



From Theory to Practice: Applying Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) Criteria in Latin America and the Caribbean

April 2022



Photo - Nicolás Becerra / Comunidad de Playa Rica

About this document

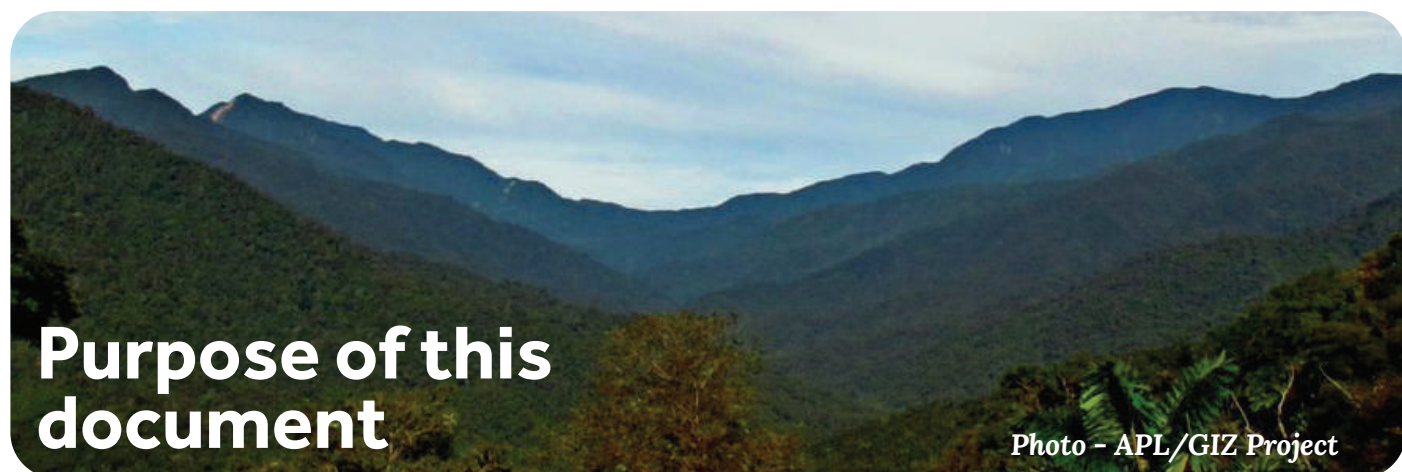
The project Local Protected Areas, Asociación Red Colombiana de Reservas Naturales de la Sociedad Civil (Resnatur), members of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), OECM Specialist Group and World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) organized the regional workshop on OECM in Latin America and the Caribbean in virtual format on April 26-29, 2022.

The objective of the workshop was to generate a dialogue and exchange of

experiences among different actors in Latin American and Caribbean countries on the progress and main challenges in the identification and reporting of OECMs in the region.

Within the framework of the workshop, it was suggested to elaborate a compilation of some potential OECMs that have applied the criteria in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



Present cases of Latin American areas that have applied the criteria to potential OECMs.



ECUADOR



PERU



COSTA RICA



COLOMBIA

History of the OECM conceptual framework and guidelines



- OECM mentioned in Aichi Target 11, 2010.
- Formation of IUCN-WCPA Task Force, 2016.
- IUCN draft guidelines, global review.
- CBD SBSTTA Expert Workshop, 2018.
- Approval of Decision 14/8 in November 2018 under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which embraces IUCN guidelines.
- Publication of IUCN technical report, 2019.

What are OMEC?

(DEFINITION DECISION 14/8 OF 2018)

It is a geographically delimited area, which is not a protected area

that is governed and managed

In such a way as to achieve positive and lasting results for conservation of biological diversity in situ

Associated ecosystem services and cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values

What are OMEC benefits?



CONSERVE

They conserve important ecosystems, habitats, and species corridors outside and between protected areas.

SUPPORT

They support the recovery of endangered species.

MAINTAIN

They maintain ecosystem functions and ensure ecosystem services such as carbon storage and water regulation.

IMPROVE

Improve resilience to hazards, including climate change.

CONNECT

They protect and connect fragmented ecosystem remnants by creating networks.

