

Supplementary Material 2 Key Informant Interviews

How OECM concept was introduced to interviewees

The official definition of OECMs, as developed by the IUCN and WCPA and adopted at the UNCBD COP 14 in 2018, was presented to interviewees:

[...] A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values. (CBD, 2018).

This was followed by a further explanation of the OECM criteria which an area needs to meet in order to qualify as an OECM, based on the 2019 IUCN guidelines on 'recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures.'

Interview questions

We presented the respondents with three open-ended questions structured as follows:

- a) What is your opinion on the subject of OECMs?
- b) Do you think it would be possible to recognise some of the areas you represent as OECMs?
- c) Do you think that there is a willingness within your represented managing authority to recognise the areas as OECMs, should that be made a possibility in Iceland?

Ethics approval

At the beginning of each interview, interviewees were asked for consent to record the interview and for the use of the data collected, with assurance of their anonymity. The interviewees were further informed of their rights, including the option to stop the recording at any time and withdraw from the study.

Number of interviewees

One senior representative from each governance type was interviewed – a total of 11 interviews.