**Comments on CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/4**

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**INDICATORS FOR GLOBAL AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS – EXPERIENCE AND INDICATOR RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST- 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

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**A) Overview and key messages on the uses and development of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

“Tools such as the BIP Dashboard and the UN Biodiversity Lab are increasing the availability of global indicator results and spatial data for use by countries” –note also the [UN SDG indicators database](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/) which makes national data available for the SDG indicators, along with metadata providing details of methods etc.

**D) Additional considerations for identifying indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

“The extent to which there is alignment between indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the indicators used for assessment of progress towards biodiversity-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) might also be considered.” –it is also important to consider the indicators used or potentially useful for reporting progress towards the strategic objectives of other biodiversity-relevant agreements, such as CMS, CITES, Ramsar etc.

Table 1 comparing a limited set of indicators vs a flexible indicator framework seems like an oversimplification – surely it is possible to have a core set that all countries try to report on, within a wider set that countries are encouraged to use and that has the advantages outlined? There is an inherent trade-off between each country using its own bespoke nationally-tailored indicators and the ability to aggregate data across all countries to obtain a global assessment of progress and identification of shortfalls in progress. Therefore a combined approach that allows both of these by identifying core indicators within a broader flexible framework seems to have considerable advantages.

**Overarching comments**

The document does not give sufficient recognition of the need for investment in the underlying monitoring schemes (e.g. breeding bird surveys, butterfly censuses, forest plots) or data compilation systems (e.g. IUCN Red List, World Database on Protected Areas, World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas) that underpin many of these indicators. Effective tracking of progress to targets cannot happen without these schemes and systems, yet they receive little or no support from many of the end-users who rely on them.