CONTRIBUTE

They contribute to the ecological representativeness and connectivity of conservation networks by integrating them into broader landscapes.

Key questions to identify an OECM



Is there important biodiversity in the area?
Is the area recognized as a protected area?



Do managers and governance officers agree that the area should be assessed as OECM?



Could the area be considered as contributing to other objectives or goals aimed at sustainable use?



What kind of support is needed to maintain or enhance effective conservation of important biodiversity values (legislation, incentives, recognition of land use rights, financing)?



Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area
Criterion B - Area is governed and managed
<i>Geographically delimited space</i>
<i>Legitimate governance authorities</i>
<i>Managed</i>
Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity in situ
<i>Positive results for in situ biodiversity conservation</i>
<i>Sustainable at long term</i>
<i>In situ conservation of biological diversity</i>
Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values
<i>Ecosystem functions and services</i>
<i>Cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values</i>

(Decision 14/8 of 2018 and IUCN 2019)

Potential cases of OECM in Latin America

COSTA RICA

1. Montes del Aguacate Biological Corridor (CBMA), Alajuela Province

COLOMBIA

1. Playa Rica Conservation Area, Puerto Asis, Putumayo.
2. Andakí Municipal Natural Park, Belen de los Andaquies, Caqueta.
3. La Reseda Private Natural Reserve, Puerto Lopez, Meta

ECUADOR

1. Riberas del Zamora Conservation Area, Decentralized Autonomous Government of Limón Indanza.
2. Conservation Ring, Decentralized Autonomous Government of Limón Indanza.

PERU

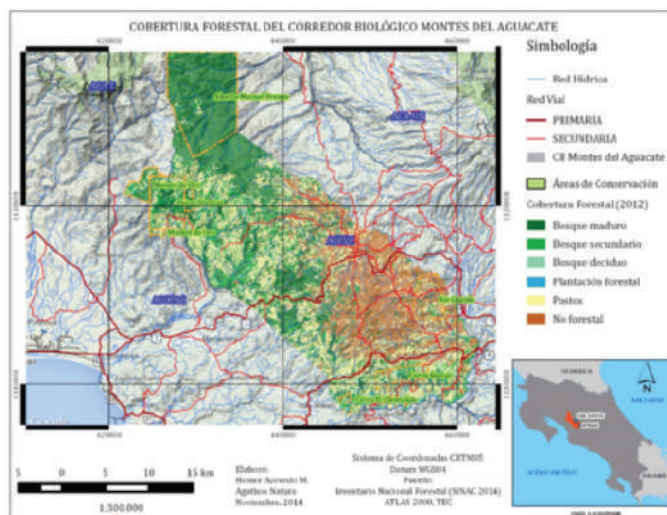
1. Ramsar Site, Mangroves San Pedro, Vice, Piura



COSTA RICA

Montes del Aguacate Biological Corridor (CBMA), Alajuela Province

Montes del Aguacate Biological Corridor (CBMA) was established in 2001 and several institutions participated in its creation, including universities, municipalities, Piedades Sur School, rural aqueducts, Madre Verde Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rican Electricity Institute, Aqueducts and Sewage, and the Central Volcanic Cordillera Conservation Area. Water resource protection was the trigger for the creation of this biological corridor because there was little water available in the region. To the west of Central Creek, CBMA extends over 69,051 hectares. It includes Central Pacific Conservation Area and Central Volcanic Mountain Range, the latter being the largest within the biological corridor (94%). It also includes the mountains of Montes del Aguacate*.



* Texts and map extracted from the proceedings of the OECM criteria application workshop, Costa Rica, September 2021. ProParques.



Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

CBMA covers 69,051 hectares and was established in 2001.

The corridor is not recognized as a protected area, however, it includes several protected areas recognized by the country.

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

CBMA is fully delimited and, specific areas within it are thought of as OECM, however, it must be discussed how they will be selected in an effective manner and if they will correctly meet the criteria.

It has shared governance between the State and the private sector.

Decision making is done through
a) coordination by the Local Committee and
b) at the level of the owners of each reserve or the organizations that manage the reserves (development associations, rural aqueducts, foundations, parents' associations, etc.).



