CBRA'S PROJECT WITH ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (ECCC): OECMS, RECONCILIATION, AND THE PATHWAY TO CANADA TARGET 1

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 2018 NATIONAL BRIEFING MEETING

Monica Shore, Kate Potter, and Laura Loucks

March 2018
## ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFN</td>
<td>Assembly of First Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRs</td>
<td>Biosphere Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRA</td>
<td>Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECCC</td>
<td>Environment and Climate Change Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICE</td>
<td>Indigenous Circle of Experts for the Pathway to Canada Target 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPCAs</td>
<td>Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>MAB</td>
<td>Man and the Biosphere (Programme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNC</td>
<td>Métis National Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Advisory Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>National Steering Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECMs</td>
<td>Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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PART A: OVERVIEW

The Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) has been funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to lead a project that assists with the identification, recognition, and reporting of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) within and in proximity to biosphere reserves (BRs). To launch the project, a National Briefing Meeting was held in Ottawa, Ontario from February 20th to 22nd 2018. Participants at the Briefing Meeting included directors, staff, volunteers and Indigenous Peoples from Canada's biosphere reserves (BRs), the staff person from ECCC associated with the project, as well as CBRA's Coordinator and OECM Consultant.

The goal of the National Briefing Meeting was to provide background information about the origins and definition of OECMs and to determine how Canadian BRs can make a meaningful impact in the implementation of Pathway to Canada Target 1. Specific objectives of the meeting included:

1. Understanding the role of Canadian BRs within the Pathway to Canada Target 1.
   - Result: Presentations by Pathway experts provided participants with an overview of the processes by which governments, Indigenous Peoples, NGO’s and other organizations and networks are helping to meet Pathway to Canada Target 1.
2. Understanding and being able to identify OECMs in BRs. Deepening participants' understanding of OECMs and developing the ability to identify potential OECMs within BRs.
   - Result: There were opportunities to discuss and ask questions about OECMs.
3. Understanding the role of Indigenous Peoples, and opportunities for Reconciliation, in CBRA’s work on the Pathway to Canada Target 1 and in general.
   - Result: A special meeting for Indigenous representatives of Canada’s biosphere reserves, presentations by Indigenous leaders within the Pathway to Canada Target 1, discussions on how CBRA can integrate Indigenous values and principles into its everyday functioning, and appropriate ceremony provided opportunities for reconciliation at this gathering.

Presentations were given by Nadine Crookes, Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee for the Pathway to Canada Target 1; Danika Littlechild and Eli Enns, Co-Chairs of the Pathway’s Indigenous Circle of Experts; Larry McDermott, the Algonquin Elder associated with the Pathway’s National Advisory Panel; Monica Shore, CBRA Coordinator; and Kate Potter, CBRA OECM Consultant.

Indigenous delegates gathered for a planned special meeting on how CBRA can move forward in the spirit and practice of reconciliation through this project and in its everyday operations. A briefing meeting for Ontario BRs was led by Gary Clarke to discuss a study that looks at how BRs influence the creation or expansion of other protected mechanisms.

The agenda of the National Briefing Meeting is demonstrated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20th – AM</td>
<td>Special Meeting of Indigenous Representatives</td>
<td>Indigenous delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20th – PM</td>
<td>Official Welcome and Smudge</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overview Presentation on Pathway to Canada Target 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overview of CBRA’s project workplan with ECCC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21st – AM</td>
<td>Official Welcome and Smudge</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OECM presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21st – PM</td>
<td>Reconciliation as a basis of the process for the Pathway to Canada Target 1</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 22nd – AM</td>
<td>CBRA Board Meeting:</td>
<td>CBRA and BR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22nd – PM</td>
<td>Briefing meeting – Ontario ECCC Workplan</td>
<td>Ontario BR and Indigenous delegates</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PART B: PRESENTATION OVERVIEWS

Each presentation is summarized below. Presentation slides and notes, as well as the handouts and the agenda are available on the project website: biospherecanada.ca/cbra (password: oecm).

