Summary Report

APBON 11th Web Seminar

1. Date: 4th March 2022
    Time: 15:00-17:00 in Japanese Standard Time
        (13:00-15:00 in Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam), (11:45-13:45 in Nepal)
        (14:00-16:00 in Malaysia, Philippines, China)

2. Location, Participants
    ・Webex Meeting Room
    ・37 participants (33 participants and 4 from secretariat) from 10 Nationalities
    ・MC: Dr. Sunita Chaudhary (ICIMOD)

3. Program:
Presentation1:
Dr. Madhu Rao (Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas)
"Understanding the role and potential of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Asia Pacific region"

Summary of presentation
Firstly Dr. Rao shared the background and basic concerns on the seminar theme with focusing on the draft target 3, achievement of 30% conservation area by 2030 which described in IPBES report, and pointed out that there were 17% in terrestrial and only 10% in a marine area achieved until 2020. Since large areas of wildlife habitat lay outside formal PA systems, she emphasized that not only PA conservation but the conservation for other areas such as OECMs were important, and the political will, financing, and policy framework were essential to achieve 30% by 2030 in both PA and OECMs. Dr. Rao also introduced some basic concepts and a brief overview of some technical backgrounds of OECMs and described the difference between PA and OECMs based on IUCN report and CBD definition. After identifying the OECMs likely and unlikely features in the terrestrial and marine areas, Dr. Rao also introduced the steps how to recognize an area as OECMs. Dr. Rao briefly mentioned that such area-based conservation was a key tool for delivering sustainable development in the current situation.

Presentation2:

Dr. Ruchi Pant (Chief, Climate Change, Resilience, Biodiversity and Chemicals Management, UNDP India)

"Expanding the Conservation Estate: The Indian OECMs Experience"

Summary of presentation

At first, Dr. Pant introduced the timeline of OECMs and the progress in India, She introduced the 14-category classification system being used in India to identify and map OECMs, sharing details of the definition and specific guidelines of each category. She then shared a number of potential OECMs identified in India under various categories, including unique agricultural systems, industrial estates, biodiversity parks, etc. These were followed by the major challenges being faced in India related to OECMs, including lack of awareness, complicated and long screening and validation procedures. She introduced some measures to move the way forward including the continuation of a Pan-India process of OECM identification and dossier preparation, in-country orientation meetings, mobilizing financial resources to support OECMs, and reaching out to more potential OECMs through the India Biodiversity Awards. She concluded her presentation by sharing that OECMs were not an alternative to PAs but a complementary measure to support the PA network in increasing the conservation spaces globally. OECMs help in the conservation of biological resources in the corridor area, improve the connectivity between biodiversity-rich areas and provide better ecological representation. Overall, OECMs help in fulfilling the criteria of the ecosystem and diverse governance models.

Presentation3:

Dr. Taku Kadoya (National Institute for Environmental Studies)

"Potential of city green space as OECMs"

Summary of presentation

The aim of this presentation is to provide case by case bases assessment to identify a candidate for OECMs. From this practical point, Dr. Kadoya firstly introduced four steps criteria suggested by IUCN-WCPA to identify a city green space as a candidate for OECMs and explained the details of collaborative research by NIES and NACS-J which was conducted since 2018. In this research, firstly they defined conservation priority areas based on the distribution of threatened plants and conservation costs, and prioritize areas using SecSel, the software originally developed by NIES. Based on the

result that represents spatial overlaps between existing PAs and city green spaces, they found the green space areas were not covered by PAs ensuring the areas had essential characteristics as defined for OECMs.

They further conducted questionary surveys to confirm the long-term outcome and *in-situ* area-based conservation in those city-green spaces. As a result of the survey collected from 577 offices of the green space, Dr. Kadoya reported that at least 53 site satisfies the criteria to be identified as OECMs and showed that the occurrence of conservation-concern species in the space was significantly related to forest proportion around the space, existence of conservation activity and conservation areas within the space. He also pointed out that the less forest around green space increased the importance of conservation areas in green space, and green space in intensively urbanized areas might need more focused management to maintain conservation values.

