30x30 Solutions

A guide to inclusive, equitable and effective implementation of biodiversity Target 3

Review Draft 1:
This document is for review only, do not quote or refer to as a finalized document. Thank you.

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version 17 Apr 23 b

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A guide to inclusive, equitable and effective implementation of biodiversity Target 3

This guidance is being developed by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, supported by the Global Environment Facility through a grant to WWF-US. (More information on our project website, T3Guide.info.)

The guide focuses on identifying existing approaches and technical tools to support implementation. The text has been developed through a highly consultative process, and this first draft is available to anyone who is interested in reading it, commenting, and offering suggestions.

Please note that text in green is NOT actual text for the guide, but explanatory notes on sections etc. that will be developed.

How to Review the Draft

Please use the review form provided with the draft. The draft text includes line numbers to help you indicate precisely what part of the Guide you wish to comment on. Note that is the first of two wide open calls to review drafts. The final draft of the document will be professionally proofread so there is no need to note grammatical or other errors.

Given the high level of interest in Target 3, and our efforts to promote awareness of the Guide, we expect to receive comments from hundreds of people through this review process. We request that you be as specific as you can in your comments and suggestions. And we assure you that every review received will be considered as we revise the draft.

We are particularly interested in receiving good example thumbnail case studies of practical ways countries have planned or implemented elements of the target. Given very limited space, these would ideally be one-sentence summaries with a hyperlink to more information.
Please review the text only. Infographics in this first review draft are conceptual and provided for illustration only. They will be completed, refined and designed for the second round review draft.
This first draft is in English but you may comment in English, French or Spanish.

Please send all review forms to our project email address, T3Guide@oldtownhill.org. **Deadline is 30 April 2023**, but we encourage you to reply sooner. Again, we anticipate receiving many comments to process.

Thanks to the many people who have participated in consultations and discussions. We are building a list of acknowledgements of people who have participated. If you do not want your name to appear on such a list, let us know through T3Guide@oldtownhill.org. Inclusion on this list does not connote approval of the entire document.

30x30 Solutions Online Toolbox

Our project parameters limit the Guide to 60 pages, and also requests that infographics be used throughout. (Infographics are under development and most are not available in this first text draft.) Thus we will not have space in the PDF Guide to include all suggestions, case studies, and other examples.

Fortunately, WCPA and other partners are working on a parallel project, staffed by The Nature Conservancy, to develop an online toolbox for Target 3. This will provide far more space to describe existing and emerging guidance on specific topics relevant to Target 3. We welcome your suggestions. The Guide and Toolbox are being designed and developed to work in tandem. A description of the Toolbox project is on 30x30.solutions, though the new website will look much different.

Next Steps

Our core drafting team will consider all comments and prepare a revised draft for a second round of review and comment. We aspire to announce that draft for a comment period beginning in May, a draft that will include infographics. Whether we can meet that deadline will depend on the volume and nature of comments received.

Final edits, approvals and design will continue in June and July. The final document will be professionally proofread. We have a commitment to launch a final version of the Guide at the General Assembly of the Global Environment Facility in August. Shortly after it will be translated to French and Spanish.

Recognizing that some interpretations of the Target 3 language—interpretations which bear on implementation—continue to be discussed, we are open to revising the Guide after August if necessary.

Commenting on this document

Text in turquoise highlight indicates a live *internal* link, and grey highlight indicates an *external* link in cases where such a link is not yet available.

Other notes:

- We will use a lot of internal and external links. Not all the external links are yet available, and more will be added as we go along.
- We propose to link the guide and the toolbox through common design characteristics and in the title of the guide.
- Where questions of interpretation are not yet settled, we have tried to describe current positions and debates without taking sides, and indicate that some questions must ultimately be determined through CBD processes, and through national processes of interpretation, application and implementation.

Intro pages

Contents

Editor's note: This will not be your usual list of contents but rather a double page infographic – starting with the objective of the guide and the text of the GBF Target 3 – and then a graphic with live links to each section of the guide. The automatically generated list here is just the starting place for this graphic. The graphic can also be coded to pick out the main themes of planning, issues, success (the main text below is coded this way) to also aid navigation.

Contents

A summary version of this guide [will be] produced with policymakers as the intended audience.

Foreword

[1 page foreword to come.]

A few notes on how the final Guide will be linked to additional information, internally and externally.

- Thumbnail case studies will be given throughout the text. These are 1-2 lines maximum but all link to a web story, document or summary.
- All documents/tools etc. will have embedded links direct to the tool.
- The document will also be meshed, meaning that it will be easy to navigate internally through the document, live contents list, links within infographics to specific sections. (It is not expected that people will read the guide from cover to cover but rather they will use the interactivity to navigate around the guide).

  We envision this guide being part of the starting point of a longer process of learning and action that will continue to evolve.

Introduction

Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

This guide is about how to implement the new global target for effectively conserving 30 per cent of the Earth's surface by 2030. The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), approved by Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022, includes Target 3, the "30x30" target. Each element of this complicated target is explained in the guide along with guidance on planning for implementation, some overarching principles which should guide implementation and some thoughts on how monitoring implementation can be developed.

The final text of GBF Target 3 is as follows, with links to where various elements are discussed:

> *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.*

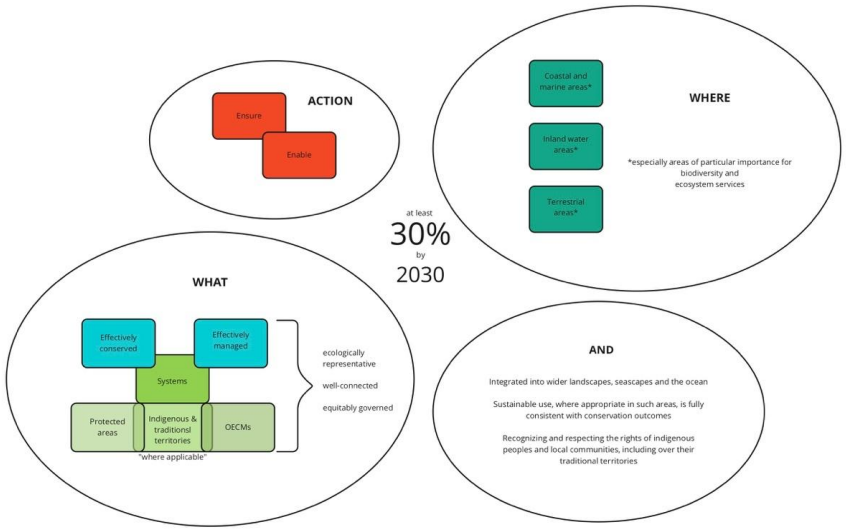


Figure #. **A simple, schematic representation of Target 3**

How to use this guide

Objectives of the Guide

This Guide is intended to support countries in the development and execution of their plans for GBF Target 3. The guide focuses on inclusivity and rights, equity and effectiveness, but also addresses connectivity, ecological representation, effective conservation and climate resilience, and many other issues, drawing on existing data and information.

The Guide is written in straightforward, jargon-free language that makes it accessible and inviting to the target audiences, many of whom will not be reading it in their native languages. It is illustrated with informative, uncomplicated graphics. It assumes little or no familiarity with Target 3 and the nuances of interpretation of its complicated text nor its relationship with the other 22 targets. The guide will be translated into several other languages.

Audiences

While content is meant to be responsive and useful to all groups listed and consulted, the text is primarily oriented to the audience listed here, that is, those working in governments of CBD Parties.

Audiences for the guide include:

- Government planners, policy makers and other technical staff (e.g., in parks and wildlife departments, forestry departments, ministries of environment and natural resources, CBD country focal points; landscape, seascape and river basin planners; Indigenous peoples, local communities and human rights specialists);
- National and sub-national level Indigenous peoples' and community federations, associations and community-based organizations;
- Planning and technical staff in national and international NGOs covering conservation; land, water and other rights; natural resource-related livelihoods; and support to Indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Private sector entities holding or managing land or water that could qualify as protected areas or OECMs; and
- CBD Secretariat staff and members of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), among others.

Navigating the Guide

Readers are advised to start with the overview section on a holistic approach to Target 3 and the step-by-step indicative timelines in "Process to Deliver on Target 3." Then proceed to details in following sections, which parse elements of the Target's text for further examination.

The guide is a toolbox, users chose the most relevant parts, although we urge everyone to read Inclusive, effective and equitable: a holistic approach to Target 3. Each section includes an introduction, planning (focusing on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans), GBF-specific issues and how to measure success. All documents and tools have embedded links, most also link to more detailed descriptions on the 30x30.solutions website, which can be translated into many languages. Graphics and thumbnail case studies help explain complex issues.

Ongoing Interpretations of Target 3

We note that although the wording of Target 3 has been agreed, the interpretation of several phrases within the target are still under negotiation at the time of writing, and some of these questions will not be resolved in the immediate future. Where there appear to be varying points of view, we have noted these without taking a position; these will emerge gradually over time through negotiation and a democratic process of debate.

Acronyms and key terms explained

Actors: In addition to using the terms rights-holders and stakeholders, the guide uses 'actors' where referring broadly to the rights-holders, stakeholders, decision-makers, and others playing roles in protected and conserved areas governance and management. Use of these terms may differ in translations of this guide, as appropriate. .
BBNJ: Marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
CBD: UN Convention on Biological Diversity
COP: Conference of the Parties to the CBD
EEZ: Exclusive economic zone
FPIC: Free, prior and informed consent, a right enshrined in article 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
GBF: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
HRBA: Human rights-based approach
ICCAs: An abbreviation for areas and territories conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities. This abbreviation comes from CBD decisions and international guidance referring to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. This document uses this abbreviation primarily where it appears as part of a document title or organization name.
ICCA Registry: Online information platform for ICCAs
IP&LCs: Indigenous peoples and local communities
IPA: Indigenous protected area
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA: Key biodiversity area
MPA: Marine protected area
NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECM: Other effective area-based conservation measures
PAME: Protected area management effectiveness
Parties: In this context this refers to all the governments that have signed the CBD
PCA: Protected and conserved areas
SDG: UN Sustainable Development Goals
Target 3: The third target in the GBF
UN: United Nations
UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD: UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP WCMC: UN Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre
URSA: Universal Ranger Support Alliance
WDPA: World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECM: World Database on OECMs
30x30: Shorthand for the Target 3 goal to extend area-based conservation to 30 per cent of the planet by 2030]

Planning for Implementation

Timeline for implementation

The first step for any country implementing Target 3 will be to develop a detailed implementation plan. An indicative timeline and major planning steps are suggested below. Times are approximate, individual countries will already have some elements in place and will be able to move forward more quickly, others may have additional factors to consider that slow progress. The infographic and two tables present the same information in progressively greater detail. Guidance on the steps are provided throughout this guide. (We aim to combine much of this into a two-page infographic in the designed version, the main headings will be linked to specific sections of the guide where more information can be found.)

indicative timeline for establishing GBF and Target 3 implementation

Indicative timeline for establishing GBF and Target 3 implementation (Note the tables below will be presented as a two-page infographic)

Short term (1-6 months)	**Medium term** (6-12 months)	**Long term** (12+ months)
APPRAISAL: Understand the context, including biodiversity conservation needs, gaps in PCA systems, Indigenous and traditional territories, privately protected areas, related governance, social, cultural, economic systems, pledges and policy agreements	**EFFECTIVENESS**: Assess in more detail quality of existing area-based conservation and needs for improvement in management effectiveness and governance quality* (*May involve systems and site-level assessments and be ongoing / iterative process)	**QUALITY**: Increase management effectiveness and governance quality of existing PCA systems (i.e., adaptive management based on assessments)
CAPACITY: Anticipate the capacity needed to govern, manage and monitor a system at greater scale, including enhanced inclusion, effectiveness, equity	**RESOURCES**: Assess need for and finding access to resources (financial and human) and pathways for equitable access	**QUANTITY:** Continue to build conservation and social assets to contribute to the long-term achievement of the Target.
INCLUSION: Identify relevant actors (rights-holders, stakeholders, decision-makers, other knowledge-holders, etc.) and engage through full, equitable and effective participation, including access to information	**AGREEMENT**: Find common cause and identify equitable implementation pathways, including for recognition and support of PCAs under diverse governance types	**ENABLE ACTORS**: Establish and sustain a complex system of PCAs with diverse governance, recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories and privately protected areas; improve connectivity and secure tenure rights where absent
PLANNING: Develop participatory planning for 30x30; options include (i) better governance and management of existing sites, (ii) potential expanded recognition/identification and/or new sites and (iii) if the latter, whether protected areas, OECMs, and/or recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories	**POLICY & LEGAL FRAMEWORK**: Identify necessary changes in policy and legislation; and analyzing policy incoherence and gaps Identify key legal and policy gaps and barriers Consider conservation and interacting sectors, as well as rights and access to justice	**LAWS AND POLICIES**: Make necessary changes to policy and legislation at national and sub-national level Resolve legal and policy gaps and barriers to success
NBSAPs: Identify strategic elements needed for 30x30 in revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	**INDICATORS**: Identify indicators and processes for monitoring	**MONITORING AND REPORTING**: Implement continuing research, monitoring, assessment and associated adaptive management and governance; and report these effectively

Step by step to implementation **(the third column of the table below will link directly to the section of the guide dealing with these specific issues in the final designed version so users can review the implementation steps they need to take and link to further information provided in the guide. This will be refined in future drafts as text is revised following review comments.)**

First six months

Step		Tools and approaches
Appraisal	Biodiversity conservation status	· Existence of Key Biodiversity Areas · National and international Red Lists of species and ecosystems · National identification of at-risk species and ecosystems · Research gaps and needs
	Governance, social, cultural, economic systems	· Participatory situation analysis (including current and historical socio-political context)
	Existing protected and conserved areas	· National and international databases and platforms · UNEP-WCMC dossiers · ICCA Registry
	Existing legislation and policies	· Conservation laws and policies · National and sub-national laws and policies concerning tenure and procedural and substantive human rights · Perverse incentives · International laws, policy and commitments
	Finance available	· National protected area budgets · NGO and donor commitments · Other potential funding sources
	Policy pledges and agreements	· Review international and regional policy commitments related to the GBF and other related international agreements
Recognition and inclusion	Actors	· Identify and recognize those holding rights in the areas concerned, including relevant owners of lands, waters and territories, including non-title holders with traditional rights, with understanding that some rights may not yet be recognized under national law · Identify other interested parties · Review governance of sites and systems and assess whether this meets international standards and agreements
Participatory	Better management and governance, expanded recognition, and/or new areas	· Information on management effectiveness assessments and governance type diversity in existing systems · Trends in biodiversity and land-use change · Gap analysis of protected and conserved areas

Step		Tools and approaches
	Location of new (or newly recognized) sites	· Transparent and collaborative planning processes (including FPIC) · Systematic conservation planning including connectivity · Identify restoration needs · Engage with custodians of Indigenous Territories and community lands which contribute to conservation outcomes (or could do so) and discuss options for recognition and support to 'count' towards Target 3
	Management	· Assess whether protected areas or OECMs are suitable in different sites · If protected areas, make decisions on management category and agreement on correct governance type · Identify whether restoration is needed
Capacity	Training	· Assess conservation capacity at a national level · Assess training availability and adequacy, including training institutions, online course (e.g., MOOCs)
	Staffing	· Identification of gaps in management and governance capacity at all governance levels · Assessment against WCPA competency standards
NBSAPs	Inputs to revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	· List key needs · Analyse links, particularly with other global commitments (UNFCCC, SDGs, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, etc.)

