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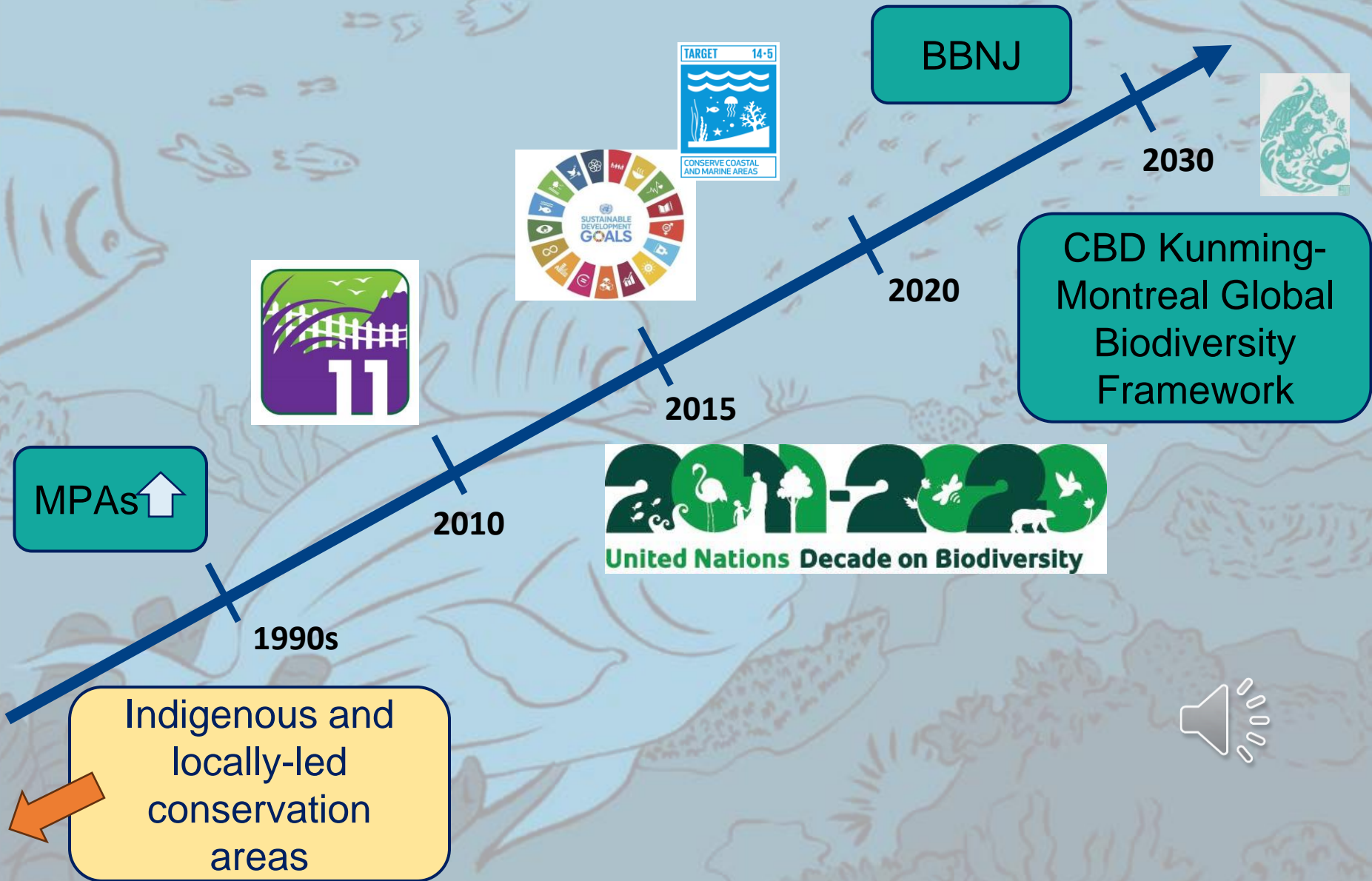


The good and the bad of OECM recognition for small-scale fisheries, Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Amber Himes-Cornell, Lucy Bowser, Kristin
Hoelting, Juan Lechuga Sánchez

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International focus on area-based management



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Target 3



Convention on
Biological Diversity



"... **least 30 per cent** of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas...are effectively conserved and managed through...systems of **protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories... recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities**, including over their traditional territories "

8.28%

of the world's
oceans

Where are we?