Presentation4:

Dr. Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD)

"Potentials and opportunities of OECM in the Hindu Kush Himalaya"

Summary of presentation

This presentation aims to provide a brief introduction of the existing protected areas and potential OECMs in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an Inter-Governmental regional centre is working with eight member countries that aim to seek sustainable mountain development for mountains and people. Dr. Chettri introduced the region being rich in biodiversity and contiguous ecosystems a total of 35% of the world population benefited indirectly from the ecosystem services. He further added that through the region is covered with more than 50% protected areas around 50% of threatened species population are decreasing stages. Dr. Chettri also explained that the protected area coverage in some countries was too small in order to comply Aichi target 11 (17%) and Post 2020 GBF target (30%) in the countries except for Bhutan and Nepal. He concluded by highlighting the challenges of sustaining the protected area effectiveness as well as need for proper definition and guidelines to explore the potentials for OECMs. He also emphasized the need for landscape approach and connectivity corridoes between the small and scattered protected areas, community conserved areas such as scared groves and world heritage sites. Since many potential OECMs are indigenous lands managed and owned by indigenous people, further initiatives of cooperation are needed to achieve the targets.

Presentation5:
Ms. Chistina Lázaro (UNEP-WCMC)
"Reporting data on OECMs"

Summary of presentation
Ms. Lázaro made a presentation on how to report the OECMs data using the official indicators on progress works for international targets such as sustainable development goals 14 and 15. The world database of OECM has currently 671 OECMs from 8 countries and territories and it is updated monthly. Coverage statistics show 16.8 % PA and OECMs in terrestrial and 8.01% in Marine area. Ms. Lázaro emphasized the importance of data reporting of OECMs because OECMs cannot be factored into decision-making in multiple sectors and future target 3 cannot be accurately tracked until OECMs are identified and mapped.

Ms. Lázaro also introduced the official procedure of how to report OECMs data, which should be reported to the WD-OECM in a specific format with GIS and tabular data, after identification of OECMs consented by the government authority.

Q&A Session
Moderator: Dr. Yongyut Trisuart and Ms. Runi Anak Pungga

Q: How we can monitor the area is effectively managed or not?
A: (Dr. Rao) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METT) for the basic level and the headline indicator on target 3 are useful to understand the level of effectiveness.

Q: It would be great if you could kindly share your thoughts on the role of / expectation to the biodiversity observation network in this region.
A: (Dr. Rao) The BON in this region I think could play an important role in making available key guidance on monitoring tools and methodologies that are available to monitor biodiversity outcomes in both PAs and OECMs. There are many methods and approaches- but it would be good to have a platform that makes these approaches easily accessible to CBD Parties. The other useful resource is case studies- they are very important to help understand how to implement monitoring methodologies and approaches. Hope this is useful.

Q: Whether the stakeholders or owners of these areas are willing that their areas be

registered as OECMs?

A: (Dr. Pant) There is a requirement of consent by managing authority. Owners' consent is not necessary but managing authority is required. We usually get consent from managing authorities to submit potential OECMs in India.

Q: How about the cost of OECMs to be applied to the types of areas?

A: (Dr. Pant) The cost of conservation of OECMs depends on the various parameters such as location, size, and threads.

A: (Dr. Kadoya) I think OECMs areas are usually managed for other purposes, which means that OECMs have already had a function of conservation. From this viewpoint, we don't need a further cost for conservation.

Q: How does a link to the supporting information work after submitting the dataset, is there any filtering process? I am interested in how this data is examined.

A: (Ms. Lazaro) This data submitted is open to the public, so anyone can access that data.

Q: Any requirement of scales for OECMs

A: (Ms. Lázaro) No requirement of scale. Only consent of government authority is required.

A: (Dr. Pant) In the case of Apatani Unique Agricultural Site, we submitted it as potential OECM after getting the consent of the local community through the government.

Q: How do we promote corridors and connectivity in the Himalayas?

A: (Dr. Chettri) The corridor concept is critical in the Himalayas region. Because PA is comparatively small and scattered in fragmented. In the context of climate change, connectivity is important, corridor could be one option to identify the OECMs.

Q: How frequently the data of the same OECM will be updated?

A: (Ms. Lázaro) We usually update information if there is any change such as boundaries, you could update your information anytime. But updates might need the consent of government authority No update requirement from UNEP-WCMC.

Photo Session