



**PAPFOR: SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS  
IN WEST AFRICA**

# Handbook for the IMET version for OECMs



The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) is an initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

# Handbook for the IMET – OECM

IMET- OECM: A tool for the assessment and improvement of management effectiveness and governance of conserved areas

**Please note that this manual is based on the IMET-OECM version dated September 2023. As the IMET tool is designed to evolve, there may be differences between the contents of this manual and the latest version of the tool.**

### **About the PAPFor**

PAPFor (Support Programme for the Conservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa, the Programme d'Appui à la Préservation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique de l'Ouest in French) aims to promote endogenous, sustainable and inclusive development of West Africa's forests, responding to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity conservation. PAPFor aims to protect biodiversity and priority forest ecosystems effectively and efficiently in West Africa, contributing to climate resilience as well as food and water security in six transboundary forest landscapes in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. PAPFor is funded by the 11th European Development Fund under the supervision of CEDEAO and UEMOA, representing the beneficiary countries. The programme runs for 5 years (2019–2024).

<https://visioterra.fr/PAPFor/en/>

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### **About BIOPAMA**

The Biodiversity and Conserved Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) aims to improve long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, in conserved areas and surrounding communities. It is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), funded by the European Union's 11e European Development Fund, and implemented jointly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Building on the first five years of activities funded by the 10e European Development Fund, the second phase of BIOPAMA offers tools for data and information management, services to improve knowledge and capacity for conserved area planning and decision-making, and funding opportunities for specific local actions. [www.biopama.org/fr](http://www.biopama.org/fr)



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### **About Standard IMET and IMET-OECM**

The Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) is a comprehensive approach to assessing and improving the effectiveness of protected area management. Since its launch in 2015, IMET has attracted strong interest from protected area managers, government agencies and funding partners around the world. IMET is now a widely recognised tool, endorsed by a growing number of protected area management authorities internationally, and serves as a cornerstone for the adoption of Green List standards. Recognising the growing importance of other effective conservation measures (OECMs) with different models of management and governance, the PAPFor programme and BIOPAMA have pooled their resources to develop a special version of IMET – now called Standard IMET – specifically designed to support the governance and management of OECMs. This IMET for conserved areas is called in this document IMET-OECM.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>BIOPAMA</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
<b>DSS</b>	Decision Support System
<b>IMET</b>	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>LMMA</b>	Locally Managed Marine Area
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>OECM</b>	Other effective area-based conservation measures (In French = AMCE, Autres mesures efficaces de conservation par zone)
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
<b>WCPA</b>	World Commission on Protected Areas
<b>WD-OECM</b>	World Database on OECMs
<b>WDPA</b>	World Database on Protected Areas

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose and Content of this Handbook

This handbook is a user's guide of a new version of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) that aims at improving the management effectiveness of an Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM).

- IMET is a decision-support tool designed to improve the management effectiveness of protected areas. One of its key characteristics is the enhancement of management analyses through embedded statistical analyses and visualisation aids. More information on IMET is available on the IMET webpage <https://rris.biopama.org/node/18795> and key founding documents (Bialowolski et al., 2023; Paolini and Rakotobe, 2023).
- An OECM is defined 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*' (CBD, 2018).

The IMET for OECM (called IMET-OECM) is therefore intended for conserved areas that do not fall under the definition of protected areas. It is important to notice that IMET-OECM is not designed to identify OECM for national or global reporting, although it can be an aid to this identification process of a potential conserved area or even, in the establishment of an OECM. Other IUCN guidelines are available for that purpose<sup>1</sup>. In that sense, it is possible that IMET-OECM being used in sites that were not yet officially designated as OECM by the national administration (such as community forests or locally managed marine areas).

IMET-OECM was developed by the Programme d'Appui à la Préservation des Écosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique de l'Ouest (PAPFor) and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). IMET-OECM aims to improve biodiversity conservation and natural resources for sustainable use in a particular OECM. It uses a planning-monitoring-evaluation process, encouraging reflection to move from the current to a desired state. It also features a comprehensive analysis and data-driven decision-making approach to the objective setting and the development of basic management and work plans. Although, it has been initially designed for community-based conserved areas, IMET-OECM is applicable to several types of OECMs.

This manual equips the readers with techniques, knowledge, and insights necessary to navigate the complex landscape of OECM management. The IMET-OECM is organised similarly to the standard IMET. It serves as a tool for assessing and analysing management effectiveness and supporting the planning. IMET OECM retains the main features of the Standard IMET:

- Assessment is accompanied by statistical analyses. Data is organised and secured in an internal database, which not only facilitates robust data analysis, but also evaluates changes over time based on reference values.
- Ability to capture various management elements, specific to different types of conserved areas; it allows keeping a holistic view of the OECM regardless of their formal (or not) designation.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs, (2019). *Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Jonas, H. D., MacKinnon, K., Marnewick, D. and Wood, P. (2023). *Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)*. First edition. IUCN WCPA Technical Report Series No. 6. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

- Adaptive management, by systematically addressing the full range of management and governance aspects that may include non-conventional conservation approaches and evolve over time.
- Greater recognition to the cultural, social and spiritual values that contribute to effective conservation outcomes and are particularly important for community-based conserved areas and indigenous territories.
- Encouraging change by using critical thinking and promoting best practices in the governance and management of ecosystem services, biodiversity and natural resources.

Throughout this manual, informative boxes and notes are available to clarify key concepts and provide practical tips and advice on how to conduct an OECM analysis effectively.

## 1.2 A Manual for IMET-OECM coaches

This manual is particularly relevant for conservation professionals that are already familiar with the standard IMET and those who intend to conduct an assessment in the field. They are described as ‘IMET-OECM coaches’ in this manual. As in Standard IMET, coaches are experts in natural resource management and governance, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, specifically trained to guide OECM stakeholders in analysing and improving the effectiveness of their conservation efforts.

Coaching can significantly improve the quality of an IMET-OECM assessment by ensuring greater participation of all stakeholders and guiding more thorough analyses. Coaches can help to identify key management elements, prioritise actions, guide objectives and develop management and governance plans for and with the OECM communities. **A major feature of IMET-OECM coaching is dealing with multiple stakeholders, helping them harness the conservation potential of their shared territories and bridging the gap between informal, unwritten, and formal conservation initiatives.** These stakeholders can range from local and indigenous communities to government agencies, NGOs or private landowners. A whole section (4.1) is dedicated to natural resource management and governance with stakeholder.

While the fundamentals of coaching remain the same, OECM coaching presents different challenges and opportunities compared to coaching in traditional protected areas:

- **Diverse stakeholders:** Coaches need to navigate this diversity to promote collaborative, effective conservation efforts.
- **Recognition and documentation:** Some OECMs may not have official conservation status or designation, making it crucial to document their ecological significance and importance of ecosystem services they provide.
- **Adaptive strategies and management:** Many OECMs often rely on flexible and adaptive management strategies, with conservation objectives not always at the forefront.
- **Monitoring for better management:** Emphasising the importance of OECM continuous monitoring for adaptive management is a key role of IMET-OECM coaches as in many cases, monitoring protocols and mechanisms are absent, and if present, they do not consider multiple stakeholders and changing ecological conditions.
- **Community engagement, respect and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities:** OECMs often involve indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as custodians of conservation. A major role of the coaches is to facilitate IPLCs engagement and empowerment, emphasising the importance of local knowledge and practices.
- **Capacity building:** The diversity of stakeholders and OECMs make capacity building as a core component of coaching. The capacity building can take the form of a training, but usually, the assessment process itself is already very powerful to enhance the knowledge and skills of participants.



Effective coaching support should be a dynamic and adaptive process that evolves along with the needs and progress of OECM management teams as they work to improve conservation management and governance in assessed areas.

### 1.3 Handbook Structure

In addition to the introduction, the manual is divided into three main parts, each contributing to a holistic understanding and application of IMET-OECM:

1. **Structure and Content of IMET-OECM:** This part provides a detailed presentation of the tool and its functionalities with the necessary steps to successfully conduct a comprehensive assessment of OECMs.
2. **Organising of an IMET-OECM assessment:** This part presents how to organise and conduct an IMET-OECM assessment.
3. **Support long-term and durable decision-making process:** This part explores the power of a seamless alignment between analysis and planning and effective engagement of stakeholders in natural resource management and governance.

The handbook introduces and explains the use of three interrelated IMET-OECM modules:

1. **Context of intervention:** Facilitates data collection and stakeholder analysis to understand the OECM situation, identify stakeholders, key biodiversity elements and key ecosystem services elements.
2. **Management assessment:** Supports the prioritisation of key biodiversity and ecosystem service elements for improved management and governance, based on in-depth contextual analysis.
3. **Analysis report and planning:** Provides standardised reporting and baseline planning on status, management and governance effectiveness of the OECM, using visualisations and analytical insights to guide future actions.

This manual is an important contribution to the process of increasing collaboration among stakeholders in the OECM governance and management by creating a truly motivating climate and a common understanding of what needs to be achieved. In addition to learning how the IMET – OECM works and how to use it for the analysis, evaluation, and planning, readers also learn how this multi-faceted tool can improve the following:

1. **Collecting data and gathering critical stakeholder insights**, including opinions from both direct and indirect users of the OECM's natural resources.
2. **Identifying key biodiversity elements and ecosystem services** provided by the OECM to its communities.
3. **Empowering OECM managers and communities** by providing a collective lens to identify strengths, address weaknesses, and anticipate potential threats.
4. **Acting as a catalyst for strategic improvement**, bridging the gap between intention and pragmatic implementation.
5. **Addressing a broader range of governance issues**, with an emphasis on identifying key stakeholders responsible for governance and those indirectly linked to the OECM's functioning.
6. **Utilising a multi-dimensional assessment** that considers factors such as geographical proximity, involvement in governance and specific areas of use of ecosystem services and biodiversity to identify stakeholders.
7. **Placing a greater emphasis on ecosystem services**, recognising their importance for stakeholders who rely on services like timber, food, grains, and fruits provided by the OECM.
8. **Acknowledging the need to balance** the provision of ecosystem services with resource protection within the OECM.

## 2 STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF IMET-OECM

IMET-OECM consists of three modules:

- Module 1: Intervention context
- Module 2: Management effectiveness assessment
- Module 3: Analysis report.

These modules are equivalent to those in standard IMET, but specific elements have been either simplified or thoroughly modified. Module 2 offers visualisation aids in the form of graphs that synthesise management effectiveness assessment results of the conserved area. The visualisation aids intend to support analyses and the decision-making and should not be interpreted as the absolute state of the conserved area's management and governance.

### **Module 1: Intervention context**

This module collects basic information on the conserved area to:

- collect and update relevant information related to the site (profile of the OECM).
- consolidate all the necessary information for the analysis of management effectiveness,

The following sections are included in the context of intervention:

- CTX 1. General information about the conserved area
- CTX 2. Areas
- CTX 3. Human, financial, and material resources
- CTX 4. Animals, plants and habitats
- SA 1. Stakeholders' involvement in the management or use of natural resources
- SA 2. Stakeholders' analysis of ecosystem services.

### **Module 2: Management effectiveness assessment**

IMET-OECM organises the management effectiveness analysis based on the protected area management cycle (Hockings et al., 2008), which covers six elements:

- Management context
- Planning
- Inputs
- Process
- Outputs
- Outcomes

### **Module 3: Analysis report**

This module summarises the main information and results of the IMET-OECM analysis. It combines information from Module 1 (Intervention context) and Module 2 (management effectiveness assessment).

The analysis report presents:

- General elements of the OECM
- Key elements of the OECM
- Evaluation of the OECM management cycle elements with the scores obtained in the management effectiveness assessment and the SWOT analysis, recommendations and operational priorities
- General planning with the priority elements of management and governance identified by the stakeholders

- Table of planning and a road map with priorities in governance, management of ecosystem services and biodiversity, driving forces, and threats
- Key questions.

**Note:** See chapter 3.1 – Step 0. Installing IMET-OECM to install and explore the tool

## 2.1 Intervention Context

The first module, ‘Intervention Context’, ensures an in-depth understanding of the situation in which the conserved area is functioning. Correct completion of this section can constitute a detailed site monograph.

The module has six tabs. At the end of each tab, a section entitled ‘Setting objectives’ helps establish objectives related to the focus of the tab. Any identified problems or gaps (e.g. lack of information or specific action for the implementation) can be embedded in this section, so that it can be used for improving governance and management, and more specifically for planning, resource (input) mobilisation, process phases, and for monitoring of management activities of the OECM. Objectives can be categorised either as a short or long term.

### 2.1.1 General information about the conserved area (CTX1)

**CTX 1.0.1 Responsibility for filling the form: Management team and partners**

**CTX 1.0.2 Responsibility for filling the form: External support for analysis and management evaluation**

Questions CTX 1.0.1 and 1.0.2 identify the referents who compiled or provided information, date of completion and duration of the IMET-OECM assessment.

**Note:** See the link with CTX 1.2. The assessment participants depend on the governance typology, it would be expected that IMET-OECM is filled in with the partners involved in the conserved area’s decision-making processes.

#### CTX 1.1 – Basic data

CTX 1.1 questions identify and report essential data on the conserved area and its membership to a larger-scale ecological units (biome and ecoregion). The information can also be used to make the necessary corrections to national, regional and global databases.

#### CTX 1.2 – Governance and Management Entity

CTX 1.2 questions aim:

- to specify the typology of governance according to the reference classification provided by the IUCN and, where appropriate, to highlight its specific features,
- to identify (if existing) the Management entity in charge of the management and governance of the conserved area.

**Note:** the term ‘governance’ in IMET-OECM should be understood as the decision-making process in the management of the conserved area. The term ‘partnership’ refers only to the aspects of collaboration in management activities.

#### CTX 1.3 Special designations (World Heritage, MAB, Ramsar Site, IBA, SPAMI, LMMA, etc.)

CTX 1.3 specifies various classifications, labels, and criteria for the conserved area. Some of the information requested could be pre-filled with data available from relevant international institutions. The pre-filled information must be checked and amended by the conserved area managers to avoid errors.

**Note:** *It is necessary to check international sources when pre-filling. It may happen that some management team leaders do not know all the statuses of their conserved area.*

#### **CTX 1.4 – Membership of a local management network (transboundary network, landscape network or other types of networks)**

CTX 1.4 specifies the membership of the conserved area to a conservation network. In addition to possible membership of official networks (e.g. transboundary OECMs) or a landscape (e.g. the Central African Regional Environment Programme, or CARPE), it is important to note here the conserved area’s membership of special national and international conservation networks. If the conserved area belongs to a protected and conservation network or system, the associated conserved areas must be specified.

#### **CTX 1.5 – Vision, mission, objectives**

CTX 1.5 highlights the vision, mission and long-term objectives of the conserved area, normally defined in the management plan. The objectives of the conserved area may be defined at a local level (e.g. maintenance of ecosystem services for the benefit of local populations) or at a national level (e.g., protection of species, particular habitats or cultural values).

**Note:** *If the vision, mission or goals are not clearly defined or are outdated, link to CTX 1.7 – Setting objectives. CTX 1.5 is not the time to define the vision, but it should be noted in CTX 1.7 that changes in conservation efforts will need to be considered. It is nevertheless possible to draft initial hypotheses concerning the revision of the vision, mission or objectives of the conserved area, which will be incorporated into the management instruments.*

**Note:** *Another way of defining the vision: How do you see the OECM in 10–20 years’ time?*

#### **CTX 1.6 – References to the historical, political, legal and institutional, socio-economic and other specific contexts of the OECM**

CTX 1.6 highlights the most important aspects of the historical, socio-economic, political (at national or sub-national level), legal and institutional contexts which have (or have had) a significant positive or negative influence on the current context of intervention in the conserved area.

#### **CTX 1.7 – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted based on the aforementioned topics.

### **2.1.2 Areas (CTX2)**

#### **CTX 2.1 – Localisation**

CTX 2.1 allows specifying existing official geo-referenced boundaries, geographical location and the administrative location (province, region, etc.) of the conserved area. This information is important for accurately defining the georeferenced boundaries in view of possible land conflicts and for validating/modifying the references in the World Database on OECMs (WD-OECM, hosted by Protected Planet <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en>).

### **CTX 2.2 – Surface area of the OECM and conservation context**

CTX 2.2 provides a series of data points on the OECM surface area which are analysed according to the typology and networks to which the conserved area belongs. This section can bring to light size differences reported by different sources of information that may be due to transmission errors, historical estimates compared with today's more accurate estimates, etc. This section also provides a clearer picture of the conserved area within a broader conservation landscape. When adequately filled, this section can help to update official surface area at national and international level (such as the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas).