SPECIAL MEETING OF INDIGENOUS DELEGATES

On the morning of Tuesday, February 20th, nineteen Indigenous Peoples whose traditional territories host Canada's BRs came together for a special gathering. This was the first time that space was made at a CBRA event for Indigenous delegates to meet alone. Having traveled from eleven of Canada's BRs, the hope was that this meeting would provide an opportunity for delegates to start building relationships with one another and to discuss how CBRA can move forward in the spirit and practice of reconciliation. Delegates were asked to discuss the Lima Action Plan's point A2.3 on having "open and participatory [processes]" in biosphere reserve governance that "take into account local and Indigenous practices, traditions and cultures". Elder Larry McDermott began the day with Algonquin Opening Ceremony.

The result of this meeting and subsequent comings-together of the Indigenous delegates over the next day, was the development and declaration of the CBRA Indigenous Statement: Making a Promise, which can be read in full in Appendix A. In short, the statement expresses the Indigenous delegates' unanimous interest in being a part of an expanded CBRA Indigenous Circle that will have an equal voice at the organizational level about the processes, programming, governance, and evaluation. Furthermore, the Indigenous Circle promises to be the voices of natural law and Mother Earth and calls on all humans "to accept responsibility for the health and well-being of creation." Some of the participants also provided on-camera interviews for a 5-7 minute documentary about Reconciliation in BRs, which will be completed over the coming months and launched publicly at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO AGM in June 2018.
FIGURE 2: CANADA'S 18 BIOSPHERE RESERVES

FIGURE 3 - TREATIES AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS IN CANADA (SOURCE: NRCAN)
Nadine provided an overview of the origin of the Pathway to Canada Target 1. Many of these notes are direct quotes from her PowerPoint presentation.

In 2010, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In 2015 and in response to the international Aichi Targets, Canada’s federal, provincial, and territorial governments developed the “2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada,” a set of nineteen targets covering issues ranging from species at risk to sustainable forestry to connecting Canadians to nature. Canada Target 1 is:

"At least 17% terrestrial areas and inland waters and 10% of coastal and marine areas through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based management (OECMs)."

Currently, Canada is at 10.5% of its 17% target. Federal and provincial protected areas, which have conservation as their primary goal, fall within one of seven protected area categories with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). To meet its 17% target by 2020, Canada aims to recognize and report OECMs, non-governmental protected areas, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).

There are two bodies guiding the work of the Pathway to Canada Target 1: A National Advisory Panel (NAP) and an Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE). See Figure 4 below for a sense of how the different networks who are working on the Pathway to Canada Target 1 interact.

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FIGURE 4: NETWORKS OF THE PATHWAY - SOURCE: NADINE CROOKES’ PRESENTATION ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018
The Pathway has been intentionally designed to engage Indigenous governments and organizations in all aspects of the work. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Métis National Council (MNC) are participating in all aspects of the Pathway, including the National Steering Committee (NSE), the National Advisory Panel (NAP), and the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE).

The concept of ethical space (see Figure 6) was gifted to the Pathway by Dr. Reg Crowshoe, a Blackfoot cultural and spiritual advisor, and member of the National Advisory Panel. Ethical space has been adopted as a foundational concept for all elements of the Pathway, including the ICE, NAP, and NSE. Ethical space provides a common ground for dialogue and collaboration, where Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems can interact with equal voice and in a respectful way.
Nadine's perspective on the role of biosphere reserves within the Pathway to Canada Target 1 was that BRs can be on-the-ground educators about OECMs and IPCAs and help to inform communities about the tools and opportunities at their disposal for biodiversity conservation. She sees significant overlap between OECMs and IPCAs and opportunities for CBRA to collaborate with other bodies such as the Indigenous Circle of Experts.

OVERVIEW OF CBRA’S PROJECT WORKPLAN – MONICA SHORE

Monica began her presentation with an overview of the deliverables and timelines associated with CBRA’s project with ECCC.

CBRA has engaged in a contribution agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to:

- Help achieve national and international biodiversity targets
- Establish a role for CBRA within the Pathway to Canada Target 1
- Identify other types of mechanisms to increase protected and conserved lands
- Further CBRA’s commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- Increase CBRA’s organizational capacity
Monica also spoke about the relevance of BRs within the Pathway to Canada Target 1, summarized as such:

BRs have a biodiversity conservation mandate with or without Canada Target 1. The Pathway to Canada Target 1 is a web of networks, committees and organizations that are leading the way for Canada for our domestic and international obligations around biodiversity conservation. The contribution agreement with ECCC is recognition that BRs belong on the leading edge of biodiversity conservation, and that they have a unique role to play in the achievement of Canada Target 1 and other domestic and international biodiversity targets.

