

Monitoring ‘effectiveness’ of areas contributing to Target 3

Submitted by UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with IUCN, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN WCPA), and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

1. Background

1.1. Purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed approach for monitoring effectiveness of protected areas (PAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), within the scope of the headline indicator for Target 3 via the [Protected Planet Initiative](#), a product of UNEP and IUCN managed by UNEP-WCMC.

The approach outlined here is subject to further refinement following consultations with CBD Parties and other stakeholders. Feedback and input are welcome.

1.2. Foundations of proposed approach

The approach outlined in this document is based on results from a workshop series held in 2022, co-hosted by UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (and by the CBD Secretariat in the case of the third workshop). These workshops were attended by area-based conservation experts, CBD Parties, and representatives of Indigenous peoples and local communities. Three key points were highlighted throughout the discussions (more detailed key messages and outcomes are outlined in the workshop report¹):

- **Simplicity:** It is important to build on existing methods for assessing effectiveness and limit the reporting burden on data providers;
- **Inclusiveness:** Data providers should have different options available based on their level of capacity, availability of information and the level of detail they are willing/able to share;
- **Multi-dimensionality:** Ensure that key ‘dimensions’ of effectiveness are incorporated into reporting i.e., consider quality of management as well as equitable governance and achievement of outcomes for biodiversity.

At the time of the workshops, the proposed Headline Indicator for Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework was “[Percentage] [Coverage] of protected areas and OECMS, *by effectiveness [ecosystem type,] [KBA/EBSA status]*”² (italics added for emphasis). The workshops therefore focused on discussing how this indicator would be calculated by disaggregating PA and OECM coverage by level of effectiveness.

Following negotiations at CBD COP15, the title of the headline indicator adopted for Target 3 of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is “Coverage of Protected Areas and OECMs³”. The CBD-mandated Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) will

¹ Reporting on PCA Effectiveness - Workshop Report (2022): <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cbdddocumentspublic-imagebucket-15w2zyxk3prl8/416705076b58135c0d1b27b6dfbaa907>

² CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2 27 March 2022. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta24/sbstta-24-rec-02-en.pdf>

³ CBD/COP/15/L.26 18 December 2022. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/179e/aecb/592f67904bf07dca7d0971da/cop-15-l-26-en.pdf>

advise on important gaps in the monitoring framework⁴ and refine methodologies for the headline indicators, including how they should be disaggregated. A disaggregation of the Target 3 headline indicator by level of effectiveness would provide significantly more meaningful data than coverage alone. To support such a disaggregation, the partners in the Protected Planet Initiative, as custodians of the Target 3 headline indicator, are developing a system that would support disaggregating the data in this way.

2. Defining Effectiveness

‘Effectiveness’ in the context of area-based conservation refers to the degree to which a given area is delivering on its goals and objectives. According to the IUCN Green List Standard⁵, recognized by CBD Decision 13/2:5c⁶, successful conservation outcomes can be achieved through good (including equitable) governance; sound design and planning; and effective management. These key components are also reflected within other effectiveness assessment tools and frameworks. CBD Decision 14/8:12 outlines voluntary guidelines and criteria agreed by Parties for other effective area-based conservation measures and provides a definition of effective areas as ‘governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity’⁷.

3. Reporting Framework

The current proposed approach for reporting to Protected Planet is designed to bring together results from existing management effectiveness assessments, governance assessment methods and biodiversity monitoring data. This would be achieved by building on the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) which served as the basis for monitoring effectiveness under Aichi Target 11.

The mechanism for doing this is provided by a crosswalk of site- and system- assessment methodologies (in development), referred to within this document as a ‘Rosetta Stone’. The proposed effectiveness reporting framework follows a ‘phased approach’, which would allow data providers to submit data to Protected Planet at different levels of detail, according to their capacity to report and the availability of data.⁸ All data providers would be encouraged to move towards reporting in Phase 3 in as far as possible and resources/capacity building support would need to be directed towards this.

Phase 1: Not assessed

Site categorised as ‘not assessed’ on Protected Planet.

This applies to sites where a data provider does not have any data relating to effectiveness or has not reported / does not wish to report data on effectiveness. This category would apply by default to all sites unless data for Phase 2 or Phase 3 reporting are provided.

⁴ CBD/COP/15/L.26 18 December 2022.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/179e/aecb/592f67904bf07dca7d0971da/cop-15-l-26-en.pdf>

⁵ IUCN Green List Version 1.1 – Approved Nov. 2017 - IUCN Green List

⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/2, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-02-en.pdf>

⁷ Convention on Biological Diversity (2018). *Decision 14/8, ‘Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures’*. Montreal: Convention on Biological Diversity.