### **CTX 2.3 – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted based on the aforementioned topics.

## **2.1.3 Human, financial and material resources (CTX3)**

### **CTX 3.1.1 Relative involvement of staff and stakeholders in management**

### **CTX 3.1.2 Composition and staff of Management Entity(s) (identified in CTX 1.2).**

### **CTX 3.1.3 Composition and staff from partner organisations**

CTX 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 identify human resources directly employed in the management of the conserved area. The list should include all staff regardless of who they are, or which organisations employ them: community, NGOs, private sector or other entity. The organisation and classification of OECM staff positions are taken from the planning documents or other documents.

**Note:** *The answer to the question, 'Is there an ideal size?' varies according to several criteria: the size of the area, threats, issues (status/threats), funding, etc.*

### **CTX 3.2.1 – Financial resources: Budget and management costs**

Item CTX 3.2.1 reports the total annual budget listed in the management or financial plan or the operating cost estimates from the operational plan/annual work plan with the annual budget available.

### **CTX 3.3 – Availability of infrastructure, equipment and facilities**

Section CTX 3.3 uses a long and very detailed table to analyse the relationship between the need for and availability of infrastructure, equipment and other resources to manage the conserved area. Managers of the conserved area can use the table as an inventory of the most important material resources and to plan for the construction of the necessary infrastructure. The evaluation grid plots the percentage of existing and required resources to facilitate analysis. For example, a value of 1 indicates that resources are fairly inadequate and that availability covers between 31% and 60% of requirements.

### **CTX 3.4 – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted based on the aforementioned topics.

## **2.1.4 Animal, plants and habitats (CTX4)**

This section identifies the most important OECM conservation elements. For this part, the Red List of Threatened Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) list of conserved species can help determine the biological values of the conserved area. See [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) and [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org).

#### **CTX 4.1 – Animal species (exploited, protected, disappearing, invasive)**

CTX 4.1 organises information about key and emblematic animals in the conserved area to better target interventions, which is essential for achieving better conservation outcomes. Conserved area staff and communities should specify in this table emblematic animals as charismatic, umbrella, conflict and architect species as defined below.

- EXP: Exploited species are animals that are actively hunted or harvested for various purposes such as food or trade.
- PRT: Species that are legally protected or have a special or hidden meaning in a cultural or symbolic context and receive protection and conservation efforts to ensure their survival and prevent harm or exploitation.
- DSG: Disappearing species are animals that are experiencing a significant decline in population or habitat, putting them at risk of extinction.
- INV: Invasive species are non-native animals that have established themselves in a new habitat and can harm the local ecosystem, often outcompeting native species.

However, species that require management efforts (ex: invasive) or possess significant cultural values for the indigenous peoples and local communities should also be listed here. After identifying the most important animal species, the table proposes to introduce:

- the estimated status,
- the description of the optimum status.

In frequent cases, this information is not readily available and not very reliable. However, the information should still be collected and analysis should be done as this is a critical aspect of the management effectiveness of the conserved area.

#### **CTX 4.2 – Plant species (exploited, protected, disappearing, invasive)**

This section can follow the indications concerning the previous heading (CTX 4.1), even if the concepts of exploited, protected, disappearing and invasive species are not generally applicable for plant species.

#### **CTX 4.3 – Habitats main categories in the OECM**

Item CTX 4.3, related to ecosystems and habitats, can follow the indications of the previous headings (CTX 4.1 and 4.2). Based on parameters relating to their specificity, endemism or unique or irreplaceable character, managers must determine the most important habitats type and their description of the conserved area.

#### **CTX 4.4 – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted in relation to the issues identified in the section.

### **2.1.5 Stakeholders involved in the management or use of natural resources (SA1)**

The Stakeholder Analysis 1 (SA1) is a new element that does not exist in the standard IMET. It looks at the nature and degree of stakeholder involvement and their expertise (including traditional or indigenous knowledge) in the management and governance of the OECM.

Given various levels of stakeholders' dependence on the OECM ecosystem services, IMET-OECM makes a distinction between direct users and indirect users.

- **Direct users** of ecosystem services: an individual or group whose livelihoods and welfare directly depend on and benefit from the material goods and services provided by the OECM. They have an immediate and direct interaction with the ecosystem, using resources such as water, plants or wildlife for their livelihood, well-being or recreation.

- **Indirect users** of ecosystem services: an individual or group that do not have direct, personal interaction with the resources even though they may gain some benefits from the ecological functions and processes of the OECM (e.g. water quality, climate regulation). They may not directly consume or use these resources themselves, although their well-being is enhanced by the services provided by the ecosystem.

The SA1 ranks direct and indirect users according to their level of involvement in the OECM management and governance. This classification is reported in SA2 for a more focused ecosystem services analysis.

Figure 1: Stakeholders involved in management or impacting the use of natural resources (SA1) – Table of identification and analysis

### Community/group or other

Traditional authorities (Identify the traditional authorities)

Stakeholder	Living inside or in proximity to the OECM (less than one hour's walk)	Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements	Direct users of OECM's key elements	Level of engagement in OECM's key elements management	Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements	Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge)	Note
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Add item"/>							

Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs\*) (Identify the ILPCs community/group)

Stakeholder	Living inside or in proximity to the OECM (less than one hour's walk)	Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements	Direct users of OECM's key elements	Level of engagement in OECM's key elements management	Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements	Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge)	Note
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Add item"/>							

Not Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) (Identify the not ILPCs community/group)

Stakeholder	Living inside or in proximity to the OECM (less than one hour's walk)	Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements	Direct users of OECM's key elements	Level of engagement in OECM's key elements management	Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements	Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge)	Note
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Add item"/>							

### SA 1.2 — Setting objectives

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted.

## 2.1.6 Stakeholders' analysis of ecosystem services (SA 2)

### SA 2.1 — Stakeholders' analysis of ecosystem services – Direct Users

### SA 2.2 — Stakeholders' analysis of ecosystem services – Indirect Users

Item SA.2 is also a new element, which does not exist in the IMET standard. In SA 2, the focus shifts to examining the interactions between stakeholders and OECM ecosystem services. This involves assessing dependency and use criteria (including aspects such as access and rivalry) and assessing the status of ecosystem services (both in terms of quality and quantity), while also identifying potential threats to them. Based on the SA 1, the SA 2 is organised by the two categories of stakeholders: direct users and indirect users and identifies the ecosystem services that are important to them.

Figure 2: Stakeholders analysis of the ecosystem services (SA 2) – Table of synthesis

Importance of elements & Involvement of stakeholders			
Importance of elements by the stakeholders		Involvement of stakeholders	
Criteria	Importance (0-100)		Involvement of the stakeholder (0-100)
Human food animal Importance composition: 100 (from 2 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	100	Tradition Authority	80
		Women	80
Timber Importance composition: 77.3 (from 2 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	77.3	Local-Community	76
		Not_Local-Community	64
Water supply and quality for human use Importance composition: 70.3 (from 1 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	70.3	Not_Local-Community-Operators	48
Medicines Importance composition: 59.4 (from 1 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	59.4	Local-Authority	40
		NGO	36
Human food vegetal Importance composition: 44.5 (from 1 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	44.5	Donor	36
		National-Authority	32
Nursery and nesting habitats Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 41.4 (from 2 indirect stakeholder(s))	41.4	Scientists	28
Biomass for energy Importance composition: 30.5 (from 1 direct stakeholder(s)) + 0 (from 0 indirect stakeholder(s))	30.5		
Traditional practices and ecological knowledge Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 28.1 (from 1 indirect stakeholder(s))	28.1		
Erosion control Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 21.1 (from 1 indirect stakeholder(s))	21.1		
Provisioning fertility Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 18.8 (from 1 indirect stakeholder(s))	18.8		
Habitats for pollination Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 14.8 (from 1 indirect stakeholder(s))	14.8		
Provisioning water Importance composition: 0 (from 0 direct stakeholder(s)) + 10.9 (from 1 indirect stakeholder(s))	10.9		

The outcomes of the SA 1 and SA 2 are as follows:

- A list of stakeholders ranked by the level of involvement in the OECM governance and management,



- A comprehensive inventory of all ecosystem services provided by the OECM and used by stakeholders,
- A ranking of the importance of OECM-provided ecosystem services.

The outcomes of the SA 1 and SA 2 and the list of the key biodiversity element from CTX4 are the key elements of analysis in the next step of management evaluation.

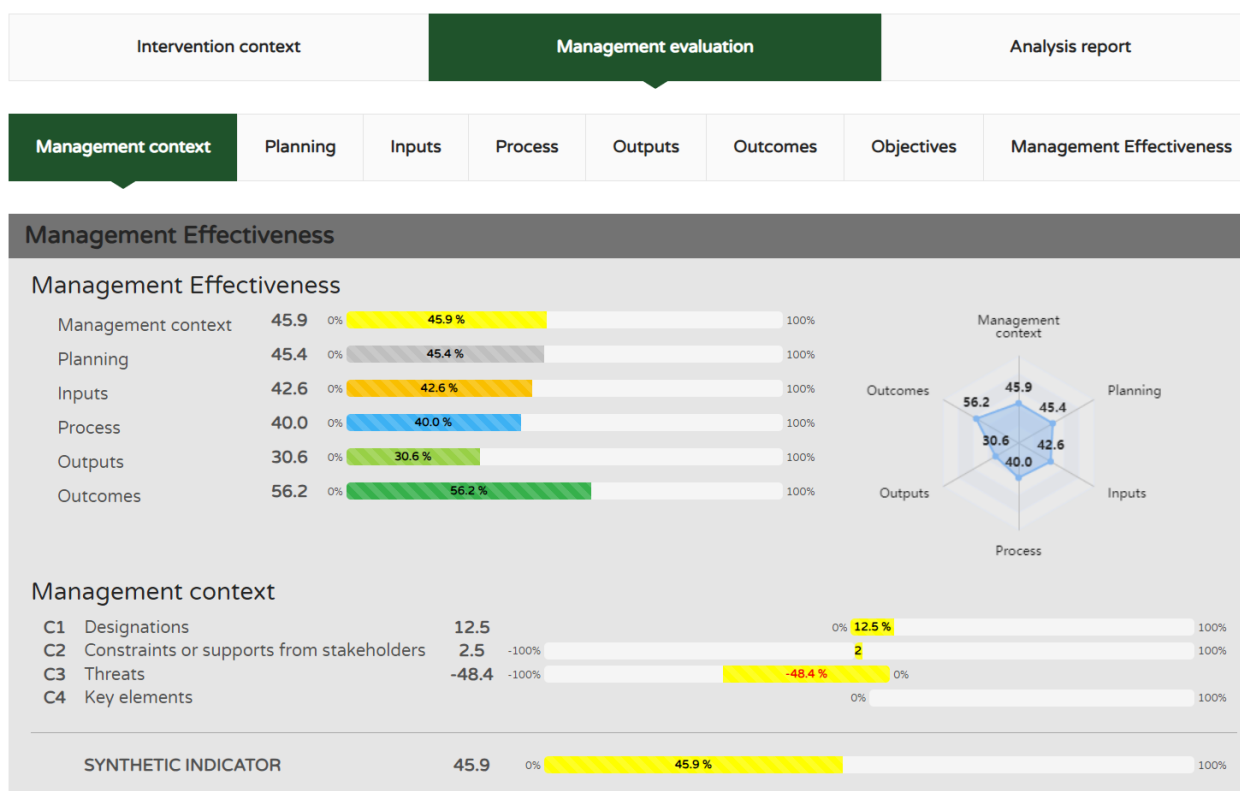
### **SA 2.3 — Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, short-term or long-term management objectives and any other relevant comments can be inserted.

## 2.2 Management Effectiveness

This second module evaluates the OECM governance and management effectiveness. Most of the questions invite judgement from key stakeholders, whose points of view may differ. The role of the coaches is to encourage open, honest discussion that considers different points of view and facts, so that the evaluation is as impartial as possible. As some questions may prove complex, stakeholders in the evaluation are invited to specify the most important aspects relating to these questions in the space dedicated to comments.

Figure 3: Management effectiveness



Very often, the headings provide a pre-established list of items to be analysed. It is possible to select, exclude and complete the analysis fields with information specific to or necessary for the management of the conserved area analysed. See chapter 3.4 on options to conduct the assessment and analysis depending on the OECM degree of maturity or need.

The Management Effectiveness module is structured as follows

### 1. Management context

- C1 Designation Value and importance: Special designations
- C2.1 Constraints or supports from stakeholders
- C2.2 Integration of stakeholders' constraints or supports in management and governance
- C3.1 OECM threat calculator
- C3.1.1 OECM's key biodiversity elements threats analysis
- C3.1.2 OECM threats analysis
- C3.2 – Threats integration
- C4 – Key elements of the OECM
- CX — Setting objectives

### 2. Planning

- P1 Adequacy of legal and regulatory provisions
- P2 Design and layout of the OECM
- P3 Demarcation of the OECM
- P4 Management plan
- P5 Work plan
- P6 Objectives of the OECM
- PX – Setting objectives

### 3. Inputs

- I1 Basic information
- I2 Capacities of specific or combination of entities/stakeholders in the management and governance
- I3 Current budget
- I4 Securing the budget
- I5 Infrastructure, equipment and facilities
- IX Setting objectives

### 4. Process

- PR1 Staff skills/training
- PR2 HR policies and procedures
- PR3 Stakeholders, empowerment
- PR4 Budget and finance
- PR5 Maintenance of infrastructure
- PR6 Managing key elements
- PR7 Monitoring and research
- PR8 Resolving contentious issues
- PR9 Stakeholders' collaboration
- PR10 Benefits to local communities
- PR11 Environmental education
- PR12 Tourism management
- PRX Setting objectives

### 5. Outputs

- O/ P1 Implementation of the work/action plan
- O/ P2 Area Control

### 6. Outcomes

- O/ C1 Achievement of long-term objectives of the OECM management and governance
- O/ C2 Effects on key conservation elements
- O/ C3 Impacts on local communities

#### 2.2.1 Management context

##### **C1 Designation value and importance: Special designations**

C1.1 assesses the extent to which the values and significance of the status (es) (local, national or international such as World Heritage or Ramsar site status) accorded to the OECM are integrated into the management. ***The main question is: Assess the extent to which current management integrates the criteria of designations into the management of the OECM in terms of values and significance?***

*Box 1: Single or two separate ranking lists for prioritising management and governance elements*

The IMET-OECM presents lists of elements (e.g. stakeholder involvement) that are either linked (see SA.2) or separate (see C2.1 and C2.2), depending on the analyses to be undertaken. There are merits in deciding whether to produce a single ranking (with combined information) or two separate rankings for prioritising management and governance elements. The choice depends largely on the specific context and management objectives.

**1. Single combined ranking list**

- Advantages
  - Provides a holistic view, considering both management and governance elements (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity elements together).
  - Identifies potential synergies or conflicts between management and governance elements (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity elements together).
  - Facilitates decision-making by providing a comprehensive assessment.
- Considerations
  - May require more complex scoring system to fairly compare different elements.
  - Could mask nuanced differences in priorities between management and governance elements (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity).

**2. Two separate rankings list**

- Advantages
  - Allows focused analysis of management and governance elements separately (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity elements together).
  - Provides clarity in understanding priorities within each category.
  - May facilitate targeted management strategies based on specific objectives.
- Considerations
  - Requires additional step of integrating rankings to make final decisions.
  - Potential challenges in cases where management and governance elements interact strongly (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity elements).

Ultimately, the choice will depend on the specific management and governance objectives and the degree of interdependence between the elements.

For our analysis, we find it easier first to develop separate rankings and then make an informed decision to prioritise one or other of the different elements (e.g. ecosystem services and biodiversity elements) based on a more comprehensive assessment of their importance and potential trade-offs.

The importance of OECM designations must be based on the national or international classification and the (indicative and non-exhaustive) list of special statuses identified in section CTX 1.3 of the intervention context.

**Note:** A value of 0 can be assigned when the OECM management does not include the values and importance of a status in the management. For example, the site is designated an Important Bird Area (IBA), but there is no integration of the values and importance of that IBA designation into the management of the OECM. Note that this does not mean that the IBA designation is not important for the site, but that no management provision is considered.