All BRs agree that biodiversity is important. All BRs do what they can to conserve it. All BRs work with diverse partners and are on a learning curve regarding reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This project captures those broader goals and provides BRs with opportunities to come together more frequently and work on achieving them together.
WHAT IS AN OECM? - KATE POTTER

OECM stands for “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure” and is one of the types of conserved land that can be counted towards Aichi Target 11 and Canada Target 1. It is important to note that while the definition of an OECM has not yet been finalized by the IUCN, OECM experts believe that the international definition will not change much from what it is now. Canada is also working on a domestic definition of an OECM. For the purpose of this project, CBRA has been using the international definition.

According to the IUCN’s 2018 Guidelines for Recognizing and Reporting Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures, an OECM is defined as “a geographically defined space, not recognized as a protected area, which is governed and managed over the long-term in ways that deliver the effective and enduring in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values, regardless of its primary management objectives.”

It is important to note that OECMs are areas that do not have as their primary function the conservation of biodiversity. Rather, OECMs achieve biodiversity conservation as a secondary or ancillary benefit:

- **Secondary conservation** occurs where there is "active conservation of an area’s ecological functions - for example Territories and areas managed by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities (or sections of these areas) to maintain natural or near-natural ecosystems, with low levels of use of natural resources practised on a sustainable basis and in a way that does not degrade the areas’ biodiversity OR Urban or municipal parks managed primarily for public recreation but which are large enough and sufficiently natural to also effectively achieve the in-situ conservation of biodiversity (e.g. wild grassland, wetlands) and which are managed to maintain these biodiversity values.”

- **Ancillary conservation** occurs when conservation is achieved despite a lack of focus on the area’s ecological integrity - for example, "strict protection of historic wreck sites for cultural and historical reasons are a common feature in many ocean basins around the world. This purpose coincidentally provides protection of associated marine habitats, species and ecosystems.”

The method for reporting OECMs in Canada is still being determined; currently, the land owner or administrator (including municipal governments, Indigenous Peoples, land trusts and private landowners) reports OECMs to the provincial or territorial counterpart. Provincial, territorial, and federal jurisdictions are then responsible for reporting OECMs to ECCC. At this point, there is no clear mechanism for allowing other partners to report on protected and conserved areas, including IPCAs and private conservation areas (e.g. lands managed by Ducks Unlimited Canada).

Prior to the Ottawa briefing meeting, BRs were asked to complete a preliminary assessment of potential OECMs within their boundaries (see Figure 6). All of the examples are included in the CBRA's March 2018 report entitled Assessing Biosphere Reserves for Qualification as Other
Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs): A preliminary analysis. Several examples of potential OECMs were reviewed and discussed by the group.

Many questions emerged from this presentation. They are captured in the final section of this report.

**TABLE 2: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT TABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biosphere reserve name</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<td>Area Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biosphere reserve zone (buffer or transition)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate size of area (hectares)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size in relation to biosphere reserve (%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have mapping?</td>
<td>choose: digital, shapefiles, both</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Possible Standardized Responses</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defined space</td>
<td>(choose one and copy under the appropriate cell to the right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, it has a clearly defined boundary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, it does not have a clearly defined boundary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(choose one)</td>
<td>Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private individuals and organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combination (shared governance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mgmt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a direct link between the area’s overall objective and management and the in-situ conservation of biodiversity over the long term?</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mgmt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there: (choose)</td>
<td>Legal measures, other means (customary laws or sanctions), and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear evidence that protection will be in place for at least 25 years</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-situ conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(choose those that apply)</td>
<td>Rate, threatened or endangered species and habitats and the ecosystems that support them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative natural ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High level of ecological integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Range of restricted species and ecosystems in natural settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Important species aggregations (i.e. migration or spawning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ecosystems especially important for species life stages, feeding, resting, moulting and breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Areas of importance for ecological connectivity or that are important to complete a conservation network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Areas that provide critical ecosystem services such as carbon storage in addition to biodiversity.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
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RECONCILIATION AS A BASIS OF THE PROCESS FOR THE PATHWAY TO CANADA TARGET 1 – DANIKA LITTLECHILD, ELI ENNS, AND LARRY MCDERMOTT

Danika Littlechild introduced the role and work of the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) for the Pathway to Canada Target 1:

Canada’s Pathway to Target 1 began with a governance model bridging oral traditional governance practice and western business model governance practice. ICE is an integral part of the Pathway process, as it allows for the Indigenous voices to collectively articulate the role that Indigenous Peoples should lead regarding protected and conserved areas.

