



proteus

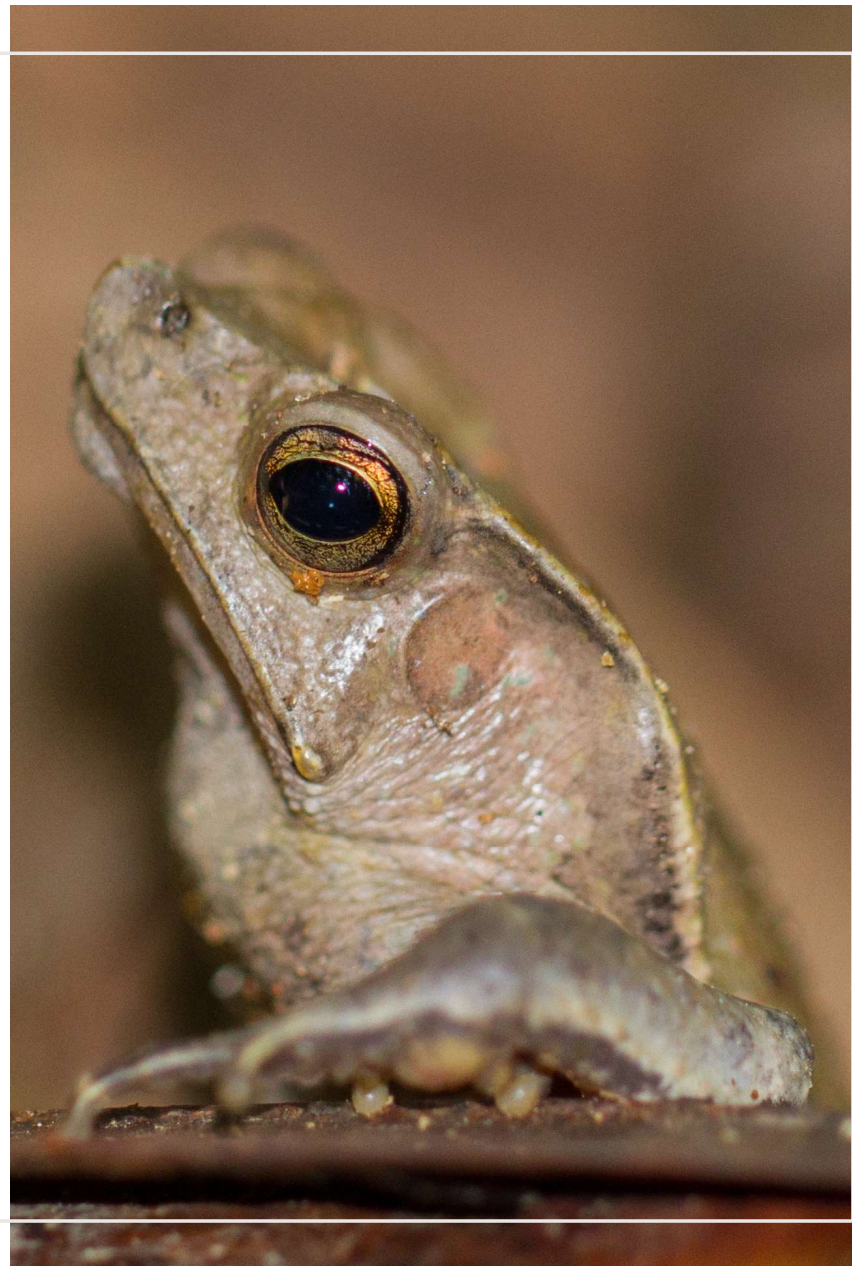
# Business contributions to protected areas and OECMs

Proteus Horizon Scan Webinar

4 September 2025

# AGENDA

- **13:00- 13:05** Introduction to the Proteus Horizon Scan Webinar series  
Elspeth Grace | UNEP-WCMC
- **13:05 – 13:15** An introduction to Target 3, protected areas and OECMs  
Brett Wilson | UNEP-WCMC
- **13:15 – 13:25** Business contributions to protected areas and OECMs  
Alex Ross | UNEP-WCMC
- **13:25 – 13:35** Business case study  
Letícia Guimarães | Vale
- **13:35 – 14:30** Q&A / facilitated discussion



# INTRODUCTION TO THE SESSION



## Proteus Horizon Scan Webinars

- A series of webinars for Proteus Partners about the latest trends and developments in biodiversity policy, initiatives, data and tools
- Today's session features peer-to-peer learning between Proteus Partners and selected other organizations, through sharing case studies and insights

## Logistics

- **Presentation and discussion:** Presentation recorded, Chatham House Rule for discussion
- **Questions:** Please hold onto any questions for the speakers until the end or put them in the chat
- **Topics:** Your suggestions for future Webinar topics are welcome!



An introduction to Target 3, protected areas and OECMs  
Brett Wilson, UNEP-WCMC

# THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted at COP15 in 2022, by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The vision of the GBF is a world of living in harmony with nature. The GBF sets out how nature loss can be halted and reversed. The GBF includes four goals, to be achieved by 2050, and 23 targets, to be achieved by 2030/

The GBF's goals and targets are global in scope, but delivered at national level. Each party is asked to provide a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), setting out how they will contribute to the GBF's targets and goals.



