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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Updated metadata for the headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. The metatdata for the headline and binary of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and was made available in document CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1. In decision 16/31 the Conference of the Parties welcomed the metadata for the headline and binary indicators and requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to update and further develop it, in particular for those indicators at a lower level of development, including indicators 1.1, 7.2 and 9.1. The Executive Secretary was also asked to compile inputs and relevant information to support the development of a methodology for headline indicator 22.1.[1]

2. In response to decision 16/31, the Secretariat has, in this document, updated the metadata for the headline indicators. It has done so in collaboration with relevant organisations and taking into account the submissions received in response to other invitations issued in response to decision 16/31.[2] It also takes into account the results of the study on how to strengthen the tracking and reporting of the various sources of biodiversity finance prepared in response to the request in paragraph 25(b) of decision 16/34 and available as an information document. Section II of this document provides a summary of the changes to the metadata for each indicator. The annex to this document provides the metadata for each headline indicator reflecting the updates that have been made. The Subsidiary Body has been requested by the Conference of the Parties to review this updated metadata.

* CBD/SBSTTA/28/1.
** The present document is being issued without formal editing.
[1] The submissions received in response to this notification are accessible from https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-046
[2] The notifications and the submissions received are accessible from https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-044, https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-045, and https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-077

II. Summary of changes made to the metadata

3. Updates to the metadata for the headline indicators were prepared on the basis of document CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1. The updates that were made can be divided into three categories:

(a) Headline indicators where the metadata is unchanged. The indicators in this category are:

(i) D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(ii) D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(iii) 1.1. Percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans,

(iv) 9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species;

(v) 12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all; and

(vi) 21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the global biodiversity framework.

(b) Headline indicators where there have been changes to improve the clarity and presentation of the metadata and to update the list of data sources and references available to support the use of the indicator. The changes made for the indicators in this category do not change the overall scope or methodology of the indicator. The indicators in this category are:

(i) A.1. Red List of Ecosystems;

(ii) A.2. Extent of natural ecosystems;

(iii) A.3. Red List Index;

(iv) A.4. The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size (Ne) > 500;

(v) B.1. Services provided by ecosystems;

(vi) C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instrument;

(vii) C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments;

(viii) D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA), for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystems;

(ix) 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

(x) 5.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels;

(xi) 6.1. Rate of invasive alien species establishment;

(xii) 7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential;

(xiii) 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations;

(xiv) 10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture;

(xv) 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management;

(xvi) 15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts;

(xvii) 18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and

(xviii) 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity.

(c) Headline indicators where there have been changes to the metadata to improve and further develop the methodology for the indicator and enhance its operationalization in addition to changes to improve the clarity of the methodology. The indicators in this category are:

(i) Area under restoration;

(ii) 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity; and

(iii) 22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities

4. The table below provides an overview of the current methodological status of the headline indicators in the monitoring framework following the updates that have been made and how this compares to the analysis conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and made available to the twenty sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2.

5. The metadata for the binary indicators have been updated to reflect the wording agreed by the Conference of the Parties in decision 16/31. No other changes were made to the binary indicators.

Table

Methodological status of the headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Headline/binary indicator	*Methodological status of the indicator as at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*[3]	*Current methodological status of the headline indicator*
A.1 Red List of Ecosystems	4	Unchanged
A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems	4	Unchanged
A.3 Red List Index	5	Unchanged
A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	4	Unchanged
B.1 Services provided by ecosystems	3	Unchanged
C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed Access and Benefit-sharing instruments	2	Unchanged

[3] The status is as follows: 1. Methods not yet developed, and a process needs to be established to develop these; 2. Methods not yet developed, but a process is underway to develop them, led by one or more organizations, to develop them; 3. Methods developed (or partially developed) and tested/piloted, but data not yet widely available (and/or collection not yet underway), (Indicator/methodology maintained by an organization(s)); 4. Methods established, data being compiled, and indicator operational in at least some countries, but further investment in methods ongoing and/or further (data collection required); 5. Methods established, data being compiled and accessible, and indicator operational for most/all countries. (Indicator/methodology maintained by an organization).

Headline/binary indicator	*Methodological status of the indicator as at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*[3]	*Current methodological status of the headline indicator*
C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international Access and Benefit-sharing instruments	2	Unchanged
D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	5	Unchanged
D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	4	Unchanged
D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	2	Unchanged
1.1 Percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans	1	Unchanged
2.1 Area under restoration	4	5 - The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring database is operational, guidance on the use of the indicator has been refined and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is supporting Parties in the use of the indicator.
3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures	5	Unchanged
5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	5	Unchanged
6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment	4	Unchanged
7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential	4	Unchanged
7.2 Pesticide environment concentration and/or Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity	The methodological readiness of the pesticide environment concentration indicator was not assessed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as the group recommended the use of the indicator Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity 3 for the indicator aggregated total applied toxicity	1 for the indicator pesticide environment concentration 4 for the indicator aggregated total applied toxicity

Headline/binary indicator	*Methodological status of the indicator as at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*[3]	*Current methodological status of the headline indicator*
9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species	1	Unchanged
9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations	3	Unchanged
10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	5	Unchanged
10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management	5	Unchanged
12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all	5	Unchanged
15.1 Number of companies disclosing-their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts	2	Unchanged
18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	4	Unchanged
18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity	3	Unchanged
21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the global biodiversity framework	2	Unchanged
22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities	Metadata for this indicator was not reviewed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as the indicator was added to the monitoring during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	3

6. A summary of the main changes made to the metadata for each headline indicator is:

(a) A.1. Red List of Ecosystems: Updates have been made to improve clarity and include additional supporting references. Information on the available data has also been updated. The updates made do not imply any changes to the overall methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(b) A.2. Extent of natural ecosystems: Updates have been made to improve clarity, including for issues related natural and anthropogenic ecosystem types, and the consideration of inland and marine areas. Updates have also been made to include additional supporting references.

The updates made do not imply any changes to the overall methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(c) A.3. Red List Index: Changes have been made to provide updated information on which other processes are using the indicator, the data available, the references and resources which are available to support the use of indicator and the partners involved with the indicator. The updates made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(d) A.4. The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size (Ne) > 500: Updates have been made to improve clarity and include additional supporting references. Information on how to account for transboundary species populations has been included as has information on the implication of using proxy census data to calculate the indicator. The updates made do not imply any changes to the overall methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(e) B.1. Services provided by ecosystems: Changes have been made to improve clarity, including on the use of the geometric mean as the aggregation method for the indicator, and the basis for selecting ecosystem services for inclusion in the indicator. The changes made do not imply any changes to the overall methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(f) C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instrument: Updates have been made to improve its clarity, to provide updated information on the use of the indicator and data availability and to update the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator. The updates made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(g) C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments: Updates have been made to improve clarity, to provide updated information on the use of the indicator and on data availability and to update the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator. The changes made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(h) D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA), for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystems: Updates have been made to refer to private sector instruments, to provide updates on the data available, and to update the references and resources which are available to support the use of indicator. The changes made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(i) D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems: No updates to the metadata for this indicator have been made

(j) D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems: No updates to the metadata for this indicator have been made. There is no organisation currently supporting the further development and operationalisation of the indicator.

(k) 1.1. Percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans: No updates to the metadata for this indicator have been made. There is no organisation currently supporting the further development and operationalisation of the indicator.

(l) 2.1 Area under restoration: Updates have been made to streamline and clarify elements of the indicator and to provide more operational guidance for Parties. Updates for clarity and consistency have also been made, including for the rationale for the indicator, the definitions used, and the method of computation. Additional guidance has been provided on compiling restoration information. Further, additional information has been included on FAO's default data compilation process through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring. Guidance has also been provided on how restoration data can be submitted through the template on Convention's online reporting tool. The updates to the metadata do not imply any changes to the methodology for the

indicator or its overall scope and applicability. An information document has been prepared outlining the support provided by FAO and its partners to the further development and operationalization of the indicator.

(m) 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures: Updates have been made to bring the metadata in line with decision 16/31. Changes have also been made to provide updates on available data sources and references and to make other editorial changes for clarity. The methodology for the disaggregation 'by effectiveness' has been expanded to more adequately track the 'effectively conserved and managed' and 'equitable governed' elements of Target 3. The updates to the metadata do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(n) 5.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels: Updates have been made to include additional supporting references, provide updates on the data available, and on how data is collected and refinements to the calculation of the indicator. The updates made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(o) 6.1. Rate of invasive alien species establishment: Updates have been made to provide updated information on the use of the indicator, data availability, the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator and the partners involved. The updates made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(p) 7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential: Changes to the metadata have been made to provide updated information on the use of the indicator, data availability and the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator. The updates made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(q) 7.2 Pesticide environment concentration and/or Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity: For Target 7 two possible headline indicators have been agreed by the Conference of the Parties. The indicator pesticide environment concentration does not currently have metadata; the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Framework recommended the use of the aggregated total applied toxicity indicator and had only developed metadata for the latter indicator. With regards to the indicator aggregated total applied toxicity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been facilitating the further development of this indicator by a group of experts in environmental toxicity, pesticides and pesticide risk assessment, and national and global pollution indicators. Based on this work, and considering the submissions from Parties and the views expressed during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the metadata for the indicator has been updated. The metadata has been updated to remove species' weighting factors due to the limited availability of toxicity data and the underlying laboratory methods used to estimate toxicities; the equations for the indicator are no longer normalized by area because pesticide usage at national levels inherently incorporates area, a mechanism has been included to balance across all species groups the calibration of estimated annual changes in total applied toxicities relative to the baseline years, and relative to the targeted 50% reduction; further details on the handling of missing data have been included, including a hierarchy of suitable data to estimate annual pesticide mass; and new details regarding the preferred sources of toxicity data and relative toxicity limits have been included. Editing of the metadata has also been carried out to simplify the text, focus on national activities, and to better support reporting authorities. The updates do not alter the overall purpose and functioning of the indicator. An information document has been prepared outlining the support provided by FAO and its partners to the further development and operationalization of the indicator.

(r) 9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species: No updates to the metadata for this indicator have been made. There is no organisation currently supporting the further development and operationalisation of the indicator.

(s) 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations: The metadata for the indicator has been updated to include information on ongoing activities to further develop the methodology for the indicator. These activities are particularly important as this indicator is not

presently computable in most national contexts, given the lack of indigenous identifiers in official labour statistics. Since the metadata was initially prepared the Indigenous Navigator has developed and released a high-level analysis of the methodology and data relevant to the indicator which can further inform the development of the indicator. This includes information on the possible the role of complementary community-based evidence, including Indigenous Navigator data, on status and trends, gender-disaggregated insights, and barriers and enablers for traditional occupations, which can inform national reporting and contextual understanding. Changes have also been made to improve clarity and include additional supporting references and update the data available. The changes made do not imply any changes to the overall methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(t) 10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture: No changes have been made to the metadata for this indicator.

(u) 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management: Updates have been made to improve clarity, provide updated information on the use of the indicator, data availability and the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator. The updates do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(v) 12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all: No changes have been made to the metadata for this indicator.

(w) 15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts: Changes have been made to provide updated information on the data available and the references and resources that are available to support the use of the indicator. The updates do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(x) 18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use: Changes to the metadata have been made to provide updates on the data available, the references and resources which are available to support the use of indicator. The changes made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(y) 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity: Changes to the metadata have been made to provide updates on the data available, the references and resources which are available to support the use of indicator. The changes made do not imply any changes to the methodology for the indicator or its overall scope and applicability.

(z) 21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the global biodiversity framework: No changes have been made to the metadata for this indicator.

(aa) 22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities: Metadata for headline indicator 22.1 was originally made available in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11. Updates to the metadata have been made based on the submissions made on this indicator in response to the request in decision 16/31 and additional work carried out by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Land Coalition, and World Resources Institute. The indicator methodology has been consolidated into three substantive components which can be aggregated. This has been done to simplify the formulation of the indicator, reduce duplication and to present the indicator in a more coherent manner. Further, descriptions of key terms and concepts have been updated for clarity. Similarly, the structure of the indicator and its treatment of data sources have been further clarified. These updates improve the methodological clarity of the indicator, strengthen its operational feasibility at national level, and better reflect the diversity of tenure systems, data sources, and monitoring realities across countries. They also provide a more coherent structure for the indicator, a clearer articulation of its concepts, and provide more explicit information on its calculation methods and data architecture. It is anticipated that continued technical learning, country testing, and dialogue with Parties, and indigenous peoples and local communities will result in further improvements to the metadata

overtime. An information document has been prepared outlining the support provided by FAO and its partners to the further development and operationalization of the indicator.

Annex

Updated metadata for the headline indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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A.1 Red List of Ecosystems

1. Indicator name

A.1 Red List of Ecosystems

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

3b. Target

Target 1**:** Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
This is also relevant for Target 2, 3 and 7.

4. Rationale

1. This indicator addresses the elements of Goal A highlighted in bold: The **integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored**, substantially **increasing the area of natural ecosystems** by 2050.

2. Sustaining ecosystems is essential to halting biodiversity decline and species extinctions, and to maintaining ecosystem services that underpin human well-being and the economy (Nicholson et al. 2021). The World Economic Forum ranks biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse in the top five global risks in terms of likelihood and impact this decade (WEF 2020).

3. The Red List of Ecosystems was adopted by IUCN in 2014 as the global standard for assessing risk of ecosystem collapse for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The Red List of Ecosystems provides a systematic framework for compiling information on ecosystems, and assessing their relative risks of collapse based on change in ecosystem area and integrity. Similar to the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, assessment criteria are used to assign ecosystems to Red List risk categories (e.g. *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered*, *Vulnerable*), with *Collapsed* replacing the *Extinct* category used for species (see section 5b for further details). Red List of Ecosystems assessments identify which ecosystems are most at risk, and the drivers of ecosystem loss and degradation. The Red List of Ecosystems therefore addresses multiple aspects of Goal A, by assessing how change in integrity, connectivity and area affect ecosystem risk status, which is related to ecosystem resilience. It typically focusses on natural and some semi-natural ecosystem types (e.g. derived grasslands).

4. The input data for Headline Indicator A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, come from Red List of Ecosystems assessments. Ideally, these should be national Red List of Ecosystem assessments. However but data from sub-national (e.g. states or provinces within a country, (e.g. in China, Tan et al. 2017) or above-national assessments (e.g. regional assessment such as the Western India Ocean coral reef assessment, Obura et al. 2021, or the forests of the Americas, Ferrer-Paris et al. 2019, Figure II)) could also be used. The same data can be used to calculate indicator at national levels or globally.

5. The headline indicator to be reported is the *Red List Index of ecosystems* (RLIe), which summarises risk status across sets of ecosystem types (Rowland et al. 2020). It is a function of ecosystem types per risk category. A decrease in the RLIe (towards 0) means more ecosystems are threatened (higher risk of collapse). An increase in the RLIe (towards 1) means that ecosystems are becoming less threatened. The RLIe uses the same method as the widely used indicator of species extinction risk, the Red List Index of species survival (RLI, Headline indicator A.3), which is based on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* and provides a complementary assessment of the state and trajectory of biodiversity.

6. The RLIe can be used to report on the overall risk status of all ecosystems within the country, as well as summarized by ecosystem functional group (using the Global Ecosystem Typology, Keith et al. 2022) as arecommended disaggregation of the indicator. RLIe values can be compared between countries. For those countries with repeat assessments, it can be shown as a time-series (e.g. for South Africa, Figure 1).

7. For countries undertaking their first assessment, the recommended indicator is the current RLIe value, along with disaggregations by ecosystem functional group. The indicator can be reported alongside summary statistics (e.g. number of ecosystem types in each risk category) and where possible ecosystem maps showing the distribution of threatened ecosystems. For those countries with repeat assessments, the indicator would be the RLIe time-series with disaggregations by ecosystem functional group, complemented by summary statistics (see figure I).

8. The RLIe and summary statistics from Red List of Ecosystems assessments can be represented in graphs or maps to aid communication and inform spatial planning, including biodiversity-inclusive planning (Target 1), restoration planning (Target 2) and protected area planning (Target 3).

9. Indicator A.1 is intended to be used and interpreted in the context of other ecosystem-related indicators of the GBF. The five headline indicators that deal most directly with ecosystems are A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, 2.1 Area under restoration, and 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This set of indicators can together provide a well-rounded picture of the state of ecosystems, their benefits to society, and interventions to protect and restore ecosystems. They should be interpreted collectively rather than individually, with each providing different but complementary information.

10. At the national level, using a common national classification system for ecosystem types across these five headline indicators will greatly facilitate bringing information from this set of indicators together to provide a coherent narrative and to be most useful for policy and implementation. For coherence in global reporting and analysis, it is useful for countries to cross-reference their national ecosystem classification to the Global Ecosystem Typology, as discussed in section 5.

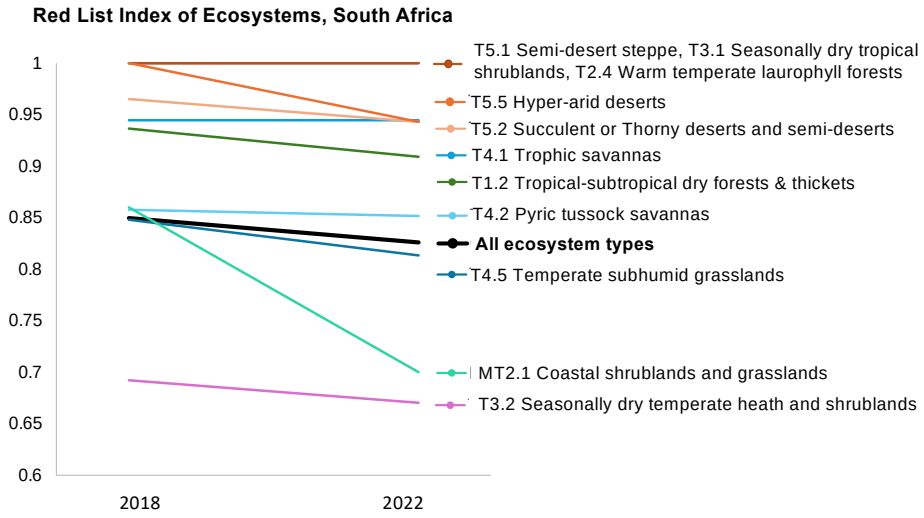

Figure I.
A preliminary Red List Index of ecosystems (RLIe) time-series for South Africa for 2018 and 2022, for all terrestrial ecosystem types (black) and for each terrestrial ecosystem functional group
Data provided by SANBI, based on National Biodiversity Assessments (Botts et al. 2020; Skowno and Monyeki 2021)

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition:

11. The Red List of Ecosystems framework assesses the relative risk of ecosystem collapse of an ecosystem type. The indicator 'Red List Index of Ecosystems (RLIe)' measures the average risk of ecosystem collapse of a group of ecosystems, and tracks change in this over time based on genuine change in the risk category of each ecosystem (i.e. excluding changes in categories owing to improved knowledge or better data). The Index is expressed as changes in an index ranging from 0 to 1, with decreases (towards 0) resulting from more threatened ecosystems or heighted risk, and increases (towards 1) showing improvements in risk status. A value of 0 means that all ecosystems have collapsed. A value of 1 means that all ecosystems are listed as Least Concern.

12. The RLIe can be calculated for any set of ecosystem types for which there are *Red List of Ecosystems* assessments. It can thus be calculated at the subnational, national, regional or global level, or for broad ecosystem groups (e.g. ecosystem functional groups).

Other key concepts and definitions

13. Ecosystems: a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992). Specifically, ecosystems are made up of living components (biotic complexes and assemblages of species), the abiotic environment, the processes and interactions within and between the biotic and abiotic components, and the physical space in which these operate (Keith et al. 2013).

14. *Ecosystem types* are differentiated from one another by a degree of uniqueness in composition, structure, and ecological processes and function. Ecosystem types present a useful model or abstraction of the complexities of the natural world. Similar definitions are used for other, often synonymous, terms such as ecological communities, habitats, biotopes, and vegetation types (Keith et al. 2013, Nicholson et al. 2021). Ecosystem types can be described, classified, and identified using the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (Keith et al. 2022).

15. *Ecosystem collapse* (as defined in the Red List of Ecosystems standard, IUCN 2024), is the endpoint of ecosystem decline, when an ecosystem loses its defining features (i.e. species, assemblages, structure, and functions) and is replaced by a different, often depauperate, ecosystem type. Collapse can be irreversible, but some ecosystems may recover, over long timeframes or with restoration. The risk of ecosystem collapse is the likelihood that an ecosystem will collapse over a specified timeframe (Keith et al. 2013).

16. *Risk categories*: The risk of ecosystem collapse is based on the risk categories each ecosystem is assigned through assessment under the Red List of Ecosystems framework. The risk categories include, in order of increasing risk of collapse: Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, and Collapsed. If there are insufficient data to assign a risk category, a criterion or ecosystem type it is considered Data Deficient, or Not Evaluated if not assessed. Guidelines for the application of the Red List of Ecosystems can be found on the IUCN website (Keith et al. 2013; IUCN, 2024).

17. *Ecosystem functional groups:* Ecosystem functional groups comprise "*a group of related ecosystems within a biome that share common ecological drivers, which in turn promote similar biotic traits that characterise the group. Derived from the top-down by subdivision of biomes*" (Keith et al. 2022, https://global-ecosystems.org/). Examples include: M1.1 seagrass meadows, M1.2 kelp forests and M1.3 photic coral reefs in the marine realm, T1.1 tropical/subtropics lowland rainforests and T4.2 pyric tussock savannas in the terrestrial realm, F1.6 episodic arid rivers and F2.8 artesian springs and oasis in the freshwater realm, and MFT1.3 coastal saltmarshes and reedbeds in the transitional realm between freshwater, marine and terrestrial realms. National ecosystem types can be cross-referenced with the ecosystem functional groups (see guidelines in IUCN. 2025) to support consistent reporting across countries, and across ecosystem-related indicators (e.g. A.2 extent of natural ecosystems, and 2.1 area under restoration). Guidelines for cross-referencing national ecosystem classification with the Global Ecosystem Typology can be found on the IUCN website (IUCN, 2025).

5b. Method of computation

Reported data:

18. The reported data will come from Red List of Ecosystems assessments. The data reported will be the number of ecosystems in each risk category, per ecosystem functional group, as a table (see example in Table 1). Only the categories of risk (Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, and Collapsed) will be used for calculation of RLIe, but additional columns for categories Not Evaluated or Data Deficient can be added to the table to indicate existing data gaps in national assessments (see section 5j on data gaps and 5k on missing data). Further guidance in this topic will be finalised in 2026. This advice will also address how to report on ecosystem functional groups in which no or only some ecosystem types have been assessed, differentiating 'Not Evaluated' ecosystem types within an otherwise assessed group (i.e. identified but not assessed, which may be included in the reporting table), and whole ecosystem functional groups or biomes that have not been evaluated (where the number of ecosystem types may be unknown, as the classification process may not have begun within the country). The advice will also deal with treatment of EFGs, biomes or even realms that are not applicable in the country (e.g. no marine ecosystem types in a land-locked country).

