

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

High Ambition Coalition (HAC) Virtual Fair 2026

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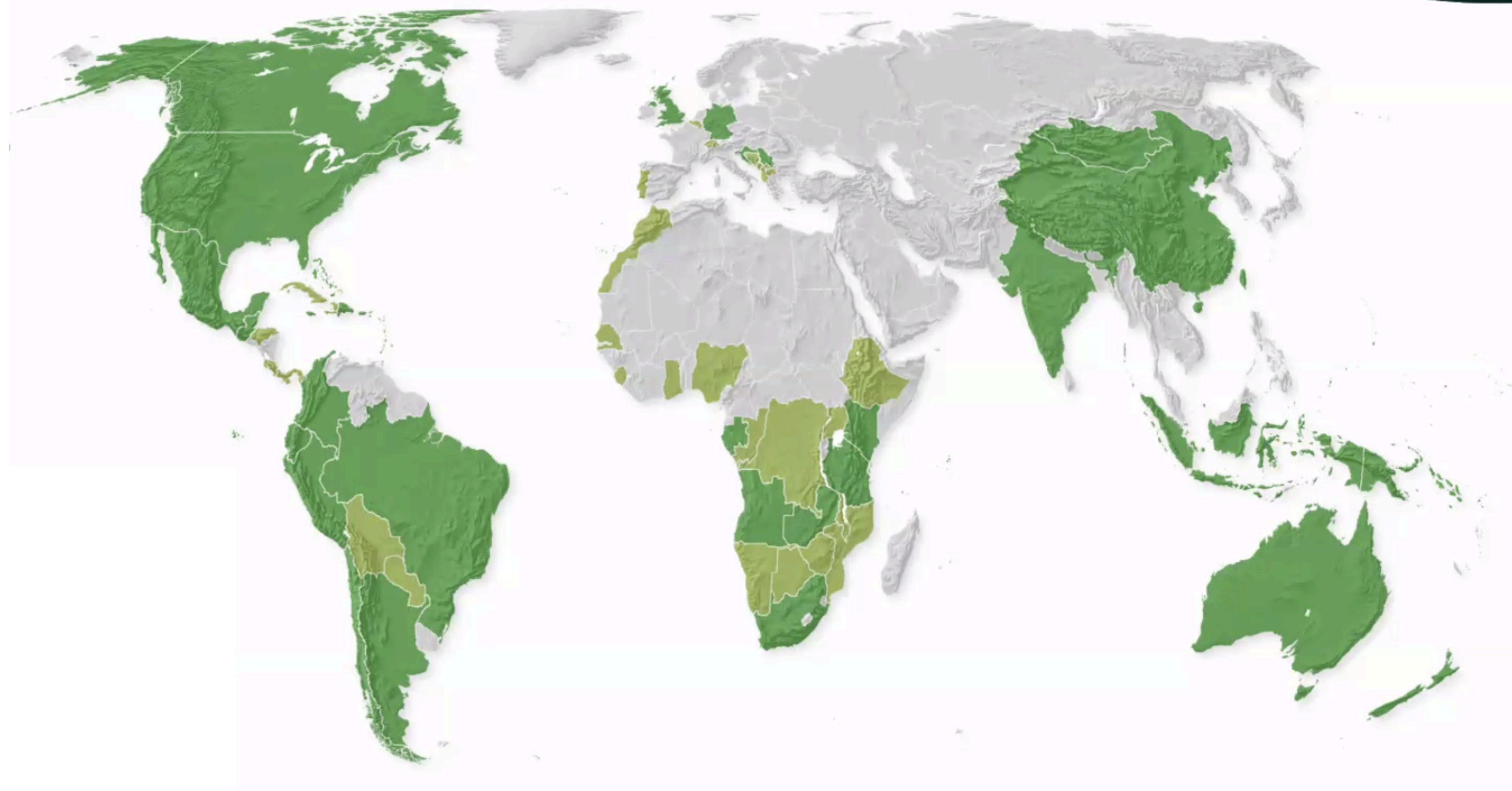
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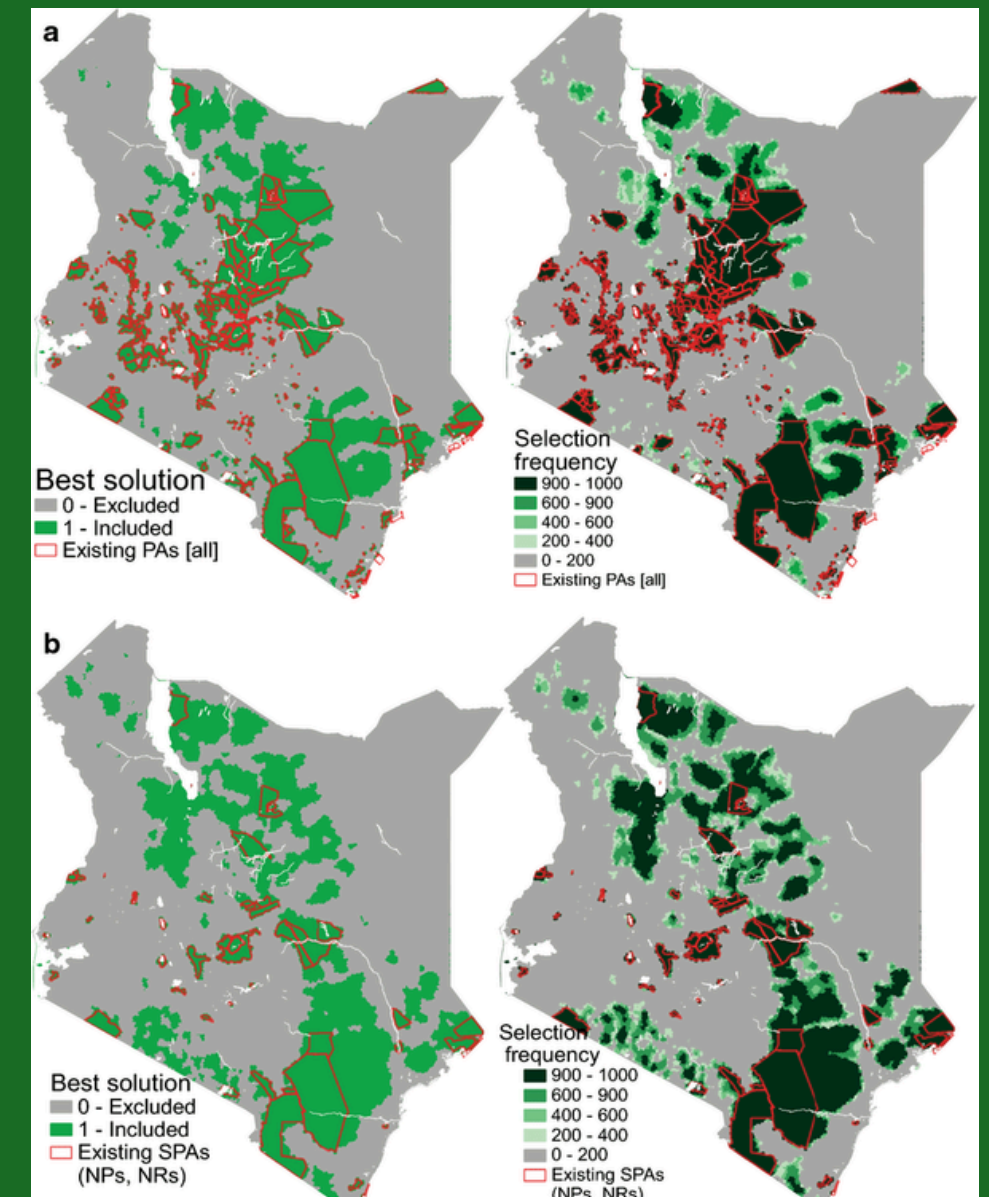