* Texts and photos extracted from the proceedings of the OECM criteria application workshop, Costa Rica, September 2021. ProParques.

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

Management actions and activities are monitored through

- The management plan.
- The work plan.
- Evaluation tools.
- Monthly meetings.

These actions are also reviewed through a management effectiveness tool and the actions are adjusted according to the results.

Sustainability can also be approached from the legal framework (Forest Law, Art, 19) that prohibits land use modification in forest areas (the area must be larger than two (2) hectares), which guarantees its perpetuity.



Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

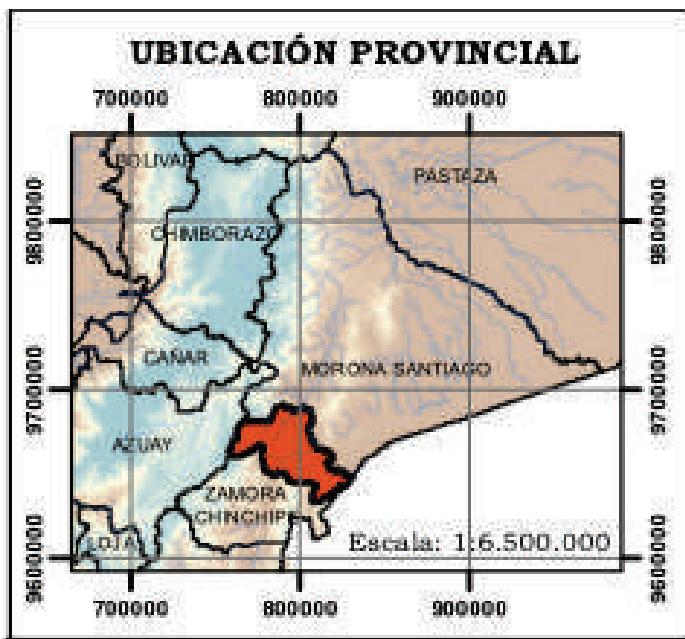
- Protects pollinators of different ranges.
- Contributes to genetic conservation.
- Contributes to structural and functional connectivity.
- Presents a large number of seed distribution agents.
- Offers refuge to a large number of migratory species, both latitudinal and local.
- Has a rich and varied water resource.
- Offers resilience to climate change through the variety of microclimates that are found for the survival of different species. This resilience enables species to adapt to different areas of the corridor.
- The richness of the soil and the presence of forest prevent erosion.
- There is an identity and belonging in the CBMA area.
- Cultural heritage and traditional identity (music, gastronomy, festivals, relationship with nature).
- Use of diversity as medicine for good living, plants for medicinal use, forests as tourism development and water producers, soils for food sovereignty production.



* Texts extracted from the proceedings of the OECM criteria application workshop, Costa Rica, September 2021. . ProParques.

ECUADOR

1. Riberas del Zamora Conservation Area, Decentralized Autonomous Government of Limón Indanza.



The municipality of Limón Indanza is located in the southern part of the province of Morona Santiago, in southern Ecuador. To the southeast of this municipality is the **Municipal Ecological Conservation Area Riberas del Zamora (AECMRZ)**.

This area is oriented towards the management and conservation of an important remnant of the riverside forest along the banks of the Zamora River.

It is distributed between 320 msnm and 960 msnm and includes a remnant of riverside forest vegetation cover in a good state of conservation, a situation that is not repeated in any other locality where Zamora River flows.

AECMRZ contributes to strengthening the conservation strategy of the Sangay - Podocarpus Corridor.

Extracted from Limón Indanza Territorial Management Plan.



**OECM training photo-inputs - context and guidelines for identification, recognition, and reporting for Green List EAGLE Groups. November 2021*

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- It has an area of approximately 3,000 hectares created since 2014.
- It is not recognized as a protected area and does not overlap with protected areas in Ecuador.