Table 1

Example of the type of data required for reporting A1 Red List of Ecosystems, shown for South Africa's terrestrial T), marine (M) and transitional (MT, MFT and TF and FM) ecosystem types for 2020; data in bold show the values to be reported for 2020, with recommended disaggregations; in italics are the data and summary statistics that are used to calculate the index value (*Data provided by SANBI, based on National Biodiversity Assessments (Botts et al. 2020; Skowno and Monyeki 2021)*

Ecosystem functional group (EFG)	RLIe	*Total assessed ecosystem types*	*CO*	*CR*	*EN*	*VU*	*NT*	*LC*	*DD*	*NE*
All ecosystem types	0.80	*644*	*0*	*52*	*86*	*74*	*17*	*414*	*1*	*0*
M1.2 Kelp forests	0.60	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
M1.3 Photic coral reefs	1.00	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*	*0*	*0*
MT1.3 Sandy Shorelines	0.82	*12*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*2*	*4*	*5*	*0*	*0*
M1.5 Photo-limited marine animal forests	0.72	*29*	*0*	*1*	*5*	*9*	*3*	*11*	*0*	*0*
M1.6 Subtidal rocky reefs	0.56	*10*	*0*	*0*	*4*	*5*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*
M1.7 Subtidal sand beds	0.80	*20*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*6*	*2*	*10*	*0*	*0*
M1.8 Subtidal mud plains	0.63	*14*	*0*	*1*	*3*	*6*	*1*	*3*	*0*	*0*
M3.1 Continental and island slopes	0.93	*11*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*9*	*0*	*0*
M3.2 Submarine canyons	0.85	*11*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*7*	*0*	*0*
M3.3 Abyssal plains	1.00	*9*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*9*	*0*	*0*
M3.4 Seamounts, ridges and plateaus	0.89	*18*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*2*	*0*	*14*	*0*	*0*
M3.5 Deepwater biogenic beds	0.73	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*
MT1.1 Rocky Shorelines	0.72	*27*	*0*	*0*	*3*	*12*	*5*	*7*	*0*	*0*
MT1.4 Boulder and cobble shores	0.67	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*
MFT1.2 Intertidal forests and shrublands	0.40	*2*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*
T5.2 Succulent or Thorny deserts and semi-deserts	0.94	*63*	*0*	*3*	*2*	*0*	*0*	*58*	*0*	*0*
T3.2 Seasonally dry temperate heath and shrublands	0.67	*128*	*0*	*33*	*25*	*2*	*0*	*68*	*0*	*0*
T4.1 Trophic savannas	0.94	*36*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*2*	*0*	*32*	*0*	*0*
T1.2 Tropical/Subtropical dry forests and thickets	0.91	*44*	*0*	*4*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*38*	*0*	*0*
T5.1 Semi-desert steppe	1.00	*15*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*15*	*0*	*0*
T4.5 Temperate subhumid grasslands	0.81	*75*	*0*	*4*	*14*	*6*	*0*	*51*	*0*	*0*
T4.2 Pyric tussock savannas	0.85	*66*	*0*	*3*	*11*	*2*	*0*	*50*	*0*	*0*
T5.5 Hyper-arid deserts	0.94	*14*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*13*	*0*	*0*
T2.4 Warm temperate laurophyll forests	1.00	*4*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*4*	*0*	*0*
T3.1 Seasonally dry tropical shrublands	1.00	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*
TF1.1 Tropical flooded forests and peat forests	1.00	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*
FM1.2 Permanently open riverine estuaries and bays	1.00	*15*	*0*	*1*	*7*	*5*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*0*
FM1.3 Intermittently closed and open lakes and lagoons	0.51	*7*	*0*	*1*	*3*	*2*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*

Red List Index of Ecosystems (RLIe):

19. The RLIe measures trends in ecosystem collapse risk based on the proportion of ecosystem types in each risk category (for details see Rowland et al. 2020). The RLIe is the weighted mean of ordinal ranks assigned to each risk category:

$$RLIE_t = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} W_{c_{(i,t)}}}{W_{CO} \cdot n}$$

where Wc(i,t) is the risk category rank for ecosystem i in year t (Collapsed=5, Critically Endangered=4, Endangered=3, Vulnerable=2, Near Threatened=1, Least Concern=0; following the approach taken for the Red List Index of species survival, Headline indicator A.3; Butchart et al. 2004; 2007), WCO is the maximum category rank (CO = Collapsed=5), and n is the total number of ecosystem excluding Data Deficient or Not Evaluated ecosystem. The RLIe ranges from 0 (all ecosystems Collapsed) to 1 (all Least Concern). Data Deficient ecosystem types may be included by by allocating them to risk categories in proportion with data sufficient ecosystem types (see section 5k on missing data). The RLIe should be calculated for each ecosystem type.

20. Genuine change: The indicator should only report on genuine changes in risk category. The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems group will publish guidance on this topic in 2026 and draw on guidelines from the Red List of Threatened Species and associate indicators (see headline indicator A.3), and experience from countries that have undertaken repeat Red List of Ecosystems assessments (e.g. Finland, Norway and South Africa).

21. Indicator testing*:* A key question for indicators is how sensitive they are to biodiversity change. Several studies have tested aspects of the Red List of Ecosystems framework in its capacity to detect meaningful change in ecosystems. For example, Murray et al. (2017) tested metrics for restricted range size (Criterion B – restricted geographic distribution) for their capacity as predictors of ecosystem collapse in landscapes subject to stochastic threats. They found that the methods currently used in Red List of Ecosystems assessments for measuring range size are the best spatial metrics for estimating risks from stochastic threats. Analyses from Norway found that the RLIe could provide time-series to reliably compare alternative policy scenarios (Kyrkjeeide et al. 2021). The RLIe has been tested for sensitivity and responsiveness using an ecosystem simulation model of a coral reef (Rowland et al. 2020b), showing that the RLIe can differentiate between low and high threat levels, responds to both increases in threats (e.g. climate change) and decreases (e.g. effective conservation policy), and detects change in area and integrity.

5c. Data collection method

22. The reported data will ideally stem from national Red List of Ecosystems assessments. However, data can also come from regional, global and sub-national assessments, subject to national validation (see section 5e). Ideally, data should come from comprehensive assessments of all ecosystems types in all ecosystem functional groups within a country. If this is not possible, data can be used from assessments of all ecosystem types within an ecosystem functional group (nationally or globally), or in a sub-national area such as a province.

23. The Red List of Ecosystems is the global standard for assessing risk of ecosystem collapse and biodiversity loss to all marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems. Red List of Ecosystems assessments collate standardised knowledge, maps and data about ecosystems, and apply quantitative criteria to estimate relative risks of ecosystem collapse to identify threatened ecosystem types. The five criteria are: (A) change in ecosystem area; (B) restricted ecosystem distribution; (C) change in the abiotic environment (e.g. hydrological processes); (D) change in biotic processes and components (e.g. species interactions); and (E) the probability of collapse estimated using dynamic ecosystem models (where such models are available). Change in area and integrity (Criteria A, C and D) is assessed over a 50-year timeframe (past and/or future), and/or since the onset of industrialised change (1750 at the earliest). Change in integrity (Criteria C and D) is measured using ecosystem-specific metrics, to capture different ways in which ecosystems respond to drivers of biodiversity loss. For

example, integrity can be tracked in forests using the proportion of old-growth (Burns et al. 2015), in coral reefs using coral cover and fish abundance (Obura et al. 2022), and in rivers using hydrological flow (Ghoraba et al. 2019).

24. Through assessment against one or more criteria, ecosystem typess are assigned to ordinal risk categories: *Collapsed*, *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered*, *Vulnerable*, *Near Threatened*, *Least Concern*; if there are insufficient data to assign a risk category, a criterion or ecosystem is considered *Data Deficient*, or *Not Evaluated* if not assessed. Ecosystem types listed as *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered*, *Vulnerable* are considered threatened, and ecosystem types in those categories can collectively be referred to as "*threatened*".

25. Detailed guidelines are available to support the assessment of each criterion (IUCN, 2024; Keith et al. 2013). Ideally, as many criteria as possible should be assessed, but the scope can be tailored to the resources and data available. Guidelines to support rapid assessments using one or a few criteria have been developed (e.g. Holness & Botts 2022) and used in national assessments across Africa (e.g. NEMA 2020).

26. Data used in Red List of Ecosystems assessments can come from a diverse range of sources (see reviews in Rowland et al. 2018, Murray et al. 2018). Ecosystem classifications and maps used in these assessments typically come from national ecosystem classifications and maps. These typically synthesise information from a range of sources, including inventories of particular ecosystem groups (e.g. forest types), local experts (e.g. within universities or environment institutes), government agencies, or when these are not available, from global classifications and maps of ecosystem types (e.g. the Global Ecosystem Typology, https://global-ecosystems.org/). Data on change in ecosystem area (for Criterion A) typically comes from similar data and may be shared with Headline Indicator A.2 (extent of natural ecosystems) which is underlined by similar data, and as complementary indicators in the Global Biodiversity Framework monitoring framework (e.g. tree cover loss, wetland extent trends index, and trends in mangrove extent). Assessing Criteria C and D requires ecosystem-specific variables, which may come from a range of data sources, including scientific literature, reports, experts, historical accounts, and existing indicators (including some listed as complementary indicators in the monitoring framework, e.g. live coral cover). These data may be field-based empirical data, remotely sensed (e.g. satellite imagery, see Murray et al. 2018), modelled (extrapolating from field and/or remotely sensed data) or a combination. The Red List of Ecosystems guidelines (IUCN, 2024) provide advice on the types of data needed, and how it should be analysed. Further guidance and reviews are currently being developed to provide further support for assessors.

27. National or regional ecosystem classifications and maps used in the Red List of ecosystems assessments can be cross-referenced to ecosystem functional groups of the Global Ecosystem Typology (Keith et al 2022) – guidance published in 2025 can support local ecosystem experts in this process (IUCN, 2025). The same cross-referenced ecosystem classification and maps can be used in reporting on headline indicators A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, and 2.1 Area under restoration. It can also support disaggregation of 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

28. Application of the Red List of Ecosystems framework for undertaking Red List of Ecosystems assessments is supported by a range of resources, all accessible via the Red List of Ecosystems website (iucnrle.org):

(a) Formal guidelines published by IUCN (IUCN, 2024): https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51533;

(b) Multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers have been published to describe the assessment methods in detail (e.g. Keith et al. 2013, and others – see reference list below);

(c) Free online training material via FutureLearn (in partnership with Deakin University and IUCN) and IUCN Academy;

(d) Tools to support assessment (available at https://iucnrle.org/rle-material-and-tools);

(e) A growing database of assessments https://iucnrle.org/rle-database.

29. The Red List Index of Ecosystems can be calculated for any set of ecosystem types for which Red List of Ecosystems assessments have been undertaken. The method for calculating the RLIe was published in an open-access peer-reviewed paper (Rowland et al. 2020).

30. Scripts to calculate the indicator using the program *RStudio* are publicly available via the Red List of Ecosystems GitHub site (https://github.com/red-list-ecosystem/rle_indices). The script provides the code to calculate the indicator and includes examples of the indicator outputs using sample data from the continental assessment of 136 temperate and tropical forests across 51 countries/territories in the Caribbean and Americas (Ferrer-Paris et al. 2019). The sample data are provided to demonstrate the structure of the data required to calculate the indicator. The RLIe can also be calculated in a spreadsheet, using the formula and weightings in 5b; a reporting template with such a calculation will be developed as part of the reporting advice.

5e. Data sources

31. The ideal data for reporting on headline indicator A.1 are national Red List of Ecosystems assessments, typically done by governments or in partnership with government (e.g. with partners in universities or NGOs). Thus the data should ideally come from national databases.

32. Where national data do not exist, there are several other sources of assessment data that can be used for national reporting, including from regional and sub-national assessments. A review published in 2024 estimates that Red List of Ecosystems assessments are available for 63 countries for all terrestrial ecosystem types, 41 countries for all freshwater ecosystems (including freshwater-transitional ecosystem types such as wetlands), and 32 countries for all marine ecosystems (including marine transitional ecosystem types such as mangroves). A further 30 countries have assessments for subsets or groups of terrestrial ecosystems, for example, temperate and tropical forest ecosystem types in the Americas, while 49 have subsets of marine and marine-transitional ecosystem types, e.g. all coral reefs (Obura et al. 2021) or mangroves (Etter et al. 2020a), and 47 have subsets of freshwater ecosystems (see figure IV and Nicholson et al. 2024).

33. Data used from sources other than national Red List of Ecosystems assessments will require validation to be used in national reporting, e.g. from national biodiversity experts. Guidelines and tools are being developed by IUCN, partners and the CBD in 2026 to support countries in this validation process.

34. Red List of Ecosystems assessments are typically published in technical reports, and/or peer-reviewed publications. An increasing number of assessments are available in a publicly-available, centralised database of assessments, including some national assessments (e.g. Colombia – the database is available via the Red List of Ecosystems website: iucnrle.org). This database will become a key source of data at national, regional and global scales in the medium term. In the short-term, Red List of Ecosystems assessments may be accessed from relevant national agencies, NGOs, or other data holders/providers.

5f. Availability and release calendar

35. To date, over 4,000 ecosystems have been assessed using the Red List of Ecosystems framework in over 110 countries (Nicholson et al. 2024). For countries where assessments are not available, global assessments for some ecosystem groups are underway (for example coral reefs). Some countries have already undertaken repeat assessments (e.g. South Africa, Norway, and Finland) providing time-series. At a national level, the release will vary by country.

36. The RLIe can already be calculated for all countries that have completed Red List of Ecosystems assessments and a time-series for those countries with repeat assessments. Countries can use available code (Rowland et al. 2020), the Red List of Ecosystems inventory held by IUCN (which has national index values estimated for validation, https://iucn.org/red-list-ecosystems-inventory), or seek assistance to calculate RLIe values from their National Red List of Ecosystems assessments.

5g. Time series

37. The Red List of Ecosystems uses data on ecosystem trends to assess risk of collapse (Criteria A, C and D), and is therefore inherently trend-based, even when presented as a snapshot or single time point (e.g. in figure I). Subject to national validation, up to 90 countries could submit national reports, based on regional and national assessments. As noted, some countries have already undertaken repeat assessments (e.g. South Africa, Norway, and Finland) providing time-series of change in risk. The IUCN has committed to support the ongoing development and application of the Red List of Ecosystems, with a goal of assessing key ecosystem groups globally in 2026-2027.

5h. Data providers

38. The preferred primary source will be national Red List of Ecosystems assessments (see section 5e), typically undertaken by government environmental agencies, often in partnership with universities, NGOs and other partners. These assessments will typically be available via government databases and/or reports, and/or in the scientific literature. They may also be available in the Red List of Ecosystems Database.

39. Where national assessments are not available, data can come from sub-national, regional or global assessments, as outlined in section 5e, subject to national validation. Some of these are available in the Red List of Ecosystems database (https://assessments.iucnrle.org), or may be available via reports, scientific publications or partner organisations (e.g. NGOs). See section 5e.

5i. Data compilers

40. Data to calculate the indicator are currently compiled independently by the assessment teams for available national or global assessments. It is anticipated that in the medium term, tools hosted by IUCN and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, including the Red List of Ecosystems database, may provide national and global-level indicators, but these are not yet available.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

41. To date, over 4,000 ecosystems have been assessed in over 100 countries (Nicholson et al. 2024; iucnrle.org/rle-in-progress). . Subject to national validation, up to 90 countries may be able to report based on these data.

42. Assessment effort are biased towards terrestrial ecosystem types, with more countries having assessments of all terrestrial ecosystems than freshwater or marine, while South America has much greater spatial coverage than Northern Africa, South Asia or Eastern Europe. Spatial gaps will be closed through a combination of targeted global-level projects across broad thematic ecosystem groups (e.g. forests, mangroves, coral reefs), and national assessments. National reporting of Not Evaluated and Data Deficient categories could provide further evidence on existing data gaps and help guide future efforts.

5k. Treatment of missing values

43. There are multiple forms of missing data that need to be addressed for headline indicator A.1, including lack of assessments, and uncertain assessments. Explicitly reporting on ecosystems that are Not Evaluated, Data Deficient or Not Applicable (i.e. marine ecosystems in a landlocked country, or polar ecosystem functional groups in a tropical country), at ecosystem type, ecosystem functional group or biome level, will help identify data and knowledge gaps for targeted work. In some cases,

it will be appropriate to report these in the national reporting tables (see Table 1) further reporting guidance will be developed in 2026.

44. Guidelines will be developed to support countries in reporting in the face of missing data on Red List status of their ecosystems. These will range from countries with near-complete national assessments (e.g. most ecosystem functional groups are comprehensively assessed, i.e. all ecosystem types assessed), to those with comprehensive assessments for only some ecosystem functional groups, to those with no or very little data.

45. Countries may also have available Red List of Ecosystems assessments (e.g. regional assessments), that require validation for use in national reporting. Guidelines for validation and data-quality assessment will also be developed, with the aim of developing consistent validation protocols for headline indicators A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems and B1 Services provided by ecosystems, which may also rely on non-government data sources.

46. National Red List of Ecosystem assessments can also be incomplete where there are insufficient resources to evaluate all criteria or ecosystem types – such ecosystems are reported as Not Evaluated. Category Not Evaluated is always excluded from calculation of RLIe. Missing data may stem from incomplete assessments, or coarse scale assessments that exclude finer scale variation in ecosystems.

47. The results of Red List of Ecosystem assessments can also be uncertain, where insufficient data exist to assign an ecosystem type to a risk category. This can result in some poorly known ecosystem types being listed Data Deficient. Uncertainty in Red List of Ecosystems assessment can be dealt with through a range of methods, including bounds in estimates of risk category – please see the Red List of Ecosystems Guidelines for more information (IUCN, 2024).

48. Data deficient ecosystem types can be included in the Red List Index of ecosystem (RLIe) through similar means to headline indicator A.3 Red List Index for species, (i.e. by randomly allocating Data Deficient (DD) ecosystem types to risk categories with a probability proportional to the number of non-DD ecosystem types in each risk category, repeating this 1,000 times through a bootstrapping procedure, and reporting the mean).

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

49. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

50. The indicator can be used at national, regional, and global levels, depending on data availability. Global/regional values can be disaggregated to national scales (e.g. Ferrer-Paris et al. 2019, Obura et al. 2022). In principle, national data can be aggregated to form regional/global assessments, though this is yet to be applied and will require more testing.

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

51. The procedure for applying the Red List of Ecosystems framework is the same across national to global scales. The outcomes may vary between national and global levels where:

(a) National assessments have more detailed ecosystem units than global assessments; for example, a comparison of ecosystem classifications in South Africa found that more ecosystems were listed as threatened when using more finely defined units (Payet et al. 2013);

(b) Ecosystems extend beyond national boundary, particularly for smaller countries. This can also be dealt with to some degree by aligning and aggregating similar ecosystems with the Global Ecosystem Typology, and considering how this issue is addressed in species red listing (e.g. national assessment guidelines that account for rescue effects);

(c) There are inconsistencies among nations in data and indicators used in assessments, and in the criteria assessed. These inconsistencies may be resolved by learning from experiences in economics where the methods have been developed to account for ways in which national accounts, GDP and other economic indicators vary per country.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

52. The methods of conducting Red List of Ecosystems assessments are well established, and the same across national, regional and global scales. The methods of calculating the RLIe are also the same across national, regional and global scales. At present, indicators at these different scales are calculated based on assessments at the corresponding scales; country values are not yet aggregated to calculate regional or global assessments. Where ecosystem types extend beyond national boundaries, there is the possibility of aggregating data using the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology – approaches for doing so are currently being trialled.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

53. The primary recommended disaggregation for the Red List of Ecosystems is:

By Ecosystem Functional Group (based on the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology level 3). Because the Global Ecosystem Typology is hierarchical, results can also be disaggregated to biome, which is a higher level in the hierarchy, and therefore with fewer categories (and thus potentially less informative, but more digestible for non-specialists).

54. Potential further disaggregations that are informative for this headline indicator include:

(a) By Lands of indigenous peoples and local communities or Indigenous Territories, where spatial data are available, for example, intersecting national ecosystem maps with national maps of Indigenous Territories or equivalent;

(b) By protected status, by intersecting spatial data on Protected Areas and/or OECMs (see Headline Indicator 3.1);

(c) By threatening process to support reporting on targets or drivers of biodiversity loss, for example:

Target 8: where climate change is identified as a threat in the Red list of Ecosystems assessment, or using risk status under sub-criterion C2 (projected future change in an ecosystem's abiotic environment, e.g. warming that leads to increased

bleaching in coral reefs, Obura et al. 2021; or changes in temperature and precipitation in forest ecosystems, Ferrer-Paris et al. 2019)

Target 6: ecosystems that are threatened by invasive species

Target 7: ecosystems that are threatened by pollution

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

55. The Red List of Ecosystems and RLIe complements other headline indicators for Goals A and B:

(a) Indicator A.2 *Extent of natural ecosystems*, based on the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) ecosystem extent accounts at national levels and global datasets at global levels, provides information about the relative abundance of different natural ecosystem types; in contrast the Red List of Ecosystems provides information about the risk of collapse of these ecosystem types. Note that change in extent, required for Headline Indicator A.2 is an input variable to Criterion A of the Red List of Ecosystems, and the indicators may share many of the same data sources.

(b) Indicator A.3 *Red List Index*, based on data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, addresses species extinction risk; the Red List of Ecosystems focusses on a different level of biodiversity, deepening understanding of biodiversity loss and priorities for action to reverse it.

(c) Indicator B.1 *Services provided by ecosystems*, based on SEEA ecosystem services accounts, provides information on trends in ecosystem service flows whereas the Red List of Ecosystems assesses impacts of ecosystem change on risks to ecosystem-level biodiversity, and emphasises a risk-reduction strategies for ecosystem management.

(d) Headline indicators 2.1 *Area under restoration*, and 3.1 *Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures* provide information about interventions to protect and restore ecosystems, respectively.

56. Many of the complementary and component indicators for Goal A, such as Live Coral Cover, trends in mangrove forest fragmentation, and Forest Landscape Integrity Index, can provide input data for Red List of Ecosystems assessments (eg Obura et al. 2022, Murray et al. 2020).

57. Red List of Ecosystems assessments can also support production of other indices, including: the Ecosystem Area Index, which aggregates data on change in ecosystem extent (criterion A); and the Ecosystem Health Index, which summarises data on changes in ecosystem integrity (Criteria C and/or D, based on ecosystem-specific indicators (see Rowland et al. 2020).

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

58. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

59. Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

10b. Contact person(s)

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Website

https://iucnrle.org/ https://assessments.iucnrle.org/ ; https://global-ecosystems.org/

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A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems

. Indicator name

A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems

2. Date of metadata update

March 20246

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Headline Indicator for Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

3b. Target

Headline Indicator for Target 1: Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

4. Rationale

1. Natural ecosystems are the foundation of biodiversity, providing the conditions necessary for a wide array of life forms to coexist and thrive. The conversion of natural ecosystems to intensively modified or anthropogenic ecosystems, driven by human interventions such as urban development, the intensification and expansion of agriculture, and infrastructure development, is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and is reflected in the reduction of the area of natural ecosystems. Conversely, ecological restoration efforts can result in increases in the area of natural ecosystems.

2. This indicator aims to show the extent of natural ecosystems as a proportion of overall area, and to track changes in this proportion over time. This responds to the element of Goal A that refers to "*substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050*". The indicator also responds to the elements of Target 1 that refer to "*addressing land and sea use change*", "*to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030*". The indicator is recommended to be disaggregated into different natural ecosystem types, providing insights into the relative abundance or scarcity of different natural ecosystem types as well as their relative rates of loss or gain over time.

3. The term "*natural ecosystem*" refers broadly to ecosystems where the impact of humans on ecosystem composition, structure and function are low compared to natural factors (Secretariat of the CBD, 2022). Natural ecosystem types in this broad sense can include ecosystems *modified* by human interventions but with natural compositional, structural and functional characteristics still at least partially present and recognisable. These are referred to as semi-natural ecosystems in some contexts. In contrast, anthropogenic ecosystem types are those *created and maintained* through human interventions, i.e. human interventions are the *primary determinant* of the composition, structure and functioning of the ecosystem. These definitions of natural and anthropogenic ecosystem types are discussed in more detail in Section 5a.

4. The term natural ecosystem is used in the indicator in a broad sense for several reasons:

(a) Natural ecosystems that have been modified often retain substantial biodiversity and are thus important from a biodiversity perspective,. This contrasts with anthropogenic (including artificial and intensively modified) ecosystems which support much less biodiversity. Thus, the key distinction from a biodiversity perspective is between natural ecosystem types on the one hand (which include modified natural ecosystems) and anthropogenic ecosystems types on the other.

(b) If modified natural ecosystems were excluded from the indicator, this may have the unintended consequence of reducing attention to their management, conservation and in some cases restoration.

(c) In practice there are virtually no ecosystems that are completely unimpacted by people and there is no agreed scientific basis for making firm distinctions between natural, near-natural and semi-natural ecosystems, which exist on a continuum, so a narrow definition of natural ecosystems (i.e. as "pristine" or having high integrity) would make the indicator difficult to operationalise. In contrast, classification systems exist to distinguish between natural ecosystem types and anthropogenic ecosystem types (as discussed in Section 5a).

5. The indicator focuses predominantly on conversions from natural to anthropogenic ecosystems and vice versa. As noted, the term "*natural ecosystems*" is used in this context in a broad sense, including ecosystems modified to varying degrees by human intervention (sometimes referred to as semi-natural ecosystems).

6. This indicator tracks extent of natural ecosystem types, rather than tracking the degree of naturalness, integrity or condition of ecosystems, , which is captured in other indicators such as the Red List of Ecosystems (indicator A1). This means that ecosystems do not have to be in good ecological condition to be included in the indicator as natural. Where human interventions uses in natural ecosystems result in some biodiversity loss and a transition to a modified state (such as in managed native forests or grazed shrublands, grasslands or savannas), this decline in integrity or condition and accompanying biodiversity loss would be picked up in a Red List of Ecosystem assessment.

7. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting, as the adopted international statistical standard for organizing data about ecosystems, measuring ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets, and linking this information to economic and other human activity, provides the conceptual framework and methodology for the compilation of this indicator. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting requires accounting for ecosystem extent in biophysical terms as one of five core ecosystem accounts, with the extent account providing the foundation for the other four core accounts. Because accounting tables have a standard structure and are based on standard definitions and classifications, they allow for comparison across time periods and between countries. This makes an accounting approach a powerful basis for the development of national and global indicators. An additional strength of the ecosystem accounting approach is that accounts provide granular information that can be used for local application and fine-grained policy decisions as well as aggregate information for national and global reporting.

8. An ecosystem extent account tracks the extent of different ecosystem types within an area (such as a country) for successive accounting periods, providing an opening extent and closing extent for each ecosystem type in each accounting period. The information on opening and closing stocks in the account tables can be used to derive a range of indicators and presented in a range of forms (e.g. summary tables, maps, graphs).

