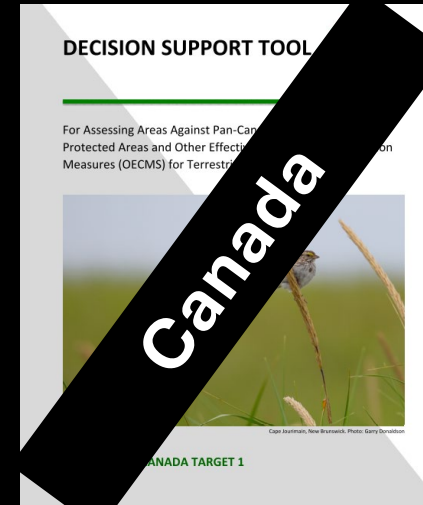


“cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values”

Also what does these mean in European context?

# Other Effective area -based Conservation Measures

## Guidelines



- In EU and EU states, few detailed interpretation of CBD
- None taking specificity of Europe



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE - 1

## Need detailed European OECM guidance

- That is relevant to the European context
- Allow recognition of existing systems
- Avoids recreating the wheel

*“protection involves all sorts of difficulties, above all that of satisfying both the farmers and the friends of nature” – IUPN / IUCN 1950*

OECD's  
recognition of  
other ways to  
30x30  
could counter  
"Greenlash"

## 'Greenlash' fuels fears for Europe's environmental ambitions

By Sarah Marsh, Kate Abnett and Gloria Dickie

August 10, 2023 5:47 PM GMT+2 · Updated 9 months ago



Environment Science Global development Football Tech Business Obitu

This article is more than 8 months old

After two years of real progress on climate change, a European 'greenlash' is brewing  
*Nathalie Tocci*