Kunming - Montreal  
**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**



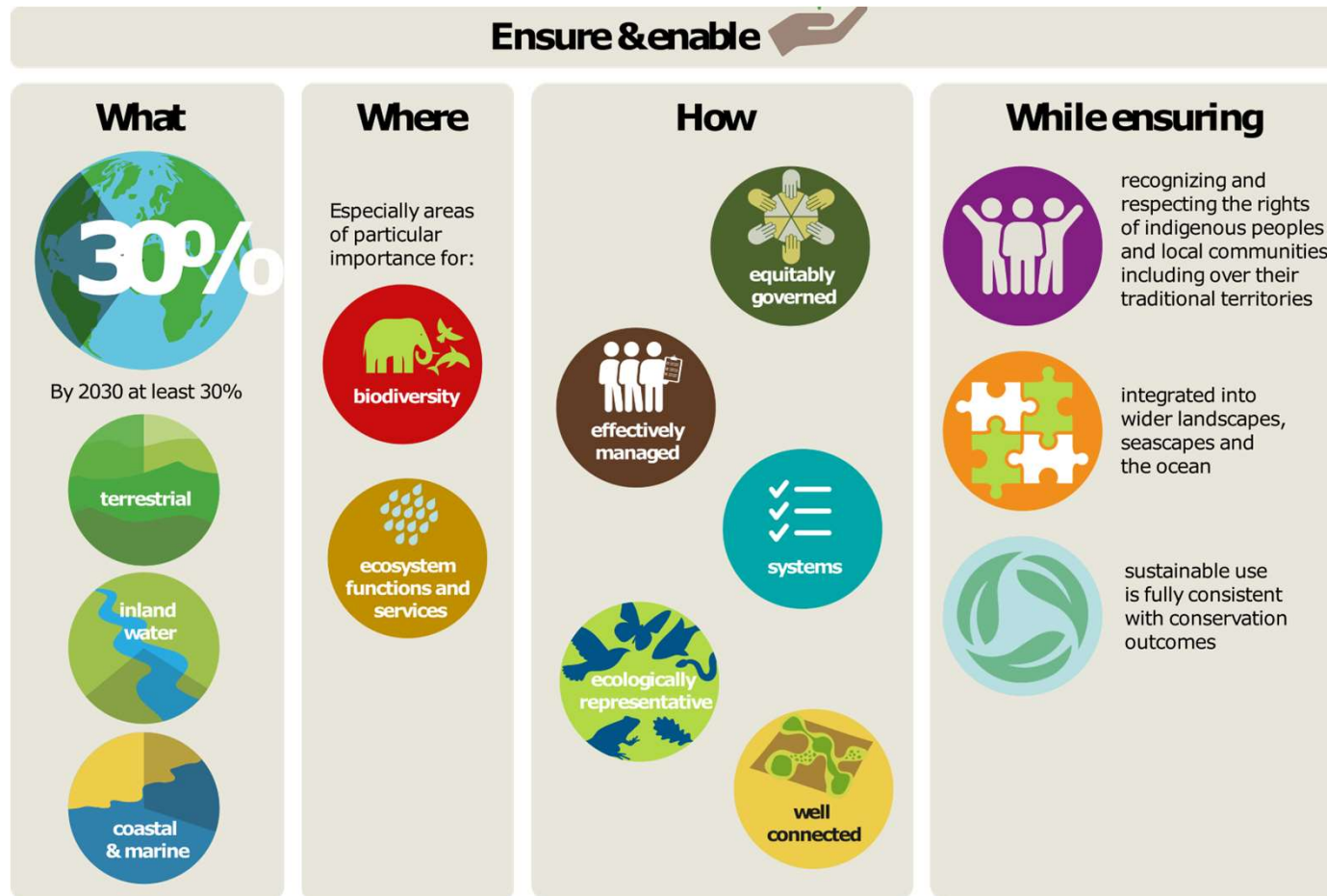
<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>