**C2.1 Constraints or supports from stakeholders**

C2.1 assesses the constraints on, or support for, the OECM governance and management by the stakeholders identified in SA 1, as direct and indirect users. **The main question is: What are the main stakeholder constraints/conflicts or support/compliance factors affecting the management and governance of the OECM?**

The analysis is complemented by C2.2 which identifies actions to minimise stakeholder constraints or leverage stakeholders support in the governance and management of the OECM.

## C2.2 Integration of stakeholders' constraints or supports in management and governance

C2.2 analyses the current level of integration of stakeholders' constraints or support in management and priority actions. The analysis helps to identify planning interventions that minimise stakeholder constraints or leverage stakeholder support in the OECM governance and management. ***The main question is: Is the OECM management minimising constraints or maximising stakeholder support, as assessed in C2.1?***

The analysis is facilitated by the positive and negative ranking, on a scale of +100 to -100, of all stakeholders identified as direct and indirect users analysed in section C2.1 and transferred to C2.2. Identifying the level of integration and prioritising stakeholder constraints or support strengthens the governance and management processes for the targeted ecosystem services and conservation elements of the OECM.

## C3 OECM threat calculator

The indicators of C3 analysed the threats on the OECM. The term 'threat' encompasses pressures, threats and vulnerabilities of the OECM. The table of analysis consists of 12 main threat categories and is called the Threats Calculator (from the Threats calculator model adapted for the standard IMET).

The threat calculator uses a comprehensive analysis of threats, using five different scoring categories to assess their potential impact:

1. **Impact/Severity:** the degree of negative impact a threat has on the ecological balance, biodiversity, ecosystem services and overall functioning of the OECM. It considers the severity of the damage caused, ranging from minor to catastrophic, and how it could disrupt the natural systems of the area. Impact/severity scale: 0 = minor, 1 = moderate, 2 = major, 3 = severe
2. **Scale/Extent:** the spatial extent or range of the threat. It looks at the area that could be affected and the extent to which the threat could spread across the OECM, affecting different components of the ecosystem. Scale/Extent: 0 = localised <5%, 1 = sparse 5–15%, 2 = widespread 15–50, 3 = everywhere >50%.
3. **Duration/irreversibility:** the temporal aspect of the threat. It examines whether the threat is temporary or permanent and whether its effects can be reversed or are potentially irreversible, affecting the long-term health and sustainability of the OECM. Duration/irreversibility scale: 0 = short term <5 years, 1 = medium term 5–20 years, 2 = very long term 20–100 years, 3 = permanent >100 years.
4. **Trend:** the evolution of the threat over time. It assesses whether the threat is increasing, decreasing or remaining stable. Understanding the trend provides an indication of whether the threat is likely to increase or decrease in importance. Trend scale: -2 = decreasing, -1 = slightly decreasing, 0 = no change, 1 = slightly increasing, 2 = increasing.
5. **Probability for the threat in future.** This category focuses on the likelihood of the threat to occur in the future. It considers various factors such as climate change, human activities or ecological changes to estimate the likelihood of the threat to become more significant over time: 0 = very low, 1 = low, 2 = medium, 3 = high.

Using these five assessment categories, the Threat Calculator facilitates a comprehensive threat assessment and helps to formulate conservation strategies and targeted management measures to safeguard the ecological integrity of the conserved area.

The OECM's threat analysis is conducted in two different items:

1. in C3.1.1 of the OECM's key biodiversity elements identified in CTX4.
2. in C3.1.2 of the OECM supported by an automated report derived from the data coded in the sections SA.2 where stakeholder individual analysis of threats concerning the ecosystem services delivered by the conserved area.

### **C3.1.1 OECM key biodiversity elements threats analysis**

In Section 3.1.1, we use the in-depth analysis based on the five scoring categories of the Threat Calculator to examine the type of threats affecting the key biodiversity components identified in CTX4. Although these elements of biodiversity contribute to ecosystem services, we have chosen not to analyse them from an ecosystem services perspective for some stakeholders (for example, recognising that wildlife is a source of food for people). Instead, our approach is to work with all stakeholders to highlight the threats to biodiversity and the importance of implementing targeted actions to mitigate the risks to these critical elements of the OECM. ***The main question is: Has the OECM effectively analysed the threats to key biodiversity components within its management and governance approach?***

This is a collaborative analysis of the key biodiversity elements among all stakeholders.

### **C3.1.2 OECM threats analysis**

C3.1.2 consists of the in-depth analysis using the five different scoring categories to assess the potential impact of each of the 12 main threat categories. Each category is analysed in terms of (1) Impact/Severity, (2) Scale/Extent, (3) Duration/irreversibility, (4) Trend, (5) Probability for the threat in future according to the specific magnitude. The analysis is supported by the identification of ecosystem services (from SA.2) and key biodiversity components (from C3.1.1) affected by the same category of threat. ***The main question is: Has the OECM effectively identified the significant threats to ecosystem services (provisioning, regulation, cultural and supporting) within its management and governance approach?***

The analysis is supported by the following information (a) the number of stakeholders who have identified the specific threat category and (b) the ecosystem services affected by the threats, with those affected by activities identified as illegal shown in red.

The analysis in C.3.1.1 and C3.1.2 will support the decision in C3.2 to prioritise actions to minimise the impact of threats in the governance and management of the OECM.

### **C3.2 – Threats integration**

Item C3.2 analyses the current level of integration of threat management and the priority in future interventions. The analysis is used to plan interventions to minimise the effects of threats on the OECM. ***The main question is: How is the OECM management integrating threats minimisation actions, as determined through the assessment of threats in C3.1.1 and C3.1.2?***

The analysis is facilitated by the ranking, on a scale of 0 to -100, of all the threats analysed in sections C3.1.1 and C3.1.2 and transferred to C3.2. Identifying the level of integration and prioritising threats strengthens the governance and management processes of the OECM. The priority threats to manage are analysed in other sections of the IMET-OECM, as they require more detailed information for action planning.

### C4 – Key elements of the OECM

Item C4 is the main management context analysis, as it integrates all previous assessments to determine the current level of integration of ecosystem services and key biodiversity elements in management and the priority for future interventions. **The main question is: Has the OECM effectively prioritised ecosystem services and biodiversity key elements in its management and governance, as assessed through a ranked list based on analyses from SA1, SA2 and C3.1.1?’**

Figure 4: C4– Key elements of the OECM– Table example of importance and prioritisation of the ecosystem services

Ecosystem services				
Key element / service	Importance	Integration	To prioritise in management	Comments/Explanation
Human food animal <small>From category: Provisioning-Nutrition Indicated by 2 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	100	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Timber <small>From category: Provisioning-Materials Indicated by 2 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	77.3	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Water supply and quality for human use <small>From category: Provisioning-Water Indicated by 1 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	70.3	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Medicines <small>From category: Provisioning-Nutrition Indicated by 1 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	59.4	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human food vegetal <small>From category: Provisioning-Nutrition Indicated by 1 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	44.5	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nursery and nesting habitats <small>From category: Habitats for animals and plants Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 2 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	41.4	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Biomass for energy <small>From category: Provisioning-Energy Indicated by 1 direct stakeholder(s) and 0 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	30.5	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Traditional practices and ecological knowledge <small>From category: Intellectual (educational, traditional knowledge, etc.) Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 1 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	28.1	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Erosion control <small>From category: Erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 1 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	21.1	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Provisioning fertility <small>From category: Lands (agriculture, livestock, forests) Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 1 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	18.8	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Habitats for pollination <small>From category: Habitats for animals and plants Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 1 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	14.8	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provisioning water <small>From category: Lands (agriculture, livestock, forests) Indicated by 0 direct stakeholder(s) and 1 indirect stakeholder(s)</small>	10.9	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The analysis is used to plan interventions to ensure the sustainability of the OECM ecosystem services and biodiversity. The analysis is facilitated by a ranking from most to least important, based on previous stakeholder assessments. To facilitate selection, ecosystem services and key biodiversity elements are presented in two separate lists. Additional information on the elements to be managed as a priority is also analysed in other sections of the IMET-OECM, as they require more detailed information for action planning.

Figure 5: C4 – Key elements of the OECM – Table example of importance and prioritisation of the biodiversity elements

Key elements of biodiversity			
Key element / service	Integration	To prioritise in management	Comments/Explanation
Khaya Ranking: -90.7	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Forest (also Mangroves) Ranking: -39.7	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gallery forests
Pygmy Hippopotamus Ranking: -84	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Savanna Ranking: -68.3	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Savanna-Woodland Mosaics
Iroko Ranking: -63.7	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chimpanzee Ranking: -59.7	0 1 2 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
White-necked Picathartes Ranking: -57	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Black pepper Ranking: -44.3	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Forest (also Mangroves) Ranking: -39.7	0 1 2 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swamp forest

### CX — Setting objectives

At the end of the section, there is the table of objectives organised to insert Objective as Short or Long-term and Comments.

#### 2.2.2 Planning

Following the management context, the planning phase is the second stage. Clear objectives and desired outcomes for conservation, sustainable use and community engagement are established. The objectives serve as a guide for all subsequent actions. Notwithstanding the importance of planning and objectives, secondary aspects such as the adequacy of legal and regulatory provisions, the design and layout of the OECM and the demarcation of the OECM are also analysed to support the next aspects of the planning and related objectives analysis. Strategies will be developed in line with the objectives identified in the plan, promoting a harmonious blend of environmental protection, resource management and community empowerment. The work plan, management plan and long-term objectives are carefully evaluated to fulfil the purpose of the OECM.



### **P1 Adequacy of legal and regulatory provisions**

Indicator P1 assesses the effectiveness and adequacy of existing regulations to protect and conserve the values and natural resources inherent in the OECM, considering customary rights and natural resource management. ***The main question to be analysed is: Do existing legal and regulatory provisions sufficiently support the conservation and management of natural resources within the OECM?***

The assessment is strengthened by reference to a comprehensive list of existing laws and regulations that have an impact on the management of the OECM. Irrelevant regulations can be omitted by selecting N/A. Additional factors may be included depending on the specific characteristics of the OECM being assessed. The assessment identifies the adequacy or deficiencies of the current regulations with respect to management requirements, using the measurement scales provided.

### **P2 Design and layout of the OECM**

The P2 assessment focuses on whether the size, shape and configuration of the OECM meet its intended purposes and protects its ecosystem services, biodiversity and natural processes, including ecological functions and watersheds. ***The main question to be analysed is: Is the design and configuration of the OECM conducive to sustainable governance and management of its key components?***

Supported by a comprehensive list of size- and shape-related elements, the analysis allows for customisation by selectively including or excluding the fields of analysis with indications that are specific to or necessary for the management of the protected area under review.

### **P3 Demarcation of the OECM**

The section P3 deals with an assessment of the understanding and awareness of the boundaries of the conserved area to enable optimal management of the values. ***The main question is: To what extent are the delineation and adequacy of the OECM's boundary effectively contributing to the management?***

This review includes:

- The degree of visibility in the demarcation of the OECM boundaries (A).
- The effectiveness of the boundary delineation in facilitating OECM management (B).

The assessment may include the adequacy of natural boundaries. Flexibility is allowed in tailoring the analysis, including selection, exclusion and addition of pertinent details specific to the management of the OECM impacting the demarcation of the OECM.

### **P4 Management plan**

Section P4 provides an in-depth analysis of the existence and use of the management plan in the context of the conserved area. ***The main questions are: Is there a functional management plan in place? Does it align with the practical requirements for implementation within the OECM?***

This assessment uses a two-stage approach. The first analysis focuses on the existence of the management plan, the print version, the explanation of the plan for stakeholder knowledge, the currency, the endorsement and the implementation of the management plan. The second looks at the clarity and applicability of the management plan.

***Note:*** In situations where the management plan is outdated, the initial analysis will highlight this concern. In the comments section, explain the reasons for the plan's obsolescence or any ongoing initiatives to update it.

The management plan is a key document that outlines the strategy and objectives for effective management. Its success depends on extensive stakeholder involvement and the formulation of objectives that achieve

consensus and commitment from all parties concerned with the use and long-term survival of the designated area (adapted from IUCN/WDPAs: Guidelines for the recognition and reporting of other effective area-based conservation measures, 2017).

### **P5 Work plan**

Section P5 undertakes a detailed analysis of the existence and implementation of the work/action plan within the conserved area, whether on an annual or multiannual basis. ***The main questions are: Is there a viable work plan established? Should one exist, does it align effectively with practical aspects of the management of the OECM?***

As with the management plan, this assessment follows a two-step approach. The first analysis focuses on the existence of the work plan, the printed version, the explanation of the plan to stakeholders, the currency in which plans are made, the endorsement and the implementation of the work plan. The second looks at the clarity and applicability of the work plan. The work plan sets out specific tasks to be carried out and enables progress towards the OECM outcomes to be tracked. It provides essential data for evaluating the success of the OECM in its conservation efforts, particularly the results achieved.

### **P6 Objectives of the OECM**

Section P6 assesses the extent to which the conserved area is following objectives-based management approach to safeguarding its values. This approach prioritises proactive strategies aligned with predefined objectives or desired conservation conditions, making a distinction between outputs/results (short-term goals) and effects/impacts (long-term goals), usually found in the management plan.

**Note:**

- *Effects/impacts relate to the long-term objectives or visions articulated in the management plan. These objectives typically include specific statements about the core values of the OECM (e.g. ecosystem services or key species) or key management areas (e.g. tourism, education).*
- *Outputs/results refer to short-term quantifiable targets aimed at achieving the intended long-term objectives/conditions.*

***The main question: Are the formulated objectives suitable for the OECM?***

This assessment is based on existing objectives from the management plan and the prevailing management context.

### **PX – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, there is a table of objectives organised to insert Objective as Short or Long-term and Comments.

### **2.2.3 Inputs**

Once the planning phase is underway, the analysis of resource allocation becomes important. Adequate resources, including funding, skilled personnel or stakeholders and technical assistance, are essential to the implementation of the strategies outlined. A judicious allocation of resources will ensure that the activities are carried out efficiently and effectively. Whether it is funding of conservation efforts, employing local or traditional expertise, or providing technical tools, these resources are fundamental to the successful implementation of the OECM. Appropriate allocation enhances the feasibility of translating plans into tangible results, while allowing for adaptability to meet unforeseen challenges.

### **I1 – Basic information**

Section I1 is dedicated to assessing the adequacy of baseline information in relation to the specific management needs of the OECM and the resulting decision obligations. ***The main question: Does the information available adequately and appropriately support the decision-making process of the OECM?***

The assessment process is streamlined by the automatic inclusion of key management and governance elements prioritised in Sections C1, C2.2, C3.2 and C4 of the Management Context. The paramount importance of data and information quality is reiterated, underlining its central role in facilitating effective analysis and management.

### **I2 – Capacities of specific or combination of entities/stakeholders in the management and governance**

Section I2 focuses on comprehensive analysis of the adequacy of staffing levels and skills in relation to the specific governance and management requirements of the OECM. ***The main question is: Do the entity (ies)/stakeholders responsible for management and administration have the necessary capacity to effectively oversee and manage the OECM?***

The success of the OECM is inherently dependent on the presence of skilled, competent and committed staff and stakeholders in adequate numbers. Staffing requirements are intricately intertwined with the scale and typology of the OECM and the prevailing nature of the exploitation and threats it faces. This assessment process is streamlined by the automatic incorporation of the list of staff and stakeholders' categories established and automatically reported by CTX 3.1.2 and the stakeholders automatically reported by SA.1 and SA.2, using predefined scales.

### **I3 – Current budget**

Section I3 includes an assessment of the adequacy of financial resources with respect to the management needs of the OECM. ***The main question: Is the current budget sufficient to manage the OECM effectively?***

This assessment is streamlined by an examination of the allocation of financial resources as explained in CTX 3.2. OECMs should prepare their operating budgets on an annual or multi-year basis, with a clear focus on key planning documents to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. The assessment includes an analysis of the proportion of the budget allocated to management needs, categorised within the specified scale.

### **I4 – Securing the budget**

Heading I4 includes an assessment of the stability of the budget in relation to the conservation needs of the site. ***The main question: To what extent and over what period is the necessary budget secured to fully meet the basic management requirements of the OECM?***

Given the imperatives of OECM planning and management, the establishment of a secure and reliable budget is of paramount importance, particularly for initiatives of significant scale and long-term commitment. The assessment includes a comprehensive analysis of:

- Financial security, which refers to the reliability and certainty of the budget allocation.
- Period of funding certainty, which relates to the expected span (in years) during which budget certainty will be secured to meet upcoming conservation needs.

To make this assessment, it is essential to select the relevant category from the relative percentage scale and to specify the timeframe for future funding certainty (expressed in years).