- 18,415 marine protected areas
- 197 OECMs

There's increasing momentum with recognizing OECMs, need to consider how Indigenous and community led areas will be incorporated

OECM definition

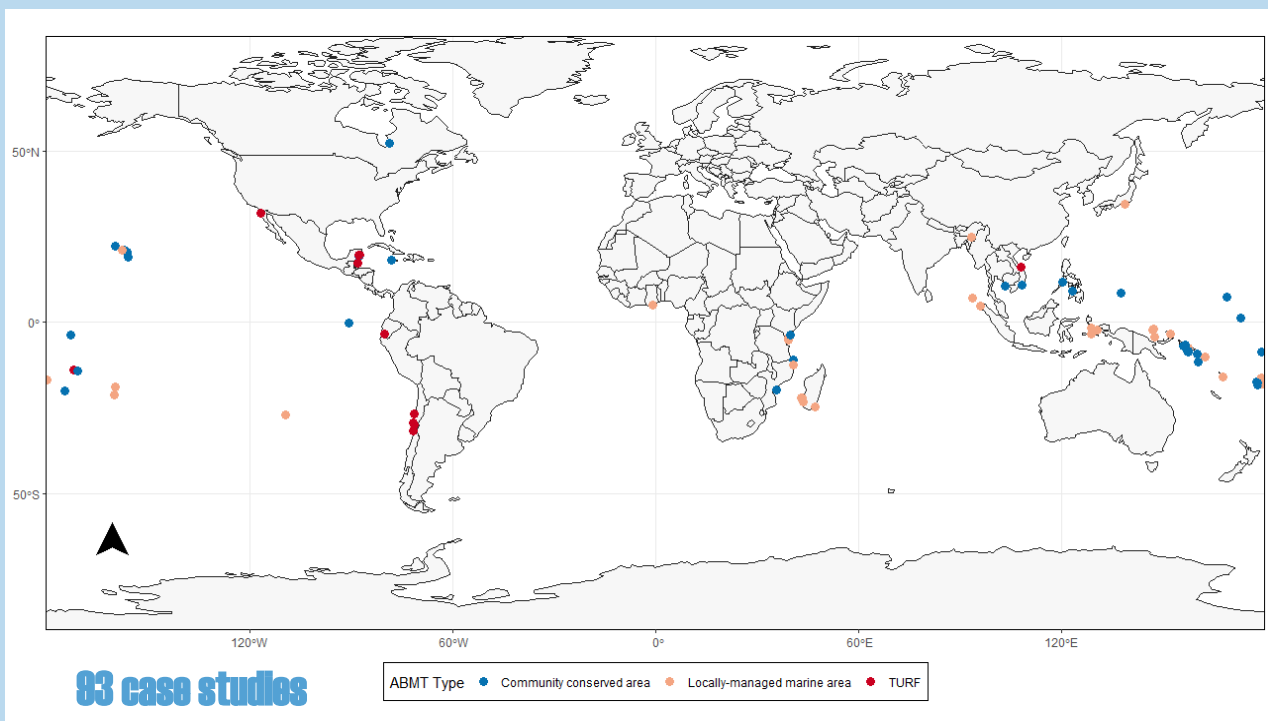
“a **geographically defined area** other than a Protected Area, which is **governed and managed** in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with **associated ecosystem functions and services** and where applicable, **cultural, spiritual,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