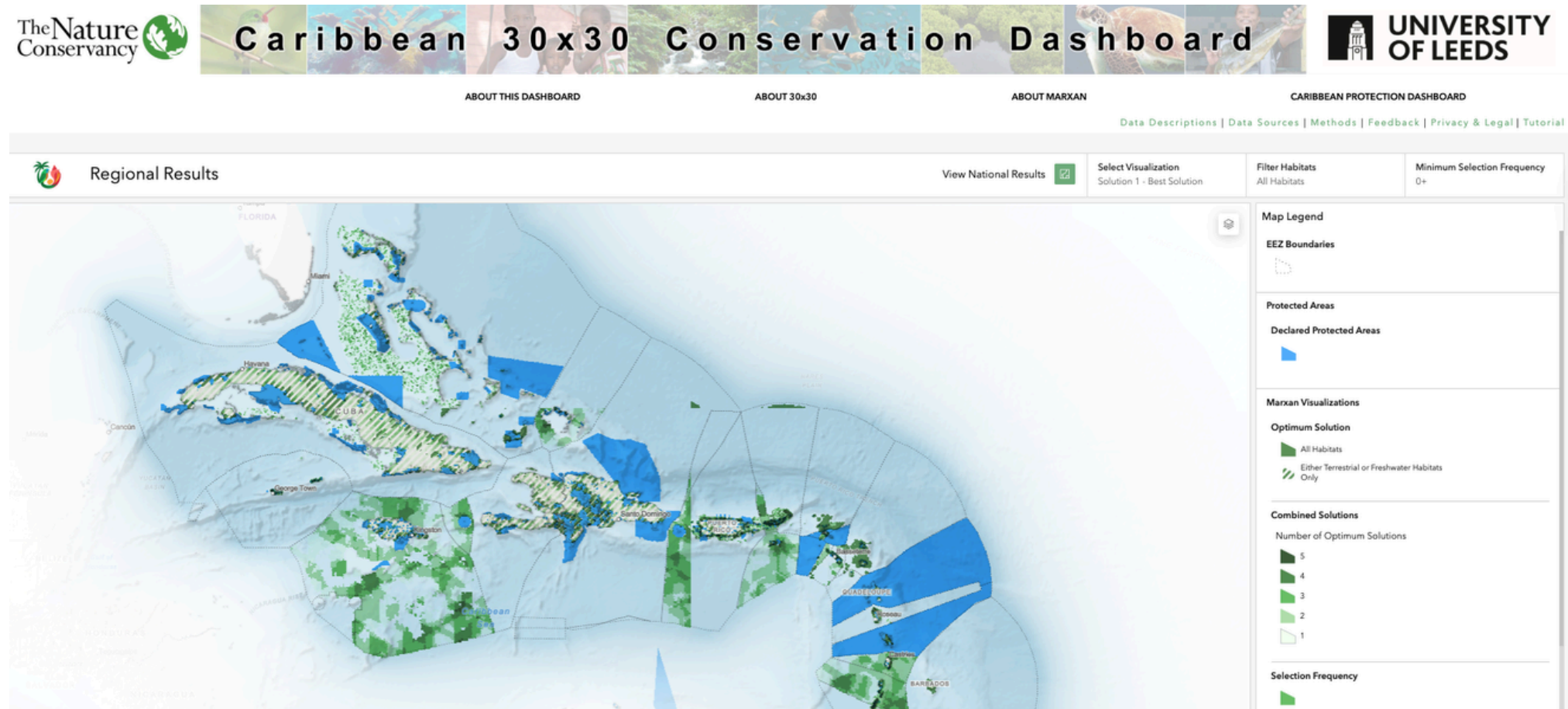
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Where Does TNC Work?



