

# OECMs

Other Effective  
area-based Conservation  
Measures

Recognising the **GOOD** work  
being done for **NATURE**,  
**OUTSIDE** of the traditional  
conservation space.

3<sup>rd</sup> National Biodiversity  
Stewardship Conference



CONSERVATION  
OUTCOMES



WILDERNESS  
FOUNDATION  
AFRICA



SANBI  
Biodiversity for Life  
South African National Biodiversity Institute





OECMs are now clearly defined by the CBD as:

“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/COP/DEC/14/8) (CBD, 2018).



CONSERVATION  
OUTCOMES



WILDERNESS  
FOUNDATION  
AFRICA



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment  
Republic of  
South Africa  
Department of  
Forestry, Fisheries and  
Marine Resources

SANBI  
Biodiversity for Life  
South African National Biodiversity Institute





An ambitious area-based target to protect **30%** of the world's natural biodiversity by **2030** through protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures.**



CONSERVATION OUTCOMES



## Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Target 3

Ensure and enable that **by 2030 at least 30 per cent** of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures**, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

# South Africa's Conservation Estate

## Protected Areas

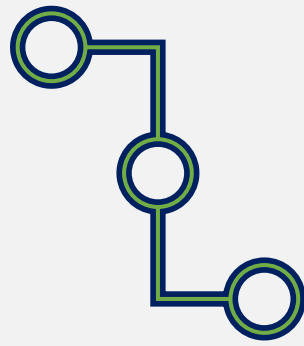
- National Parks
- Nature Reserves
- Protected Environments

*Formally declared conservation areas*



## Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)





### The benefits of OECMs:

**OECMs** recognise **existing** efforts towards effective biodiversity conservation on the global stage and will help South Africa reach their conservation targets by 2030.

**OECMs** build resilient, integrated, and connected landscapes, which help address issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

**OECMs** allow a range of stakeholders to be involved and empowered through the recognition of OECMs, including local communities, private landowners, government officials and conservation organizations.

**OECMs** provide tools to identify the strengths and weaknesses of conservation management of sites.

**OECMs** facilitate a more inclusive area-based conservation network by identifying and recognising alternative mechanisms to area-based conservation that are not currently being recognised through biodiversity stewardship, and by allowing the inclusion of previously excluded or marginalised groups of land use types.



CONSERVATION  
OUTCOMES



WILDERNESS  
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forestry, fisheries  
& the environment  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI  
Biodiversity for Life  
South African National Biodiversity Institute





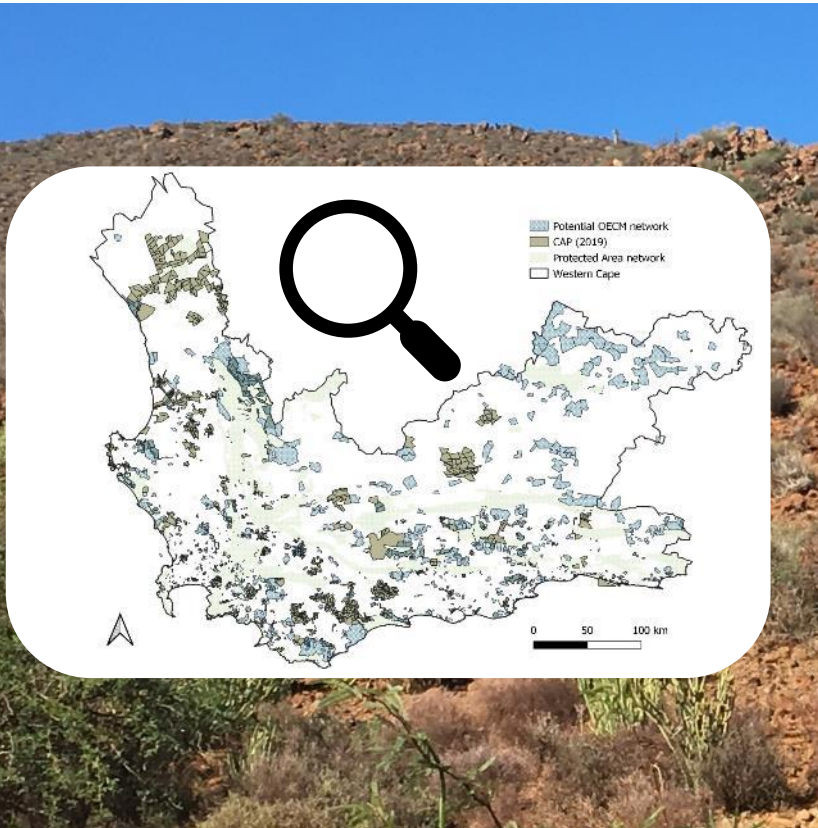
# RECOGNISING, ASSESSING & REPORTING OECMS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