## TARGET 3: THE 30 BY 30 GOAL

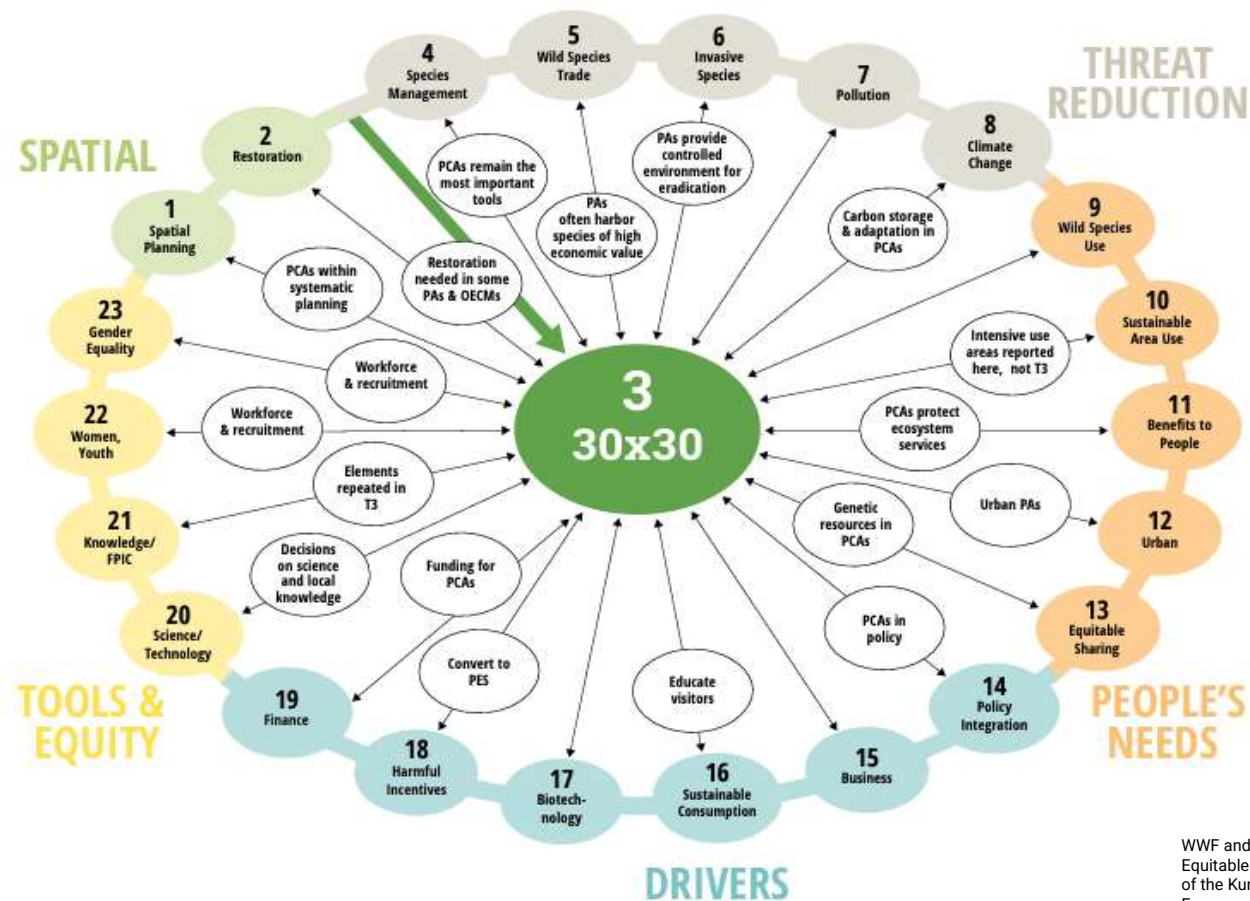
“Ensure and enable that **by 2030** at least **30 per cent** of **terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, **are effectively conserved and managed** through ecologically representative, 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.”



# TARGET 3 AIMS TO ENSURE AND ENABLE BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE



# TARGET 3 WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE OTHER TARGETS OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



WWF and IUCN WCPA. 2023. A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable and Effective Implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Version 1, August 2023

# WHAT ARE PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS?

The IUCN defines a protected area as:

*“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*



The CBD defines an other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM) 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, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values.”*





**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
(UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**



**TUVAIJUITTUQ MARINE PROTECTED AREA  
(CANADA)**



**TATIKUMU CONSERVATION AREA  
(COOK ISLANDS)**



**OUED DRAA (MOROCCO)**

## HOW DO PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS DIFFER?



### Protected area –

Conservation is the primary objective of the site

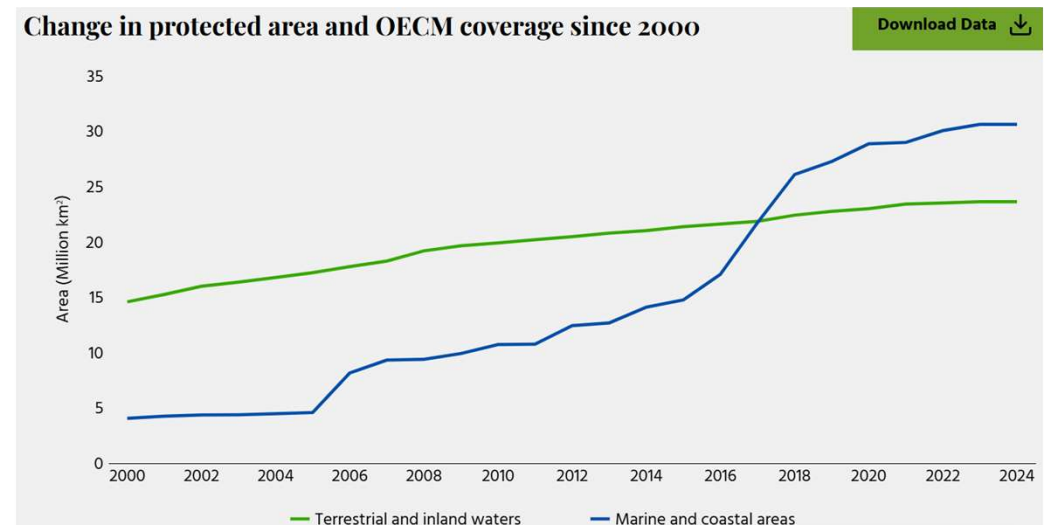
### OECM –

Conservation is not necessarily the primary objective of the site

While protected areas **MUST** have a primary conservation objective, OECMs should deliver conservation regardless of the site's management objective

# HOW ARE PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS SIMILAR?

- Both have diverse governance types, including governance by:
  - Governments
  - Private individuals, organisations or companies
  - Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities
  - Shared governance, by different rightsholders and/or stakeholders together
- Both contribute to Target 3, leading to increasing global coverage of both
- Both are mentioned in methods for assessing materiality from TNFD's LEAP approach, GRI, ESRS and CDP
- Impacts to both should be considered in a business's biodiversity risk management processes



UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2024). Protected Planet Report 2024. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN: Cambridge, United Kingdom; Gland, Switzerland.