## **I5 – Infrastructure, equipment and facilities**

Section I5 undertakes a comprehensive assessment of the suitability of infrastructure, equipment and facilities to meet the various management requirements of the OECM. ***The main question: To what extent do the infrastructure, equipment and facilities of the OECM meet the critical management needs?***

This assessment process is seamlessly facilitated by the automated incorporation of results categorised by infrastructure, equipment and facilities within CTX 3.3. The presence of appropriate infrastructure, equipment and facilities plays a key role in enhancing and optimising the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the OECM. Infrastructure, equipment, and facilities are rigorously assessed along two essential dimensions:

- Adequacy: This assessment is based on results automatically calculated from the analysis of the intervention context in Section CTX 3.3.
- Priority: The priority of the infrastructure, equipment and facilities is assessed in relation to the critical management needs of the OECM.

## **IX - Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, a table of objectives allows inserting objectives related to Inputs and categorise them as short or long term and provide comments.

### **2.2.4 Process**

During the implementation phase of the process, planned activities and interventions are carried out. These include habitat restoration, species protection, education, awareness raising, community benefits, enforcement and sustainable tourism management. Implementing OECM management and governance requires a multidisciplinary and participatory approach that integrates conservation science, sustainable development, community engagement, and adaptive management. Implementing processes into OECM involves a structured and adaptive approach to conserving ecosystem services and biodiversity, managing natural resources and promoting sustainable development within a designated area.

These efforts contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, health of the ecosystems and the well-being of local communities within or adjacent to the OECM.

## **PR1 – Staff skills/training**

PR1 analysis includes an in-depth review of the training programme framework. It is coupled with an assessment of the impact on enhancing the skills of the various roles and functions of staff and stakeholders, in line with the specific management needs of the conserved area. ***The main question: To what extent does the specific entity or combination of entities responsible for the management and governance of the OECM implement a comprehensive training and capacity-building programme that effectively addresses the needs of its members and is aligned with the achievement of the objectives of the OECM?***

This evaluation will include a review of

- The organisation of training initiatives.
- The scope and impact of staff and stakeholder capacity building efforts across different staff categories and functions (e.g. thematic managers, forest users).

The evaluation of the adequacy of capacity-building initiatives for members of the OECM management and governance unit(s) includes the entities identified in CTX 3.1.2 and SA 1 (direct users), and sheds light on the depth and impact of their capacity-building efforts.

### **PR2 – HR policies and procedures**

PR2 analyses the adequacy of human resource management policies, procedures and guidelines for recruitment, promotion and remuneration, performance, appraisal and training of staff, that can include stakeholders, their duties and their code of conduct in relation to the management needs of the OECM. ***The main question: Has the specific OECM management and governance unit or combination of units adopted appropriate management policies to motivate and retain its human resources?***

The analysis is based on a list of essential conditions for human resources management appropriate to the needs of a conserved area. It is possible to select, exclude and complete the fields of analysis with indicators that are specific or necessary to the management of the OECM being analysed.

### **PR3 – Stakeholders, empowerment**

PR3 analyses the OECM Stakeholder Empowerment Assessment which focuses on three core dimensions: Involvement, Responsibility, and Governance. The Involvement criterion examines stakeholder engagement, including representation, recognition of rights and consensus-based decision-making. The Responsibility dimension focuses on commitment to agreements, balanced cost-benefit sharing and effective governance for environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits. The direction criterion assesses the coherence of the strategic vision, the legal framework and the promotion of OECM values.

***The main question: How do the three dimensions of stakeholder empowerment, namely Involvement, Responsibility and Direction, contribute to a more effective and impactful implementation of area-based conservation measures in the OECM context?***

This unified framework guides the OECM analysis, ensuring robust assessments of stakeholder involvement, responsibility sharing and overall strategic direction, facilitating effective and impactful conservation.

### **PR4 – Budget and finance**

PR4 examines the effectiveness of financial management in allocating budget resources to meet the critical management needs of the OECM. ***The main question: Does financial management effectively direct budgetary and financial resources to meet the essential and prioritised management needs of the OECM?***

This assessment includes the foundations that foster a resilient financial ecosystem to support the success of the OECM. A sound financial framework is essential to enable sound budgeting and resource allocation. This depends on a sound management and work plan with clearly defined objectives. This assessment is based on a set of criteria that measure the level of financial management and its impact on the effectiveness of OECM management.

### **PR5 – Maintenance of infrastructure**

PR5 assesses the level of maintenance effort on infrastructure, equipment and facilities against the management needs of the OECM. ***The main question: Is the OECM's commitment to the maintenance of infrastructure, equipment and facilities adequate?***

This assessment is streamlined by enumerating and assessing the adequacy of the infrastructure, equipment and facilities identified in CTX 3.3. The meticulous analysis focuses on measuring the level of maintenance against management requirements, categorised according to a set of criteria. Adequate maintenance of these elements is imperative, as poorly maintained assets not only succumb to wear and tear more quickly, but also waste resources and seriously undermine the OECM's potential to achieve its goals.

### **PR6 – Managing key elements**

PR6 analyses the specific measures adopted by the conserved area to proactively manage ecosystem services, key elements of biodiversity (animals, plants, habitats), natural resources, threats and adaptation to

climate change in the OECM. ***The main question: Does OECM management implement specific management actions for conserved area key elements?***

This assessment is based on the automatic inclusion of prioritised management and governance elements identified from the intervention context (SA 2) and prioritised in the management context (C1, C3.2 and C4). Active management involves actions that go beyond control, protection, monitoring and research to enhance the values of the OECM. To ensure sustainable management, stakeholders/management associations should include the management and conservation of ecosystem services, species and biodiversity, land cover restoration, hazard management, fire management, invasive species control and more, provided they are consistent with the key values of the area.

#### **PR7 – Monitoring and research**

PR7 assesses the adequacy of the combined research and monitoring systems to effectively capture trends in key elements of the OECM. The analysis's focus is on strengthening the knowledge base that is essential for well-informed management and governance strategies that are critical for safeguarding the ecological dynamics of the OECM. Informed management decisions and proactive interventions require a deep understanding of evolving dynamics. ***The main question: Do current research and monitoring systems comprehensively meet the needs for monitoring key elements of the OECM, including biodiversity, ecosystem services, cultural values and natural resources and long-term ecological trends?***

This assessment analyses the adequacy of these systems in relation to management effort, threats level and scale.

#### **PR8 – Resolving contentious issues**

This evaluation focuses on the effectiveness of control mechanisms within the OECM, with an emphasis on cooperation and problem solving. ***The main question: To what extent do control measures and actions against illegal activities ensure the long-term sustainability of the management of key OECM elements?***

The analyses cover numerous elements such as cooperation between terrestrial-sea agents and sworn officers, the organisation, deployment frequency and stakeholder involvement of control units/groups, the equipment used such as GPS, communications and other aspects that enhance operational adaptability, etc. The analysis extends to addressing illegal activities and contentious issues through specific unit guidance, whistleblower systems, legal action and conflict resolution mechanisms. Collaborative partnerships with NGOs further underscore holistic management, emphasising sustainable practices and compliance with legal frameworks.

#### **PR9 – Stakeholders' collaboration**

The analysis of the PR9 examines the extent of active participation and meaningful involvement of different stakeholders in the governance and management of the OECM. ***The main question: Are there measures in place to improve stakeholder cooperation in the governance and management of the OECM?***

This step of the analysis assesses how some or all the relevant stakeholders are involved in the governance of the OECM, assessing factors such as stakeholder representation in decision-making processes, frequency of consultation, engagement and incorporation of local knowledge and perspectives. The assessment aims to determine the degree of cooperation and effective stakeholder participation that contributes to the legitimacy and effectiveness of OECM governance.

#### **PR10 – Benefits to local communities**

PR10 assesses the relevance of ongoing initiatives and programmes within the OECM that aim to provide benefits or appropriate support to stakeholders, particularly to local communities as direct users. OECMs should contribute to sustainable development and economic well-being of stakeholders. ***The main question:***

***Does the OECM implement activities/programmes tailored to provide appropriate benefits/assistance to communities?***

The appropriateness of the activities and programmes advocated and supported by the OECM to provide appropriate benefits and support to local communities is assessed using predefined rating scales. This assessment uses a predefined list of common activities and programmes often undertaken by OECM for the benefit of local communities. These activities fall into two main categories: (i) those that contribute to material well-being (such as production, businesses, jobs and infrastructure), and (ii) those that contribute to intangible well-being (including health, education, conflict resolution, and cultural services).

**PR11 – Environmental education**

PR11, which examines the appropriateness of various awareness-raising activities, focuses on environmental education and training initiatives. Environmental education plays a key role in facilitating a harmonious balance between the essential needs of individuals and the vital services provided by the natural environment. These services include provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting functions that benefit stakeholders both within and beyond the geographical scope of the conserved area. OECM initiatives are strategically designed to enhance human capacity for environmental stewardship and to address environmental crises and challenges, including the pressing issue of climate change. These activities aim to promote a deeper understanding of nature (knowledge) and the acquisition of skills for the sustainable management of natural resources. The evaluation of environmental education and awareness-raising activities within governance and management OECM includes a comprehensive analysis of their alignment with conservation and management objectives. ***The main question: Are the environmental education and awareness activities/programmes carried out by the OECM directly linked to the conservation and management objectives of the critical elements?***

The evaluation methodology involves reviewing a comprehensive list of common environmental education and awareness activities. This approach provides flexibility to tailor the analysis by including specific or essential programmes that meet the unique needs of the OECM analysed.

**PR12 – Tourism management**

In evaluating visitor management strategies within OECM, two key aspects are considered: (i) the management of visitor facilities and services, and (ii) their impacts and effects on the conserved area. Together, these components contribute to the balance between environmental conservation and the promotion of sustainable tourism within the OECM. The first part of the analysis focuses on evaluating strategies to mitigate the impact of tourism activities to safeguard the intrinsic values of the conserved area. The second analyses the alignment of facilities and services with the objectives of tourism and environmental education within the OECM. These components are crucial to maintaining the delicate balance between environmental conservation and tourism promotion within the OECM. The complexity of visitor management is compounded by the unique historical, cultural and geographical context of the OECM and the involvement of many stakeholders. The effectiveness of visitor management strategies is critical to ensuring that the values and significance of the OECM are maintained.

***The main question: How effectively does the WCA manage visitor facilities and services and the impacts of environmental tourism, taking into account the multiple dimensions of sustainability and compatibility?***

This assessment uses a structured checklist of key criteria for promoting, managing and minimising the impacts of tourist visits. The approach is adaptable to the specific characteristics of the OECM under consideration.

**PRX – Setting objectives**

At the end of the section, there is the table of objectives organised to insert Objective as Short or Long-term and Comments.

**2.2.5 Outputs**

Indicators related to the results (outputs) are identified by the acronym O/P, which stands for outputs. This choice has been made to avoid confusion between the products or results of short-term interventions (outputs) and the expected long-term changes (outcomes).

**O/ P1 – Implementation of the work/action plan**

Evaluation of the work plan implementation to governance and management of the OECM involves a systematic analysis of the extent to which the annual or multi-annual work/action plan has been carried out. This assessment focuses on the key activities within the work plan and involves measuring the extent to which the priorities set out in the work/action plan have been achieved in the previous year (with reference to the relevant year in the comments if a multi-annual plan is used). The categories of activities, such as key elements management, control, environmental education, tourism management, etc., serve as the basis for the evaluation. Each activity represents actions carried out within these activity categories to achieve specific objectives. ***The main question: To what extent has the OECM successfully implemented the primary activities outlined in the work/action plan?***

Implementation refers to the execution of the annual or multi-year work/action plan related to OECM activities. The approach involves categorising activities and assessing their realisation based on predefined scales. In the absence of a work/action plan, the assessment can be based on the categories and activities found in the Process element. These categories include management and protection of key elements, stakeholder relations, tourism, monitoring and research. By undertaking this assessment, the OECM can gain insight into the actualisation of its planned activities and make informed decisions to improve its management and conservation efforts.

**O/ P2 – Area Control**

Section O/P2 is used to assess the control and safeguarding of OECM. The assessment focuses on the control of the key elements identified as priorities in the management and governance of OECM. The ability to monitor and collect information on the key elements identified as priorities in the management and governance of OECM prevents or minimises illegal activities or contentious issues.

***The main question: What is the current level of control over the management and governance of the key elements of the OECM?***

If the managers of the OECM know exactly the level of control over the conserved area surface, this value should be recorded. Otherwise, one of the four categories of the relative scale should be selected.

**2.2.6 Outcomes**

Indicators associated with the Effects and Impacts element of the management cycle are identified by the acronym O/C, which stands for Outcomes. This designation has been chosen to avoid confusion between the short-term results (outputs) of interventions and the intended long-term objectives or outcomes. To improve clarity, the term ‘long-term objectives’ within the management cycle has been replaced by ‘effects and impacts’. This change in nomenclature is consistent with IMET-OECM’s focus on assessing management effectiveness by evaluating how organisational, management and governance interventions contribute to achieving expected effects and impacts. Importantly, it is essential to establish the alignment between estimated effects/impacts and other facets of the management cycle. This includes identifying key elements of the management context, planning considerations, input availability, process performance and results



achieved against management plans. This holistic measurement ensures a comprehensive assessment of management effectiveness and the overall success of the strategies implemented. By assessing the synergy between estimated effects/impacts and other elements of the management cycle, the evaluation process becomes a robust tool for measuring management effectiveness and aligning strategic efforts with long-term conservation goals.

The O/C1 indicator (Achievement of long-term conservation objectives of the management plan) includes an estimate of the percentage of long-term objectives achieved. A comprehensive assessment of management effectiveness, carried out iteratively over time, provides informed insights into the achievement of long-term objectives and desired states.

### **O/ C1 – Achievement of long-term objectives of the OECM management and governance**

Section O/C1 is an important element of the evaluation because it assesses the effectiveness in achieving the OECM's long-term objectives or expected conditions. The O/C1 indicator includes an estimate of the percentage of long-term objectives achieved. A comprehensive assessment of management effectiveness, carried out iteratively over time, provides sound information on the achievement of long-term objectives and desired states. ***The main question: To what extent has the OECM been successful in achieving its key management and governance plan objectives?***

The approach consists of listing the key long-term objectives or conservation conditions to be achieved, as described in the management plan, and assessing the percentage of achievement through the effects and impacts of OECM's management initiatives. This evaluation recognises the importance of understandable objectives for effective governance and management via the measurable results. The evaluation process reflects the vital link between strategic vision, actionable goals and effective management, ultimately shaping the trajectory of conservation efforts.

### **O/ C2 – Effects on key conservation elements**

Section O/C2 also assesses the status and trends of the key biodiversity elements within the OECM. The primary objective of the OECM is positive, sustainable in-situ conservation of biodiversity. The assessment seeks to know whether management and governance are positively or negatively affecting the key biodiversity elements of the OECM. The process is streamlined by transferring them from CTX 4 (Key Animal and Plant Species). ***The main question: Does management and governance have a positive or negative impact on the key biodiversity elements of the OECM?***

A comprehensive analysis comprises the assessments of direct users and indirect users. This examination reveals the insights as well as discrepancies in recommendations for improvement for the key biodiversity elements of the OECM. To ensure a consistent assessment, a collaborative analysis between stakeholders or their representatives is facilitated by a dual assessment – both direct and indirect users. A statistical formula determines the weighted value (Effect column). The availability of information (high, medium, low) helps to refine the estimates of status and trend for each key element of the OECM. The comparison of results between direct and indirect data can be detailed in the comments section.

It should be noted that the status and trends of the key biodiversity elements refer to the value assessed at the time of the assessment. According to these criteria, the conservation status of the OECM's key biodiversity may have a negative value but still show a positive trend, and vice versa.

### **O/ C3 – Impacts on local communities**

Section O/C3 assesses how the management and governance of the OECM affect local stakeholders and communities. The assessment process encompasses multiple dimensions of quality of life, influencing both material and intangible aspects, and emphasises the importance of good governance in enhancing the overall well-being of local stakeholders, considering the potential impacts of environmental change and

changes in resource availability. This includes examining how these activities affect factors such as consumption patterns, income, wealth, quality of life, health, and social and cultural relationships. ***The main question: Does the management of the OECM have a positive or negative impact on the quality of life of local stakeholders?***

By carefully evaluating these impacts, the assessment helps to determine whether management practices contribute positively or negatively to the holistic quality of life of local communities. The assessment involves evaluating these activities against established positive and negative criteria.

