



Convention on Biological Diversity

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THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON THE
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY FOR THE POST-2020
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
Online, 27 July-8 October 2020

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON MONITORING ELEMENTS AND INDICATORS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The consultation on the sustainable use of biological diversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework originally scheduled to be held in Bern from 30 March to 1 April 2020 was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.¹ As an alternative to a face-to-face meeting, a series of webinars, a survey and an online forum are being organized to ensure that further views on elements related to the sustainable use of biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are elicited in-depth.
2. The purpose of the present document is to provide background information for the virtual thematic consultation on the sustainable use of biological diversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
3. In recommendation [23/1](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to invite written submissions from Parties and others for views on possible targets, indicators and baselines related to the drivers of biodiversity loss as well as on species conservation and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors in relation to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. All submissions of views were received and made accessible at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2019-108>.
4. The table below includes a summary of the comments and suggestions made by Parties and others that were submitted to the Secretariat in response to notification [2019-08](#) in relation to targets that relate to the sustainable use of biodiversity. Targets 4, 8, 9, 13 and 15 of the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for review² prepared for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are some of the targets pertaining to the sustainable use of biological diversity. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework aims to address all three objectives of the Convention and these targets have been selected to gain further insight on those elements related to the sustainable use of biodiversity in the framework. Summaries of responses and additional suggestions of indicators or comments related to them, appear in boldface type in the table below.

* Reissued on 21 July 2020 for technical reasons.

¹ See notification [2020-029](#).

² <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-24/post2020-monitoring-en.pdf>

Interim targets	Components of the target	Monitoring elements	Other suggested indicators	Comments
Reducing threats to biodiversity				
<p>Target 4 By 2030, ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species of fauna and flora, is legal, at sustainable levels and safe.</p>	<p>T4.1. Harvest is legal, sustainable and safe for human health and biodiversity</p>	<p>Trends in proportion of biological resources harvested legally</p>		
		<p>Trends in proportion of biological resources harvested within the established harvest limits</p>		
		<p>Trends in proportion of biological resources harvested through sustainable harvest practices</p>		
		<p>Trends in measures ensuring safe harvesting operations</p>		
	<p>T4.2. Trade is legal, sustainable and safe for human health and biodiversity</p>	<p>Trends in proportion of biological resources traded legally</p>	<p>Number and trends of countries that have trade, export or other related strategies that foster the sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services, such as BioTrade.</p> <p>Number of recommendations (or number of countries with recommendations) to suspend trade from the CITES review of significant trade process.</p>	
		<p>Trends in proportion of biological resources traded within the established limits/quotas</p>	<p>Trends in legal trade of plant and animal species (including derivatives and extracts) listed under annexes II and III of CITES.</p> <p>Measurements of decline in illegal trade in endangered plant species and customs seizures.</p> <p>Assessment of the volume and identity of wildlife involved in legal and illegal trade.</p>	

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			<p>Value and trends of exports/imports in biodiversity-based products (based on an agreed list of HS codes at the 6-digit (subheading) level, correlated to the different HS nomenclatures).</p> <p>Share and trends of trade in biodiversity-based products that is sustainable (e.g., in line with BioTrade P&C and CITES requirements, which are consistent with CBD objectives). This could be complemented with specific information available for species prioritized by BioTrade partners and considering National Tariff Lines.</p> <p>The proportion of plants threatened by international trade with management interventions in place to promote sustainable trade.</p>	
		Trends in measures ensuring safety of trade operations	<p>Number or volumes of UEBT-certified ingredients sourced by UEBT member companies.</p> <p>Number/percentage/volumes of plant-based products from number of different countries sold under sustainable management regimes (such as FairWild).</p>	
	T4.3. Use is legal, sustainable and safe for human health and biodiversity	Trends in proportion of biological resources used legally	<p>Number of countries with regulations supporting sustainable use of wild species by local people.</p> <p>Number of wild species being sustainably used.</p>	
		Trends in proportion of biological resources used within the established		

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		limits/quotas		
		Trends in measures ensuring safe use of biodiversity		
			<p>Measurements of public awareness of illegal trade in endangered plant species and capacity of customs / regulatory officials. [Applies to Target 4]</p>	<p>Some of the suggested elements for monitoring are not directly aligned with the wording of Target 5, and similarly this applies to the proposed indicators. For example, the Target relates to wild species, but some of the measures/indicators proposed are for the status of species used for food, medicine and domesticated species.</p>
Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing				
<p>Target 8 By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of</p>	<p>T8.1. Sustainable management of aquatic wild species of fauna and flora, including fisheries</p>	<p>Trends in fish stocks. Trends in sustainable fisheries management</p>	<p>Use of “multitrophic aquaculture” in which seaweed can be produced for human food, fish feed and pharmaceuticals, reducing feed demand and pollution (e.g., eating invasive species, algae, jellyfish).</p> <p>Fishing at or within maximum sustainable yield (MSY).</p> <p>Phasing out fishing practices and gear which cause serious adverse impacts to the seafloor or to non-target species.</p> <p>MSC Certified Catch; with equivalent sustainability certification scheme applied to</p>	<p>Change in the health of fisheries and change in percentage of fisheries under sustainable management certification could be combined. The latter is an indicator of health of fisheries.</p>