167 **Six to twelve months**

Steps		Tools and approaches
Conservation effectiveness	Biodiversity conservation	· Collect literature on trends in biodiversity and vegetation cover in protected and conserved areas · Implement processes for recognizing and/or designating sites through transparent and collaborative planning processes (including FPIC)
PAME	Management effectiveness	· Rapid assessment through application of a simple ME system such as the METT in sites that have not recently been assessed
Equitable governance	Equitable governance and rights	· Establish and implement processes for, inter alia: - appropriate recognition and support of areas under diverse governance - full, equitable and effective participation in decision-making about conservation (see Target 22 and 23) - participatory governance and social assessment of sites and systems that have not recently been assessed - equitable benefit and cost sharing, including access - full protection of environmental human rights defenders - access to justice
Resources	Capacity and resource needs	· Assess and support diverse capacity needs, including in relation to effectiveness and equity (see above) and multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches · Assess opportunities for streamlining management · Assess financial gaps using e.g., UNDP tool · Identify training and capacity needs for existing and new managers (professional rangers and IP&LC representatives) · Draw up budget
Agreement	Common cause	· Work with rights-holders, key stakeholders and other relevant actors to review identified options for recognizing and implementing new sites, reviewing governance arrangements, improving management effectiveness
	Equitable agreement	· Co-develop implementation plans, including capacity and resources, with rights-holders, key stakeholders and all other relevant actors · Ensure equitable understanding and sharing of benefits from and costs of conservation · Regularly monitor and assess if implementation plans are advancing

Steps		Tools and approaches
Policy and legal	National policies and in the legal framework	· Identify necessary changes to meet international obligations under Target 3 and the broader GBF as applicable · Consider advice from IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and other relevant organizations · Adopt guidance related to article 8j including Akwe Kon guidelines and Action Plan on Customary Sustainable Use · Establish or update safeguards
Monitoring and research	Indicators	· Assess status of reporting to UNEP WCMC in line with headline indicator of Target 3 on area coverage · Adopt indicators to measure other aspects of Target 3 (including from among component and complementary indicators) · Ensure consistency with indicators adopted to address other relevant GBF targets (including Targets 21, 22 and 23) and implementation considerations (including recognizing the roles and contributions of Indigenous people and local communities, and applying a HRBA) · Adapt and/or develop monitoring systems to enable effective reporting against indicators
	Research	· Review ongoing research across relevant natural, governance, social, cultural and economic systems and identify gaps in knowledge · Develop plans to adapt and/or develop research to meet the needs of the 30x30 implementation plans

Long term

Steps		Tools and approaches
Conservation effectiveness	Biodiversity conservation	· Develop long term management, monitoring and reporting systems for all sites being reported as contributing to target 3 based on conservation outcomes
PAME	Management effectiveness	· Develop / adapt PAME systems which meet specific site/system/portfolio requirements · Carry our PAME at regularly agreed intervals, adapt management where necessary and report results

Steps		Tools and approaches
Enable expansion	New (or newly recognized) PCAs, recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories, and including privately protected areas	· Identify and gazette new protected areas following full consultation and FPIC · Secure tenure rights where needed · Recognize new OECMs following full consultation and respecting rights to FPIC · Recognize Indigenous and traditional territories · Carry out / support custodians in carrying out initial establishment (boundary demarcation, management plan, etc.) or engage with existing custodians to support current management and governance
Assets	Capacity, resources and benefits	· Develop a full understanding of conservation assets and values (natural, social, cultural and economic) and the role they play in national well-being · Continue long-term planning and implementation of capacity development and sharing and resource sustainability · Monitor and ensure equitable and effective benefit-sharing
Equitable governance	Governance effectiveness, equity and rights	· Continue with related measures above · Further develop /adapt social and governance assessment systems (unless these have been integrated with management effectiveness or other assessments) · Carry out assessment of social impacts and governance quality at regularly agreed intervals, adapt governance and management where necessary
Laws and policies	Policies and laws	· Enact changes in policies to match the intent of Target 3 · Introduce legislative changes to ensure that laws support full implementation of all aspects of Target 3 · Build capacity at local level to ensure all actors understand relevant policies and laws
Monitoring and reporting	Research, monitoring, reporting and adaptive management	· Introduce regular research and monitoring, with processes well understood and documented to ensure consistency over time · Support Indigenous- and community-led and site-specific monitoring systems, particularly in OECMs and/or Indigenous and traditional territories · Report relevant indicators to the CBD as part of regular GBF reporting · Undertake regular management planning to ensure results of monitoring increase inclusion and effectiveness through adaptive management as required

171
172

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

The GBF is not a legally binding agreement, but, as signatories, governments commit to demonstrate progress towards meeting targets, and updating their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) accordingly.

What are NBSAPs and why are they important for Target 3 implementation?

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are key national instruments for planning implementation of CBD decisions, including the GBF, in integrated, multi-sectoral, and participatory ways. They lay out how a country will fulfill objectives of the CBD and include action plans. While called NBSAPs at a global level, they may have different names at the national level, for instance Peru's National Biodiversity Strategy or Australia's Strategy for Nature.

The approach to NBSAPS has developed based on the commitments that Parties have made to:

- **Develop (or adapt) national strategies for conservation and sustainable use** (i.e. ways a country intends to fulfill CBD measures) and related **plans and programs** (i.e. specific implementation steps a country will take) (per Article 6)
- **Integrate conservation and sustainable use** into national decision-making (Article 10(a)) including other relevant (sectoral or cross-sectoral) plans, programs, policies (per Article 6)
- Provide **national reports** with information about what measures have been taken to implement the Convention and how effective these measures have been (per Article 26)

CBD Decision 15/6 asks Parties to revise and update their NBSAPS, to align them with the GBF goals, targets and means of implementation and to submit them by the next Conference of Parties (CoP 16) in 2024. Parties that can not manage this have been asked to instead provide a standalone submission that communicates their national targets related to these same GBF elements (following a reporting template that is provided in Decision 15/6 Annex 1). In all cases, Parties are encouraged to use the relevant GBF headline indicators, supplemented by component and complementary indicators (from Decision 15/5) and other relevant national indicators.

A voluntary template on how to integrate Target 3 planning into NBSAPs is under development. [Details to be added as they become available.]

Integrating Target 3 monitoring in NBSAPs

NBSAPs are more than just a reporting tool. They can support accountable, integrated action to implement the GBF, including Target 3. Decision 15/6 (para. 9) specifically encourages Parties to adopt their revised or updated NBSAPs as policy and/or legal instruments, and to integrate them (or elements of them) with broader strategies and plans – e.g., "national

sustainable development plans, national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, and other relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, in line with national circumstances and priorities."

Target 3 plans, including for monitoring and reporting, can be built into NBSAPs. Plans should include:

- National targets
- Headline indicators, supplemented by component and complementary indicators (from the GBF Monitoring Framework – see above)
- Other national indicators in relevant planning processes

Target 3 implementation needs to have an inclusive, equitable and effective focus, and this includes in the planning process for implementation. The NBSAP development process should thus start with identifying actors with particular attention on those most likely to be impacted by policies and plans regarding biodiversity, those with rights that may be affected, and those groups often marginalized in decision-making, including women and girls, youth, and Indigenous peoples and local communities' representatives. Parties should then conduct a transparent, documented and widely disseminated consultation process on implementation targets/pledges. The UN Office on Human Rights (UNOHCHR) has issued guidance on integrating human rights in NBSAPs, a core component of the GBF's commitment to integrating a human rights based approach. This guidance will be updated shortly.

Inclusive, effective and equitable: a holistic approach to Target 3

This section puts Target 3 in a broader context, outlines its relationship to the rest of the GBF, and gives an overview of the target itself, setting the stage for the detailed examination of all elements of the Target language that follow.

Principles for holistic implementation of Target 3

The first thing to understand about Target 3, and the whole of the GBF, is that the ultimate goal is to **reverse the steep decline of biodiversity worldwide**, an outcome based on seeking a transformative change in the way humans manage our shared planet. As we delve into the technical interpretation of the specific language, and plan for implementation, this ultimate goal should always guide decisions and actions. The GBF is articulated as a step towards the objective of "people living in harmony with nature" by 2050.

By the numbers – Quantitative and qualitative balance

While the nickname for Target 3, "30x30," is quantitative, it is the qualitative provisions of the Target that will determine whether it has been implemented effectively and equitably. It is entirely possible that a country could recognize 30 per cent of its areas as protected or conserved while not significantly improving the conditions for biodiversity. It is also possible for conservation to be practiced to exclude local communities and restrict access, creating inequity. In other words, implementation measures should not focus only on numerical "expansion" but also on improving effectiveness and equity of existing protected and conserved area sites and systems, while ensuring that new areas reported meet all the relevant criteria in the Target.

The answer to the question, "How much is enough?" lies not in the number or size of polygons on a map, but on assessments of whether species occurrence and abundance is increasing, whether the health of the full range of ecosystems are maintained and improved and on the relationships that people(s) have with their lands and spaces.

General principles for implementing Target 3

The following principles for implementation draw on elements of Target 3, the broader GBF, and other guidance, including from discussions convened in the development of this guide. The guide that follows offers a variety of ways that Parties can implement Target 3 in line with these principles, in connection with tools, sources of guidance, and illustrative examples. It is not an advocacy document for the interpretation and implementation of the Target.

Global target*:* Target 3 is a global target. Biodiversity is not distributed equally, thus Parties and other actors should focus on "*especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services*," and "*ecologically representative, well-connected and*

equitably governed systems", both in terms of geolocation but also in selecting the appropriate means for protecting and conserving these areas.

Integrated and connected approach*:* Inland waters, terrestrial, and coastal and marine are all important areas. The GBF suggests that 30 per cent of each should be achieved, and each of the target elements explored in this guide relates to all of these realms equally.

Contributions and rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities: The GBF acknowledges the important roles and contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The framework specifically highlights the knowledge, innovations, practices, worldviews and values of Indigenous peoples and local communities as fundamental to the transformative change the GBF seeks to support, and calls for these to be respected, documented and preserved, with FPIC. The importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights law is referenced and needs to form the basis for engaged partnership with and support for the contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Human rights-based approach*:* The GBF calls for implementation through a human rights-based approach (HRBA), including the right to a healthy environment and to development, and the principle of intergenerational equity. Building from the definition of HRBA in the context of development, an HRBA in the conservation context has been defined to mean: "in simple terms, that biodiversity policies, governance and management do not violate human rights and that those implementing such policies actively seek ways to support and promote human rights in their design and implementation." Within the human rights framework, there are duty-bearers and rights-holders, and they hold different responsibilities and obligations. States have specific duties under international law (to respect, protect and fulfill human rights). However, the obligations and responsibilities of non-state actors are increasingly recognized as a central part of an HRBA, including to respect, protect and remedy, as well as to promote / contribute to fulfillment within the scope of conservation programming. 'Rights-holders', here, encompasses holders of both individual human rights (e.g., procedural and substantive rights recognized in human rights law) and collective rights (including customary, collective tenure rights, FPIC, and self-determination). Both are important in relation to conservation and Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, including over traditional territories.

The GBF – consistent with previous protected areas CBD decisions – uses the terms "indigenous peoples" and "local communities". We also respect that understanding of these terms is part of ongoing dialogue, within and beyond the CBD, and that they are distinguished in human rights law. We will strive to be responsive to these ongoing discussions. In all cases, no part of this guide is intended to, or should be interpreted as, diminishing the rights that any group or individual holds or may hold.)

Inclusive*:* 'Inclusive' refers, generally, to including everyone, and especially those who have been historically excluded, and/or whose contributions have not been appropriately recognized. In the conservation context, 'inclusive' refers to holistic, transdisciplinary, and/or multi-actor approaches; approaches focused specifically on recognition, respect, and support for the governance, knowledge and practice of Indigenous peoples and of local communities; and socially-inclusive, including of the rights and contributions of women, girls, youth, and people of diverse abilities, including through gender-responsive representation and participation. In short, inclusion refers to approaches to *in situ* biodiversity processes and outcomes that are supported by science and different worldviews, knowledge systems, practice and governing systems and authorities.

Equitable*:* Closely related to inclusiveness, but different, are concepts of equity. 'Equitable' refers to social equity. It is understood as a multi-dimensional concept (including recognition, procedure, and distribution) closely related to fairness and justice. Equity is a core component of governance quality (i.e., equitable governance) and central to human rights-based approaches. Specific aspects of "equitably governed" and "recognizing and respecting rights" are taken up in succeeding sections of this document. But principles to guide implementation include engaging rights-holders and key stakeholders not solely through consultation but through sharing of capacity, power and benefits. Parties must also recognize that transgressions of rights have sometimes been made in the protected areas, and that redress, reconciliation, and other appropriate measures may be required to address historical injustice or trauma, as a matter of justice and before groups can engage in constructive ways to achieve broad goals of biodiversity conservation.

Effective*:* Effectiveness is defined as the degree to which something is successful in producing a desired result. In terms of conservation effectiveness this is usually related to achieving clearly defined objectives, which in turn should be driven by the outcomes or intended results. All forms of area-based conservation need to demonstrate and deliver positive and sustained long-term biodiversity and social outcomes, either in practice for OECMs or as goals or objectives for protected areas. Conservation effectiveness of systems and sites results in biodiversity and social outcomes in the landscape and seascape. To be effective, sites should represent areas of biodiversity importance, be connected, have effective management and equitable governance, i.e. all the elements of GBF Target 3. Success is based around assessing how effectively objectives have been met, but this assumes sites/systems have appropriate objectives in the first place. Such objectives can be culturally or contextually distinct but must ensure conservation effectiveness. Effective management is not the same as success in conservation outcomes, and we need to be careful in making too close a link between management effectiveness and conservation outcomes. Management effectiveness as a tool for adaptive management does not necessarily require the same approach as measuring progress against global targets.

Transformative: Finally, Target 3 cannot be achieved through business-as-usual approaches. Quoting the IPBES *Global Assessment Report of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, "Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change." In the long run, such approaches also lead to higher effectiveness towards ultimate biodiversity objectives. These subjects are explored further in this guide, but many increasingly recognize that they will require just transformations in rights, responsibilities, recognition, respect, and relationships, including power relationships between conservation actors. Target 3 calls for full, equitable and effective participation of, among others, Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, and people of diverse abilities. Such participation is best built on trustworthiness, which must be earned over time, and must include the free, prior and informed consent of rightsholders.

Not all aspects of Target 3 are completely clear yet

The language of Target 3 – though relatively specific and guided by previous CBD decisions and precedent – leaves some areas open to interpretation. Some nuances will be debated in years to come and, as with protected areas, the CBD will doubtless issue additional voluntary guidance. Throughout implementation, it is important to remember that Target 3 is part of the Global Biodiversity *Framework*. All concerned will need to implement 30x30 according to national and local circumstances while remaining true to the spirit and ultimate aims of the Target and to the broader aims of the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

While Target 3 includes a reference to sustainable use, this does not imply that sustainable use in general is equivalent to a protected area or OECM. Application in Target 3 is likely to be quite limited, e.g., to some traditional uses, small-scale ecotourism and similar. Target 10 specifically deals with ensuring that "areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably..." Such areas primarily managed for production beyond subsistence levels should be considered under Target 10 and not Target 3. At the same time, Target 3 implementation must uphold CBD Article 8j and related provisions, including regarding customary sustainable use.

IIFB reiterates its position developed at COP-15 that "recognizing indigenous and traditional territories" in Target 3 provides a distinct pathway to conservation in addition to protected areas and OECMs, so not subsumed to protected areas and OECMs. Indigenous peoples and local communities have their own conservation systems. This position has also been clearly stated by other associations and networks of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Another interpretation—shared in discussions during the preparation of this guide— holds that it means that such territories should be appropriately recognized *within* frameworks of protected areas or OECMs if they are to be "counted" toward the Target. Central to this argument is that the phrase "indigenous and traditional territories" is not defined in terms of conservation

outcome or purpose. This question has not been resolved at the time of this writing, and it might be left open at the global level to allow flexibility to take decisions and actions that are most appropriate in diverse social, cultural and political contexts, or resolved in future CBD guidance. This guide therefore provides implementation guidance for both a) appropriate inclusion of Indigenous and traditional territories within existing frameworks as well as b) indicating options for developing specific additional pathways to recognize these contributions at local and national levels.

It is clear from the text that "recognizing indigenous and traditional territories" in Target 3 must in all cases be undertaken through "recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories", with FPIC. Further, and significantly, for such territories to be reported or counted against the Target they must also meet all other relevant aspects of Target 3, which suggests criteria will be needed to define eligible areas. Considering the importance of Indigenous peoples and local communities and their territories, lands and waters to achieving Target 3, as well as the Target and broader GBF requirements for equitable governance and avoidance of negative impacts, including human rights violations, it is of central importance that the views and positions of Indigenous peoples and local communities (as major rights-holders) are given full consideration (and priority) when it comes to resolving these discussions.