July 2021- June 2023



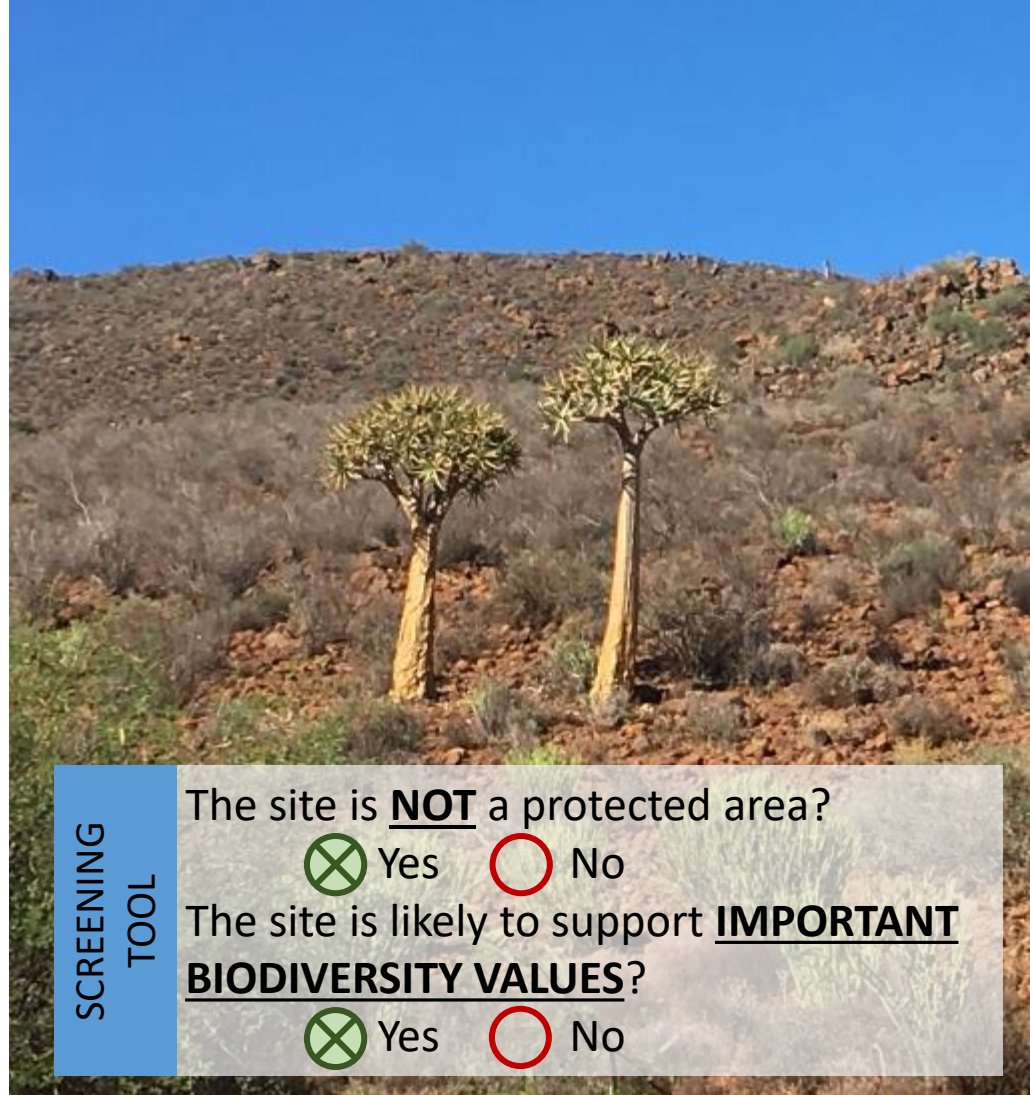
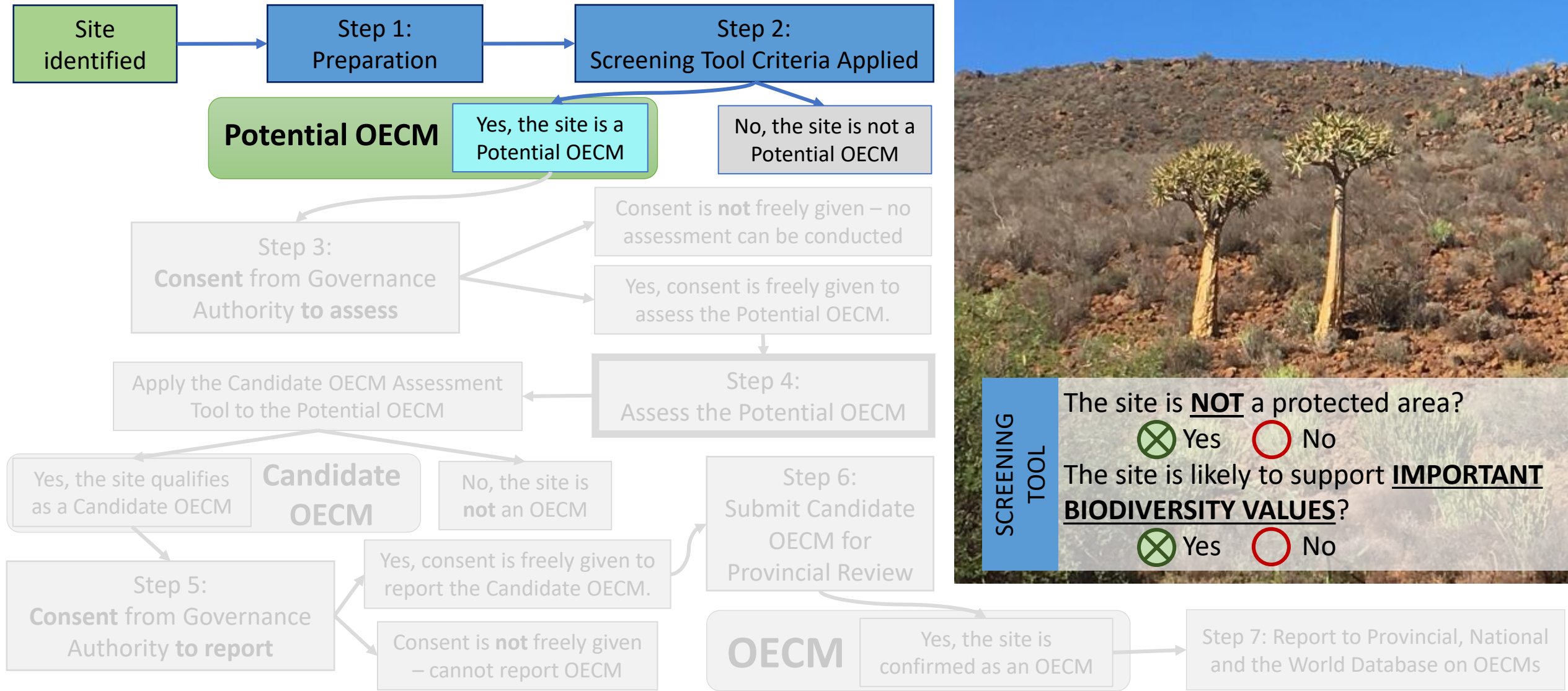
The Western Cape OECM project is piloting the OECM identification, assessment and reporting process

- To identify and assess potential OECMs in the Western Cape;
- To quantify the capacity and resource requirements in the Western Cape and feed this information into a national OECM implementation strategy;
- To provide skills development, to support OECM assessments and reporting in the Western Cape.