9. In its simplest form, the indicator "*Extent of natural ecosystems*" can be shown as natural and ecosystems as a proportion of total area, at the national level and globally, based on the closing extent for a particular accounting period. This basic form of the indicator provides information about the abundance of all natural ecosystem types relative to anthropogenic ecosystem types. A mock-up (with a hypothetical global average) is provided in figure I. An average per region could also be included.

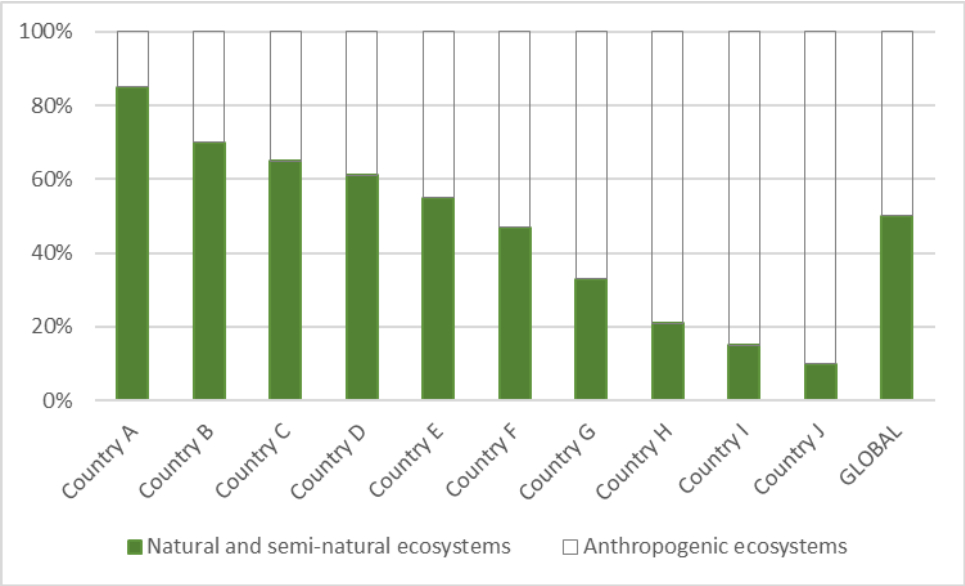

Figure I.
Mock-up of indicator Proportion of natural ecosystems in year X

10. The natural ecosystems are recommended to be by realm, biome, ecosystem functional group or ecosystem type, to show their relative abundance or scarcity within the broad "*natural*" category. This provides greater insight into ecosystem change and enables a more meaningful indicator, as discussed further in Section 8.

11. The focus on natural ecosystems in Indicator A2 means that it aligns with the scope of Indicator A1, the Red List of Ecosystems, as Red List assessments focus primarily on natural ecosystems. Indicator A2 complements Indicator A1, each providing a different perspective. Indicator A1 focuses on which ecosystem types are most threatened and face the greatest risk of collapse, while indicator A2 focuses on the abundance of natural ecosystems relative to anthropogenic ecosystems and the relative abundance or scarcity of different natural ecosystem types.

12. Indicator A.2 is intended to be used and interpreted in the context of other ecosystem-related indicators of the GBF. The five headline indicators that deal most directly with ecosystems are A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, 2.1 Area under restoration, and 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This set of indicators can together provide a well-rounded picture of the state of ecosystems, their benefits to society, and interventions to protect and restore ecosystems. They should be interpreted collectively rather than individually, with each providing different but complementary information.

13. At the national level, using a common national classification system for ecosystem types across these five headline indicators will greatly facilitate bringing information from this set of indicators together to provide a coherent narrative and to be most useful for policy and implementation. For coherence in global reporting and analysis, it is useful for countries to cross-reference their national ecosystem classification to the Global Ecosystem Typology, as discussed in Section 5a.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition:

14. The indicator, at the national level, is defined as the extent of natural and semi-natural ecosystems as a proportion of total area of the country at a particular point in time, expressed as a percentage. The point in time is the closing date of the accounting period for which the ecosystem accounts were compiled. Trends over time will be evident from changes in the proportion of total area over successive accounting periods.

15. The total surface area of a country includes land, inland water and, if applicable, marine area to the end of the exclusive economic zone. For countries with marine territory, the indicator should ideally be compiled for both inland and marine area. However, it could be compiled only for the inland area if data on the distribution of marine ecosystems are not yet available. Subterranean areas are currently out of scope of the indicator.

16. It is recognised that the indicator does not capture information about ecosystems in the high seas (i.e. areas beyond national jurisdiction).

Other key concepts and definitions:

17. The concepts, definitions and classification used are based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (United Nations et al. 2021) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Ecosystem Typology (IUCN GET). These can be complemented by national ecosystem classifications used in ecosystem accounting.

18. An *ecosystem* is defined by the CBD as a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (CBD, 1992, Article 2). The SEEA EA uses the CBD definition of ecosystems. Important elements of this definition are the biotic (living) component, the abiotic (non-living) component and the interactions among the biota and between the biotic and abiotic components. Alongside this definition, three attributes of ecosystems are often identified: composition, structure and function. Composition relates to the suite of species that occur within the ecosystem, structure to the physical structure and patterns of the ecosystem, and function to ecological processes. (Global Ecosystems Atlas, 2025)

19. For many real-world applications, it is useful to divide the ecosystems that occur in a continuous landscape or seascape into different *ecosystem types* that can be used for planning, decision making, management and monitoring (Keith et al., 2015). An ecosystem type is defined as a type of ecosystem distinguished from other types by its characteristic functional, structural and compositional properties (IUCN, 2025). An ecosystem type is identified and delineated as part of a classification system for ecosystems, often hierarchical, based on biotic and abiotic factors.

20. In classifying and mapping ecosystem types, it is important that compositional, structural and functional attributes are all considered in identifying and distinguishing between ecosystem types. This allows ecosystem types to be identified as ecologically meaningful units that are consistent with the concept of an ecosystem as defined by the CBD.

21. *Ecosystem extent* is the size of an ecosystem asset, where ecosystem assets are defined as contiguous spaces of a specific ecosystem type characterized by a distinct set of biotic and abiotic components and their interactions (United Nations 2021). An ecosystem type may have several occurrences (i.e. be made up of several ecosystem assets) interspersed with occurrence of other ecosystem types in the landscape or seascape. The combined extent of all the ecosystem assets make up the extent of that ecosystem type.

22. The total area for which ecosystem accounts are compiled is called the *ecosystem accounting area*. For the purposes of accounting, ecosystem types must be delineated to be spatially mutually exclusive and comprehensive across the ecosystem accounting area (i.e. no overlaps or gaps between ecosystem types and wall-to-wall coverage of the whole ecosystem accounting area). The total area is the sum of the areas of all ecosystem types in that area including natural and anthropogenic ecosystem types. For the purposes of this

indicator, the ecosystem accounting area should be the total area of the country. For countries that have marine territory, the total surface area of the country could be divided into separate ecosystem accounting areas, for example one for the inland area (including land and inland waters)and another for the marine area. Regardless of whether ecosystem accounts are developed for the inland and marine area as a single ecosystem accounting area or as two separate ecosystem accounting areas, the indicator should be reported in two components: an inland component and a marine component, as explained in paragraph 39. For both the inland and marine components, countries should report the total area in absolute terms, not only the area of natural ecosystems, as this provides the denominator for the indicator.

23. *Changes in extent* of natural ecosystems occur primarily through *ecosystem conversion*. In the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, ecosystem conversions refer to situations in which, for a given location, there is a change in ecosystem type involving a distinct and persistent change in the ecological structure, composition and function which, in turn, is reflected in the supply of a different set of ecosystem services. This definition aligns well with the approach to loss of ecosystem area (leading eventually to ecosystem collapse) in the Red List of Ecosystems.

24. Reduction in the extent of natural ecosystems will be tracked primarily through measuring conversion of area within natural ecosystems types to anthropogenic ecosystems types. There are also instances in which the extent of natural ecosystems may increase, for example through restoration of anthropogenic ecosystems towards a natural state.

25. Ecosystem types are ideally classified at the national level as part of a national ecosystem classification system. The IUCN GET (Keith et al. 2020), is the *reference classification for ecosystem types* in the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 55th session in March 2024 as an international statistical classification system. . The GET is a hierarchical classification, enabling global consistency at the aggregate levels while encouraging detailed national ecosystem classifications at the more detailed levels. The three upper levels of IUCN GET – realms, biomes and ecosystem functional groups – classify ecosystems based on their functional characteristics (such as structural roles of foundation species, water regime, climatic regime or food web structure). National ecosystem types would typically be identified at level 5 or 6, which include emphasis on compositional characteristics and are intended to be developed bottom-up by countries. Level 3 – ecosystem functional groups (EFGs) – of the IUCN GET an important level for comparing information across countries and synthesising ecosystem-related information. As discussed in paragraph 27, countries are encouraged to cross-reference their national ecosystem classifications to EFGs for the purposes of global comparison and reporting.

26. *Natural ecosystems* are ecosystems in which the impacts of humans on ecosystem composition, structure and function are low compared to natural factors. In this broad sense, natural ecosystem types include:

(a) Ecosystems influenced or modified to varying degrees by human interventions, but with natural compositional, structural and functional characteristics still at least partially present and recognisable. The human interventions could be beneficial, neutral or negative from a biodiversity perspective. In some cases, the human intervention may mimic processes that would have taken place as part of the natural functioning of the ecosystem prior to human modification (e.g. grazing by wild herbivores or natural fire cycles). It may include the use of ecosystems by traditional and/or Indigenous societies, including practices such as fire management, nomadic grazing and other pastoral practices. In some contexts, these modified ecosystems are termed semi-natural.

(b) Instances of natural ecosystem types that are in a range of condition states, from pristine ecosystems in excellent condition or with high integrity, through to those in poor condition, degraded, or with low integrity.

27.

28. In contrast, anthropogenic ecosystem types are those *created and maintained* through human interventions, i.e. human interventions are the *primary determinant* of the composition, structure and functioning of the ecosystem. An anthropogenic ecosystem type has typically *replaced* an antecedent or pre-existing natural ecosystem type, which is no longer recognisably present (although small patches/fragments and some native species may persist). Human intervention does much more than influence or modify the ecosystem, even substantially. It determines the compositional, structural and functional characteristics of the ecosystem, and is typically essential for maintaining those characteristics. The human interventions that create anthropogenic ecosystems are frequently connected to land- and sea-use systems that maintain modern-day industrial societies.

29. For the purposes of this indicator, *natural and anthropogenic ecosystems are identified based on the EFGs of the IUCN GET*. Of the 25 biomes in the GET, six are considered anthropogenic, containing 16 EFGs. Setting aside the subterranean biomes, which are out of scope of Indicator A.2, leaves 20 biomes of which four are anthropogenic, containing 13 EFGs. The anthropogenic EFGs are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
List of ecosystem functional groups (EFGs) in the IUCN GET that are considered anthropogenic and thus excluded from "natural ecosystems" for Indicator A.2

Realm	*Biome*	*Ecosystem functional group*
Terrestrial	T7 Intensive land-use systems[7]	T7.1 Annual croplands
		T7.2 Sown pastures and fields
		T7.3 Plantations
		T7.4 Urban and industrial ecosystems
		T7.5 Derived semi-natural pastures and old fields**
Freshwater	F3 Artificial fresh waters	F3.1 Large reservoirs
		F3.2 Constructed lacustrine wetlands
		F3.3 Rice paddies
		F3.4 Freshwater aquafarms
		F3.5 Canals, ditches and drains
Marine	M4 Anthropogenic marine systems	M4.1 Submerged artificial structures
		M4.2 Marine aquafarms
Marine-terrestrial	MT3 Anthropogenic shorelines	MT 3.1 Artificial shorelines

** The derived semi-natural pastures in EFG T7.5 were created and are maintained through human interventions, in some case over centuries or longer, replacing other pre-existing natural ecosystem types. They are thus conceptually anthropogenic ecosystems. However, in the case of these ecosystem types, human intervention typically affects only part of the vegetation structure and leaves basic ecosystem functions (such as soil profile, nutrient status, hydrological cycle) intact. For the purposes of Indicator A.2, national ecosystem types that fall within EFG T7.5 may be grouped with the broad category "natural" if the ecosystem type existed pre-industrially and/or has substantial importance for biodiversity. This consideration applies at the level of *specific national ecosystem types within EFG T7.5*, rather than implying that the entire EFG could necessarily be treated as "natural" for the purposes of Indicator A.2.

Please refer to the IUCN GET (Keith et.al 2020) for detailed descriptive profiles for each EFG, which can also be found at https://global-ecosystems.org/.

The IUCN GET is also recommended for summarising and disaggregation in Headline Indicator A1, the Red List of Ecosystems, which focuses on the risk of collapse of natural ecosystems.

5b. Method of computation

30. The indicator is drawn directly from ecosystem extent accounts compiled based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework, which organize data on the extent of different ecosystem types. An ecosystem extent account records the extent (area) and changes in extent, for all ecosystem types within an ecosystem accounting area (in this case a country), including natural, and anthropogenic ecosystem types.8 A stylized example of an ecosystem extent account is shown in Table 2, where the opening extent, closing extent, and additions and reductions in extent and net change in extent for each ecosystem type are recorded for a particular accounting period. The "total" column must reflect the extent of the whole Ecosystem Accounting Area (in this case the total inland area or total marine area of the country). Entries are in measurement units such as hectares or square kilometres. Ideally accounts are compiled for successive accounting periods, with the closing extent for one accounting period becoming the opening extent for the next accounting period. The critical elements of the account table for reporting on the indicator are the opening extent of the first accounting period, the closing extent of the first and each subsequent accounting period and the total extent of the country (see Section 6d.3).

31. More comprehensive versions of the ecosystem extent account table than the one shown in Table 2 are also possible (e.g. see Table 4.1 in SEEA EA), and a change matrix can be compiled alongside the extent account (described in SEEA EA), providing additional information about conversions between different ecosystem types.

Table 2
Stylized ecosystem extent account (units of area)

	Ecosystem functional groups (examples)						
Accounting entries	T2.6 Temperate forests and woodlands	T4.5 Temperate subhumid grasslands	F2.3 Seasonal freshwater lakes	T7.1 Annual croplands	T7.4 Urban and industrial ecosystems	…	**Total**
Opening extent							
Additions to extent							
Reduction to extent							
Net change in extent							
Closing extent							

Source: Adapted from SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, Table 2.2.

32. Countries that have their own national classification system and maps for ecosystems should use that classification and spatial data for the compilation of extent accounts. The accounts can be compiled in as much detail as needed at the national level, for example at a level equivalent to Levels 5 or 6 of the GET (these levels are intended to be developed bottom-up, from the national or local level).

33. In such cases, cross reference of this national classification system with IUCN GET Level 3 (EFGs) should be developed to facilitate consistency and comparison across countries. Each national ecosystem type should be cross-referenced to one or more EFGs with similar characteristics based on the descriptions of the EFGs and other relevant information. See the IUCN's standards, methods and guidelines for cross-referencing ecosystem classifications and maps to the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (IUCN, 2025).

34. It is important to note that the cross-referencing from national ecosystem types to EFGs is a conceptual cross-reference not a spatial cross-walk. Countries should use their own spatial data on

the distribution of ecosystem types (cross-walked to EFGs) for compiling the extent account, not, for example, the indicative spatial data on distribution of EFGs that is available on the GET website.

35. If no national ecosystem extent accounts exist yet, other sources of information on ecosystem extent may support reporting on Indicator A.2. These include using extent estimates from national ecosystem maps directly, or from Red List of Ecosystem assessments used in Indicator A.1 (which are typically underpinned by data on ecosystem extent and changes in extent). However, ecosystem accounts provide a consistent structure for estimating extent, and thus are recommended for calculating Indicator A.2.

36. When no existing national classification and/or map of ecosystem types is available, or deemed suitable for reporting, a country could opt to use global data or tools to compile extent accounts. The compilation guidelines for Indicator A.2 provide further guidance on key national datasets required for the indicator as well as using global datasets as an interim option if national datasets are absent or only partially developed.

37. Once national ecosystem types have been cross-referenced to the EFGs in the GET, the extent account table based on national ecosystem types should be translated to an extent account based on GET EFGs. In some cases this will involve aggregating values for several national ecosystem types that fall within one EFG. The compilation guidelines for Indicator A.2 provide further guidance on translating an extent account based on national ecosystem types to EFGs.

38. The indicator, "*extent of natural ecosystems as a proportion of total area"*, is then obtained by summing the extent of the EFGs pertaining to natural ecosystems (in hectares or square kilometres) and dividing by total area of the country (in the same units). The denominator for the indicator must be the total area of the country (either total inland area or total marine area, as applicable), not only part of the area. The final indicator is expressed in percentage terms.

39. As noted in Section 4, total area of the country includes land area, inland water area and, where applicable, marine area (to the end of the exclusive economic zone). For countries with marine territory that do not yet have data on the distribution of marine ecosystem types, the indicator can be compiled only for total inland area and the associated EFGs. Further, because most marine ecosystems are natural or semi-natural, there is a risk that reporting a single combined indicator for inland and marine area could mask the extent of anthropogenic ecosystems in inland realms. Especially in countries with large marine territories, this could mask significant changes occurring in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. This means that the indicator should be reported separately for inland and marine areas (at the national and global level). The compilation guidelines for Indicator A.2 provide guidance on dealing with transitional realms (which include coastal ecosystems), including how they should be allocated to a country's inland or marine area.

40. For reporting the indicator, countries will not be expected to submit the ecosystem extent account table. Rather, they will submit data on the extent of each EFG and the total country area in absolute terms (e.g. ha/km^2). A globally aggregated indicator can then be obtained by summing the national values in absolute terms and converting them to proportions expressed in percentage terms. (See further discussion in Section 6d.)

5c. Data collection method

41. Also see Section 5e Data sources. The national ecosystem maps that underpin ecosystem extent accounts (which include ecosystem classification and spatial datasets representing the distribution of all ecosystem types in a country), and time series spatial datasets that show changes in extent of ecosystems, are developed based on a wide range of data sources which differ for different realms and have different collection methods. Remote sensing and earth observation data often play an important role, along with field data and expert knowledge.

42. When national data is not available, global data layers may be used where they are considered suitable.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

43. The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in 2021 adopted the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting chapters 1-7 describing the accounting framework and the biophysical accounts, including chapters on ecosystem extent, as an international statistical standard. Existing SEEA EA resources can be drawn on in compiling accounts, including freely available e-learning resources (https://seea.un.org/content/seea-e-learning-resources. In addition, the Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting is working on technical guidance notes on the compilation of ecosystem extent accounts (among others), which will assist countries in producing these accounts. Capacity development for Parties, especially for developing countries, should be provided to support the compilation of this indicator.

44. IUCN GET is a published and peer reviewed classification of global ecosystems which can be accessed at https://global-ecosystems.org/.

45. Additional compilation guidance for this indicator is being prepared through an expert process led by the UN Statistics Division. A draft is available on the meeting webpage for SBSTTA-28. The guidelines will be finalised by January 2027.

46.

5e. Data sources

47. The main data requirements for this indicator are national ecosystem maps (including classification of ecosystem types and spatial datasets representing the distribution) and time series spatial data sets that show changes in extent of ecosystems. The compilation guidelines for headline indicator A.2 provide further guidance in this regard. Data sources could include research institutions, various government ministries and national mapping agencies.

48. In the absence of national data sources, regional and global datasets can be used, subject to criteria, standards and quality assurance, including validation at the national level through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts. For example, ARIES for SEEA allows users to derive a basic ecosystem extent account (for the period from 1992) in the terrestrial, freshwater and coastal realms using a multilayer look-up table approach which combines global data sources on land cover and other metrics to approximate EFGs (https://seea.un.org/content/aries-for-seea). The Global Ecosystems Atlas (https://globalecosystemsatlas.org/), an initiative convened by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), is compiling a standardised global map of EFGs at a 100m resolution from national or other peer-reviewed data sources, filling gaps using ecosystem classification geospatial models. Prior to being included in the Global Ecosystems Atlas, contributed data are screened according to quality criteria for recency, spatial resolution, and open re-use licenses. Where ecosystems are mapped using national classifications, the Global Ecosystems Atlas cross-references the data to the GET using IUCN standards, methods, and guidelines (IUCN, 2025). The distributions of ecosystems in otherwise unmapped territories are modelled using ecosystem classification geospatial models trained using EcoTrain (Murray et al. 2026), an expert-annotated training and validation dataset of more than 80,000 points globally. Once global coverage is complete, ecosystem extent information from the Global Ecosystems Atlas will be available to support the compilation of indicator A.2.

49. The compilation guidelines for Indicator A.2 provide further guidance on the use of global datasets as an interim measure. High-level guidance on data quality and validation is addressed in the compilation guidelines for headline indicator A.2.

5f. Availability and release calendar

50. The indicator methodology is based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, which is well developed and accepted by the international statistical community and other communities working on ecosystem accounting.

51. Since the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting as an international statistical standard, an increasing number of countries have started the implementation of ecosystem extent accounts. According to the 2025 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics, 47 countries compiled ecosystem extent accounts at least once during the period 2021 to 2025 (United Nations, 2025).

52. For countries with no national data on ecosystem extent, global tools and databases could be drawn on, as discussed in Section 5e on data sources. These would require validation at the national level through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts.

5g. Time series

53. Although it is ideal to compile ecosystem accounts on an annual basis, in practice this is seldom possible and may not be meaningful. For the ecosystem extent account, an update every three to five years may be sufficient and is likely to indicate actual changes in extent.

5h. Data providers

54. For those countries that have national ecosystem extent accounts, the relevant national authorities, in particular national statistical offices, ministries of environment or related agencies, will provide data for this indicator. In the absence of published national ecosystem extent accounts, a preliminary ecosystem extent account may be compiled using available national and/or global data sources Such a preliminary account would require national validation through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts.

5i. Data compilers

55. For those countries that have national ecosystem extent accounts, the relevant national authorities, in particular the national statistical offices, ministries of environment or related agencies, will compile this indicator. In the absence of published national ecosystem extent accounts, a preliminary ecosystem account may be compiled using available national and/or global data sources. Such a preliminary account would require national validation through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

N/A

5k. Treatment of missing values

56. Missing values for individual countries may be estimated using global data platforms using existing global data. Such estimates would require national validation through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

57. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

58. The indicator is applicable at the global, national and regional scale. National data can be aggregated to form the global indicator provided that the underlying ecosystem classifications can be linked to IUCN GET, using the IUCN guidelines for such cross-referencing (IUCN, 2025).

6b. National/regional indicator production

59. The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and IUCN GET are scalable at any level, including national and regional levels.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

60. Differences between country produced and internationally estimated data may arise due to differences in spatial resolution of datasets, classification and mapping approaches, cross-walking approaches, projection, and definition of ecosystem conversion.

61. Differences may also arise due to territorial disputes between countries or in the case condominiums. These differences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

62. Regional and global estimates are produced by aggregating country-level data.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

63. Countries will provide data (using a spreadsheet template or through an online data collection system) that will request them to provide values in absolute terms (e.g. ha) for all EFGs in their country (see Section 6d.3 below). These values can then be aggregated globally and converted to percentages.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

64. Data will be collected from countries (using a spreadsheet template or an online data collection system). As noted earlier, countries will not be required to submit their ecosystem extent account tables but rather to submit data extracted from the tables. Data on actual area in absolute terms is very useful, so the reporting template will require countries to report not only on proportions in percentage terms but also on the actual areas (e.g. in ha or km2). Countries will be requested to submit data on the extent of each EFG present in the country (natural and anthropogenic EFGs) at the end of each accounting period10 as well as the total area of the country. The sum of the area of all EFGs for each accounting period should equal the total area of the country (noting that inland and marine areas should be reported separately, if applicable, as discussed in Section 5a).11 Countries should identify the EFGs using the EFG codes and names from the GET Collecting data from countries disaggregated to EFGs allows for global aggregation to biomes or realms as needed.

65. The reporting template will allow countries to submit data for all the accounting periods for which they have compiled accounts. The first data point will be the opening extent of the first account compiled, followed by the closing extent for the first account and for each subsequent account, The opening extent of the first account provides a baseline for the country. Depending on the data available nationally, this could be the historical extent of the EFG, prior to major human modification of the landscape, or a more recent baseline.

66. Country baseline dates are distinct from the global baseline date. The proposed baseline year for global reporting under the GBF is likely to be 2020, or alternatively an average of the values between 2010 and 2020. Collecting data for years prior to the global baseline from countries that have such data could enable additional analyses that may be useful.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

67. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

68. This indicator can be disaggregated by realm, biome, EFG and geographical location, all of which provide useful information.

69. The primary recommended disaggregation for A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems is:

By Ecosystem Functional Group (based on the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology level 3); this will be the expected disaggregation for national reporting. Because the Global Ecosystem Typology is hierarchical, results can also be shown by biome and realm, which are a higher level in the hierarchy, and therefore with fewer categories (and thus potentially less informative, but more digestible for non-specialists).