Target 3 in relation to the rest of the GBF

While Target 3 has arguably attracted the most attention in the GBF, the other 22 targets are equally important, as are the goals and considerations for implementation (Section C). All should be considered in implementation of Target 3. The considerations for implementation include contribution and rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, with FPIC; different value systems; collective effort towards the targets; right to development; human rights-based approach; gender; fulfillment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation; principles of the Rio Declaration; inter-generational equity; and access to financial resources.

All the Targets should also be considered in Target 3 implementation, though some are more directly related than others.

Targets 1-3 are all area-based. Target 1 on "participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change" obviously overlaps with Target 3's "integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean." Target 2 is also "30x30," calling for "30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems [to be] under effective restoration" by 2030. (Target 3's 30 is a percentage of all of the Earth, whereas Target 2's 30 relates to the current level of degraded

areas.) Some protected areas and OECMs will require restoration so there will be overlap between these two targets.

Area-based conservation remains the single most important tool to achieve Target 4 on the recovery of species and genetic diversity.

Pollution reduction, addressed by Target 7, is essential for successful implementation of Target 3, particularly in inland waters but also relating to overall biodiversity, e.g., pesticide links to insect decline in protected areas.

Conservation areas contribute to food security, medicines and livelihoods (Target 9)—examples include harboring of wild relatives of cultivated plants, replenishment of fish stocks through movement outside marine protected areas, and of course management of many indigenous and traditional territories.

Target 21 calls for data, information and knowledge to be accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public, including traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous and traditional peoples (though only through their free, prior and informed consent).

Targets 22 and 23 are so important, and so related to elements of Target 3, that they are shown here in their entirety:

Target 22. Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by Indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Target 23. Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation.

Parties to the GBF also commit to "strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation…" (Target 20).

Target 3 is also dependent on a secure financial framework, to be achieved both by reducing perverse incentives that damage biodiversity (Target 18) and by increasing positive financing, with the objective of reaching at least $200 billion/year by 2030 (Target 19).

Implementation should also be guided by the CBD's Gender Plan of Action and the Programme of Work and Action Plan on Article 8j and related provisions. as well as other relevant international and regional commitments, including related to human rights.

These connections and alignment amongst all the GBF targets are represented in the graphic below, but the full text should be consulted by all readers.

For illustration only – an infographic will be developed illustrating the interconnections of the 23 GBF Targets

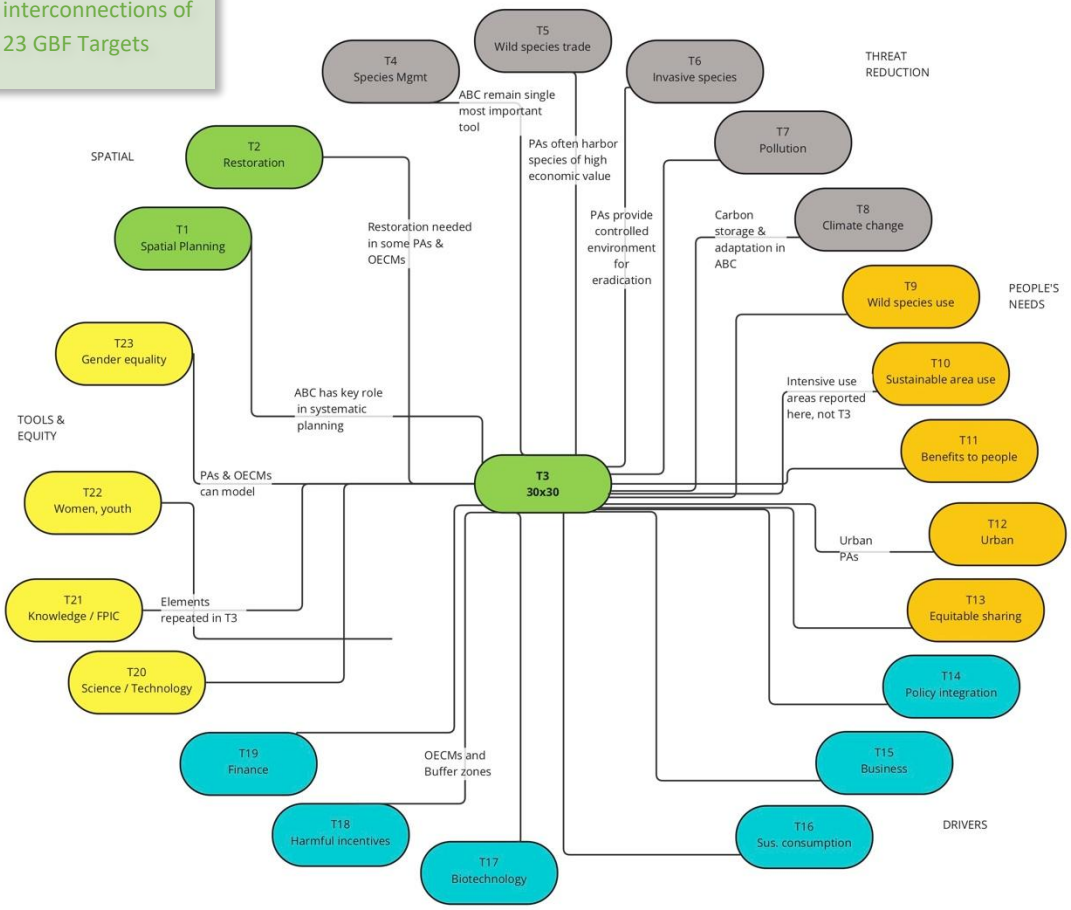


Figure #: **Interrelationships of the 23 Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Biodiversity and climate change

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable threats to humankind and must be addressed together, and protected and conserved areas are at the nexus. In GBF Target 8, protected areas and OECMs have important roles to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change, particularly through carbon sequestration as nature-based solutions. The UNFCCC acknowledges the need to address biodiversity loss, but there are many barriers and knowledge gaps in integrating biodiversity into adaptation strategies.

Target 3 and the GBF in a broader context of policy coherence

The phrase "i*ntegrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes*" can be viewed in several dimensions. Simplest is the spatial integration of protected areas and OECMs into wider areas, with "integration" ranging from physical proximity to natural resource planning taking into account conservation, as well as other uses in wider landscapes/seascapes and the sea.

But planning for successful implementation must also look beyond the confines of the Target 3 language and the mandates of environmental ministries and agencies of the Parties. "Integration" implies also policy coherence, and the GBF calls for a "whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach". Planners for Target 3 implementation should consider the drivers of biodiversity loss as they relate to area-based conservation.

Policy coherence is defined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as the "syst*ematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives*".

Implementation should identify potential conflicts of objectives and interests among policies of various sectors and resolve them as far as possible. These may include agricultural policy, forestry, fisheries, energy, and wider environmental policy to fiscal policy and economic development strategies.

Of course, the GBF is not the only multi-lateral treaty to which governments are signatories. Planning for Target 3 must take into account these other commitments, which present an obligation but also an opportunity. By resolving policy coherence and integrated planning of responses to the GBF alongside the UNFCCC, UNCCD, the SDGs, the new BBNJ in the high seas, and others, plus multilateral agreements on human rights, health, wildlife trafficking and trade. (While no target specifically deals with health, the GBF, in its "considerations" section,

"acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health Approach…")

Done well, Parties can leverage resources to meet multiple targets at the same time.

The role of the party to the CBD

As the Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ultimate responsibility for delivering on the GBF falls to national governments in signatory countries. This does not mean, however, that they are or should be the only actors, nor that they should always be in the lead on efforts to achieve "30x30."

The national government is also the duty-bearer on many other international agreements, including those related to human rights such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). (Duty-bearers are those actors and institutions who have a particular obligation or responsibility under laws and agreements.)

Governments (the Parties) cannot achieve Target 3 on their own. The task is too great, and a great diversity of other actors have rights and agency in achieving the ambition. Useful roles for government are to:

- Convene inclusive processes to plan and support implementation.
- Ensure that all elements of Target 3 are achieved, through systems planning, monitoring and reporting, and engagement of other actors.
- Create the enabling conditions for other actors to engage and lead, including for Indigenous peoples and local communities to secure their tenure rights where lacking, building their capacity (and capacity of duty-bearers / governments as well), reducing barriers to support for their self-determined priorities, and recognizing and respecting diverse world views and knowledge systems.
- Recognize and support diverse governance types, including privately protected areas and OECMs, and indigenous and community conserved areas; and reporting such areas against the Target with the consent of the governing authority.
- Participate in management in shared governance areas, but only where appropriate and agreed through free, prior and informed consent.
- Direct management and governance of some areas, as appropriate (governance by government).

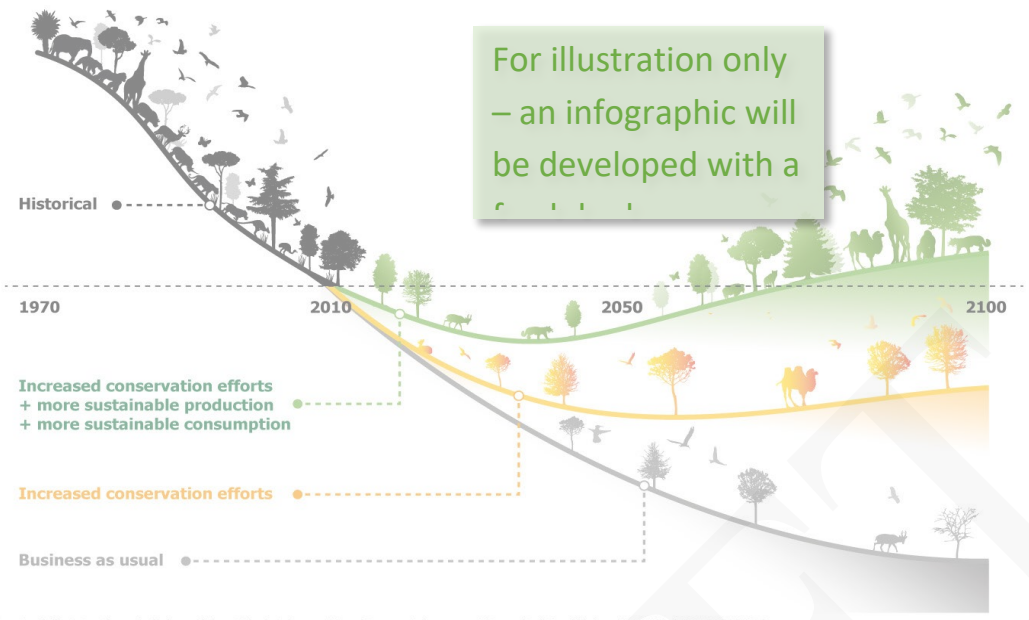


Figure xx. **The ultimate objective of Target 3, and the GBF, is to reverse the decline in biodiversity.**

Understanding Target 3

In the following sections we step through all of the elements of the Target, providing guidance where available, identifying challenges and linking to examples of how issues have been approached in practice.

Effectively conserved

All forms of area-based conservation need to demonstrate and deliver positive and sustained long-term biodiversity and social outcomes, either in practice for OECMs or as goals or objectives for protected areas. The following sections review the many concepts which make up Target 3. All will lead to achievement of effective area-based conservation.

Key elements of effective conservation in Target 3

Various CBD decisions (e.g.,14/3) and the text of Target 3 set out a range of requirements needed for effective area-based conservation. Figure # outlines a range of essential elements, considering these when planning for Target 3 implementation will help ensure site and system effectiveness.

Figure #: **Key elements of effective conservation outlined in this guide** [INFOGRAPHIC TO BE DEVELOPED]

At least 30 per cent of…

Effective and equitable conservation is crucial to halting and reversing biodiversity loss. But the question of 'how much' PCA coverage is 'enough' is hard to answer, due to the diversity of factors involved. Evidence suggests that conservation of 30 per cent to 70 per cent or more of terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine areas is required to sustain and restore biodiversity. Thirty-percent is therefore a minimum, and is only viable if achieved in ways that meet the other elements of Target 3. Restoring biodiversity loss also requires that the remaining 70 per cent is governed and managed sustainably.

Improving and building on existing PCA systems

By early 2022, globally reported protected areas and OECMs covered about 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland waters and 8 per cent of marine areas. Focusing in this section only on existing areas, three key pathways to Target 3 implementation are:

1. **Improving the existing system:** Not all protected areas are effectively managed, equitably governed, and/or sustaining conservation. Improving the existing system is an important starting point. Strategies and tools for this are noted throughout this guide.

2. **Expanding recognition and support of conserved areas:** There is limited (but growing) recognition of governance diversity and associated rights and roles. Many conserved areas are not yet recognized in national systems (or in the global figures above). For example, recent increases in global coverage figures come in large part from OECMs. Many are not newly *created* areas, but rather pre-existing initiatives that are newly identified/recognized and reported, and ideally supported to continue to deliver.

   Many areas and territories conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities are not recognized or supported within their national contexts yet are expansive in their coverage and contributions (see box below).

3. **Expanding, recognizing and supportingprotected areas:** New protected areas will need to be declared (following the various elements identified in Target 3 discussed in this guide). Privately protected areas (private trusts, for profit enterprises, company reserves, NGOs etc.) which often omitted from national statistics should also be recognized for their contribution to Target 3, as they are an increasingly important part of many national systems and need to be both integrated and reported where the rightsholders consent.

Case study: Queen Elizabeth II National Trust in New Zealand and their PPA partners have worked the national Department of Conservation and UNEP WCMC to verify PPA data to be included in the WDPA.

Box #: A joint report by UNEP-WCMC and the ICCA Consortium conservatively estimates that territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples or by local communities cover a potential 23 million km^2 outside of state and privately governed PCAs. This equates to 17 per cent of the world's land covered uniquely by such areas.

More than a number

30 per cent must be understood together with all of the elements of Target 3, and the broader GBF. These other elements concern where, how, and by and with whom PCA coverage is sustained, and how that is decided. Looking at percentage area alone is insufficient, and poses social and environmental risks. For example, focusing on coverage alone risks 'counting' areas that are not achieving conservation, or are doing so through inequitable approaches. In addition to other elements in Target 3, consideration is needed about likely changes in ecological condition over time and space within the system, level of existing degradation and what is

happening in the remaining 70 per cent of the planet. The pathways in this guide for achieving the other elements of Target 3 are therefore also key pathways for realizing "at least 30 per cent".

Ensuring inclusiveness, equity and effectiveness in pathways to 30 per cent

Pathways for achieving 30 per cent will vary by context. They should be identified through an inclusive planning process and should uphold the principles outlined above, including following an HRBA and full, equitable, and effective participation. The other elements of Target 3 describe where, how, and by and with whom this percentage target should be achieved. Therefore, the strategies and actions described throughout this guide are, together, ways to achieve 30 per cent.

Coastal and marine, inland water, and terrestrial areas

The Target refers to "terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas." We reverse the order below, to emphasize that all three are of equal importance and priority.

Expanding the PCA systems

Conservation of coastal and marine, inland water, and terrestrial areas pose distinct opportunities and challenges. At the same time, they are ecologically and socially connected. Conservation within and across these realms should be a key element in systematic spatial planning within the NBSAP process, including considering the wider implications for environment and people, e.g., river sediments help deltas keep pace with rising sea levels and provide nutrients for marine fish and forests regulate water flow in rivers and streams. Planning should take full advantage of and integrate existing and planned investments across global treaties and commitments, e.g., the Ramsar Convention regarding inland waters.

Integrating the three realms

Integrated and cross-realm approaches can help ensure relationships between different areas, and between natural and social systems, are visible and sustained. Aquascapes and Source-to-Sea conservation, for example, is an emerging area of resources. Such integrated approaches also require recognition of different rights across landscapes and seascapes. Indeed a source-to-sea system may involve coordination across national borders and high-seas. This can help support effective and equitable conservation with connectivity and integration.