# OECM PROJECT AIMS

# The OECM Assessment Process

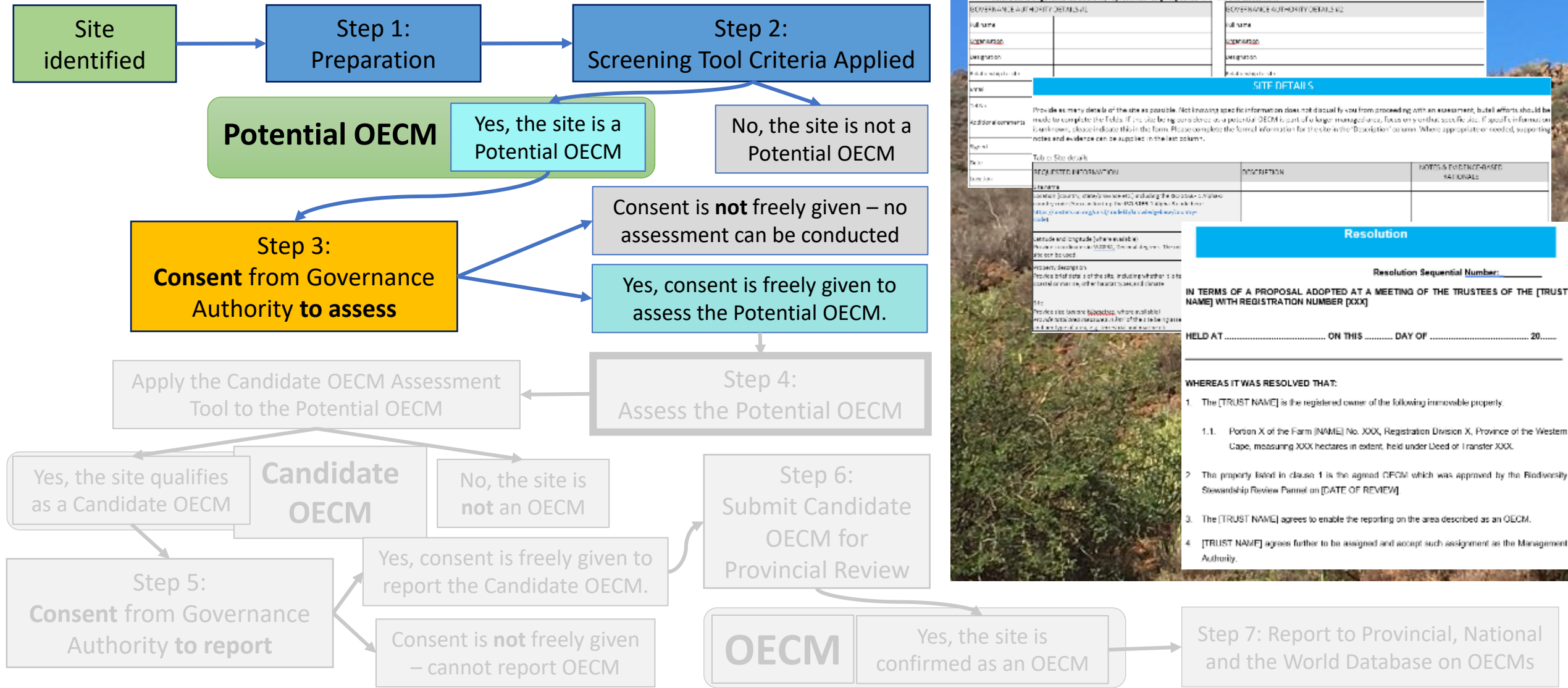


**SCREENING TOOL**

The site is **NOT** a protected area?  
 Yes    No

The site is likely to support **IMPORTANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES?**  
 Yes    No

# The OECM Assessment Process



**CANDIDATE OECM GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT CONSENT**

I, [insert name of OECM] represent the legitimate and primary Governance Authority of [insert name of the OECM]. I acknowledge that I am understood when an OECM is as well as the terms of this assessment. I hereby confirm that the Governance Authority, in accordance with its own constitution and/or regulations, consent to undertake or take part in the assessment. For information, I will provide herewith true and to the best of my knowledge and ability, accurate and complete information. Please add as many Governance Authority details to support the assessment as possible.

I, [insert name of Governance Authority representative], hereby consent for the site assessment.

GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY DETAILS 1		GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY DETAILS 2	
Full name		Full name	
Registration		Registration	
Designation		Designation	
Full contact details		Full contact details	

**SITE DETAILS**

Provide as many details of the site as possible. Not knowing specific information does not disqualify you from proceeding with an assessment, but efforts should be made to complete the fields. If the site being considered is a potential OECM part of a larger management unit, focus on the unit, not the site. If specific information is unknown, also indicate this in the form. Please complete the formal information for the site in the "Description" column. Where appropriate, supporting notes and evidence can be supplied in the last column.

Requested Information	Description	Notes & Evidence-Based Rationale
Site name		
Location (country, state/province etc.) including the postal code, nearest road, nearest town, and the OECM's status. Knowledge of the site's location is required to be able to conduct a site visit.		
Latitude and longitude (where available). Please include the UTM zone, Central meridian, Datum, and datum to be used.		
Property description. Provide brief details of the site, including whether it is a coastal or marine, other habitat or sacred site.		
Map. Provide site location (where available) on the map below. Indicate the number of the site being reported and the name of the site.		

**Resolution**

Resolution Sequential Number: \_\_\_\_\_

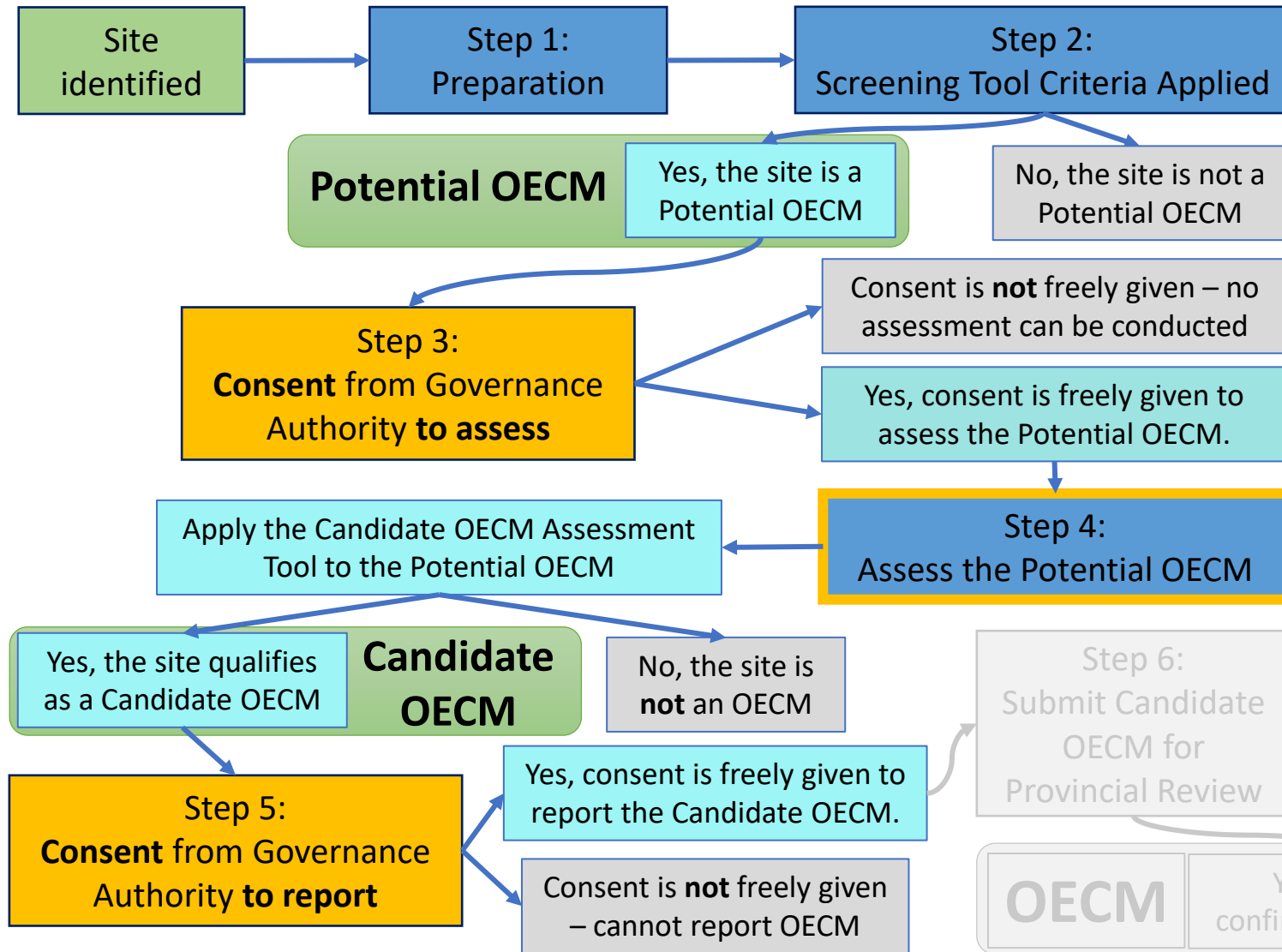
IN TERMS OF A PROPOSAL ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE [TRUST NAME] WITH REGISTRATION NUMBER [XXX]

HELD AT ..... ON THIS ..... DAY OF ..... 20.....

WHEREAS IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- The [TRUST NAME] is the registered owner of the following immovable property:
  - Portion X of the Farm [NAME] No. XXX, Registration Division X, Province of the Western Cape, measuring XXX hectares in extent, held under Deed of Transfer XXX.
- The property listed in clause 1 is the agreed OECM which was approved by the Biodiversity Stewardship Review Panel on [DATE OF REVIEW].
- The [TRUST NAME] agrees to enable the reporting on the area described as an OECM.
- [TRUST NAME] agrees further to be assigned and accept such assignment as the Management Authority.