## Business contributions to protected areas and OECMs

Alex Ross, UNEP-WCMC

# BUSINESSES CAN SUPPORT PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

Potential benefits of supporting protected areas and OECMs include:

- Contributing to global goals on biodiversity
- Demonstrating and validating commitments to environmental protection and restoration
- Direct benefits to operational resilience (e.g. watershed protection)
- Potential benefits around permitting and social license to operate



# SUPPORTING EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

Where operational sites overlap or are adjacent to protected areas or OECMs, companies can explore opportunities to support to these sites, for instance by providing:

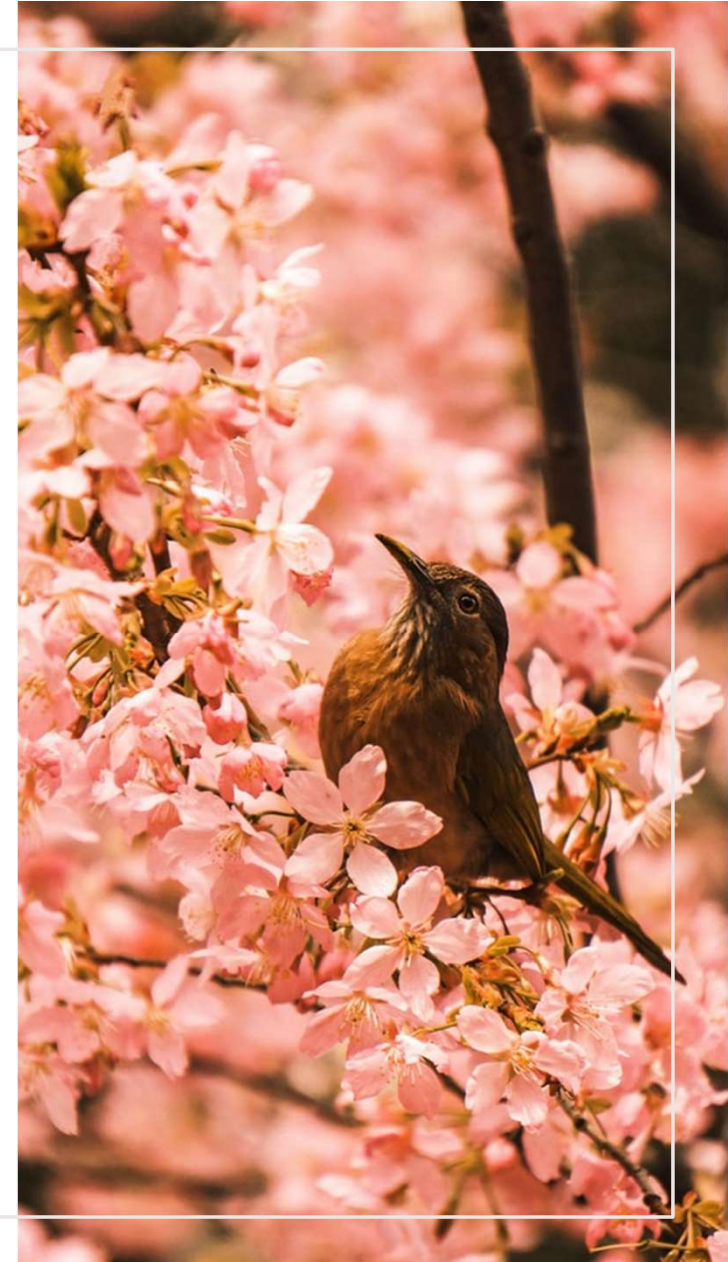
- Resource capacity – e.g. providing ecologists to conduct monitoring of a key species within a protected area
- Financial support – e.g. towards management costs of a protected area or OECM
- Material or technological support – e.g. supplying eDNA kits or drones to improve the quality and regularity of monitoring on a site



# ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

Businesses can also explore opportunities to establish new protected areas or OECMs within their landholdings

- A company could establish a privately protected area, for philanthropic or other reasons
- Existing management of set-asides could align with the criteria for OECM recognition
- Company efforts to manage ecosystem services may have the potential to be recognised as a protected or conserved area



# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Protected areas and OECMs have diverse governance types, including governments, private landowners, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and collaborative governance

- Companies should already be engaging with stakeholders and rightsholders around their sites
- Companies could partner and collaborate with stakeholder groups and make contributions to individual protected areas and OECMs and networks at landscape scale