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fauna and flora			<p>inland fisheries.</p> <p>Proportion of sustainable, threatened and highly threatened inland fisheries.</p>	
		Trends in population and extinction risk in bycatch species		
		Trends in aquatic plants		
		Trends in invertebrate stocks	<p>Red list of ecosystems (coral reef ecosystems)</p> <p>Number of threatened reef fish or invertebrates according to the IUCN red list.</p>	
	T8.2. Sustainable management of terrestrial wild species of fauna and flora	Trends in terrestrial wild species of fauna used for food and medicine	<p>Estimates of numbers of people benefiting from wild harvest of fish, wildlife, medicinal plants and wild relatives of crops and breeds.</p> <p>Volume and quality of benefits shared and directed to biodiversity goals and/or sustainable development objectives (i.e. SDGs). As there is no baseline, only “new” benefits shared after 2020 would be counted.</p> <p>Change in edible plant species abundance.</p> <p>Change in crop wild relative conservation status.</p> <p>Diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities.</p> <p>Red list index for crop wild relatives.</p>	<p>It was noted that the indicators could lead to reporting on efforts to simply maximize offtake of wild species, which should not be the case. It was therefore suggested to take careful consideration when negotiating this target on sustainable use, recognizing that some offtake may need to be reduced in order to ensure sustainability and benefits for those who depend on it most.</p> <p>The concern in target 7 as currently worded seems to be specifically in relation to better providing for the</p>

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			<p>Percentage of agricultural land integrating at least 10 per cent natural land AND/OR crop species diversity in production as a proportion of available crop species diversity.</p> <p>Nutritional functional diversity of food in supply AND/OR the proportion of energy from non-stables, roots or tubers.</p> <p>Change in the percentage of socioeconomically important wild plants, including crop wild relatives, that are conserved and managed to ensure their continued availability to support nutrition, health care, food security and livelihoods so that overexploitation and ecosystem degradation is prevented.</p>	<p>needs of the most vulnerable. However, the proposed indicators focus only on the number of people benefiting or the economic value of harvested products (fish, wildlife, medicinal plants). It would be possible for both these indicators to increase without the most vulnerable benefitting from them and to the detriment of biodiversity e.g. industrial fishing fleets from developed countries overexploiting resources, to the disadvantage of coastal and artisanal fishers in developing countries.</p> <p>Estimates of value of medicinal plants: It is not clear how this could be an indicator for change in benefits. This is probably helpful to know but if the estimated value of medicinal plants, for example, increases or decreases, it is not clear if it means the amount available has been increased or decreased, or new scientific findings or invention led to increased value.</p>

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<p>Target 9 By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%]</p>	<p>T9.1. Sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives</p>	<p>Trends in area of agriculture under sustainable practices</p>	<p>Ecological restoration in agricultural landscapes.</p> <p>Increased adoption of good agricultural practices.</p> <p>Improved targeting and efficiency of fertilizer, pesticide and water use.</p> <p>Use of diverse and well-adapted crop varieties.</p> <p>No till techniques.</p> <p>Organic certification and conservation agriculture.</p> <p>High-tech and traditional agrotechnologies are applied to the agro-food system to maximize ecosystem services.</p> <p>Multifunctional/diverse agricultural landscapes.</p> <p>Agricultural systems shift to local, cultural, away from massive monocultures.</p> <p>Inputs from the land are well managed (including cumulative effects and full bans of single-use plastics).</p> <p>Climate-smart agriculture.</p> <p>Agroforestry systems.</p> <p>Proportion of cultured species within biologically sustainable levels.</p>	<p>Proportion of agricultural area under agroecological forms of agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is further required in light of the fact that what constitutes ‘sustainable agriculture’ can be open to wide interpretation. For example, AGRA’s programmes may promote their model as sustainable under the current wording, while it in fact is promoting the greater uptake of synthetic fertiliser use and reduced crop diversity. <p>Land-cover and land-use indicators, combined with yield and income data, may offer efficient indicators to assess impacts of agriculture and avoid intensification and loss of natural landscape features.</p>