# The OECM Assessment Process



### THE CANDIDATE OECM ASSESSMENT TOOL

CONTENTS	PURPOSE	CBD INDICATORS FOR IDENTIFYING OECMs (We have added informal reference numbers to each indicator, in brackets, to enable cross-referencing with CBD Decisions)	Evidence/Comments
CBD Criterion A: Site is not currently recognised as a protected area			
1	Not a protected area Double check that the site isn't already recognised or reported as a protected area.	• The site is not currently recognized or reported as a protected area or part of a proposed area. It may have been established for another function. (AC)	
CBD Criterion B: Area is governed and managed			
2	Assess whether the site	• Size and area are described, including in three dimensions:	
3	Geographically defined space		
4	Legitimate governance authorities		

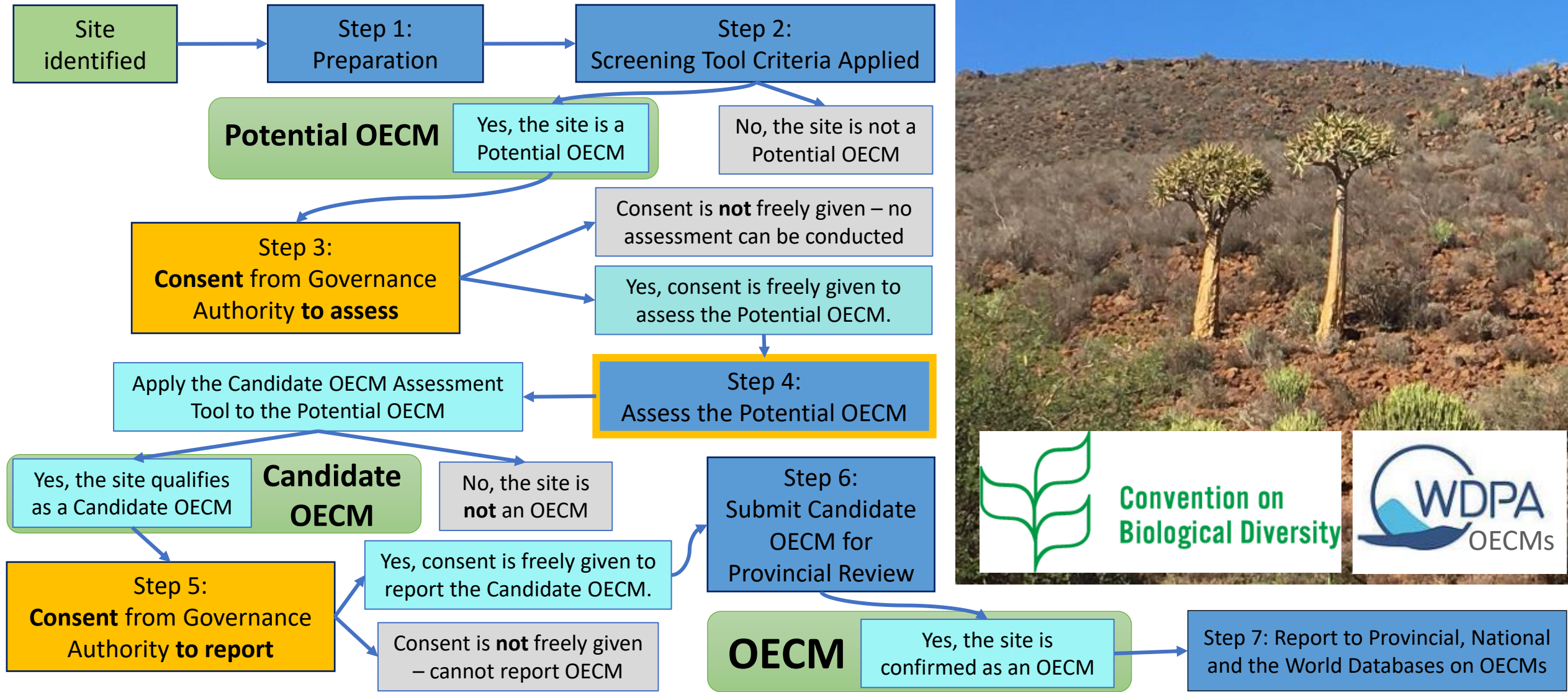
Picture of OECM site

**TYPE OF OECM**  
**SITE NAME**  
 [Date]

#### RESULTS

CRITERIA	RESULTS		
	Yes	Uncertain or Partially	No
1 Area is not currently recognised as a protected area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Geographically defined space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Legitimate governance authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Managed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 In situ conservation of biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 effective and long-term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 information and monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 ecosystem functions and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values (leave blank if the site contains none of these values)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# The OECM Assessment Process



# What are the OECM Criteria?



## Screening tool criteria

1. The site is not a protected area (PA)
2. The site is likely to support important biodiversity values

## Full assessment criteria

3. The site is a geographically defined area
4. The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values
5. Activities which threaten the important biodiversity values of the site are prevented or mitigated
6. Governance and management of the site results in the in situ conservation of important biodiversity values
7. Governance and management arrangements are likely to be sustained
8. Governance and management arrangements address equity considerations

# Biodiversity Stewardship

Biodiversity  
priority areas

Landowner focus

Co-operative  
governance and  
partnerships

Landowner  
extension support

Voluntary  
commitment



Increasing biodiversity importance  
 Increasing support from conservation authority  
 Increasing commitment to conservation

CATEGORY 1

PROTECTED AREAS

National Park

Nature Reserve

Protected Environment

Protected Area  
Estate

NOT eligible as  
OECM

CATEGORY 2

CONSERVATION  
AREAS

Biodiversity Management Agreement

Biodiversity Agreement

Conservation Servitudes Conservation  
Agreements

Conservation  
Estate

Eligible as a  
Potential OECM,  
if criteria are met





CATEGORY 3















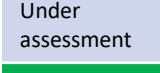




PARTNERSHIP  
AREAS









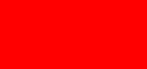
Biodiversity Partnership Area

Eligible as a  
Potential OECM,  
if criteria are met

# OECMs currently being fully assessed

	Measure/ site meets ALL OECM assessment criteria
	Measure meets MOST of assessment criteria and/ or only a SUBSET of sites meet all criteria. Individual site assessments required.
	Measure/ site does NOT meet OECM assessment criteria.
	Example(s) of Candidate OECMs have been assessed, reviewed and recommended as OECMs by Provincial OECM Review Committee

Mechanism	
Biodiversity Management Agreements	
 Biodiversity Agreements	
 Conservation Easement/ Servitudes	
 Conservation Champion Agreements (WWF-SA)	
Conservation Agreements (Conservation SA)	
 Conservancies	
 Landowners' Associations (endorsed title deeds)	
Special Management Areas (ICMA)	
Indigenous/ Natural Forests	Under assessment
 Military Land	
 National Botanical Gardens	
 National/ Provincial Heritage Sites	

Estuaries	
Municipal Zonation	
Ramsar	Under assessment
Sector	
 Wildlife Ranching	
Marine	Under assessment
Smart Agriculture	
 Eco-tourism	
Landscape Focal Areas	
Biosphere Buffer Zones	
Strategic Water Source Areas	

