



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) Guidance

#### **Projects:**

1. Trilateral Cooperation (Germany, China, Zambia, Namibia): Fair and effective protected area management for sustainable development – working together towards global standards
2. Guiding national and regional contributions to the new Global Biodiversity Framework through effective systems of protected and conserved areas in the Republic of Korea and partner countries in Asia

#### **A. Background information**

The **IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas** is the first global standard for effective area-based conservation. The standard has an associated certification programme for protected and conserved areas that are well managed and fairly governed. It was recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2016 as an important voluntary measure for countries to adopt, bringing independent verification of the conservation performance of their protected and conserved areas estate.

In 2018, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted Decision 14/8, which contains a definition of an '**other effective area-based conservation measure** (OECM, paragraph 2) and criteria for identifying OECMs (Annex III). In 2019, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) published guidelines for Recognising and reporting OECMs. Since then, the IUCN WCPA OECM Specialist Group has been developing a site-level methodology for identifying OECMs.

As the IUCN Green List Standard applies to 'conserved areas' and includes the definition of OECMs, it is important that there is alignment between the IUCN Standard and the new IUCN OECMs methodology, as well as with other associated governance and management effectiveness assessment methodologies and tools. Further, one of the aims of the IUCN Green List Standard is to provide a pathway towards the recognition and support of diverse areas that achieve effective area-based conservation.

#### **B. Projects**

As a concrete and pilot application, IUCN is currently implementing a **Trilateral Cooperation Project** with the support of Germany and China, which aims at improving the quality of protected and conserved area management and governance in Zambia and Namibia through the implementation of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. IUCN's intervention in the Trilateral Cooperation project has the following objectives, among others:

- Scope the feasibility of the IUCN Green List pathway as an avenue towards appropriate recognition of conserved areas/OECMs
- Scope the diverse avenues of recognition options for conserved areas/OECMs
- Test the application of the Green List Standard process in candidate OECMs drawing out recommendations for its feasibility and benefits/risks.



Another IUCN's initiative for alignment between the IUCN Standard and the new IUCN OECMs methodology, is the **framework partnership project supported by the Republic of Korea** to further develop an effective system of protected and conserved areas, including OECM, for the Republic of Korea, report verified 'effectiveness' and area contributions to the CBD, and share lessons and approaches with partner countries in Asia. One of the expected results is to develop and publish a guidance document for 'effectiveness' and OECMs that fully aligns the CBD Decision on OECMs, and describes the relationship to the Green List Standard and benchmarking to its components and criteria.

For the realization of this mission, IUCN wishes to contract an international consultant. During the execution of the mission, the appointed consultant will work under the supervision of IUCN, which will provide expertise on all aspects related to the Green List Standard.

### **C. Objectives**

The main objective of the consultancy is to facilitate OECM's engagement in the Green List by understanding how the OECM assessment process and IUCN Green List process may be better aligned, and where opportunities exist to leveraged the Green List process to support OECMs. There may be several benefits for streamlining the OECM and IUCN Green List processes, and these together with challenges, will give valuable insights for supporting OECMs in diverse, appropriate ways.

The specific objectives are:

- To understand and improve the align of the OECM assessment process with the Green List pathway in order to facilitate seamless transitional assessment processes for OECMs to undertake the pathway of the IUCN Green List
- To develop guidance on how OECM assessments and associated means of verification for sites could be used to inform their Green List assessment and pathway and to test it in at least 5 pilot OECM areas, in close engagement with local actors and partners
- To look at opportunities to review and verify OECMs assessments through the Green List process
- To assess the enabling conditions and options for the recognition of OECMs at the national level, in preparation for future national dialogues
- To disseminate results with the IUCN Secretariat, Green List communities and World Commission on Protected Areas Specialist Group on OECMs

### **D. Geographical Focus**

The Green List is a global standard and that this work should have global application. However, particular attention will be paid to ensuring that the OECM guidance is relevant to Eastern and Southern Africa. A complementary focus will be making linkages that the guidance applies to Asia.

### **E. Activities**

Based on the above objectives, we require the following deliverables:

- 1. Build on the existing available analysis of the Green List Standard and OECM Methodology:**



This activity will comprise a desk-based analysis of the current alignment between the Green List Standard and the framework of the draft methodology for identifying OECMs. Based on this initial analysis of complementarity, the review will make initial recommendations about how both products could be revised to achieve better consistency, coherence in their guidance and objectives, and alignment in their application for use in Eastern and Southern Africa, and Asia regions:

Inputs needed: Desk analysis and formation of recommendations estimated **(10%)**

Deliverable(s): Updated report and recommendations for better consistency, including coherence in content and alignment in application of IUCN Green List Standard and OECM methodology.