Case study: The Pacific islands Ridge to Reef (R2R) project aims to integrate approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resource management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

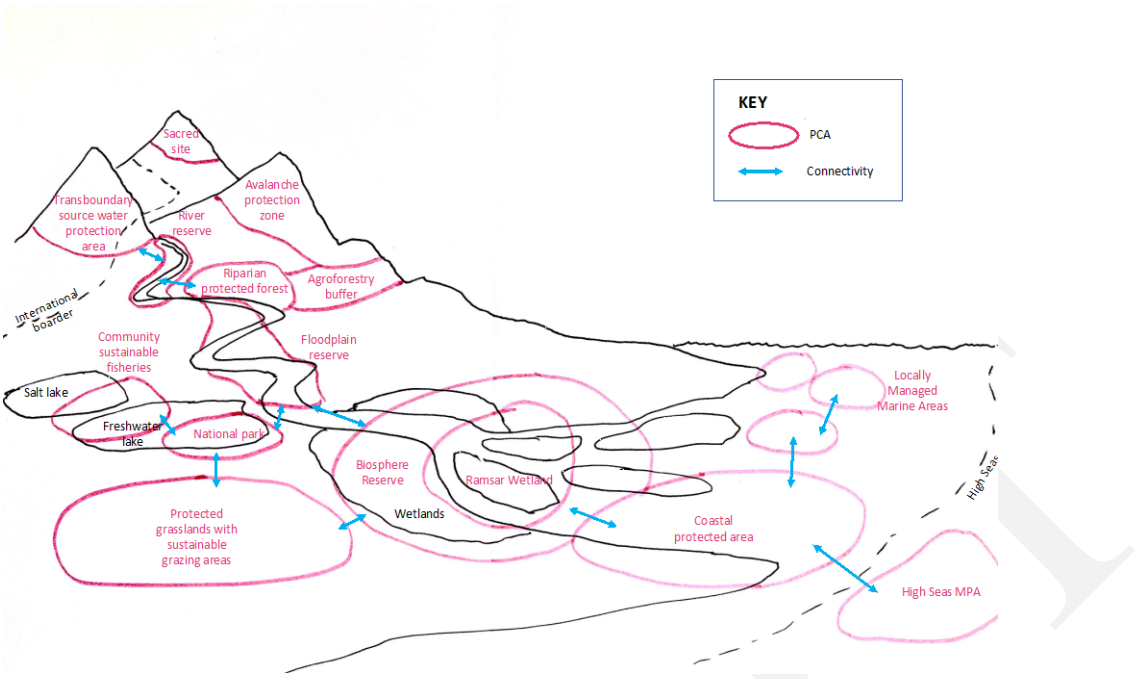


Fig #. **The three realms called out in Target 3.** This infographic is intended to depict the wealth of examples of protected and conserved areas across the marine, inland waters and terrestrial realms, and how they might intersect and connect through integrated landscape planning. Several of these areas could be OECMs and although the infographic does not demonstrate the diverse range of governance types, many of the areas could be under one or a few different governance types. [infographic to be developed and designed]

Coastal and marine areas

Two distinct elements relating to marine protected areas (MPA) are significant here: conservation of coastal and near-waters, usually within a country's EEZ and therefore subject to decisions by a single government, and oceanic or high seas marine protected areas, where international agreements are required. The opportunities and challenges are very different.

Coastal areas almost always require careful interaction with local communities, with conservation objectives being negotiated and to some extent compromised with the needs of resident communities or visitors. There is, however, by now a great deal of experience in establishing protected areas and areas likely to be suitable as OECMs in coastal communities, although the willingness with which fishing communities work with area-based conservation still depends largely on the extent to which set-asides have been used traditionally.

Coastal marine protected areas are complicated from a reporting point of view because it is often difficult to decide where the "coast" begins, with many sites having terrestrial, freshwater and marine components; some refer instead to "coastal zone" areas. Given this, it is important to

recognize the need for connectivity between inland water and marine conservation and the various designations outside protected and conserved areas that can contribute at a seascape scale (such as fishery management areas, Indigenous territories), spatial planning needs to take place at a larger scale, involving participation of multiple actors.

High Seas protected areas are vital for 30x30 but despite many proposals, mechanisms for establishment and management are missing: how to set up, who manages and enforces, and who pays. The agreement in March 2023 on *conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, will help, but many challenges remain.

Enabling factors and challenges

Challenges include reconciling conservation with the needs of marine-based industries such as fisheries, addressing problems of partial conservation (e.g., marine protected areas that protect the water column but not the seabed), uncertainty about application of OECMs in a marine context and the multiple implications of climate change. Agreeing a global definition of "sustainable use" in a marine context, and how this differs from the rest of the marine environment, is particularly important. Financing is also difficult, there are few examples of sustainable financing models for coastal and high seas marine protected areas.

Nonetheless, successful examples exist, for example:

- **Australia**: marine protected areas are initially contested, require balance between realpolitik and science, clear targets for different types (e.g., multi-use and no-take) and involvement of many stakeholders.
- **Costa Rica**: legal framework recognizes different categories of (government) marine protected areas and (shared governance) Marine Responsible Fishing Areas, with negotiated small scale fishers' rights
- **Chile**: Recognition and protection of IP&LC's customary, sustainable use of marine or coastal areas, in Coastal Marine Spaces of Native Origin (ECMPO in Spanish initials)

Inland water

Inland waters – including rivers, lakes, and other wetlands – represent some of the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems on the planet. Monitored freshwater populations have declined 83 per cent on average, twice the rate of marine and terrestrial, with almost 1 in 3 species threatened by extinction. Inland waters – in particular rivers – also provide vital connectivity between all ecosystems. Yet, inland waters continue to be under-represented in conservation coverage and management planning. Inclusion of inland waters in the 30x30 target and indicators is therefore a key element to achieve the post-2020 GBF's goals to halt biodiversity and nature loss.

Making inland water count in national planning

There are a wide range of area-based approaches already used in inland waters that can contribute to Target 3. These includes novel approaches like fluvial reserves, and community fish sanctuaries, although their match to consistent PCA definitions and IUCN management categories may have to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. An inventory of these areas could be conducted alongside country-mapping of freshwater KBAs (as yet not mapped comprehensively in freshwaters), and overlaying of spatial data from the forthcoming IUCN Red List of freshwater fauna [link to come soon] as a first step for identifying potential PCAs that can contribute to Target 3. Marxan tools are available specifically for spatial planning and inland waters and the Freshwater Health Index can indicate baselines and enabling conditions.

Enabling factors and challenges

Conservation and restoration (Target 2) of inland water ecosystems depends partly on whether the whole or most of the focal habitat is within the PCA – if a river runs only a short distance through an area it will be harder to manage the influence of threats originating externally such as pollution or overfishing. However, this challenge also represents an opportunity, particularly regarding improved connectivity and quality of water resources for people. Such an approach would also contribute to Target 1 as an area under participatory integrated spatial planning where the rights of IP&LCs are respected. If sustainable production (i.e., aquaculture, fisheries, agriculture and forestry) and pollution management was included, Target 7 and Target 10 would be contributed towards. As potential climate corridors, inland water conservation also contributes to Target 8.

Case study: In 2023, the Vjosa River in Albania was declared a national park by the Albanian Government – the first Wild River National Park in Europe. This is one of more than 40 case studies of area-based conservation of inland waters included in A Pathway for Inland Waters in the 30x30 Target.

Aligning the needs of local communities, downstream water users and dependent biodiversity will be a challenge requiring careful participatory approaches and FPIC, but if these can be balanced, inland waters will contribute to conservation at a landscape level both within and outside Target 3.

For position only – freshwater infographic to be developed

Terrestrial

The target applies to all natural terrestrial ecosystems, plus some long-established cultural ecosystems (created through human management) with high associated biodiversity.

The GBF target requires some realignment of priorities. For example, global concern about tropical forest loss can overshadow the importance of other ecosystems, particularly grassland, savannah and tundra, which sometimes undergo unequal losses if forest conservation shifts land use change elsewhere.

In **grasslands and savannahs**, conservation management varies depending on occurrence of natural herbivore-carnivore populations. Where large herbivores are extinct or greatly reduced, domestic livestock can play a not dissimilar function, providing they graze native vegetation that has not been "improved". However, most ranches and intensive grazing regimes will not currently meet criteria for 30x30. As we learn more about ecosystem restoration, restoring natural grasslands may be increasingly feasible. Where livestock grazing is too intense, particularly in arid regions, negotiated reductions in grazing populations may be needed, including grazing exclusions to allow vegetation recovery.

> **Case study:** The Laponian World Heritage Area in Swedish Lapland was one of the few World Heritage sites explicitly listed for transhumance values, where traditional Sami reindeer herding goes hand in hand with biodiversity and landscape conservation.

Forest protected areas will continue to play a critical role in 30x30. While some traditional and small-scale sustainable forest management systems can be recognized as OECMs, if they conserve biodiversity effectively, intensive forest management systems will not.

Tundra ecosystems face profound changes due to permafrost melt and poleward movement of trees under climate change. We also now know that "naturally" treeless tundra is often a relic of historic human use. Management strategies are evolving, and low levels of human use make major set-asides possible, particularly if they include traditional or Indigenous governance and management.

Mountains will also be an important part of Target 3; this usually means balancing the needs of nature with remote and often threatened human communities, a mountain site selection tool has been developed by WCPA.

Enabling factors and challenges

Pressures on land are enormous and increasing. It will be hard to establish large new protected areas in many countries. There are justified concerns that OECMs will be recognized in places that provide little conservation value although the CBD requires all OECMs to conserve significant biodiversity. Global agribusiness is the largest driver of ecosystem loss and degradation and a source of resistance to area-based conservation, while in some areas, human population changes put small-scale traditional management systems under pressure. Intensive

agriculture threatens many protected and conserved areas from fertilizer and pesticide pollution. Development and economic growth pressures mean that new area-based conservation initiatives need to consider and plan for future development patterns and seek to shape how these evolve. Success will also depend on wider social and technical changes including the success of restoration, along with dietary changes, uptake of plant-based foods, the future of protected area pastoralist communities, rural out-migration and climate change.

This element of Target 3 interacts with many other GBF targets including particularly Target 7 on pollution reduction, Target 10 on sustainability of agriculture and Target 16 on consumption.

By ensuring and enabling conservation through…

Achieving the GBF needs strong, consistent leadership from governments and multiple actions initiated and carried out at local level. Everyone has a role. Success depends on supportive and coherent laws and policies, sufficient finances and many actors with the necessary skills and enthusiasm.

Policy coherence

Support for 30x30 is needed from all arms of government, including subnational government and from other sectors of society, with policies and actions aligned. A major obstacle is inconsistency within the state: for example, the Ministry of Environment might set up a national park while the Ministry of Resources authorizes mining in the same area; or a road could be built through an Indigenous Protected Area without consultation with the traditional owners; or the judiciary fail to support poaching control; all real-life examples that have happened repeatedly around the world. Policies of companies, local government and other actors also need to be aligned. A meeting of ministries and departments early in the implementation of a national GBF plan can identify points of conflict and maximize integration, including with other GBF targets. Processes will be strengthened by including civil society and industry actors and this is critical for private or Indigenous areas. Challenges come from ingrained interdepartmental rivalries and vested interests; success can be measured by identifying examples of policy integration. In Indigenous Territories FPIC processes should help ensure policy coherence, if effectively implemented.

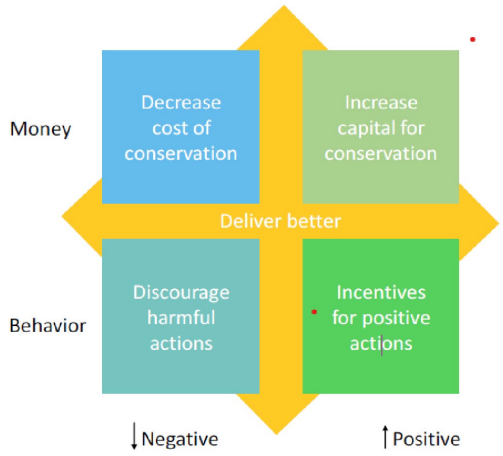
> "*When we look at successes in the protected areas … that was achieved through a whole-of-government approach. It was a mixture of laws, incentives, investment in agricultural research and improving data*," David Cooper, acting Executive Secretary for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Supportive policies and legislation

Success in the GBF will often require changes to policy and sometimes to legislation. Conservation is often hampered by out-of-date laws; many countries still have laws established in the colonial era which can e.g., insist protected areas be empty of human habitation, creating unnecessary conflicts and undermining traditional management supporting biodiversity. Constant policy shifts on financing leave many protected and conserved areas vulnerable to loss of income. A thorough review of existing legislation can identify needed changes. Comparing national and subnational legislation with international best practice from the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law can help.

Promoting investment and efficiency

Conservation finance must increase. Much will come from governments although many other options exist. Convincing governments and industry of the value of and their responsibility for nature is a first step. Well planned conservation finance is a wise investment not a net cost. Projections suggest that achieving Target 3 requires investment of approximately US$100 billion per year globally (~US$80 billion more than now); this will bring major returns (from US$64 billion-US$454 billion per year by 2050) and benefits from avoided-losses, calculated at US$170-US$534 billion per year by 2050 for forests and mangroves alone.

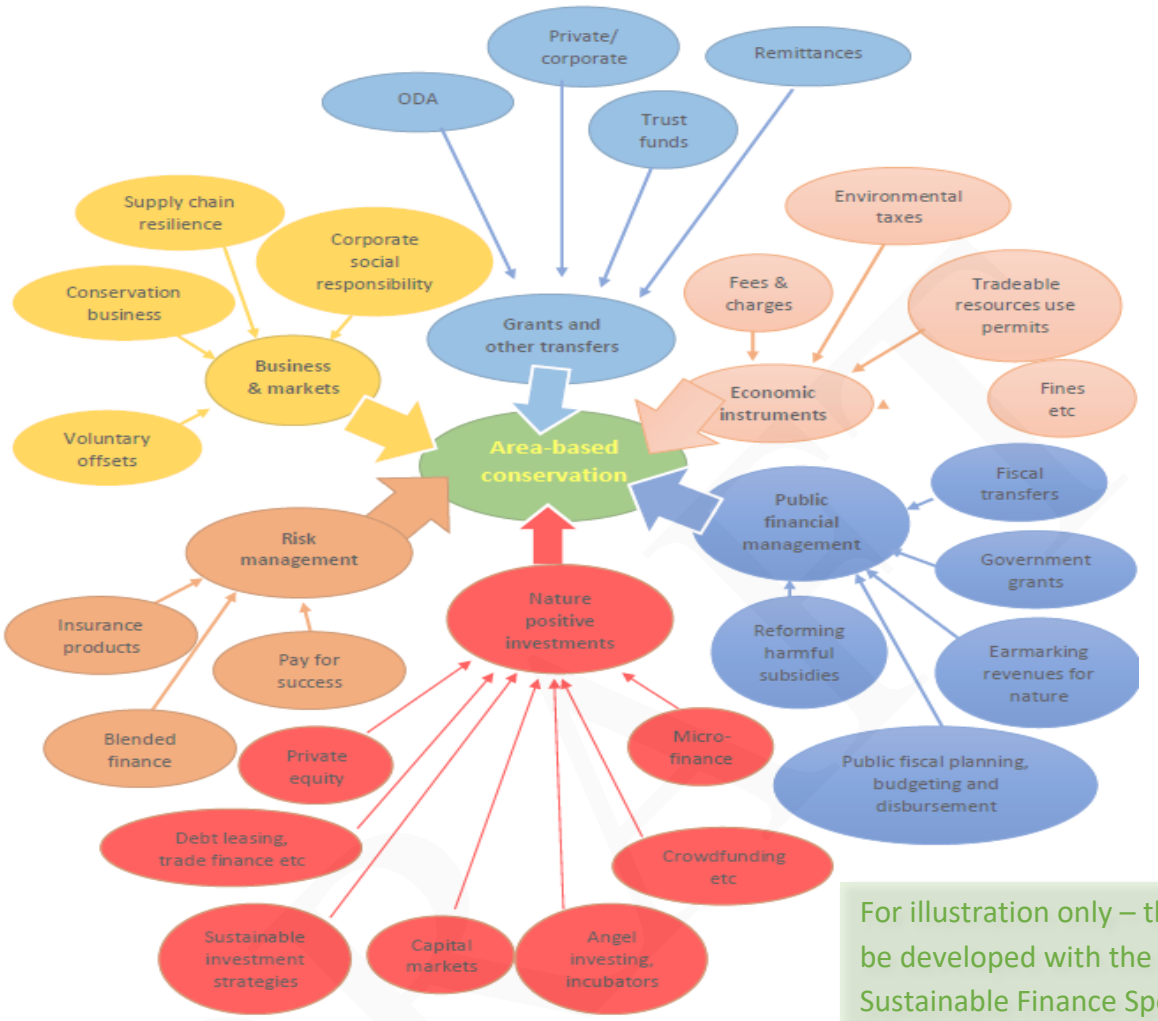


For illustration only – this will be improved with some new text

Figure #: **Steps towards effective conservation finance**

Finance solutions and equity

Over the last 30 years, there has been a major diversification of funding solutions for conservation. Figure #, provides an overview (and links to more detailed summaries) of the most successful and widely used of these options.



