



FACTSHEET

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OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECMS) FOR LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE MANAGEMENT IN CAMBODIA

WHAT ARE OECMS?

An area outside a protected area that is governed and managed to ensure long-term conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and services, while supporting cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other local values.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS?

Protected areas are designated and managed with a primary conservation objective in mind, such as preserving habitat for endangered species. Their core function is to promote the conservation of biodiversity within a given site.

OECMs are defined as managed areas that deliver effective conservation of biodiversity within a given site, regardless of whether that is the goal. For example, a sacred natural site with high biodiversity value may be conserved due to its cultural or religious significance. The objective in this case is not biodiversity conservation, but it is still a result of conserving the site.

WHAT CAN OECMS CONTRIBUTE TO GOVERNANCE OF CONSERVATION AREAS?

- **Expanding recognized conservation networks**
- **Maintaining ecosystem services**
- **Safeguarding critical habitats**
- **Strengthening connectivity**
- **Supporting community-led conservation**
- **Mainstreaming biodiversity**

WHY DO OECMS MATTER IN CAMBODIA?

Recognizing other effective area-based conservation measures in Cambodia offers a range of strategic benefits. While positioning the country as a global leader in biodiversity conservation, OECMs will also increase access to a range of strategic funding sources such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Fund. OECMs also strengthen community involvement by acknowledging their role in conservation, supporting sustainable livelihoods and encouraging stewardship of natural resources.

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HOW DO CAMBODIA'S CURRENT POLICIES ALIGN WITH ESTABLISHING OECMS?

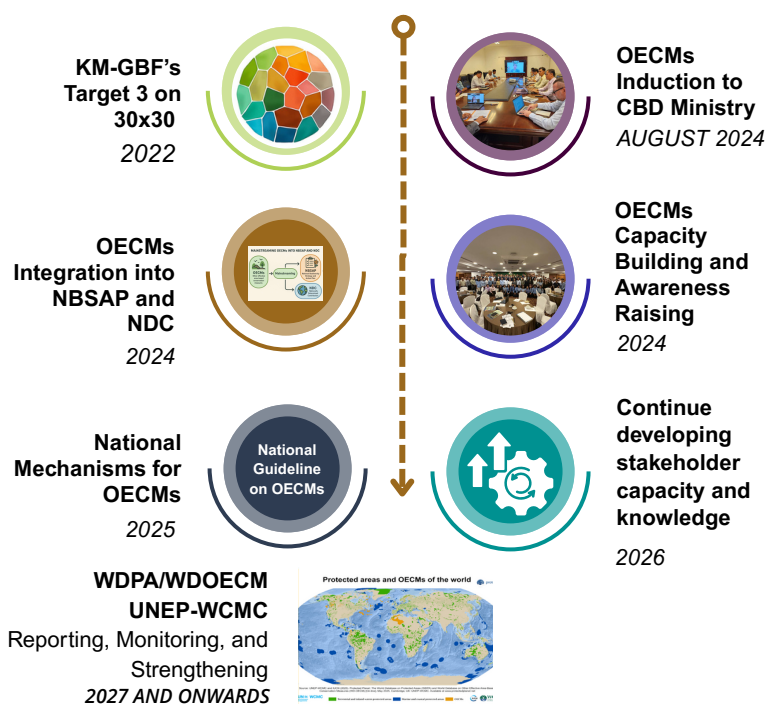
Current policy frameworks support expanding in situ conservation efforts beyond strict protected zones. For example, the Code on Environment and Natural Resources Management mandates competent authorities to manage natural resources outside protected areas following sectoral laws. Additionally, the National Council for Sustainable Development's Biodiversity Technical Working Group plays a key role by advising biodiversity policy, including conservation outside protected areas – reinforcing the value of OECMs.

WHAT TYPES OF AREAS ARE LIKELY TO MEET OECM CRITERIA?

An area must have clear boundaries, a strong governance arrangement and evidence of effective conservation practices for important biodiversity via ongoing management interventions to meet OECM criteria.¹

- Community forests outside of wildlife sanctuaries or protected areas
- Community fisheries or fish conservation zones in coastal and freshwater areas
- Indigenous communal land titles or Indigenous and community conserved areas
- Sacred forests and spirit forests
- Agroforestry zones and ecotourism areas
- Buffer zones of protected areas
- Privately managed areas

A PATH FORWARD FOR OECMS IN CAMBODIA



WHAT IS WWF'S ROLE?

WWF provides technical assistance and capacity-building to support the implementation of the KM-GBF, including identifying OECMs, managing them and addressing challenges.

We are committed to an inclusive, rights-based approach that encourages the equitable participation of marginalized groups.



Visit our project website

¹The United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) identified four criteria for OECMs in Decision 14/8.



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