Interim targets	Components of the target	Monitoring elements	Other suggested indicators	Comments
			<p>How much land area is under regenerative agriculture which then could feed into soil health and soil carbon storage?</p> <p>Relatively sustainable (e.g. organic OR conservation) agriculture as proportion of total agricultural land.</p> <p>Resilience of agrobiodiversity to impacts of climate change, e.g. proportion of agriculture that is diversified under agroforestry, intercropping, crop rotation, mixtures or other diversification practice.</p> <p>Proportion of countries that have increased production and availability of food biodiversity with sustainable agricultural management practice.</p>	
		Trends in soil quality	Soil health (biomass and diversity).	<p>Below-ground soil biota is an essential indicator of soil health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measurement can be difficult and expensive, so it is proposed to use high-throughput next-generation genetical sequencing approaches, which achieve greater taxonomic breadth and because so many soil organisms belong to poorly known taxa.

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				<p>Indicators from the ecosystem services layers in Critical Natural Capital project. It is recommended to use existing information regarding individual ecosystem services that have well developed indices, such as carbon.</p>
		<p>Trends in pollinators</p>	<p>(Growing) percentage of farmers implementing IPM and/or producing under standards for sustainable production.</p> <p>Insect abundance/biomass (pollinators and natural enemies).</p> <p>Have the main pests for managed pollinators been identified and have a set of related response actions to address them been established?</p> <p>Has environmental legislation on harmful substances been established, is it enforced, and is the level of adherence growing towards a desired level?</p> <p>At least 10 per cent natural/semi-natural habitat maintained at the 1 km² scale in order to maintain the capacity of biodiversity to support food production (pollination, pest control, sediment capture).</p>	
		<p>Trends in genetic diversity of cultivated plants and of wild relatives</p>	<p>Use diversity of trees, species per use (also contributes to AT13)</p> <p>Number of countries with policies and programmes that actively support the conservation of genetic resources and promotion</p>	<p>Such policies and programmes should conserve genetic resources at national level, but also promote and support in-situ conservation</p>

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			<p>of genetic diversity in agriculture.</p> <p>Change in nutrient availability derived from the genetic diversity of crops, trees, livestock, fish and wild species, especially for vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Monitoring changes in trends in genetic diversity of PGRFA in situ and on farm.</p>	<p>that is grounded in existing ecological contexts and production systems.</p> <p>The Agrobiodiversity Index (ABD Index), developed by the Alliance, is an essential tool to measure agrobiodiversity and identify concrete actions to achieve diverse and sustainable food systems. The ABD Index can meaningfully contribute measures and indicators to monitor progress on the relevant proposed goals and targets of the zero draft.</p>
		Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals and of wild relatives		
	T9.2. Sustainable management of aquaculture	<p>Trends in production of aquaculture under sustainable practices</p> <p>Change in the health of aquaculture fisheries</p>	<p>Use of “multitrophic aquaculture” in which seaweed can be produced for human food, fish feed and pharmaceuticals, reducing feed demand and pollution (e.g., eating invasive species, algae, jellyfish).</p> <p>Fishing at or within maximum sustainable yield (MSY).</p> <p>Phasing out fishing practices and gear which cause serious adverse impacts to the seafloor or to non-target species.</p> <p>MSC Certified Catch; with equivalent sustainability certification scheme applied to</p>	<p>There are more than 100 certificate schemes of sustainable fisheries other than MSC. At least, other certificate schemes approved by GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) based on “The FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries”, such as RFM, IRFM should also be included.</p>

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			<p>inland fisheries.</p> <p>Proportion of sustainable, threatened and highly threatened inland fisheries.</p>	
	T9.3. Sustainable management of all types of forests	Trends in proportion of area of forests under sustainable practices	<p>Use diversity of trees, species per use (also contributes to AT13).</p>	
Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming				
<p>Target 13 By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts</p>	T13.1. Biodiversity reflected in planning at all levels	Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into planning processes	<p>Biodiversity checks at legislative levels for all sectors using a systems approach as recommended by TEEB for Agriculture and Food.</p> <p>Financial incentives are aligned with biodiversity benefits in all economic sectors.</p> <p>Countries have adopted a widely accepted and binding biodiversity value concept.</p> <p>Countries have removed disincentives (including subsidies) for biodiversity-friendly forestry and farming.</p> <p>Existence of legislation foreseeing integrated land-use planning / or more broadly, integrated planning processes.</p> <p>Percentage of biodiversity relevant policy decisions that are based on the consideration of biodiversity values.</p> <p>Biodiversity benefits are included in teaching curricula.</p> <p>Number of people trained to deploy and benefit from nutritionally rich biodiversity.</p> <p>Economic value of traded products that are</p>	