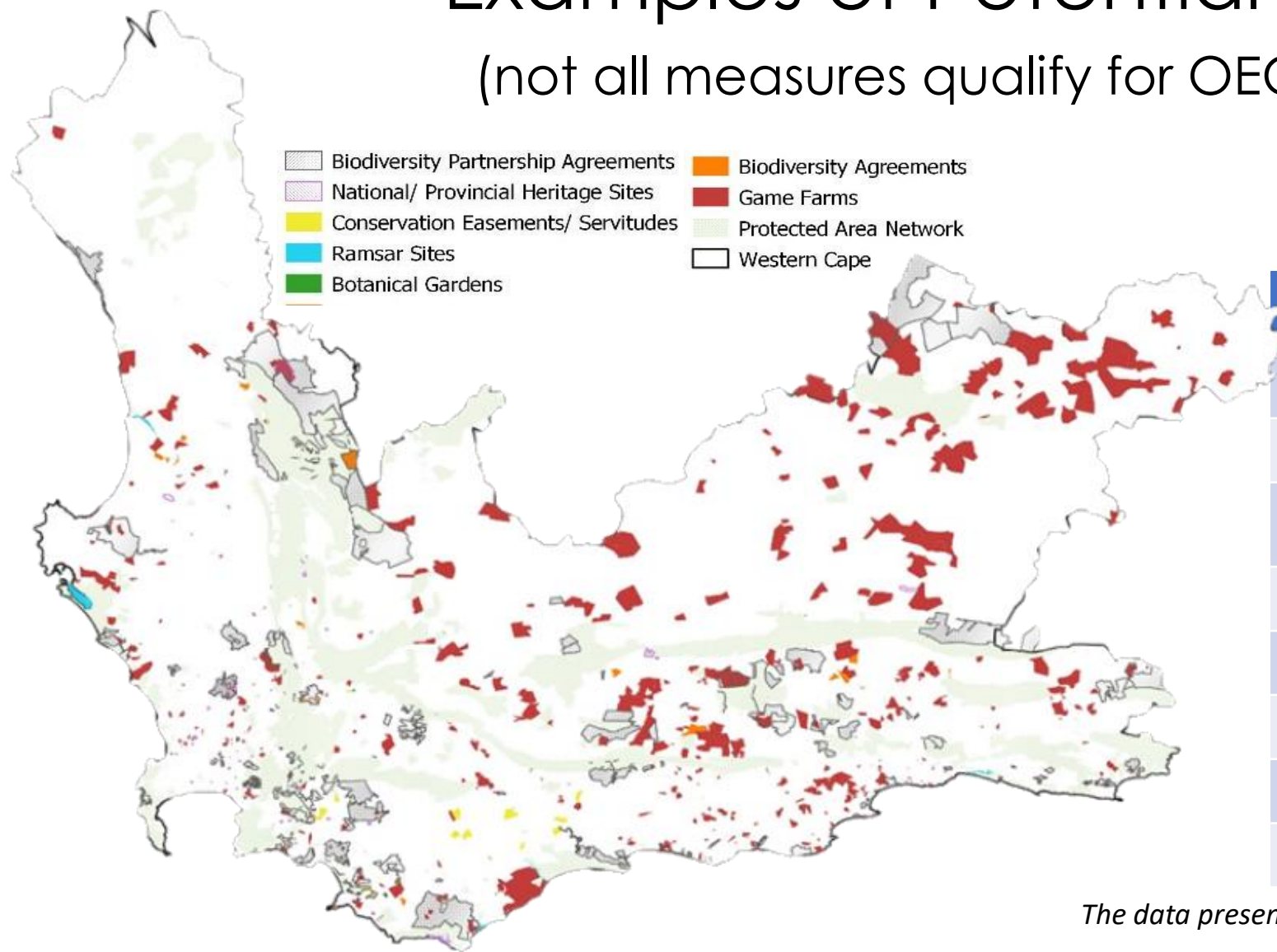


CONSERVATION OUTCOMES



# Examples of Potential OECMs

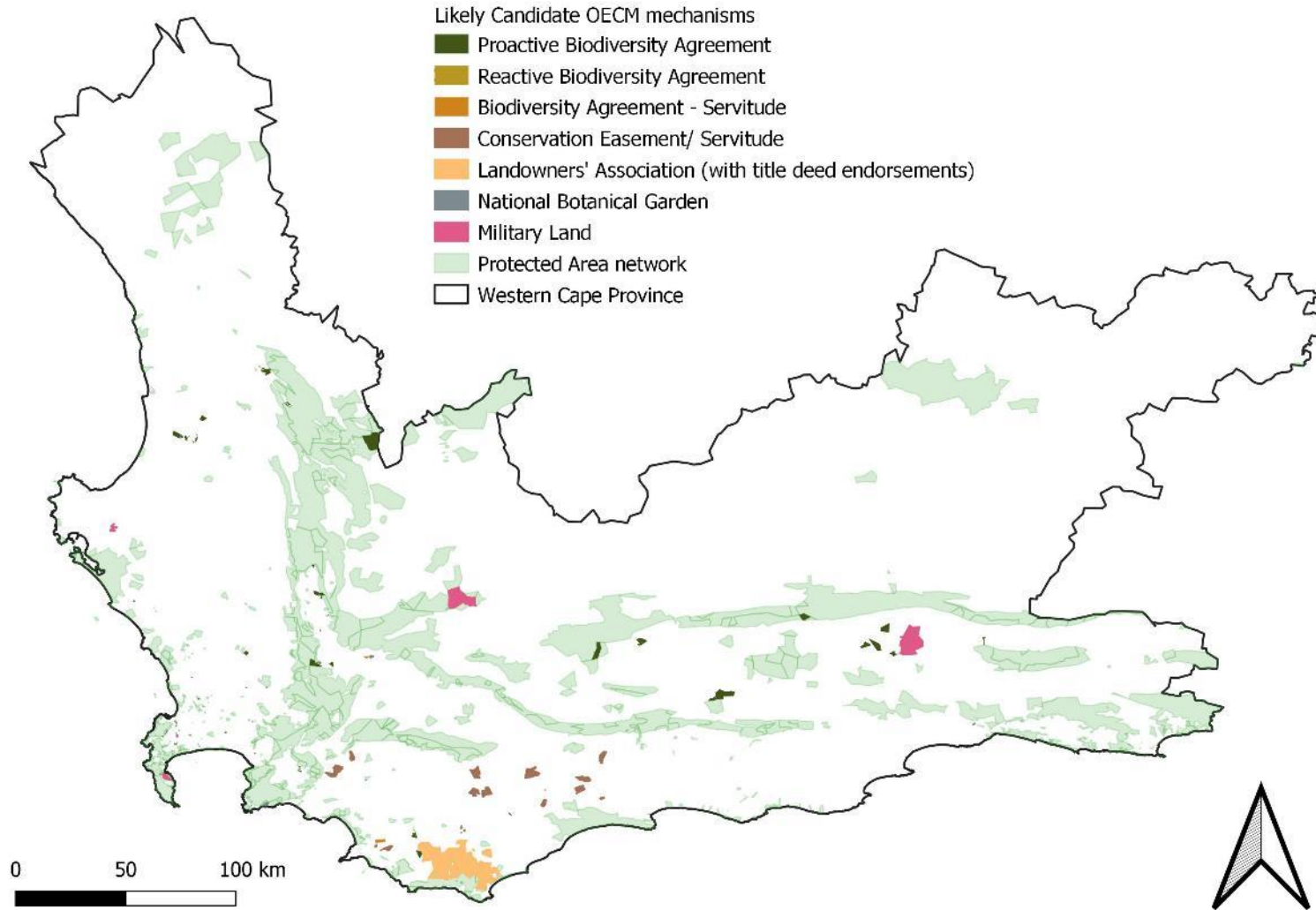
(not all measures qualify for OECM status)