70. Potential further disaggregations that are informative for this headline indicator include:

(a) Disaggregation by geographical location;

(b) Disaggregation by natural and semi-natural ecosystems, but this would need further discussion as the distinction between natural and semi-natural ecosystems can be difficult to make in practice (as discussed earlier). Those countries that are able to distinguish systematically between natural and semi-natural ecosystems could use this information on the relative share of natural and semi-natural area for analytical purposes, as it can provide additional relevant information about the interactions between people and ecosystems;

(c) Subnational disaggregation may be important and useful at the country level (for example, disaggregation to provinces and municipalities). However, this would not be required for global data collection;

(d) Disaggregation related to indigenous peoples and local communities may be relevant for this indicator. Where spatial data on indigenous peoples and local communities' lands exists, it may in principle be possible to disaggregate the indicator on this basis. However, this is a complex issue and guidance would need to be sought from the CBD's Working Group on Article 8(j) which addresses with indigenous peoples and local communities.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

10b. Contact person(s)

This meta-data sheet was prepared by UNSD, with contributions from members of the AHTEG and of the Task team of the UNCEEA Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

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A.3 Red List Index[4]

1. Indicator name

A.3 Red List Index

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

3b. Target

Target 4: Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
As noted in CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2 "*Report of the Expert Workshop on the Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*", Annex III, specific disaggregations of the Red List Index are relevant to a number of other targets described in section 9.

4. Rationale

1. The world's species are impacted by a number of threatening processes, including habitat destruction and degradation, overexploitation, invasive alien species, human disturbance, pollution and climate change. This indicator can be used to assess overall changes in the extinction risk of groups of species as a result of these threats and the extent to which threats are being mitigated.

2. The Red List Index value ranges from 1 (all species are categorized as 'Least Concern') to 0 (all species are categorized as 'Extinct'), and so indicates how far the set of species has moved overall towards extinction. Thus, the global Red List Index allows comparisons between sets of species in both their overall level of extinction risk (i.e. how threatened they are on average), and in the rate at which this risk changes over time. A downward trend in the global Red List Index over time means that the expected rate of future species extinctions is worsening (i.e. the rate of biodiversity loss is increasing). An upward trend means that the expected rate of species extinctions is abating (i.e. the rate of biodiversity loss is decreasing), and a horizontal line means that the expected rate of species extinctions is remaining the same, although in each of these cases it does not mean that biodiversity loss has stopped. An upward global Red List Index trend would indicate that the SDG Target 15.5 of reducing the degradation of natural habitats and protecting threatened species is on track. A global Red List Index value of 1 would indicate that biodiversity loss has been halted.

3. The name "*Red List Index*" should not be taken to imply that the indicator is produced as a composite indicator of a number of disparate metrics (in the same way that, e.g. the Multidimensional Poverty Index is compiled). The Red List Index provides an indicator of trends in species' extinction risk, as measured using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (Mace et al. 2008, IUCN 2012a),

[4] The Red List Index is Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.5.1. The official SDG metadata is accessible from Metadata-15-05-01.pdf (un.org).

and is compiled from data on changes over time in the Red List Category for each species, excluding any changes driven by improved knowledge or revised taxonomy.

4. The Red List Index was used as an indicator towards the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (CBD 2014, Tittensor et al. 2014, CBD 2020a), the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2010 Target (Butchart et al. 2010), Millennium Development Goal 7, Sustainable Development Goal 15.1 and is also used by Parties to the CMS (and its subsidiary agreements and memoranda of understanding), CITES and UNCCD (Butchart et al. 2024). It is a Headline Indicator in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD 2022).

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition:

5. The indicator "Red List Index" measures change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species. It is based on genuine changes in the number of species in each category of extinction risk on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (www.iucnredlist.org) and is expressed as changes in an index ranging from 0 to 1.

Other key concepts and definitions:

6. Threatened species are those listed on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the categories Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered (i.e. species that are facing a high, very high, or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future). Changes over time in the proportion of species threatened with extinction are largely driven by improvements in knowledge and changing taxonomy. The indicator excludes such changes to yield a more informative indicator than the simple proportion of threatened species. It therefore measures change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species over time, resulting from genuine improvements or deteriorations in the status of individual species. It can be calculated for any representative set of species that have been assessed for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species at least twice (Butchart et al. 2004, 2005, 2007). To calculate the Red List Index for individual countries and regions, each species contributing to the index is weighted by the proportion of its global range within the particular country or region. The resulting index therefore shows the aggregate extinction risk for species within the country or region relative to its potential contribution to global species extinction risk (within the taxonomic groups included) (Butchart et al. 2024). Complementing such national disaggregations of the global index, national RLIs can be generated from repeated assessments of national extinction risk (e.g. national Red Lists). Guidance for assessing national extinction risk of species has been developed by IUCN (IUCN 2012b), and most countries have developed national red lists for at least one taxonomic group. National RLIs may be more sensitive than disaggregated global RLIs to factors influencing biodiversity loss within each country (including national policies), but require repeated assessments of national extinction risk for multiple groups in each country (with associated costs), and cannot be directly compared between countries (Raimondo et al. 2022, Butchart et al. 2024).

Unit of measure:

7. The disaggregated global Red List Index for a particular country or region is an index of the aggregate extinction risk for species within the country or region relative to its potential contribution to global species extinction risk (within the taxonomic groups included), measured on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 is the maximum contribution that the country or region can make to global species survival, equating to all species being classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, and 0 is the minimum contribution that the country or region can make to global species survival, equating to all species in the country or region having gone extinct.

5b. Method of computation

8. The Red List Index is calculated at a point in time by first multiplying the number of species in each Red List Category by a weight (ranging from 1 for 'Near Threatened' to 5 for 'Extinct' and

'Extinct in the Wild') and summing these values. This is then divided by a maximum threat score which is the total number of species multiplied by the weight assigned to the 'Extinct' category. This final value is subtracted from 1 to give the Red List Index value. Mathematically this calculation is expressed as:

$$RLIt = 1 - [(Ss\ Wc(t,s) / (WEX * N)]$$

Where Wc(t,s) is the weight for category (c) at time (t) for species (s) (the weight for 'Critically Endangered' = 4, 'Endangered' = 3, 'Vulnerable' = 2, 'Near Threatened' = 1, 'Least Concern' = 0. 'Critically Endangered' species tagged as 'Possibly Extinct' or 'Possibly Extinct in the Wild' are assigned a weight of 5); WEX = 5, the weight assigned to 'Extinct' or 'Extinct in the Wild' species; and N is the total number of assessed species, excluding those assessed as Data Deficient in the current time period, and those considered to be 'Extinct' in the year the set of species was first assessed.

9. The formula requires that:

(a) Exactly the same set of species is included in all time periods, and

(b) The only Red List Category changes are those resulting from genuine improvement or deterioration in status (i.e. excluding changes resulting from improved knowledge or taxonomic revisions), and

(c) Data Deficient species are excluded (or treated according to the procedure described above).

10. In many cases, species lists will change slightly from one assessment to the next (e.g. owing to taxonomic revisions). The conditions can therefore be met by retrospectively adjusting earlier Red List categorizations using current information and taxonomy. This is achieved by assuming that the current Red List Categories for the taxa have applied since the set of species was first assessed for the Red List, unless there is information to the contrary that genuine status changes have occurred. Such information is often contextual (e.g. relating to the known history of habitat loss within the range of the species).

11. To avoid spurious results from a biased selection of species, Red List Indices are typically calculated only for taxonomic groups in which all species worldwide have been assessed for the Red List, or for samples of species that have been systematically or randomly selected. National RLIs based on national extinction risk should similarly be compiled only for taxonomic groups in which all species in the country (or a systematic or random sample) have been assessed. The methods and scientific basis for the Red List Index were described by Butchart et al. (2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2024).

12. Butchart et al. (2010) also described the methods by which Red List Indices for different taxonomic groups are aggregated to produce a single multi-taxon Red List Index. Specifically, aggregated Red List Indices are calculated as the arithmetic mean of modelled Red List Indices. Red List Indices for each taxonomic group are interpolated linearly for years between data points and extrapolated linearly (with a slope equal to that between the two closest assessed points) to align them with years for which Red List Indices for other taxa are available. The Red List Indices for each taxonomic group for each year are modelled to take into account various sources of uncertainty:

(a) Data Deficiency: Red List categories (from Least Concern to Extinct) are assigned to all Data Deficient species, with a probability proportional to the number of species in non-Data Deficient categories for that taxonomic group;

(b) Extrapolation uncertainty: although RLIs were extrapolated linearly based on the slope of the closest two assessed point, there is uncertainty about how accurate this slope may be. To incorporate this uncertainty, rather than extrapolating deterministically, the slope used for extrapolation is selected from a normal distribution with a probability equal to the slope of the closest two assessed points, and standard deviation equal to 60% of this slope (i.e. the CV is 60%);

(c) Temporal variability: the ‘true’ Red List Index likely changes from year to year, but because assessments are repeated only at multi-year intervals, the precise value for any particular year is uncertain.

13. To make this uncertainty explicit, the Red List Index value for a given taxonomic group in a given year is assigned from a moving window of five years, centred on the focal year (with the window set as 3-4 years for the first two and last two years in the series). Note that assessment uncertainty cannot yet be incorporated into the index. Practically, these uncertainties are incorporated into the aggregated Red List Indices as follows: Data Deficient species are allotted a category as described above, and a Red List Index for each taxonomic group is calculated interpolating and extrapolating as described above. A final Red List Index value is assigned to each taxonomic group for each year from a window of years as described above. Each such ‘run’ produces a Red List Index for the complete time period for each taxonomic group, incorporating the various sources of uncertainty. Ten thousand such runs are generated for each taxonomic group, and the mean is calculated.

14. If Red List assessments are produced by individual Parties, assessment objectives, scoring methods, and calculation methods may need to be adjusted to take into account specific national circumstances, and differences in national assessment systems in order to avoid over or under estimating the risk of extinction.

5c. Data collection method

A detailed description of the Red List Assessment process is provided at https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/process.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

See references in section 11, and https://www.iucnredlist.org

5e. Data sources

15. The Red List Index is based on data from The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (www.iucnredlist.org), in particular the numbers of species in each Red List category of extinction risk, and changes in these numbers over time resulting from genuine improvements or deteriorations in the status of species. Data on species’ distribution, population size, trends and other parameters that underpin Red List assessments are gathered from published and unpublished sources, species experts, scientists, and conservationists through correspondence, workshops, and electronic fora.

16. Red List Assessments are checked before submission to IUCN by Assessors and Red List Authority Coordinators, to ensure that all of the required supporting information is provided in the appropriate format, distribution maps follow the required mapping standards (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/mappingstandards, and the IUCN Red List Criteria have been applied appropriately and consistently following IUCN Guidelines (IUCN SPSC 2024). For further details, see https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/process. All submitted assessments must be reviewed by at least one Reviewer designated by the Red List Authority. For more details on the review process, see the Rules of Procedure (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/rules-of-procedure) .

17. When Red List Indices are updated each year, the updated index (and underlying numbers of species in each Red List Category) are made available for review by countries prior to submission to the SDG Indicators Database. This is achieved through updating the country profiles in the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (https://www.ibat-alliance.org) and circulating these for consultation and review to CBD National Focal Points, SDG National Statistical Office Focal Points, and IUCN State Members.

18. In sum: all global Red List assessments are peer reviewed through the relevant Red List Authority for the species or species group in question; and all Red List assessments undergo consistency checks (to ensure consistency with assessments submitted for other taxonomic groups,

regions, processes, etc.) by the Red List Unit before publication on the Red List website (http://www.iucnredlist.org/). Finally, IUCN through the Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (elected each four years by the government and non-governmental Members of IUCN) appoints a Chair for the IUCN Red List Standards and Petitions Committee (see section E of the Red List Partnership Agreement: https://nc.iucnredlist.org/redlist/content/attachment_files/Red_List_Partnership_Agreement_May_2023.pdfsee), which is responsible for ensuring the quality and standards of the IUCN Red List and for ruling on petitions against the listings of species on the IUCN Red List.

5f. Availability and release calendar

19. The Red List Index is updated annually in November-December using the latest data from reassessments on the IUCN Red List.

20. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is updated at least two to three times per year. Red List Indices for sets of species that have been comprehensively reassessed are usually released alongside the relevant update of the IUCN Red List. Data are stored and managed in the Species Information Service database, and are made freely available for non-commercial use through the IUCN Red List website and can be found under the Advanced Search functionality (www.iucnredlist.org). Re-assessments of extinction risk are required for every species assessed on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species once every ten years, and ideally undertaken once every five years. A Red List Strategic Plan details a calendar of upcoming re-assessments for each taxonomic group.

5g. Time series

Time series available: 1993 –2026. Updates are released annually

5h. Data providers

21. National agencies producing relevant data include government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and academic institutions working jointly and separately. Data are gathered from published and unpublished sources, species experts, scientists, and conservationists through correspondence, workshops, and electronic fora. Data are submitted by national agencies to IUCN, or are gathered through initiatives of the Red List Partnership. The members of the Red List Partnership are listed at https://www.iucnredlist.org/about/partners, and currently include: ABQ BioPark; Arizona State University Centre for Biodiversity Outcomes; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International;; Missouri Botanical Garden; NatureServe; Re:wild; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Senckenberg Society for Nature Research; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.

5i. Data compilers

22. Compilation and reporting of the Red List Index at the global level is conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), on behalf of the Red List Partnership.

23. Responsibility for overseeing Red List assessments, which underpin the Red List Index, is assigned to Red List Authorities according to the IUCN Red List Rules of Procedure (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/rules-of-procedure). The role of Red List Authorities is to ensure that all species within their remit are correctly assessed against the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria at least once every ten years and, if possible, every five years. Further details of the roles and responsibilities of Red List Authorities are provided at https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/authorities, and the full list and contact details for all appointed Red List Authorities are available at https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

24. The global Red List Index is currently based on data on mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads, so has biased taxonomic representation. However, these gaps in data coverage will be addressed in the next few years, with reptiles, freshwater fish, sharks and rays, dragonflies, freshwater decapods, and some plant groups scheduled to be integrated into the index by 2030.

25. There are four main sources of uncertainty associated with Red List Index values and trends:

(a) Inadequate, incomplete or inaccurate knowledge of a species' status. This uncertainty is minimized by assigning estimates of extinction risk to categories that are broad in magnitude and timing.

(b) Delays in knowledge about a species becoming available for assessment. Such delays apply to a small (and diminishing) proportion of status changes, and can be overcome in the Red List Index through back-casting (Butchart et al. 2007).

(c) Inconsistency between species assessments. These can be minimized by the requirement to provide supporting documentation detailing the best available data, with justifications, sources, and estimates of uncertainty and data quality, which are checked and standardized by IUCN through Red List Authorities, a Red List Technical Working Group and an independent IUCN Red List Standards and Petitions Committee. Further, detailed Guidelines on the Application of the Categories and Criteria are maintained (IUCN SPC 2024), as is an online training course (in English, Spanish and French).

(d) Species that are too poorly known for the Red List Criteria to be applied are assigned to the Data Deficient category. For birds, only 0.8% of extant species are evaluated as Data Deficient, compared with 11% of amphibians. The overall proportion of species on the Red List that are classified as Data Deficient is declining. If Data Deficient species differ in the rate at which their extinction risk is changing, the Red List Index may give a biased picture of the changing extinction risk of the overall set of species. The degree of uncertainty this introduces is estimated through a bootstrapping procedure that randomly assigns each Data Deficient species a category based on the numbers of non-Data Deficient species in each Red List category for the set of species under consideration, and repeats this for 1,000 iterations, plotting the 2.5 and 97.5 percentiles as lower and upper confidence intervals for the median.

26. The main limitation of the Red List Index is related to the fact that the Red List categories are relatively broad measures of status, and thus the Red List Index for any individual taxonomic group can practically only be updated at intervals of at least four years. However, as the overall index is aggregated across multiple taxonomic groups, with groups reassessed asynchronously, it can be updated annually. A further limitation is that the Red List Index does not reflect particularly well the deteriorating status of more common species that remain abundant and widespread but are declining slowly in terms of their range and population. Hence the Red List Index is complemented by indicators of population abundance, such as the Wild Bird Index or Living Planet Index, and by the Green Status Index of Species Recovery (Akçakaya et al. 2025) to track changes in the degree to which species' populations are recovering.

5k. Treatment of missing values

27. At country level:

Red List Indices for each taxonomic group are interpolated linearly for years between data points and extrapolated linearly (with a slope equal to that between the two closest assessed points, except for corals) back to the earliest time point and forwards to the present for years for which estimates are not available. The start year of the aggregated index is set as ten years before the first assessment year for the taxonomic group with the latest starting point. Corals are not extrapolated linearly because declines are known to have been much steeper subsequent

to 1996 (owing to extreme bleaching events) than before. Therefore, the rate of decline prior to 1996 is set as the average of the rates for the other taxonomic groups.

28. At regional and global levels:

The Red List Index is calculated globally based on assessments of extinction risk of each species included, because many species have distributions that span many countries. Thus, while there is certainly uncertainty around the Red List Index, there are no missing values as such, and so no imputation is necessary.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

29. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

Red List Indices for individual countries and regions can be calculated in two ways:

(a) By disaggregating the global index to the national or regional scale, in which each species contributing to the national or regional index is weighted by the proportion of its global range within the particular country or region. The resulting index therefore shows the aggregate extinction risk for species within the country or region relative to its potential contribution to global species extinction risk (within the taxonomic groups included).

(b) By using national RLIs generated from repeated assessments of national extinction risk (e.g. national Red Lists). Guidance for assessing national extinction risk of species has been developed by IUCN (IUCN 2012), and most countries have developed national red lists for at least one taxonomic group. National RLIs may be more sensitive than disaggregated global RLIs to factors influencing biodiversity loss within each country (including national policies), but require repeated assessments of national extinction risk for multiple groups in each country (with associated costs), and cannot be compared between countries.

30. The decision on whether to use a disaggregation of the global index or to use a national red list assessment would need to take into account, among other things, a country's national capacity and the level of development of their national assessment processes. Further Parties could use a disaggregation of the global index in conjunction with their own national assessments.

31. The data underlying the global Red List Index are compiled under the authority of the IUCN Red List Committee, through application of the IUCN Red List Categories & Criteria (https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10315). This includes submissions of endemics from national red list processes, where these have been conducted following the "*Guidelines for application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels*" (https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10336) and following the "*Required and Recommended Supporting Information for IUCN Red List Assessments*" (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/supporting-information-guidelines). Assessments may be submitted in any of the three IUCN languages (English, French and Spanish) or in Portuguese. All assessments are peer reviewed through the relevant Red List Authority for the species or species group in question, as documented in the Red List Rules of Procedure (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/rules-of-procedure); see in particular Annex 3, the "*Details*

of the Steps Involved in the IUCN Red List Process" from this page: https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/rules-of-procedureavailable).

32. The key document providing international recommendations and guidelines to countries and all involved in application of the IUCN Red List Categories & Criteria (https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10315) is the "*Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*" (in English French, Portuguese and Spanish; see: - https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/redlistguidelines)) accompanied by the "*Required and Recommended Supporting Information for IUCN Red List Assessments*". For countries (and regions), this is supplemented by the "*Guidelines for application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels*" (https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10336) and by the "*Guidelines for Establishing a National; Red List Programme*" (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/national-guidelines-step-by-step). To support the calculation of Red List Indices for any given country (or region), "*Code (and documentation) for calculating and plotting national RLIs weighted by the proportion of each species' distribution within a country or region*" is posted online (Dias et al. 2020; https://github.com/BirdLifeInternational/rli-codes).

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

33. The national Red List Index for a country may differ from the relevant national disaggregation of the global Red List index because: (a) it considers national rather than global extinction risk, (b) because it takes no account of the national responsibility for the conservation of each species, treating as equal both those species that occur nowhere outside the country (i.e. national endemics) and those with large ranges that occur in many other countries, and (c) the taxonomic groups considered may differ. Any such differences will be smaller for countries within which a high proportion of species are endemic (i.e. only found in that country), as in many island nations and mountainous countries, especially in the tropics. The differences will be larger for countries within which a high proportion of species have widespread distributions across many nations.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

34. The Red List Index can be downscaled (disaggregated) to generate national and regional Red List Indices, weighted by the fraction of each species' distribution occurring within the country or region, building on the method published by Rodrigues et al. (2014). These show an index of how well species are conserved in a country or region to its potential contribution to global species conservation (for the taxonomic groups of species included).

35. The index is calculated as:

$$RLI(t,u) = 1 - [(Ss(W(t,s) * (rsu/Rs)) / (WEX * Ss (rsu/Rs))$$

where t is the year of comprehensive reassessment, u is the spatial unit (i.e. country), W_((t,s)) is the weight of the global Red List category for species s at time t (Least Concern =0, Near Threatened =1, Vulnerable =2, Endangered =3, Critically Endangered =4, Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) =5, Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct in the Wild) =5, Extinct in the Wild =5 and Extinct =5), WEX = 5 is the weight for Extinct species, r_su is the fraction of the total range of species s in unit u, and R_s is the total range size of species s.

36. The index varies from 1 if the country has contributed the minimum it can to the global RLI (i.e. if the numerator is 0 because all species in the country are Least Concern) to 0 if the country has contributed the maximum it can to the global RLI (i.e. if the numerator equals the denominator because all species in the country are Extinct or Possibly Extinct).

37. The taxonomic groups included are those in which all species have been assessed for the IUCN Red List more than once. Red List categories for years in which comprehensive assessments (i.e. those in which all species in the taxonomic group have been assessed) were carried out are determined following the approach of Butchart et al. 2007, i.e. they match the current categories

except for those taxa that have undergone genuine improvement or deterioration in extinction risk of sufficient magnitude to qualify for a higher or lower Red List category.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

38. The Red List Categories and Criteria are applied for each species on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are determined globally and provided principally by the Specialist Groups and stand-alone Red List Authorities of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, IUCN Secretariat-led initiatives, and Red List partner organizations. The staff of the IUCN Red List Unit in the Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Team compile, validate, and curate these data, and are responsible for publishing and communicating the results. Each individual species assessment is supported by the application of metadata and documentation standards (IUCN 2013), including classifications of, for example, threats and conservation actions (Salafsky et al. 2008).

39. Red List assessments are undertaken through either open workshops or through open-access web-based discussion fora. Assessments are reviewed by the appropriate Red List Authority (a group of experts or an organization appointed by the IUCN Species Survival Commission to review assessments for specific species or groups of species) to ensure standardisation and consistency in the interpretation of information and application of the criteria. A Red List Technical Working Group and the IUCN Red List Unit work to ensure consistent categorization between species, groups and assessments. Finally, a Standards and Petitions Committee monitors the process and resolves challenges and disputes over Red List assessments.

40. While global Red List Indices can be disaggregated to show trends for species at smaller spatial scales, the reverse is not true. National or regional Red List Indices cannot be aggregated to produce Red List Indices showing global trends. This is because a taxon's global extinction risk has to be evaluated at the global scale and cannot be directly determined from multiple national scale assessments across its range (although the data from such assessments can be aggregated for inclusion in the global assessment).

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

41. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): global assessment, regional assessments, thematic assessments on sustainable use, IAS etc.

42. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.5.1. The Red List Index has been classified by the IAEG-SDGs as Tier 1. Current data are available for all countries in the world, and these are updated annually. Index values for each country are available in the UN SDG Indicators Database https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/.

43. Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) indicator: 5.1, 6.2 & 8.1

44. Used by:

(a) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

(b) African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA),

(c) Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

(d) Raptors MOU

(e) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

(f) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

(g) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

45. Disaggregations of the Red List Index are also of particular relevance as indicators towards the following SDG targets (Brooks et al. 2015): SDG 2.4 Red List Index (species used for food and medicine); SDG 2.5 Red List Index (wild relatives and local breeds); SDG 12.2 Red List Index (impacts of utilisation) (Butchart 2008); SDG 12.4 Red List Index (impacts of pollution); SDG 13.1 Red List Index (impacts of climate change); SDG 14.1 Red List Index (impacts of pollution on marine species); SDG 14.2 Red List Index (marine species); SDG 14.3 Red List Index (reef-building coral species) (Carpenter et al. 2008); SDG 14.4 Red List Index (impacts of utilisation on marine species); SDG 15.1 Red List Index (terrestrial & freshwater species); SDG 15.2 Red List Index (forest-specialist species); SDG 15.4 Red List Index (mountain species); SDG 15.7 Red List Index (impacts of utilisation) (Butchart 2008); and SDG 15.8 Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species) (Butchart 2008, McGeoch et al. 2010).

46. Red List Index graphs and underlying index data are available for each country, SDG regions, IPBES region, CMS region and various thematic disaggregations at https://www.iucnredlist.org/search. Red List Index graphs are also available for each country onthe Target Tracker platform (https://target-tracker.org/) \, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool Country Profiles (https://ibat-alliance.org/country_profiles), and (for birds) on the BirdLife International Data Zone (http://datazone.birdlife.org).

