

Peer review of the draft monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

In response to CBD notifications 2020-045 and 2020-053

August 12, 2020

General Comments

1. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) thanks the Secretariat for the opportunity to provide input on the draft documents for SBSTTA-24 and is pleased to submit these comments as a contribution to improving the completeness and effectiveness of the monitoring framework. We note that the scope of the peer review does not permit comments on the goals and targets; this constraint makes it difficult to address gaps in the framework that are caused by incompleteness in the draft goals and targets themselves.
2. In particular, TNC is concerned that goals and targets on mainstreaming that would address the main drivers of biodiversity loss are inadequately reflected in the current draft framework; we recommend a stronger sector-based approach to mainstreaming that creates a clear and accountable action agenda for parties and other stakeholders, along with corresponding monitoring elements and indicators.
3. We have proposed a new indicator on representativeness of protected areas, a critical element that has been previously difficult to assess, and therefore given inadequate attention.
4. The framework should provide stronger monitoring of protections for indigenous peoples and local communities, whose rights must be recognized and who must be given free, prior and informed consent in the inclusion of their territories in support of the protected areas target.
5. We have also recommended the draft framework include more monitoring elements and indicators for freshwater, lakes and rivers, particularly on connectivity, fragmentation and flow regimes. Protected areas and area-based measures should consider stream length indicators when noting inland waters targets. Fisheries indicators should include freshwater fisheries.
6. We urge that SBSTTA-24 be permitted to review the full draft framework, including the goals and targets, to ensure that the draft text for OEWG-3 be as logical and complete as possible.

Specific Comments				
Table	Page	Column	Row	Comment
1	2	B	13	We are supportive of the reference of wetlands in the indicators and would emphasize the definition adopted by the CBD Secretariat includes “lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, groundwater, springs, cave waters, floodplains, as well as bogs, marshes and swamps.” Nonetheless, for clarity, the monitoring elements should include the freshwater of lakes and rivers as well as wetlands. We recommend text be modified to read “Trends in lakes, rivers and wetlands.”
1	3	B	26	We recommend revising the monitoring element as follows: Trends in the fragmentation and quality of inland lakes, rivers and wetlands
1	3	C	27	Add indicator: “ Trends in connectivity status indicator of rivers and river reaches ” in Grill, G., Lehner, B., Thieme, M., Geenen, B., Tickner, D., Antonelli, F., ... & Macedo, H. E. (2019). Mapping the world’s free-flowing rivers. <i>Nature</i> , 569 (7755), 215-221
1	3	C	28	Add indicator: Red List Index (freshwater species)
1	3	C	28	Add indicator: % of fragmented / restored longitudinal /lateral habitat connectivity compared to the (2020) baseline
1	3	D	28bis	see https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/fragmentation-of-river-systems
1	3	B	28bis	Add monitoring element: Trends in fragmentation and quality of riverine habitats
		C	28bis	Add indicator: “ Trends in extent of implementation of environmental flow regimes ”
1	3	C	28bis	Add indicator: Trends in water quality
1	4	A	42-50	Protection of critical ecosystems are only mentioned under Component A. However, Protection of critical ecosystems is not explicitly part of Goal A. We suggest mentioning the protection of critical ecosystems in Goal A.
1	5	A	71+	Milestone ii) is not completely covered with specific elements and indicators. We suggest adding monitoring elements and indicators for the valuation of nature through green investments, ecosystem service valuation in national accounts, and public and private sector financial disclosure.
1	5	C	59	Current indicators mainly reflect on water quality goals. Inclusion of water quantity, timing, location is key to freshwater biodiversity- an indicator to express trends on this are needed. Add indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in Water Depletion Index for Rivers • Trends in extent of implementation of environmental flow prescriptions in rivers and dams affecting lakes
1	5	D	59	Brauman, K. A., Richter, B. D., Postel, S., Malsy, M., & Flörke, M. (2016). Water depletion: An improved metric for incorporating seasonal and dry-year water scarcity into water risk assessments. <i>Elem Sci Anth</i> , 4.

