

Reporting Effectiveness Data to Protected Planet

The Global Database on Protected Area Management
Effectiveness User Manual, Version 2.0



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Front cover: Guanaco in Torres del Paine National Park, Chile ©Joe Gosling

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List of acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GD-PAME	Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
IMET	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEPCA	Management Effectiveness of Protected and Conserved Areas (MPECA) Indicator
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MPA	Marine Protected Area
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure
PA	Protected Area
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
SAGE	Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity
UNEP-WCMC	UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WDPCA	World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas

Manual at a glance

The Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) collates data on effectiveness for the world's protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). It is hosted on the Protected Planet website, along with the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA) at www.protectedplanet.net.¹ Together, these databases play a central role in tracking progress towards global commitments, such as Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

This GD-PAME User Manual provides information on the GD-PAME and its history, and guidance on how the data are collected and managed.

The manual is designed to support data providers and users. It is structured into the following sections:

Section 1 Provides an overview of effectiveness assessment approaches and the role of the GD-PAME in gathering data.

Section 2 Describes the GD-PAME Data Standards that ensure the data are supplied in a common format that is globally interoperable and useable.

Section 3 Explains the process of submitting data to the GD-PAME, who can submit data and the benefits of doing so.

Section 4 Describes the terms and conditions of using the GD-PAME, including how it can be accessed and how it should be cited.



Important points to consider while using/reporting to the GD-PAME are marked with this icon throughout the manual.

It is recommended that all those interested in using the GD-PAME read this manual prior to using the data for any research purposes, or for analyses that will inform policy or decision making. For any queries regarding collation, use, or processing of the data, or any feedback regarding this manual, please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

¹ The WDPCA combines the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM), which existed as distinct databases until 2025.

Box 1: Changes to previous version (1.0) of the GD-PAME manual

This version (2.0) of the manual outlines several important changes to the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) since version 1 of the manual was published in 2017. The scope of the GD-PAME has evolved to collate data from a wider range of effectiveness assessment methods, including but not limited to protected area management effectiveness (PAME) tools (see Section 1.2 for an overview of methods). Effectiveness data for other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) can now also be reported to the database. To enable these changes, some field names have been added/amended. Users can continue to report data in the previous format but will now also have the opportunity to provide additional, more comprehensive data on the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas.

To reflect this evolution, the name of the database (GD-PAME) will be gradually phased out as part of a broader redevelopment of the Protected Planet databases, but the name is retained for this version of the manual. An updated version of this manual will be released once this transition is complete. Data already reported to the GD-PAME will not be affected by the changes outlined in this version of the manual, beyond some pieces of information being stored under new field headings.

1 Background

1.1 Defining ‘effectiveness’

There has been significant growth in the global protected and conserved area network over the past few decades (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2024).² However, this increase in coverage will only result in positive outcomes for biodiversity and people if it is accompanied by effective governance and management. This is recognized in Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which highlights the need to ensure that 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, are “effectively conserved and managed” and “equitably governed” within protected areas and OECMs by 2030 (CBD 2022a).

Effective protected areas and OECMs are well designed, managed and governed to successfully conserve biodiversity values. Importantly, they are also governed equitably and in ways that uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The effectiveness of networks of protected and conserved areas depends on a complex interplay of site-level factors (including the design and location of the protected area or OECM, and the quality of its governance and management) and system-level factors (including whether different protected areas and OECMs are well-connected and ecologically representative) (Rodrigues and Cazalis 2020). This can make assessments of effectiveness a challenging and contextual process (Rodrigues and Cazalis 2020). Nevertheless, assessments of effectiveness are vital for informing adaptive management and tracking progress towards site-level objectives as well as national and global targets.

1.2 Assessment approaches

There are a wide range of methods and approaches that managers of protected and conserved areas use for assessing effectiveness. These can be used to report data to the GD-PAME (please see section 2 for further details on the reporting process and Annex 1 for a list of methods currently reported to the GD-PAME).

Here we outline some common approaches, noting that these can be, and often are, adapted or used in combination. Most assessments that can be reported to the GD-PAME can be categorized into one of the four approaches outlined below, though some may span two or more approaches and other methods, including nationally or regionally developed/adapted methods, may also be used. Many managers of protected and conserved areas also directly monitor changes in biodiversity in other ways, in addition to or as an alternative to the methods below. The approaches used are diverse, depending on the biodiversity values and objectives of the site,³ and may include practices guided by traditional knowledge. While the approaches outlined in this manual have been extensively applied in the protected area context, their applicability to OECMs requires further testing. OECMs vary significantly in management approaches and

² The term ‘conserved area’ is used in this manual as a short-hand for other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM). The terms are used interchangeably.

³ Within this manual, ‘site’ refers to either a protected area or an OECM.

objectives and OECM governance authorities will need to assess which tools are appropriate to their context. Global guidance on OECMs suggests that protected area effectiveness assessment tools could also be used in OECMs, though they may require adaptation and need to be supplemented by additional information (Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024). Subsequent iterations of the GD-PAME manual will be updated as knowledge and tools for monitoring OECMs develop. It is recommended that site managers use the methods that are most appropriate to their national/local contexts and consult global guidance when considering different assessment options.⁴

1.2.1 PAME assessment tools

Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments have been a common approach to assessing effectiveness of protected areas at the site level since the 1990s. PAME is defined as “the assessment of how well protected areas are being managed – primarily the extent to which management is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives” (Hockings *et al.* 2006 p.xiii). Academics, non-government organizations and protected area agencies around the world have developed a range of methodologies to assess PAME at a site or system level (Leverington *et al.* 2008). Most of the methodologies are based on qualitative assessments involving staff and stakeholders, containing questions against which progress towards specific management objectives is scored. Many also include components assessed through quantitative data where it is available.

Most PAME tools are based on the IUCN WCPA framework for protected area management effectiveness (Hockings *et al.* 2006). The aim of the framework is to provide overall guidance to managers and encourage standards for PAME assessment and reporting. The WCPA framework includes six key elements: context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes. Examples of PAME methodologies, which are based around this framework, include: the [Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool](#) (METT) (Stolton *et al.* 2021), the [Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool](#) (IMET) and the [Enhancing our Heritage \(EoH\) Toolkit](#) (UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN 2023). Many countries have also developed adapted versions of PAME assessment tools to suit their national contexts.

While PAME tools primarily draw on qualitative information, there has been a move towards ensuring quantitative data are also integrated and there are tools available to facilitate this. The integration of [SMART \(Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool\)](#) and METT, for example, enables practitioners to gather data on a range of aspects (e.g. wildlife, signs of human activity, condition of natural features and patrol positions) which can provide supporting data for PAME assessments, thereby making them more robust.⁵ In addition, a number of approaches to assessing effectiveness have been developed which link to or draw on PAME assessments (see 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4).

⁴ See for example <https://www.30x30.solutions/effectively-conserved-and-managed/> IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines

⁵ See the [METT Handbook](#) (Stolton *et al.* 2021) for a more detailed description of the SMART approach and its integration with the METT.

1.2.2 Governance-focused assessment tools

Good governance, which includes equitable governance, is recognised as an essential component of effectiveness (CBD 2018). PAME methods have sometimes been found to inadequately assess the social impacts and quality of governance (including whether governance is equitable for local people) within protected and conserved areas. This has led to the emergence of tools specifically designed for this purpose, such as the Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE), Governance Assessment of Protected and Conserved Areas (GAPA) and Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA).⁶ These tools facilitate self-assessment of the social impacts and equity of conservation action and support the identification of weaknesses, opportunities and actions needed to improve the overall quality of governance (Franks 2023). There have also been efforts to enhance governance and social consideration in existing PAME tools, (e.g. integration of SAGE and METT within a hybrid tool called MaNGO (under development) and [Elinor](#). These developments aim to reinforce the link between governance and PAME assessments and ensure the results of assessments are fed back into management; thus governance becomes a central part of adaptive management.

1.2.3 IUCN Green List Standard

The [IUCN Green List Standard](#) provides a global benchmark for what should be assessed to understand progress towards effectiveness. It builds on many years of work in developing systems for assessing management effectiveness, and the recognition that the links between management inputs and processes and the achievement of conservation outcomes is not always sufficiently captured (Hockings *et al.* 2019). It consists of four core components: good governance, sound design and planning, effective management and successful conservation outcomes. The Standard is complemented by a list of protected and conserved areas certified by IUCN against the Standard. The Green List Self-assessment Tool (under development) will provide a means of operationalizing the criteria of the Green List Standard and supports the process of becoming Green Listed. However, the tool can also be used to measure and enhance effectiveness regardless of any intention for the site to be Green Listed. Other self-assessment tools (e.g. PAME and the governance assessment tools outlined above) also align with the Standard and can help to practically implement the Standard's criteria, though some align to the Standard more than others (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2022).