7b. Biodiversity Indicator Partnership

Yes: ☒ No: ☐
https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/red-list-index

8. Possible Disaggregations

47. The indicator can also be disaggregated by: realms (terrestrial, freshwater and marine), ecosystems (forest, wetland etc.), various political and geographic divisions (e.g. Han et al. 2014); by taxonomic subsets (e.g. Hoffmann et al. 2011); by suites of species relevant to particular international treaties or legislation (e.g. Croxall et al. 2012); by suites of species exposed to particular threatening processes (e.g. Butchart 2008); and by suites of species that deliver particular ecosystem services (e.g. Regan et al. 2015), or have particular biological or life-history traits (e.g. migratory species, as an indicator relating to ecological connectivity). It can also be disaggregated to show trends in the impacts of particular drivers (e.g. utilisation, invasive alien species, pollution etc.) – these disaggregations show trends in extinction risk for all species, but reflecting only changes in extinction risk driven primarily by particular drivers or their mitigation. In each case, information can be obtained from The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to determine which species are relevant to particular subsets (e.g. which occur in particular ecosystems, habitats, and geographic areas of interest). Drivers follows the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme. These disaggregations are available on the IUCN Red List website at https://www.iucnredlist.org/search. Disaggregation by realm, biome and ecosystem functional group (Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3 or equivalent), by migratory species and by drivers were recommended as a priority by the CBD Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

48. Target 4. Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence:

(a) Red List Index

(b) Red List Index (migratory species) – to reflect the impact of management actions for the recovery of migratory species in relation to enhancing ecological connectivity

49. Target 5. Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

(a) Red List Index (impacts of utilisation) [more relevant than the Red List Index for used species,;

(b) Red List Index (internationally traded species)

(c) Red List Index (impacts of fisheries)

50. Target 6. Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

(a) Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)

51. Target 7. Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

(a) Red List Index (impacts of pollution)

52. Target 9. Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

(a) Red List Index (species used for food and medicine)

(b) Red List Index (impacts of fisheries)

(c) Red List Index (impact of utilization)

53. Target 10. Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

(a) Red List Index (pollinating species), this is listed as a Complementary indicator

(b) Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated species)

(c) Red List Index (impacts of agriculture)

(d) Red List Index (impacts of fisheries)

(e) Red List Index (forest specialist species)

54. Target 21. Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, 14 in accordance with national legislation.

(a) Proportion of known species assessed through the IUCN Red List

(b) Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of threatened species

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

55. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

56. BirdLife International

10b. Contact person(s)

Dr Thomas Brooks (thomas.brooks@iucn.org)
Dr Stuart Butchart (stuart.butchart@birdlife.org)

11. References

Website:

https://www.iucn.org/assessment/red-list-index ;

References:

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A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size (Ne) > 500

1. Indicator name

A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size (Ne) > 500
This is sometimes referred to as "*the Ne 500 indicator*" or "*genetic diversity within populations indicator*" or "*Effective population size 500 indicator*"

2. Date of metadata update

August 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

3b. Target

Target 4: Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

1. As noted by Hoban et al. 2023a, and Hoban et al. 2023c, this indicator is also relevant to a number of targets described below and in section 9.

4. Rationale

2. Effective population size (Ne) is a well-accepted metric for measuring the rate of loss of genetic diversity within populations of wild species, or within breeds of domesticated species (though some domestic varieties can have more than one population). As explained below (see figure I), an Ne above 500 (usually a census population size of 5,000) will maintain genetic diversity within populations. Genetic diversity is necessary for species' populations to remain healthy and adapt to environmental change, such as climate change, pollution, changing habitats, and pests and disease. Genetic diversity is also vital for resilience of all ecosystems, such as recovery from heat waves and ocean pollution or acidification. It is also vital for the success of ecosystem restoration and the reintroduction of populations and species. Populations with low genetic diversity suffer inbreeding, low viability, and low resilience. Unfortunately, genetic diversity has declined due to habitat loss, fragmentation, overharvest, and other human activities. Therefore, an Ne indicator is necessary to measure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity

3. Genetic diversity is variation at the DNA level, including differences among individuals within populations of species and differences among populations of each species. Effective population size could be assessed using genetic data from a sample of individuals from a population by a geneticist. Nevertheless, assessing DNA with genetic sequencing technology can be time consuming, and requires substantial funds, skills and technology, making it challenging for large-scale evaluation, particularly in species-rich nations. However, genetic status of species and populations can be assessed via Ne without needing DNA data. This is the fundamental basis of this indicator - to assess genetic status without DNA sequence data. This is very important since relatively few species have DNA-based studies, especially in biodiversity hotspots. As explained in the methodology below,

proxies of demographic and geographic data can approximate the Ne of populations. Note that the indicator methodology is valid and adaptable for domesticated species because breeds, or other units within domestic species, are comparable to populations (see Methodology).

4. In 2020, three genetic diversity indicators were proposed, including the Headline Indicator on Ne 500. They have the following important features (see Hoban et al. 2023a, and Hoban et al. 2023c):

(a) are scientifically valid, based in core conservation and genetic concepts

(b) are affordable and feasible with existing data

(c) require a moderate to low time and resource investment

(d) leverage diverse data and multiple ways of knowing including local knowledge holders

(e) often align with other biodiversity assessments

(f) allow for easy translation into policy and management of species

(g) are applicable and relevant in all countries, taxonomic groups, and ecosystems (and can be disaggregated to these levels).

(h) use concepts that are intuitive or accessible to non-geneticists (e.g. genetic losses due to small populations and loss of populations).

(i) are "*forward compatible*", meaning they can incorporate new methods that arise

5. Genetic diversity indicators have multiple practical uses beyond reporting. They will help countries understand and mitigate genetic diversity loss by guiding conservation action, improve allocation of resources, and communicate to the public about genetic threats to flagship species. Also, genetic diversity indicators highlight how local populations provide adaptation and resilience, which facilitates empowerment and leverage for local communities and indigenous peoples. They are useful under other legislation including national level species protections

6. What exactly is the Effective Population Size (Ne) 500 indicator? This indicator is based on the knowledge that populations that are small in size (effective population size (Ne) < 500) are highly susceptible to rapid loss of genetic diversity and are at high risk of extinction due to genetic threats. (figure I)

7. Ne 500 is widely recognized by scientists and conservation practitioners as a "*sufficient*" size to prevent loss of genetic diversity within populations (in this case, a statistic called "*heterozygosity*") – Ne much higher than Ne 500 will reduce the risk of the loss of genetic diversity within populations to near zero. Much lower and genetic loss becomes rapid.

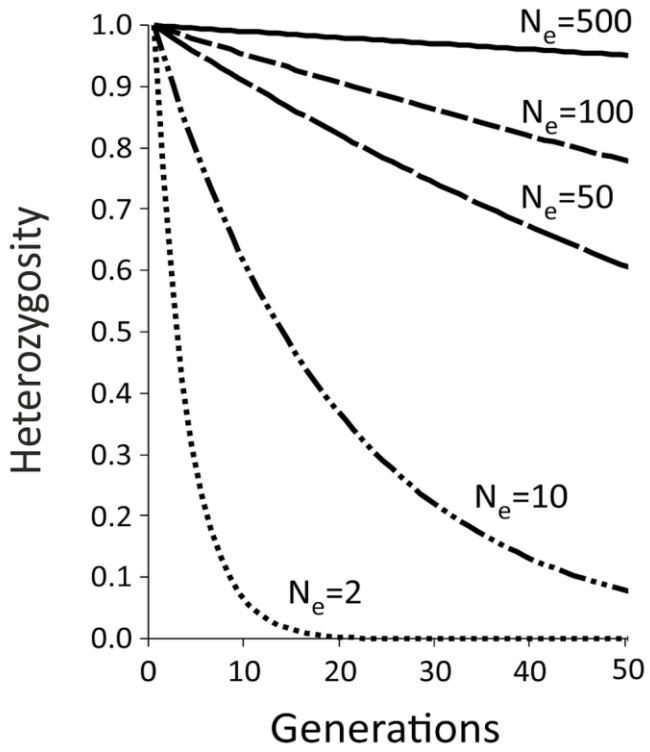

Figure I

Illustration of loss of genetic diversity when Ne<500. Inspired by from Willi et al., Dec 2021 PNAS

8. Ne can be measured with and without DNA data. With DNA data, multi-generational contemporary Ne can be calculated using established methods (Waples 2004). Without DNA data, Ne can be approximated from population census size. Typically, Ne is about 0.1 of the census size. As Hoban et al. (2023b), Hoban et al. 2023c and Hoban et al. (2020) and as a pilot application (explained below) show, there are many sources of census size data which countries can employ, including existing in-country data, expertise, and biodiversity infrastructure.

9. The Ne 500 indicator is likely the best evidence of genetic status and risk of genetic erosion when DNA sequencing is not available (the case for most species globally). This indicator provides a measure of the loss or maintenance of genetic diversity within populations and is feasible and scalable for many species per country. Maintaining effective sizes above 500 will protect the genetic diversity within populations for many generations. Effective size has already been used in livestock and fisheries management for decades, to conserve genetic diversity (though domesticated breeds may be allowed to have lower Ne because they do not experience as much natural selection).

10. Thus, this indicator is directly relevant to Goal A, as it informs the health and resilience of species' populations, their genetic diversity, and the threat of species extinction. Knowledge of species population's effective size is relevant to Target 4 as it facilitates active management of species, ex situ breeding programs and informs the conservation efforts and recovery process of species populations following environmental disruption. The Ne 500 indicator is a Headline indicator for Goal A and Target 4. As noted by Hoban et al. (2023a), the Ne 500 indicator is relevant to other targets such as sustainable harvest Targets 5, 9 and 10 because harvested managed and cultivated populations should be maintained at or above Ne 500. To ensure all genetically distinct populations are represented at sufficient sizes to maintain their persistence, it is relevant for Targets 1, 2 and 3 on biodiversity inclusive spatial planning, ecological restoration and representative protected areas, respectively, and Target 12 for increasing area and connectivity of green and blue spaces in urban environments to promote gene flow and species recovery.

11. The indicator is complementary to, and can be reported in, a genetic scorecard (O'Brien et al. 2022), a contribute to other indicators or initiatives (e.g. Key Biodiversity Areas, spatial planning, assessing protection level of species). Note: the Ne 500 indicator is relevant for genetic diversity within populations and a separate indicator (i.e. complementary indicator for Goal A the "*proportion of populations maintained*") is necessary for maintaining genetic diversity among populations. Experts agree that both indicators are critical for assessing and monitoring the genetic health of species (Hoban et al. 2020, Hoban et al. 2023b).

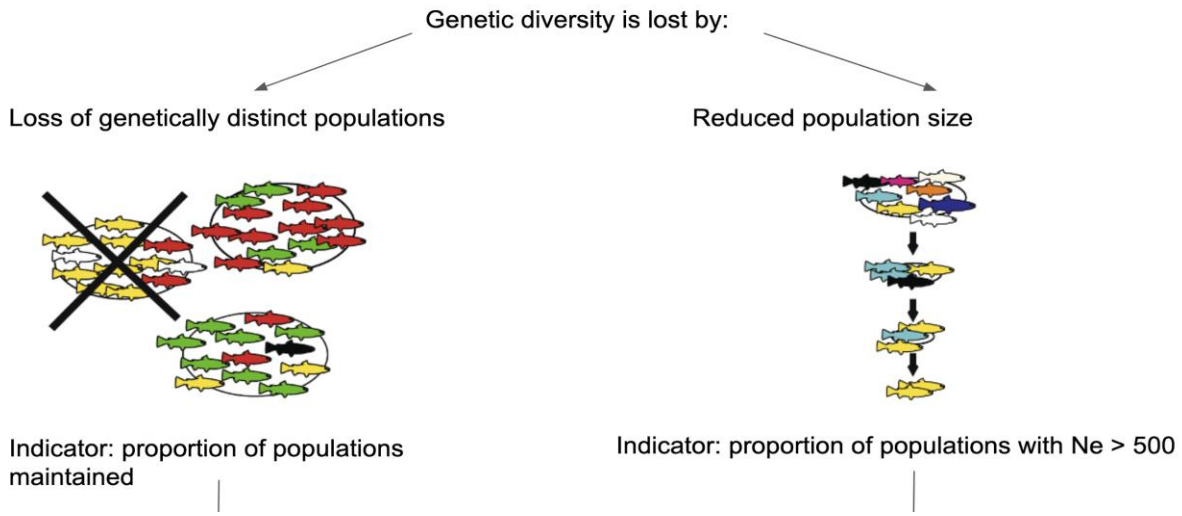

Figure II
Graphical representation of genetic diversity loss through loss of populations (left) and reduction in population size (right).
The Headline Indicator A.4 is shown on the right- when small populations lose genetic diversity. Complementary indicator on loss of populations is shown on the left where species lose genetic diversity when distinct populations are lost. Legend: Colours represent different genetic compositions.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition:

12. The indicator, "*The proportion of populations within species with a genetically effective population size > 500.*" is calculated by taking each population (or breed) of a species, determining if each population is above the threshold of Ne 500, calculating a proportion of populations above the threshold for each species, and then taking a mean of these proportions across all species examined, as explained in Hoban et al. (2023b) and Hoban et al. 2023c. As a proportion it ranges from 0 to 1, with 1 as the desired value. As explained in Hoban et al. (2023b) which contains the basic equations for calculation, the indicator can be weighted by taxonomic groups or other categories to offset any biases in the species selected (e.g. due to having more birds, more rare species etc.).

Other key concepts and definitions:

13. Effective population size (Ne) is a way to quantify the rate of genetic change, or genetic erosion. Effective population size of a population is related to the number of breeding adults contributing offspring to the next generation, averaged across very recent time, the relative evenness of their offspring production, sex ratio, and other factors. The current state of Ne has important meaning as it represents ongoing genetic erosion. Any population with Ne below 500 is likely to be losing genetic diversity fairly quickly, and signals ongoing loss of genetic diversity. For

domesticated breeds, a lower Ne may suffice, but Ne 500 is a conservative and useful threshold that could be applied to domestic breeds.

14. The effective population size may be a fraction (e.g. 10%) of the species census population size (Nc), which is the number of adult individuals present in a discrete area. As noted below, a fraction of 1/10th is widely recognized as a slightly conservative and reliable ratio between Ne:Nc. When knowledge exists for a certain taxonomic group, an alternate fraction may be used.

15. To maintain genetic diversity typically means that the amount of genetic diversity (alleles, heterozygosity) does not decrease, and there is no loss of within-population genetic diversity or among population genetic diversity; the precise genetic composition may shift for adapting to environmental change. The Ne 500 indicator ensures maintenance of within-population genetic diversity. Some scientists have argued for a more conservative minimum Ne of 1,000, though the Ne 500 recommendation remains common and well supported. For some domesticated species alternative minimum Ne values have been recommended by organizations such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization

16. To safeguard genetic diversity means to protect genetic diversity e.g. with in situ and ex situ protective measures (e.g. seed banks and botanic gardens, well managed protected areas, translocations, etc.)

5b. Method of computation

17. Effective population size (Ne) can be calculated for most species through a simple mathematical transformation of the population's census size (Nc). Following the widely accepted rule of thumb of 1:10 effective-to-census size ratio, the default is multiplication of Nc by 0.1 (Hoban et al. 2020). For example, this would equate to a census size of 5,000 having an effective size of 500. However, for some taxonomic groups, a more refined ratio could be employed (see Step 2 below).

18. Choosing species to evaluate. Biased selection of species is an important concern for the indicator. For example, selecting only charismatic species (butterflies, orchids, etc.), species of economic value or rare/ endangered species would result in an indicator that represents the genetic condition of species in that subset rather than all species. To avoid misleading results from a biased selection, the indicator could be calculated for:

(a) A randomly selected subset of all known species in a country

(b) A systematically selected set of all known species in a country

19. A systematic assessment involves pre-defining certain categories, in particular taxonomic groups, e.g. plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, fungi, algae. Arguably, the systematic approach may be preferred simply because some groups (e.g. invertebrates and plants) have many species, and a more even representation across taxonomic groups may be desired. Then a number of species within each group should be chosen randomly (see Baille et al. 2008). The indicator will be less accurate when small numbers of species are used. At minimum, approximately 100 species should be assessed, as initially proposed by Hoban et al (2020) and as verified in a recent study (Hé bert et al 2025). This study showed that under realistic scenarios of population decline or population growth, during the timeframe of the GBF, assessing approximately 100 species across taxonomic groups will provide sufficient accuracy for a country-wide indicator value, while 100 species per major taxonomic group would be appropriate for the indicator to be disaggregated by major groups (e.g. 100 each for insects, plants, vertebrates). This is fewer than but on the same general scale as recommendations for the Red List Index (Baille et al. 2008 recommend 900 species with sufficient data; however, to allow for species missing data, the initial list of taxa to evaluate should be 1,500). IUCN has published guidelines on selecting species and populations for monitoring of genetic diversity (Hvilsom et al. 2022) An alternative approach, which is sometimes used in the Red List Index, is to focus on calculating the indicator for all species within certain taxonomic groups (e.g. birds, gymnosperms, mammals) in a country. As with the RLI, the indicator would be thus presented as, for example, "*the Ne 500 indicator for gymnosperms*"

20. Again, the set of species should be as unbiased as possible. As explained below, analysis of the indicator may wish to disaggregate for particular subsets e.g. harvested species, pollinators, keystone or threatened species, but the overall indicator value should represent all species.

***Step 1**: Define population boundaries and compile data on census size (N_c).*

21. For each focal species it is first necessary to define "*populations*" and to collect data on census population sizes. Many local and national biodiversity monitoring programs (e.g. at species or ecosystem level) have already defined populations based on geographic isolation, occupying distinct habitats or ecoregions, association with a geographic feature like a mountain range or lake, etc. Full guidance on defining populations for a wide variety of organisms are provided in the guidance manual for this indicator (Mastretta-Yanes et al. (2024), Hoban et al. (2023b) and Supporting Information therein). After defining populations, it is necessary to collect data on census population sizes (or to use genetic data). Again, many biodiversity monitoring programs for priority species will have this data available - in some cases in a centralized national database, while in other cases, it may be scattered among different national reports and assessments. "*Available data*" should be considered broadly and it includes citizen science, local knowledge, indigenous knowledge, and informal data held by small NGOs and similar groups. A recent webinar hosted by the CBD Secretariat and GEO BON showcased the different resources available to countries, emphasizing the flexibility of this indicator.

***Step 2:** Calculate each population's N_e.*

22. This entails first choosing a ratio of effective-to-census size and multiplying the population's census size by this ratio to obtain the population's effective size. As mentioned above, the default ratio, which is slightly conservative, is 1/10th or 0.1 (thus the minimum Nc would be 5,000). Alternatively, a taxon-level ratio can be obtained from recent reviews of the literature that have compiled average values for groups such as mammals, bony fish, annual plants, trees, etc. (see Hoban et al. 2021, Waples 2024). An alternative is a species specific Ne/Nc ratio from formulas that take into account a species' biological characteristics (especially the male-female sex ratio and the variance in offspring production), or from published literature on the species or even populations that are the focus of study. For instance, the ratio in large-bodied mammals and in some trees is often closer to 0.3 (thus the minimum Nc would be 1,500). These are all valid ways of obtaining the ratio. To incorporate uncertainty in calculations, the calculation can be repeated using multiple Ne/Nc ratios. The order of preference is arguably to use the species- specific, then taxon-level, then general 0.1 ratio. But it is entirely acceptable and useful to use the well-recognized 0.1 ratio. For domesticated species, there are several approaches for computing Ne using pedigree data (Leroy et al. 2013) may be used. We note that in a recent pilot project the use of the precise Ne/Nc ratio did not strongly impact indicator results, e.g. using a 0.2 ratio instead of 0.1 (Mastretta Yanes and da Silva et al. 2024). Lastly, we emphasise that for comparability through time, the same method (e.g. ratio) should be used consistently across reporting periods.

23. For some organisms, assessment of Nc is fairly straightforward. It is the number of reproductively mature individuals, that is, those which are of sufficient maturity to produce gametes or offspring. A count of mature individuals may mean an actual count of all organisms, an estimate made by counting within given units of area and extrapolating, or an estimate from a model such as a capture-mark-recapture model. The IUCN Red List Guidelines (IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee 2022) contains extensive discussion on consideration of reproductively suppressed individuals, trees, fish, and other cases of interest, and it adhering to this guidance in its entirety, except when working with clonal organisms.

24. For populations that span multiple countries (i.e., are transboundary), assessments could consider Nc for all reproductively mature individuals across the entire population, regardless of jurisdiction. This is important because individuals within the same population but residing in neighbouring countries contribute to Ne and reduce genetic risks, even when the proportion of the population in the assessment country is small. Consequently, discounting Nc from neighbouring

countries could erroneously skew indicator values low. If associated population data from certain countries are unavailable, an estimate of the total transboundary population size could be made based on known Nc within the focal country and total area (if management and habitat are similar across countries), noting the resulting uncertainty in Nc and subsequent Ne estimates. The rationale and assumptions used for proportional scaling should be clearly documented and consistent rules applied across populations to ensure comparability.

25. Clonal organisms. In assessing Nc for the use of converting to Ne, it is important to use the "*genet*" (the genetically distinct organism) as opposed to the "*ramet*" (each distinct part which is capable of surviving on its own). An extreme example is a Populus clone which may have thousands of stems aboveground which are each capable of reproduction, but which are identical in their genotype. The assessor should consider each entire clone as a mature individual when counting Nc, not each stem. This can be done similar to the advice on page 28 of the aforementioned IUCN Red List Guidelines, e.g. "*For diffuse, wholly visible organisms in continuous habitats (e.g. reef-forming corals, algal mats) assessors may assume an average area occupied by a genet and estimate the number of genets from the area covered by the taxon. The area covered by the taxon should be estimated at a scale (grid size; e.g. 1 m^2) that is as close as practicable to the area assumed to be occupied by a genet.*" The typical area covered by a genet can be determined by consulting scientific literature on a similar organism (as above, many estimates are available for corals and Populus), contacting an expert in that species or genus, which may include contacting an IUCN Specialist Group for that taxon or the IUCN Conservation Genetic Specialist Group

26. Species that have recently had strong declines and recovery in their population sizes. The current Nc should not be used as a basis for Ne in a population that has had a recent strong decline and substantial recovery in population size (termed a bottleneck and recovery). Such populations should either not be used for the indicator or will need a modification to calculating Ne. The Ne of such populations will not be accurately described by the current Nc*Ne/Nc ratio. The harmonic mean of Nc over the past several generations should be used instead.

Step 3: *Calculate the proportion of populations above the 500 N_e threshold.*

27. For each species, count the number of populations with Ne above 500 and the number with Ne below 500; these two added together should equal the total number of populations. For a given species, the indicator can be reported as a proportion (from 0 to 1) of all populations that are above 500, or in the form of a ratio "*number of populations above 500*":"*total number of populations*." Recently extinct populations would have a size of 0 to avoid an increase in the indicator value when populations are lost. To obtain a country level indicator value across species in a given country or geographic location, a simple average of the proportion from Step 3 for all the relevant species should be performed. If taxonomic groups are not represented evenly, the indicator value is the mean of each taxonomic group's means, which down-weights overly represented taxonomic groups, e.g. mammals. Additionally, when calculating the country wide indicator value across species, each species can be weighted by the proportion of its geographic range in the country, from 0 to 1, to reflect national responsibility, with full weight for endemic species. Transboundary/transnational populations can be weighted similarly (e.g. by the proportion of that population falling within the Parties borders). The indicator would range between 0 and 1 (with 1 being the desired state - all populations above an effective size of 500).

28. Equations for indicator calculation are given in Hoban et al. (2023b).

29. What to do if a population goes extinct? Any population that goes extinct after the country's baseline year (each country is directed by the CBD to choose a baseline, which defaults to 2010-2020 but which may be adjusted to country context) is assigned an Nc and Ne of 0 and are therefore below Ne 500. These populations must be retained in the calculation in order to avoid the perverse incentive to "*raise*" the indicator value through population extinction

Step 4*: Temporal change in the indicator can be calculated using multiple time point values of population size*

30. An important consideration is that calculating temporal change in the indicator requires the use of the same set of species at all time points, similar to the Red List Index (Bubb et al. 2009). As a default guidance, all species used in the first time point should be included in the second

31. However, the country may wish to change or add to the species lists over time (e.g. owing to taxonomic revisions, additional data sources, etc.). In such cases, countries can do one of the following:

(a) Any species in which taxonomic revisions or data errors are identified to have impacted the indicator value, should be removed from both time points

(b) Indicator values for any species affected by new knowledge or taxonomic changes can have their current and former indicator value retrospectively calculated. In other words, the entity being evaluated in the current time point can be re-evaluated for its previous time point using the most up to date guidance and data available

32. In addition, it is anticipated that biodiversity monitoring capacity within countries will increase over time, and thus countries may wish to increase the number of species included in their indicator calculation, e.g. from 100 to 1,000 species. In such cases, the species being newly evaluated can have retrospective indicator calculations made, assuming historic data is available. This highlights a broader opportunity, that such retrospective evaluation could extend indicator calculation into the past

33. Temporal increases in the proportion of populations with Ne above 500 would indicate improvement in the maintenance of genetic diversity (on average slowing the rate of genetic erosion and eventually "bending the curve" such that genetic diversity is restored via natural processes of mutation, migration, etc.). Decreases would indicate worsening (accelerating rate of genetic erosion). Static values would indicate a stable state of the indicator (stable rate of genetic erosion - though not necessarily a halting of genetic erosion - it is only halted when Ne >500). The indicator is designed to be recalculated as new data are compiled, which in many species is a timescale of 2 to 5 years, thus the indicator would be calculated and reported on typically once every 4 years (fitting the timespan of CBD reporting). A recent study showed that monitoring and reporting on this timescale is feasible. Countries can combine monitoring programs that have different frequency of monitoring of populations, with ideal monitoring being that populations are assessed every 2 to 4 years (Hébert et al. 2025).