## 2.3 Analysis Report

### Analysis report description

Analysis of the results involves careful observation of the scores obtained during the assessment of the various forms and summaries provided by the graphs. The scores awarded give an immediate overview of the conservation efforts, while simplifying the complex issues involved in the management of conserved areas. However, as well as providing an overall vision, it is sometimes necessary to go back to the data to better identify potential management issues that can be considered or even resolved. Simply looking at the IMET key elements and overall scores assigned to the different elements of the assessment to make decisions can lead to misinterpretations and wrong decisions in the management of a conserved area.

Assessment of the six elements of the IUCN WCPA framework informs the extent to which management is achieving its objectives and how effectively the OECM is conserving its ecosystem services and biodiversity and other intrinsic values. An important part of the analysis is to identify the extent to which the desired outcomes are being achieved because of management activities or because of other factors for which managers and stakeholders are (or are not) responsible. For example, it is possible that the ecosystem services and biodiversity of a well-managed OECM are steadily declining or under severe threat of extinction (e.g. due to climate change), while others conserved areas that are not managed very effectively may be able to maintain their values. It is important to understand the causes of management successes and failures: without this analysis, any attempt to improve management would be ineffective.

The initial assessment of a conserved area with IMET-OECM allows the baseline level of important elements for conservation and management effectiveness analysis to be established. A better assessment of governance and management effectiveness can be made by comparing the context and current management situation of the OECM with the previously collected information. Repeated IMET-OECM assessments over time will allow to measure the gradual improvement of management effectiveness.

The Analysis Report module is structured as follow

- 1. General elements of the OECM**
- 2. Key elements of OECM**
  - Management Entity
  - Stakeholders' users and managing the OECM
  - Ecosystem services identified by the stakeholder for their governance and management
  - Key biodiversity elements of the OECM
- 3. Evaluation of the OECM management cycle elements**
- 4. Management effectiveness analysis (analysis + swot analysis)**
- 5. General planning**
  - Biodiversity key elements
  - Ecosystem services
  - Driving forces/Pressures
- 6. Table of planning**
- 7. Key questions**

### 2.3.1 General elements of the OECM

#### **What are the general elements of the OECM?**

The first part of the analysis report provides basic information on the OECM being assessed:

- Definition (which corresponds to the CBD definition of OECM)
- Country name
- Name as provided by the operator
- Name in original language and international language
- Name of designation (e.g. reserve, sanctuary, park, etc.)
- Type of designation (national, regional, international)
- Type (terrestrial, marine, coastal)
- Surface
- Status (proposed, listed, adopted, designated, established)
- Year of the enactment

Figure 6: Analysis report – Table of the general elements of the OECM

General elements of the protected area	
Definition	meets the CBD definition of an OECM
Country	AGO
Name as provided by the operator	TEST.6
Name in original language	TEST.6
Name of designation (ex. reserve, sanctuary park, etc.)	Reserve
Designation in English	No fixed values for protected areas designated at a national level
Designation type	National
Typology	predominantly or entirely terrestrial
Surface of the protected conserved marine area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	-
Surface of the protected conserved area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	100
Status	Proposed
Year of the enactment	2019

### 2.3.2 Key elements of the OECM

#### What are the key elements of the OECM?

This section is a key part of the analysis report as it identifies natural resources and ecosystem functions that are considered as the most important in the OECM, as assessed by each stakeholder or their representatives. It helps identify the importance and priority of the intervention, by listing the key elements according to their importance and the level of commitment

- **Management Entity**, imported from CTX 1.2 Governance and Management Entity the key element of the typology and organisation of the structures that manage the OECM
- **Stakeholders users and managing the OECM**, imported from SA.2, is the ranking of the stakeholder involvement divided into direct users and indirect users.

Figure 7: Analysis report – Table of key elements of the OECM

Key elements of OECM			
<b>1. Management Entity</b>			
Governance model		Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities	
Additional information on governance model (if needed)		Traditional authorities	
Determine the entity in charge of the management and governance of the OECM		A specified entity	
Type		Community and indigenous group	
Date of creation		Has always existed	
Official Recognition: Has the Management Entity received an official recognition from the national or regional authorities?		1	
Supervisory Institution (if any)		Parks and forests national authority	
<b>2. Stakeholders users and managing the OECM</b>			
Stakeholders Direct users		Stakeholders Indirect users	
Tradition Authority	80	Local-Authority	40
Women	80	NGO	36
Local-Community	76	Donor	36
Not_Local-Community	64	National-Authority	32
Not_Local-Community-Operators	48	Scientists	28

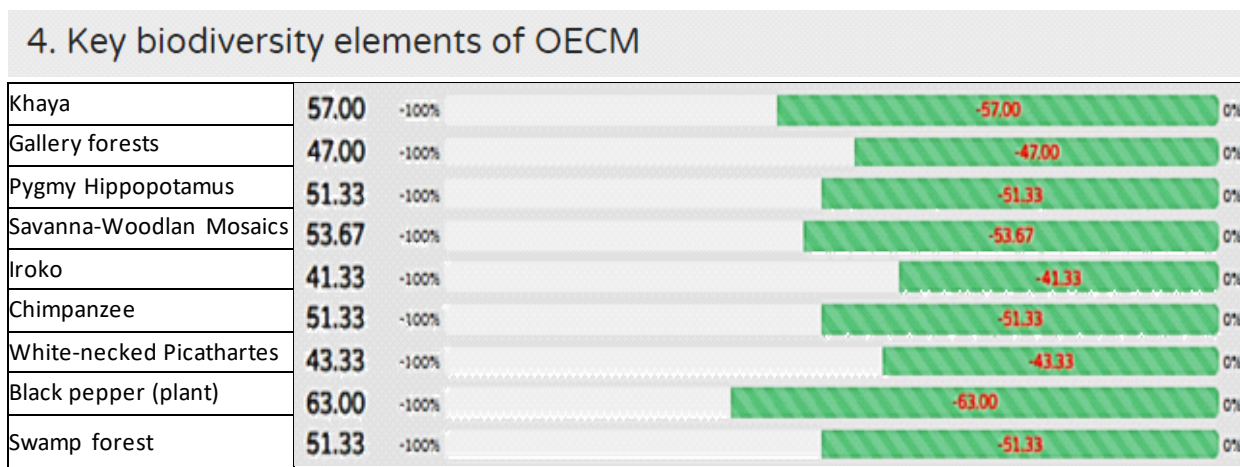
- **Ecosystem services identified by the stakeholder for their governance and management**, imported from SA.2 are the ranked lists in order of importance of the ecosystem services by the stakeholders.

Figure 8: Analysis report – Table of the importance of the ecosystem services identified by stakeholders

3. Ecosystem services identified by the stakeholder for their governance and management	
<b>Provisioning-Nutrition</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Human food animal	duikers, caterpillars, grasshoppers, tilapia, monkey (colobus -illegal), duikers, caterpillars, grasshoppers, tilapia, monkeys (colobus), duikers, monkeys (colobus), caterpillars, grasshoppers
Human food vegetal	yam, wild spinach, yam, wild spinach
Medicines	bitter leaf, kola nut, guinea pepper, bitter kola, bitter kola
<b>Provisioning-Water</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Water supply and quality for human use	water source
<b>Provisioning-Materials</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Fibres	raffia, bamboo, saba fiber
Timber	iroko, teak, sapele, khaya, iroko, teak, sapele, khaya
<b>Provisioning-Energy</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Biomass for energy	firewood, charcoal, charcoal
<b>Tourism (aesthetic appreciation, recreation, etc.)</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Traditional hunting or fishing	duikers, monkeys, antelopes
<b>Intellectual (educational, traditional knowledge, etc.)</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Traditional practices and ecological knowledge	Fire management
<b>Lands (agriculture, livestock, forests)</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Provisioning water	Reforestation
Provisioning fertility	Agriculture food sustainability
<b>Habitats for animals and plants</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Nursery and nesting habitats	Habitas for key species as monkeys and birds, Habitas for key species as Monkey and birds
Habitats for pollination	Honey production
<b>Erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Specific element assessed</b>
Erosion control	Logging

- **Key biodiversity elements of OECM**, imported from C3.1.1, show the status of pressures and threats to key biodiversity elements based on collaborative analysis between stakeholders or their representatives.

Figure 9: Analysis report – Table of the he status of pressures and threats to key biodiversity elements



### 2.3.3 Evaluation of the OECM management cycle elements

#### ***What are the OECM management effectiveness scores?***

The IMET-OECM results show which management efforts are yielding an impact on reducing threats and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services. This section prepares the management effectiveness analysis of the next section by showing all management effectiveness values in different visualisations.

### 2.3.4 Governance and Management effectiveness analysis (analysis + swot analysis)

#### ***What conclusions and indications can be drawn about the management effectiveness of the OECM?***

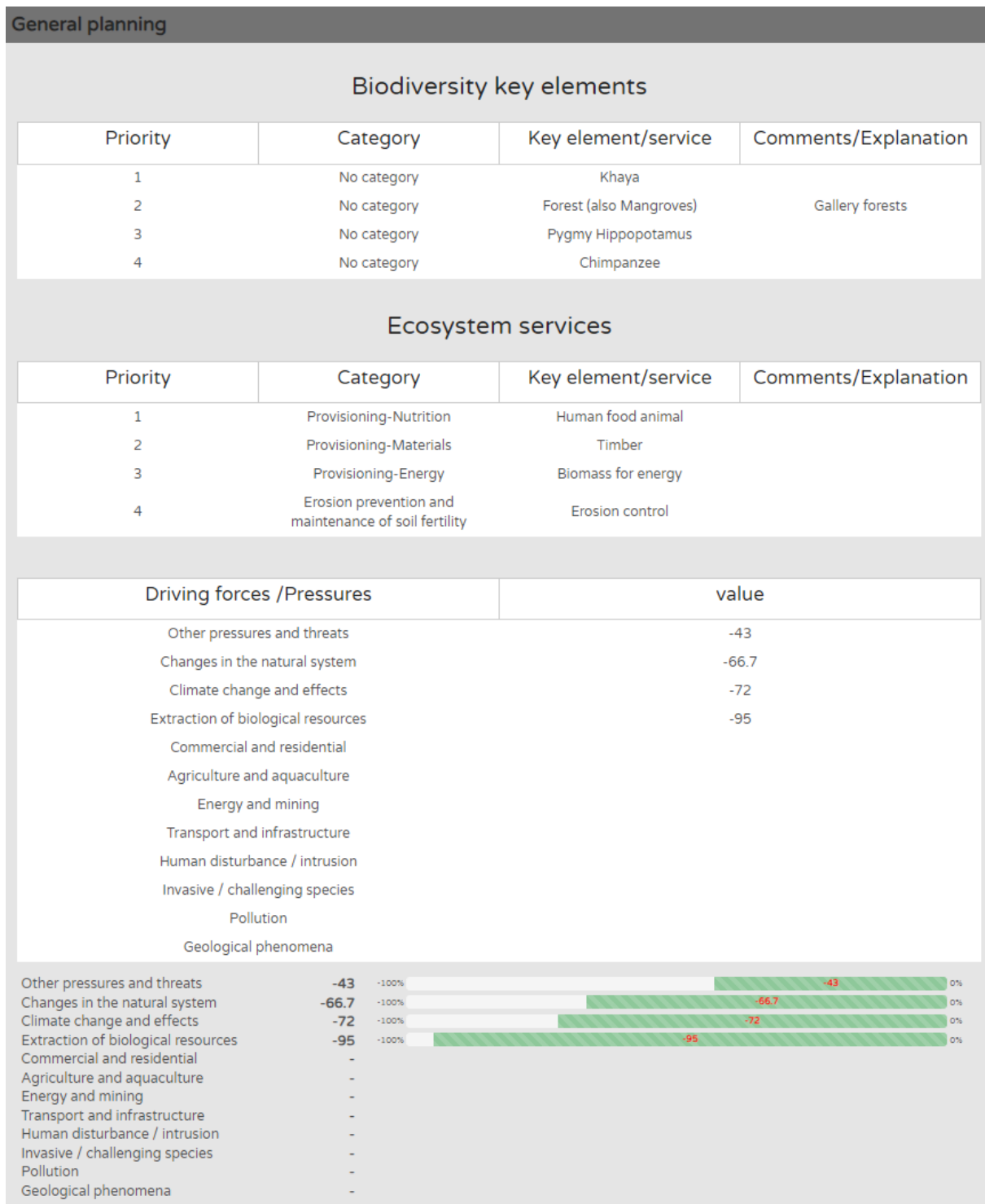
This section provides an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of the OECM management, with a description of each element and a concluding SWOT analysis. Each element can be analysed across several dimensions, focusing on priorities and identifying elements for improvement. The SWOT analysis, a simplest way of schematising planning elements prepares the next sections on overall planning.

### 2.3.5 General planning

#### ***What are the OECM management/governance priorities to plan?***

This section presents the priorities for ecosystem services, key biodiversity components and threats. The priorities were identified during the collective stakeholder meeting and analysis of the management and governance context sections C3.2 and C4. The prioritisation of the key elements of the OECM provides guidance for the planning presented in the next section.

Figure 10: Analysis report – General Planning



### 2.3.6 Table of planning

- **How to plan actions for the management and governance priorities of the OECM?**
- **How to organise roadmaps of the priorities for the management and governance of OECM?**

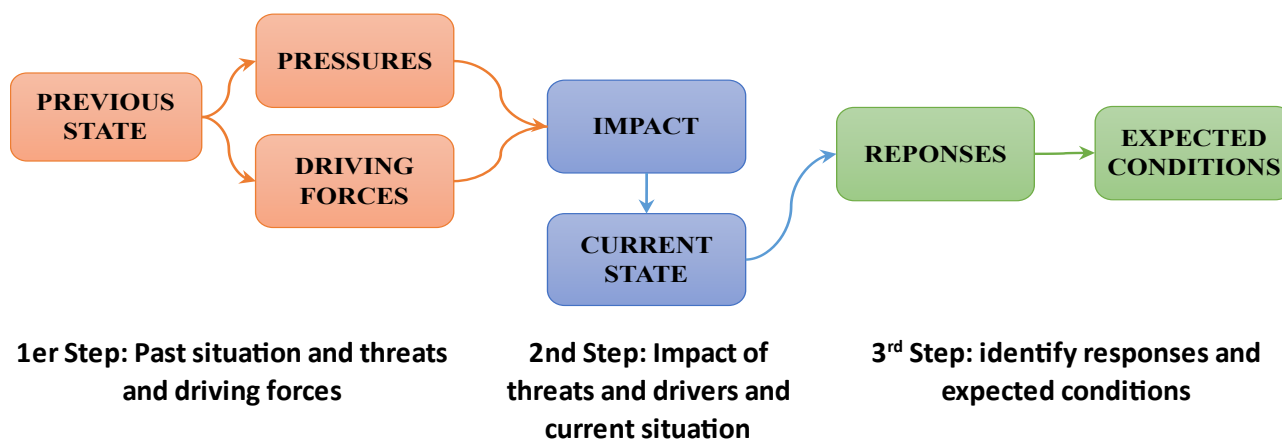
#### Planning using DPSIR

The planning table is based on the DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, and Response) framework, a widely used approach for analysing and solving problems of interaction between society and the



environment. It is a simplified way to manage and govern the OECM with a result-oriented approach to all stakeholders.

Figure 11: Analysis report – Table of planning



In the adapted version of the IMET-OECM, a logical analysis of three steps is proposed

1. describing and analysing the past situation, identifying the threats and driving forces that directly and indirectly affect the management of natural resources – governance,
2. capturing the impact of threats and drivers and present the current situation,
3. identifying responses in relation to the expected conditions.

The table of planning is the most straightforward way to work together with the stakeholders to manage and govern the OECM according to a result-oriented approach.

### Possible road map – Management plan midterm and long term

This section contains a table to help develop a logical sequence of actions and strategies for both the short/mid-term and long-term management of OECM priorities. This road map, with its different stages, details the progression of activities and outputs over time to address challenges and achieve changes and outcomes. Finally, it provides a systematic framework for the effective implementation of the strategies and activities of a management plan following a result-oriented approach.

### 2.3.7 Key questions

***What financial resources are necessary to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the OECM's values, and what specific actions would be taken with additional funding and their associated costs and timelines?***

This section highlights the importance of developing a comprehensive financial plan to cover the implementation of the management or work plan to achieve the expected outcomes. This plan serves as a basis for effectively presenting funding proposals to potential donors and partners involved in OECM management and governance. It will also help to identify the different forms of support required by the different stakeholders to facilitate the sustainable use of ecosystem services and conservation of biodiversity values of the OECM.