1.2.4 Related tools and approaches

Most assessment methods focus on evaluating the design, management and governance of the site, and/or collecting data on biodiversity values over time, to ascertain effectiveness. An alternative and complementary approach has been developed for the marine realm in the form of the [MPA Guide](#) (Gorud-Colvert *et al.* 2012; Oregon State University *et al.* 2023). Recognizing that evaluating outcomes in MPAs requires intensive efforts that may not be immediately accessible in some contexts, this tool provides a rapid-assessment approach that helps users to understand what outcomes can be *expected*, based on the degree to which the site is actively managed (Stage of Establishment) and the activities that are happening in the site (Level of Protection) provided key Enabling Conditions for design, governance and management effectiveness are met. An MPA Guide assessment is ideally followed by a further

⁶ For further information on these tools, see <https://www.iied.org/assessing-social-impacts-governance-equity-conservation-sapa-gapa-or-sage>

assessment using direct monitoring data to verify that the expected outcomes are actually being achieved (Oregon State University *et al.* 2023).⁷ A similar tool tailored towards OECMs is under development.

The Management Effectiveness of Protected and Conserved Areas (MEPCA) indicator provides another approach for assessing effectiveness based on responses to a series of metrics. Responses are multiplied against weightings to produce an overarching management effectiveness score with a focus on the achievement of conservation outcomes (Singleton *et al.* 2024a, Singleton *et al.* 2024b). MEPCA is capable of absorbing existing PAME assessments or using direct data to create the management effectiveness score (Singleton *et al.* 2024a, Singleton *et al.* 2024b).

Finally, while most effectiveness assessment approaches rely heavily on self-reported data, new and innovative remote sensing technologies can offer complementary insights into ecological condition as well as threats (Geldmann *et al.* 2021). In combination with on-the-ground data, remote sensing data have the potential to support monitoring of conservation outcomes by providing an additional, objective measure of change in ecological condition over time (Geldmann *et al.* 2021). The usefulness of this approach is limited to areas where management is focused on the condition of biodiversity values (or threats) that can be observed remotely.

1.3 Overview of the GD-PAME

The GD-PAME collates data on effectiveness assessments for protected and conserved areas. The GD-PAME is managed by UNEP-WCMC and compiled in collaboration with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organizations (referred to as data providers). It is updated monthly.

The primary purpose of the GD-PAME is to collate data relating to the effectiveness of the world's protected and conserved areas gathered using approaches such as those described above and listed in Annex 1. For data on a protected area or OECM to be included in the GD-PAME, the protected area or OECM must also have spatial and tabular data included in the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA).

Until 2024, the GD-PAME focussed exclusively on collating data on which protected areas reported to the World Database on Protected Areas had been assessed using PAME methods. This provides insights into the extent to which effectiveness is being assessed in the world's protected areas (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2024). As of 2025, the GD-PAME has been expanded to allow for more detailed reporting on effectiveness using a range of assessment tools, in protected areas as well as OECMs. In addition to storing information on the type of assessment that has been conducted, it also contains information relating to the assessment results. This expansion provides a pathway for the GD-PAME to provide high-level insights into the governance, design, management and outcomes of protected and conserved areas, which are essential components of Target 3 of the KMGBF. Please see Annex 2 for further details about the history of GD-PAME and the policy developments that informed changes to the database.

⁷ MPA Guide assessments are currently collated by [MPAtlas](#), and users can contribute to the platform. MPA Guide assessments can also inform reporting to the GD-PAME (see 2.1.5).

2 The GD-PAME Structure and Data Standards

The assessments held in the GD-PAME are linked to records within the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA). Both databases are made available online through Protected Planet (www.protectedplanet.net) where the data can be viewed and downloaded. For data to be added to the GD-PAME, the site must first be included in the WDPCA. For further information about how to report sites to the WDPCA, please refer to the [WDPCA User manual](#) (UNEP-WCMC 2019) or contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

The GD-PAME is stored as an SQL database comprising one main database table (including information about the site and the assessment), and a source table (including information on the data provider). Reporting to the GD-PAME involves data providers submitting information for mandatory and optional fields (described below). **Data providers should submit data for these fields using a data submission form, which is available upon request from protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.**

2.1 Data standards and reporting fields

Data reported to the GD-PAME must meet the GD-PAME data standards. These were first developed in 2016 and were reviewed and updated in 2025 to facilitate reporting and ensure consistency with information reported to the WDPCA. These Standards are important for ensuring that all information is supplied in a common format that is interoperable and useful for different reporting and analytical purposes. Box 2 summarizes the four key requirements that must be met for data to comply with the GD-PAME data standards. The following sections describe these requirements in further detail.

Box 2. Four requirements to meet the GD-PAME data standards

1. The GD-PAME Data Contributor Agreement must be signed
2. The protected area or OECM assessed must be included in the WDPCA (and therefore be assigned a unique identifier known as a Site ID - formerly known as WDPA ID)
3. Basic information relating to the effectiveness assessments must be provided
4. The original source of information must be provided

2.1.1 Data Contributor Agreement (mandatory)

Data contributors who provide effectiveness evaluations for inclusion in the GD-PAME are requested to sign the GD-PAME Data Contributor Agreement. This ensures that there is a written record of the agreement that the data will be included in the GD-PAME and the terms under which it will be made

available. The agreement specifically states how the data provided will be used and that redistribution or use of the data by third parties will be subject to the [Protected Planet Terms and Conditions](#).

The data contributor agreement also includes a clause to ensure that the data are being reported with the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, where relevant. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a fundamental right under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, emphasizing their authority to grant or withhold consent at any time for projects affecting their territories, in line with their universal right to self-determination. Data providers are encouraged to review relevant guidance to understand and implement effective FPIC processes during data collection and reporting.⁸



An effectiveness assessment will only be accepted if the GD-PAME Data Contributor Agreement is signed. A template of the agreement is available in Annex 3, or upon request from protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

2.1.2 SITE_ID (mandatory)

The GD-PAME and WDPCA share the same unique identifier, the SITE ID (formerly known as WDPAID),⁹ for individual protected areas and OECMs. The ID is generated by UNEP-WCMC when the site is submitted to the WDPCA. The ID is specific to a protected area or OECM in a specified geographical space; it does not change over time unless the designation for that protected area or OECM changes.¹⁰

2.1.3 Basic information (mandatory)

The GD-PAME stores eight data fields that collate basic information relating to the site and the assessment method. These are summarized below (Table 1). Data for six of these fields are assigned by UNEP-WCMC. These are marked in grey. The rest are supplied by the data provider.

⁸ For example, see guidance from [Forest Peoples Programme](#), [FAO](#) and [SIRGE Coalition](#).

⁹ The field historically named WDPAID was renamed SITE_ID from 2025.

¹⁰ It is important to note that different designations of protected areas and OECMs may occupy the same geographical space. In these cases, the two designations have different IDs, despite overlapping geographically. For example, Yellowstone National Park in the United States is a National Park, but it is also a natural World Heritage site. Each designation has a different ID. If overlapping designations have undergone separate effectiveness assessments, these assessments will be stored separately in the GD-PAME and connected to separate IDs. Assessments that apply to two or more overlapping designations will be connected to the IDs of both/ all designations in the GD-PAME.

Table 1 Description of, and permitted values for, basic site information stored in the GD-PAME. Data supplied by UNEP-WCMC are marked in grey.