34. *Management based on the indicator*: The indicator is designed for use in practical biodiversity management – not just for reporting to the CBD. For example, it can be used for: raising alarm in regions or taxonomic groups with low indicator values, prioritizing which species and populations are most in need of management to halt genetic erosion, designing management strategies (e.g. reintroduction, population supplementation), setting achievable goals, tracking the consequences or effectiveness of management (e.g. if the indicator value improves), and communicating to the public about genetic diversity conservation.

5c. Data collection method

35. In most cases, the indicator will be calculated using a transformation of census size (Nc), though analysis of DNA data can also be used to obtain Ne and assess if Ne >500. The guidance manual (see Mastretta-Yanes et al. 2024; Hoban et al. (2023b) and Supporting Information therein, and Hoban et al. 2023c) details other methods of calculating the indicator when other data are available. The census size of local populations of target species can be obtained from a variety of sources, including national biodiversity monitoring databases and programs, endangered species management and recovery plans, detailed population information contained in some Red List assessments, collaboration with local knowledge holders, citizen science, and expert consultation. Detailed guidance on these calculations and a variety of example calculations is available now and will be revised following input from Parties as more Parties undertake this indicator. Demonstrations of the data collection can also be seen in a recent CBD webinar.

36. The full data collection form can be found online here: https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/preview/2KDHEWrb. An online data collection form using Kobotoolb.ox (www.kobotoolbox.org/) have been created and a guidance document (Mastretta-Yanes et al (2024) and its online documentation at https://ccgenetics.github.io/guidelines-genetic-diversity-indicators/ for anyone to use. Kobo is a free and flexible data collection tool commonly used in social, environmental and epidemiological research. The data form adapts to the type of fundamental source data available and can accommodate qualitative and quantitative data and different levels of certainty.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

37. Parties can directly calculate country-level values of this indicator by leveraging national data, expertise and biodiversity assessments, and by following the published guidance manual (Mastretta-Yanes et al. (2024) and its online documentation at https://ccgenetics.github.io/guidelines-genetic-diversity-indicators/). The method has been peer reviewed in several publications (see list of References below, or https://www.coalitionforconservationgenetics.org/publications), and a detailed methodology has been made available (see Mastretta-Yanes et al. 2024, and Supporting Information for Hoban et al. 2023b and Hoban et al. 2023c)

5e. Data sources

38. As explained in Hoban et al. (2023b) the indicator is flexible and adaptable to the data sources already existing in each country. Examples from different countries illustrate the diverse options available. Recovery plans for dozens to thousands of threatened species are mandated by national legislation (Australia- the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; South Africa- Biodiversity Management Plans; USA- the Endangered Species Act). These documents typically detail species biology and demographic status. In Japan, many threatened vascular plants have been surveyed for census size for over two decades by the Japanese Society for Plant Taxonomy, while for common trees, statistical estimates for population size were estimated from vegetation survey data. In Mexico, taxonomic experts who recently helped validate distribution models for crop wild relatives were consulted for indicator values. In France, Belgium, UK and Sweden, much biodiversity data from experts, local knowledge holders, and diverse sources are collected in easy to access web-based portals (France- INPN, Belgium - www.observations.be, UK- https://nbnatlas.org/, Sweden- Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure (SBDI)- https://biodiversitydata.se). In Colombia, the Biodiversity Information System (SIB) repository compiles species surveys from throughout the country (https://biodiversidad.co/), which is mandated by many public and private organizations. These data are reviewed by national experts for validation and used to create freely available species distribution models (http://biomodelos.humboldt.org.co/), and for conservation prioritization. For some domesticated species, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) has estimates of population sizes of numerous breeds.

39. GEO BON, through its working groups, and national and thematic Biodiversity Observation Networks, and the Coalition for Conservation Genetics, is able to provide capacity support, training and consultation. Considering that currently the workflow is manual rather than fully automated, the indicator would be calculated for a relatively small number of representative species per country. This may range from dozens on the low end to 1,000 or more on the high end, but for many countries will be on the scale of 100 species. As noted above, data sources include national biodiversity monitoring databases and programs, citizen science, local knowledge, endangered species management and recovery plans, detailed population information contained in some Red List assessments, and expert consultation. Detailed guidance on these calculations and a variety of example calculations is now available (see References).

5f. Availability and release calendar

40. Ready for deployment and updated approximately every four years. The guidance manual is available now and an indicator is being calculated, see Mastretta-Yanes et al. (2024), its Online documentation, and Hoban et al. (2023b).

41. Genetic diversity indicators have been demonstrated as feasible and affordable including in middle income and megadiverse countries. They have been calculated for >900 species and thousands of populations in nine countries: Australia, Belgium, Colombia, France, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, and USA (figure III). Data are available and can be compiled quickly. Results from the nine-country deployment highlight that most populations are very small and in danger of imminent genetic losses. Early use of these indicators shows we are at a threshold of dramatic genetic diversity decline unless swift action is taken, guided by genetic diversity indicators.

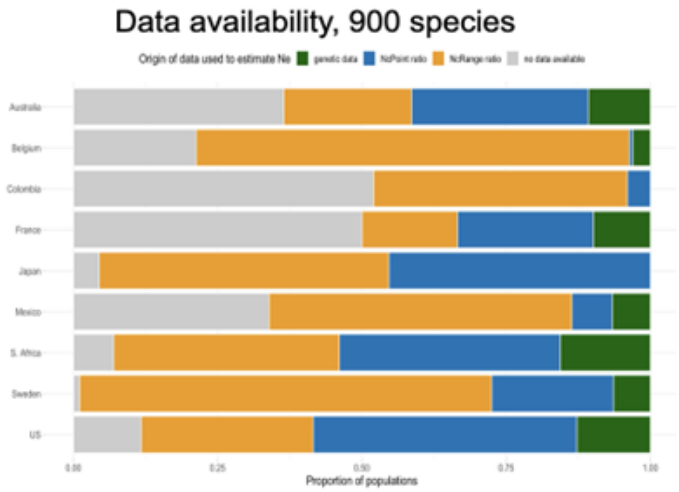

Figure III

Published results of the first deployment of indicator A.4 showing that data availability does vary by country (Mastretta Yanes and da Silva et al 2024)

42. The amount of data available:

(a) Overall, >64% of species investigated have enough data to calculate the headline indicator (grey shows species without sufficient data). This is shown in the chart at right. This does vary by country. All countries have approximately 50% or more of species with enough data.

(b) Figure IV shows the actual indicator values calculated for more than 900 species. It was found that the median across all species for Proportion of populations below Ne 500 is 0, i.e. 58% of species assessed have that indicator value. Even more worrying, ~70% of species have an indicator value less than 0.25. This means that the majority of species assessed have less than 25% of their populations large enough to sustain genetic diversity-most species are likely in danger of or are already experiencing significant genetic losses.

(c) There are differences in indicator values among taxonomic groups e.g. indicator values tend to be lower for mammals for example. Data are more available for some groups than others e.g. angiosperms, mammals, birds have more data available than invertebrates, especially clams and mussels. The indicators are not greatly influenced by the method used to define populations meaning that a variety of data are acceptable for defining populations.

(d) Results on the populations maintained indicator are also included which is an important complement to the Headline indicator on Ne 500. The investigation on 900 species showed that the median across all species for Proportion of populations maintained is 1, i.e.

55% of species have that indicator value. This means that most species still maintain all their populations. However, 38% of species have an indicator value less than 0.90, meaning that they have lost at least 10% of their original populations. Proportion of populations maintained should be reported jointly with the Ne indicator, to ensure that goal A and Target 4 are fully met - maintaining species' adaptive potential and reducing extinction risk. This is a possibility where indigenous peoples and local communities can be included and empowered.

(e) We note that genetic indicators are not well correlated with Red List status. Numerous species have Least Concern or Near Threatened Red List status but have low (poor) genetic indicator values, showing genetic threats or genetic erosion but not an immediate danger of species extinction under Red List criteria. This shows that genetic indicators are needed apart from the Red List to achieve the goal to conserve genetic diversity.

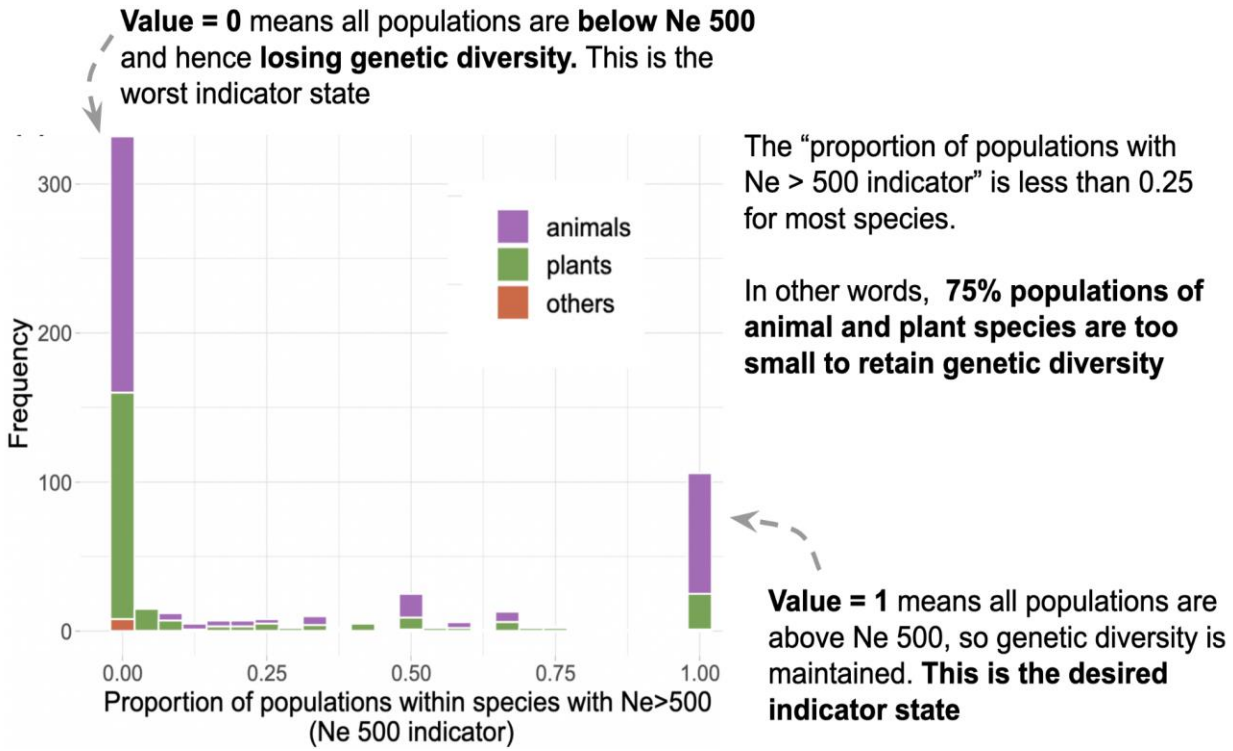

Figure IV

Actual indicator values calculated for more than 900 species , showing that many species have low indicator values

5g. Time series

43. Date range is dependent on data availability at the national scale. Typically, Nc will be obtained from the past decade (e.g. post 2010). Going forward it will be reported every 2 to 5 years, typically every 4 years, making it suited to the CBD reporting schedule. As the indicator is increasingly deployed, indicator calculation can be made in temporal windows, including through the use of older biodiversity observation data, reports and consultation with knowledge holders, likely extending indicator assessment at least back to the 1990s. This is noted above under Step 4 of Method of Computation, 5b.

5h. Data providers

44. The data are sourced from in-country existing biodiversity and environment agencies, thus leveraging in-country resources and ongoing programs. Other data may be obtained from

conservation organizations, scientific societies, national and public repositories (e.g. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF, Red List assessments), citizen scientists, and the contributions of local and indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge holders.

45. Example data sources from countries that participated in piloting the indicator from 2021-2023 can be found in Hoban et al. (2023b)

5i. Data compilers

46. The following organizations are responsible for maintenance of the methodology and tools for use: GEO BON, The Morton Arboretum, Stockholm University, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Royal Botanical Society-KEW, GBIKE, Coalition for Conservation Genetics. Actual compilation of data is performed by in-country agencies.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

47. Expected (and demonstrated in the pilot application to 900 species) taxonomic gaps include cryptic (e.g. elusive, located underground, etc.) species, micro-organisms, fungi, invertebrates. However, current projects deploying the indicator have shown it can be calculated for cryptic species and invertebrates. Expected thematic and geographic gaps include species from understudied realms and areas (e.g. deep sea, mountains, and islands). These gaps are unfortunately typical for other biodiversity indicators such as the Red List Index.

48. The indicator can be calculated in any species, and thus has no theoretical gaps, and (weighted) averages can be calculated across populations or species taking into account range sizes.

49. Note that the Ne 500 indicator should be complemented with the "*proportion of populations maintained*" indicator , and with expert and local knowledge including as compiled in the "*genetic scorecard for wild species*" indicator, the "*comprehensiveness indicator*" (all three suggested as complementary indicators for Goal A: CBD/COP/15/L.26), and the proposed indicator "*number of species and populations in which DNA based monitoring is used*" Hoban et al. (2020).

5k. Treatment of missing values

50. Species with missing data may be aggregated with taxonomically related species, or species with similar characteristics and life history traits (e.g. life span, body size, reproductive output, trophic position, etc.). Populations with missing data can be treated as NAs in the dataset.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

51. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

52. Data is applicable at the local, national, regional and global scales.

6b. National/regional indicator production

53. The guidance documents currently developed explain national methodology. Underlying data will be accessible and usable by countries. The existing data collection tool allows easy organization and storage of data and thus tracking across time.

54. Countries can collaborate on transnational calculations if desired, and the same is true for regions, including the European Union, for example. Otherwise, regional calculation is a mean or weighted mean of component countries.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

55. The guidance document explains national methodology. The global figure is a mean, or weighted mean, of all contributing countries.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

56. Methods and mathematical formulas for aggregating at these scales, and for weighting countries are described in Hoban et al. (2023b).

57. The pilot application in 900 species showed that data gaps vary by country, but all countries examined have a large number of species with sufficient data available.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

58. See previous answer

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

59. As noted above, national agencies, or conservation organizations can compile the indicator at national levels using the resources provided in Hoban et al. (2023b; see Supporting Information). Consultation and questions about data validation can be made to the custodians of the indicator.

60. The guidance (documents and videos) has been improved with a new published version released in July 2024 (Mastretta-Yanes et al. 2024 and https://ccgenetics.github.io/guidelines-genetic-diversity-indicators/), and will continue to be updated periodically to meet Parties' needs, and there are a series of online tools (mapping tools, easy data entry) in development that will help make it even easier to calculate the indicator (GEOBON offers BON-in-a-Box to support calculation of the indicator).

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

61. N/A.

8. Possible Disaggregations

62. Species, taxa, rarity categories, habitat type, guilds. Of particular interest may be disaggregation between taxonomic groups e.g. birds, mammals, etc., and between threatened and non-threatened species.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

63. As noted by Hoban et al. 2023a, this indicator is also relevant to Targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 12.

64. Linked to and is complemented by other important genetic diversity indicators (CBD/COP/15/5), including:

(a) Proportion of populations maintained within species

(b) Genetic diversity scorecard for wild species (O'Brien et al. 2022)

(c) Comprehensiveness of conservation of socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species (Khoury et al. 2019),

(d) Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, extinction

(e) Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities

65. The Species Habitat Index (SHI) could be a useful related indicator, for comparison, but is not a replacement for this Headline Indicator because it does not relate to maintaining genetic diversity

within populations, cannot apply to domesticated species or breeds, and only considers genetic diversity lost due to habitat loss.

66. The caretakers of this indicator have also developed guidance and suggestions for NBSAPs and are available to help support capacity as countries develop their NBSAPs. A peer reviewed publication and policy brief in multiple languages can be found here: https://www.coalitionforconservationgenetics.org/resources-database/genetic-diversity-can-now-be-monitored-worldwide-ezylk

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

The Morton Arboretum

Stockholm University

G-BiKE

Coalition for Conservation Genetics

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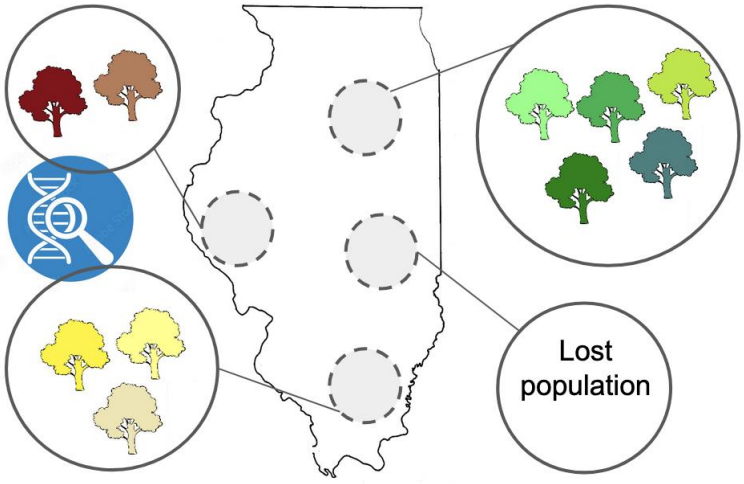
12. Graphs and diagrams



Indicator 1. Proportion of populations large enough to maintain genetic diversity	Indicator 2. Proportion of populations still exist (not lost)	Indicator 3. Species monitored with DNA data (y/n)?
0.25	0.75	1

Figure I.

Example of the three genetic diversity indicators, for four hypothetical populations in Illinois, USA. *One tree = 1,000 plants (five trees = 5,000 plants). Colors illustrate genetic variation within and among populations. Baseline monitoring occurred in 2010, with the species represented by 4 populations. In 2020, 1 of 4 extant populations has N_c > 5,000 (N_e>500 considering an effective to census size ratio of N_e/N_c = 0.1) and thus large enough to maintain genetic diversity (indicator 1). Note that one population recently became extinct and was considered to have an Ne = 0. Three of four populations are maintained (indicator 2). DNA-based methods have been used to monitor genetic diversity in two populations (indicator 3 - a value of 1 means that one or more populations of the species is monitored with DNA-based methods).*

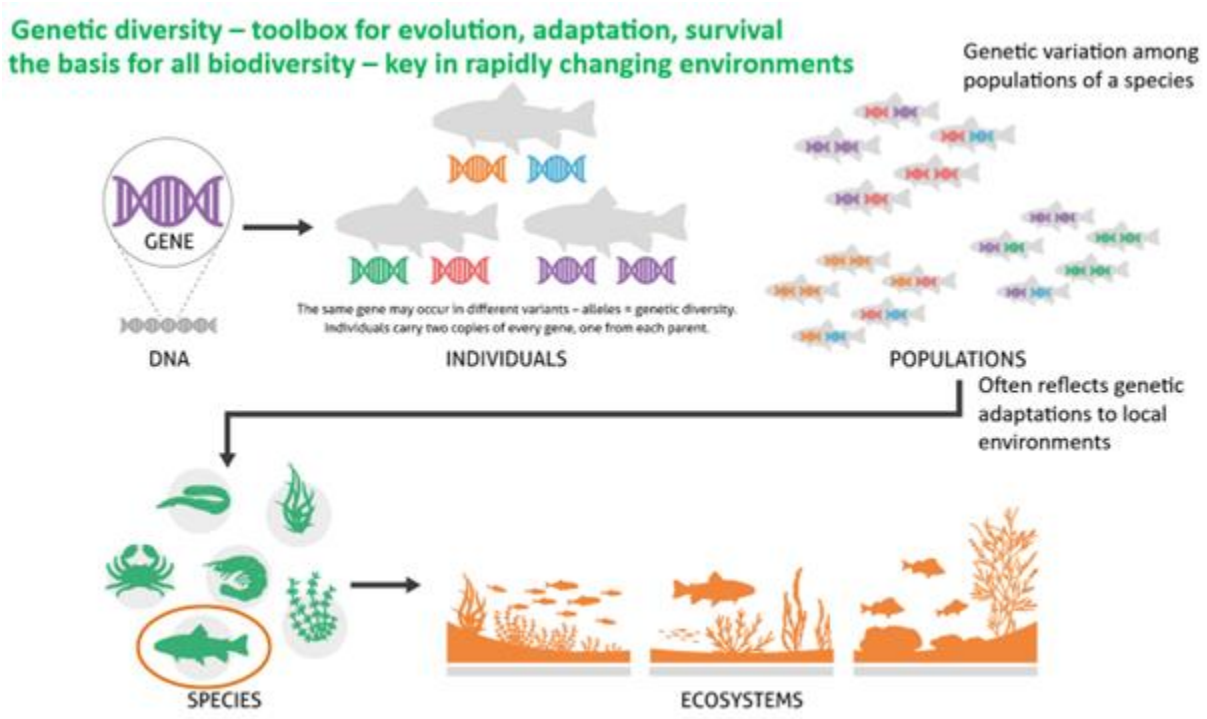
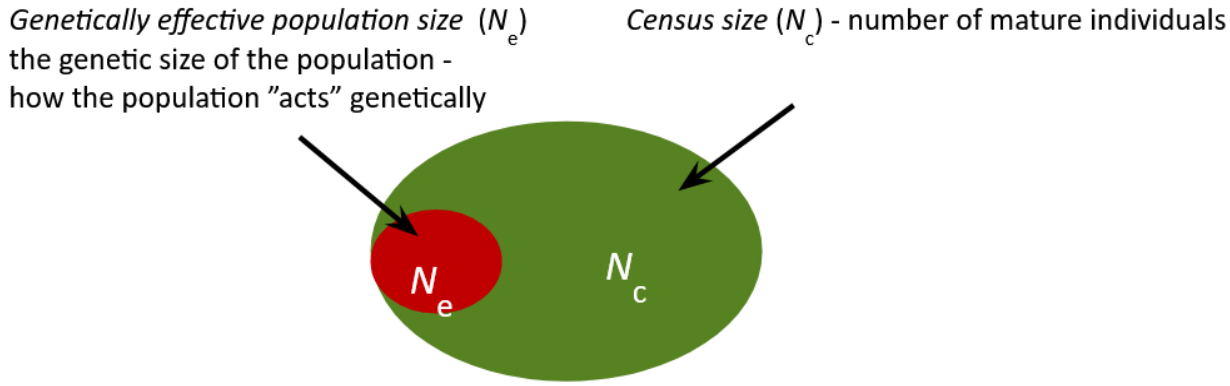


Figure II.
Pictorial representation of how genetic diversity is found within and among populations (see color variations) and is the foundation for species adaptability and for entire ecosystems.
Genetic diversity ultimately is seen at the DNA level and can be conserved with large ($N_e \geqslant 500$) populations and by making sure distinct populations are not lost.



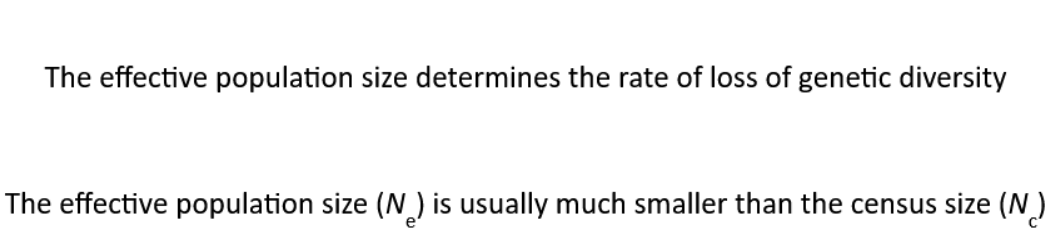


Figure III.
Pictorial representation of N_e relative to the census size of a population.
N_e is smaller than N_c, but it is the N_e which determines the rate of loss of genetic diversity within populations, and thus whether they can maintain adaptive capacity

B.1 Services provided by ecosystems

1. Indicator name

B.1 Services provided by ecosystems

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

3b. Target

Target 11: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

4. Rationale

Purpose of the indicator

1. Ecosystem services are critical for the wellbeing of people and make important contributions to the economy. Examples include harvested wild species, pollination of crops, water purification by filtering and regulating water quality, climate regulation by sequestering carbon dioxide, influencing local and global climate patterns, nature-based recreation and many more. Conserving, managing and sustaining ecosystems and biodiversity is fundamental to maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services.