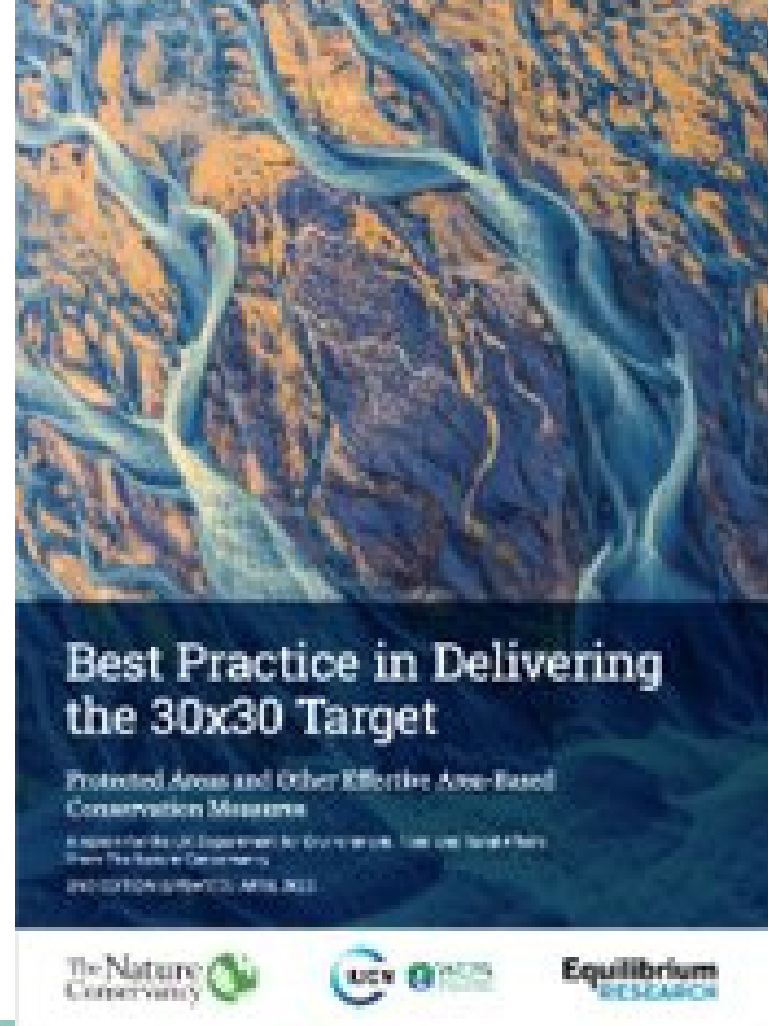
Scientific Expertise

- (co-)develop spatial and socio-economic analysis to identify areas important for biodiversity for conservation and protection
- Launched Regional Caribbean 30x30 Dashboard



Knowledge Building

- Develop knowledge products
- Internal OECM Learning network to steward staff knowledge and communication with government and partners
- In partnership with the HAC-Sec and WCPA, co-developed and support the running of the 30x30.solutions web portal, enhancing OECM resource availability

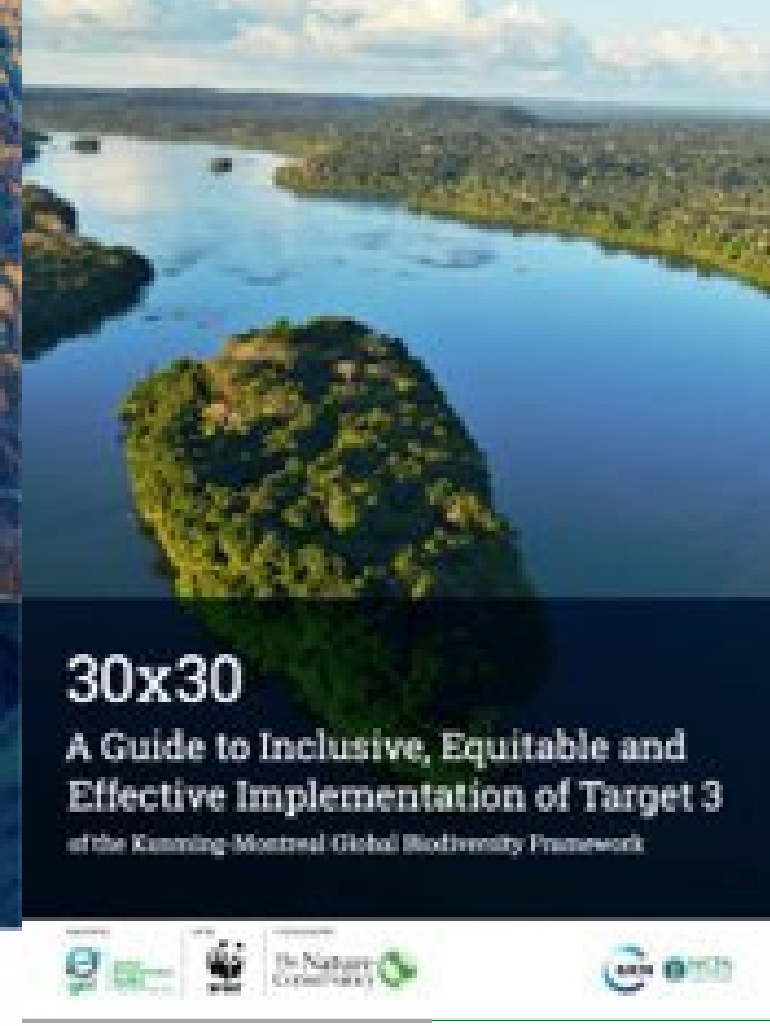


Best Practice in Delivering the 30x30 Target

Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

A report for the UK Government by Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, WCPA, Equilibrium Research, and others.