Field name	Full name	Accepted values	Details
SITE_ID	Unique Protected Planet identification number	<i>Number (Double)</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC: The protected area or OECM must be included in the WDPCA, and therefore assigned a unique ID, before effectiveness data can be reported. The ID is generated by UNEP-WCMC when the site is submitted to the WDPCA and should be cited by the data provider when submitting data to GD-PAME.
SITE_PID	Unique identifier for parcels within a protected area or OECM	<i>Text (String)</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC: The Parcel ID is used when a protected area or OECM has more than one zone. All zones within a protected area or OECM will share the same SITE ID but will have a unique Parcel ID.
ASMT_ID	Unique assessment identification number	<i>Number (Long Integer) Up to 12 characters</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC: The Assessment ID is a unique identification number assigned to each new assessment to be integrated in the GD-PAME.
SITE_TYPE	Protected Area or OECM	<i>Text (string) Up to 4 characters = 'PA' or 'OECM'</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC: This attribute indicates whether the site has been reported as a protected area or as an OECM to the WDPCA.
METHOD	Assessment methodology	<i>Text (string) Up to 254 characters</i>	The name of the methodology that was used to assess the site. Assessment tools that assess the quality of management, governance and/or conservation outcomes are accepted.
ASMT_YEAR	Year of assessment	<i>Number (Long Integer) 4 characters</i>	The year in which the assessment was completed. If the assessment took place over several years, the year it was finalized should be reported.
VERIF_EFF	Verification	<i>Text (string) Up to 20 characters = 'State Verified' or 'Not Reported'</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC: State Verified (i.e. submitted or approved by the relevant national or subnational

Field name	Full name	Accepted values	Details
			government); Not Reported (i.e. submitted by a data provider other than the national or subnational government and not subsequently approved by them).
GL_STATUS	Green List Status	<i>Text (string)</i> <i>Up to 14 characters</i> <i>('Green Listed', 'Relisted', 'Candidate' or 'Not Applicable')</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC based on information provided by IUCN Secretariat. This field is used to indicate whether the site is currently a Green List Candidate or Green Listed site.

2.1.4 Source information (mandatory)

Recording accurate source information in the GD-PAME is important for ensuring transparency on where the data has originated and ensuring that ownership of the data is maintained and is traceable. Source information includes details on the data provider. This information is stored in the GD-PAME Source Table and linked to the GD-PAME by a Metadata ID. A data submission will only be accepted if the source information is provided. There are six source data fields described below – data providers must provide information for five of these fields.

Table 2 Description of, and permitted values for, the fields in the GD-PAME Source Table. Data supplied by UNEP-WCMC are marked in grey.

Field Name	Full name	Accepted values	Details and accepted values
DATA_TITLE	Dataset Title	<i>Text (string)</i> <i>254 characters</i>	The title of the dataset, e.g. 'PAME assessment of Japan's Protected Areas'
RESP_PARTY	Responsible Party	<i>Text (string)</i> <i>254 characters</i>	The organization, consultancy, national government, private company or other entity that claims ownership/authorship of the data or that is providing the data on behalf of the ownership/authorship entity.
RESP_EMAIL	Responsible Party Contact E-mail	<i>Text (string)</i> <i>254 characters</i>	The email address of the individual sending the data. This can also be a generic email address for the RESP_PARTY. This is for

			internal use only and will not be published online. ¹¹
YEAR	Year	<i>Number (Long integer)</i> <i>4 characters</i>	The year when the dataset was first submitted to the GD-PAME.
LANGUAGE	Dataset Language	<i>Text (string)</i> <i>254 characters</i>	Language(s) used within the dataset
EFF_METAID	Metadata ID	<i>Number (Long Integer)</i> <i>12 characters</i>	Assigned by UNEP-WCMC. The metadata ID is the number that links the mandatory and optional information reported to GD-PAME with the GD-PAME Source table.

2.1.5 Additional effectiveness data (optional)

Data providers are strongly encouraged to provide additional data to supplement the mandatory information outlined above. Providing this additional information supports more meaningful insights into progress towards effectively managed and conserved areas, in line with Target 3 of the KMGBF (see also Section 3.2). At the global level, tracking this aspect of Target 3 is only possible if data collected at the site level are reported to the GD-PAME. Doing so is important because it helps to ensure that attention is given to the quality of protected areas and OECMs and not just to their quantity or coverage. It also gives visibility to the efforts of the managers and governance authorities of protected areas and OECMs. Furthermore, it highlights where additional resources may be needed.

The GD-PAME is not intended to serve as a stand-alone assessment tool, but as a mechanism for collating high level information gathered through a range of tools applied at the national and site level. Data providers are encouraged to use the results from the assessments they have undertaken to report data on the optional data fields related to governance, design and planning, management and conservation

¹¹ Personal data related to the data provider are stored securely by UNEP-WCMC. The personal data collected are not shared publicly. Please see Protected Planet Terms and Conditions for further details.

outcomes.¹² Table 3 provides details for these data fields and guidance on how relevant questions/indicators from a *selection* of commonly used tools/frameworks can be used as a basis for providing this data. Referring to the parts of the assessments highlighted in this table should help data providers answer the questions in GD-PAME. However, this is intended as guidance only. Data providers can also refer to results from assessments not listed in this table, or different sections from the tools/frameworks listed, to answer the questions. For questions that are not assessed by the relevant tool or framework, data providers may answer based on their knowledge of the site or leave the field blank. Fields that are left blank are marked as “*Not Reported*” by UNEP-WCMC as the default.

As noted in Section 1.2, the applicability of the tools highlighted in this manual to OECMs will vary. In keeping with global guidance, the table below provides links to tools that are used in PAs and may also be relevant in the OECM context. The table also highlights supplemental OECM best practice guidance. Subsequent iterations of the GD-PAME manual will be updated with further guidance on monitoring OECMs as this is developed.



The GD-PAME is not intended to serve as a stand-alone assessment tool, but as a mechanism for collating high level information gathered through a range of tools applied at the national and site level. Therefore, answers submitted for the optional data fields in the GD-PAME should be informed by pre-existing assessments conducted at site level. For this reason, data providers are required to, at a minimum, report on which assessment methodology was used to inform the answers provided and when the assessment was conducted (see basic information related to the assessments outlined in Section 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, Tables 1-2). Data providers are strongly encouraged to provide the link to the assessment and/ or supporting information to add an additional layer of transparency (Table 3).

¹² These optional additional data fields were identified in collaboration with IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas, following a review of a range of tools and frameworks to identify key questions that feature in different effectiveness assessment approaches, align with global standards and are sufficiently high-level to not pose an unreasonable reporting burden.

Table 3 Optional data fields and examples of relevant guidance to support reporting

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
ASMT_URL	Effectiveness assessment hyperlink	Text (string) 254 characters	A link to the assessment results that enables them to be viewed and downloaded. Data providers can also supply the assessment results (e.g. in Word, PDF or Excel format) and ask UNEP-WCMC to create a link. Note: If the link changes, please contact UNEP-WCMC to update it.	Example 1: Completed METT4.2 assessment form (excel). Example 2: IMET analysis report (pdf)
INFO_URL	Supplementary information hyperlink	Text (string) 254 characters	A link to additional supplementary information, other than the assessment results, which provides information about the site's effectiveness. Data providers can also supply this information in e.g. Word, PDF or Excel format and ask UNEP-WCMC to create a link. Note: If the link changes, please contact UNEP-WCMC to update it.	Example 1: Management effectiveness evaluation of Finland's Protected Areas 2023 Example 2: Research published in a scientific journal

¹³ Please note that this column highlights a *selection* of tools that can provide a basis for reporting data to the GD-PAME– other tools may also be used as a basis for gathering the data for reporting. The tools outlined in this column have been extensively applied in the protected area context, but their applicability to OECMs requires further testing. Links to sections from IUCN WCPA best practice guidance for identifying, reporting, monitoring and strengthening OECMs are included as an additional resource.

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
GOV_ACT	To what extent are key actors involved in decision-making relating to the site?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A,B,C or D)</i></p> <p>A. Fully - Key actors are routinely involved in all relevant decision-making</p> <p>B. Partially - Key actors are routinely involved in some but not all relevant decision-making</p> <p>C. Minimally - Key actors are occasionally involved in relevant decision-making</p> <p>D. Not at all - Key actors are not involved in decision-making</p>	<p>Equitable governance depends on significant rightsholders and stakeholders ('<i>key actors</i>') being able to be involved in and thereby influence decisions that are important to them.¹⁴</p> <p>Not all actors will necessarily want or need to be involved in decision-making. This question asks about 'key' actors, meaning those who have a high or medium interest in the protected area or OECM and/or are likely to be positively or negatively affected by the PA or OECM's management (Franks 2023).</p> <p><i>Relevant decisions</i> are decisions that are of interest to the key actors and/or are likely to positively or negatively affect them (Franks 2023).</p> <p><i>Occasional involvement</i> is defined as ad hoc/irregular consultations on some issues.</p> <p>In rare cases, the governance authority may be the only key actor. In these cases, option A should be selected.</p>	<p>SAGE Full and effective participation of all relevant actors in decision-making</p> <p>METT4.2 Question 30: Are Indigenous people involved in management decisions? Question 31: Do local communities living in or near the protected area have input to management decisions?</p> <p>IMET PR10 Cooperation with stakeholders PR11 Appropriate benefits/assistance for local communities</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 4a: Assessment of roles and responsibilities of managers Worksheet 4b: Assessment of coordination and collaboration between managers Worksheet 4c: Assessment of rights-holders' engagement in management Worksheet 8a: Assessment of key management processes</p>

¹⁴ *Rightsholders* are actors "socially endowed with legal or customary rights with respect to land, water and natural resources" (Borrini-Feyerabend *et al.* 2013). *Stakeholders* "possess direct or indirect interests and concerns about those, but do not necessarily enjoy a legally or socially recognised entitlement to them" (Borrini-Feyerabend *et al.* 2013).