2. This indicator aims to track trends in the provision of ecosystem services, responding to the wording in Goal B that ecosystem services should be "*maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored*". The index is intended to show whether the provision of ecosystem services is, on average, increasing, stable or decreasing, as well as the rate of these increases or decreases. Together with ecosystem-related headline indicators for Goal A (A.1 Red List of ecosystems and A2 Extent of natural ecosystems), indicator B.1 provides insight into changes in the state and trends of ecosystems and the services they provide.

3. The index of change in ecosystem services has the potential to be disaggregated in several ways, including by different categories of ecosystem service and by ecosystem type. As described further in Section 5, ecosystem services can be divided at a broad level into provisioning, regulating and cultural services, often with differing directions of change. Three sub-indices, one for each broad category of ecosystem services, will illuminate these differences. Combined with information from Indicators A.1 and A.2, disaggregation of the overall index by ecosystem type could provide valuable information to direct conservation, management and restoration efforts to enhance ecosystem service provision.

4. Because the primary purpose of monitoring and reporting on headline indicators is to support Parties in their national implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the indicator is designed to enable countries to select ecosystem services that they consider important and policy relevant to be included in the indicator, based on guidelines within this metadata document and supporting compilation guidelines. The indicator also reflects ecosystem services that are of global relevance and that will be included in the indicator by all countries. Global aggregation of the indicator will provide a view of global progress towards

maintaining, enhancing and restoring ecosystem services. The intended audience of the headline indicator is broad, reflecting the whole-of-society approach of the GBF.

An accounting approach to the indicator

5. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting, as the adopted international statistical standard for organizing data about ecosystem assets and services and linking this information to economic and other human activity, provides the conceptual framework and part of the methodology for the compilation of this indicator. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting is aligned with the System of National Accounts (SNA), which underpins the development of economic statistics such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to illuminate the relationship between the environment and the economy, highlighting the contribution of ecosystems to the economy.

6. Flows of ecosystem services in SEEA Ecosystem Accounting describe the contributions that ecosystems make to benefits used in economic and other human activity, which are a central part of describing nature's contribution to people. Ecosystem services accounts should reflect both the supply of ecosystem services by different ecosystem types and the use of ecosystem services by different types of users, such as businesses, government and households. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting requires accounting for ecosystem services in biophysical terms, with the option of building on the biophysical accounts to develop accounts in monetary terms. Because accounting tables have a standard structure and are based on standard definitions and classifications, they allow for comparison across time periods and between countries. This makes an accounting approach a powerful basis for the development of national and global indicators. An additional strength of the spatial approach to ecosystem accounting is that accounts provide granular information that can be used for local application and fine-grained policy decisions as are informed by as aggregate information for national and global reporting.

Considerations for selection of ecosystem services for inclusion in the indicator

7. There are several considerations about the types of ecosystem services and their beneficiaries that should inform the selection of ecosystem services for the indicator at the national level. An overarching consideration is the degree to which the ecosystem service contributes directly to human wellbeing. Specific aspects include:

(a) Whether people in vulnerable situations (such as low-income households, children and youth, women and girls, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, among others) depend on the ecosystem service. Parties are encouraged to include such ecosystem services in their selection of ecosystem services for the indicator acknowledging that worldwide there is unequal access to ecosystem services by different social groups. This consideration is also significant for Target 9 ("*providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity*"), for which this indicator may contribute information.

(b) Whether the ecosystem service is significant for indigenous peoples and local communities. Parties are encouraged to include such ecosystem services in their selection of ecosystem services for this indicator, with special attention to services that are necessary for the maintenance of cultural integrity and livelihoods. The selection of ecosystem services should recognize and consider multiple value perspectives on nature, including the diverse value systems and concepts embodied by indigenous peoples and local communities (IPBES, 2022).

(c) Whether the ecosystem service is provided by natural, or anthropogenic ecosystem type(s). Natural ecosystems are defined broadly in this context to include modified natural ecosystems, sometimes referred to as semi-natural ecosystems, in line with the definition used in Indicator A.2. Ecosystem services from natural ecosystems are well-suited to this indicator. Provisioning ecosystem services from intensively modified or anthropogenic ecosystem types such as croplands and plantations should be approached with caution in

selecting ecosystem services for this indicator, for several reasons. First, conversion of natural ecosystems to intensively modified or anthropogenic ecosystems is one of the main threats to biodiversity, so increases in the flow of these ecosystem services is frequently associated with biodiversity loss. Second, it is often difficult to isolate out the contribution of the ecosystem from the contributions of produced capital and labour to the benefits that arise from these services, making it difficult to quantify the ecosystem service contribution as distinct from the total harvested biomass. Finally, these ecosystem services are often already captured in accounting frameworks outside of ecosystem accounts (such as the System of National Accounts and its associated mainstream economic indicators), so are not "*hidden*" but rather already accounted for in standard economic measures.

8. In selecting ecosystem services to include in the indicator, Parties are encouraged to consider the alignment and compatibility of the ecosystem service with the overall intent of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also taking into account data availability. Data availability alone should not drive the selection of ecosystem services for the indicator. .

9. Goal B emphasises that ecosystem services should support sustainable development for the benefit of current and future generations. Some (not all) ecosystem services can be used above their regeneration or absorption rate, with a negative impact on the capacity of the ecosystem to generate such services in the future. In such cases, the current use of the ecosystem service is not sustainable and does not support sustainable development. In practice it is often difficult to identify when the current use of an ecosystem service has crossed a sustainability threshold, but where possible Parties will be encouraged to flag ecosystem services where sustainability thresholds may have been crossed and the actual ecosystem service flow is greater than the sustainable flow. The number of ecosystem services included in the indicator that have an unsustainability flag may be reported as complementary information alongside the indicator.

10. It is also important to consider the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a whole, with different indicators giving information about different aspects. Indicator B.1 is intended to be used and interpreted in the context of other ecosystem-related indicators of the GBF. The five headline indicators that deal most directly with ecosystems are A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, 2.1 Area under restoration, and 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This set of indicators can together provide a well-rounded picture of the state of ecosystems, their benefits to society, and interventions to protect and restore ecosystems. They should be interpreted collectively rather than individually, with each providing different but complementary information.

11. At the national level, using a common national classification system for ecosystem types across these five headline indicators will greatly facilitate bringing information from this set of indicators together to provide a coherent narrative and to be most useful for policy and implementation. For coherence in global reporting and analysis, it is useful for countries to cross-reference their national ecosystem classification to the Global Ecosystem Typology, as discussed in paragraph 17.

12.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

13. The proposed indicator is defined as the trend in the flows of a set of ecosystem services in a particular time period compared to a baseline year, for a country or globally.

14. The concepts, definitions and classifications used in this indicator are based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting statistical standard that was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2021. Ecosystem services are defined as the contributions of ecosystems to the benefits that are used in economic and other human activity, while benefits are defined as the goods and services that are ultimately used and enjoyed by people and society. For accounting purposes, the focus is usually on final ecosystem services only, which are those ecosystem services in which the user of the service is an economic unit (i.e. business, government or household)[13].

15. In ecosystem accounting, ecosystem services are conceptualised as flows between ecosystem assets and economic units. This results in an alignment between supply and use (i.e. supply needs to match use of a particular service), which is a foundational accounting concept. This means that an ecosystem service is recorded in the tables only when it is used. Explained differently, ecosystem services must actually be used to be included in the account, while ecosystem services that could potentially be used are excluded. For the purpose of this indicator the terms "*supply of ecosystem services*" and "*ecosystem service supply*" are avoided as they do not capture the use aspect of ecosystem services. Rather, the terms ecosystem service flows or flows of ecosystem services are used, with the intention of capturing the combination of supply and use that characterises ecosystem services in an accounting context. The account table follows a standard structure, shown in Table 7.1 of SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

16. The total area for which the accounts are compiled is called the ecosystem accounting area. For the purposes of this indicator, the ecosystem accounting area should be the total area of the country. For countries that have marine territory, the total surface area of the country could be divided into separate ecosystem accounting areas, for example one for the land and inland water area and another for the marine area to the end of the exclusive economic zone). Further guidance on this is provided in compilation guidelines for the indicator.

17. Ecosystem services are commonly grouped as provisioning, regulating and maintenance, and cultural services. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting includes a reference list of ecosystem services, grouped according to these broad categories, which has been adopted as part of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting international statistical standard. There was detailed and extensive consultation on the development of this reference list and cross walks exist with all other major ecosystem services classifications. Within provisioning services, the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting reference list identifies ten of ecosystem services; within regulating services there are sixteen; and within cultural services there are five.

18. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting uses the IUCN's Global Ecosystem Typology as the reference classification for ecosystem types, which was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 55th session in March 2024 as an international statistical classification and recommended to be included in the international family of classifications. Parties are encouraged to use their national ecosystem classifications as the basis for their ecosystem accounts and ideally to cross-walk national ecosystem types to the Ecosystem Functional Groups (Level 3) of the Global Ecosystem Typology.

19. The biophysical ecosystem services accounts describe the flows of ecosystem services provided by ecosystem assets, grouped according to ecosystem type, in volume terms per accounting period. Metrics from the accounts are commonly in physical units such as cubic meters or tonnes. Indicators that can be derived from the account tables include percentage change over an accounting period or with respect to a baseline period.

20. The biophysical quantity for each ecosystem service may also be expressed in monetary terms where monetary valuation of the service is undertaken. Monetary valuation in an accounting context is approached differently to monetary valuation in environmental economics, and focuses on exchange values rather welfare values. The monetary ecosystem services accounts describe the ecosystem services provided by the ecosystem asset in monetary terms per accounting period, which can be aggregated to a single monetary value per accounting period. Indicators that can be derived

from the account tables include percentage change in value over an accounting period or with respect to a baseline period.

5b. Method of computation

21. The indicator is computed in three stages: 1) selection of ecosystem services for inclusion in the indicator, 2) compilation of ecosystem services accounts, and 3) calculation of an aggregate index based on information from the accounts.

Stage 1 Selection of ecosystem system services to be included

22. The first stage in computing the indicator is to select ecosystem services that will be included in the indicator. As described above, the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting reference list of ecosystem services is used as the basis for the indicator and should thus be used in the selection of ecosystem services to be included in the indicator.

23. The selection of ecosystem services for this indicator takes a blended approach, reflecting both national and global priorities, based on the rationale explained in Section 4. The following starting point is used as the basis for the selection of ecosystem services by Parties for inclusion in the indicator at the national level, with further guidance provided in compilation guidelines for the indicator:

(a) Required ecosystem services of global relevance to be included by all Parties (global climate regulation services (GCRS) as this service is used by everyone on the planet no matter where it is supplied).

(b) \Ecosystem services to be included by Parties from the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting reference list of ecosystem services, that are particularly compatible with the rationale for the indicator and the considerations for selection established in paragraph 7. Countries are encouraged to select a combination of provisioning services, regulating services and cultural services from this set. Parties are discouraged from selecting services that are incompatible with the rationale for the indicator and the intent of the GBF.

(c) Parties may include additional ecosystem services that they consider important or policy relevant if they wish to.

24. From the group of ecosystem services, compatible with the rationale for the indicator, Parties should select services based on a combination of importance or policy relevance of the service and data availability. Relevance to Target 11, for which Indicator B.1 is also the headline indicator, should also be considered.

25. The compilation guidelines provide additional guidance on selection of ecosystem services for inclusion in the indicator, , including the minimum number of services to be included per broad ecosystem service category, and more detail on factors to consider in the selection process.

Stage 2 Compilation of ecosystem services accounts

26. The second stage of developing the indicator is to compile accounts for each of the ecosystem services selected. The accounts should be compiled ideally at the national level, based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. Methods for this are described in SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, with some supporting material already available (for example, SEEA e-learning resources | System of Environmental Economic Accounting) and more in development. For an example of an ecosystem services accounting table, see Table 7.1 in SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. Preliminary ecosystem services accounts may be compiled if formal accounts have not yet been developed and published.

27. There may be some iteration between selection of ecosystem services and compilation of the accounts, as data needs and data availability for specific ecosystem services are determined.

Stage 3 Indicator calculation

28. The third stage of developing the indicator involves taking information from the ecosystem services accounts to develop an aggregate index of change in ecosystem service flows. Since, in physical terms, each ecosystem service is measured in a different unit, a simple summation across ecosystem services is not possible. Hence, an indicator that allows aggregation across ecosystem services using different measurement units is needed. Several options were identified and assessed, including aggregation of trends (rates of change) in quantitative terms using an averaging method, semi-qualitative approaches, and aggregation in monetary terms.

29. Based on exploration and testing experts converged on an aggregation method using a geometric mean of the relative trends of ecosystem services as the most viable option. The chain method for calculating the geometric mean has the advantage that it allows for different time series lengths with different starting years for different ecosystem services.

30. In addition to a single aggregate index, three sub-indices, one for each broad category of ecosystem services (i.e. provisioning, regulating and cultural) should be calculated and reported. Because trends in provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services often move in different directions, which can be masked by the overall index, it will be important to present the overall index and the three sub-indices together, not just the overall index. Further guidance on the aggregation method and disaggregations is provided in the compilation guidelines.

31. In addition to the aggregate index in biophysical terms, aggregate measures of ecosystem services in monetary terms could be reported by Parties as a component indicator for Goal B. If monetary ecosystem services accounts have been developed, aggregate measures in monetary terms can be derived by summing total supply or use for each ecosystem service for the same period, with care taken to use constant prices across accounting periods to ensure that the values are expressed in real rather than nominal terms. The monetary value of ecosystem services can be expressed as a percentage of gross value added (GVA) from the national (economic) accounts.

5c. Data collection method

32. The compilation of ecosystem services accounts should ideally be based on national time-series datasets for ecosystem services, which could combine data from a range of sources to provide the best available estimates of ecosystem service supply and use. For many ecosystem services, some form of modelling is required to produce these estimates. If suitable national datasets are not available and cannot be developed with current resources, an alternative is to use available global datasets and models to develop initial estimates for the accounts, subject to criteria, standards and quality assurance. Validation by relevant national experts through appropriate institutional processes would be required to assess whether the results from global datasets and models are credible. Several global tools are available, such as ARIES for SEEA, InVEST, ESTIMAP. In some cases, these global tools allow for the incorporation of national datasets and/or models. Further guidance for some ecosystem services is available in Guidelines on Biophysical Modelling for Ecosystem Accounting (United Nations 2021). In addition, a wealth of literature is available on measuring ecosystem services.

33. National data quality assurance frameworks should be applied as well as validation of the accounts by relevant national experts, discussed further in the compilation guidelines for the indicator.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

34. The methodology for ecosystem services accounts in biophysical terms is well developed and accepted by the international statistical community as part of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework. The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in 2021 adopted the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting chapters 1-7 describing the accounting framework and the biophysical accounts, including chapters on ecosystem services, as an international statistical standard, whereas chapters 8-11, which deal with accounts in monetary terms, were adopted as internationally recognized statistical principles and recommendations for the valuation of ecosystem services.

35. As noted in Section 5b., some material is available to support the development of ecosystem accounts including ecosystem services accounts (for example https://seea.un.org/content/seea-e-learning-resources), with more in development. In addition, capacity development for Parties, especially for developing countries, should be provided to support the compilation of this this indicator.

36. Additional compilation guidance for this indicator is being prepared through an expert process led by the UN Statistics Division. A draft is available on the meeting webpage for SBSTTA-28. The guidelines will be finalised by January 2027.

5e. Data sources

37. See Section 5c Data collection method. A very wide range of data sources go into the compilation of ecosystem services accounts, and these differ depending on which ecosystem service is being measured. Data could be sourced from research institutions, various government ministries, national mapping agencies, national statistical offices, various government departments and other organs of state at the national or sub-national level (such as municipalities). Remote sensing and earth observation data play an important role for some ecosystem services.

38. In the absence of national data sources, regional and global datasets can be used, subject to criteria, standards and quality assurance, including validation at the national level through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts. For example, ARIES for SEEA allows users to derive a basic ecosystem services accounts for selected ecosystem services. This includes for deriving national estimates for grazed biomass provisioning, global climate regulation, coastal protection and recreation-related ecosystem services.

39.

5f. Availability and release calendar

40. According to the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics (United Nations, 2023) undertaken by the UNSD, 34 countries compiled biophysical ecosystem services accounts at least once and 18 countries compiled monetary ecosystem services accounts at least once during the period 2021 to 2025. Ideally ecosystem services accounts would be compiled annually, but in practice few countries would have the capacity to do this, so accounting periods of three to five years are more likely

41. Global tools and databases to support ecosystem services accounting are currently under development (see Section 5c).

5g. Time series

42. Data for the indicator in the form of ecosystem services accounts are not yet available for most countries. Time series for different ecosystem services accounts will differ. As ecosystem services accounts are developed at the national level, time series for different ecosystem services will depend on data availability, with back casting possible in some cases.

43. The reference year for global reporting under the GBF is 2020, or alternatively the period 2011 to 2020.Country baseline dates may be distinct from the global reference year/period, depending on data available at the national level.

5h. Data providers

44. As discussed in Section 5e, a wide range of data sources go into the compilation of ecosystem services accounts. Data providers could include research institutions, various government ministries, national mapping agencies, national statistical offices, various government departments and other organs of state at the national or sub-national level (such as municipalities). Remote sensing and earth observation data play an important role for some ecosystem services.

5i. Data compilers

45. For countries that have national ecosystem services accounts, the relevant national authorities, in particular the national statistical offices, ministries of environment or related agencies, will compile this indicator. Missing values for individual countries may be estimated using ARIES for SEEA or another international data platform by the custodian agency using existing global data sources, subject to criteria, standards and quality assurance including national validation through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts

5j. Gaps in data coverage

46. There are substantial data gaps at this stage for reliable estimates of a suite of ecosystem services in all countries.

5k. Treatment of missing values

47. Missing values for this indicator could result from several factors, including but not limited to temporal gaps (e.g. once-off datasets, very short time-series or interrupted time series), spatial gaps (e.g. data available only for some sub-regions or local areas within a country), or complete lack of data for some ecosystem services at the national or global level.

48. As noted in earlier sections, for some ecosystem services, missing values for individual countries may be estimated using ARIES for SEEA or other global modelling platforms based on existing global data, subject to criteria, standards and quality assurance including national validation through appropriate institutional processes involving relevant national experts.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

49. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

50. The indicator is applicable at the global, regional and national scale. National data can be aggregated to global indicators provided that the underlying classifications are harmonized across countries.

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

51. Differences between country-produced and internationally estimated data may arise due to differences in spatial resolution and projections of datasets, classification and modelling approaches, and definitions of particular ecosystem services.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

52. Regional and global estimates are produced by aggregating country-level data.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

53. Countries will provide data (using a spreadsheet template or through an online data collection system) that will request them to provide values in absolute terms for each ecosystem service included in the indicator as well as the overall index and sub-indices. This will provide flexibility in terms of methods for global aggregation. Also see Section 6d.3 below.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

54. Data will be collected from countries (using a spreadsheet template or an online data collection system). Countries will not be required to submit their ecosystem services account tables but rather to submit data extracted from the tables. Data in absolute terms is very useful, so the reporting template will require countries to report not only their overall index and three sub-indices but also absolute values for flows of each ecosystem service. Wherever possible, these absolute values should be disaggregated by ecosystem functional group, using the EFG codes and names from the GET. This will align this indicator with indicators A1 and A2 and will allow for global aggregation to ecosystem functional groups, biomes or realms as needed.

55. The reporting template will allow countries to submit data for all the accounting periods for which they have compiled accounts. As noted in Section 5g, the reference year for global reporting under the GBF 2020, or alternatively the period 2010 and 2020. Country baseline dates may be distinct from the global reference year/period, depending on data available at the national level. Collecting data for years prior to the global reference year/period from countries that have such data could enable additional analyses that may be useful.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

56. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

57. This indicator should be disaggregated by ecosystem service category (provisioning, regulating, cultural), ecosystem types (for example by realm, biome or ecosystem functional group). It may be possible to disaggregate by type of user (business, households and government – the economic units typically included in ecosystem services accounts).

58. Subnational disaggregation may be important and useful at the country level (for example, disaggregation to provinces and municipalities). However, this would not be required for global data reporting.

59. Disaggregation related to indigenous peoples and local communities may be relevant for this indicator, if suitably granular data are available. However, this is a complex issue and guidance would need to be sought from the CBD's Working Group on Article 8(j).

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

60. The indicator Services provided by ecosystems complements two other indicators

(a) Target 8: Component indicator total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems by ecosystem type

(b) Target 9: Headline indicator Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

61. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

10b. Contact person(s)

62. This meta-data sheet was prepared by UNSD, with contributions from members of the AHTEG and of the Task team of the UNCEEA Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

63. Ilaria Di Matteo (dimatteo@un.org, seea@un.org), Environmental Economic Accounts Section of the UN Statistics Division

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Binary indicator B.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with policies or actions for implementing and monitoring the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services

Goals and Targets Addressed

Goal B. Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Target

N/A

Rationale

1. Goal B focuses on the sustainable use and management of biodiversity and the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions, including ecosystem functions and services. This vision is central to the Framework and essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. People and nations around the world rely on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for their livelihoods, economies, health and wellbeing. The degradation of ecosystems and loss of nature's contributions to people (NCP) has been linked to declines in quality of life and predictions of large-scale economic damage for all Parties to the convention. Ensuring that we restore NCP where they have been lost and maintain and enhance those that societies currently benefit from is essential for present and future generations to thrive.

2. Achieving this goal requires a concerted effort from Parties to implement and enforce policies on the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of NCP. These require that biodiversity-dependent activities follow rules that ensure a healthy continuation of populations and ecosystems. Moreover, it requires that NCP be properly accounted for and valued in political and economic decision-making. As such, this indicator tracks the existence of policies and action plans to ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity and maintenance, enhancement and restoration of NCP by all Parties.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

Definition

3. Maintenance of biodiversity and NCP: Measures put in place to keep the existing quantity and quality of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people.

4. Enhancement of biodiversity and NCP: Measures put in place to improve the quality and quantity of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people.

5. Nature's contribution to people: Nature's contributions to people (a concept similar to and inclusive of ecosystem services) refers to all the contributions from biodiversity to people's well-being or quality of life. They include (a) material contributions, such as the production of food, feed, fibre, medicines and energy, (b) regulating services, such as the regulation of air and water quality, climate regulation, pollination, regulation of pests and diseases and provision of habitat, and (c) other non-material contributions, such as learning, inspiration, health, physical, psychological, spiritual well-being and experiences and supporting identities and culture, as well as maintaining options for future generations.

6. Sustainable use: Sustainable use is defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity as "*the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations*."

7. Ecosystem functions: The flow of energy and materials through the biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. It includes many processes such as biomass production, trophic transfer through plants and animals, nutrient cycling, water dynamics and heat transfer.

8. Ecosystem service: A service that is provided by an ecosystem as an intrinsic property of its functionality (e.g. pollination, nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, fruit and seed dispersal) contributing to the benefits (and occasionally disbenefits) that people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; and cultural services such as recreation and sense of place. This includes the whole pathway from ecological processes through to final ecosystem services, goods and anthropocentric values to people. In the original definition of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment the concept of ecosystem goods and services is synonymous with ecosystem services.

9. Action plan: A recognized program or strategy with a course of action to deliver on the Framework's goals.

10. Policy: A set or framework of general objectives and management principles that the undertaking uses for decision-making. A policy implements the undertaking's strategy or management decisions related to a matter. Each policy is under the responsibility of defined person(s), specifies its perimeter of application, and includes one or more objectives (linked when applicable to measurable targets). A policy is validated and reviewed following the undertakings' applicable governance rules. A policy is implemented through actions or action plans.

Method of Computation

11. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to four questions:

(a) B.1 Does your country have policies and/or action plans aiming to ensure the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of nature's contributions to people, including of ecosystem functions and services?

(b) B.2 Does your country have policies and/or action plans aiming to ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity?

(c) B.3 Does your country monitor the sustainable use of biodiversity?

(d) B.4 Does your country monitor the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services for the benefit of present and future generations?

12. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[5]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

13. A "*No*" answer implies that there are no policies or action plans currently in place at the national level to ensure the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of NCP (B.1) nor the sustainable use of biodiversity (B.2) and that no monitoring of the sustainable use of biodiversity

[5] Note that further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(B.3) nor maintenance, enhancement and restoration of NCP is taking place (B.4). Therefore, no policies nor action plans exist in the country for the specific requirements of each question in turn.

14. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to put in place policies or action plans for NCP maintenance, restoration or enhancement (B.1) or for the sustainable use of biodiversity (B.2). These plans or policies may be in the draft stage, have been published for review or pending acceptance/ratification. In either case, there must be a clear official proposal for a national level policy or action plan to select this answer, ongoing efforts to draft texts is insufficient. Monitoring of sustainable use of biodiversity (B.3) and either maintenance, enhancement or restoration of NCP is in development (B.4), monitoring programs and reporting systems may be in the design phase or be completed and accepted but not resourced, and therefore have not begun.