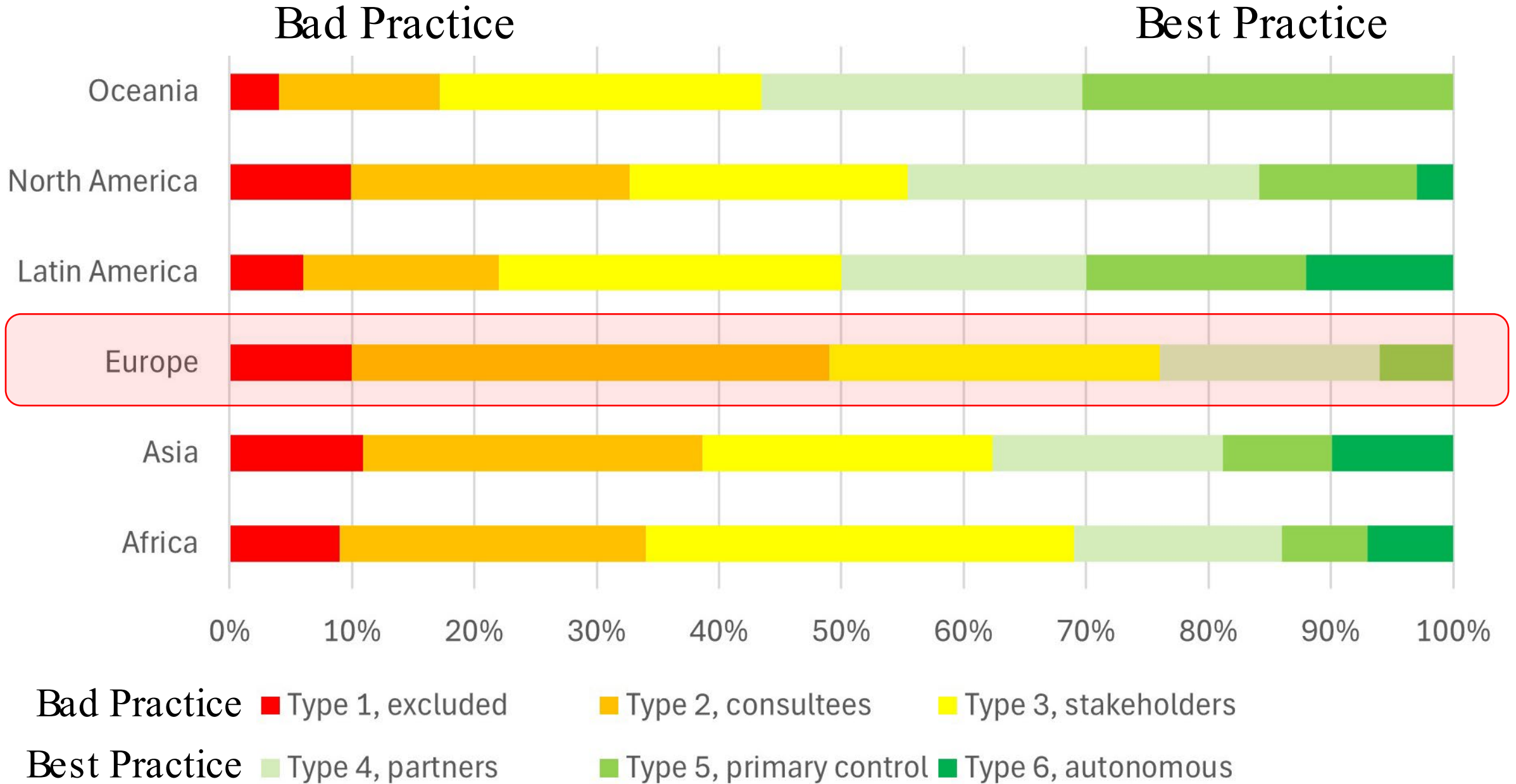
Photos AFP and Jeanne Accorsini

### How to minimise the 'greenlash'

by Elisabetta Cornago, 18 December 2023

A backlash over the EU's green policies is not inevitable. Policy-makers should focus on designing green policies that make decarbonisation affordable, and highlight its social benefits.

# Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Inclusion in Conservation





# Can local communities protect biodiversity?



## the case of Chamonix

- Been to Chamonix?
- Been to the Alpine Pastures?
- Know that there are Natura 2000 sites?
- Know that is a cultural landscape?

- Know that Alpine pastures are mostly Private land owned by commoners (Consortage)?

# Can local communities protect biodiversity?

Without permission, who would like to have in their garden:

- A global marathon crossing it?
- People camping in it?
- A global jazz concert in it?
- Geologist carrying out seismic surveys?
- Ecologist carrying out biodiversity survey?

Nor do the commoners of Chamonix



In Chamonix, the commoners protection of the biodiversity of their lands, sometimes results in conflict with the Protected area authorities!



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE - 2

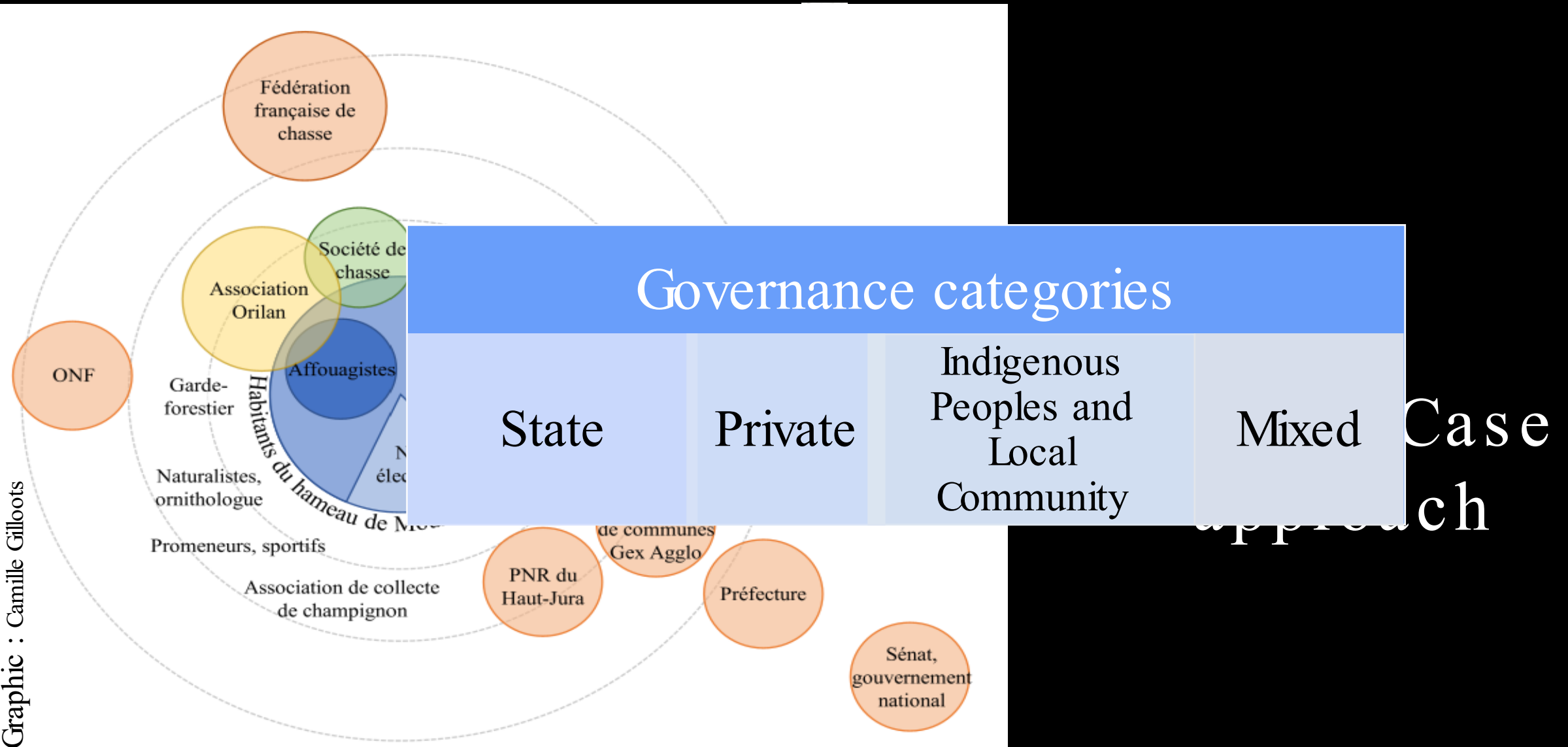
OECMs recognise that European rural communities can conserve biodiversity