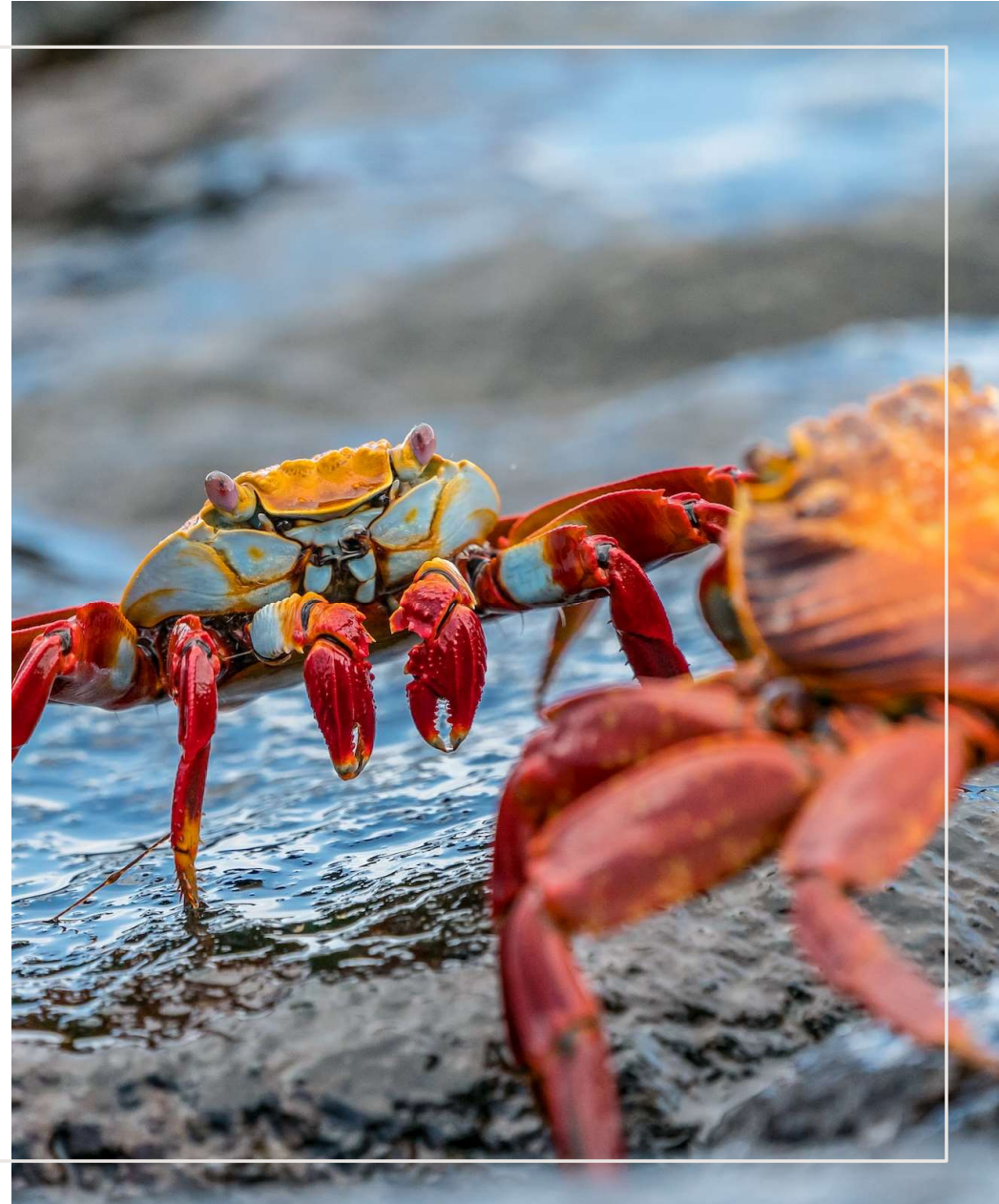
Whenever businesses provide support to other actors, appropriate forms of support should be identified by the stakeholders or rightsholders who are managing the site, not imposed by the business.

Partnerships and collaborations should be demand driven, in response to explicit requirements or requests from the protected area / OECM's governance or management group.

# INFLUENCING POLICY AND PEERS

Businesses can consider opportunities to advocate for recognition of protected areas and OECMs among policymakers and peers, including by:

- Publicly disclosing on commitments to avoid operating in protected areas and OECMs
- Publicising the benefits of supporting protected areas and OECMs
- Expressing support for policy mechanisms to increase the number, quality and management of protected areas and OECMs



# VALIDATION OF SUPPORT

Some countries have created mechanisms to encourage and validate private sector efforts to support protected and conserved areas. For example:

- Japan has established 'Certificates of Support for OECMs', issued to businesses that offer human, material or financial support for biodiversity conservation activities in OECMs. Certificates are expected to be used by companies to demonstrate support to nature (benefiting investor relations) and within company disclosures e.g. TNFD
- Fiji offers sovereign green bonds which fund projects to protect and restore areas of ecological importance, including protected areas
- The government of the Philippines has published a draft order which includes plans for an 'Adopt an OECM' scheme, which would encourage private sector actors to form long-term partnerships with the groups managing or governing OECMs



# AT MINIMUM BUSINESSES SHOULD AVOID HARMING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

Ensuring that harm to protected areas, OECMs, and other areas of biodiversity importance is avoided is crucial