The concept of ethical space (introduced to the Pathway by Blackfoot Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe) makes linkages between Section 35 of the Canada Act of 1982, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDPRIP), The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action, and international treaties and commitments to create a foundation for cross-validation with Indigenous Peoples. This is a historical step where Indigenous Peoples can exercise their sovereign rights and responsibilities within their own Indigenous Systems and have those rights elevated. With respect to conservation and protection, ICE hopes to provide insights and guidance on what new partnerships might look like in working together.

One of the issues is that IPCAs are challenging for First Nation governments because they haven’t been included in protected area decision-making before. There is an opportunity to rethink how we’re engaging with protected areas, specifically OECMs and BRs in a different manner than what previously existed.

Danika also spoke about how reconciliation is an invitation for difficult and awkward conversations that are necessary for moving forward and for shifting a paradigm and elevating Indigenous Peoples to a place where they have equal voice. Reconciliation is an opportunity to build relationships in old and new ways.

Eli Enns answered questions and provided commentary, particularly with regard to the role of BRs in the OECM conversation. He stated that BRs, as they were originally designed, could indeed qualify as OECMs if they had legislative tools (such as land-use planning) and secure funding that could allow them to live up to their national and international ideal.

Elder Larry McDermott spoke to his role on the National Advisory Panel and reviewed the concept of ethical space.
ONTARIO WORKSHOP LED BY GARY CLARKE, FRONTENAC ARCH BR

The goal of the Ontario Workshop was to brief Ontario BRs on a study to identify types of protective mechanisms and processes used to increase the area of protected and managed lands in proximity to BRs. The anticipated result of the Ontario workshop was a report summarizing a planned process and preliminary list of organizations to be consulted.

The workshop did not yield the planned results for several reasons: (1) Only two of the four Ontario BRs had examples to share from their regions; (2) Participants agreed that the study must include collaboration with Indigenous Peoples from the respective areas, and meeting participants felt it unwise to plan too much in advance of the release of the report and recommendations by the Pathway to Canada Target 1’s Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE); (3) A number of participants felt that the study should be open to all BRs—not limited to Ontario.

Participants agreed to connect again following the release of the ICE Report. In the meantime, CBRA’s Coordinator will propose amendments the project workplan to reflect what was heard in discussions.

PART C: REFLECTIONS AND QUESTIONS

INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS

It was clear that there is a history of shared love for the lands for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous (BR) peoples. This was evident in the sharing of Indigenous history and culture as well as the BR mandate. The natural world is engrained into Indigenous culture as demonstrated by the ceremonial wampum belts and the use of the 7 sacred laws (humility, honesty, respect, courage, wisdom, truth, and love).

There was also a shared respect for the future as demonstrated through the 7 generations Indigenous perspective and the respect given to the elders as well as the sustainable, long term nature of the biosphere reserve work.

There are very real and very deep historic scars from Indigenous and non-Indigenous interactions. It was evident that there is a desire to work together but in an equitable and respectful way. The concept of ethical space may be a way to make progress moving forward. Ethical space occurs when equal value is given to Indigenous and western worldviews. Creating ethical space was discussed at length within the Pathway’s Indigenous Circle of Experts and National Advisory Panel. Further education and mentoring is needed on the protocols and methods in which to engage Indigenous Peoples by the biosphere reserves.
Indigenous Peoples need funding for capacity to be at the governance table in an equitable way; biosphere reserves need funding for capacity to be able to support their partners and meet their mandate.

Tsá Tué is a shining example of an Indigenous governed BR. Tsá Tué can provide meaningful experiences and lessons as they know and incorporate Indigenous values into BR management. The motivation to become a BR relates to the need to unite people and align the efforts for protection.

QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Q. How will we address the need for collaboration and transparency between organizations on the ground to fulfill ecosystem scale & connectivity for OECMs?

   A. Biosphere reserves attendance at provincial meetings and/or convening of local meetings will be necessary moving forward to ensure collaboration.