- Sometimes better than current protected areas
- Inclusive allows input from rural communities
- Europe is lagging in inclusive conservation practices

*“OECMs have a distinctive advantage in expanding long-term conservation efforts through a grassroots approach by distributing the responsibility for protecting biodiversity among a wider group of stakeholders” – Scotland’s Nature Agency 2023*

# Other Effective area -based Conservation Measures

## Diverse forms of governance



# Other Effective area -based Conservation Measures

Less intention  
to conserve  
biodiversity

More intention  
to conserve  
biodiversity

## Ancillary

- 'No-disturbance' areas
- Sacred natural sites
- Military areas
- War graves
- Other restricted areas

## Secondary

- Areas that are protected through very low-impact use
- Watershed protection areas
- Ecosystem service-related wetlands

## Primary

- Areas with a primary conservation objective...
- ... but the governance authority is unable to secure Protected Area designation or prefers not to be recognised as a Protected Area

Governance may  
not be directly  
linked to  
conservation  
outcomes

=

OECM  
CONFUSION

# Comparison of Protected Areas, OECMs and Biosphere Reserves

	Protected Areas	MAB	Natura 2000	OECMs
Age	Thousands of years	Post 1995	1979/92	2010
Governance	State	Mixed	State / Mixed	Mixed
Long-Term Protection	Yes	Yes	Mixed (eminent domain)	Yes
Envelopes other Protected Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Principal governance objective	Conservation	Conservation + development	Conservation	Unlinked
Outcome	Conservation	Conservation + development	Conservation	Biodiversity Conservation
Legally recognition for creation	Yes	Mixed	Yes (dependant on state)	Mixed
Inclusion of people	No – though changing	Mixed	In Theory as much land is private but depends on state implementation	Essential

# Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures In Europe

Issues and Challenges, views from:  
WCAP OECM Europe Working Group  
Vim workshop (2023)

OECM conference - <https://ruralcommons.eu/>



OECMs in Europe

The way forward for Other Effective Area-based  
Conservation Measures

Gisela Stolpe, Emily Howland and Jasmin Upton.



IUCN WCAP Issues Paper Series No. 1



CBD interpretation	Differences in interpretation of CBD by IUCN and the EU
Overcoming misconceptions	Such as OECMs offer a weaker conservation instrument than protected areas
Reassessment of current PAs	To ensure they are meeting the effectiveness criterion
Long-term	Need clearer definition of long-term
Legal designation	Legal designation remains unclear
Benefits of OECM recognition	Need clear evidence of benefits
Alignment with other policies	To help secure OECM recognition and permanence, e.g. Sustainable Development Goals
Political risks	Risk of OECMs being labelled as Greenwashing and diverting attention from protected areas

# OECMs all about biodiversity



Photo : I. Holban 2020

Strict evaluation and criteria system

Clear felling in a protected area

Can never be an OECM



Photo : A. Levet

Sustainable logging in a common

Could be an OECM



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE - 3

OECMs are disruptive and so will create confusion

- OECMs are all about protection of biodiversity
- Not Business as Usual but Case-by-case and 2-eyed approach (Cynefin)
- Not a greenwashing jack-of-all trades

*“a greater focus on biodiversity outcomes and also provide important links with the new EU nature restoration law and policies for nature-based solutions to climate change” – IUCN 2024*

# Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures In Europe

## Europe

**176545**

Total Protected Areas

**14556** With management effectiveness evaluations

- Terrestrial and Inland Waters Protected Areas
- Marine Protected Areas
- Other effective area-based conservation measures

**10**

Total Other effective area-based conservation measures

**62**

Number of countries



# OECM FUTURE IN EUROPE

## Take home messages

1. Need detailed European OECM guidance
2. OECMs recognise that rural communities can effectively conserve biodiversity
3. OECMs are disruptive so will create confusion



OECMs Protect Biodiversity just as well, and sometimes better, than Protected Areas



Conference: OECMs in Europe  
December 12-13<sup>th</sup> 2024  
<https://ruralcommons.eu/>