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				<p>Green List Standard 1.1</p> <p>1.1. Guarantee legitimacy and voice 1.1.4 Rights-holders and stakeholders are effectively involved in decision-making and the adaptive management of the site.</p> <p>MPA Guide</p> <p>Enabling conditions</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See section 5.3.6 <i>Applying Criterion 8: Equitable governance and management</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>
GOV_ASMT	Is governance of the site periodically assessed and is action being taken to advance effective and equitable governance?	<p>Text (string) 254 characters (A,B or C)</p> <p>A. Yes - Governance is periodically assessed and results are being used to improve governance</p> <p>B. Partially - Some ad hoc assessment of governance</p> <p>C. No - No assessment of governance has been carried out</p>	<p>Good governance is dependent on assessments (or equivalent processes) being carried out on a periodic basis (e.g. once every five years), with actions being taken in between assessments to address any gaps or weaknesses. This question asks both whether governance assessments are being conducted and whether their results are being used to improve governance.¹⁵</p>	<p>SAGE</p> <p>SAGE assessment (Phase 1: Preparation, Phase 2: Assessment) and implementation of action to improve governance (Phase 3)</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0</p> <p>Worksheet 4a: Assessment of roles and responsibilities of managers</p> <p>Worksheet 4b: Assessment of coordination and collaboration between managers</p> <p>Worksheet 4c: Assessment of rights-holders' engagement in management</p> <p>Worksheet 8a: Assessment of key management processes (Questions 1-5)</p>

¹⁵ Equitable governance is defined by three key dimensions according to [IUCN WCPA Guidance](#): **Recognition:** Acknowledgement and respect for a diversity of actors, as well as their rights, values and knowledge systems; **Procedure:** Inclusive, participatory and transparent decision-making and conflict resolution; **Distribution:** The equitable sharing of all costs and benefits.

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				<p>IMET</p> <p>C2 Supporting/complying factors arising from the external political, institutional and social environment</p> <p>PR10 Cooperation with the stakeholders</p> <p>PR11 Appropriate benefits/assistance for local communities</p> <p>O/C3 Effects of management on stakeholders' quality of life</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1</p> <p>1.3 Enable Governance Vitality and Capacity to Respond Adaptively.</p> <p>MPA Guide</p> <p>Enabling conditions</p> <p>Supplemental guidance for OECMs:</p> <p>See section 5.3.6 <i>Applying Criterion 8: Equitable governance and management</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
DP_BIO	<p>What types of biodiversity values have been identified for the site? (select all that apply)</p>	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters. Data providers can select all that apply separated by semi-colons (A;B;C;D;E;F)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Rare, threatened or endangered species and ecosystems B. Natural ecosystems that are under-represented in protected area networks C. High level of ecological integrity or intactness D. Significant populations/extent of endemic or range-restricted species or ecosystems E. Important species aggregations such as spawning, breeding or feeding areas F. Ecological connectivity 	<p>An important aspect of designing and planning for the management of a protected area or OECM is identifying its biodiversity values. These biodiversity values can then be monitored over time to track whether management interventions are having the intended effect.</p> <p>The CBD defines biodiversity as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.” (CBD 1992).</p> <p>The types of biodiversity values listed here reflect the lists in IUCN Guidance for Protected Areas and OECMs (IUCN and WCPA 2017; Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024).</p>	<p>METT4.2 Protected Area attributes</p> <p>IMET CTX1.1 Basic data CTX.4 Key elements</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 1a: Assessment of values and attributes</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 2.1 – Identify and understand major site values. <i>Indicator 2.1.4 The major natural values and associated ecosystem services and cultural values of the site are clearly identified and understood.</i></p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See section 5.3.2 <i>Applying Criterion 4: Important Biodiversity</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
DP_OTHER	Have other values and/or associated functions, services been identified?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A,B or C)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - Other values and/or associated functions and services have been identified</p> <p>B. Partially - Some other values, and/or associated functions and services have been identified</p> <p>C. No – No other values, and/or associated functions, services have been identified</p>	<p>Most protected areas and OECMs will have values beyond their biodiversity, and/or provide functions and services to local, and wider, human populations. These might include natural values, ecosystem functions and services, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values. Identifying these values and appropriately integrating them into a management plan (or equivalent) is an important aspect of design and planning.</p> <p>Natural values might include: ecological processes, landscape and connectivity values, geological and geomorphological features, paleontological values, scenic values and outstanding natural beauty (IUCN and WCPA 2017; Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024).</p> <p>Ecosystem services might include: provisioning services such as the provision of food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as the delivery of recreational, spiritual, religious and other nonmaterial benefits (IUCN and WCPA 2017; Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024).</p>	<p>METT4.2 Protected Area attributes</p> <p>IMET CTX.4 Key elements CTX.6 Climate change CTX. 7 Ecosystem services</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 1a: Assessment of values and attributes</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 2.1 – Identify and understand major site values. <i>Indicator 2.1.4 The major natural values and associated ecosystem services and cultural values of the site are clearly identified and understood.</i></p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See <i>Section 2.5 – OECMs and other values</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
			<p>Cultural and spiritual values might include: recreational, religious, aesthetic, historical and social values related to tangible and intangible benefits that nature and natural features have for people, with a particular focus on those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g. traditional management practices on which key species or whole ecosystems have become reliant, or the societal support for conservation of landscapes for their quality in artistic expression or beauty) and intangible heritage, including cultural and spiritual practices (IUCN and WCPA 2017; Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024).</p>	