⁸ Data providers who have not previously provided data to the GD-PAME would start at Phase 1, but be encouraged to move towards Phase 2 and 3. Data providers who have previously submitted information to the GD-PAME would start at Phase 2 and be encouraged to move towards Phase 3.

Implications for capacity building: Sites reported in Phase 1 may need further support or capacity building on monitoring, and Protected Planet partners could prioritize approaching these countries to offer support.

Phase 2: Assessed, but no scores available

Site categorised as 'assessed, but no score available' on Protected Planet.

This applies to sites where a data provider has data relating to effectiveness of its site(s), but:

- a) cannot (or does not wish to) make these data available⁹, or
- b) these effectiveness assessments were done using a methodology not yet included within the Rosetta Stone (see section 3.1 for explanation of Rosetta Stone).

Implications for capacity building: For sites reported in Phase 2, it would be beneficial to gain a better understanding of why data cannot be submitted, which methodologies are being used and whether these can be incorporated into Protected Planet at a later stage. Further support or capacity building may be needed.

Phase 3: Assessed, scores available

Site categorised according to different levels of effectiveness (with separate scores for governance, design and planning, management, and successful conservation outcomes) on Protected Planet.

The system for displaying this data would be refined to ensure an emphasis on efforts made towards successful implementation and linking Parties to capacity support where needed.

This phase applies to sites where a data provider has conducted a site level effectiveness assessment using one of the methods in the Rosetta Stone (see section 3.1). They have used this as a basis for completing the Protected Planet data submission form (to be developed, see section 3.2), which draws on the Rosetta Stone to interpret the results of the assessment and will be used by UNEP-WCMC to calculate a score for each dimension of effectiveness.

Implications for capacity building: Sites reported in Phase 3 would demonstrate a commitment to monitoring effectiveness and capacity to do so. These sites could be approached for capacity building to improve scores and also to share best practice and exchange knowledge with Phase 1 and Phase 2 sites. Monitoring efforts could also focus on tracking trends in effectiveness over time.

⁹ Sites registered and accepted within the IUCN Green List Programme, and which are committed to using the IUCN Green List standard, but which have not yet undertaken or shared a further assessment, could also be reported in this Phase.

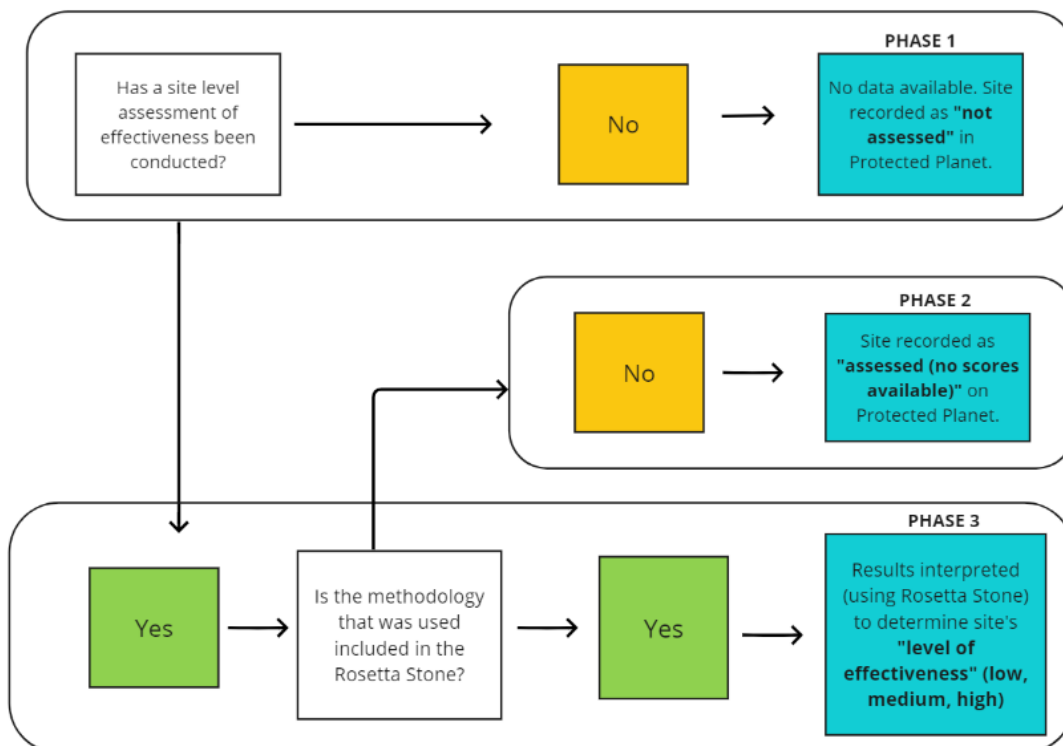


Figure 1 Proposed phased reporting system – data providers will be encouraged to move from Phase 1 to Phase 3 as far as possible based on availability of data.