For illustration only – this will be developed with the WCPA Sustainable Finance Specialists Group

Figure #: Summary of financial solutions.

The IUCN Sustainable Finance group is developing a series of fact sheets on financial solutions. The infographic presented here will provide links to each of these fact sheets which are being developed for a WCPA Good Practice Guide and will be available on the 30x30.solutions website

Finance equity

Equitable distribution of conservation funding is a crucial consideration. Currently, most conservation funding goes to governments and large organizations. Far more (and more accessible) funding needs to be directed to Indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, and their networks and organizations, to support and sustain their conservation agency and action. There are a growing number of mechanisms for doing so – including the GEF

Inclusive Conservation Initiative and several mechanisms being developed by and with the Rights and Resources Initiative. Yet, local rights-holders, stakeholders, and organizations continue to face substantial barriers in accessing adequate and appropriate (e.g. flexible and long-term) conservation funding.

At the same time, conservation funding streams also need human rights safeguards and accountability mechanisms to ensure that, particularly as mainstream PCA efforts are scaled up and out for Target 3 implementation, they do not entrench or exacerbate inequity and human rights concerns.

Human capacity needs for 30 per cent

In addition to additional finance, achieving 30x30 will require at least five times the current people running PCAs, plus extensive capacity building. It will need skilled people at many levels. Common gaps include management of human-wildlife conflict and social tensions and adaptation to climate change. Many terrestrial protected area managers do not understand freshwater conservation needs. Agreed competency standards form an important measure of success; and training materials around these standards have been developed.

Demonstrating success in ensuring and enabling Target 3

Success will be demonstrated in both qualitative and quantitative ways:
Qualitatively:

- Increased intra-governmental cooperation
- Greater recognition, support and involvement of diverse rights-holders, stakeholders, and other actors, including Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth
- Equity and reduced tensions relating to the establishment of area-based conservation

Quantitatively:

- More rangers and communities trained and with proper capacity
- More sustained funding models and increased conservation budgets

Recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories

Achievement of Target 3 will require far greater engagement with and recognition of the existing contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities to conservation outcomes. Implementation of the Target must also not perpetuate or exacerbate rights violations. Recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories, is paramount.

Understanding the element and its significance

Indigenous peoples and local communities play outsized roles in biodiversity conservation through their collective action. Yet in many places, their rights are not sufficiently recognized, respected, or protected, including in the protected and conserved area context. Target 3 recognizes this in the commitment to "Recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories". This is foundational for Target 3 (and GBF) implementation.

In "Recognizing and respecting rights" *Recognizing* rights refers to affirming and acknowledging rights, including inherent rights; *Respecting* rights refers to the duty and responsibility not to violate or interfere with rights.

The collective and individual rights of Indigenous peoples and of local communities, including over their traditional territories, are recognized in a wide range of international instruments, as well as regional, and national and sub-national statutory and customary laws and protocols. One key instrument, cited in the GBF, is the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples – a cornerstone document for recognizing rights.

[These sections will be substantially further developed in the next draft and through ongoing discussion] Amongst the many relevant procedural and substantive rights in relation to Target 3 implementation are rights to govern and manage lands, waters, and territories; to participate in decision-making; and to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). FPIC is an enshrined right of Indigenous peoples in UNDRIP - including in relation to lands and territories (e.g. Arts 10; 29(2)), cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property (e.g. Art 11), adoption and implementation of legislative or administrative measures that may affective them (e.g. Art 19), and effective redress where FPIC is not upheld (e.g. Arts 28; 11(2)). FPIC of Indigenous peoples and local communities is also required in the GBF and earlier CBD decisions - e.g. in relation to: Rights, knowledge, innovations, worldviews, (Decision 15/6; Decision 12/12); Establishment, expansion, governance and management of protected areas, including marine protected areas (Decision 12/12, B, Annex,V.3(i)); and in The Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines on Traditional Knowledge (Decision 13/18).

In the context of CBD Article 8(j), traditional territories can be understood as "lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples and local communities". The new inclusion of 'indigenous and traditional territories' requires some development of similar understanding, with the Article 8(j) definition providing a starting point for what this might mean and acknowledging at the same time that it is of central importance that the views and positions of Indigenous peoples and local communities (as major rights-holders), are given full consideration and priority when it comes to resolving this definition.

Pathways for implementation

Pathways for enabling recognition and respect of Indigenous peoples and local communities' rights include contextually-grounded laws, processes and practices to:

- Identify laws, policies and practices that do not recognize or respect the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, enable redress, and make and implement reforms to fully recognize and respect rights going forward
- Identify, support and engage with Indigenous peoples and local communities at all levels of government to appropriately support their conservation initiatives.
- Support other duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and rights-holders to claim and exercise their rights, including in relation to capacities, resources, and relationships
- Analysis / mapping of strengths and gaps in how current systems uphold Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, including to territories - e.g. through systems-level assessments, such as those done in Ecuador, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran, Peru, and Tanzania
- Pathways for rights-holders to secure and protect collective tenure and territories - such as the initiative to secure collective and connected territory for livelihoods and conservation in northern Tanzania
- Indigenous- and community-led initiatives with technical, financial and other support to fully implement these measures – e.g. the mapping and registration initiative led by custodian communities in the Philippines
- Appropriate social support – e.g. learning / peer-exchange networks, such as the MIHARI network connecting and supporting LMMAs in Madagascar

The IPCA Knowledge Basket also offers a toolkit for respectful collaboration with Indigenous people as well as a glossary, among other relevant resources.

Systems

A system here refers to a protected and conserved area network along with its governance and management and key actors. A national or sub-national PCA system may include terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal areas (particularly those important for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services) being conserved through different measures – including protected areas and OECMs, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories - and under different governance types. Like sites, these systems should be effectively managed, equitably governed, ecologically representative, well connected and integrated, with recognition and respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Governance diversity – an essential component of Target 3

This section focuses on ***governance diversity***. This is because the other elements of the system are covered under other sections of this guide. Governance diversity, however, is implied, rather than explicitly named, in Target 3.

Governance is also understood in many ways. Broadly, it concerns how and by whom decisions are made and upheld, including power, voice and accountability. Governance *diversity* exists in PCA systems that include areas conserved under a variety of *governance types*. Here, governance 'type' refers to, essentially, who governs a particular area or site. The CBD and IUCN refer to four governance types:

- **Governance by government:** national and/or sub-national ministries/agencies and government-delegated management (e.g., to an NGO).
- **Private governance:** individual owners, non-profit entities (e.g., NGOs, universities, cooperatives) or for-profit organizations (individual or corporate).
- **Governance by Indigenous peoples or local communities:** territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities (referred to in some CBD decisions as ICCAs), also referred to as 'territories of life', community-conserved areas, and a wide variety of context-based names.
- **Shared governance:** collaborative and co-governed governing bodies of different (governmental and/or non-governmental) actors as well as transboundary governance.

Protected areas and OECMs can both be governed under any of these types - noting that their designation / identification must be by or with the consent of their governing authority, respecting rights to FPIC. Indigenous and traditional territories are governed and managed by Indigenous peoples or by local, traditional communities.

Beyond (and within) governance diversity, are other forms of diversity important to Target 3 implementation. These include:

- Biocultural diversity, including within diverse language, knowledge, and ways of knowing.
- Diverse conservation objectives and values – including relational values.
- Diversity in the genders, ages, abilities, identities of conservation leaders and change agents.

Appropriate recognition, respect and support of diverse governance – and other dimensions of diversity – is crucial to conservation equity and effectiveness. Diverse systems are generally more:

- Effective, e.g., by respecting and supporting the rights, agency, and contributions of different governing actors, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, and youth.

- Resilient, e.g., by engaging multiple institutions that can respond to changes in different ways
- Widely covered, connected and representative, including the vast coverage of co-governed areas, protected areas, and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and by local communities.

Case studies: The equity and effectiveness benefits of governance diversity - and examples of ways they can be recognized and supported - are illustrated in this collection of PANORAMA Solutions**.** These include governance by Indigenous communities in Canada and Senegal; shared governance and knowledge for conservation in Australia, Colombia, Laos and Sweden; a PPA in Kenya.

Understanding differences within and between governance types

Governance 'types' must be understood in context, including the often complex differences between them. Among other considerations are:

- Overlapping governance types; in particular, many territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities are overlapped by protected areas or OECMs under other de jure governing authorities and need appropriate recognition and governance
- Different understandings of distinctions between types
- Contested claims or unrecognized rights to governance (management, access), including due to displacement
- Diversity of power relations and ways of participating across diverse and sometimes overlapping governance types, including participation in planning and stewardship of government-governed protected areas, e.g. in the Great Barrier Reef and Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls
- Multiple (mosaic) systems, such as in the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range World Heritage, Japan
- Shifts in governance type over time - including from government to shared-governance, e.g. as was done in the coastal zone of Soc Trang Province, Vietnam

Pathways for implementation

Governance diversity often exists in practice (*de facto*), even if not recognized in law (*de jure*), but recognition is fundamental to equity, including the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities. Further, particularly in light of threats, secure governance rights are crucial to sustaining contributions of different governing authorities.

A useful place to start is reflection and reform, e.g., reviewing laws, processes and practices related to governance diversity, and finding ways to address gaps. The review process should

itself be inclusive and equitable, consistent with Targets 21 to 23 and considerations for implementation in the GBF.

Recognition and support of diverse governance types can come in several forms - e.g., legal, financial, and social (e.g., network). S*pecific* forms of recognition and support will vary by context and should be determined by and with rights-holders. Some options are explored below.

While not simple, enhancing recognition and support of diverse governance, knowledge and practices is both feasible and crucial. There are examples and sources of guidance concerning, among others:

- Systems-level PCA assessment and examples of its use in practice
- National and sub-national experiences in diversifying governance of systems, such as in the case studies here in Colombia, Madagascar, Namibia, Peru and The Philippines
- Privately protected areas
- Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples or by local communities, including IPCAs, and the diverse ways custodians have secured collective rights and contributions.
- Shared governance
- Lessons and examples from across types
- Sources of synthesized guidance – e.g. concerning tenure and SSFs

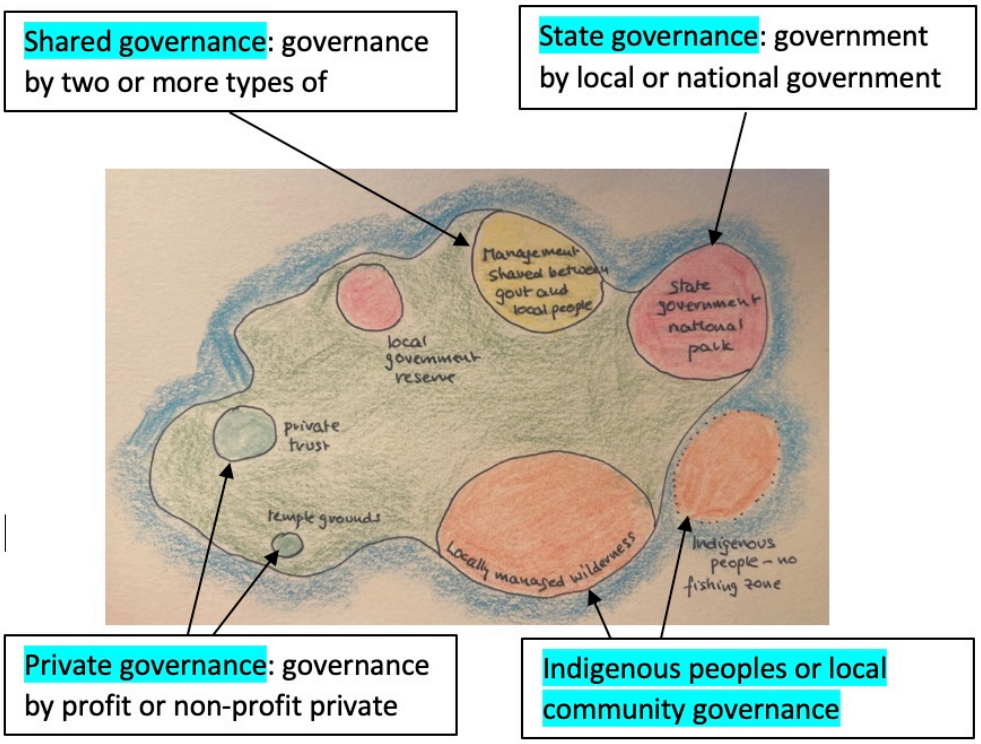


Figure #: **PCA governance options**

Protected areas

Protected areas remain the cornerstone of most conservation strategies. But they are neither simple nor uncontroversial, differing enormously in both their management and governance and in some cases having similarities in management approaches with the newer designation of OECMs. This section gives a background to what they are and what they can do.

Global definitions of protected areas

Protected areas are places set aside to secure biodiversity and ecosystem services. Many also have cultural, spiritual and recreational values. The CBD defines a protected area as "*a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives*", while IUCN says, "*A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*". The CBD recognizes the two definitions as equivalent.

The way that protected areas are managed varies considerably. There are several very different protected area management categories outlined in Figure #.

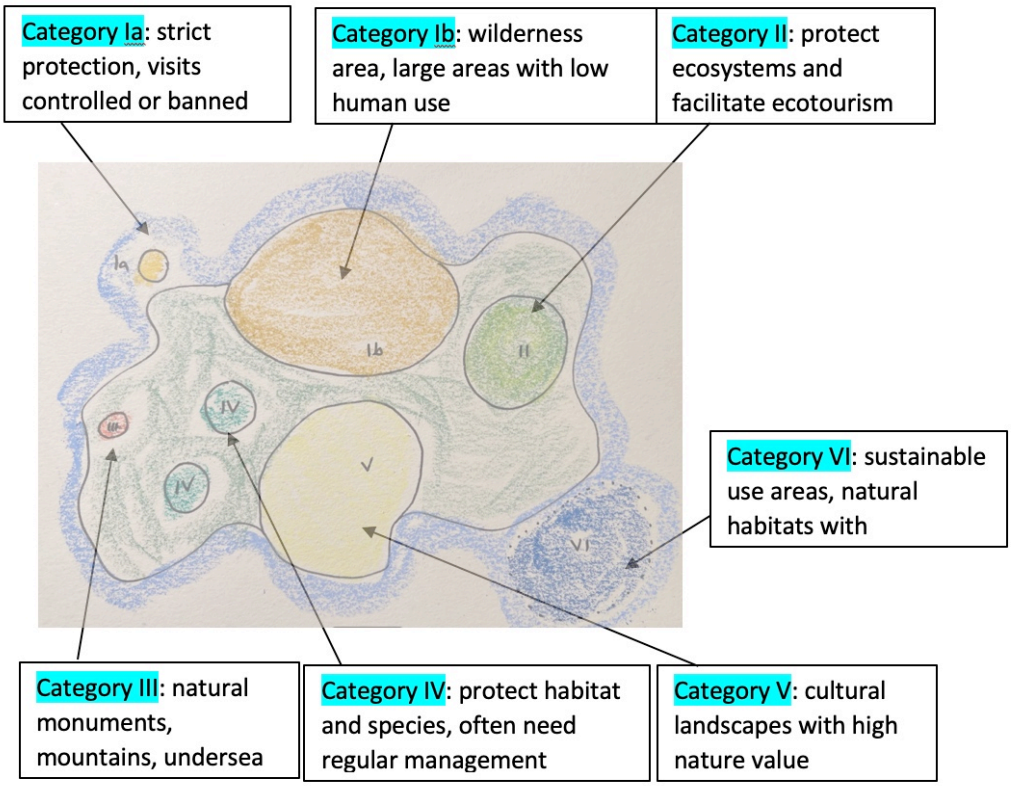


Figure #: **IUCN WCPA protected area management categories**

To be recognized as a protected area a site must *first* meet the definition and *then* be matched to a category. Management ranges from strict protection (in practice rather unusual) to living landscapes and seascapes where people and nature co-exist. As new approaches to area-based conservation are developed, management in categories V and VI protected areas is sometimes similar to strategies since recognized in OECMs and working out exactly where a particular type of area-based conservation falls on the spectrum of opportunities is going to be one of the important tasks of plans relating to Target 3.