Prepared for the UK Government by Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, WCPA, Equilibrium Research, and others.



30x30

A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable and Effective Implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Prepared for the UK Government by Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, WCPA, Equilibrium Research, and others.



Common misconceptions of 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) and implications for global conservation targets

James A. Fitzsimons, Carolina Hazin & Joanna L. Smith

The commitment to protect 30% of the Earth's terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas by 2030 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has seen growing attention paid to 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) to help achieve this target. However, there are a number of misconceptions of OECMs that commonly arise. We explore these misconceptions to aid in ensuring that OECMs are employed to meet their full potential.

In 2022, nations committed to achieving a global target of protecting at least 30% of the Earth's terrestrial and inland water areas and coastal and marine areas by 2030, as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 3 – the '30 x 30 protection target'). This ambitious commitment has seen rapidly growing attention to 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) as an additional means to protected areas to achieve the target. The OECM term was introduced into the Convention's lexicon in 2010, but only formally defined in 2018, with IUCN guidance published the following year. There has been increased encouragement from the academic and conservation communities to use OECMs to contribute to global conservation targets. Compared to the extensive literature on protected areas, consideration of OECMs has been sparse; only a few papers have explored this at national and global levels. In our experience at the interface between science and policy – where we actively work with national and subnational governments, non-government organisations, Indigenous groups and organisations, and other stakeholders on aspects of area-based conservation – there is excitement about the potential for OECMs to contribute to national and global biodiversity conservation targets. However, there are also common misconceptions of OECMs that frequently arise. Considering the importance of the 30 x 30 protection target for biodiversity conservation and the fast-approaching 2030 timeline, we outline some of these misconceptions below to aid in ensuring that OECMs are employed to meet their full potential.

Common misconceptions of 'other effective area-based conservation measures'

Misconception 1. "If it is not a protected area on public land it must be an OECM". The CBD and IUCN have recognized protected areas across a

range of land and water governance and/or tenure types for many years. This includes Privately Protected Areas, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) and Indigenous Protected Areas, among other cases, shared arrangements. Some countries have applied and recognized protected area categories that are suited to private, Indigenous or community land and waters to achieve conservation targets. However, others have not done this and have assumed that any area-based conservation measure that is different from the 'conventional' protected areas (land protected through legal means) must therefore be an OECM. An OECM is dedicated and managed for conservation, through legal or other means, and meets other criteria for a protected area, countries should use it as such, even if requiring a new category, rather than an OECM consent is provided from the site's governance authorities).

Misconception 2. "OECMs do not need to be long-term". A misconception that OECMs can be applied to area-based conservation measures for a finite term (e.g. 25 years) or with no guarantee (or proof of the likelihood of longevity). OECMs were envisaged as long-term conservation measures for the landscape or seascape components that would expire. The CBD defined OECMs as "governed and managed in ways that achieve protected long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity. Likewise, by definition, protected areas should be established with the intention to manage and protect these areas in the long-term".

Misconception 3. "OECMs are quicker and easier to implement than protected areas". A process to designate protected areas can take years and even decades. There is a misconception that OECMs are much quicker and easier to recognize (or create) and implement than protected areas. The CBD stated they be "... governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for conservation of biodiversity...". Achieving positive and sustained biodiversity outcomes is more stringent than the definition for protected areas, which emphasizes the designation and management "... dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for conservation of biodiversity...". This is appropriate, as OECMs are still a relatively new concept, incorporating a range of different governance and management arrangements whose main purpose is primarily nature conservation. Unlike protected areas where there are broad categories (e.g. national parks, reserves, monuments) and specific quality criteria, for OECMs each potential site needs to be assessed to determine whether it meets the CBD definition and the IUCN guidance for an OECM, which can be done with the

Technical Note

Defining 'long-term' for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

July 2024

Prepared by James Fitzsimons (The Nature Conservancy; Deakin University; University of Tasmania), Sue Stolton (Equilibrium Research; IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas), Nigel Dudley (Equilibrium Research; IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas), and Brent Mitchell (IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas; Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment)

Summary

The concept of 'long-term' is a key part of the definitions of both protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Here we outline existing global guidance on the interpretation of 'long-term' for area-based conservation and clarify aspects that may have led to misinterpretation. As national governments rapidly seek to define OECMs in response to the raised ambitions of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), there will be increasing interest in what counts towards Target 3 of the GBF. Ultimately, more land managed for conservation is good and all forms of area-based conservation should be encouraged. However, not all forms of area-based conservation qualify for inclusion in Target 3. Long-term intent and outcomes are fundamental, as outlined in the definitions of protected areas and OECMs.