Potential OECMs	Area (ha)	Proportion CBA1 (%)
Biodiversity Partnership Area	713 569	34.6
National/ Provincial Heritage Site	19 815	29.3
Conservation Easement/ Servitude	15 036	17.6
Ramsar Site	9 682	14.7
National Botanical Garden	386	31.3
Game Farm (wildlife ranching)	800 919	29.1
Biodiversity Agreement	21 779	80.0
<b>Total (ha)/ Ave CBA1 %</b>	<b>1 581 186 ha</b>	<b>32.1%</b>

*The data presented are still being validated and should be considered in draft*

# Candidate & Likely Candidate OECMs

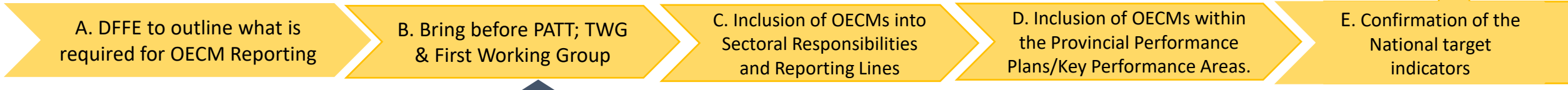
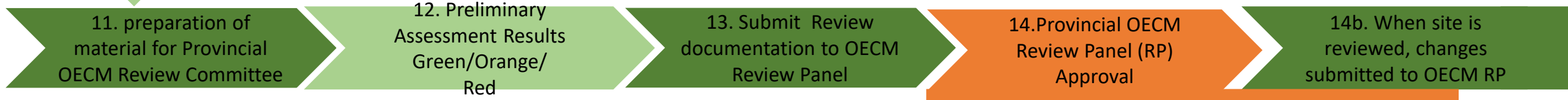
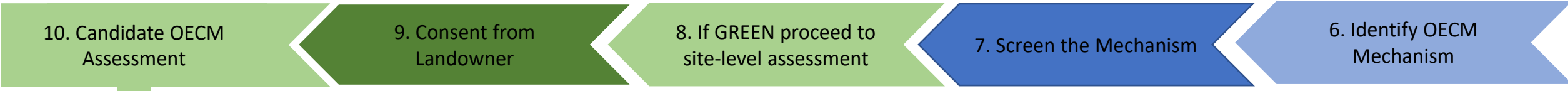


Candidate OECMs	Area (ha)
Biodiversity Agreement	24 353
Conservation Easement/ Servitude	13 382
Landowners' Association (with title deed endorsements)	46 900
National Botanical Garden	386
Military Land	21 809
<b>Total (ha)</b>	<b>106 830 ha</b>

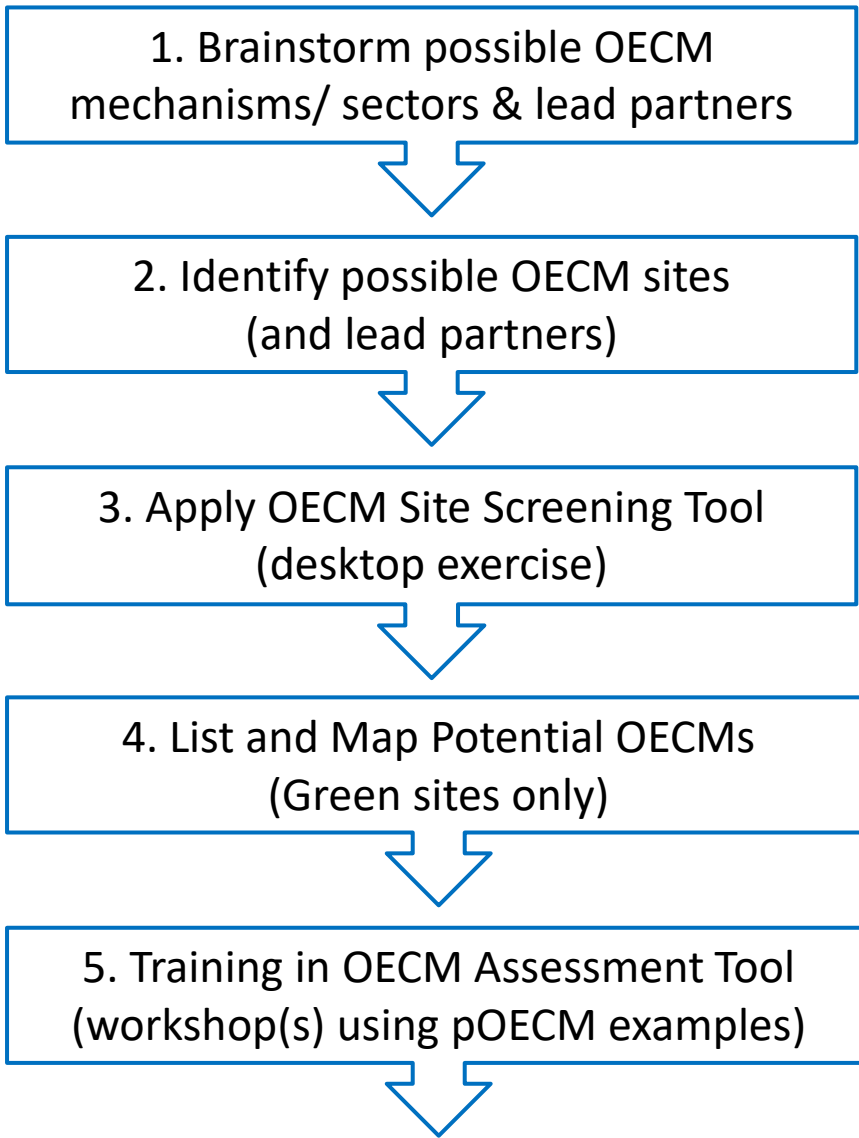
*The data presented are still being validated and should be considered in draft*