"*Legal or other effective means*" shows that protected areas are rather flexible tools, which can be officially designated by governments and enshrined in law but can also be self-declared areas managed by local communities or private individuals. What matters is whether they work.

"*To achieve the long-term conservation of nature*" emphasizes the importance of investing in the skills, finance and local support to ensure that protected areas are effective.

Note also that IUCN's guidance recognizes that up to a quarter of a protected area can be used for other purposes (e.g., settlement, tourist facilities) as long as this does not interfere with nature conservation – the 75per cent rule.

There are also different ways of governing protected areas: by national or local government, by a variety of private profit or non-profit entities, by Indigenous peoples and local communities and finally through various forms of shared governance.

IUCN has defined a series of principles for protected areas, some of the most important are:

- … only those areas where the main objective is conserving nature can be considered protected areas; this can include many areas with other goals as well, at the same level, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation will be the priority.
- … not all categories are equally useful in every situation.
- … protected areas should not be used as an excuse for dispossessing people of their land.

Understanding protected areas in the context of the GBF

The GBF has not changed the definition or purpose of protected areas, but it has stressed some important aspects that are changing, and will continue to change, the ways in which protected areas are designated and managed. Wording In Target 3 says:

- "*areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services*" – extra stress on site selection but also more emphasis on ecosystem services alongside biodiversity.
- "*well-connected*" – need to think on a landscape and seascape scale, integrating protected areas, OECMs, connectivity conservation areas, sustainable use areas, etc.

- "*equitably governed*" – the social values of protected areas are as important as the nature values
- "…*sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation*" – implying much more consistent approaches to use within protected areas.
- "*recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities*" as a fundamental basis for conservation action.

Other effective area-based conservation measures

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) is a relatively new and largely untested category of area-based conservation, but will be a fundamental building block of Target 3. Understanding and implementing OECMs to provide genuine contributions to 30x30 is likely to be one of the great challenges of the decade.

Understanding OECMs

OECM is a term created in 2010 during CBD COP 10 and included in Aichi Target 11. In 2018 the CBD finally defined an OECM as "*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*."

OECMs offer a significant opportunity to recognize *de facto* effective long-term conservation that is taking place outside designated protected areas. OECMs can be governed and managed by a diverse set of actors, including Indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector, but also government agencies responsible for energy, water resources, commerce and the military.

For position only – infographic will be developed/adapted, stressing that OECMs must demonstrate

Figure xx: **Ancillary, secondary and primary conservation in OECMs**

A useful approach to OECMs in national planning is to look for areas that are important for biodiversity, where management results in positive outcomes for nature. Then look for ways to support those benefits into the future without disrupting what is already working. This can include securing tenure for those successfully managing the area or avoiding perverse incentives for development that would undo the beneficial status quo. It may be necessary to plan for species movement in response to climate change and encourage OECMs in receptor habitats.

Recognition and support of OECMs should aim to enhance the governance capacity of their legitimate authorities and secure positive and sustained outcomes for biodiversity. While national circumstances will differ, any related recognition or support should reinforce existing governance systems where they are effective and not seek to supplant or unnecessarily alter those local arrangements for other purposes.

Guidance on recognizing and reporting OECMs

IUCN WCPA has developed an assessment tool for recognizing and reporting OECMs. Key questions include:

- Is there important biodiversity in the area?
- Is the area already a protected area?
- Do those responsible for governance and management want the area to be recognized as an OECM?
- Is the area legally recognized and what kinds of support are needed to help maintain the biodiversity outcomes in the long-term?

A growing number of training materials on OECMs are available.

Examples of areas that could be OECMs include:

- Sacred natural sites with high biodiversity conserved long-term for their importance to faith groups,
- Military lands and waters managed for defense, but providing ancillary conservation,
- Permanent or long-term fisheries closure areas designed to protect complete ecosystems for stock recruitment or to protect specialized ecosystems and their full complement of species.
- Freshwater and coastal wetlands designated for flood protection, which also protect important habitats, species and ecosystem services, and may require restoration.
- Watersheds or other areas designated and managed primarily for water resource management that also result in the *in-situ* conservation of important biodiversity.

Areas and management regimes that are unlikely to qualify as OECMs include:

- Small, semi-natural areas within an intensively managed landscape with limited biodiversity.
- Forests that are managed commercially for timber supply and are intended for logging.

- Fishery closures, temporary set asides or gear restriction areas with a single species, species group, or habitat focus, that may be subject to periodic exploitation and/or be defined for stock management purposes, and that do not deliver *in-situ* conservation of the associated ecosystems, habitats and species.
- Temporary agricultural set asides, summer fallow and other agricultural practices that provide only limited benefits for biodiversity.
- Conservation measures that apply to a single species or group of species, over a wide geographical range, such as hunting regulations or whale-watching rules.

Reporting OECMs – an indicator of success

Most OECMs will likely be reported by national governments, but other stakeholders can also submit data to the World Database on OECMs. Any reporting of OECMs should be done with full agreement of relevant governance authority(-ies) and FPIC.

The number and size of OECMs reported to the database may not be a good indicator of success. No independent verification system yet exists to confirm that an area reported as an OECM actually supports significant biodiversity over the long term. Reporting of areas that do not meet the criteria of OECMs fully will give a false picture of progress towards 30x30. A solution lies in monitoring of biodiversity in and around areas to assess effectiveness, and reporting only those areas that demonstrate positive outcomes, but this has challenges itself in that many OECM managers will not be knowledgeable about biodiversity monitoring or have capacity to implement it.

Like protected areas, OECMs can make an important contribution to the qualitative elements of Target 3—connectivity, representativeness, and providing ecosystem services—but states need to put in place systems to ensure they are also effective and equitable.

Recognizing indigenous and traditional territories

Understanding the element and its significance

The GBF recognizes the crucial contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities in conserving biodiversity through their governance systems, values, knowledge, innovations, practice, and worldviews. The GBF is a commitment to halting and reversing loss of biodiversity and of biocultural diversity. Ensuring PCAs systems recognize, respect, and support territories and areas conserved by and with Indigenous peoples and local communities is crucial for equity and effectiveness.

Target 3 calls for effective conservation through, among other elements, "***recognizing indigenous and traditional territories.***" The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity

(IIFB) identified the inclusion of this phrase as crucial for Target 3 during negotiations. (IIFB has been recognized by the CBD as a representative body in the deliberations since 1996.) As noted above, while there are differing views on how to interpret this element, IIFB has reiterated its position, developed at COP-15 that "recognizing indigenous and traditional territories" in Target 3 provides a distinct pathway to conservation in addition to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), so not subsumed to protected areas and OECMs.

Systems can include protected areas and OECMs governed under diverse governance arrangements. There are contexts in which territory custodians may seek (and have sought) protected area designations (e.g., protected areas in Australia) or OECM identification (e.g. as an option through the ICCA Registry). Some Indigenous and traditional territories are also governed and conserved within shared or mosaic arrangements.

However, as noted in recent articles, there will also be (and are) contexts in which Indigenous peoples and local communities consider that protected area designation or OECM recognition do not support, potentially undermine, or are not appropriate for recognition of Indigenous and traditional territories that otherwise meet Target 3 criteria. For example:

- Many conserved territories and areas are overlapped by protected areas under other *de jure* governing authorities and need still to be recognized.
- Existing legal frameworks for territory recognition are often not yet in place, or are fragmented, costly, or otherwise difficult to effectively use, including in ways that uphold rights to self-determination.
- OECMs might provide a more flexible pathway. However, these are relatively new frameworks and Indigenous peoples, local communities, and others have raised concerns that will need to be addressed.

Recognition of this element as a distinct pathway does not preclude Indigenous peoples or local communities from seeking recognition of their conserved lands, waters or territories through protected area or OECM frameworks, where that is possible and they wish to. Rather, it may provide more flexibility [add link to forthcoming article in Oryx] to appropriately recognize these territories in contexts or instances where those frameworks are not an appropriate option. Provided those territories have demonstrated positive conservation outcomes.

Discussions are ongoing, and interpretations and approaches may vary by context and country. They may also be resolved in future CBD guidance. In all cases, experience illustrates that not having appropriate frameworks for recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories and areas often results in erosion of biodiversity, biocultural diversity, and wellbeing. As noted in the introduction, it is of central importance that the views and positions of Indigenous peoples and

local communities (as major rights-holders) are given full consideration (and priority) when it comes to resolving these discussions.

Ways it can be done

Approaches for recognition of "indigenous and traditional territories" should be led by custodians, and with FPIC in all cases, in accordance with GBF implementation considerations and Targets 21 to 23. Decisions and their implementation should uphold applicable law and multi-lateral agreements, including UNDRIP. Examples and resources that may be useful in this process include, among others:

- Legal, policy, and other territory recognition and support approaches, including described within the Territories of Life Global Report, and CBD guidance
- Mapping, documentation, and other processes to secure, and protect and sustain territories, governance and knowledge - e.g. as described by custodian communities in Local Biodiversity Outlooks-2 and this celebration of territories of life in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam
- Self-determined registration in appropriate platforms, e.g., the ICCA Registry
- Social support and solidarity initiatives and networks (such as the MIHARI network of LMMAs)
- Developing Community Protocols,
- Overall self-strengthening processes - e.g., in this guide from the ICCA Consortium with questions, tools and examples regarding reflection, documentation, understanding, visioning and celebrating, acting and communicating, and reviewing and renewing
- Systems level assessments that include focus on recognition and respect for territory rights
- A wide variety of other Indigenous-led and co-developed guidance, e.g., within the IPCA Knowledge Basket

Effectively managed

Quality of management at systems and site levels will be as important as quantity of areas conserved for the GBF to succeed. Some assessment of management effectiveness has been made in at least some protected areas in most countries, this effort will need to increase and most importantly management adapted to ensure effectiveness.

Ways to effectiveness

The effectiveness of the current protected area network is not matching its rate of expansion. A quarter to a third of all protected areas have ineffective management. (Comparative data on OECMs is not yet available, although in theory OECMs cannot be designated unless they are effective.)

Effective management is based on the adequacy and appropriateness of resources and processes to enable positive and sustained long-term biodiversity and social outcomes. What is considered effective will vary from site to site, and should be agreed by a participatory process, and influenced by context (e.g., governance, pressures, enabling conditions such as legislation), decisions relating to design and connectivity taken during establishment/recognition and evolving management actions (including inputs/resources and management practices) informed by monitoring and assessment.

Specific management processes vary, but global guidance exists in terms of management standards, competence, assessment and monitoring; all of which should contribute to management that is adaptive, inclusive and transparent.

The IUCN Green List Standard sets out an overarching template for the requirements of successful nature conservation (figure #) achieved by identifying a set of performance standards; it thus sets a good practice blueprint. Countries can adapt the standards to be nationally relevant and take part in the Green List accreditation program to have their management independently assessed.

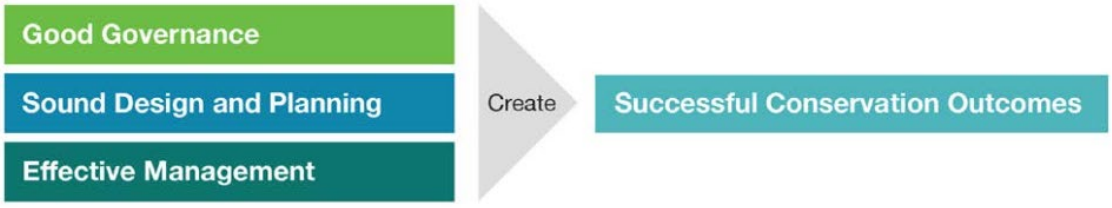


Figure #: **The four components of the IUCN Green List Standard**

Conservation competencies help identify qualifications and skills for effective management, which need to be linked to ongoing capacity building and training. Competence will need to diversify to cover a wide range of governance types [link to forthcoming URSA ranger competencies], and capacity be significantly increased if the GBF targets are to be reached. It is estimated that five times the current number of rangers (including Indigenous and community rangers) will be needed to help conserve and interpret the conservation estate globally by 2030, along with adequate resources and training in codes of conduct and related guidance.

Figure #: **IUCN WCPA has a Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Framework**

Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of decision-making based on the systematic acquisition and application of reliable information to improve management over time. IUCN WCPA has developed a Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) framework (figure #) to help understand and assess management. The framework spurred a major body of work including PAME systems and tools, research and development, implementation and adaptive management worldwide. Many countries have their own PAME assessment systems embedded into national policies. UNEP WCMC's website includes overviews of some well-known tools and a database of where assessments have been implemented worldwide.

Assessment and adaptation are informed by monitoring to determine progress on key objectives. The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), supports management activities, such as law enforcement, tourism and visitor management, natural resource use, intelligence, and performance and threat level assessments.

Involving stakeholders in management decision-making at all stages and ensuring transparency of management actions and achievements (from sharing information locally to international reporting) is fundamental to effectiveness. As the conservation system diversifies there should be more effort to understand how individual actors measure effectiveness, whether those mechanisms are effective and potentially replicable, how they might be better suited to ensure increased effectiveness in their particular situation, and/or better integrated into existing assessment systems.

Enabling factors and challenges

A major focus for GBF implementation has to be on building capacity to refine/implement existing tools, rather than a major focus on new tools. The development of the curated online toolbox 30x30.solutions will provide greater access to global conservation knowledge. Questions

remain in terms of understanding management success, specifically: 1) how to quantify conservation outcomes, 2) who is making judgements about whether long-term conservation outcomes have been achieved (and who decides what success should look like).

Understanding the relationship between outcomes and management is often inadequate. Effectiveness is based on whether objectives have been met, but this assumes sites/systems have appropriate objectives (which is becoming even more challenging with the impacts of climate change). Defining baselines and identifying counterfactuals to compare conservation management with other areas remains challenging (particularly as many species become confined to protected and conserved areas). Although baselines can be relatively straightforward for *outputs* (e.g., actions undertaken), *outcome* indicators (e.g., what was achieved) are harder to agree.

The question of who develops the objectives and makes the decisions around effectiveness is even more challenging. Assessments can vary from studies of large datasets and satellite monitoring to long-term participatory multi-stakeholder site assessments. Finding the most appropriate processes and tools to ensure effective management should be a first task when implementing Target 3, followed by an assessment of capacity needs to ensure inclusivity and equity as vital components of management. Approaches, tools and methods need to be developed or adapted specifically for IP territories and other diverse governance types, specific realms, biomes and regions.

If users themselves are convinced of the importance of maintaining a resource into the long term, they can be the best monitors, otherwise monitoring will have to be done by outsiders. Agreeing indicators, thresholds (the amount of change in an indicator that will stimulate and management response) and the type of response all must be selected carefully.