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

- Type A governance - executed by the Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD) of Limón Andanza.
- Managed between the Decentralized Autonomous Government and the communities.
- **It has a management plan that includes the areas zoned as follows**
 - Strict protection area
 - Restoration area
 - Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

Emblematic species are the Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*), the jaguar (*Pantera onca*) and the puma (*Puma concolor*).
 Riverine forest conservation.
 Contributes to the strengthening of the conservation strategy of the Sangay - Podocarpus corridor.

Legal recognition -
Municipal Ordinance of May 28, 2013.

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- Tourist attractions. Waterfalls and rocky mountains (Peña de los Guacamayos).
- Cultural values such as the petroglyphs of Peña Blanca, and some suspension bridges in different sections of the Zamora River.
- Water is the primary resource available, with an approximate energy potential of 473 MW.



* Map and texts taken from OECM training - context and guidelines for identification, recognition, and reporting for Green List EAGLE Groups. November 2021



*Photo and text extracted from OECM training - context and guidelines for identification, recognition, and reporting for Green List EAGLE Groups. November 2021

ECUADOR

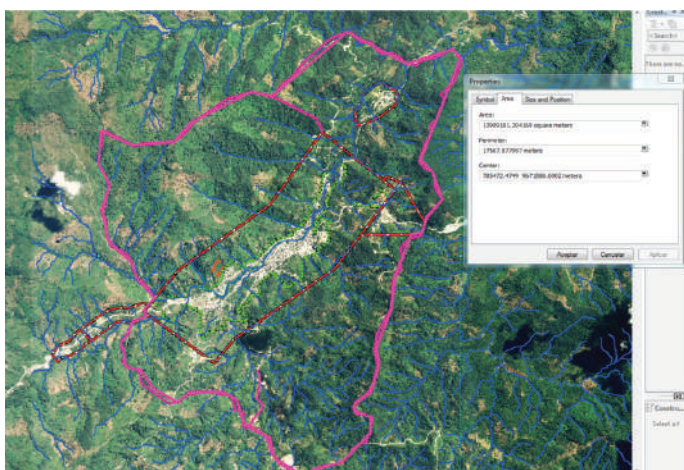
2. Conservation Ring, Decentralized Autonomous Government of Limón Indanza.

“The Environmental Law of Ecuador recognizes forests and protective vegetation in a special way for their roles in the conservation of water, soil, flora and wildlife. Among these are plant formations, natural or cultivated, arboreal, shrub or herbaceous, public or private domain, which are located in areas of rugged topography, in headwaters of watersheds or in areas that by their climatic, soil and water conditions are not suitable for agriculture or livestock”.

For the municipality of Limón Indanza, areas for the regeneration and improvement of hydrological resources take on special relevance and attention. In this way, the water heritage, with a focus on watersheds and ecological flows, is managed in a sustainable and participatory manner, to ensure the human right to water.

Therefore, the conservation ring constitutes an area for the conservation of water resources, in order to stop the occupation and unregulated use of land, negative effects on the natural heritage and activities that disturb the natural environment.

Texts extracted from the training on identification, recognition, and reporting of OECMs November 2020. OECM Colombia Project 2019 to 2021.



* Map and texts extracted from the OECM identification, recognition and reporting training November 2020. OECM Colombia Project 2019 to 2021.



Photo extracted from twitter GAD Limon Indaza
<https://mobile.twitter.com/gadmi/photo>

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- It includes an area of 450 hectares that was created in 2014.
- It is not recognized as a protected area and does not overlap with protected areas in the country.

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

It is a geographically defined area.

Type A governance - created and regulated by the Autonomous Decentralized Government of Limón Indanza.

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

- Regulation and control of land use and occupation.
- Formulation of the urban development plan that includes protection of the margins of the ring road and ornamentation (care and maintenance of green spaces).
- It has a term of 20 years, according to the period of the Urban Management Plan, but

**Legal recognition -
Municipal Ordinance of May 28, 2013.**

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- Adequate land use allows for ecosystemic management of the area.



** Extracted from the training on identification, recognition and reporting of OEMCs November 2020. OEMC Colombia Project 2019 to 2021.*

PERU

Ramsar Site, Mangroves San Pedro, Vice, Piura

San Pedro Mangrove belongs geopolitically to Vice District, located in the municipality of Piura, where the nearest town is Centro poblado de Becará (12 km to northeast).