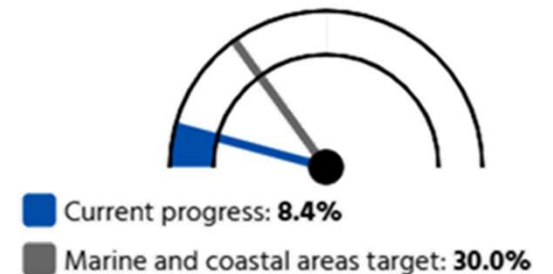
- Assess impacts and dependencies
- Incorporate into biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Follow the Mitigation Hierarchy – start by avoiding impacts
- Consider future expansion of the protected area and OECM network

Current progress towards 30% coverage

## Terrestrial and inland waters



## Marine and coastal areas



UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2024). Protected Planet Report 2024. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN: Cambridge, United Kingdom; Gland, Switzerland.



Case Study

Letícia Guimarães, Vale

# Contributions to Protected Areas and OECMs

**Leticia Guimarães**

August 2025



Foto: Leonardo Mercon

# Vale Nature Strategy



**We recognize the significant impact of our business on nature and its higher dependence on it**

**Ambition**  
We want to be a global reference in practices that minimize negative impacts and leverage positive results for nature and people

**Goals**

- Make nature an essential part of integrated governance and all decisions.
- Strengthen biodiversity management in our processes and value chain, assessing impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities.
- Promote positive legacy through restoration and conservation, strengthening partnerships with society organizations, traditional communities and indigenous people.
- Invest in innovation, in co-production and sharing of technical and scientific knowledge, incorporating and valuing traditional knowledge.
- Boost the dissemination of knowledge, actions, and results as a source of dialogue and engagement with different stakeholders.
- Influence transformative external agendas that contribute to positive results for nature (advocacy).

Strengthen biodiversity **management** in our process, enhance our No Net Loss strategy and the implementation of the steps of the impact mitigation hierarchy...

Promote a positive legacy through **restoration and conservation**, strengthening partnerships...

Vale around the world



~80% of our operations/  
impacts are in Amazon and  
Atlantic Forest

## Our Biodiversity Commitments:

- Prevent and neutralize significant biodiversity losses in our projects and expansions in areas with high biodiversity value (No Net Loss)
- Not operate in UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites
- Forest Target:** Protect and Restore 500,000 ha beyond our boundaries, until 2030 ([Vale's 2030 Agenda](#))



# Vale's long-term social and environmental goals

Reduce Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 33% by 2030



Achieve net zero Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 2050



Reduce Scope 3 net emissions by 15% by 2035



100% renewable energy in Brazil by 2025 and globally by 2030



Recover and protect 500,000 hectares by 2030



Reduce 27%<sup>1</sup> of freshwater intake by 2030



Support the lifting of 500,000 people out of extreme poverty



Indigenous communities neighboring Vale operations with UNDRIP/UN rights plans

Agenda focused on reducing impacts and generating benefits for nature and people

Transforming the future. Together.

<sup>1</sup> Updated water goal for 2030 - reduce 7% of freshwater intake by 2030 on average. Our previous target was to reduce freshwater withdrawal for our production processes by 10% by 2030. As of 2021, we have already achieved a 20% reduction since the baseline year, surpassing our target. This target would represent a total reduction of 27% (baseline 2017), alongside the 20% reduction already reached.

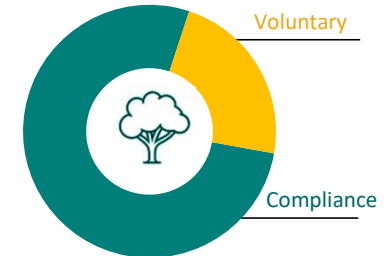
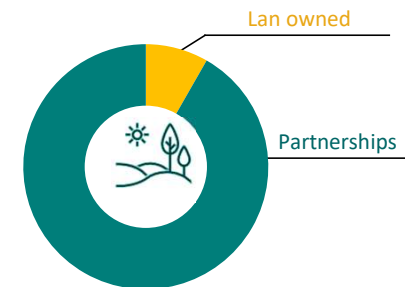
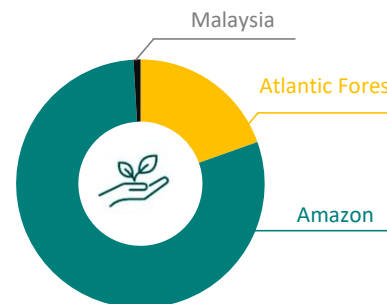
# Amplifying positive results from restoration and conservation

We help to protect an area  
**10 times larger**  
than that occupied by  
our operations



We protect  
approximately **1 million hectares**  
and **+500**  
endangered species of  
fauna and flora

- In the Amazon we help to protect more than 800,000 hectares.
- In Atlantic Forest, more than 200,000 hectares.

