



OECMs: Definitions and applications

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Policy context: EU BDS 2030

- **Legally protect 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's sea area** and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a “Trans-European Nature Network”
- **Strictly protect 10% of the EU's protected areas**
- Effectively manage all protected areas, defining **clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring** them appropriately.

CBD Definition of OECMs

“other effective area-based conservation measure” means “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”.

Criteria and guidance for protected areas designations (Commission Staff Working Document)

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.