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
MGMT_OBSET	Have management objectives been set for the identified values?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B, C or D)</i></p> <p>A. Yes (biodiversity and other) – objectives set for some/all biodiversity and other values, functions and/or services</p> <p>B. Yes (biodiversity) – objectives set for some/all of the biodiversity values</p> <p>C. Yes (other) – objectives set for some/all other values, function and/or services</p> <p>D. No - Objectives have not been set for any values</p>	<p>This question asks data providers to report whether objectives have been identified for the values listed in DP_BIO and DP_OTHER.</p> <p>According to global definitions and guidance, OECMs are not required to be governed and managed with the objective of biodiversity conservation while protected areas are, by definition, managed with the objective of biodiversity conservation (Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024). Regardless, agreeing on clear management objectives, based on a good understanding of the natural values and associated ecosystem service and cultural values of the site, and other appropriate social, cultural and economic goals and objectives, is good practice for effective area-based conservation.</p>	<p>METT4.2 Protected Area Attributes – List the two most important protected area management objectives</p> <p>IMET P6 Objectives of the protected area</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 1b: Assessment of management objectives</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 3.1 Develop and implement a long-term management strategy <i>3.1.1 The site has a current management plan or functional equivalent which includes: a) the goals and objectives for management of the natural values and social and / or economic objectives (where relevant) [...]</i></p> <p>MPA Guide Enabling conditions; Stage of Establishment</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See <i>Section 2.4 – Management objectives for OECMs</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
MGMT_OBMAN	Is management undertaken according to the site's objectives?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B, C or D)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - The site is managed to achieve its objectives</p> <p>B. Partially - The site is partially managed to achieve its objectives</p> <p>C. No - The site is not managed to achieve its objectives</p> <p>D. Not applicable (no objectives set)</p>	<p>This question asks data providers to consider whether management activities are carried out in accordance with defined objectives (as identified in MGMT_OBSET).</p> <p>In OECMs where biodiversity conservation is a secondary or ancillary objective, management activities may not be focused on conserving the biodiversity values described in DP_BIO. Instead, they might be focused on the values described in DP_OTHER or on other values. Regardless of its objectives, an OECM is defined by its ability to conserve its identified biodiversity values as a result of its management. This question asks data providers to consider whether management activities are carried out in accordance with defined objectives, regardless of whether those objectives relate to biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Note: 'Management actions' can include a decision to leave the site untouched (Jonas, Wood and Woodley 2024; Dudley 2008). For protected areas or OECMs where this decision has been taken, data providers should select option A or B rather than option C or D.</p>	<p>METT4.2</p> <p>Question 2 – Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?</p> <p>IMET</p> <p>P4 Management plan (Adequacy of the objectives to the needs of conservation)</p> <p>P5 Working plan (Adequacy of the activities and results in relation to the objectives of the management plan)</p> <p>P6 Objectives of the protected area</p> <p>PR7 Managing the key values and threats of the PA with specific actions</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0</p> <p>Worksheet 1b: Assessment of management objectives</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1</p> <p>3.1 Develop and implement a long-term management strategy</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.2 The site can demonstrate that management activities and policies, and/or legislation and regulations are being implemented and are consistent with the management plan (or equivalent).</i></p> <p>MEPCA</p> <p>d) Are management measures implemented for the area to achieve its objectives for conservation?</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				<p>MPA Guide: Level of Protection; Stage of Establishment; Enabling conditions</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See <i>Section 2.4 – Management objectives for OECMs</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines and <i>Section 5.3.4 Applying Criterion 6: In situ conservation</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>
MGMT_ADAPT	Are management actions regularly monitored, evaluated and adapted?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B, C, or D)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - Monitoring and evaluation system is in place and results are regularly used to adapt and improve management actions</p> <p>B. Partially - Monitoring and evaluation system is in place but results do not feed back into management</p> <p>C. Minimally - Some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation of management actions</p> <p>D. No – No monitoring/evaluation of management actions</p>	<p>Management effectiveness depends on adapting management actions when needed to ensure they are supporting the achievement of the PA's or OECM's objectives. This is possible only when management actions are monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>This question focuses on the extent to which <i>management actions</i> are being monitored, evaluated and adapted. This could include, for example processes to manage visitors or conducting patrols.</p> <p>The monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity values (e.g. the status of endangered species or other values identified in DP_BIO) is covered in MGMT_MON.</p>	<p>METT4.2 Question 20 Are management activities regularly monitored, evaluated and adapted?</p> <p>IMET PR15 Monitoring systems for natural and cultural resources O/P1 Activities implementation of the work/action plan</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheets 9a: Assessment of implementation of planning Worksheet 9b: Assessment of implementation approaches Worksheet 10: Assessment of outputs</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 1.3 Enable governance vitality and capacity to respond adaptively</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				<p>Indicator 1.3.1 - <i>Procedures are in place to ensure that results from monitoring, evaluation and consultation are used to inform management and planning processes including the establishment of goals and objectives</i></p> <p>MPA Guide Enabling conditions; Stage of Establishment</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See Section 7 – <i>Monitoring OECMs</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>
MGMT_STAFF	Are there enough people to manage the site to achieve its objectives?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B or C)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - Adequate to meet all objectives</p> <p>B. Partially - Adequate to meet some objectives</p> <p>C. No - Inadequate to meet objectives</p>	This question captures information relating to staffing capacity which is key to successful management of protected areas and OECMs.	<p>METT4.2 Question 10 – Are there enough people to manage the PA?</p> <p>IMET I2 Current Staffing</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 7a: Assessment of human capacity</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 3.1 Develop and implement a long-term management strategy</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.4 The site has adequate numbers of appropriately trained staff, led by an effective management team, to implement all aspects of its management plan in the long term</i></p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				<p>MPA Guide Enabling conditions</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See section 8.3 <i>Enhancing management and monitoring of OECMs</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>
MGMT_BUDGT	Is the current budget sufficient to manage the site to meet its objectives?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B or C)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - Sufficient to meet all objectives</p> <p>B. Partially - Sufficient to meet some objectives</p> <p>C. No - Insufficient to meet objectives</p>	This question captures information relating to resourcing which is key to successful management of protected areas and OECMs.	<p>METT4.2 Question 12 – Is the current budget sufficient?</p> <p>IMET I3 Current budget</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 7b: Assessment of financial resources</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1 3.1 Develop and implement a long-term management strategy</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.6 Financial constraints are not threatening the capacity of management to achieve the site's objectives</i></p> <p>MPA Guide Enabling conditions</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See section 8.5 <i>Increasing financial support for OECMs</i> in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
MGMT_THRTS	Are the threats to the main values of the site being addressed?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B, C or D)</i></p> <p>A. Yes – Threats are being comprehensively addressed by management</p> <p>B. Mostly - Most of the significant threats are being addressed by management</p> <p>C. Minimally - Management of threats is only being conducted at a minimal level</p> <p>D. No - Threats are not being addressed by management</p>	<p>Protected Areas and OECMs should deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity, which requires measures to address existing or anticipated threats to biodiversity values.</p> <p>A threat assessment will identify the threats that are important for the biodiversity values – guidance on assessing threats and management responses to these threats is provided in existing assessment tools and frameworks (See for example IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines and Conservation Standards).</p>	<p>METT4.2</p> <p>33 – Are the threats to the main values of the protected area being effectively addressed?</p> <p>IMET</p> <p>CTX5.1 Threats</p> <p>C3 Threats</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0</p> <p>Worksheet 2: Analysis of factors affecting the property</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1</p> <p>3.4 Manage threats</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.4.1 The site management is implementing a work programme that identifies effective responses to each of the major threats to (a) major site values identified under Criterion 2.3 or (b) the achievement of the site's goals and objectives including long term and 'external' threats</i></p> <p>MPA Guide</p> <p>Level of Protection</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs:</p> <p>See section 5.3.4 <i>Applying Criterion 6: In situ conservation</i> IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
MGMT_MON	Are biodiversity values monitored over time?	<p><i>Text (string) 254 characters (A, B or C)</i></p> <p>A. Yes - Monitoring and evaluation system in place and results are regularly used to adapt and improve management actions</p> <p>B. Partially - Some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>C. No - No monitoring/evaluation</p>	<p>Effective conservation depends on understanding the status of biodiversity values and how this is changing over time. This is essential to ensuring that management actions can be adapted in response to shortfalls in meeting objectives or in response to change, including emerging biodiversity trends and threats.</p> <p>This question asks whether biodiversity values (as defined in Question DP_BIO) are being monitored. In both protected areas and OECMs, monitoring of biodiversity values is essential to determine whether the site is achieving conservation outcomes (Question OUT_BIO).</p> <p>The choice of monitoring system will vary in different contexts and might include or combine formal scientific approaches, Indigenous or traditional knowledge, citizen science, and information from resource managers, as appropriate. As outlined in good practice guidelines, traditional knowledge and expert opinion should also be used, in addition to scientific knowledge where relevant (Jonas, Wood and Woodley, 2024).</p>	<p>METT4.2</p> <p>9 - Resource Inventory 19 - Research 35A-C Additional points – Condition of natural values</p> <p>IMET</p> <p>PR15 Systems for monitoring natural and cultural resources</p> <p>Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0</p> <p>Worksheet 11: Assessment of monitoring programme of the state of conservation</p> <p>Green List Standard 1.1</p> <p>3.7 Measure Success <i>Indicator 3.7.1 For each of the major site values identified [...] a monitoring system is in place and a set of performance measures has been defined and documented, which provides an objective basis for determining whether the associated value is being successfully protected.</i></p> <p>MEPCA</p> <p>e) Does monitoring take place which helps to assess progress towards achieving conservation outcomes?</p> <p>MPA Guide</p> <p>Enabling conditions; Stage of Establishment</p> <p>Supplemental Guidance for OECMs:</p>

Field Name	Full Name	Accepted values	Details	Relevant sections from a selection of effectiveness assessment tools, frameworks & guidance ¹³
				See Section 5.3.4 <i>Applying Criterion 6: In situ conservation</i> and Section 7 – <i>Monitoring OECMs</i> , in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines
OUT_BIO	Have biodiversity values improved or been maintained since the last assessment?	Text (string) 254 characters (A, B, C or D) A. Substantially B. Partially C. No D. Unknown E. Not applicable (first assessment)	Protected Areas and OECMs should maintain or enhance biodiversity values, and, depending on context, associated cultural values and ecosystem functions/ services. While the previous question (MGMT_MON) asks whether monitoring is taking place, this question focuses on whether that monitoring has shown that biodiversity values have been maintained or enhanced.	METT4.2 35. Condition of natural values 37. Condition of indicator species 38. Condition of habitats IMET O/C1 Achievement of long-term conservation objectives of the management O/C2 Conditions and trends of the key conservation elements of the protected area Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 Worksheet 11: Assessment of monitoring programme of the state of conservation Green List Standard 1.1 4.1 Demonstrate conservation of major natural values MEPCA f) Is the area achieving its conservation outcomes? Supplemental Guidance for OECMs: See Section 5.3.4 <i>Applying Criterion 6: In situ conservation</i> and Section 7 – <i>Monitoring OECMs</i> , in IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guidelines

3 Submitting data to the GD-PAME

This section describes the different types of data providers, explains the frequency of data updates and describes the process for submitting and reviewing the data to be included in the GD-PAME.