				https://grace.jpl.nasa.gov/data/data-analysis-tool/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRI Aqueduct tools models water stress: Baseline water stress measures the ratio of total water withdrawals to available renewable surface and groundwater supplies. https://www.wri.org/aqueduct
2	8	B	1	Add “river length” to monitoring elements: “Trends in area and river length under spatial land-use plans”
2	9	B	19	Add monitoring element: Trends in extent and number (km) of free-flowing rivers (with protected status and spatial plan)
2	9	C	19	Add indicator: Number and length (km) of free-flowing rivers
2	9	C	19	Add indicator: “ Trends in connectivity status indicator of rivers and river reaches ” in Grill et al 2019: Mapping the World’s Free Flowing Rivers
2	9	D	19	2019 (Grill et al. 2019)
2	10	B	28	Add monitoring element: Trends in km degraded rivers restored to free-flowing status
2	10	C	28	Connectivity Status Indicator (as above, Grill et al. 2019)
2	10	D	28	Grill et al 2019: Mapping the World’s Free Flowing Rivers
2	10	B	35	Add monitoring element: Trends in extent of rivers / freshwater under legal protection
2	10	C	35	Add indicator: km of rivers / km2 wetlands and lakes under protection
2	11	C	43	Add “ including freshwater systems ” to monitoring element
2	11	C	45bis	Add Representation Mean Target Achievement indicator (Jantke et al.). This metric follows similar logic in its calculation to the Species Protection Index (an indicator for A3: Trends in conservation status of species.) Having a metric for representation of habitats that is very similar, and easy to calculate and track, would be preferable to PARC-R.
2	11	D	45bis	Jantke, K., Kuempel, C. D., McGowan, J., Chauvenet, A. L. M. & Possingham, H. P. Metrics for evaluating representation target achievement in protected area networks. <i>Divers Distrib</i> 25 , 170–175 (2019). This target is currently under review by the EC Joint Research Centre’s Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) for inclusion in their next release. Baseline is 2020.
2	12	C	52bis	Protections must be established and maintained in full partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities , whose rights must be recognized and who must be given free, prior and informed consent in the inclusion of their territories in support of the target. We suggest adding an indicator on number of countries with supportive laws and policies that provide decision-making powers to host communities for OECMs, or otherwise recognize and support co-management of parks by indigenous communities.

2	16	A	101-102	We recommend changing minimized negative impacts on biodiversity to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and change Target 7 accordingly.
2	17	B	102	We recommend changing the monitoring element to focus on biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental impact assessments.
2	16	C	101	We recommend widening the scope of the indicator to not only focus on LDCs and SIDS but to include emerging economies and OECD countries in order to monitor more precisely the integration of biodiversity in the design of projects. Only by widening the scope will the avoidance of negative impacts on biodiversity be guaranteed globally.
2	18	C	105bis	All the indicators proposed for fisheries are more relevant for marine species (for example the number of stocks with certification), as MSC only applies to marine species and it is the largest certification out there). We recommend including the new Living Planet Index for Migratory Freshwater Fish to cover diadromous fish . https://www.worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/living-planet-index-2020
2	18	C	105	Most if not all the stocks/fisheries for which we can measure biologically sustainable levels (SDG indicator 14.4.1) are those fisheries that are regularly assessed and managed (about 500 stocks). There are another 10,000+ fisheries that have no stock assessment or data, and none of these will be able to be measured under any of the indicators proposed. However, in terms of species impacted and people dependent on fisheries, these 10,000+ fisheries are much more important. An indicator for small scale, data limited fisheries is needed, or at least a proxy. A proxy could be ‘Presence of a process/regulation to improve data collection, apply data limited stock assessment and development of harvest strategies’
2	22	A	133	We recommend clarifying the concept of human health and well-being to be able to choose the right indicators. In the face of the current global health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we suggest exploring the possibility of adding a specific monitoring element that reflects the importance of protecting biodiversity and enhancing its contributions through the effective use of Nature-based Solutions for human health.
2	25	B/C	152–156	Spatial plans that are called for under draft Target 1 should be clearly integrated into sectoral policies for agriculture, infrastructure, energy and resource extraction to achieve net gain in the extent and quality of natural ecosystems. This should be an explicit monitoring element, and indicators should be broken out by sector to accurately identify gaps in achievement of the target.
2	27	C	166	Freshwater withdrawal is one indicator. Consumptive water use is better indicator. See un-igrac.org Groundwater stress:

				https://www.un-igrac.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/Assessing%20Groundwater%20Stress%20-%20web%20version.pdf
2	31	C	186	Add new indicator: Water Depletion Index
2	31	D	186	Brauman, K. A., Richter, B. D., Postel, S., Malsy, M., & Flörke, M. (2016). Water depletion: An improved metric for incorporating seasonal and dry-year water scarcity into water risk assessments. <i>Elem Sci Anth</i> , 4.
2	31	C	186	Add indicator: New hydro-dams built on rivers

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