Once reporting under the three phases is well-established, a fourth phase could be introduced in which scores of effectiveness assessments from two or more points in time could be used to indicate a trend. This could be based on any score-based assessment where repeat assessments are able to be completed, and would enable reporting of effectiveness scores as improving, declining, stable (favourable), stable (unfavourable).

3.1. Role of 'Rosetta Stone'

The proposed approach is designed to bring together results from existing management effectiveness assessment and governance assessment methods and frameworks, rather than creating a new methodology. Site managers could continue to use a wide range of different methodologies to assess effectiveness on the ground. The mechanism for enabling this is provided by a crosswalk of methodologies, referred to within this document as a 'Rosetta Stone', which is under development. This Rosetta Stone will examine the most well-known and peer-reviewed effectiveness assessment methods around the world (e.g., IUCN Green List Standard; Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool; Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool, and others) to create a common reporting language for Protected Planet, consistent with IUCN Standards and Categories, and with CBD Decisions. It will do this by analysing the questions/indicators used within these methodologies and drawing out a key set of core indicators or questions that can be used to assess different dimensions of effectiveness. A review process will be established to determine the process for including different/new assessment methodologies within the Rosetta Stone.

3.2. Submission process/data form

Reporting of effectiveness data is envisaged to be via a data submission form (to be developed). Data providers would use the results of their completed site-level assessment to answer core

questions (to be determined) relevant for each dimension of effectiveness (see section 2). Data providers would be guided to relevant sections from their site level assessment to answer these questions. Scores for each dimension would be generated, along with an overall effectiveness score. **The scoring categories, scoring system and thresholds need to be developed and tested (see section 4 below) and are subject to consultations.** An automated online data form may be developed to minimize reporting burden as much as possible. Integration with the IUCN Green List data management system would automate flow of information from all registered and candidate sites (more than 1,000 to date), including those recognized on the Green List.

4. Display of effectiveness data on Protected Planet

Figure 2 shows a mock-up of how data reported within the phased approach might be displayed on countries' national pages, with options for users to view a single combined indicator of effectiveness or disaggregate the indicator into the dimensions of governance; design and planning; management; and outcomes. Note that the scores and effectiveness 'levels' are still to be developed, and this is a draft example. The indicator can also be viewed for the terrestrial realm, marine realm, or both realms combined. Figures 2 and 3 show how the indicator might be incorporated into the national and global statistics pages on the Protected Planet website, respectively. IUCN Green List sites are already incorporated into Protected Planet.