Q. What can we do as a network and share information on how to move forward? What is the process?

   A. CBRA will coordinate and disseminate information as it becomes available.

Q. How can we use the OECM process as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the biodiversity and reconciliation processes under way? How can we convey we are conveners of the conversation?

   A. CBRA needs to be included in the national conversations.

Q. What are we doing within BRs to acknowledge we’re situated on Indigenous people’s lands and addressing our challenges to increase an Indigenous presence and contribution to the BR network. (i.e. staffing of Indigenous people within BRs and CBRA)?

   A. CBRA will fundraise.

Q. Many agriculture producers are motivated to implement land conservation, but there is no recognition for their efforts or financial compensation. What are the costs and benefits?

   A. A communication piece is needed to demonstrate the benefits to partners, landowners and the local community.

Q. Is Target 1 the most appropriate CBD Target for all biosphere reserves?

   A. They are some biosphere reserves who will have no on-the-ground OECMs to report themselves. However, BRs can contribute by educating partners, working with Indigenous Peoples towards IPCAs and more.
Q. How will we be transparent with our process? What can we do to encourage transparency with other organizations and governments who are engaged in this OECM process?

A. **CBRA will continue to complete progress reports as part of their contribution agreement with ECCC. These progress reports will be available to any interested conservation organization. In addition, BRs will likely convene local meetings to discuss OECMs and Pathway to Target 1 with their partners.**

### PART D: NEXT STEPS

Some questions were answered at the briefing meeting using the best available information. Some questions remain unanswered. New questions arose.

In the months and years to come, more information will become available to help answer some of the questions in Part D. The OECM definition will be finalized by the IUCN in Spring 2018. The federal and provincial governments will release their responses to getting to 17%. The ICE and NAP will have closing ceremonies to officially end Phase 1 in Spring 2018. The federal government will develop the Nature Fund, a fund to deliver on the February 27th commitment by the federal government to 1.3 billion dollars over five years to conservation (including Pathway to Target 1 and Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas). The philanthropic community has committed an additional 500 million dollars to conservation initiatives.

By completing the preliminary assessment exercise and participating in discussions at the National Briefing Meeting, Canada's BRs have the knowledge and beginnings of necessary relationships to determine how best to move its OECM project with ECCC forward. Changes to the project workplan will be proposed, based on the outcomes of discussions at the meeting.

**INDIVIDUAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

**AS SUPPORTERS OF INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS**

Biosphere reserves are well situated to support the conversation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. Further education, relationship building, and capacity is needed to assist the individual biosphere reserves, the Indigenous community, and the partnership.

The shared love of the land is a way to move forward.

**AS EDUCATORS**

Summary Report on CBRA's National Briefing Meeting on OECMs 17
Biosphere reserves, individually, nationally and internationally, have a wealth of experience in building local support and collaborative partnerships that result in specific conservation outcomes. They also have an important role to play in communicating the importance of biodiversity conservation to their local and regional partners.

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**AS FACILITATORS OF OECMS**

In the preliminary assessment (see *Assessing Biosphere Reserves for Qualification as OECMs - Preliminary Analysis - March 2018* vii for more information), there were a small set of examples that were either almost OECMs or the landowner was not aware of the Pathway to Target 1 initiative. In the former, the biosphere reserves, with the appropriate funding, could help mitigate the criteria that are either missing or lacking in some way to become an OECM. This could be working with a group of landowners to get a long-term management plan in place or developing a governance model. In the latter, the biosphere reserve should engage the partner, though a presentation to Council or by convening a meeting, to identify the potential OECM and the requirements to record it.

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**AS CAPACITY BUILDERS**

With the momentum gained through this meeting and with the project coordinator at the CBRA, CBRA can work to get funding for not only BRs but BRs and their Indigenous Partners to work together.

The original MAB concept of BRs could qualify as OECMs, with legislative tools such as land-use planning and secure funding, so they can live-up to these national standards.