# An overview of steps/ functions in the OECM identification, assessment & reporting process

Appoint lead OECM Implementing Agency/Body

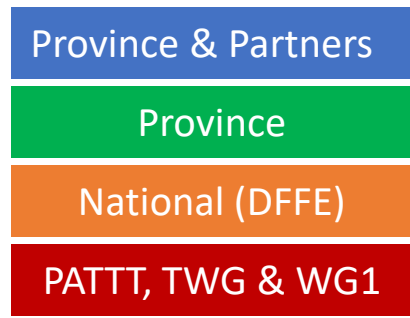


**Appoint lead OECM implementing body**  
(this does not have to be the provincial environmental agency)

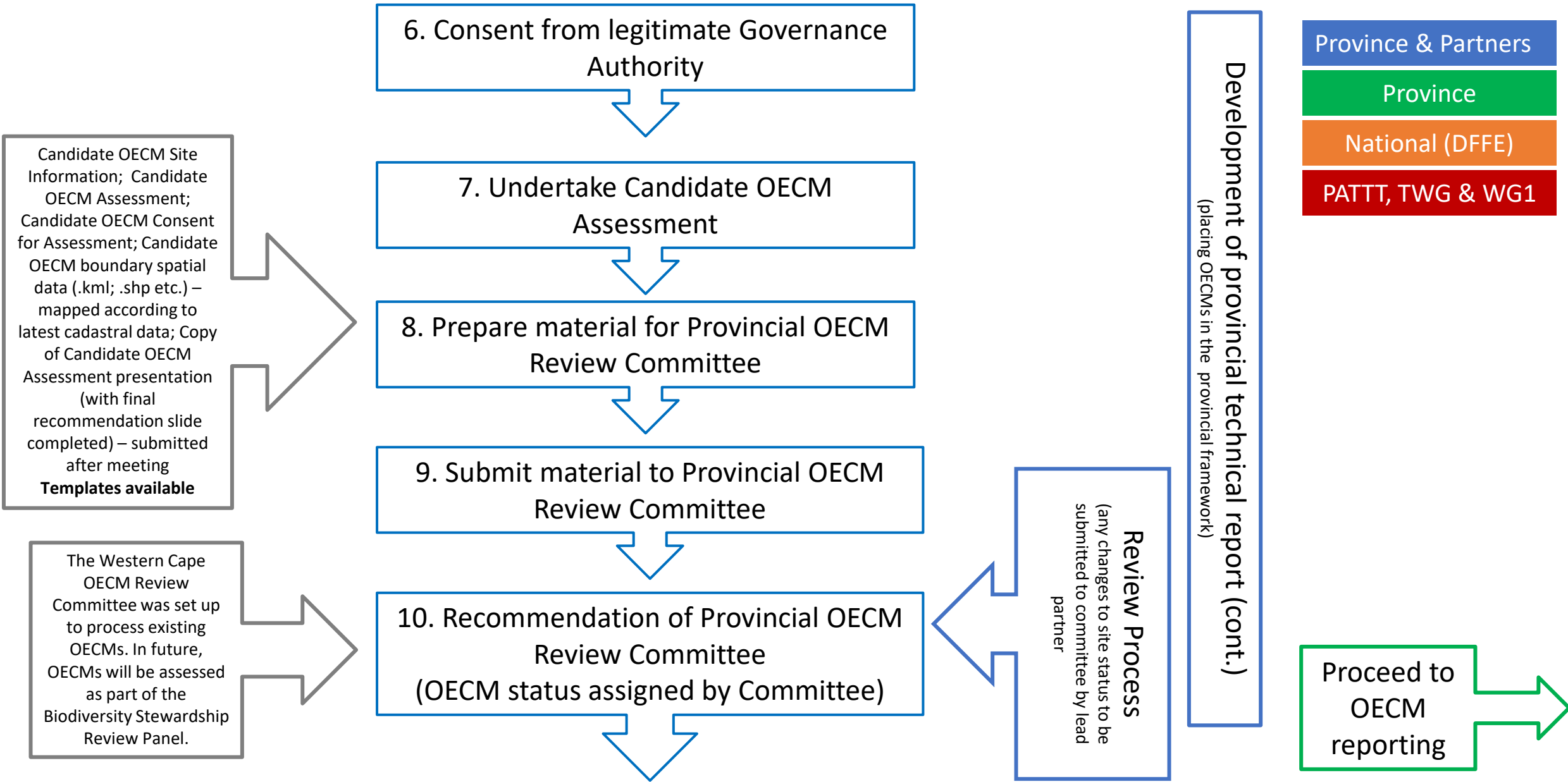


**Partner buy in**  
(use existing communication material e.g.: brochure; videos and/ or develop new); one-to-one engagements with partners and/ or use existing groups (e.g.: BDS)

**Development of provincial technical report**  
(placing OECMs in the provincial framework, including summary of OECM assessments & case studies)



**Proceed to OECM Assessment Tool**

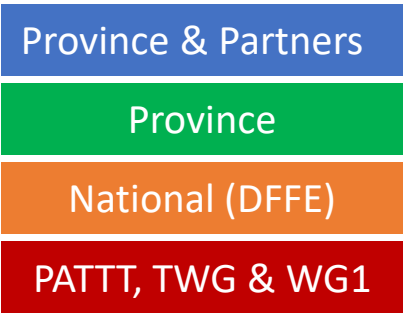
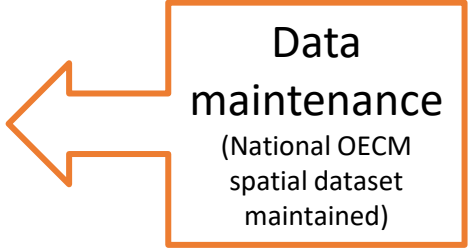
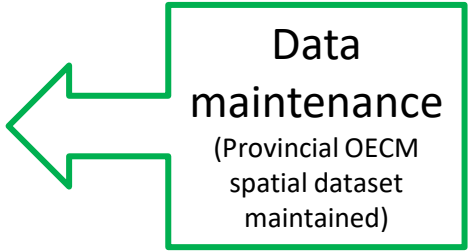
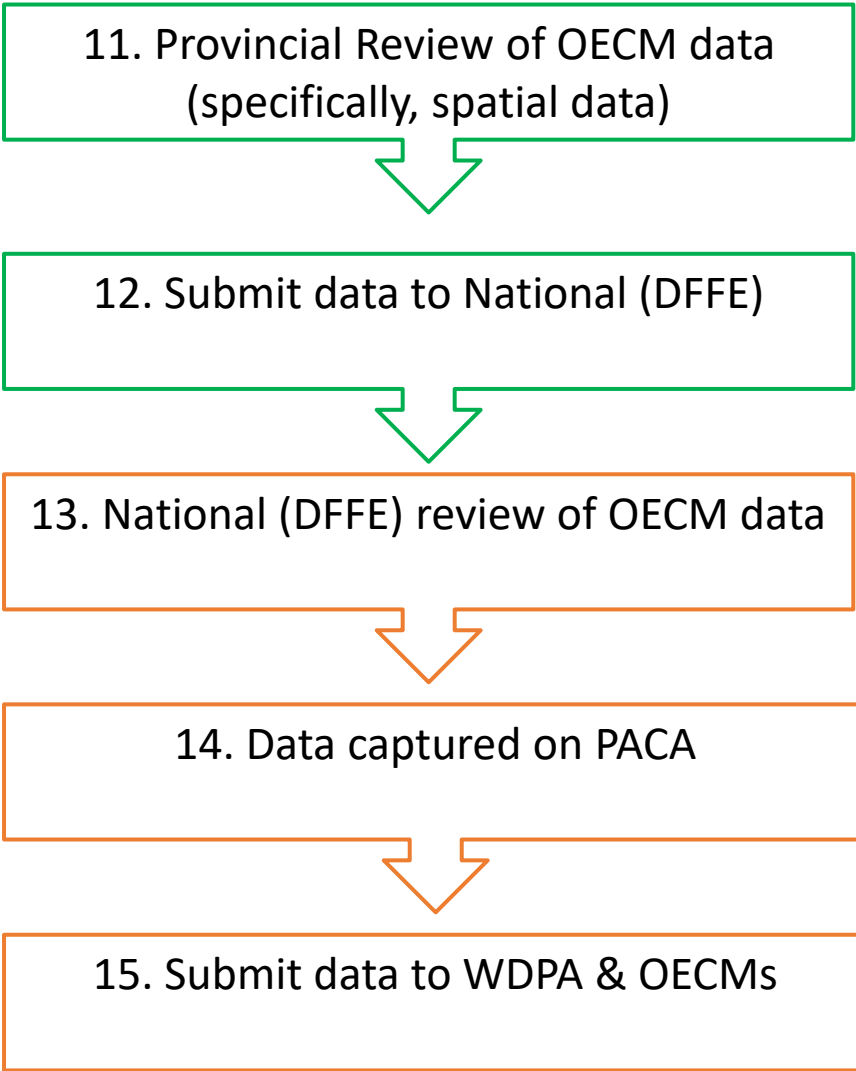