An opportunity for locally managed fisheries

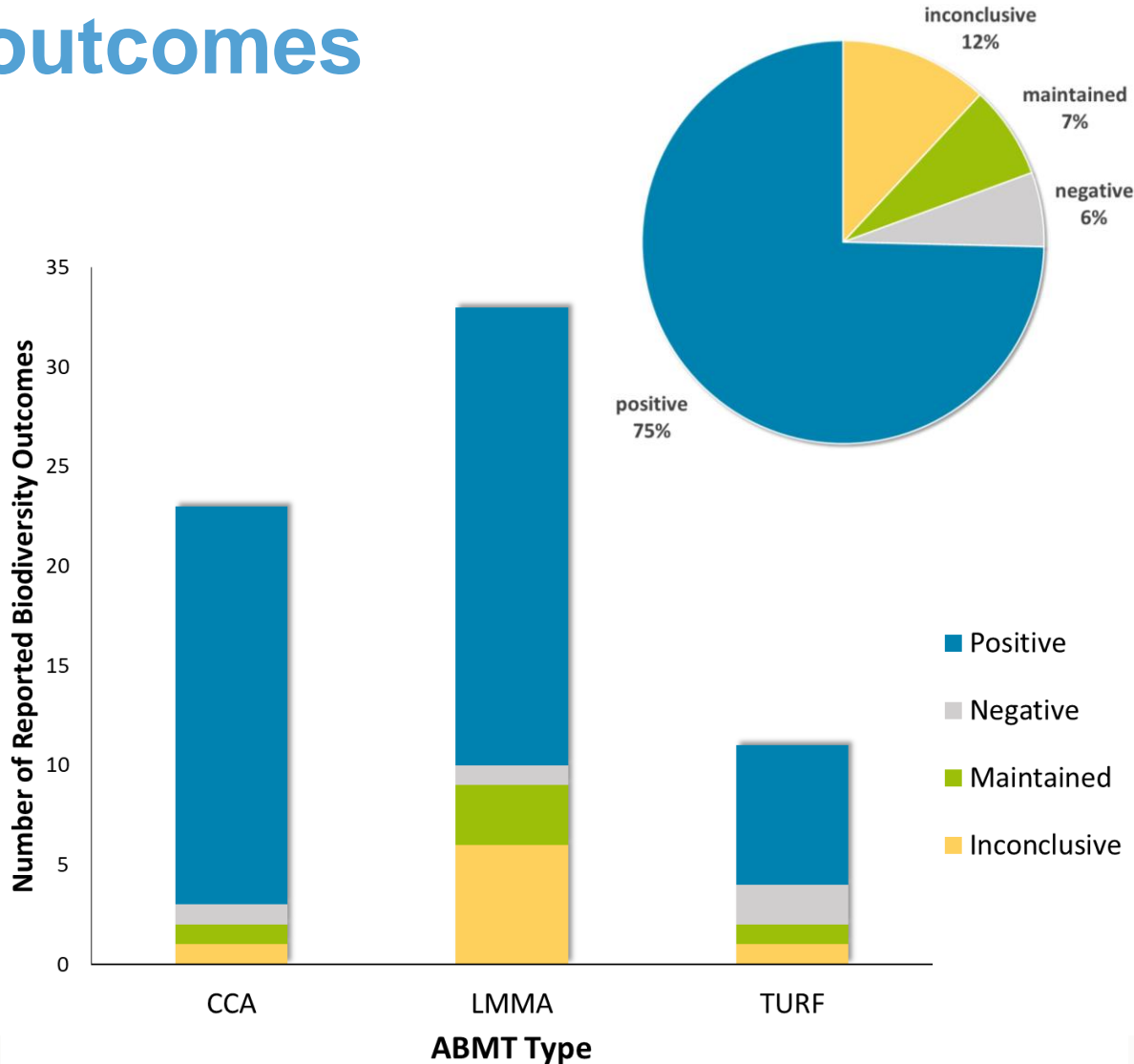
Many community and Indigenous-led fisheries management areas are sustainable and produce positive biodiversity benefits



- Territorial use rights in fisheries (TURFs)
- Community conserved areas (CCAs)
- Locally managed marine areas (LMMAs)



Direction of biodiversity outcomes



Examples of Positive Outcomes

Kenyan Collaborative Management (CCA)

The overall average hard coral cover for the closure sites was 37% higher than non-closure reefs

Kia Taboo Areas, Fiji (LMMA)

Since its establishment, the marine environment appears healthier inside and outside the MPA. Fish species, previously absent from the area have been observed, corals and seagrass are recovering

Custodias, Ecuador (TURF)

Mangrove species richness, biomass, and density of macro-invertebrates and reef fishes are greater in well-enforced TURFs and no-take zones than open-access areas



Traditionally only MPAs have been counted towards global conservation targets



Time for
recognition



OECMs provide a
path for doing so

What are the benefits
of recognizing the
efforts of small-scale
fisheries, Indigenous
Peoples and local
communities?

What are the
considerations for an
inclusive and
respectful pathway to
recognition?





Success of community-led fisheries management

Community conserved area

Locally managed marine

Territorial use rights in fishing



Diversity of measures

Permanent closures

Periodic harvesting
closures

Species restrictions

Gear restrictions

Sacred sites/taboo areas

Respected, positively viewed

Longevity

Up to 100% co-management

Community enforcement

Closed areas = strict “MPAs”

Holistic approach to livelihood
issues/multiple objectives

Cultural values





Recognizing effective management using the OECM label can broadly help:



Encourage the continuity of effective management approaches, and provide models for other management to strive for



Support improved coordination between institutions, across sectors, and across scales of management and governance



Emphasize the relevance of biodiversity conservation in sustainable use sectors



Build complementarity and connectivity with management measures primarily targeted toward conservation objectives