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**PART E: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**CBRA**

- Organize, summarize, and disseminate all imminent reports.
- Further education and mentoring is needed on the protocols and methods in which to engage Indigenous Peoples by the individual biosphere reserves. Work with the Indigenous Circle to incorporate presentations into future CBRA meetings.
- Give CBRA’s Indigenous Circle equal voice at the organizational level about the processes, programming, governance, and evaluation.
- Engage in national conversations to promote and convey the ways in which BRs can contribute to the Pathway to Target 1 commitments.
• Develop communication materials and documents:
  o Collaborative partnerships case studies
  o Communications on the importance of biodiversity conservation
  o Conservation tools examples
  o Materials and workshops on the benefits of OECMs

• Funding
  o Biosphere reserves needs funding for staff capacity to engage local partners
  o Indigenous communities need funding to engage in Pathway discussions
  o CBRA needs funding to strengthen its capacity to help its membership

BIOSPHERE RESERVES

• Develop relationships with Indigenous Peoples
• Engage with provincial governments and federal MPs about CBRA's work on OECMs
• Start conversations with other organizations or agencies that are working on recognizing and reporting OECMs within your BR region
• Convene local meetings to help disseminate information about Pathway to Target 1
• Further BR staff and community understanding of ethical space, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, Section 35 of the Canada Act of 1982, and the Peace and Friendship Treaties

PART F: CONCLUDING REMARKS

Biosphere reserves are leaders of biodiversity conservation with or without the Pathway to Canada Target 1.

The capacity of BR to deliver on programs is low; data, staff resources and partnership development resources are needed to fulfill full potential of contributions to Pathway to Target 1 and reconciliation.

Some partners are working on Pathway to Target 1; others (like municipalities) are not. Without local engagement and knowledge sharing, there will be duplication as well as gaps.

Equitable participation within the biosphere reserve governance is the first step to engaging with the Indigenous community. This is an opportunity to put reconciliation into action: with this as the first goal, the other priorities will follow.
CBRA Indigenous Statement “Making A Promise”

On the occasion of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association Meeting of February 19 to 22, 2018 the Indigenous Circle assembled made a promise and commitment to participate in the world network of UNESCO’s internationally designated biosphere reserves. We encourage everyone within the CBRA family to refer to UNESCO’s Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples, 2017.

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002587/258772e.pdf

We are part of nature. We are the water. We are the earth. We are the air. We are the elements governed by natural law.

As such, on the basis of our empathic cultures, knowledge and traditions, Indigenous peoples have an inherent ethical responsibility to protect biodiversity in our territories. Maintaining balance with the natural world through sustainable land use is a core value of our living philosophies and universal obligations that has been recognized in national and international treaties.

These values are reflected in AICHI Biodiversity Target 18 that states:

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels,

—and—

AICHI Biodiversity Target 11 that states:

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
Our shared objective as the Indigenous Circle is to ensure that the “voices” of the water, the land, the air, and all things guide the principles of CBRA endeavours. Based upon the principles of respect, equity, and empowerment, Indigenous peoples must be valued and have direct participation as partners in the processes, programming, and governance of the organization, and the resources required to ensure full participation, which includes “planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation” (Lima Action Plan, 2016).

For the benefit of a sustainable future for all our descendants, we call upon leadership at all levels of government and civil society, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, municipal, provincial, federal, UNESCO and the UN, to accept responsibility for the health and well being of creation.

Kyrrah Mitchell, Mount Arrowsmith
Julie Servant, Frontenac Arch
Tammy Dorward, Clayoquot Sound
Anthony Johnston, Redberry Lake
Michelle Watson, Redberry Lake
Tom Johnson, Fundy
Hugo Mailhot Couture, Lac Saint-Pierre
Thomas Johnson, Bras d’Or Lake
Tim Johnson, Niagara Escarpment
Laura Buck, Fundy
Raven Nixon, Fundy
Patrice Bellefleur, Manicouagan Uapishka
Taylor Judge, Georgian Bay
Nihtta Bezha, Tsá Tué
Lawrence Mitchel,ı Mount Arrowsmith
Marilyn Capreol, Georgian Bay
Chief Michael Recalma, Mount Arrowsmith
Larry McDermott, Niagara Escarpment

CBRA Indigenous Statement: "Making a Promise" (February 2018). Available at biospherecanada.ca


IUCN WCPA, 2018. (Draft) Guidelines for Recognising and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures. IUCN, Switzerland. Version 1

IUCN WCPA, 2018. (Draft) Guidelines for Recognising and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures. IUCN, Switzerland. Version 1

IUCN WCPA, 2018. (Draft) Guidelines for Recognising and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures. IUCN, Switzerland. Version 1

CBRA, 2018. Assessing Biosphere Reserves for Qualification as OECMs - Preliminary Analysis - March 2018