## 3 ORGANISATION OF IMET-OECM ASSESSMENT

This section presents step-by-step guidance on how to organise and conduct an IMET-OECM assessment, which consists of collecting and organising data and information regarding the management of OECM with the local management entity and stakeholders.

- Step 0. Installing IMET-OECM
- Step 1. Data collection and pre-filling of the Intervention Context module
- Step 2. Stakeholders' interviews
- Step 3. Workshop on OECM governance and management assessment, analyses and planning
- Step 4. After the assessment

### 3.1 Step 0. Installing IMET-OECM

IMET-OECM can be downloaded from the Internet as part of the IMET offline package. Once installed, it does not require an internet connection and can therefore be used even in most remote locations. IMET is constantly updated to eliminate PC installation issues and bugs. The latest version allows users to print an analysis report summarising the key findings of the assessment. The report also provides a framework for carrying out analyses and making recommendations.

Link to download IMET: <https://rris.biopama.org/pame/tools>

The installation is supported by the Installation note IMET OFFLINE TOOL – Installation Notes. The note can be downloaded from this link: <https://rris.biopama.org/sites/default/files/imet/2021-06-15%20IMET%20-2%20Installation%20Note.pdf>

#### Creating a new form

To start, one needs to navigate to the IMET-OECM home page. In the top right-hand corner, there is an option to generate IMET-OECM form. This can be done by selecting either a WDPA<sup>2</sup> (an OECM that has already been added to the WDPA database) or a non-WDPA OECM (an OECM that has not yet been added to the WDPA database) (see Figure 12 for visual guidance).

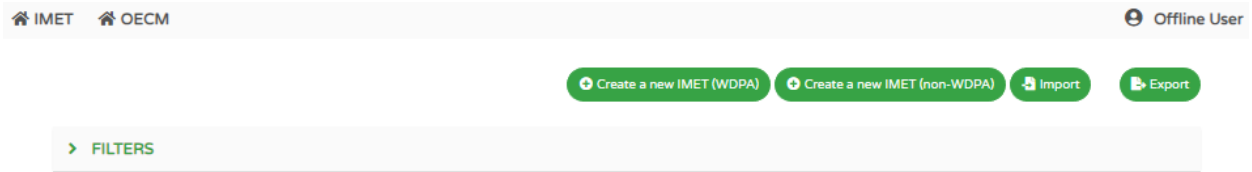
Upon selection of WDPA, the IMET tool incorporates in the specific form the database information provided to the WDPA by the national governing body responsible for the OECM. Conversely, if one selects a non-WDPA, there will be a need to complete a specific form in accordance with the WDPA's requirements for adding new OECM to its database (see Figure 12 for illustration).

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<sup>2</sup> The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net) currently has a section on the World Database on OECMs (WDOECMs)

Figure 12: Create a new IMET-OECM non-WDPA and the database information provided to the WDPA

IMET-OECM home page, in the top right-hand corner you can select and generate a new IMET form



If you are creating a non-WDPA, you will need to complete a specific form in accordance with WDPA requirements

### Create a new IMET OECM (non-WDPA)

Version **OECM**

Year subject to evaluation

Language

Definition

Country

Name as provided by the operator

Name in original language

Name of designation (ex. reserve, sanctuary park, etc.)

Designation in English

- Allowed values for international-level designations:
  - Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance
  - UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve
  - World Heritage Site (natural or mixed)
- Allowed values for regional-level designations:
  - Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)
  - Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)
  - Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)
  - Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
  - Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)
  - Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)
  - Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Convention)
- No fixed values for protected areas designated at a national level

Designation type

Typology

Surface of the protected conserved marine area [km<sup>2</sup>]

Surface of the protected conserved area [km<sup>2</sup>]

Status

Ownership type

### 3.2 Step 1. Data collection and pre-filling

The first phase revolves around the comprehensive data collection regarding the OECM and its associated stakeholders, a necessary step to propose an informed decision-making and implementation of effective conservation strategies. This initial phase is primarily aimed at fostering understanding of the processes within the OECM, rather than data analysis and interpretation. A well-done pre-filling facilitates the next level of assessment and contribute to an informed decision-making and a positive change in OECM management.

This pre-filling phase contains several activities:

- A. Collection of available information on the OECM from diverse sources
  - a. identify stakeholders involved in the management, from local communities and government agencies to NGOs and international partners
  - b. collect information on governance and management structures and other additional commitments related to natural resource and land management
  - c. collect key data on biodiversity components, ecosystem services, threats and current management practices
  - d. examine detailed maps of the conserved area(s) produced by participatory mapping or remote sensing techniques
  - e. collect information from scientific studies, field surveys and contributions from the OECM community.
- B. Data quality assessment: it is important that collected data and information should be reviewed with OECM management entity or resource persons to assess their quality, accuracy and validity.
- C. Integration of data in the IMET-OECM Intervention Context module namely
  - a. CTX. 1 General Information about the OECM
  - b. CTX. 2 Areas
  - c. CTX. 3 Human, financial and material resources
  - d. CTX. 4 Animals, plants and habitats.

Therefore, careful organisation of stakeholder knowledge and OECM data is an essential prerequisite for IMET-OECM exercise. Well-structured data framework of key elements of the OECM, its management practices and collaborative engagement enable managers, stakeholders and coaches to access and use a wide range of data during the IMET-OECM exercise.

### 3.3 Step 2. Stakeholders' interviews

In coordination with the conserved area's staff, as well as relevant individuals, coaches will conduct interviews with all the stakeholder categories identified in the pre-filling phase. This phase concerns SA.1 and SA.2 in the Context of Intervention.

A fundamental aspect of effectively coordinating an IMET-OECM analysis relies on carefully identifying and defining intricate specifics associated with each stakeholder category, including factors such as numbers, gender representation, presence and roles within the OECM governance and management framework. Coaches and OECM staff must remain ready to flexibly adjust or refine the assessment programme in response to the dynamic evolution of knowledge and other relevant factors. For example, it may turn out that a single stakeholder category is in fact composed of two significant subgroups, necessitating the creation of separate stakeholder groups, or conversely that two separate stakeholder categories may be linked by their common interest in a particular ecosystem service.

**Some conditions to be checked before interviewing stakeholders**

- Does the list of stakeholders include all actors involved in the management and administration of the OECM?
- To what extent have the stakeholders been sufficiently informed about the assessment session?
- Are there any courtesy visits to be made, particularly if the assessment is to be carried out on site?
- Are there any ‘hidden stakeholders’?

In the case of multiple stakeholders, interviews need to be shared between several coaches and support resource persons such as local staff or partner organisations’ staff (technicians). Two options for interviews are possible:

1. **On-site interviews:** assessment organisers and coaches travel to meet and interview stakeholders in their locations. They collect and review the data either using directly the IMET-OECM software or printable templates (in Pdf or Word), which they will be transferred into the software later. This approach encourages in-depth exploration of governance and management issues but requires more time and resources.
2. **Centralised collaborative sessions:** Alternatively, stakeholders’ representatives are brought together in a common location to facilitate both the interviews and analyses. This option reduces the time and resource requirements, although the level of detail may be lower than in the first approach.

In both cases, interviews of stakeholders are to be conducted separately for each category. Objectives of interviews are twofold (i) to complement and integrate data collected during the pre-filling phase (CTX 1 to CTX 4) and confirmation of the number and type of stakeholders’ groups (SA1); (ii) to collect detailed information on the stakeholders groups on their insights regarding their interactions and use of the ecosystem services produced by the conserved area (SA.1 and SA2).

In both cases, stakeholder interviews will be conducted separately for each category. The purpose of the interviews is twofold: (i) to complement and integrate data collected during the pre-fill phase (CTX 1 to CTX 4) and to confirm the number and type of stakeholder groups (SA1); (ii) to collect detailed information from the stakeholder groups and on their understanding of their interactions and use of the ecosystem services provided by the conserved area (SA1 and SA2).

As a reminder, SA.1 looks at the complex dynamics between each stakeholder and the ecosystem services provided by the conserved area. The second dimension (SA.2) shifts the focus on interactions between each stakeholder and OECM ecosystem services. [See 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 on importance of these sections]

### 3.4 Step 3. Evaluation, analysis and planning workshop

The Management Evaluation and Analysis Report modules are completed during a workshop where all stakeholders involved in the OECM are brought together. However, for efficiency concerns, the workshop will only have representatives of stakeholders and staff.

Depending on the maturity and specific needs of the OECM, two options emerge when considering integrated analyses and planning:

- **Option A: Comprehensive Analysis and Planning:** This option involves a thorough analysis of all IMET-OECM components prior to planning. It ensures a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of the OECM and closely aligns planning strategies with the results of the analysis, thereby optimising management approaches. This option works best for a mature and well-organised OECM.
- **Option B: Synthetic Analysis and Planning:** Planning can also begin without a full management and governance analysis, that is particularly relevant for newly established or emerging OECMs. In this case, priority is given to developing initial intervention strategies that focus primarily on the OECM

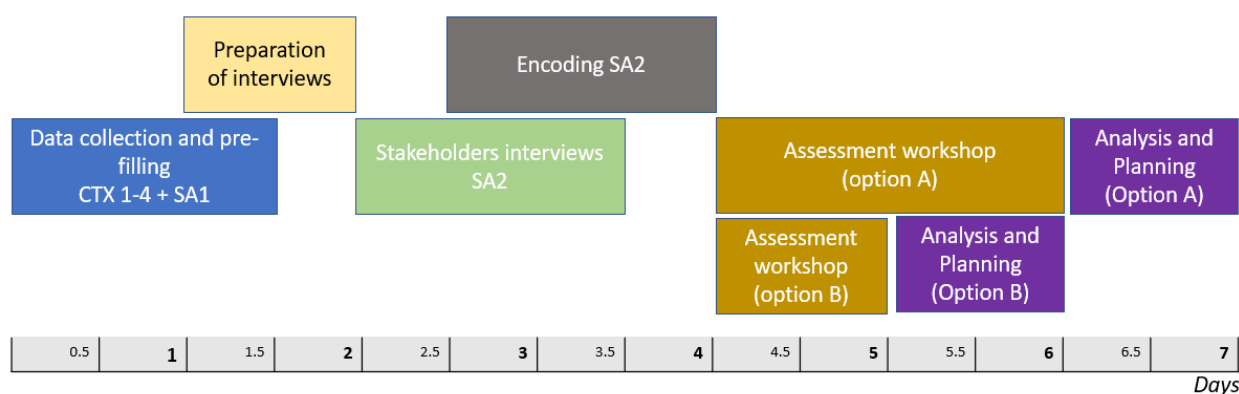
conservation priorities and the establishment of governance and management structures. The full analysis will be carried out at a later stage to further refine the approach.

The merged framework that integrates analysis and planning within the IMET-OECM is as follows:

1. Initial assessment and understanding of the context
  - understand the management and governance framework, considering its maturity (Step 1)
  - analyse relevant data on the context, objectives and status of the OECM (Step 2).
2. Preliminary prioritisation
  - identifies the key priorities and objectives of the OECM values for an in-depth analysis and planning objectives (initial analysis of Step 3) to determine whether **A. Comprehensive Analysis and Planning**, or **B. Synthetic Analysis and Planning** is more appropriate, depending on the stage of the OECM (see Table 2 and figure 13).

The choice of options for Comprehensive or Synthetic Analysis and Planning has implications for the organisation and timing of the IMET-OECM process, as shown in Box 2.

Box 2: Choice of Analysis and Planning option and indicative duration of IMET-OECM assessment



Estimated duration of IMET OECM streamlined exercise assumes that analysis refers to moderately complex OECM. Depending on factors such as the type of governance – management planned, location and specific conservation objectives, actual duration of the assessment may vary. On the other hand, for a relatively straightforward OECM, our experience is that the IMET-OECM streamlined analysis can be reduced to no more than 2 days.

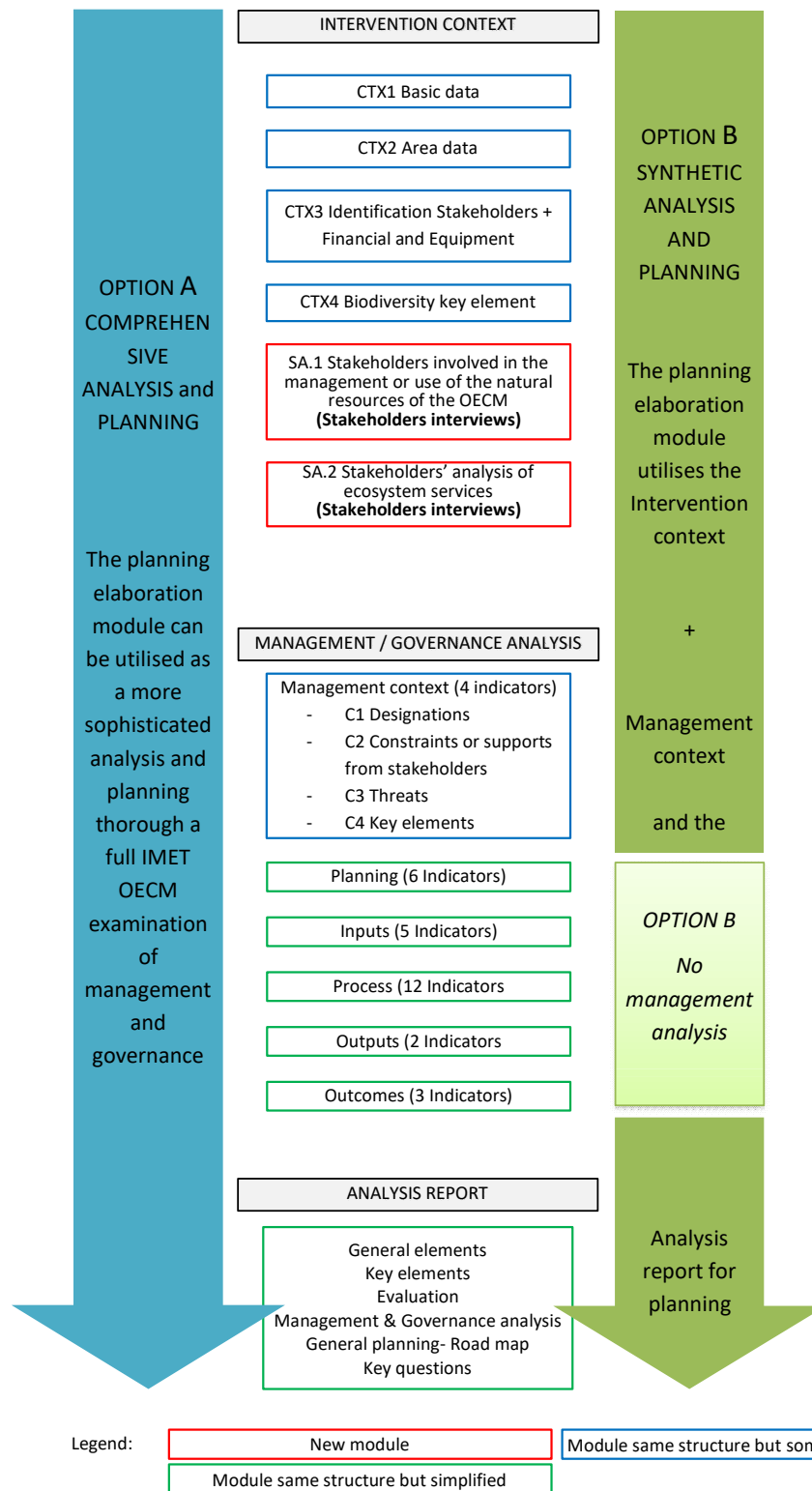
*Legend:*

- Data collection and profiling, collection of existing information about the OECM to start the analysis
- Preparing for interviews, preparation & structuring, based on the data and discussions with the managing entity or the most involved stakeholders, the OECM analysis has been organised, structured and planned.
- Stakeholder interviews, stakeholder insight with interviews and exchanges on OECM management and governance with all stakeholders related to the OECM
- Encoding, data coding from interviews and exchanges integrated into IMET-OECM tool to allow statistical analysis and the preparation of tables to be analysed in the collective assessment
- Assessment workshop, collective evaluation, open meeting with all stakeholders, supported by the analysis tables on the evaluation of the management and governance of the OECM
- Strategic analysis and proposals, final analysis and planning of activities based on a result-oriented approach