**2. Develop a Guiding Framework for aligning and supporting the OECM assessment and reporting methodology and the IUCN Green List assessment and pathway:**

Develop guidance on how OECM assessments and associated means of verification for sites could be used to inform their Green List assessment and pathway. Develop guidance on how national Green List structures and processes may present opportunities to support national assessment and verification of OECMs. This will be developed through consultation with the OECM-Green List reference group. This should include considerations of how to use available structures, e.g. EAGLs, to support the identification and/or validation of OECMs.

Inputs needed: Expert consultation and document version editing **(15%)**.

Deliverable(s): OECM Methodology – IUCN Green List testing framework and guiding questions, in appropriate format (i.e. Excel sheet with 2-3 page summary document).

**3. Conduct a piloting methodology:**

Engage with the Global OECM Working Group and PCA Team OECMs Focal point(s) for testing the applicability and feasibility of the Green List Standard for OECMs, incl. proposed adaptations, on, up to 5 pilot sites:

**Case study testing:**

- Conduct a regional scoping of OECMs in Asia and Africa with a focus the Eastern and Southern Africa region
- Identify at least 5 potential OECMs in Africa and Asia from across diverse governance types, in consultation with the Green List programme, IUCN Secretariat of which are in Eastern and Southern Africa region and the World Commission on Protected Areas (these will be complemented by Asia and/or other regions that can provide useful lessons).
- Prepare an outline for site-level testing of the OECM methodology as part of a site assessment process linked to the IUCN Green List Standard and process.
- Undertake a scoping study of the pathway of sites towards recognition, through both OECM and Green List criteria (this task will be done in coordination with regional Green List coordinators) Assess the enabling conditions and options for the recognition of OECMs at the national level
- Analyse the added value of Green List/OECM candidacy as part of preparation for future national dialogues



- Based on the previous analysis, make recommendations on the benefits of the Green List and OECM process for sites and their recognition

Inputs needed: between 3-5 potential OECMs and their pathway towards recognition is presented in a final report. The benefits and risks of the OECM and Green List processes are understood and presented. **(50%)**.

#### **4. Webinars**

Organize at least one webinar to share lessons and inform the revision of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard for OECMs.

Conduct 1+ global webinar with relevant learning communities.

Inputs needed: Webinar platform (Zoom or similar) with facilitation provided by IUCN and engagement with Green List communities. Presentation material, webinar agenda, commitments and content from participating speakers/panellists. **(10%)**.

#### **5. Sharing results**

- Share results from the comparative analysis with a dedicated group of experts and practitioners knowledgeable about OECMs and the Green List process (diverse group of 8-10 contributors from among the IUCN WCPA OECM Specialist Group, EAGL members, site applicants, site mentors, implementing partners, assurance providers, Standards committee and IUCN Green List secretariat) and seek to understand further gaps and opportunities for complementarity;
- Discuss the current gaps, (i.e. assessment needs, feedback loops, evidence, data management, evaluation, and assurance provisions, etc) between the application of the OECM Methodology and the requirements for Green List candidate sites and their evaluation by Green List evaluators (EAGLs).

Inputs needed: Green List – OECM experts are identified and solicited to make input to this process, with IUCN support. Discussion and coordination calls, content compilation, sharing in appropriate formats (i.e. ppt) and editing into a recommendations document (that will complement Activity 1 above). **(15%)**

Deliverable(s): Report on discussion process and summary presentation materials (ppt); 3-5 page summary report of recommendations for increased alignment between application of OECM Methodology and IUCN Green List process.

#### **F. Timeframe**

The Assignment is spread across a period of four (4) months from the date of commencement with an estimated total of 25 working days. A budget of 2000 EUR for travel expenses will be provided by IUCN. The Consultant will provide a detailed time schedule for the task and cost for the delivery of the outputs. The schedule will be agreed upon by the two parties (Consultant and IUCN) during the presentation of the inception report.

#### **G. Required experience and qualifications**

The successful Consultant is required to meet the following criteria:



#### Education

- Degree in a relevant subject; but not essential provided the candidate has strong relevant skills and experience

#### Work Experience

- At least five years in area-based conservation
- Understanding of the OECM definition and technical guidance
- Understanding of the IUCN Green List Standard
- Understanding of the regional context of Africa and Asia in terms of conservation areas is a bonus

#### Language Proficiency

- Fluency in written and spoken English

### **H. Application closing date and time**

The application, in a single PDF file, must include (i) a cover letter outlining clearly how the candidate meets the requirements of the position, (ii) a detailed CV and (iii) technical and financial proposal 2 pages. Consultants must submit their applications no later than Midnight CET time on May 27, 2022 by e-mail to: [thierry.lefebvre@iucn.org](mailto:thierry.lefebvre@iucn.org) and [siskamartina.cahyati@iucn.org](mailto:siskamartina.cahyati@iucn.org)

The subject heading of the e-mail shall be "OECM Guidance".