Agreement of OECM placement within provincial frameworks

Inclusion of OECMs into sectoral responsibilities and reporting lines, including KPAs

Consensus around approved OECM measures

Development of National Target Indicators



# PROJECT OUTPUTS

- OECM process briefing note (final draft out for comment with OECM Project Steering Committee)
- WC OECM Technical Review – to be finalised by June 2023
- OECM identification, assessment and reporting Resourcing and Costings Report – initial draft to be made available for comment by end-March 2023; to be finalised by May 2023 for final comment
- WC OECM Technical Review & Costings Executive Summary – to be finalised by June 2023
- WC OECM Project Report – to be finalised by end-June 2023

<https://www.birdlife.org.za/what-we-do/landscape-conservation/protecting-ecosystems/oecms/>

## RECOGNISING OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECMs)

From identification to reporting – the steps, functions, and roles in the OECM recognition process in a South African context

### Purpose of briefing note

To present the process for identifying, assessing, and recognising OECMs within South African provincial and national frameworks for consideration by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), and subsequent approval and adoption by Working Group 1 (WG1) to aid South Africa in meeting their commitments as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) revised area-based targets.

### Background

OECMs<sup>1</sup> provide an internationally recognised framework for South Africa to recognise the effective *in situ* conservation work done for nature outside the traditional protected area space. OECMs will contribute significantly to South Africa's conservation estate and the CBD's new area-based targets, which currently call for 30 percent of the world's marine, freshwater and terrestrial spaces to be well protected and conserved by 2030 through an expanded, well-connected network of protected areas and OECMs. OECMs also provide substantial opportunities to support and strengthen existing conservation mechanisms, and national and provincial biodiversity stewardship frameworks.

### The Western Cape OECM Pilot Project (2021-2023)

The WWF Nedbank Green Trust, Western Cape (WC) OECM project is piloting the provincial OECM identification, assessment, and reporting process in South Africa. BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) is the lead OECM implementing body on the WC OECM pilot project, in partnership with Conservation Outcomes. Key partners on the project, and members of the project implementation and steering committees, include provincial environmental authority: CapeNature, WWF South Africa, DFFE, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Wilderness Foundation Africa.

### Project Methodology

The methodology comprises multiple steps (see Figure 3), initially identifying and drafting the list of potential OECMs within the terrestrial and coastal/ estuarine space for investigation; exploring in depth the global OECM assessment criteria in the South African context (see Table 1); applying these criteria to assess candidate

Table 1. The full OECM assessment criteria<sup>2</sup> ask for confirmation of a site's biodiversity value, and for equitable governance and management structures to be in place to safeguard that biodiversity in the long term. All these criteria need to be met for a site to be recommended as an OECM.

Screening tool criteria	
1.	The site is <i>not</i> a protected area
2.	The site is <i>likely</i> to support important biodiversity values
Full assessment criteria	
1.	The site is a geographically defined area
2.	The site is <i>confirmed</i> to support important biodiversity values
3.	Activities which threaten the important biodiversity values of the site are <i>controlled or mitigated</i>
4.	Governance and management of the site results in the <i>in-situ</i> conservation of important biodiversity values
5.	Governance and management arrangements are likely to be <i>sustainable</i>
6.	Governance and management arrangements address <i>equity considerations</i>

<sup>1</sup> Defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018, an OECM is 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."  
<sup>2</sup> Criteria taken from IUCN/WCPA, Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), Version 2.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/files/oecms-site-level-assessment-tool>

OECMs for review. The project is also working to develop frameworks, including biodiversity stewardship OECMs, including the production of both corresponding assessment of the capacity and implementation, assessment and reporting processes in the

OECM mechanisms, sectors, and landscape focal areas, more than 20 of which are being assessed (see Addendum 1). These include a range of id non-stewardship categories: from potential national/ local government, to independent measures organisations.

Examples
Biodiversity Management Agreements, National Botanical Gardens, Wetlands, Indigenous Natural Forests, National/Provincial Heritage Sites, Ramsar sites, Special Management Areas
Biodiversity Agreements, Municipal zoning
Conservation Services (Easements?); Conservation Agreements, Lower Associations, Conservancies
Conservation Champion Agreements, Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA), Wool Standards, Eco-tourism sites

potential Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) implementation for each category.

Identifying six identified mechanisms, have been fully reviewed by the OECM Review Committee and recommended as mechanisms alone have the potential to contribute more (see Table 2).

Aligning existing biodiversity stewardship programme, and in line with national government (see below for next iteration and reporting processes).

Aligning and outside the traditional conservation and training materials, including templates for use on BirdLife South Africa's OECM webpage: <https://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/protecting-ecosystems/oecms/>.



## Envisioned Outputs Going Forward

- Identified network of OECMs assessed and ready to be reported to the respective provincial, national, and global databases for Western Cape OECMs.
- Results from this project are used by DFFE and SANBI to develop a national OECM implementation strategy under the auspices of biodiversity stewardship to facilitate the assessment of OECMs and allow South Africa to report these to the WCMC World Database on OECMs in order to meet the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.
- CapeNature is able to report on assessed hectares under conservation that contribute to the Conservation Estate in the Western Cape, in fulfilment of the Western Cape Protected Area Expansion Strategy, which includes OECMs as a key activity.

Challenge	Solution/ Mitigation
<p>OECMs housed in Conservation Estate alongside Protected Areas, the latter providing formal protection and in general, greater security against threats such as inappropriate development and other land uses. Dilution of South Africa's Conservation Estate with potentially less important (biodiversity) sites and/ or sites with less meaningful protection i.e. sites being included just to meet targets.</p>	<p>Of paramount importance is that qualifying OECMs are worthy of recognition. OECM assessment criteria need to be <b>rigorously applied</b> to all candidate sites.</p> <p>Stepping stone to higher levels of protection.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for strengthening biodiversity stewardship measures.</p> <p>Ensure, where possible, that the biodiversity value of OECMs is reflected within spatial planning frameworks.</p>
<p>Resources pulled away from protected area expansion and maintenance in an already capacity constrained environment.</p>	<p><b>Always pursue the highest level of protection for each site.</b></p> <p>Tie in with existing stewardship/ PA expansion areas/ activities as much as possible (minimise additional work).</p>

**WWF NEDBANK  
GREEN TRUST**



*Giving Conservation Wings*



**CONSERVATION  
OUTCOMES**



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment,  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**SANBI**

Biodiversity for Life



**WWF**



**WCPA**  
WORLD COMMISSION  
ON PROTECTED AREAS

**WILDERNESS  
FOUNDATION**  
AFRICA

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