In 2007, San Pedro Mangrove was designated as a Ramsar Site, ranking 13th among these sites in Peru. Its conservation and management is due to the fact that it is a unique type of tropical forest that is threatened because it is home to species included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), because it is a refuge and feeding ground for migrating birds, reproduction and growth of invertebrates, because it is home to the carob tree ecosystem, and because it is vital for the use of natural resources by local communities. Locals.



Photo and texts extracted from the governance management document in the mangroves of San Pedro, Vice district.

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- It covers 3,399 hectares that were designated in 2008.
- It is not a protected area and does not overlap with legally recognized protected areas in Peru.

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

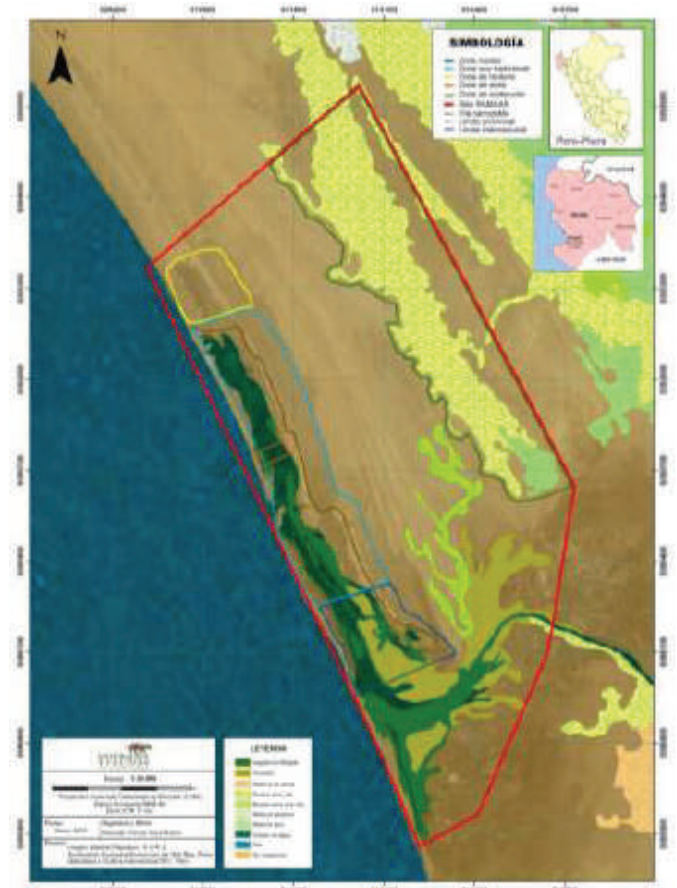
- The area is geographically delimited.
- Type B governance, shared between the local government and the communities.
- Decisions are made through the mayor and in consensus with the Management Committee. The Tourism Development and Environment Manager is in charge of management with support from the committee.
- It has a participatory management plan, which has been under development since 2015 with progress in the zoning of the Site and the delimitation of the marginal strip, in addition to placing value on its natural environment. This plan is updated every seven (7) years.

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

- Three (3) of the five (5) species of mangroves present in Peru are found in the area.
- A total of 169 bird species have been recorded, 46% are waterfowl species and 54% are species that use the surrounding forest and desert.

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- Use of species such as carob and acacia trees, which are used for firewood.
- The bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) is used in other areas as a material for handicrafts or construction.
- There are interactions with the population due to the extraction of subsistence hydrobiological resources such as fish (mullet, chulas), shells (duckbills and small crabs on the sandy beach), crabs (jaivas) and shrimp.
- Recreation.



*Map and texts extracted from the training on identification, recognition, and reporting of OECM November 2020 - OECM Colombia Project 2019 to 2021.

Photo - Participatory management plan for San Pedro del Vice Ramsar Site 2019-2025.



*Map and texts extracted from the training on identification, recognition, and reporting of OECM November 2020 - OECM Colombia Project 2019 to 2021.