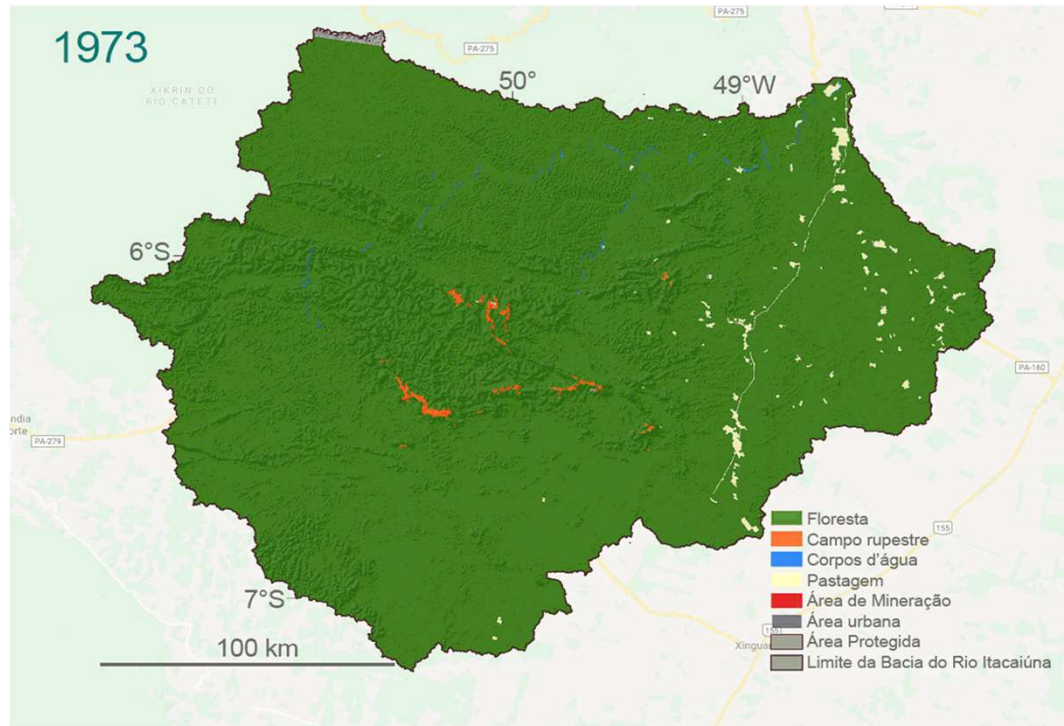


# Amazon: Carajás

A partnership of around 40 years with ICMBio to protect 800,000 hectares.

The Carajás Protected Areas Mosaic was created with mining.

ITV DS – 15 years of scientific research to solve challenges and inform decisions.



<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479715303935>



60% of iron ore production comes from this region. We occupy about 3%, investing in technology and innovation for more sustainable operations (circular mining, reduction of emissions and consumption).

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2023-024-En.pdf>

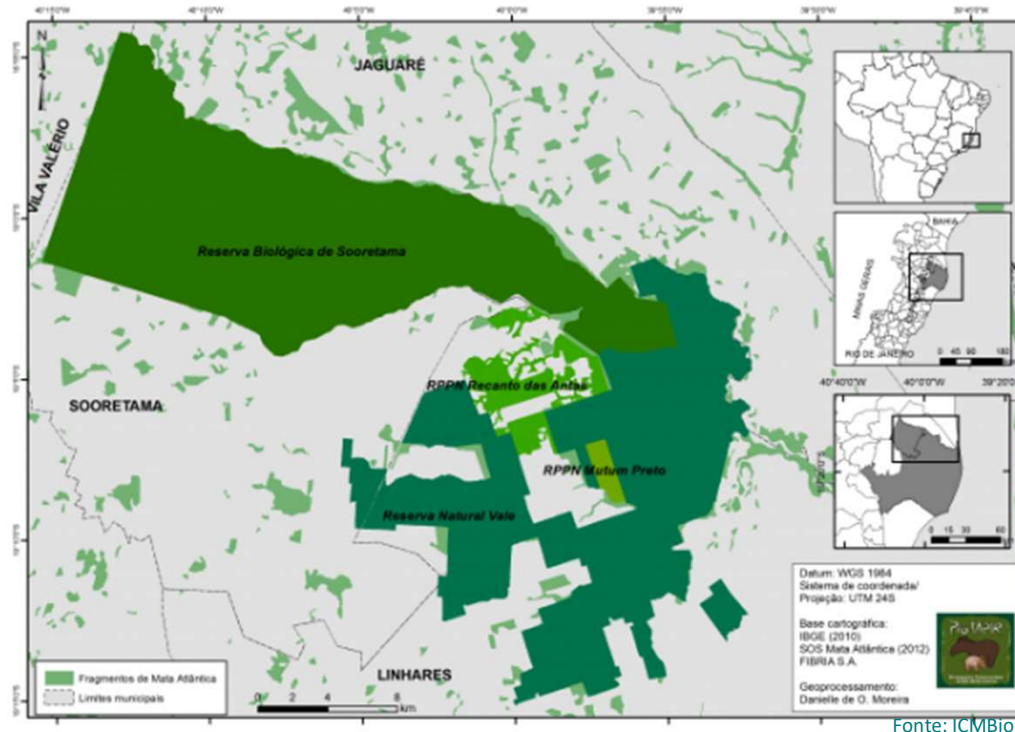
Cases we want to escalate



# Atlantic Forest: Vale Natural Reserve

The Vale Nature Reserve is a protected area owned by Vale, a voluntary conservation initiative covering almost 23,000 hectares of forest.