Interim targets	Components of the target	Monitoring elements	Other suggested indicators	Comments
			<p>produced under biodiversity-related certification schemes.</p> <p>Economic value of biodiversity-based products produced in women’s controlled industries, including informal and cottage industries.</p> <p>Number of countries supporting business support organizations (governmental trade promotion organizations but also private sector association) in exporting products produced under sustainable criteria, such as BioTrade P&C.</p>	
		Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into development processes		
		Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into poverty reduction strategies		
		Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral plans		
	<p>T13.2. Biodiversity reflected in national and other accounts</p> <p>National reporting system that incorporates</p>	Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into national accounts	<p>Number of NBSAPs that contain programmes or projects that contain specific programmes that address promotion of cultural and biodiversity values.</p> <p>All countries have implemented natural capital accounting (following the SEEA-EEA framework) and include biodiversity values in</p>	<p>T14.2 and T14.3 have different wording: “biodiversity” vs. “biodiversity values”</p>

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	biodiversity values		<p>planning process and social cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>National sectoral strategies/programmes that consider the value of biodiversity and their contribution to biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Increase in the integration of plant diversity values into rural and urban development and poverty reduction, as well as into planning processes, natural capital accounting and reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>Number of countries that have mainstreamed biodiversity for food and nutrition into relevant national development strategies and plans including NBSAPs, Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plans, National Agricultural Plans, National Climate Change Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and National Climate Change Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other relevant national development strategies and plans.</p> <p>Number of countries implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition and voluntary guidelines the goals and targets of which these proposed indicators are aligned with.</p>	
	T13.3. Biodiversity values are reflected in policies and regulations,	Trends in the number of policies and regulations which incorporate biodiversity considerations		

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	including on biodiversity inclusive environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments	Trends in the number of policies and regulations on environmental impact assessment which incorporate biodiversity considerations		
		Trends in the number of policies and regulations requiring the use of strategic environmental impact assessment which incorporate biodiversity considerations		
<p>Target 15 By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national</p>	<p>T18.1. Sustainable consumption patterns</p>	Trends in use of non-renewable natural resources		
		Trends in use of renewable natural resources		
		Trends in use of biological resources	<p>Number of countries with policies in place which provide subsidies/incentives for the sustainable production of healthy biodiverse foods.</p> <p>Number of best practices for mobilizing nutritionally rich biodiversity to improve dietary diversity identified and promoted.</p> <p>Number of countries that have in place national food-based dietary guidelines which highlight the importance of food biodiversity not only for healthy diets and nutrition outcomes but also the many other multiple benefits, including environmental sustainability and social equity.</p> <p>Number of databases at the regional and national levels, with food composition tables which include</p>	

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<p>cultural and socioeconomic conditions</p> <p>The indicators proposed for Target 17 and Target 18 do not measure all elements. For example, indicators for sustainable consumption levels may be required for Target 17, and indicators to measure Target 18 may include those that provide data on education, the transfer and use of knowledge (including from IPLCs) to inform decision making.</p>			<p>reliable nutritional value information on food biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Number of species, varieties and breeds in regional and national databases with food composition tables which include reliable nutritional value information on food biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Number of people trained to deploy and benefit from nutritionally rich biodiversity.</p> <p>Number of new markets developed for food biodiverse products with high nutritional value, including more nutritious convenience foods based on biodiverse products.</p> <p>Economic survey/analysis indicating income levels changing due to sales of nutritionally rich biodiverse products.</p>	
		Trends in ecological limits reached or surpassed	<p>Number of information events conducted that foster greater appreciation of consumers, policymakers and others, of nutritionally rich biodiversity as a resource for development and well-being.</p> <p>Number of publications highlighting nutritionally rich biodiversity, recipes and processing methods developed.</p> <p>Number of people consuming a healthy diversified diet including 200-600 g per day of vegetables, 100-300 g per day of fruits, and increased consumption of a diversity of whole grains (250 g/day), beans and pulses (0-100 g/day) and nuts 90-75 g/day) in line with dietary</p>	

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			recommendations. (and including a 0-1500 g per week of a diversity of animal sources proteins).	
	T18.2. New vision of good quality of life based on sustainability and new social norms for sustainability	Trends in public engagement and attitudes towards biodiversity	Amount of marketing budget and advertising directed towards the promotion of food biodiversity to inform consumers about the benefits of food biodiversity in their location.	
	T18.3. Peoples' responsibility for their choices	Trends in demand for more environmentally friendly products	Proportion of countries that have increased production and availability of food biodiversity with sustainable agricultural management practices.	