COLOMBIA



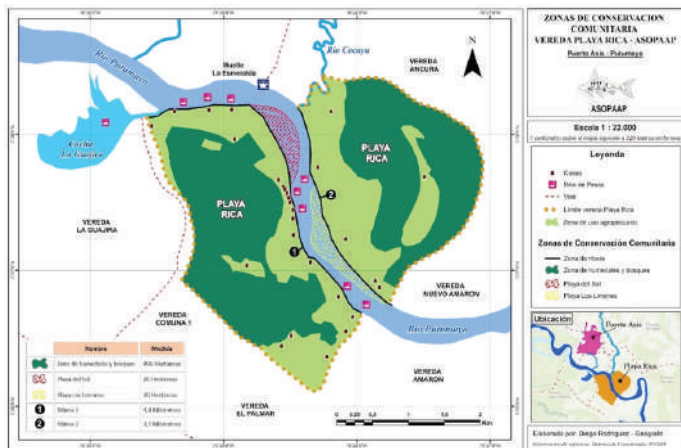
The application of OECM criteria for the cases in Colombia was carried out through OECM Colombia Project 2019-2021 - Adaptation of OECM criteria to the Colombian context (Resnatur, Instituto Humboldt, Fundación Natura and the project Local Protected Areas GIZ/ICLEI/IUCN).

1. Playa Rica Conservation Area, Puerto Asis, Putumayo.



Photo - Laura Peña Peláez

Link to Podcast episode OECM Voices, Peas, fish and fishermen - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7PLimZ04U>



*Extracted from OECM criteria application documents, 2020 - 2021.

To the south of the Amazon, the community of the village Playa Rica in Puerto Asis, Putumayo, established a conservation area of about 600 ha, created by the Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales y Productores Agropecuarios de la Vereda de Playa Rica (ASOPAAP) (Association of Artisanal Fishermen and Agricultural Producers of Village of Playa Rica). They have also recognized themselves as a Territory of Life (TICCA) and are part of the Colombia TICCA Network (Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Communities).

Extracted from *Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, a guide for their identification, strengthening and reporting in Colombia* (Santamaría Gómez et al. 2021).

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- It covers an area of approximately 600 ha.
- It does not overlap with protected areas (according to the database of protected areas of Colombia - RUNAP).

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

- It is a geographically defined area.
- Type D governance, exercised by the Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales y Productores Agropecuarios de la Vereda de Playa Rica (ASOPAAP).
- The territory is zoned and the landowners have property zoning according to the categories agreed upon by the community.

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

- The sustainability of the fishing resource through the recovery of Putumayo River banks, good management and use of the associated resources, and the development of a life plan to strengthen Playa Rica community.

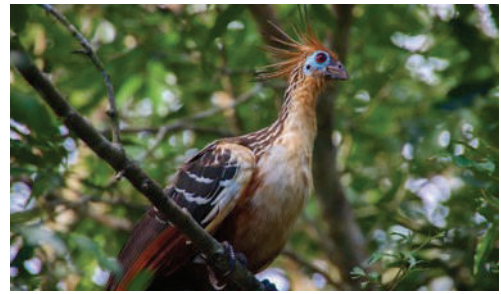


Photo - Michael Quiñónez / Community of Playa Rica

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- Fishing
- Community-based nature tourism
- Andean-Amazonian cultural identity



Photo - photographic archive OECM criteria application workshop. La Cocha, Nariño. Sept 2019

COLOMBIA

2. Andakí Municipal Natural Park, Belen de los Andaquies, Caqueta.



Photo - Junner González / Fundación TierraViva

In the Colombian Amazon, municipal authorities of Belén de los Andaquíes and San José del Fragua (Caquetá), concerned about deforestation and illegal mining, established nine (9) municipal parks to guarantee strategic ecosystem services that contribute to municipal development and the maintenance of sites of historical and cultural importance.

Among these is Andakí Natural Municipal Park, which preserves 26,812 hectares of tropical rainforest. Since 2009, governance of the area has been shared between the municipality and the Tierra Viva Foundation, through Municipal

Agreement No. 24. The application of the criteria shows the need to update the management plan and implement participatory monitoring to follow up on the area's conservation objectives. It is also necessary to strengthen the articulation between social and institutional actors to guide management and governance strategies.