3.1 Who can submit data?

A wide range of data providers, from governments to individuals, contribute to the GD-PAME. Anyone can provide data provided that they have the consent of the protected area or OECM's governance authority (and confirm this by signing a data contributor agreement). Please see 3.5.2 for an overview of how data are verified.

All data are provided by the entity with the intellectual property (IP) rights to the data. These rights are not conferred to UNEP-WCMC, IUCN or any third-party user of the GD-PAME. All IP rights-holders are protected by the GD-PAME terms of use (section 4.2). There are currently four main data provider types for the GD-PAME:

1. **Governments:** These include national and sub-national governments that manage data and information on protected areas and/or OECMs. Submissions from governments may include data on protected areas and OECMs under their own governance and/or under other governance types.
2. **International convention and agreement secretariats:** Secretariats of international conventions and agreements such as the Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention and UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Submissions from these data providers are limited to data on protected areas or OECMs designated under the relevant convention or agreement.
3. **Regional entities:** These include organizations that manage data and information on regional protected area networks, such as the European Environment Agency which manages Europe's Natura 2000 database. Regional entities can report data on behalf of their Parties or Member States where they have a mandate to do so.
4. **NGOs and other entities or individuals:** This category includes the range of other data providers that govern protected areas or OECMs. This can include NGOs, individual landowners, for-profit organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities reporting data on protected areas or OECMs under their own governance, or areas they govern in collaboration with other actors. Entities in this category can also provide data on assessments they have helped to conduct in areas they do not govern (for example, an NGO may provide data on an assessment for a government-governed protected area if it has facilitated that assessment). Such data should be submitted with the consent of the governance authority (confirmed within the Data Contributor Agreement). If the data relates to a government-governed area, the data provider is encouraged to submit the data in collaboration with (or via) the national government so that the data can be marked 'State Verified'.

3.2 Benefits of submitting data

The two key benefits of submitting data to the GD-PAME are:

1. Tracking global progress towards conservation targets: The Protected Planet databases provide the headline indicator for Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF): “coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”. CBD Parties and other governments report data to Protected Planet, and this arrangement is underpinned by multiple CBD CoP decisions.¹⁶

Guidance in the KMGBF monitoring framework recommends the disaggregation (i.e. breakdown) of this headline indicator “by level of effectiveness” to provide additional insights into the qualitative aspects of Target 3.¹⁷ The GD-PAME can be used as the basis for calculating this disaggregation if data on effectiveness are reported as per 2.1.5. At the global level, tracking this aspect of Target 3 is thus only possible if data collected at the site level is reported to the GD-PAME. Doing so is important because it helps to ensure that attention is given to the quality of protected areas and OECMs and not just to quantity or coverage. It also provides visibility to the efforts of protected area and OECM governance authorities and highlights where additional resources may be needed.

For national governments, reporting to the GD-PAME alongside the WDPCA means that their country’s efforts to comprehensively implement Target 3 can be showcased. It also means that UNEP-WCMC can calculate indicators that Parties to the CBD can optionally use in their national reports, thereby reducing the reporting burden. This all contributes to enhancing our collective understanding of how well protected and conserved areas are doing at conserving biodiversity at local, national and global scales and where more focussed attention may be needed.

2. Supporting collation of national level data: At the national level, data on the effectiveness of protected areas and OECMs might be managed by different institutions and/or governmental agencies, including community groups and private organizations, or held only by the governance authorities of individual protected areas and OECMs. The GD-PAME brings information from these multiple sources together, enabling national governments to have a clearer picture of effectiveness across protected areas and OECMs, including where there are challenges or where additional resources may be needed. It also offers a data-management option for countries that do not have a system for managing this information. Governments can access their data on request by contacting protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org or accessing the Protected Planet website (www.protectedplanet.net).

¹⁶ Please see <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/resources/decisions-of-the-convention-on-biological-diversity-relevant-to-the-wdpa> for a list of relevant COP decisions.

¹⁷ Metadata for Target 3 Headline Indicator available here: <https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/3-1>

3.3 Data submission process

The process by which a data provider submits effectiveness evaluations to the GD-PAME varies depending on whether the protected area or OECM in question is already listed in the WDPCA. The WDPCA stores spatial data and basic descriptive data on a protected area or OECM, which is needed to contextualise data in the GD-PAME.

3.3.1 If the protected area or OECM is already in the WDPCA

The data provider can submit their effectiveness data, provided the GD-PAME standards are met. For more information on the GD-PAME standards, see section 2.1. The assessments and related mandatory information (see Section 2.1), along with any optional information the data provider wishes to include, should be sent to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

3.3.2 If the protected area or OECM is not already reported in the WDPCA

The protected area or OECM will need to be reported to the WDPCA before the effectiveness data can be submitted. If it has not yet been reported, the data provider should contact UNEP-WCMC and provide the protected area/ OECM boundary and related information for integration in the WDPCA. Once the site has been added to the WDPCA, the effectiveness data can be added to the GD-PAME. For more information on how to submit a site to the WDPCA, refer to the [WDPA and WDOECM User Manual](#) (UNEP-WCMC 2019) or contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.

3.4 Frequency of data submissions

Data providers are encouraged to submit new data whenever it becomes available, which will often be after a new assessment has been conducted. They are also welcome to provide historic data at any point.

3.5 Data collation and formatting

3.5.1 Interactions with data provider

This phase involves UNEP-WCMC liaising with the data provider to obtain data (for both the WDPCA and the GD-PAME) or finalise a submitted dataset. The duration of this phase depends on the support needs of the data provider. UNEP-WCMC maintains long term contact with data providers and keeps records of their details through Data Contributor Agreements and source information, as explained in Section 2. Personal data related to the data provider are stored securely on-site at UNEP-WCMC. The personal data collected are not shared publicly. Please see [Protected Planet Terms and Conditions](#) for further details.

3.5.2 Quality checking and verification

UNEP-WCMC performs a series of quality checks and reformatting to ensure the data meet the GD-PAME data standards (See Section 4). UNEP-WCMC will not edit the data without the permission of the data provider, except for editorial reasons such as correcting spelling errors.

As outlined in 2.1.3, the GD-PAME 'Verification' (VERIF) field currently allows two values 'State Verified' applies to data submitted or approved by the relevant national government. 'Not Reported' applies to data submitted by a data provider other than the national government and not subsequently approved by the national government.

This approach differs slightly to that used for the WDPCA, for which data must usually be State Verified before they can be added to the databases. The difference reflects the fact that data on effectiveness are often held at site level, or by NGOs working across multiple sites, rather than in centralized government databases.

UNEP-WCMC does not independently validate the data or answers submitted to the GD-PAME.



The GD-PAME is not intended to serve as a stand-alone assessment tool, but as a mechanism for collating high level information gathered through a range of tools applied at the national and site level. Therefore, answers submitted for the optional data fields in the GD-PAME should be informed by pre-existing assessments conducted at site level. For this reason, data providers are required to, at a minimum, report on which assessment methodology was used to inform the answers provided and when the assessment was conducted (see 2.1.3). Data providers are strongly encouraged to provide the link to the assessment and/ or supporting information to add an additional layer of transparency (see 2.1.5). Third party validation conducted as part of the IUCN Green List Certification process is noted in the Green List Status data field. Acknowledgement of other third-party certification processes may be incorporated in the database schema in the future.