Table 1: Comparison of two options for integrated analysis and planning

Option	Option A. Comprehensive Analysis and Planning	Option B. Synthetic Analysis and Planning
<b>When</b>	Mature and well-established OECM (e.g. with a clear organisational structure, an up-to-date management plan, etc.)	Newly established, potential and/or unorganised OECM (e.g. no clear management entity, no management plan, etc.)
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Data-driven insights to inform planning strategies,</li> <li>– Short, medium, and long-term strategies to deliver essential services and achievable targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A viable and practical governance and management structure and organisation that meets the immediate needs and objectives, while ensuring that the values and importance of the OECM are preserved,</li> <li>– Urgent short- and medium-term planning needs.</li> </ul>
<b>IMET-OECM Sections</b>	All modules and sections	Context of Intervention + Management Context + Planning in the analysis report
<b>How</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Review the filling process</b> leading to the final assessment results.</li> <li>2. <b>Use visualisation aids of assessment results</b></li> <li>3. <b>Conduct overall analysis:</b> (a) radar, (b) histograms of different dimensions of the management cycle (c) identify points of convergence and divergence.</li> <li>4. <b>Align and compare information:</b> across different modules</li> <li>5. <b>Conduct specific analysis:</b> such as gaps, positive and negative scores, apparent score inconsistency, etc.</li> <li>6. <b>Investigate for deeper understanding:</b> with (a) stakeholders to comprehend underlying causes, (b) staff to investigate the causes of perceived inconsistency in scores.</li> <li>7. <b>Formulate suggestions,</b> provide improvement recommendations to (a) correct management activities, refine results, achieve objectives, (b) highlight strengths and commendable aspects, (c) highlight potential areas for improvement.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Review the OECM's key fundamental values</b> for stakeholders and existing structures on the OECM natural resources management.</li> <li>2. <b>Review the focused analysis, mainly:</b> stakeholders analyses of ecosystem services and key biodiversity elements, ranking and priorities established in the management context.</li> <li>3. <b>Focus data analysis</b> on areas directly related to the identified conservation priorities and management structures.</li> <li>4. <b>Develop immediate intervention strategies</b> for targeting OECM's core values and priorities</li> <li>5. <b>Formulate constructive management and governance suggestions with stakeholders</b> to (a) improve activities, enhance results, achieve objectives, (b) highlight the commendable stakeholders' strengths and noteworthy key elements attributes.</li> <li>6. <b>Establish essential governance and management structure</b> that will serve as the basis for future assessments and decision-making.</li> </ol>

Figure 13: The standard and simplified planning elaboration modules



Once selected, the integrated process of analysis and planning can be carried out based on the information presented in Table 2 and Figure 13.



## Evaluation

A productive assessment meeting will require

- A careful review of the intervention context by IMET-OECM coach (es).
- An advance notice to participants to secure their commitment to devote time to active participation in the evaluation session.
- A suitable and conducive workspace with essential equipment (quietness, air conditioning or ventilation, computers, projectors and, if deemed necessary, a power generator, etc.).
- Comprehensive arrangements for travelling participants (transport, meals, accommodation, and other essential amenities).

On completion of the IMET-OECM assessment of governance and management of the conserved area, the interpretation of the results becomes the focus. Next chapter will focus on methodologies of analyses.

## Analysis and planning

This section underscores the central role of harmonious integration of analysis and planning within the OECM management and governance evaluation. In this document, ‘integrated evaluation, analysis and planning’ means that these processes are interdependent and closely coordinated. In essence, evaluation analysis and planning are not separate, parallel activities, but rather a fluid, iterative continuum.

Consistent alignment between them enables real-time adjustments thereby improving decision-making, promoting and encouraging efficient resource allocation. This integration of evaluation, analysis and planning reduces the complexity of management and governance work, minimises data management and encourages collaborative stakeholder engagement, ultimately improving the overall effectiveness of conservation governance and management.

Whether you choose the comprehensive (option A) or the synthetic (option B) evaluation, analysis and planning approach, it’s important to remember that combining these processes will require you to

- incorporate the results of the evaluation and analysis into your planning strategies.
- verify that your planning decisions are based on the results of the analysis.

The ultimate outcome of the two evaluations, analysis and planning options involves the scrutiny of governance and management aspects, coupled with the creation of streamlined plans to enhance the OECM’s ecosystem services and biodiversity. Naturally, the two options share commonalities within the procedures, given their shared end goals. Both require initiating robust stakeholder engagements and producing operational notes to ensure that practical steps are identified after the assessment.

**Note:** *There are two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) available that focus on the use and analysis of IMET, which can provide valuable assistance in effectively using and questioning data from the IMET-OECM. While both MOOCs focus on the use of the IMET standard, they are of significant value also for IMET-OECM. The MOOCs provide comprehensive guidance in the use of IMET-OECM due to the common logic of data collection, visualisation techniques, support for statistical calculations and results-oriented methodology. These educational resources are available on ERAIFT web page or on demand.*

Figure 14: Example of planning using DPSIR

## Table of planning

Previous state (Before -year) and Driving forces /Pressures

### Human food animal

#### Previous state

- **Traditional and Subsistence Hunting:** Bushmeat has been a source of food for centuries in the region Traditional hunting practices were often sustainable and integrated into local ecosystems. Local communities hunted wildlife for their own consumption and as part of cultural practices.
- **Low-Intensity Commercial Trade:** A low-intensity commercial trade in bushmeat existed, supplying local markets with wild game. However, this trade was generally limited in scale and largely sustainable.

#### Driving forces

- **Population Growth:** Rapid population growth all-around the OECM increases the demand for protein sources, including bushmeat.
- **Poverty:** High levels of poverty force people to rely on bushmeat as a cheap source of protein.
- **Cultural Practices:** Traditional and cultural preferences for bushmeat contribute to its continued consumption.
- **Lack of Alternatives:** Limited access to alternative protein sources drives people to hunt and consume bushmeat.
- **Illegal Trade:** Demand for exotic bushmeat in urban markets and abroad fuels illegal hunting and trade.

#### Pressures

- **Overhunting:** The increased demand for bushmeat leads to unsustainable hunting practices and overexploitation of wildlife populations.
- **Habitat Loss:** Deforestation and land-use changes reduce the natural habitat for wildlife, pushing them into closer proximity with human populations.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Roads and other infrastructure open up remote areas to hunters, making it easier to access previously untouched wildlife populations.
- **Climate Change:** Altered weather patterns and increased temperatures can affect the distribution and behavior of wildlife species.
- **Lack of Regulation:** Weak or inadequate wildlife management and hunting regulations contribute to uncontrolled hunting

#### Impacts and Current state

##### Impacts:

- **Biodiversity Loss:** The decline of wildlife populations disrupts ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Food Security:** Overreliance on bushmeat led to food insecurity when wildlife populations decline.
- **Economic Impact:** Declines in wildlife populations negatively affected local economies.
- **Social Conflicts:** Competition for dwindling wildlife resources led to conflicts between communities and stakeholders.

 Save

 Print

##### States:

1. **Declining Wildlife Populations:** Many species are at risk of extinction due to overhunting and habitat loss.
2. **Ecosystem Imbalances:** The loss of keystone species disrupted ecosystem dynamics.
3. **Cultural Impact:** The loss of traditional hunting practices and cultural heritage.

#### Responses and Expected conditions

##### Responses:

- **Conservation Efforts:** Implement and enforce wildlife conservation laws and regulations = **less poaching**.
- **Alternative Protein Sources:** Promote the development of alternative protein sources, such as livestock farming = **goats farming**.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Implement programs to address poverty and provide livelihood alternatives to bushmeat hunting = **carbon credits**
- **Community-Based Resource Management:** Raise awareness and involve local communities in the OECM sustainable management = **empowerment**

#### Proposed short term objectives

- **Conservation Efforts:** Community conservation regulations and OECM monitoring
- **Alternative Protein Sources:** Lobbying of funds and livestock farming of goats
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Analysis of credit carbone or ESP
- **Community-Based Resource Management:** Lobbying of funds for training about sustainable use of NR.

Figure 15: Example of Road map – Management plan mid term and long term

Possible road map - Management plan midterm and long term					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
<b>Long term Objective – Goals</b>					
Biodiversity conservation and sustainability bushmeat and other animal food (duikers, caterpillars and tilapia) of the OECM					
<b>Outcome 1</b>					
Good management and governance of the natural resources of the OECM					
<b>Annual or multi-annual targets</b>					
Community-Based resource management and governance empowerment					
<b>Activity 1</b>					
Community Engagement and Participation					
Active involvement of local communities in decision-making processes related to resource management in the development of management plans, resource allocation, and benefit-sharing mechanisms fostering a sense of ownership over the resources are crucial for sustainable management.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Activity 2</b>					
Sustainable Resource Management Practices Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening					
Building the capacity of local communities and forest management committees providing training in sustainable resource management (bushmeat and other animal food), biodiversity conservation, including clear roles and responsibilities that can help ensure accountability and efficient decision-making					
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Outcome 2</b>					
Human animal food sustainability (bushmeat and other animal food)					
<b>Annual or multi-annual targets</b>					
OECM community-based resource bushmeat and other animal food management and governance					
<b>Activity 1</b>					
Regulation and monitoring					
Community conservation regulations about quotas and monitoring to ensure that bushmeat and other animal food resources are harvested within ecologically sustainable limits					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Activity 2</b>					
Habitat Restoration and Protection					
Invest in the restoration and protection of natural habitats within the OECM to support healthy ecosystems that can sustain wildlife populations and provide alternative food sources					
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

### 3.6 Step 4. After the assessment

Both Option A and Option B are valuable approaches, carefully tailored to fit the specific situation of the OECM. This ensures that management and governance methods are highly effective and consistent across the diverse area over time.

It's important to remember that a regular process of evaluation of the management and governance of the OECM, coupled with subsequent analysis and planning, is essential for the adaptive protection of its values over time. In this regard, it is strongly recommended that

1. **Ongoing analysis**, as the OECM evolves, conduct regular analyses to improve strategies, check progress, and smartly deal with new challenges.
2. **Stay adaptable and evolve**, always be attentive by looking over and adjusting the analysis method, this should be guided by a growing understanding of the complex workings of the OECM.
3. **Growth and informed evolution**, as the OECM gets more complex, think about moving to a complete analysis and planning method and use collected data to gain a comprehensive understanding of the conserved area.

Although this is the last step, it should be clear from the very beginning of what happens after the assessment.

- To whom, where and when will be the results presented?
- Is there a need to report back to the local communities? How?
- What kind of report is needed?
- Who will be in charge of implementing the assessment results?
- How to conserve the data produced in the assessment? (especially if the management entity does not have IMET or a computer?)
- Is there any accountability mechanism to establish? (for example, the participants will all reconvene in a year to see progress)

Coaches can help clarify these questions during the pre-filling and the assessment, however, all follow-up activities should be upon the responsibility of the management entity or one main stakeholders for accountability purpose.

## 4 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The IMET OECM approach – that combines data collection, analyses and development of planning/strategies and better management practices – can empower local communities in managing their landscapes (e.g. forests, savannahs) and seascapes (e.g. fishing areas, marine conservation areas). By bringing together stakeholder engagement, informed analysis, and strategic planning, IMET OECM lays the foundation for adaptive, efficient, and inclusive resource management.

### 4.1 Importance of engaging with stakeholders

A crucial aspect of the IMET-OECM analysis is achieving collaboration with stakeholders. This means working closely with people who care about the environment because they strongly depend on natural resources. The analysis's success hinges on building understanding, fostering cooperation, and creating a shared vision among stakeholders. This collaboration ensures that everyone is on the same page when it comes to managing natural resources and the environment. In other terms, IMET OECM is like a big puzzle where each piece represents a stakeholder. When these pieces fit together well, it results in better resource management. IMET-OECM helps people work together, understand each other's perspectives, and come up with a plan that benefits everyone and the environment.

Effective management and governance of natural resources depend on meaningful stakeholder engagement. To make good use of the IMET OECM, it is essential to establish a solid framework for collaboration with the stakeholders and to follow a logical progression from the presentation of the analysis of the description of the steps in the approach to the expected outcomes. This pathway includes stakeholder identification, comprehensive understanding of the OECM landscape with the full support of the stakeholders, stakeholder consultation, analysis and implementation of strategies to ensure sustainable use and conservation of resources in agreement with the stakeholders.

However, to make IMET-OECM work effectively, skilled coaches are needed to help stakeholders collaborate on managing resources and the environment. This section provides a basic understanding of how to approach the complex and lengthy process of expanding goals and motivations of the stakeholders. This involves including not only economic resource efficiency but also environmental sustainability and aspects of fairness and involvement in the governance and management of OECM.

### 4.2 Steps for stakeholders engagement in IMET OECM analysis

#### **Step 1. Stakeholder identification and segmentation**

This step involves identifying and segmenting stakeholders. Stakeholders can range from local communities and indigenous groups, to disadvantaged groups and minorities to government agencies, non-governmental organisations and private or public economic operators dependent on the OECM resources. Each stakeholder group brings different perspectives, interests and contributions to the table. Segmenting them helps to develop targeted engagement strategies that address their specific needs and concerns. This step is achieved with the section SA.1 and SA.2 of the module Context of intervention which cover several aspects:

- 1) **Stakeholder mapping**, begin by listing all potential stakeholders with a stake in the OECM, this could include local communities, indigenous groups, government agencies, NGOs, businesses, academic institutions and others.

- 2) **Categorise**, create group stakeholders based on common characteristics or interests, this could be done by considering their roles, interests, level of influence or dependence on OECM resources.
- 3) **Involvement ranking**, determine the level of involvement of each stakeholder group in relation to the OECM. The assign involvement rankings are based on factors such as their dependence on resources, direct or indirect users, living in or near, potential impact and level of expertise, as well as their potential to contribute to the objectives of the OECM.
- 4) **Interaction with the OECM resources**, evaluate how each stakeholder group interacts with the OECM, consider their interaction as dependence, access, rivalry, estimation of the resources, etc.
- 5) **Identify the specific needs**, concerns the dependence and logically the expectations of each stakeholder group on the OECM management and governance, this will help tailor engagement strategies to address their unique perspectives.

### **Step 2. Understanding the OECM social landscape**

The foundation of any successful stakeholder engagement strategy is a thorough analysis of the natural resource context. This analysis includes identifying the OECM, assessing biodiversity hotspots and key elements, identifying key natural resources and ecosystem services and measuring existing use patterns. By understanding the intricacies of the OECM social landscape, it becomes possible to tailor management and governance strategies that are contextually relevant. This step is achieved with the sections CTX1, CTX2, CTX4, SA.1 and SA.2 of the module Context of intervention.

### **Step 3. Inclusivity and alignment to build a shared vision**

Once stakeholders have been identified and basic knowledge of the OECM social landscape and resources has been acquired, the key task is to create a shared vision. This involves fostering a common understanding of the value of the resource, the challenges it faces, and working together to identify desirable outcomes based on joint management and governance efforts. This step is essential to minimise conflict and promote coherent decision-making. It should also be clear from the IMET-OECM analysis that regular consultations, workshops and dialogues play a crucial role in aligning stakeholders around common goals. This step is achieved with the element Management context of the module Management evaluation in the module Analysis report.

## **4.3 Stakeholders engagement over time**

Stakeholder involvement in the management and governance of the OECM is an ongoing and dynamic process. Initially, stakeholders are identified, categorised and prioritised. As the OECM evolves, engagement strategies will be adjusted to reflect stakeholders' needs and concerns. Regular communication and feedback mechanisms should be established to ensure ongoing collaboration. Consensus building among stakeholders promotes shared goals and strategies. This continuous, evolving engagement over time ensures a holistic approach to effective OECM management, fostering understanding, cooperation and sustainable outcomes.

To ensure effective stakeholder engagement in OECM management and governance over time, these key steps can be outlined:

### **Collaborative Strategies**

- 1) **Stakeholder consultation** – Maintain an ongoing process of stakeholder consultation to gather insights and concerns, involving those directly affected by resource management.
- 2) **Inclusive planning** – Design management plans collaboratively to address the diverse needs of stakeholders, ensuring fairness and representation.
- 3) **Clear roles and responsibilities** – Define each stakeholder's role within the framework to promote accountability and alignment with common goals.

- 4) **Adaptive management** – Embrace the principles of adaptive management to allow for adjustments based on changing circumstances, regularly evaluating and adjusting strategies.
- 5) **Capacity building** – Empower stakeholders through training and knowledge sharing, enabling them to actively contribute to decision-making and management.
- 6) **Conflict resolution mechanisms** – Develop mechanisms to address conflicts and disagreements constructively and maintain a cooperative atmosphere.