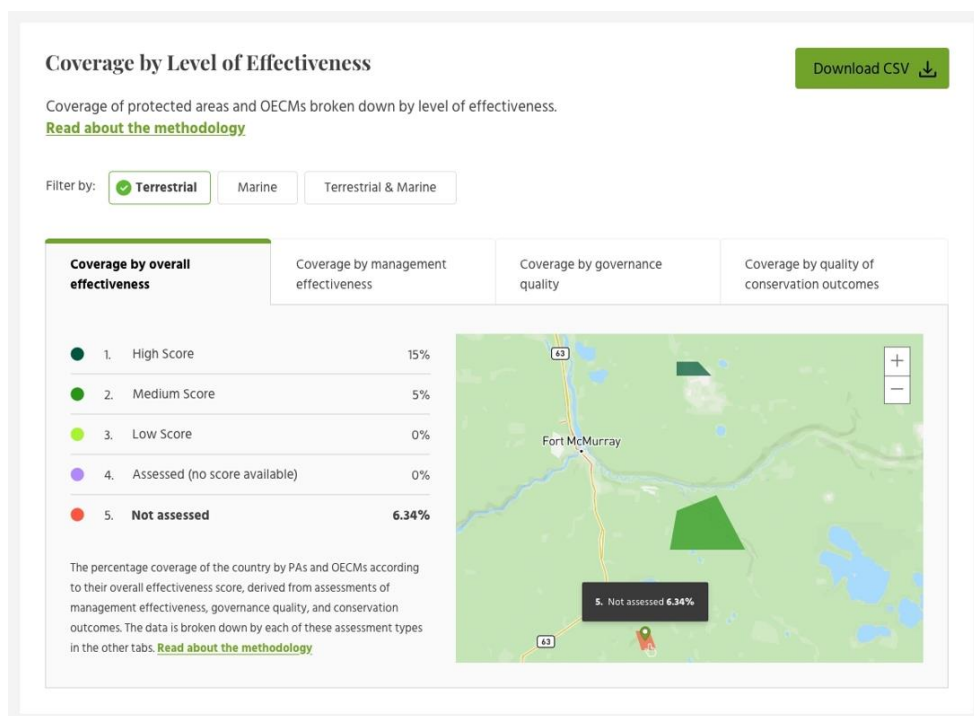


Figure 2 Mock-up of the effectiveness indicator component on the Protected Planet website's national pages. Subject to review and revision.

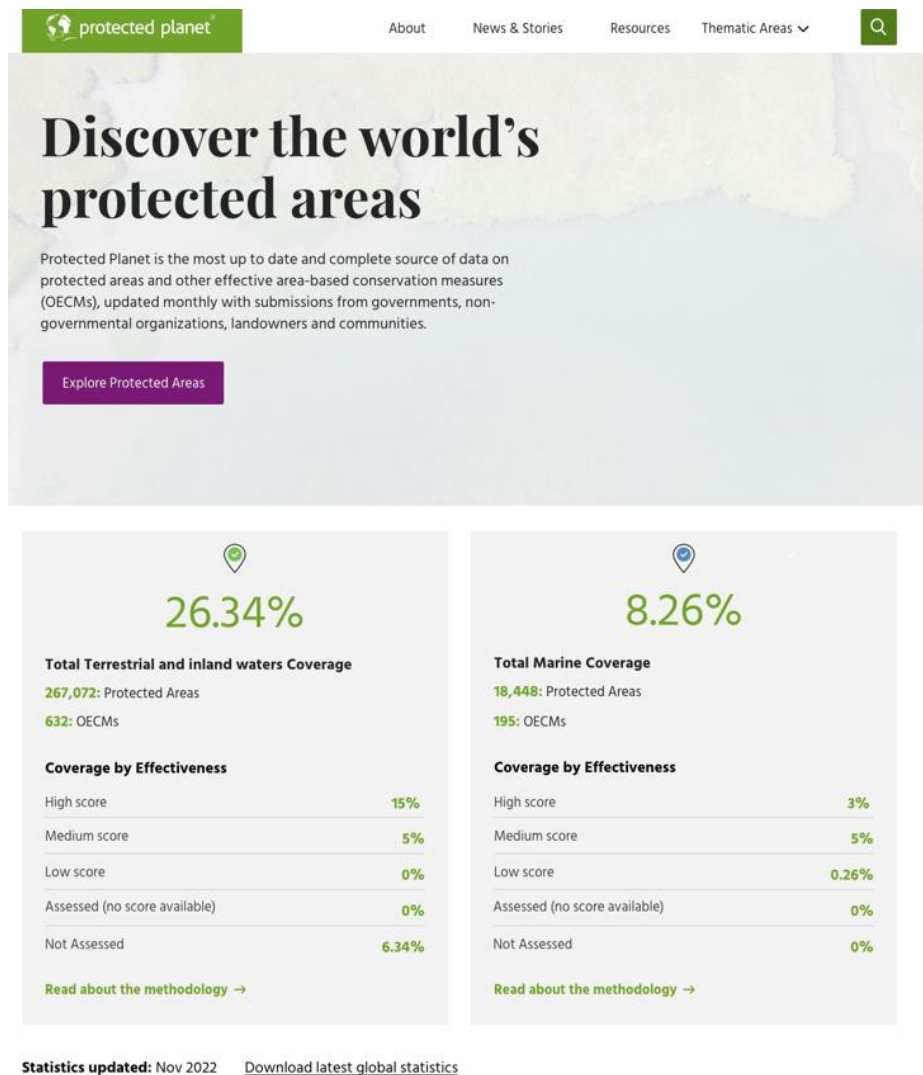


Figure 3 Mock-up of incorporation of effectiveness data into global statistics. Subject to review and revision.

5. Next steps

Key priorities are to gain consensus amongst partners on the feasibility of the approach outlined here and to continue with the development of the framework, testing it with data providers and refine as needed. UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, and IUCN WCPA will work closely with custodians of complementary and component indicators, such as Management Effectiveness of Protected and Conserved Areas (MEPCA), to ensure that data collated through these frameworks can feed into global level reporting on the qualitative aspects of Target 3.