



International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development

A workshop convened by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

In cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Hosted by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with funding provided by the European Commission (EC), the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Introduction to the Workshop

Support for the workshop provided by the following:



1. Background

In 2002, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan which included the 2010 biodiversity target. In order to assess progress towards the target, the CBD developed a framework of goals and sub-targets, together with indicators for evaluating biodiversity status and trends.

In response, the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP) was formed, with major support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The 2010 BIP brings together a host of international organizations working on indicator development to provide the best available information on biodiversity trends to the global community for assessing progress towards the 2010 target.

In 2010, the CBD will publish the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-3), which will become the main international publication assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target.

Efforts to reduce biodiversity loss (and measure progress in this regard) are expected to continue beyond 2010. There are questions, however, as to whether the current biodiversity target is the most appropriate, and likewise there are questions as to whether the indicators within the current CBD framework are both appropriate and fit for purpose.

The CBD has initiated a process for revision of the Strategic Plan, including the 2010 biodiversity target, with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at the tenth meeting of the COP, scheduled for October 2010. Milestones on the way to COP 10 are the 14th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) and the third meeting of the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI 3), both scheduled for May 2010. SBSTTA 14 will evaluate the current framework of 2010 goals, targets and indicators, while WGRI 3 will draft a revised and updated Strategic Plan, including a revised biodiversity target, for the period 2011-2022.

As Parties to the CBD begin to consider revisions to the Strategic Plan, there is a question as to whether, and to what extent, the current biodiversity indicator framework should be extended or modified, or whether a completely new set of indicators will be required. This technical expert workshop has been organised to assist the CBD in answering this question.

2. Objectives of the workshop

The overall objective of the workshop is to review the use and effectiveness of the 2010 biodiversity indicators with a view to providing guidance for the development of a robust post-2010 indicators framework.

Specifically, the workshop will consider:

- Whether the set of 2010 indicators are sufficient to provide information on achieving the CBD 2010 goals and targets;
- The extent to which the set of 2010 indicators are scientifically rigorous, logical and comprehensive;
- The extent to which the 2010 indicators have been policy-relevant and taken up by the policy community;
- Whether the 2010 indicators are being communicated effectively individually and in combination;
- The need, from a technical perspective, for revised targets and indicators post-2010 and their possible structure; and
- The different needs and capacities for development and application of indicators at the global, regional and national scales.

3. Output of the workshop

The workshop is expected to produce an output document, containing a critical evaluation of the 2010 biodiversity indicators framework and recommendations for the development of indicators for the post-2010 regime. The output document will inform the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, in particular the chapter on status and trends of biodiversity. It will also be made available to SBSTTA 14 and WGRI 3, with a view to informing the consideration of the post-2010 biodiversity target and indicators. Through SBSTTA and WGRI, the workshop will inform the 10th meeting of the CBD COP.

4. Structure of the workshop

On Monday 6 July, the workshop will identify the lessons learned from the current 2010 indicator framework. On Tuesday 7 July and Wednesday 8 July the workshop is expected to discuss the possible structure of a global post-2010 indicator framework (from a range of starting points and taking into consideration potential options for post-2010 targets) and develop recommendations. The workshop will operate through a limited number of plenary presentations and discussions, and in particular through parallel working groups. Lunch breaks and the evenings, as well as a reception on Monday evening, should provide ample opportunities for informal discussions and interaction.

5. Workshop documents

The workshop will be informed by a number of documents. Documents UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/2 to UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/5 cover the workshop agenda, the list of documents, list of participants, and the information for participants. Document UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/6 (The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and the post-2010 indicators framework) provides information on the current status of the 2010 biodiversity indicators, the uptake of indicators by CBD Parties, and the views on the 2010 indicators by biodiversity stakeholders. The document is particularly intended to inform and stimulate the discussions at the workshop working groups. Document UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/7 is a CBD document that provides a synthesis and analysis of views on the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan. Documents UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/8a, b, c etc inform about a number of current biodiversity indicator-related initiatives, while documents UNEP/WCMC/Post-2010/0709/9a, b etc are reports of relevant meetings.

6. The workshop working groups

Four working groups will be convened, addressing, on Day 1, the following aspects:

- Working group 1: *Sufficiency* (Is the set of 2010 indicators sufficient to provide information on achieving the CBD 2010 goals and targets?)
- Working group 2: *Scientific rigour* (To what extent is the set of 2010 indicators scientifically rigorous, logical and comprehensive?)
- Working group 3: *Policy relevance* (To what extent have the 2010 indicators been policy-relevant?)
- Working group 4: *Effective communication* (Are the 2010 indicators being communicated effectively individually and in combination?)

Using the same themes, the working groups will be asked to consider the post-2010 indicators framework on Days 2 and 3. Initial presentations will help orient the working groups.

The composition of the working groups will remain the same for the duration of the workshop. However, in order to support exchange between the groups, there will be opportunities for participants to circulate amongst other working groups and learn about their considerations, through a working group 'marketplace' on the afternoons of Days 1 and 2. This will be explained more fully at the workshop.

The working groups will be requested to regularly report back to plenary. On each day, the working groups will be expected to produce written outputs that will contribute to the output document of the workshop.

7. Steering Group

A Steering Group will oversee the progress of the workshop. The group will consist of representatives of the organisations that facilitate the workshop and one of the two co-facilitators of each working group. The Steering Group will meet on the evenings of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.