Extracted from the booklet *Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures*, a guide for their identification, strengthening, and reporting in Colombia (Santamaría Gómez et al. 2021).

[Link Podcast episode OECM Voices - A Living Earth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh6cFUYF4AM)

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- It has 26,812 hectares in an area created in 2009.
- It does not overlap with protected areas (according to the database of protected areas of Colombia - RUNAP).

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

- It is a geographically defined area.
- Shared governance between the municipality and the Tierra Viva Foundation.
- Management by the Tierra Viva Foundation

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

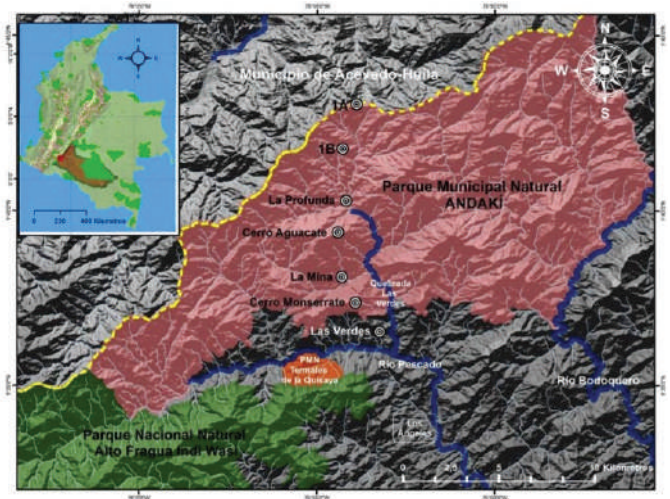
- Acts as a buffer zone
- Connects other protected and conserved areas
- Conservação das bacias hidrográficas
- Longo prazo - perpetuidade

**Legal Recognition -
Municipal agreement signed since 2009**

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- 47 new species
- 190 new species for Colombia
- 41 endemic species
- 23 endangered species
- Conservation of archeological heritage Andakí Road, a road of historical relevance.

OECM reported to the world database
<https://www.protectedplanet.net/555721603>



**Map and texts extracted from OECM criteria application documents. 2020 - 2021*



Alcaldía Belén de los Andaquíes



Expedicinarios, Camino Andakí (Huila-Caquetá). Foto: Archivo Expedición Colombia-Bio Andakí

Photo - Colombia-Bio Expedition Archive

COLOMBIA

3. La Reseda Private Natural Reserve, Puerto Lopez, Meta

Created in 2005, the owner of the property along with her family has been actively working in environmental processes at the local and regional level, with the support of Red de Reservas Naturales de la Sociedad Civil - Resnatur. Some of the results of his voluntary conservation efforts are

- An environmentally sustainable livestock production model, where conservation-production processes coexist in balance in equal proportions of land on the property.

- Increased forest cover represented by the gallery forests present.

- Significant increase in the abundance of the moriche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*).

- Emergence of water sources from the subsoil, especially in the area where the moriche has regenerated.

- Articulation with neighboring reserves for the construction of a biological corridor called the Puma Triangle.



Photo - Martha Morales

Prepared by Martha Morales, owner of La Reseda Private Nature Reserve.



Photo - Martha Morales

Criterion A - The area is not currently recognized as a protected area.

- There are 80.1 hectares, conserved since 2000.

- It does not overlap with protected areas (according to the database of protected areas in Colombia - RUNAP).

Criterion B - Area is governed and managed

- Geographically defined area.
- Private governance exercised by a family group.
- It has a Management Plan updated in 2018 and its respective zoning.
- It is part of Resnatur since 2000.



OECM reported to the world database
<https://www.protectedplanet.net/555743897>

Criterion C - Achieves a sustained and effective contribution to conservation of biological diversity *in situ*

- Conservation of morichal forests of great importance facing climate change.
- Actor in the biological connectivity initiative “Puma Triangle” endorsed by Cormacarena (Resolution 2674 of 2019).
- The reserve has an effectiveness analysis based on the activities established in the Management Plan.