Connected to the Sooretama Biological Reserve and several RPPNs, this area forms one of the largest forest blocks in Espírito Santo: ~50,000 ha.



+4,400 species

338 endangered species

Atlantic Forest Biosphere  
Reserve Outpost (UNESCO)

UNESCO World Natural Heritage  
Site  
Key Biodiversity Area (IBA  
Sooretama/Linhares)

Cases we want to  
escalate



# Vale Natural Reserve Biodiversity



Onça-pintada  
Foto: Expedicionários  
Fotografia & Natureza

103 espécies de Mamíferos;  
15% das que ocorrem no Brasil;  
70% das que ocorrem no ES;  
44% da Mata Atlântica.



Jacaré-de-papo-amarelo  
Foto: Geovane Siqueira

66 espécies de Répteis;  
9% das conhecidas no Brasil;  
50% das conhecidas no ES;  
20% Mata Atlântica.



Floresta de Tabuleiro  
Foto: Mariana Senna

2.335 espécies de Flora;  
4,7 % das que ocorrem no Brasil;  
29% das que ocorrem no ES.

1.500 espécies de insetos;  
1.5% das conhecidas no Brasil.



Foto: Jackeceli Falqueto

402 espécies de aves;  
20% das que ocorrem no Brasil;  
60% das que ocorrem no ES;  
40% da Mata Atlântica.



Mutum-de-bico-vermelho  
Foto: Paulo Silva

59 espécies de Anfíbios;  
6% das conhecidas no Brasil;  
9% da Mata Atlântica;  
40% das conhecidas no ES.



Perereca-de-capacete  
Foto: Juliane Ribeiro

# A solid path to go further

Protect and recover 500,000 hectares beyond our boundaries



## Recover 100,000 ha

- Target aimed at increasing vegetation cover, resulting in carbon sequestration
- Necessarily requires native forest species in recovery arrangements, although not exclusively

2020-2024:

**+18,000 ha**

sustainable production systems recovered



## Protect 400,000 ha

- Aimed at preserving native vegetation cover, resulting in the maintenance of carbon stocks
- Primary forests or medium and advanced stages of natural regeneration
- Support for protected areas + REDD + arrangements

2020-2024:

**+200,000 ha** protected

**115,000 ha**  
Partnership with public Protected Areas

**85,000 ha**  
Partnership with REDD+ Project



# Development and investment strategy focuses on partnerships and combined financial agreements

## Forest Protection and Conservation

## Recovery of degraded areas

### BNDES – Floresta Viva



Initiative aimed at implementing ecological restoration in Brazilian biomes among 20-30k hectares



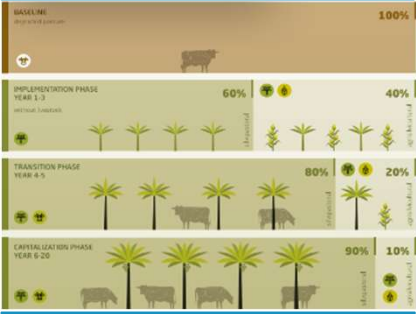
### Belterra – Agroforest Systems



Partnering with small and medium-sized farmers is transforming degraded land into productive forests | Cocoa



### Inocas – Macauba Restoration



A Brazilian palm tree capable of becoming a sustainable alternative to vegetable oils and healthy eating



### Biomass - NBS company



Brazilian based company that has the goal of restoring, conserving and preserving 4 million hectares



### ABC Norte – REDD+ Project



140 thousand hectares of native forest in the Amazon biome –Pacajá Farm | Portel and Bagre - PA





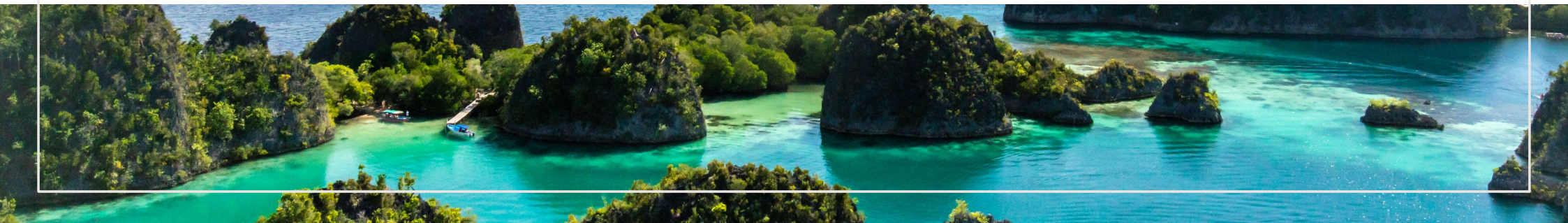
VALE



Q&A and facilitated discussion

## TO DISCUSS:

- Does your company currently take action to support protected area and OECM networks? This could include direct involvement on-site or via contributions and support to other actors.
- Thinking about the mitigation hierarchy - do you make efforts to focus offsets or additional contributions on and around protected areas/ OECMs? Or do mentions of protected areas/OECMs only relate to avoidance?
- What barriers do you see to corporate actions to support protected areas and OECMs? What would incentivise corporate action to support protected areas and OECMs?





Thank you

**UN**   
**environment  
programme**

**WCMC**