Existing guidance on 'long-term' for protected areas and OECMs

The concept of 'long-term' is a key part of the definitions of both protected areas (Dudley, 2008) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (CBD, 2018; IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs, 2019). All protected areas reported to the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) need to meet the definition of a protected area and associated principles agreed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The definition is: "A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" (Dudley, 2008). The IUCN guidance defines every phrase within this definition. The definition of 'long-term' is: "Protected areas should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy." This means areas that have temporary measures, such as short-term grant-funded agricultural set-asides, rotations in commercial forest management, or temporary fishing protection zones are not protected areas as recognised by IUCN.



Designing and managing protected and conserved areas to support inland water ecosystems and biodiversity

Prepared for the UK Government by Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, WCPA, Equilibrium Research, and others.



Article

Understanding the Role and Challenges for Indigenous and Community-Governed Lands in Contributing to Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework

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Abstract

Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework commits nations to protecting and conserving at least 30% of the world's terrestrial and inland water areas and coastal and marine areas by 2030 (30 x 30). There can be significant overlap with Indigenous and traditional territories (ITTs) and protected areas. We explore if and/or how ITTs are currently recognized and reported as contributors to national protection targets by analyzing whether these territories are counted as standalone conservation areas, integrated into government-led protected and conserved area networks or systems, or neither, in 18 countries. Our analysis reveals critical linkages between tenure regimes, ITTs and their recognition in reporting to global area-based conservation databases. Legal recognition of tenure rights, particularly ownership and stewardship rights, emerged as the strongest predictor of whether ITTs are formally being accounted for in these databases. Our findings also reveal that the contribution of ITTs to national protection targets not only depend on tenure type but also on governance rights, despite the way it is reported. We categorize systemic barriers and opportunities that have implications for the contribution of ITTs to 30 x 30 goals.

Keywords: target 3; 30 x 30; indigenous peoples and local communities; indigenous an

National Framework Building & Analysis

- Legal and policy OECM analysis
- National support and advice
- Support development of legal and/or regulatory national OECM frameworks
- ‘Translate’ application of the CBD & IUCN-WCPA – OECM definition, criteria and guide on screening, recognition of OECMs at national level, considering national circumstances
- Current work in assisting 3 governments in OECM site assessments using the IUCN WCPA Site Assessment Tool

National Dialogues

- (co) Host national and/or regional multi-stakeholder national dialogues



Leadership & Engagement in Global Expert Groups

- Co-chair the IUCN-WCPA OECM Specialist Group and provides coordination for group operations
- Co-Chair, IUCN-WCPA Privately Protected Areas Specialist Group
- Member of the community of practice on marine OECMs
- Member of the IUCN-WCPA- Specialist group on Freshwater conservation
- Expert at the CBD EBSA Informal Advisory Group

Nature & Finance Links

- Partners with governments, civil society and businesses to expand the opportunities for nature finance
- Nature bonds are debt instruments that mobilize private capital to finance large-scale conservation and restoration outcomes, while maintaining financial returns for investors
- Project Finance for Permanence (PfP) is a long-term financing model that secures sustained funding, political commitments, and governance arrangements to achieve lasting protection and management of critical ecosystems.

PRESS RELEASES

The Government of Mongolia and The Nature Conservancy secure 'Eternal Mongolia', a Pathway to Achieve the Nation's Climate and Biodiversity Goals

Eternal Mongolia will ensure the community-based conservation of vast natural areas including the planet's last intact temperate grassland.

April 20, 2024 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PERSPECTIVES

World's First Nature Bonds Project Reaches Final Step in Seychelles

The small island nation, located east of mainland Africa, has secured a future of marine conservation, climate adaptation and a healthy blue economy.

June 27, 2025