Biodiversity

- 177 species recorded
- 17 unique species recorded for the region

Emblematic species

Nictibio grande (*Nictibio grandis*)

Yaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*)

Criterion D - Associated ecosystem functions and services and locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other values

- Contribution to water and climate regulation
- Space for scientific tourism



Photo - Martha Morales



OMECE
OTHER EFFECTIVE
AREA-BASED
CONSERVATION
KEY
MESSAGES

Photo - Natalia Laverde / El Bosque y La Niebla Foundation

KEY MESSAGES



The OMECE framework represents a tool for the formal recognition of other forms of conservation beyond protected areas.

It seeks to recognize and engage a greater number of actors in conservation and improve the representativeness and connectivity of the systems of protected and conserved areas.

Photo - APL/GIZ Project

KEY MESSAGES



OMEC should not have the same requirements as protected areas, as they have different contexts.

It is necessary not only to identify OMEC, but also to support their strengthening in order to maintain positive conservation results in the long term.

Photo - Marcela Santamaría

KEY MESSAGES



OMECE are directly related to the governance issue.

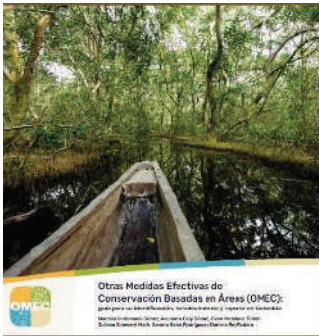
Photo - Marcela Santamaría

OMECE are key to achieving the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework targets.

Photo - Michael Quiñónez / Comunidade de Playa Rica

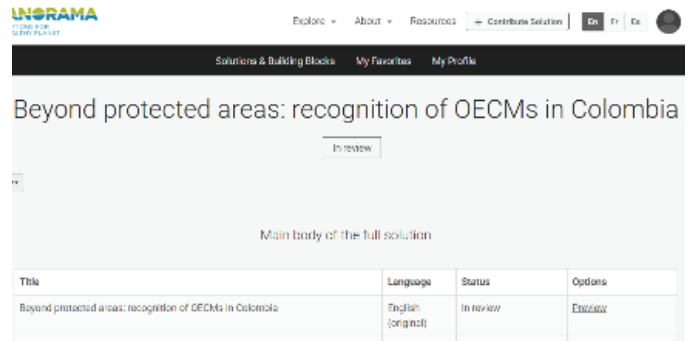
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OECM

OECM Guide - Colombia



<https://resnatur.org.co/apc-aa-files/db9417709e9e7148d514bb8dac11b31a/cartillaomecbook inserto 1.pdf>

Panoram Plataforma



<https://panorama.solutions/es>

Protected Planet 2020 Report



<https://www.iucn.org/es/news/areas-protegidas/202104/informe-planeta-protegido-2020-latinoamerica-y-el-caribe>
[cartillaomecbook inserto 1.pdf](#)

Parks



<https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/10.2305-IUCN.CH.2021PARKS-27-1en> Jonas et al.pdf

Parks



SHORT COMMUNICATION: APPLICATION OF SITE-LEVEL ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND EQUITY (SAGE) METHODOLOGY TO A CANDIDATE OECM: ANDAKÍ MUNICIPAL NATURAL PARK, CAQUETÁ, COLOMBIA.

Juliana Echeverri¹, Alejandra Cely-Gómez², Noelia Zafra-Calvo³, Junner González⁴, Clara Matalana-Tobón⁵, Marcela Santamaría² and Sandra Galán¹

Corresponding author: juliana.echeverri@giz.de

<https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10.2305-IUCN.CH.2021PARKS-27-1en> Echeverri et al.pdf

IUCN OECM Guidelines



<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PATRS-003-Es.pdf>

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Prepared by:

Juliana Echeverri - njecheverri@gmail.com

Marcela Santamaría - msantamaria@resnatur.org.co

Alejandra Cely - acely@resnatur.org.co

Clara L. Matallana Tobón - clmatallanatobon@gmail.com



Lagunazo, Casanare (Credits: Felipe Villegas, Banco de Imágenes Ambientales Instituto Humboldt)