The Protected Planet team appreciates being contacted where users note that data are missing or contain errors. In these situations, the team will reach out to the data provider and/or national government to ask if the data need updating.

3.5.3 Integrating assessments into the GD-PAME

Once the information submitted along with the effectiveness assessment has been formatted and conforms to the GD-PAME Data Standards, it is integrated into the GD-PAME by UNEP-WCMC.

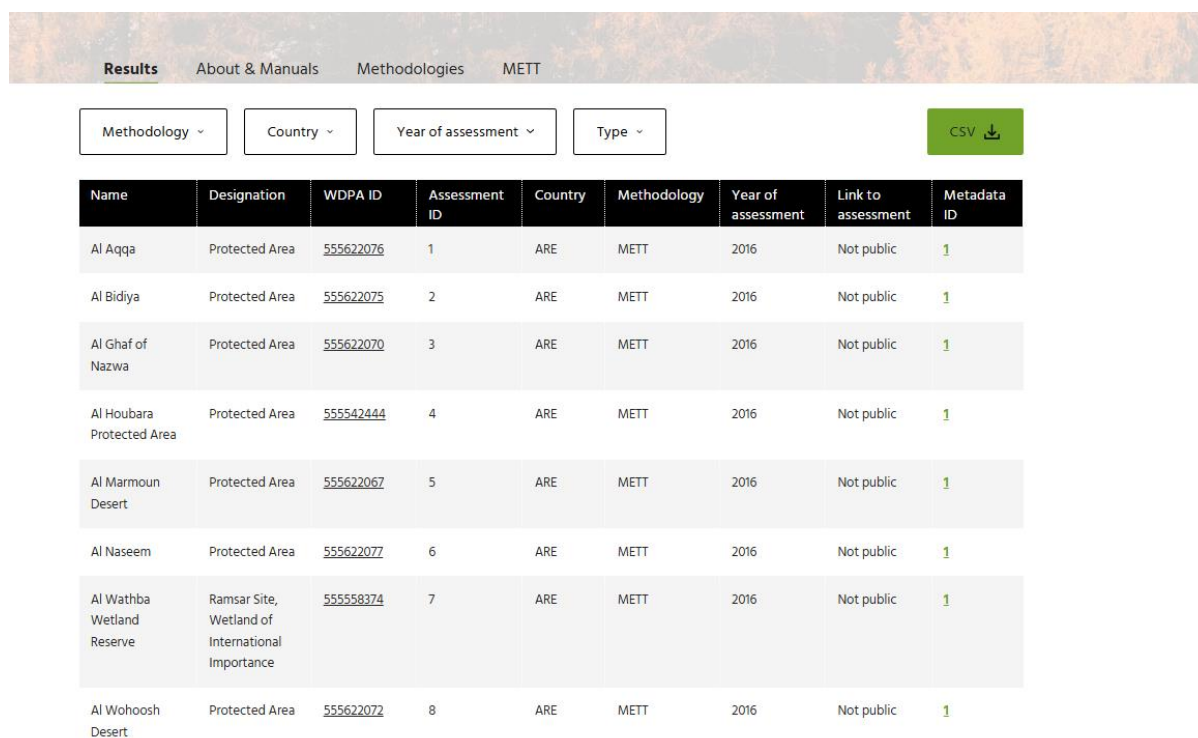
The GD-PAME is updated monthly on the Protected Planet website at national and global levels, with plans for a more frequent update cycle under development. Each release is accompanied by a [dedicated webpage](#) listing the countries and territories that have been updated, and the number of records added, removed or updated in the databases.

4 Using the GD-PAME

This section provides guidance on how to access, cite and use the GD-PAME.

4.1 Accessing the data

The data stored in the GD-PAME is made available through the [Protected Planet website](#), where it can be viewed, filtered (by country, year of assessment, and marine/terrestrial) and downloaded as a .csv file. Where raw assessments have been reported, links to these are also provided. For support, please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org.



Name	Designation	WDPA ID	Assessment ID	Country	Methodology	Year of assessment	Link to assessment	Metadata ID
Al Aqqa	Protected Area	555622076	1	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Bidiya	Protected Area	555622075	2	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Ghaf of Nazwa	Protected Area	555622070	3	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Houbara Protected Area	Protected Area	555542444	4	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Marmoun Desert	Protected Area	555622067	5	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Naseem	Protected Area	555622077	6	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Wathba Wetland Reserve	Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance	555558374	7	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1
Al Wochoosh Desert	Protected Area	555622072	8	ARE	METT	2016	Not public	1

Figure 1 Effectiveness data can be viewed and downloaded via the Protected Planet website.

4.2 Terms of Use

The use of the GD-PAME data is subject to Terms and Conditions which are available online at <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/legal>.

4.3 Citing the GD-PAME

Authors of any analyses using GD-PAME data are encouraged to share these with UNEP-WCMC (protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org). This allows the GD-PAME team to track use of the dataset and identify any issues highlighted in analyses.

The following citation should always be clearly reproduced in any publication, presentation or analysis involving the GD-PAME:

UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (year), Protected Planet: The Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) [On-line], [insert month/year of the version downloaded]. Cambridge: UNEP-WCMC. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net.

UNEP-WCMC also produces national and global statistics that can be accessed at protectedplanet.net. The correct citation for the GD-PAME online statistics is:

UNEP-WCMC (year), Protected Planet: The Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) statistics. Cambridge: UNEP- WCMC. Accessed on: [insert day/month/year when the webpage was accessed].

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Annex 1: List of assessment methods currently reported to the GD-PAME

This list is complete as of June 2025. Readers should note that this list is biased towards PAME methods due to the historical focus of the GD-PAME on collating these types of assessments. Some of the methods listed here may no longer be in use but are retained in the database as a record. While some of these methods may be applicable to the OECM context, at the time of publication, no effectiveness assessment records for OECMs have been reported.

Method name
Advanced Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (Advanced METT)
Africa Rainforest Study
Análisis de Efectividad del Manejo de Áreas Protegidas con Participación Social (AEMAPPS)
Association of Southeast Asian Nations Management Effectiveness Evaluation (ASEAN MEE)
Belize Management Effectiveness Evaluation (Belize MEE)
Bhutan Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (Bhutan METT+)
Biosphere Reserve Effectiveness of Management Index (BREMi)
BirdLife Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Monitoring (BirdLife IBA)
Carpathian Countries Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CCPAMETT)
Catalonia Management Effectiveness Evaluation (Catalonia MEE)
Combination of Methods (PAME and METT)
Common Standards Monitoring
Conservation International Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CI Tracking Tool)
Contrat d'Objectifs French National Parks
Ecological Evaluation Score Cards
Ecological Integrity Monitoring
Efectividad del Manejo de Áreas Protegidas (EMAP)
Enhancing Our Heritage
EUROPARC Quality Criteria and Standards for National Parks
European Diploma
European Site Consolidation Scorecard (European SCS)
Evaluacion de la Eficiencia de Manejo del Parque Nacional Galápagos (Galapagos MEE)
Governance of Biodiversity Research Project (GOBI Survey)
How is Your Marine Protected Area Doing? (MPA MEE)
Indicadores para el Monitoreo y Evaluación del Manejo de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas del Ecuador (Ecuador MEE)
Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET)
IUCN Green List Standard
Korea State of Parks Management Effectiveness Evaluation
Madagascar Protected Area System (SAPM) evaluation
Malta Management Effectiveness Evaluation
Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT)
Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool South Africa (METT-SA)
Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool-Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Area Management (METT-RAPPAM)
Management Efficiency Index (IEG)
Marine Tracking Tool (WWF-World Bank Marine Protected Area score card)
Metodología de Evaluación de Efectividad de Manejo (MEMS) del SNAP de Bolivia
Mexico System for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Protected Areas Management (i-effectiveness)
Modified Threat Reduction Assessment (MTRA)
National Inventory
National PAME Assessment
Natura 2000 National Monitoring
New South Wales State of Parks (NSW SOP)
PA Consolidation Index (Índice de Consolidación de Áreas Protegidas)
PAME Headline Indicators
Parks and Wildlife Northern Territory Management Effectiveness (NTMEE)
Parks Canada
Parks in Peril Site Consolidation Scorecards
Parks profiles
Protected Area Network (PAN) Parks Europe
Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (PAMETT)
Proyecto Ambiental Regional de Centroamérica / Central America Protected Area System (PROARCA/CAPAS)
Queensland Rapid Assessment
Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM)
Saint Lucia Management Effectiveness Tool (SLUMET)
SINAD
Sistema de Avaliação de Ações de Gestão em Áreas de Conservação (SAMGe)
Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC)
Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE)
Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)
Stockholm Biosphere Reserve Survey
Switzerland Management Effectiveness Evaluation - Annual Report
Système de Gestion de Bases de Données/ Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SGBD/SMART)
Tasmanian World Heritage Management Effectiveness Evaluation
Tracking Tool for GEF-7
United States of America State of Parks (USA SOP)
Valdiviana Ecoregion Argentina methodology
Venezuela Vision
Victoria State of Parks (Victoria SOP)
West Indian Ocean Marine Protected Area Toolkit
Wetland tracking tool
World Heritage Outlook Report

Annex 2: History and future direction of the GD-PAME

1. 2014 - 2022

The GD-PAME began as a research database at the University of Queensland and UNEP-WCMC, under a programme jointly funded by WWF and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). It then became a joint project between the UNEP-WCMC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). From 2014 onwards, it has been managed by UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with governments and other data providers.