Success in effective management

All area-based conservation should have clear objectives. Management actions should support achieving objectives, and management regularly assessed to allow adaptive management and effective reporting. Management and assessment systems need to be culturally appropriate, suited to the local context and truly participatory. Capacity development needs to be imbedded into strategies for the implementation of Target 3 with a focus on:

- Capacity to engage in protected area management.
- Knowledge building, e.g., monitoring, assessment, etc.
- Capacity to undertake effective assessments.
- Capacity to implement results.

Evidence of success is not routinely considered when planning and designing conservation projects, major funders of conservation have thus pledged to focus more on evidence.

The Bio-Cultural Protocol developed by the Indigenous Ogiek of the Mau Forest in Kenya recognises the Ogiek's collective responsibility to protect and conserve the forest directed by their traditions and culture.

Equitably Governed

Here equity is defined and explored with respect to conservation governance. Tools and pathways for implementation are presented.

Understanding equity and governance

Equity is a multi-dimensional concept, closely related to fairness and justice. CBD Voluntary Guidance on protected areas looks at three dimensions of equity:*Recognition*: acknowledgement of and respect for rights and the diversity of identities, values, knowledge systems and institutions of rights-holders and stakeholders

1. *Procedure*: inclusiveness of rule- and decision-making
2. *Distribution*: equitable sharing of costs and benefits

This Guidance points to a framework for assessing these three dimensions.

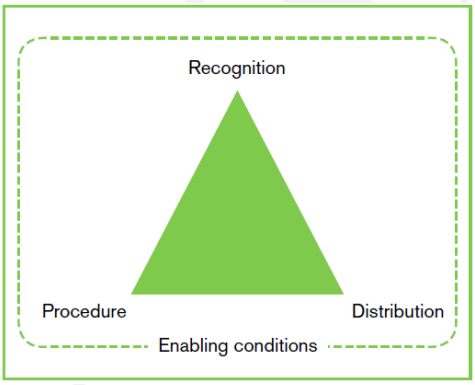


Figure #: **Three dimensions of equity embedded within enabling conditions**

Equity is a core component of governance quality, IUCN identifies legitimacy and voice, direction, performance, accountability, and fairness and rights as principles of equitable and effective PCA governance. Other frameworks and approaches may also include different or additional elements/principles for equity (e.g. for marine conservation) and governance (e.g. The Natural Resource Governance Framework and Governance Principles for Community-Centered Conservation (in the GBF)). There are also approaches that consider equity and governance as part of a broader process, such as the Green List, the territory of life Self-Strengthening Process, Community Protocols, and the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership.

Importance for Target 3 implementation

- *Equity:* Connecting equity to governance stresses outcomes (distribution) as well as decision and rulemaking (procedure) and rights and diverse knowledge (recognition), including the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities
- *Inclusion:* Focusing on "equitably governed systems" stresses importance in sites and systems
- *Effectiveness:* Equitable governance is key to effective conservation, helping to recognize, support and co-create the contributions from different actors and governance types, including of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth.

Pathways to inclusive and equitably implementation

Strategies and actions for **equitably governed systems and sites should be** consistent with the guiding principles above may include laws, processes and practices at appropriate scales for - e.g.

- Equitable recognition and support for all governance types, including in overlapping situations, through site and systems-level assessments (see below) and other means
- Safeguards, participatory assessments and follow-up actions to improve governance of existing sites and of any new PA or OECM establishment and expansion (see below)
- Access to justice, including recognition, reconciliation and redress (e.g. through approaches like the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership and the Whakatane Mechanism) and including where Indigenous peoples or local communities conserved territories are overlapped by protected areas or OECMs that are not governed by Indigenous peoples and local communities
- Recognition and respect for diverse values, knowledge and ways of knowing, innovation and practice
- Equitable distribution of costs and benefits across the system
- Closing implementation gaps and enhancing transparency, accountability and coordination across sectors and scales
- Sharing and building capacities and resources, including through peer learning and exchange
- Ensuring equity in funding (access and safeguards)
- Continuing and strengthening efforts to build processes and relationships that address structural inequities, equalize power, recognize and support Indigenous-led and community-led conservation and human rights-based and decolonizing approaches, including shifting roles and relationships with states, NGOs, donors, and other non-state actors in conservation

Equitable governance is also closely related to the application of a broader human rights-based approach, and the rights language throughout the GBF, including in relation to FPIC, access to information and justice, and full protection of human rights defenders, the rights of women and girls, and the principle of intergenerational justice. A wide range of human rights can be (negatively or positively) impacted by conservation processes and outcomes. One helpful

resource in understanding these rights is The Living Convention (Vol. 1). This offers a "compendium of internationally recognized rights that support the integrity and resilience of Indigenous peoples', local communities' and peasants' territories and other social-ecological systems". (This resource notes which provisions come from instruments dedicated specifically to Indigenous peoples, including UNDRIP. It does not reflect specific provisions in the Resolution on the Right to a Healthy Environment, as this was adopted after its publication.) The rights explored within this compendium include:

- **Procedural rights** related to: precautionary principle, FPIC, impact assessment, information, decision-making, access to justice, capacity building and awareness, and research and development
- **Substantive rights** related to, among others: knowledge, innovations and practices; tenure; non-removal from lands and territories; stewardship, governance and management of territories, lands and natural resources; customary use; sustainable use; protected areas; sacred natural sites; and benefit sharing.

Tools and approaches for assessing governance

Governance assessment is one way to understand and improve the current situation. Assessments can be done at both systems and site levels, supported by a variety of participatory approaches and tools. These include CBD voluntary guidelines and IUCN WCPA good practice guidance on site- and systems-level assessments (including an Annex with further guidance on recognizing and supporting areas and territories conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities), site-level governance assessment tools developed by IIED (SAGE and GAPA), a self-strengthening process for territories of life, and the IUCN NRGF, and the Green List among others. PCA governance assessment has been done less frequently than PAME. However, lessons for good practice include that:

- Governance of the assessment matters - including who convenes, who participates, how (and why) assessment is done, how outcomes are shared, and who decides. Inclusive, context-appropriate processes are crucial.
- There is value in (inclusive) assessment processes - e.g., shared reflections.
- Assessment also means a responsibility for responsive action. The path from assessment to action requires commitment.
- Governance is dynamic; assessment is only one step in ongoing learning and adaptation.

Areas of particular importance for biodiversity / ecologically representative

Protected and conserved areas should be in places with significant biodiversity and not only in less biodiverse places like deserts, mountaintops and ice sheets. Ensuring ecological representation requires data and planning, but also needs to take account of human uses and ecosystem services, necessitating negotiation and trade-offs.

Ensuring ecological representation in national planning

In formal terms, ecological representation means including viable populations of the full variety of biodiversity of different biological realms (freshwater, marine and terrestrial through all the ecoregions) and biological scales (ecosystems, species and within-species variation) within a system of protected and conserved areas. There are many tools to help prioritize and conservation biologists also advise building some redundancy into the system to ensure that omissions are minimized. Two main approaches are used:

Enabling factors and challenges

Multiple studies report beneficial effects of protected areas on species abundance and diversity in all types of protected area. Yet at present, many species are missed by the global protected area system, others are not covered in sufficient numbers to ensure survival. Similarly, many ecosystems, including Key Biodiversity Areas, are not or inadequately included. An analysis from 2010-2019 of over 12,000 threatened species (e.g., Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List) found 87.6per cent had some portion of their geographic range protected by 2019. But only 2per cent had gained protection in the last decade suggesting slow progress towards representation. Also, biodiversity in protected areas is affected by wider environmental changes. Research in German protected areas found a 76 per cent decline in flying insect biomass over 27 years, with agricultural intensification the likely cause. Lack of insect food is a major driver behind a 55per cent decline in European farm birds since 1980.

For position only – infographic to be developed

Figure #: **Diagram of different planning tools**

Areas of particular importance for …. ecosystem functions and services

Target 3 gives slightly more emphasis on ecosystem services than previously and also mentions functions. Increasingly, and perhaps particularly in OECMs, ecosystem services will be the primary driver behind recognition. Understanding which and whose values exist, where and when are all important.

Taking an integrated approach

From the perspective of planning, ecosystem services come in two main types, those immediately valuable to people living in or near the site and those with wider, possibly global,

significance but that are less recognizable at a local level. So, e.g., access to fish populations is easy to understand and appreciate at a community level whereas the carbon value of a peatland is much harder to comprehend and bring into negotiation about land use. Ecosystem functions and services should also be understood in a way that reflects the diverse values of nature, including relational values and biocultural diversity. Planning for ecosystem services – such as food and water security, disaster risk reduction, health benefits and climate adaptation and mitigation and cultural values and services – therefore depends on two types of assessment, finding out what local people think is important and determining wider global values. Tools are available for both, ranging from analysis of satellite imagery to workshop approaches with local people. These can include economic valuation, although methodologies remain partial and decisions are seldom made purely on financial terms. A 2022 IPBES report also offers guidelines on valuation and policy making in relation to diverse values of nature.

The addition of "ecosystem functions" to the target, which was not present in previous CBD objectives, indicates that part of the aim should be to maintain underlying ecosystem health on a wider scale, rather than just those elements that are immediately translatable into human values.

Once identified, management options need to be developed, including how management is going to be funded over time. "Management" is often simply a case of ensuring that an ecosystem service is maintained, which means in most cases keeping the ecosystem functioning correctly. However, where degradation has already occurred, restoration of ecosystem services will also be a critical factor. Various ways of sustainable financing are available, in this case payments for ecosystem services (PES) is an obvious option, although the feasibility of realizing these benefits needs to be judged on a case-by-case basis.

For position only – large infographic to be developed

Figure #: **The variety of services deriving from natural, intact ecosystems**

Enabling factors and challenges

Although there are many examples of partnerships around the world between protected areas and institutions such as water companies, municipalities, health departments, tourism ventures etc., the role of natural ecosystems in maintaining ecosystem services has still failed to come to scale, or to enter mainstream thinking with the seriousness needed for effective uptake. The

combination of the new GBF, elements of the UNFCCC climate strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals may be sufficient to give the necessary push.

Ecologically representative, well-connected, and integrated

'Ecological connectivity' (hereby connectivity) is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth. Without connectivity, ecosystems cannot function properly. Under the GBF targets, countries aim to maintain, enhance, and restore ecological flows, species movement, and dynamic processes across intact and fragmented environments.

Understanding ecological connectivity

The disruption or absence of connectivity occurs because of human-induced habitat degradation and fragmentation (i.e., the breaking up of an ecosystem into smaller and smaller parcels). Fragmentation and degradation has already impacted over 75per cent of terrestrial ecosystems (excluding Antarctica) and 87per cent of marine biomes (by overfishing, nutrient run-off and climate change), and whilst currently 17per cent of the world's terrestrial areas are recognized as protected and conserved only 7.84per cent of recognized protected and conserved areas are *connected*.

Understanding ecological representation

Ecological representation refers to the concept that the full variety of biodiversity of different biological realms (freshwater, marine and terrestrial) and biological scales (ecosystems, species and within-species variation) should be represented in the system of protected and conserved areas. This requires a systematic approach to identify, assess and measure biodiversity. Because our knowledge is incomplete the use of coarse filter biodiversity surrogates helps in this identification process. Representation approaches need to be adjusted periodically in response to new data, tools and information about their effectiveness.

Creating ecological networks for conservation

The goal of the well-connected component of Target 3 is to create ecological networks for conservation: systems of core habitats (e.g., PCAs), connected by ecological corridors, which are established, restored, and maintained to conserve biological diversity in otherwise fragmented systems. An ecological corridor is a clearly defined geographical space that is governed and managed over the long term to maintain or restore effective connectivity. They are the 'glue' of conservation networks. In some cases, ecological corridors can be disjunct patches of habitat, called 'stepping stones', particularly when supporting long-distance migration of wildlife such as marine mammals, sea turtles and birds.

For illustration only – infographic will be redesigned and simplified.

Figure #: **A conceptual representation of an ecological network for conservation**
Key: Terrestrial protected areas are in dark green and depicted as surrounded by human activities. Marine protected areas are in dark blue. OECMs are represented in orange. Ecological corridors, both those that are continuous and those that function as steppingstones, are outlined with dashed lines. © Kendra Hoff / CLLC source

System planning for connectivity

Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors are based on the best available science and practice for maintaining, enhancing and restoring ecological connectivity among and between PCAs, and provide a rich resource for policy makers and practitioners. More resources are being developed to help implementers identify opportunities for advancing connectivity conservation at national and subnational levels through NBSAPs and GEF financing.

Marxan Connect is a program available to help conservationists and agrarian planners include connectivity in their protected area network planning.

There are a wide range of area-based approaches for connectivity in use that can contribute to Target 3 and can be drawn on for inspiration and legal precedents. Bhutan, Costa Rica, Croatia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, and the Netherlands are all undertaking national connectivity measures. It is likely that there are already initiatives taking place within most countries, for example, flyways, free-flowing rivers or transboundary conservation areas, an inventory of these areas could be conducted identifying potential networks contributing to Target 3.

Case study: East Asian-Australasian Flyway is one of nine major migratory waterbird flyways around the globe; it is home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds and currently has currently 900 sites recognized as internationally important to migratory waterbirds along the flyway. Other

initiatives include the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, etc.

Site and biome connectivity

Ecological corridors are not a substitute for PCAs but should be identified and established in areas where connectivity is required, have specific ecological objectives and be managed and governed to achieve these goals. They should be differentiated from non-corridor areas by specific uses that are prohibited or allowed e.g., sustainable resource use. Systematic conservation planning and ecological modelling can identify ecological corridors. Such planning may consider specific conservation targets (e.g., focal species, KBAs, population sizes etc.), climate change modelling scenarios, and socio-economic and political filters.

It is important to consider certain species' needs for dispersal and habitat size when assessing or improving the connectivity of a PCA. To ensure that individuals can move between core habitats in an ecological network, calculations of appropriate distances between them should be made according to species' characteristics such as dispersal range and area required for a minimum viable population. Distances should be minimized and the area between core habitats managed to maintain connectivity. PCA managers can propose corridors to regional/national planners and support corridor managers to develop ecological objectives and management plans, these may be simple or complex depending on permitted human activities and the tenure issues. Managers of very small PCAs (e.g., < 10 ha) in highly fragmented regions, may play a critical role in maintaining connectivity across a region and should work with other local PCA managers to retain connectivity.

Connectivity in marine conservation planning is an emerging topic of discussion and particularly important for coral ecosystems that require connectivity for heat-adapted larvae to migrate to cooler sites under climate change. The IUCN Conservation Corridor group is collating rules of thumb for designing MPA networks and a series of case studies of initiatives around the world working toward maintaining, enhancing, and restoring ecological connectivity of the marine environment.

Connectivity approaches are particularly important for inland water systems that have landscape-scale dependencies on their upstream catchments and connectivity with groundwater, floodplain and downstream habitats. For example, the Pärnu River was targeted under Estonia's National Water Act as a *migratory swimway* to restore the free-flowing condition and important habitat of a river and manage freshwater fishes over their entire migration route.

Connectivity a major contribution to the 70 per cent

Most connectivity planning will occur beyond the 30 per cent PCA area – connectivity is ultimately a qualifier of the 30 per cent occurring in the 70 per cent of cities, farms and shared

lands. This represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Whilst ideally guided by ecological considerations, design decisions will be constrained by existing ownership or resource use rights and human activities. Securing and improving connectivity is therefore often only achievable by a multistakeholder group including PCA managers, local communities and government, landowners and managers, etc. The same range of governance types that apply to protected areas and OECMs also apply to ecological corridors and the governance authority may or may not be the same as the landowner or rightsholder of a portion of the corridor. Along the corridor, a mix of tenure, whether legally or customarily defined, can be present under all governance types and be represented through a variety of instruments such as formal delegation, leasing, contracts or other agreements requiring a large scope of social alliances and cooperation to handle. The corridor tenure(s) should be clear and articulated; identifying statutory and customary ownership and use rights and negotiating with all rightsholders on their respective connectivity management roles.

Case Study: Lessons from large-scale conservation networks in Australia provides an example of a multistakeholder group collaborating on landscape connectivity.