Increase accounting accuracy under GBF Target 3





Community hopes for recognition

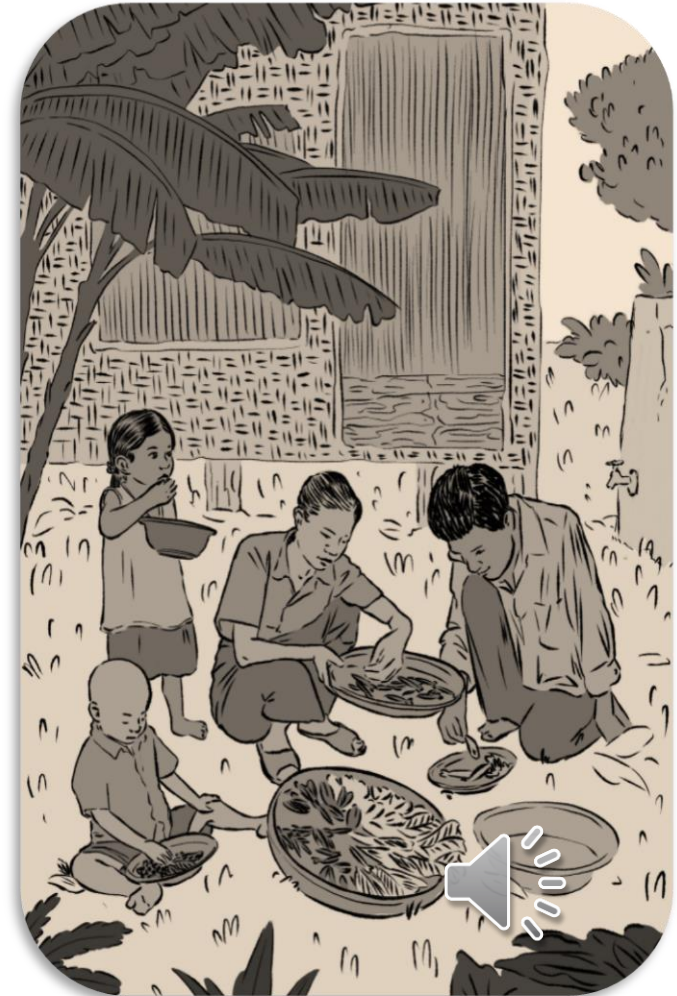
- Sustain leadership and compliance
- Maintain traditional knowledge systems
- Define tenure/rights to land and sea
- Support increased respect and credibility of their stewardship
- Provide management rights esp. for traditional fishers
- Facilitate access to conservation-related funding sources
- Give a voice to fishers / fisheries orgs in conservation decision-making





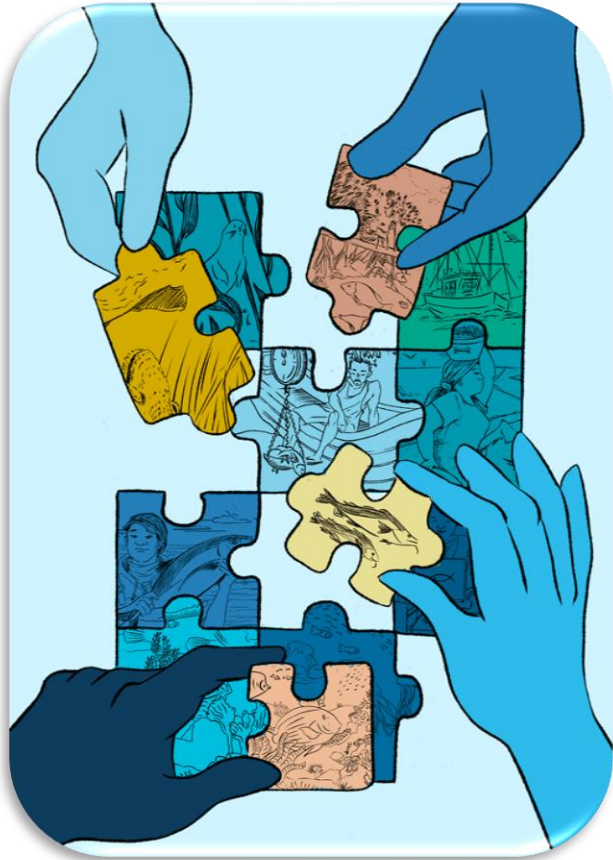
To recognize or not to recognize? Fears

- X Unfair scrutiny
- X Loss of local management control
- X Overformalization of trad. knowledge
- X Formal recognition may infringe on customary rights
- X Resource-intensive processes (identification, recognition, reporting)
- X Process comes from the outside
- X Uncertainty about incentives coming to fruition





Moving forward: Ensuring inclusive and respectful recognition



- Understand that the OECM process might not be sought after by all communities
- Obtain Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to ensure rights are respected
- Support for local-level conservation, with empowerment and local participation
- Align with local values and traditional knowledge systems
- Facilitate knowledge exchange, technical assistance and replication of best-practice in regional and national forums
- Foster participation, co-management & cooperation between sectors
- Recognize different governance and management models





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For more information,
contact:

Amber.HimesCornell@fao.org