The original version of the GD-PAME contained many interlinked tables that stored a wide range of information, including details of the methodologies used, and results of the assessments. Based on a review of over 2,000 questions from more than 40 methodologies, 36 headline indicators were developed. Each indicator was characterized as a score on a scale from 0 to 1. The scores between 0 and 1 reflected a continuum from no management up to perfect management (Leverington *et al.* 2010). A 'common reporting format' was created to allow the cross analysis of PAME information from a wide range of different assessment methodologies. The integration of the assessments' information in the GD-PAME was done through a two-step translation process:

Step 1 – Similar questions from different methodologies were combined into single 'advanced attributes' in the GD-PAME (common reporting format).

Step 2 – The scores assigned to the original questions were translated, based on predefined translation rules, to the standardized 0-1 scale. The new scores were entered into the GD-PAME against the relevant 'advanced attribute'.

In 2016, the schema of the GD-PAME was simplified from 77 fields to seven fields. This change was made because an influx of methodologies meant that the challenge of translating assessments to the common reporting format became unmanageable. The process was also open to subjectivity as extensive consultation was required to ensure the translation of new methodologies was carried out in a manner consistent with the original translation. The simplified database became the main source of data for reporting on the effectiveness of protected areas at the global level for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (see [Protected Planet Report series](#)).

2. 2022 - 2025

In 2022, CBD Parties adopted a new set of goals and targets to guide action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was agreed, encompassing four overarching goals and 23 targets, including Target 3 on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Countries also adopted a package of decisions to implement the KMGBF, including the decision on planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

In the margins of these developments, UNEP-WCMC hosted a workshop series to discuss future approaches to tracking effectiveness. Three key points were highlighted throughout these discussions:

- *Simplicity*: It is important to build on existing, well-established methods for assessing effectiveness and limit the reporting burden on data providers;
- *Inclusiveness*: Data providers should have different options for reporting available based on their level of capacity, availability of information and the level of detail they are willing/able to share;
- *Multi-dimensionality*: The reporting system should capture progress towards different 'dimensions' of effectiveness including the quality of management as well as equitable governance and achievement of outcomes for biodiversity.

UNEP-WCMC is committed to drawing on these principles to develop a way of tracking effectiveness in the context of Target 3 and a draft methodology was shared with the CBD's ad-hoc technical expert group on indicators¹⁸.

In February 2025, at the resumed session of CBD COP16, Parties to the CBD agreed on a set of indicators for tracking progress towards the goals and targets of the KMGBF, including Target 3. The draft methodology for disaggregating coverage by effectiveness (i.e. calculating area covered by effective PAs and OECMs) is included in the metadata for the Target 3 headline indicator.¹⁹

The expansion of the GD-PAME and revised the GD-PAME manual presents the first step towards implementing the methodology outlined in the Target 3 metadata relating to effectiveness. This approach, and planned future directions (see below), build on lessons learned from previous versions of the database. It strikes a balance between the detailed pre-2016 score-based database schema, which proved untenable in the long-term and the high-level, and the simplified schema, which did not collate enough information to meaningfully track progress towards Target 3.

3. Future Directions

UNEP-WCMC is committed to ensuring that the GD-PAME is fit-for-purpose and can provide meaningful data on effectiveness. The expansion of the GD-PAME to include additional data fields (see 2.1.5) provides a pathway for GD-PAME to provide high-level insights in into the governance, design, management and outcomes of protected and conserved areas which are vital for understanding progress towards Target 3 of the KMGBF. Monitoring OECM effectiveness remains a challenge, both because national authorities are still identifying potential OECMs, and because appropriate methodologies and metrics for their long-term effectiveness are not yet well defined. As outlined in 2.1.5, the expanded GD-PAME provides a basis

¹⁸ The Ad-hoc Technical Group on Indicators is a group of experts convened by the CBD to provide technical advice and guidance on developing and refining the KMGBF monitoring framework.

¹⁹ CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1, Revised guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ea34/8414/8c5e6797d291af15f33d6e40/cop-16-inf-03-rev1-en.pdf>

for collating effectiveness data for protected areas and OECMs drawing on best practice global guidance. As more OECMs are recognized and reported, and more guidance on monitoring OECMs is developed and applied, the GD-PAME manual and databases will also be updated.

Future work is likely to focus on identifying ways to simplify reporting processes through e.g. developing an automated translation tool (for translation of results obtained using different methodologies) for the optional fields in the GD-PAME; developing a user portal; and gathering additional data (e.g. from remote sensing) to supplement information on biodiversity outcomes.

Annex 3: Data contributor agreement for the GD-PAME

This document is a template (up to date as of September 2025). The most up to date data contributor agreement (DCA) template is available on the [Protected Planet website](#).

Organisation/agency letterhead

Data Contributor Agreement – GD-PAME

*[Insert Name of Organization
Address
Telephone Number
Email Address]*

On behalf of *[insert organization/agency name]*, I/we the undersigned are providing the following dataset to UNEP-WCMC for integration into the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME): *[insert name of dataset]*. The dataset includes information on effectiveness of protected and conserved areas relating to *[insert name of country/region/state etc.]* Dataset description (including, for example, information on the: site assessment methodology, number of assessments, data format etc.):

GD-PAME is part of the Protected Planet Initiative, which is made up of aggregated datasets containing the best available data on protected and conserved areas from many sources. It is a joint product of the UN Environment Programme and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC. The data are used for multiple conservation purposes, as well as providing support to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations relating to environmental sustainability and reporting on progress towards internationally-agreed environmental targets.

All data submitted to UNEP-WCMC, with the exception of personal data, are being provided ‘free of restrictions’. We, the undersigned, agree and understand that by providing these data for inclusion in the GD-PAME, they will be viewable and downloadable in accordance with the Protected Planet Terms and Conditions (<https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/terms-conditions>) through websites operated by UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, utilised for analyses, and re-distributed to third parties for use on other platforms.

I/We confirm that I/we have the rights, permissions and authority to release this dataset to UNEP-WCMC.

The data provider has the permission of the governance authority/ies of the protected area/s and/or OECM/s, as well as that of relevant stakeholders and rights-holders, to share the dataset with UNEP-WCMC. Where relevant, the data provider shares the dataset with UNEP-WCMC with the free, prior and informed consent of communities and/or Indigenous Peoples involved in the management, governance or ownership of the sites described in the dataset. The data provider has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of the dataset.

If the dataset is found to have been provided without the permission of the relevant stakeholders and rights-holders, it will be removed from the GD-PAME with immediate effect.

UNEP-WCMC will recognise and respect the intellectual property rights of the data provider and will maintain proper attribution to the **Organization/Agency** named above, and source information on the data as provided to UNEP-WCMC.

UNEP-WCMC will retain information on the name and contact details of the data provider (personal data) for the purposes of future correspondence, including queries relating to the data, and requests for updated data. UNEP-WCMC will not share personal data with third parties. UNEP-WCMC's privacy policy (<https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/terms-conditions>) outlines in more detail how it implements relevant data protection legislation.

The designations of geographical entities in any dataset submitted to UNEP-WCMC or used by UNEP-WCMC do not imply the expression of any view or opinion whatsoever on the part of UNEP-WCMC or the data provider concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

I/we hereby give permission to UNEP-WCMC for the integration of these data into the GD-PAME.

Signature

Title and name

Date