#### **Implementation and continuous improvement**

- 1) **Communication channels** – Select effective communication methods, such as community meetings or digital platforms, to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.
- 2) **Engagement strategy** – Tailor engagement strategies to specific stakeholder groups and encourage regular consultation and joint decision-making.
- 3) **Feedback mechanisms** – Establish feedback mechanisms to ensure stakeholders' voices are heard and influence management and governance processes.
- 4) **Consensus building** – Encourage collaboration among stakeholders to develop common goals and priorities and align efforts for effective resource management.
- 5) **Ongoing Review** – Regularly review and update the effectiveness of OECM management and governance to ensure that
  - stakeholder identification and segmentation as the OECM evolves, considering the new stakeholder's
  - evolution of the OECM landscape and natural resources in terms of conditions, trends, threats, etc.
  - inclusiveness and alignment as a shared vision in the long-term governance and management of the OECM.

In conclusion, the establishment of effective stakeholder engagement follows a logical path which begins with a stakeholder consultation, leading to inclusive planning, clear role definition, adaptive strategies, capacity building and conflict resolution. As collaborative strategies are implemented, continuous monitoring and evaluation guide improvements. This holistic approach, based on collaboration and analysis, aims to harmonise resource use and conservation objectives. Through active participation, communication and shared responsibility, stakeholders become an integral part of securing the future of natural resources.

## 5 ANNEXES



# SA.1 Stakeholders involved in the management or use of natural resources

Identify the stakeholders involved in the management or use of the natural resources of the OECM  
**Living inside or in proximity to the OECM:** Living in or near a conserved area can provide access to important ecosystem services but might also require restrictions and regulations.

**Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements:** Various ways in which stakeholders interact with animals, plants or habitats (Biodiversity) and benefit from ecosystem services (Provisioning, Cultural, Regulating, Supporting) provided by the OECM.

**Direct users of OECM's key elements:** Direct Users are those who directly benefit from the goods and services provided by the conserved area.

**Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements:** Degree to which stakeholder is interested in the OECM's long-term conservation and protection, such as the establishment of regulations for use and access, as it can influence their level of involvement and commitment.

**Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge):** Degree to which a stakeholder has necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to effectively manage and conserve some key elements of the OECM. Expertise can be from traditional and indigenous knowledge, historical practices, long-term observations, formal and professional trainings.

## 1. Community/group or other

- Traditional authorities (Identify the traditional authorities)
- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs\*) (Identify the IPLCs community/group)
- Not Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) (Identify the not IPLCs community/group)
- Disadvantaged groups, minorities, ...) (Identify the disadvantaged groups as women's associations, youth groups, etc.)
- Other Community/group (Identify others community/group)

## 2. Economic operators

- IPLCs operating in market economy of natural resources (Identify groups of IPLCs operating in market economy of timber, non-timber, fisheries, medicinal plant, tourism, etc.)
- NOT IPLCs operating in market economy of natural resources (Identify groups of not IPLCs operating in market economy of forest, fishing, tourism, agriculture, mining -coal, diamonds, water, sand etc., etc.)

## 3. Government

- Local authorities (Identify local elected and appointed officials and parliament members, territorial / departmental and municipal council, land services environment services, etc.)
- National authorities (Identify national Ministry or department in charge of NR management Central government Armed forces (paramilitary police force and navy, etc.)

## 4. NGOs, Scientists and Donors

- NGOs (Identify Social rights NGO, Environmental NGO, Development NGO, etc.)
- Scientists/Researchers (Identify scientists/researchers, etc.)
- Donors (Identify private and public donors, etc.)

<b>Stakeholder</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Community/group or other</b>	<b>Economic operators</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>NGOs, Scientists and Donors</b>

Living inside or in proximity to the OECM (less than one hour's walk) YES - NOT	Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements		Direct users of OECM's key elements YES - NOT	Level of engagement in OECM's key elements management				Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements				Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge)				Note
	Tick			0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
	Provisioning															
	Regulation															
	Cultural															
	Support															

Legend

<b>Categories of uses or management of OECM's key elements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisioning</li> <li>• Regulation</li> <li>• Cultural</li> <li>• Supporting</li> </ul>	<b>Level of interest in preserving the OECM's key elements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0:</b> No interest in OECM conservation</li> <li>• <b>1:</b> Low interest in OECM conservation</li> <li>• <b>2:</b> Moderate interest in OECM conservation</li> <li>• <b>3:</b> High interest in OECM conservation</li> </ul>
<b>Level of engagement in OECM's key elements management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0:</b> No engagement</li> <li>• <b>1:</b> Low engagement</li> <li>• <b>2:</b> Moderate engagement</li> <li>• <b>3:</b> High engagement</li> </ul>	<b>Level of expertise in management of the OECM's key elements (including traditional or indigenous knowledge):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0:</b> No expertise in managing land and natural resources</li> <li>• <b>1:</b> Low expertise in managing land and natural resources</li> <li>• <b>2:</b> Moderate expertise in managing land and natural resources</li> <li>• <b>3:</b> High expertise in managing land and natural resources</li> </ul>

# SA.2 Stakeholders analysis of ecosystem services

Identify key elements for your group, and assess its importance and its management/governance from your own perspective

**Dependence:** A stakeholder’s dependence on ecosystem services refers to the extent to which subsistence, income, and cultural identity depend on natural resources and ecological processes. Low dependence means that the ecosystem services can be replaced without significant difficulty or cost. High dependency refers to a higher degree of irreplaceability of the key element. Therefore, understanding and managing the dependence of stakeholders on ecosystem services is essential for achieving sustainable development and conservation goals.

**Access:** A stakeholder’s access to ecosystem services refers to their ability to benefit from the natural resources and services provided by ecosystems. If a stakeholder does not have access to these services, their livelihoods and well-being are at risk and they may face poverty, food insecurity and health problems.

**Rivalry:** The stakeholders’ rivalry in the ecosystem services refers to competition or conflict between individuals or stakeholders over access and use of these services. Rivalry can lead to overuse or depletion of resources, exacerbating environmental degradation and undermining the long-term availability of these services for the community or communities.

**Quality of the ecosystem services:** Physical, biological and ecological factors that enable the ecosystem to continue to provide the desired service, or for the species, to continue to be viable. (Example: no pollution, presence of juveniles, biodiverse, etc.).

**Quantity of the ecosystem services:** Amount, volume or size of the ecosystem services or the species (Example: surface of a forest, species population, volume of water stream, etc.).

**Threats:** Human activities or processes that have impacted, are impacting or may impact the OECM’s key element being assessed.

<p><b>Dependence:</b></p> <p>0. No dependence or Very low: Absence of this biodiversity or ecosystem service does not harm the stakeholder’s subsistence, income or cultural identity</p>	<p><b>Quality:</b></p> <p>-2 = Very poor -1 = Poor 0 = Fair +1 = Good +2 = Excellent</p>	<p><b>Access</b></p> <p>a. Limited access (existence of criteria or rules for use) b. No access c. Open access (no criteria or rules for use)</p>
<p>1. Low dependence: Absence of this biodiversity or ecosystem service brings some harm to the stakeholder’s subsistence, income or cultural identity</p> <p>2. Moderate dependence: Absence of this biodiversity or ecosystem service brings significant harm to the stakeholder’s subsistence, income or cultural identity</p> <p>3. High dependence: Absence of this biodiversity or ecosystem service puts in peril stakeholder’s subsistence, income or cultural identity</p>	<p><b>Quantity:</b></p> <p>-2 = Very poor -1 = Poor 0 = Fair +1 = Good +2 = Excellent</p>	<p><b>Threats analysis</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commercial and residential</li> <li>2. Agriculture and aquaculture</li> <li>3. Energy and mining</li> <li>4. Transport and infrastructure</li> <li>5. Extraction of biological resources</li> <li>6. Human disturbance / intrusion</li> <li>7. Changes in the natural system</li> <li>8. Invasive / challenging species</li> <li>9. Pollution</li> <li>10. Geological phenomena</li> <li>11. Climate change and effects</li> <li>12. Other pressures and threats</li> </ol>

<b>Stakeholder</b>		
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Provisioning</b>	<b>1. Nutrition</b>

The provision of ecosystem services - nutrition refers to the provision of food that is essential for human health and well-being. It is important to understand and manage the provision of food by maintaining the health of ecosystems through the conservation of soil and water, forests, biodiversity, etc.

**Criteria of ecosystem services provisioning – nutrition**

- Human food vegetal as grains, tubers, fruits, honey, mushrooms, seaweed, etc.
- Human food animal as wild/farmed meat, eggs, insects, fish/livestock feed (wild, farmed, bait), etc.
- Medicines (quinine against malaria, herbal supplements, aromatic oils, anti-venoms, etc.) and blue biotechnology (fish oil)

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>					<b>Provisioning</b>					<b>2. Provisioning-Water</b>				

The provision of ecosystem services - water includes the provision of clean water for drinking, human use and irrigation. Managing water supply involves protecting watersheds, wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems, promoting sustainable water use practices and reducing water pollution and degradation.

**Criteria of ecosystem services provisioning - water**

- **Water supply and quality for human use: consumption, sanitation, and hygiene.**
- **Water for irrigation for crops or other agricultural activities and for fish/livestock consumption**
- **Water storage which can be accessed during periods of drought or low water availability**

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>		
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Provisioning</b>	<b>3. Materials</b>

The provision of ecosystem services - materials include the provision of wood, fibres, and other materials that are used for construction, and manufacturing. Managing ecosystems involves promoting sustainable harvesting practices and exploring alternative materials and technologies.

**Criteria of ecosystem services provisioning – materials**

- Timber as high value timber; timber for local construction, stakes, stems, etc.
- Fibres from plants, such as cotton, flax, palms, kenaf, etc.
- Ornamental in general and aquarian resources (seeds, shells and fish collection),
- Minerals as gold, silver, copper, sand (building), etc.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>		
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Provisioning</b>	<b>4. Energy</b>

The provision of ecosystem services-energy includes the use of biomass, such as firewood or crop residues, and solar or wind energy and other energy needs as fertiliser helps to provide essential services such as cooking, heating, lighting and for agriculture productivity in rural communities that may lack access to modern energy sources. The sustainable management of natural systems, such as forests and agricultural land, is critical to ensure the availability of these services.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- **Biomass from plant materials such as wood, crop residues, and grasses that can be burned or converted into biofuels to produce energy.**
- **Biomass to convert in fertiliser**
- **Other green electricity sources: Flowing water, wind, solar or geothermal that can be harnessed to generate electricity.**

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Cultural</b>	<b>5. Aesthetic appreciation, recreation, and tourism</b>												

The provision of ecosystem services – cultural services refer to the benefits that natural systems provide for the enjoyment and well-being of people. These benefits can include opportunities for outdoor recreation, such as hiking, camping and wildlife viewing, as well as the aesthetic beauty of natural landscapes, such as mountains, forests and beaches. Ecosystem services for aesthetic appreciation, recreation, and tourism can contribute to local economies through the development of ecotourism and other nature-based industries. It is important to ensure the availability of these ecosystem services for future generations.

Examples of ecosystem services

- Ecotourism and nature watching: beautiful landscapes or seascapes, natural landscapes, biodiversity and wildlife that can be enjoyed for general recreation, camping, walking, hiking, boating, swimming, wildlife watching and other recreational activities.
- Cultural tourism which involves visiting historical sites, landmarks, and cultural attractions that are located within natural areas.
- Traditional hunting or fishing, conserved areas for specified traditional hunting or fishing practices

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		



<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Cultural</b>	<b>6. Intellectual interactions and performances</b>												

The provision of ecosystem services – cultural services refer to the benefits that natural systems provide for education, research, and artistic expression. These benefits can include opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and cultural activities that are inspired by or conducted in natural settings. These services can contribute to the development of human knowledge, cultural heritage, and creative expression, which are important for personal and societal well-being. Sustainable management of natural systems is essential to ensure the availability of these ecosystem services for future generations.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- Educational opportunities and scientific research in many disciplines, including ecology, botany, and zoology to understand scientific concepts and ecological processes.
- Traditional practices and ecological knowledge that are important part of the community's identity and heritage related to nature and the environment such as traditional pharmacopeia, medicines
- Inspiration and creativity for artists, writers, photographers and other creatives to develop new ideas and works.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Cultural</b>	<b>7. Spiritual and/or emblematic</b>												

The provision of ecosystem services – cultural services for spiritual and emblematic are those that provide cultural and symbolic value to human societies. Spiritual ecosystem services may include the aesthetic and emotional experiences that people derive from nature. Emblematic ecosystem services are those that are associated with a particular cultural identity or icon. These services are important for human well-being and cultural identity.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- Sacred, historical or religious sites and pilgrimage destinations such as mountains, rivers, or forests, etc.
- Cultural icons and symbols as animal or plant species as Lion (in Kenya which is a symbol of courage and strength), Elephants, Crested Crane (in Uganda a bird which represents the country's natural beauty and grace) or Baobab tree, etc.
- Landscapes that have spiritual or cultural significance for communal identity.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>										
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>8. Remediation of air and water pollutants</b>								

The provision of ecosystem services - remediation of air and water pollutants involves the protection of ecosystems to reduce pollution and degradation, and the purification of water and air through natural processes.

Criteria of how habitats provide those ecosystem services

- Wetlands are highly effective at removing pollutants from water, such as excess nutrients, heavy metals, and organic compounds.
- Forests can help to reduce air pollution by absorbing and filtering airborne pollutants and producing oxygen helping to mitigate climate change.
- Vegetation zones can help to filter and contribute to water purification, waste removal/neutralisation, waste regulation, etc.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>9. Erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility</b>												

The provision of ecosystem services – erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility refers to the protection of soil by the vegetation from the physical forces of wind and water, which can lead to the loss of topsoil and nutrients. Maintenance of soil fertility refers to the processes that maintain the nutrient content and structure of soil. These services are important for the sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and other land-based industries, and help to maintain the health and productivity of ecosystems.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- **Flood control:** wetlands act as natural sponges, rivers and streams provide channels for excess water, vegetation and forests help absorb rainfall and slow down water flow, floodplains absorb excess water during floods and storm protection
- **Erosion control:** vegetation help hold soil in place, their roots stabilize the soil, soil structure resist to the erosion, wetlands reduce erosion by controlling runoff and windbreaks or vegetation barriers adjacent to streams and rivers prevent erosion (coastal erosion, water erosion, wind erosion)
- **Drought control:** Soil health and vegetation cover play a crucial in drought control by regulating the water cycle, reducing water loss and maintaining water
- **Storm control:** Trees and help to reduce the impact of storms, natural barriers as mountains or islands can act as barriers to storms or absorbing some of the energy from waves, bodies of water help to moderate temperatures, which can reduce the severity of storms.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>10. Provisioning lands (agriculture, livestock, forests)</b>												

Ecosystem services of provisioning productivity for agriculture, livestock, and forests refer to the benefits that natural ecosystems provide to support the production and productivity of these systems. These services include the maintenance of soil fertility, nutrient cycling, water availability and regulation, and pest and disease control. These provisioning services are essential for sustaining the productivity of agricultural, livestock, and forestry systems while minimizing the use of synthetic inputs and preserving natural resources.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- **Soil formation, structure and fertility for growing crops, producing timber, raising livestock, etc.**
- **Water availability and regulation**
- **Pest and disease control**

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

<b>Stakeholder</b>														
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>11. Habitats for animals and plants</b>												

Ecosystem services of habitats for animals and plants refer to the benefits that natural ecosystems provide to support the survival and reproduction of wildlife species and plant communities. These services include the provision of suitable habitat for various species, such as food, shelter, and breeding sites. Protecting and conserving natural habitats is therefore essential for ensuring the long-term viability of wildlife species and plant communities, as well as for maintaining the many benefits that ecosystems provide to human societies.

**Criteria of ecosystem services**

- **Nursery and nesting habitats:** Ecosystems provide habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal species, including foraging areas and shelter from predators, such as bird nesting sites, spawning grounds in the sea, rivers and lakes, nursery habitats (e.g. corals, bees, etc.), etc.
- **Habitats for pollination:** Woodland and vegetation areas provide support for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds which provide an important ecosystem service for agriculture as they help plants to produce fruit, seeds and other reproductive structures.

Criteria	Specific element assessed	Illegal y-n	Dependence 0-1-2-3	Access a-b-c	Rivalry y-n	Quality					Quantity					Main threats	Note
						-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2		

**Key reference for further information**

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