These approaches require actor identification, awareness raising and management, achieving scale requires planning at the landscape or seascape level. Engaging such a diverse range of rightsholders, stakeholders and other actors at a large scale will be complex but also represents an opportunity for greater community involvement in conservation and aligning goals on the 70 per cent of areas outside of PCAs at risk of loss or reduced connectivity from the heightened human-use.

Connectivity is important for achieving many Multilateral Environment Agreements, in particular the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Connectivity is also a qualifier of GBF Targets 2 and 12.

Integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean

As biodiversity continues to decline, focusing on PCAs as solutions alone has proven insufficient. The broader drivers of biodiversity loss need to be addressed, for example, restoring degraded areas between PCAs, reducing pollution impacts, or preventing the 'leakage' of deforestation displaced by PCAs into the surrounding landscape.

Taking an integrated approach

Integrating PCAs into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean (hereby "integration") implies that PCAs should not be considered or managed as isolated islands for biodiversity, but rather as part of wider strategies for conservation and sustainable development beyond the areas themselves. This includes integration in terms of geography and biology (i.e., connectivity,

buffers etc.), policy coherence and coordination, and social integration. Connectivity, OECMs, Indigenous territories and transboundary areas, and more are explored elsewhere in this guide, as such, the focus here will be on restoration and integration into policy and social systems.

Linking restoration and integration into policy and social systems

Integration involves factoring PCAs into broader sectoral and development planning, including local, national and regional spatial planning. It means considering the impacts and dependencies between PCAs and surrounding areas and people. This will likely involve sustainable management, halting of Land-Use-Change (LUC) damaging to biodiversity, restoration of areas outside protected and conserved areas and management of shared lands, inland waters and oceans, particularly in areas of importance for biodiversity or ecosystem services (figure ##).

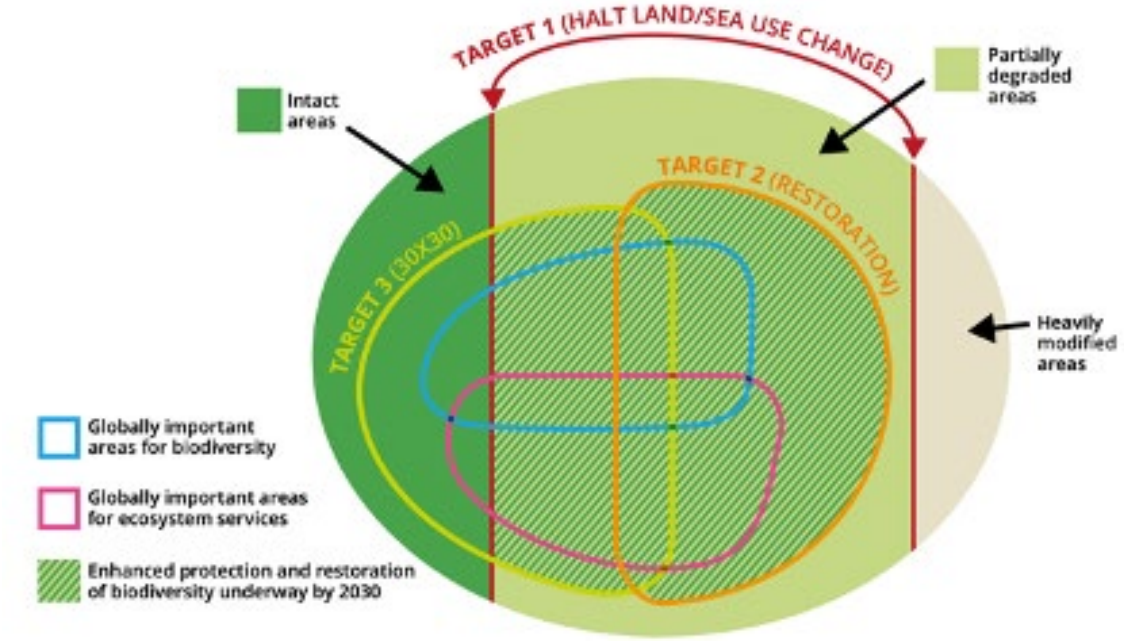


Figure #: **Schematic of Targets 1, 2 and 3 of the GBF (source)**

A comprehensive overview of the state of partially degraded areas can help prioritize areas for restoration; enhancing ecological representation and connectivity, while providing refuges for biodiversity, with these areas potentially integrated into the network of PCAs over time. The Global Human Footprint Index provides an indication of the state of degradation. Planners will likely need to identify the many ways in which PCAs and the surrounding nature are enhancing human well-being, e.g., the provision of ecosystem services and economic benefits. Such an exercise can be done using tools like the Protected Areas Benefits Assessment Tool. This knowledge will be important for informing sustainable management and restoration of areas outside the T3 30 per cent.

Restoration and conservation activities have the potential to halt biodiversity loss, but only if the broader drivers of biodiversity loss are also addressed for example the overconsumption of natural resources and the pollution of areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Policy makers in shipping and fisheries could safeguard Blue Corridors, arctic superhighways for migrating whales, seals and walrus, by reducing ship speeds, rerouting vessels, regulating sonar usage and mitigating risks of oil spills. These international waters would then be better integrated into the PCAs of the Arctic region.

Case Study: EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 encourages the integration of biodiversity considerations into public and business decision-making at all levels through the European Green Deal and the Common Agricultural Policy. See Fact Sheets 1, 2, 3

Enabling factors and challenges

Integration of PCAs into wider landscapes and seascapes will bring many GBF targets and other international agreements into alignment. GBF Targets 1-3 are tightly connected to this component, Target 7 on reducing the impacts of pollution, targets 9 and 10 on sustainable use and management.

Like connectivity, this component needs to involve stakeholders outside typical conservation actors. Blue Corridors for example would need to involve ministries of fisheries, shipping and maritime affairs. This inevitably presents both a challenge – securing the buy in of stakeholders with very diverse interests, and an opportunity to generate support for conservation from a much broader segment of society.

While ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes

Sustainable use stresses that any uses must not undermine the fundamental conservation objectives and gives extra impetus to look critically at the ways in which protected and conserved areas are used.

Taking an integrated approach

Target 3 includes wording on sustainable use, in recognition that many, probably most, protected areas permit a range of uses, and stresses that these should be "*fully consistent with conservation outcomes*". It does not specify what is covered by the term "sustainable use", but this is usually defined as both non-extractive uses such as ecotourism, exercise and visiting sacred sites, and extractive uses such as collection of medicinal herbs and fodder, catching fish, etc. The intent might better be described as ensuring any permitted uses, extractive or non-extractive, are sustainable, i.e., not damaging to biodiversity or ecosystem services. Agreement on management

intent, including uses, ideally takes place when planning the reserve and will often be a compromise between the needs of people living in or near the area and wider conservation considerations. This will in turn influence the IUCN management category, with e.g., category Ib wilderness areas often including use by traditional communities, category V managed around long-standing cultural landscapes and category VI including natural areas with sustainable extraction of natural products, such as rubber. Increasingly, formerly strictly protected areas are opening to sustainable use, whereupon policies and rules will need revision. In general, there is now an expectation that protected areas and OECMs should not result in undue infringements on customary sustainable use.

Enabling factors and challenges

If properly negotiated, planned and managed, sustainable use agreements can limit uses to local people who have a stake in ensuring sustainability. If not managed well, non-extractive uses such tourism, can be as destructive as many extractive uses. Problems are likely if there is competition for resources (e.g., high value medicinal plants) or if desire for revenues drives up tourism to unsustainable levels or e.g., cases where marine protected areas allow large-scale commercial fishing.

What would success look like?

Success is the existence of uses that do not damage biodiversity or ecosystem services. Including sustainable use within a protected or conserved area implies a careful monitoring system to ensure that use is truly sustainable.

Monitoring and Reporting

Robust monitoring and reporting will be essential to Target 3 implementation. Monitoring systems need to be flexible (to respond to different contexts and enable participation of diverse rights-holders, stakeholders and other actors) and accountable (with specific and meaningful indicators). There is a global process to further develop the GBF Monitoring Framework. National and sub-national monitoring and reporting for Target 3 (and broader GBF) implementation can also be addressed within inclusive planning processes. Here we highlight some key considerations and approaches.

Monitoring Target 3 Holistically

"Success" in Target 3 should be understood as achieving all its elements, and not just the percentage element. Currently, there is only one headline indicator for Target 3: coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. However, there are already component and complementary indicators that address, *inter alia*, effective management, equitable governance, recognition of traditional territories, diversity of governance types, species protection, FPIC, etc.

Target 3 implementation can also incorporate indicators for related GBF Targets (e.g., 22 to 23) relating to pollution, species conservation, rights, gender, etc.

Distinction will sometimes be needed between what counts on an official level and what genuinely contributes to Target 3. In some cases, governments may not count areas that are contributing very effectively to biodiversity conservation and meet the criteria of Target 3 0 per cent (see intact areas outside of Target 3 in Figure #). For example, some Indigenous territories, transboundary areas, and privately protected areas may not be included on official databases. These should be discussed within wider landscape/seascape planning exercises and in the context of restoration.

Reporting platforms

Protected areas can be reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). OECMs can be reported in the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). These are both managed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC). They include information about number, location, area, management category and governance type (for protected areas). Some data (e.g., about governance type) is incomplete. UNEP WCMC also manages a database of where protected area management effectiveness assessments have been implemented worldwide. These databases do not include information about all aspects of Target 3, some of which will need to be monitored separately.

The ICCA Registry is maintained by UNEP WCMC and is a global, online platform where Indigenous peoples and local communities can report information about territories and areas they conserve. This is an important resource for self-determined recognition. It is also important to note that information from the ICCA Registry is not currently reported as part of global figures for PCA coverage. Further, not all self-identified or nationally-recognized ICCAs are reflected in this global registry.

Also hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) is a global initiative to promote the development, delivery, and use of biodiversity indicators, and the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) is a searchable database of WDPA that have been assessed for management effectiveness.

Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2 (LBO-2) (LBO-2) provides a snapshot of on-the-ground initiatives being led by Indigenous peoples and local communities that contribute to the successful implementation of multi-lateral agreements, with a focus on the Convention on Biological Diversity and synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

It is not yet clear what global platform(s) may emerge to aggregate and monitor the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, although existing initiatives like Landmark may develop further to be able to fulfil this function, and continued monitoring of SDG Indicator 1.4.2 (on land tenure and land tenure change) could play a role here as well.

Many Indigenous peoples' and community territories will have community-based monitoring and information systems tracking locally relevant biodiversity and cultural indicators. Supporting and allowing the use of community generated data as part of a broader process to recognize and gather multiple data sources should be encouraged where possible. Community based monitoring systems can also provide valuable additional data regarding equity and human rights.

In some countries, data on privately protected areas is maintained at a national level but not fully reported to the World Database on Protected Areas because they are maintained by private organizations or associations.

Other monitoring and reporting considerations for Target 3 elements

- **Conservation effectiveness*:*** Conservation effectiveness can be assessed through meeting defined objectives related to the intended outcomes. However, in complex natural systems with biodiversity and social outcomes to consider, defining success will never be easy. This reinforces the need for a multi-dimensional approach to developing indicators and reporting requirements. In practice, protected and conserved areas usually define a limited set of environmental and social indicators to monitor over time. While these are a useful proxy, those responsible for stewardship also need to be aware of other changes, positive or negative, and adapt management as necessary. Remote sensing, auditory sampling, camera trapping, DNA sampling and crowd-sourcing data through social media are combining to make it easier to track changes in biodiversity.

- **Management effectiveness*:*** PAME as a tool for adaptive management does not necessarily require the same approach as measuring and reporting progress towards global targets. Attempts to aggregate different assessment systems into global reporting formats have proved costly and unsustainable. Global reporting should be based on an agreed suite of indicators, ranging from whether assessments are being undertaken (collected in the GD-PAME database) to global imagery of habitat status. These may or may not be a subset of indicators used in more general PAME assessments.

- **Marine and coastal, inland water, and terrestrial areas*:*** Given the huge variability in the ways in which marine protected areas are managed, in this case indicators of success must extend beyond the area officially recognized as protected areas and OECMs, to include other measures of success, including trends in marine biodiversity and the delivery of marine-based ecosystem services. Some marine-focused assessment tools are available and there is a

large literature on criteria impacting success and failure. Dozens of resources have been published that can serve as guideposts for improving PCA establishment and management in delivering protection and recovery of inland water ecosystems, including assessment systems and freshwater management guides. The Freshwater Health Index can facilitate stakeholder engagement regarding equity. Basin Report Cards are also helpful in that they are drawn up in conversation with local stakeholders.

- **Especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity:** Success will mean that all species and important and representative ecosystems are adequately represented in PCAs. Given that so many species are still unrecognized, ensuring everything is included in the network of protected and conserved areas will not be easy. Monitoring can be supported through, inter alia, national species lists, Red List data, global prioritization tools like KBAs and local level systematic conservation planning, which in many cases will inevitably remain approximate.

- **Ecological representativeness:** Ecologically representative networks of PCAs would include a full range of marine and coastal, inland water, and terrestrial species and ecosystems, at a large enough scale to ensure their long-term survival.

- **Connectivity:** There is strong support for a GBF headline indicator for "ecological connectivity". A suggestion is "*Status and trends in ecological connectivity: structural, functional, and migratory connectivity across terrestrial, marine, and inland water ecosystems*". Groups such as the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (IUCN WCPA-CCSG), and the Secretariat of the CMS are working to agree a connectivity indicator. The Protected Network metric (ProNet) is one tool available to track the performance of area-based conservation with respect to the connectivity of a network of protected areas.

- **Equitable governance:** Indicators for site-level governance assessment are useful, keeping in mind the lessons about governance assessment and noting that outcomes can rarely be meaningfully compared. However, accountability is also important, including prompt safeguarding against rights violations. Binary and outcomes indicators can help, including regarding human rights.

- **Governance diversity (of a system):** Success would include increasing recognition and support for a diversity of governance types and conservation contributions, with security for the collective and individual rights that underpin them. Reflecting that recognition and support in monitoring frameworks could include tracking the number and implementation of systems level assessments, as well as the existing complementary indicator on reporting 'governance type', with expanded efforts to enable governing actors' self-reporting.

- **Ecosystem services and functions*:*** Measuring and valuing ecosystem services and functions remains a challenge; total valuation studies often rely on largely theoretical values, like the value if a valuable pharmaceutical product is synthesized from a species in the ecosystem, which is seldom enough to convince governments. Concrete, realizable values are harder to measure and have historically not been assessed systematically and are this difficult to compare. While some ecosystem services, like carbon values, have received focused attention, others like disaster risk reduction have less available measurement methodologies. Improving measurement is therefore an urgent task associated with the GBF.

- **Integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean*:*** To date, there are no agreed indicators for tracking progress on the 'integrated' component of Target 3. Instead, a collection of tools can be used as proxies and should perhaps be combined to monitor this component more formally. For example, the Restoration Barometer is being used by governments to track the progress of restoration targets across terrestrial, coastal and inland water ecosystems. Degradation in the 70 per cent will also need to be tracked – deforestation is already being tracked outside of PCAs by bodies like Global Forest Watch, but ideally this tracking would extend to other ecosystem types too and include metrics that cover degradation: biodiversity loss, pollution etc. (Target 2 of the GBF specifically calls for another 30 per cent--above and beyond the 30% in Target 3–to be "under effective restoration, also by 2030.)

- **Recognizing indigenous and traditional territories*:*** Success could be found in PCA (and broader) systems that fully recognize and uphold Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights and responsibilities to their traditional territories, within and beyond PA and OECM frameworks. Monitoring and reporting may include but will likely extend beyond the global frameworks mentioned above, to include other national and community-defined platforms. Reporting must respect FPIC in all cases.

- **Recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories*:*** This element will require robust human rights indicators, including concerning tenure, FPIC, and trends concerning environmental human rights defenders, with options for community-report.

Acknowledgements

These are being compiled on a live Google Doc.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MiDCb2TQCXrxVV-tYyowEMEvTdc56PJQ27NsiWQMgzE/edit?usp=sharing

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