15. A "*Partially*" answer implies that some of the elements in the question have been met but not all. That is, policies and/or action plans are in place to:

(a) ensure the maintenance, enhancement or restoration of NCP but not all three (B.1)

(b) these fail to include ecosystem functions or services or both (B.1)

(c) these do not account for the sustainable use of all aspects of biodiversity, e.g. not including genetic diversity (B.2)

16. Monitoring of the sustainable use of biodiversity (B.3) has begun but only addresses some aspects of biodiversity (for example only species or genetic diversity). Monitoring of the maintenance, enhancement or restoration of NCP is taking place but not all three (B.4). If any one of the cases outlined above applies, only partial achievement has been reached.

17. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that both policies and/or actions are in place at the national level for maintenance, enhancement and restoration of NCP, including ecosystem functions and services (B.1) and to ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity (B.2). Additionally, monitoring is in place and ongoing for the sustainable use of all aspects of biodiversity (B.3) and for the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of NCP (B.4).

C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments

1. Indicator name

C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments

2. Date of metadata update

March 2025

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal C. The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

3b. Target

Target 13: Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

4. Rationale

1. This indicator aims to measure the trend in the amount of monetary benefits received by countries from the implementation of applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments during the reporting period. This indicator compiles, inter alia, monetary benefits received by countries bilaterally from the implementation of ABS under the Convention and its Nagoya Protocol as well as multilateral ABS instruments, namely the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, or for example the new multilateral instruments for digital sequence information (DSI) under the Convention and for marine genetic resources and DSI under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). This does not prejudge that other ABS-related instruments could be also incorporated in the future to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity goals of the KMGBF. Information on monetary benefits from the different instruments will be presented in an aggregated manner with the possibility to disaggregate it by instrument.

2. The indicator refers to monetary benefits "*received*" to avoid double accounting. National reporting on monetary benefits received bilaterally would not be relevant for all CBD Parties, as some countries do not regulate access to genetic resources and/or do not require or receive benefits from ABS agreements. Possible ways to disaggregate the indicator, without adding undue complexity for reporting, would need to be defined (e.g. monetary benefits from genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge, amount per type of beneficiaries, e.g. women or indigenous peoples and local communities). For the multilateral instruments, disaggregation by categories of distribution and beneficiary types could be considered by the governing bodies

3. Complementary indicators may serve as an indication of progress towards Goal C. For example, the number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance indicate that an ABS agreement has been concluded, and therefore that there is or will be benefits shared in accordance

with mutually agreed terms (MAT). The number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints or the number of checkpoint communiqués published in the ABS Clearing-House can also serve as proxies as they indicate that utilization of genetic resources is taking place and that benefits are or will be shared in accordance with MAT.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Key concepts:

4. There are two types of benefit-sharing:

(a) Bilateral benefit sharing: Under the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol bilateral benefit-sharing system for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is foreseen, thus the recipient of benefits is likely to be a country or recognized providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge within a country and the user is likely to be a legal or private person.

(b) Multilateral benefit sharing: Under international access and benefit sharing instruments that rely on multilateral approaches to benefit-sharing, a single fund would receive all the monetary benefits, such as the one established under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty), and for example, presumably the multilateral mechanism for digital sequence information which calls for a "*global fund*", the fund foreseen by the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), among others

5b. Method of computation

5. Monetary benefits can all be measured in terms of the amount of money received and they can be aggregated and reported as a single monetary number for each year. Table 1 provides a list of types of monetary benefits which should be included in national reporting.

Table 1.
List of monetary benefits for which data should be collected

Monetary Benefit	Notes on collecting data
*(a) Access fees/fee per sample collected or otherwise acquired	Easy to implement, payment during access application
(b) Up-front payments	Easy to implement, payment during access application
(c) Milestone payments	Happens during utilization, CNA or other authority need check in/receive several reports over time, milestones need to be clearly defined and agreed on
*(d) Payment of royalties	After successful utilization/commercialization, regular annual reports on revenue needed
(e) License fees in case of commercialization	After successful utilization/commercialization
(f) Special fees to be paid to trust funds supporting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Can happen at several time points along the value chain
(g) Salaries and preferential terms where mutually agreed	Can happen at several time points along the value chain
*(h) Research funding	Can happen at several time points along the value chain
(i) Joint ventures	Can happen at several time points along the value chain
(j) Joint ownership of relevant intellectual property rights	Royalties are generated after the licensing of intellectual property (if successful)

6. The headline indicator for monetary benefit-sharing would enable countries to report on monetary benefits across all international instruments into a single overarching indicator. This information would be collected at national level for the benefits shared bilaterally, and by the relevant

treaty secretariats for those benefits shared multilaterally. The information collected by the treaty secretariats, if so decided by their membership, will be made available to SCBD and may be used by countries for their use in a section of the national reports. With regards to the ITPGRFA, its Secretariat is liaising with the CBD Secretariat on this area and intends to collect and share information about the Benefit-sharing Fund through the Treaty website.

7. Parties to the CBD that have regulated access to their genetic resources and require monetary benefit-sharing will include in their national reports the total amount, in US dollars, of the monetary benefits received at the national level during the reporting period.

8. Parties, in providing this information, will consider different types of monetary benefit, such as those included in annex to the Nagoya Protocol, or the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising Out of Their Utilization.

9. However, the collection of information on monetary benefits at national level is not without challenges. Few countries have readily available information on monetary benefits, as many countries do not yet have a fully operational ABS framework or have only concluded agreements for non-commercial use which do not involve monetary benefits.

5c. Data collection method

10. This information will be collected through the national reporting under the Convention where Parties report which monetary (and/or in the case of indicator C.2 which non-monetary benefits) they have received, including the amount of monetary benefits received during the reporting period (in US dollars). It will be based on the categories in table 1 noting that the monetary benefits that are considered to be the most important for reporting purposes are highlighted with a (*).

5d. Accessibility of methodology

11. This methodology is available online and more information can be found in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/12.

5e. Data sources

12. To be able to report on indicators measured at the national level for bilateral benefit-sharing it is necessary that countries implement tools that facilitate collection, compilation and report of information in accordance with national legislation. For the multilateral instruments, the Secretariats may be the curators of the data that needs to be provided, and information will be provided to the Parties to these instruments for its inclusion and use in the national report. The Secretariat of the International Treaty is exploring ways to provide relevant information through the Treaty website that could be linked with the Target Tracker tool.

13. Some recommendations are included in this section for gathering information related to monetary bilaterally shared, while bearing in mind that countries may have different circumstances, priorities and capacities in this regard

Establish a national fund as central tool for monetary benefits collection

14. At the national level, the approach of establishing a mechanism (a specific fund or an account) that centralizes the reception of monetary benefits could help with data reporting. A centralized system eases the accountability of the transactions and the calculation of the monetary benefits received and seems to be a good managing tool to receive payments based on ABS agreements of notifications. Such a fund creates the potential to have a quick overview on the monetary flows and creates the opportunity to assess allocations used for conservation and protection of biodiversity. In general, money from the fund can be distributed to the provider of a genetic resource or may be used for conservation projects (18). This type of fund allows easy identification of the payments made by users and avoids the risks associated with payments made to the general budget of a country, where it will be more difficult to track the initial payment and almost impossible to ensure that the funds are used for biodiversity policy objectives. However, ministries of finance often pursue the principle

of universality of the government budget whereby all resources are directed to a common pool or fund, to be allocated and used for expenditures according to the current priorities of the government, where earmarking is forbidden or highly discouraged. Thus, inevitably, like with much of ABS, each country will have unique circumstances.

Anticipate confidentiality issues during non-disclosure agreements negotiations

15. For some countries confidentiality issues are an important obstacle to report on monetary benefits as information on monetary benefits may be difficult to report due to non-disclosure agreements (NDA) that restrict parties to disclose confidential information included in the mutually agreed terms and other ABS-related documents. Confidential information usually includes trade secrets like new methods, formulas or designs. In the case of commercial utilization of genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge, information on monetary benefits is also sensitive and usually declared as confidential. On the other hand, based on some interviews with ABS experts from the private sector, confidentiality issues would be prevented if those are discussed and agreed at an early stage of mutually agreed terms negotiations and if aggregated data is reported. To this end, standardized language can be included in non-disclosure agreements that explicitly allows the recipient of the confidential information to report on benefits received, at the aggregate level, in their national reports under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, while fully respecting confidentiality of the agreement

Develop a national repository where all information in the reporting process on benefits is stored and information is managed

16. In case various beneficiaries directly receive monetary benefits from the user, in an independent and decentralized manner, collecting aggregate data will be challenging. The alternative in case of multiple recipients of monetary benefits is to implement a mechanism (e.g. an online tool) with relevant national safeguards to compile at the national level the information related to the effective amount and date of those payments and include in the mutually agreed terms clauses related to the user's obligation to report to just one centralized national authority on monetary benefits shared directly with multiple beneficiaries.

17. Data management systems for ABS agreements granting and benefits reporting are a good tool to monitor benefit-sharing at national level and could potentially generate reminders about check in and reporting duties of users of genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge. Some countries have already introduced national virtual systems to apply for access to genetic resources and report on benefit-sharing. Once the application is successfully processed the corresponding permit is granted and uploaded to the platform. The commitments on both monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing and corresponding deadlines can also be programmed in the system, which could send out reminders to users on reporting obligations for the concluded benefit-sharing activities. The users could upload benefit-sharing reports (e.g. research results or capacity building reports) and appropriate information to support the report.

18. The design of these repositories can include different information and disaggregation according to national priorities and legislation, while bearing mind the needs for reporting at international level.

5f. Availability and release calendar

19. This data will be collected through national reports as per the timing of those reports.

5g. Time series

20. Not currently available.

5h. Data providers

21. Parties should report the data directly.

5i. Data compilers

22. At the global level, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will compile the data.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

23. As mentioned above national data compilation for bilateral benefit-sharing may be challenging due to the existing systems for recording data, confidentiality issues and national capacity and given that the collection of benefit-sharing data was not mandatory or foreseen under the Nagoya Protocol.

24. Work is underway to reflect monetary benefits shared multilaterally (DSI multilateral mechanisms or the International Treaty).

25.

5k. Treatment of missing values

26. Missing data should not be included.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

27. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

28. The indicator is available for use at the national, regional and global level. It should be noted that national data would be aggregated in USD.

6b. National/regional indicator production

29. Data about benefits shared bilaterally would be compiled and reported at the national level. While data from benefits shared multilaterally will be compiled by the corresponding Secretariats and made available nationally for reporting.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

NA

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

30. Regional and global data would be the aggregate of national data in United States dollars. Missing data would not be estimated in developing the regional or global figures.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

31. This data may also be reported in the national reports under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and data sources to be identified, for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other multilateral mechanisms on ABS (such as Digital Sequence Information, BBNJ and others) for the Parties to such instruments.

8. Possible Disaggregation

32. Countries should be able to disaggregate the information by monetary benefits received by different beneficiaries recognized in their national legislation and report on benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities and by ABS instrument

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

33. This indicator has linkages across the framework, including with Target 15, 19 and 22.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

SCBD

10b. Contact person(s)

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C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments

1. Indicator name

C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments.

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal C. The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

3b. Target

Target 13: Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

4. Rationale

1. The importance of non-monetary benefits from access and benefit-sharing (ABS) processes and their contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to sustainable development is increasingly acknowledged and documented. This indicator aims to measure the average rate of change in the types of non-monetary benefits shared, and to track trends in selected types of non-monetary benefits received by countries from the implementation of applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments during the reporting period. This indicator serves as a proxy for many different types of non-monetary benefits. It aims to measure trends in a key subset of non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments, namely the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

2. Information on this indicator could also help strengthen national ABS systems. A better understanding of benefits received would help countries to measure the effectiveness of their ABS system and mobilize political will and resources for implementing Target 13 and achieve Goal C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. The indicator also considers the possibility of accommodating new multilateral ABS instruments, which will contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the CBD Multilateral Mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources (GR) and others

4. Information on non-monetary benefits from the different instruments could be presented in an aggregated manner with the possibility to disaggregate it by instrument.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition and concepts:

5. This indicator measures the average rate of change in the types of non-monetary benefits shared and aims to track trends in a group of selected types of non-monetary benefits which serve as proxies for the different existing types of non-monetary benefits. This indicator could compile, inter alia, non-monetary benefits received by countries bilaterally from the implementation of ABS under the Convention and its Nagoya Protocol as well as multilateral ABS instruments during the reporting period. To avoid double counting, only countries that rereceive non-monetary benefits bilaterally should report on them. Countries that share such benefits should not report on them.

6. Reporting is required for the following types of non-monetary benefits:

(a) Number of research and development results arising from ABS instruments (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(b) Number of joint scientific publications arising from ABS instruments with authors from the provider country, where appropriate (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(c) Number of scientific publications relevant to conservation, sustainable use, food security, and public health arising from ABS instruments (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(d) Number of technology transfer events arising from ABS instruments (nationally collected)

(e) Number of projects contributing to sustainable development arising from ABS instruments (nationally collected)

(f) Indicator related to capacity-building and development as part of the non-monetary benefits arising from ABS instruments (TBD)

7. Information on the first three types of non-monetary benefits is collected at the global level following an established methodology (see section 5d below) and made available to countries for their use in the national report. The use of a global methodology and compilation ensures that the national data provided is standardized, comparable, and can easily be aggregated. This will result in consistent analyses of trends over time. Countries can edit and add additional information to their national data as appropriate.

8. Information on the types of monetary benefits described in (d)-(f) can be collected by countries. The ability of countries to collect the information on non-monetary benefits may vary from country to country. For some countries it may take some time before it is possible to provide this mandatory information.

9. Additional types of non-monetary benefits received: Parties may include in their national reports any other type of non-monetary benefits received in accordance with national priorities and circumstances. The reported information cannot be aggregated globally but can help countries to measure trends over time according to their national priorities.

5b. Method of computation

10. There are many types of non-monetary benefits that can be included in ABS agreements (a list of 17 benefits is provided, for example, in the Annex of the Nagoya Protocol) but there are significant challenges to measuring all of them. First, there is currently no way to aggregate information on non-monetary benefits in a comprehensive manner across all possible types as these can be quantified with very different parameters (i.e. to aggregate across, for example, contribution to local economy, institutional capacity-building, and or sharing of research and development results). Second, there is little national data currently available on non-monetary benefits and significant challenges in monitoring or reporting on some non-monetary benefits remain. Third, different types of non-

monetary benefits may be prioritized at the national level depending on the circumstances and these may be measured or accounted differently.

11. To simplify the challenge of monitoring non-monetary benefits, the 17 benefits suggested in the Nagoya Protocol Annex and the Bonn Guidelines were consolidated into five categories that reflect six total selected types of non-monetary benefits to be reported (see table 1). Finding an appropriate indicator to measure non-monetary benefits related to capacity-building, development and training poses its own challenges and needs further discussion.

Table 1
Non-monetary benefits

Category	Non-monetary Benefits	Reporting notes
Sharing of information, research results	(a) Sharing of research and development results	Number of research and development results shared from ABS agreements Number of scientific publications relevant to conservation, sustainable use, food security, and public health
	(k) Access to scientific information relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including biological inventories and taxonomic studies	
	(m) Research directed towards priority needs, such as health and food security, taking into account domestic uses of genetic resources in the Party providing genetic resources;	
	(e) Admittance to ex situ facilities of genetic resources and to databases	
Scientific collaboration and/or joint publications	(b) Collaboration, cooperation and contribution in scientific research and development programs, particularly biotechnological research activities, where possible in the Party providing genetic resources	Number of joint scientific publications from ABS agreements with authors from the provider country
	(n) Institutional and professional relationships that can arise from an access and benefit-sharing agreement and subsequent collaborative activities	
Capacity-building, capacity development and/or trainings	(d) Collaboration, cooperation and contribution in education and training	TBD
	(j) Training related to genetic resources with the full participation of countries providing genetic resources, and where possible, in such countries	
	(h) Institutional capacity-building	
	(i) Human and material resources to strengthen the capacities for the administration and enforcement of access regulations	

Access to and transfer of technology[6]	(f) Transfer to the provider of the genetic resources of knowledge and technology under fair and most favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms where agreed, in particular, knowledge and technology that make use of genetic resources, including biotechnology, or that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity	Number of technology transfer events. (Technology transfer events may include joint patents, licenses and other intellectual property rights (IPR); new products, processes or services that have been exchanged; new startups.)
	(h) Strengthening capacities for technology transfer	
	(c) Participation in product development	
	(q) Joint ownership of relevant intellectual property rights.	
Sustainable development benefits	(l) Contributions to the local economy	Number of projects contributing to sustainable development
	(o) Food and livelihood security benefits	
	(p) Social recognition	

12. In light of all of the above, the headline indicator is computed in two stages 1) compilation of information on the six types of non-monetary benefits and, and 2) indicator calculation.

Stage 1. Compilation of information on the six types of non-monetary benefits:

13. See section 5c on data collection method. Information on three types of non-monetary benefits will be collected at the global level, disaggregated, and made available for countries to include in their National Reports. Information on the other three types must be collected at the national level.

Stage 2. Indicator calculation:

14. Countries should report the absolute values for the six types of non-monetary benefits received.

15. Information reported during the first reporting period, in 2026, will be used by the CBD Secretariat to establish the baseline for this indicator. Information submitted in subsequent reports will be used to calculate the global average rate of change over a given time period compared to the baseline year.

16. The CBD Secretariat, based on the information received, will disaggregate the indicator, where possible:

(a) By type of non-monetary benefits.

(b) By non-monetary benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities.

(c) By relevant access and benefit-sharing instruments.

5c. Data collection method

Non-monetary benefit-sharing shared bilaterally under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

[6] According to the Strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation (17) "*The concept of technology as generally understood under the Convention includes both* "*hard*" *and "soft" technology. The notion of hard technology refers to the actual machinery and other physical hardware that is transferred, while the category of soft technology refers to technological information or know-how. Such "soft" technology is often transferred within long-term scientific and technological cooperation including through joint research and innovation which move ideas from invention to new products, processes and services*"

17. This information will be collected through the national reporting using the online reporting tool (ORT, https://ort.cbd.int/) under the Convention where Parties report which non-monetary benefits they have received. The reporting should at a minimum include:

(a) Number of research and development results arising from ABS instruments (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(b) Number of joint scientific publications arising from ABS instruments with authors from the provider country, where appropriate (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(c) Number of scientific publications relevant to conservation, sustainable use, food security, and public health arising from ABS instruments (globally aggregated and subsequently pre-populated into national reports)

(d) Number of technology transfer events arising from ABS instruments (nationally collected)

(e) Number of projects contributing to sustainable development arising from ABS instruments (nationally collected)

(f) Indicator related to capacity-building and development as part of the non-monetary benefits arising from ABS instruments (TBD)

18. The type of non-monetary benefit related to capacity-building and development needs further discussion; therefore, countries should not report on this in the first reporting period in 2026.

19. The compilation of information on the globally collected types of non-monetary benefits (types a, b, and c) will use the Global Database on Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing Database developed by the Leibniz Institute DSMZ (Nunez-Vega et al. 2025), whose continuation is subject to the availability of funds. The database is available at https://nmbs.dsmz.de/ and includes publications in which an ABS permit is directly listed (cited) in the text of the publication and provides quantification of the three NMBS indicators.

20. The information collected globally will be disaggregated to the national level and made available for countries to report on in their national reports. The Global Database on Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing (https://nmbs.dsmz.de/) also connects with the UNEP-WCMC Target Tracker platform (https://target-tracker.org/) to ensure that NMBS indicator data will appear as a draft in the website for submission of the national report of the CBD (https://ort.cbd.int/).

21. In the Global Database, countries can filter (disaggregate) the information by country. For each country for which NMBS data was found, it will be broken down into:

(a) *Research results:* number of scientific publications that cite an ABS permit, and the number of ABS permits found in publications. Additionally, the database makes available a detailed list of publications with the corresponding links to full text and the permit codes found in each publication, and a list of IRCCs and national ABS permits found in scientific publications.

(b) *Research results relevant to priority needs:* number of scientific publications relevant to conservation, sustainable use, food security, and public health arising from ABS instruments.

(c) *International collaborations:* number of joint scientific publications that cite an ABS permit and include co-authors from the provider country.

22. The Global Database also offers an Application Programming Interface (API) endpoints that enable users to download the information programmatically in a machine-readable format. For more information about this tool, please contact the Leibniz Institute DSMZ (nmbs@dsmz.de).

23. If a country that has granted ABS permits does not appear in the Global Database, national authorities are invited to contact the Leibniz Institute DSMZ (nmbs@dsmz.de) and provide a list of national ABS permit codes. DSMZ can then apply the global methodology to identify those codes in scientific publications. Information on the publications identified will be incorporated into the Global Database and made accessible.

24. One reason why some countries may not yet appear in the Global Database is that national ABS permit codes are not globally standardized and are therefore difficult to detect through the text-mining approaches used by the Global Methodology. This can be improved if Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) are generated and provided to users of genetic resources instead of national ABS permit codes.

25. IRCCs offer important advantages. IRCC identifiers are globally standardized and machine-readable, allowing them to be systematically identified across publications and databases using the Global Methodology. To ensure that Parties receive the necessary data to report on non-monetary benefits related to scientific publications, ABS national authorities are encouraged to publish their ABS permits or equivalents as IRCCs in the ABS Clearing-House, ensure that researchers receive the IRCCs, and require their citation in subsequent publications. If publishing IRCCs is not possible, authorities are encouraged to establish standardized ABS permit codes that are easier to detect using text-mining methods.

26. Compilation of information for other types of non-monetary benefits received bilaterally should be done at the national level (types d, e, and f). In survey, most countries have confirmed they are receiving non-monetary benefits. However, data on non-monetary benefits is often not compiled or readily available and for many countries reporting this information may be challenging, particularly when the national systems recognize different providers for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and different beneficiaries.

27. To be able to report on indicators measured at the national level for bilateral benefit-sharing, countries should consider developing and implementing tools that facilitate collection, compilation and reporting of information in accordance with national legislation. When possible, the data should be disaggregated to reflect benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities.

28. The following recommendations could help Parties reporting on non-monetary benefits:

(a) For countries that have multiple authorities involved in negotiating prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, they might consider including in their MAT clauses that obligate a user to report to a single centralized national authority for benefits even if they are shared with multiple beneficiaries.

(b) A national data management system (e.g. a virtual platform or system appropriate for the national circumstances) where all information in the reporting process on benefits is stored and information is managed. Data management systems for ABS agreements granting and benefits reporting are a good tool to monitor benefit-sharing at national level and could potentially generate reminders about check in and reporting duties of users of genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge. Some countries have already introduced national virtual systems to apply for access to genetic resources and report on benefit-sharing. Once the application is successfully processed, the corresponding permit is granted and uploaded to the platform. The commitments on both monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing and corresponding deadlines are also programmed in the system, which will send out reminders to users on reporting obligations for the concluded benefit-sharing activities. The users can upload benefit-sharing reports (e.g. research results or capacity building reports) and appropriate information to support the report. The design of these repositories can include different information and disaggregation according to national priorities and legislation, while bearing in mind the needs for reporting at international level.

29. As an alternative or complementary approach, Parties could also decide to establish a global standardized reporting system for non-monetary benefits by users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. This reporting tool would enable users to report on the benefits shared in their work under an ABS agreement. The information collected and disaggregated by country could be shared with countries for their consideration in their reporting under the different types of non-monetary benefits included in their reporting.

Non-monetary benefit-sharing under multilateral ABS international instruments.

30. The methodology proposed for globally collected non-monetary benefits can either be expanded to include non-monetary benefit arising from other international ABS Instruments (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and others) or the secretariats of the relevant treaties as decided by their relevant governing bodies can compile the data and share it with countries, as appropriate.

31. It should be noted that there is ongoing collaboration with the International Treaty and updates will be provided in due time. Non-monetary benefits under the International Treaty may require specific indicators or measures to reflect its multilateral approach and the different scales of reporting.

32. The Leibniz Institute DSMZ is working on expanding and applying the Global Methodology to quantify non-monetary benefits arising from the use of DSI.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

33. The methodology to globally compile the three types of non-monetary benefits related to research results and scientific publications is available under the peer-reviewed publication titled A new indicator for the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Capturing non-monetary benefit data from access and benefit-sharing agreements (Nunez-Vega et al. 2025). This Global Methodology uses text-mining tools to find IRCCs and ABS permit codes cited in scientific publications and quantify them as a proxy to monitor research results and international collaborations.

34. The Global Methodology and Database were developed by the Leibniz Institute DSMZ within the Examining Trends in Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing project (funded by the German Federal Agency of Nature Conservation under grant number 3521800500) and further implemented under the project Support for the global collection of data on non-monetary benefit-sharing to enable Parties to report on progress on Goal C and Target 13 (funded by the European Union through the CBD Secretariat). The Global Methodology and Database to quantify the three proposed required non-monetary benefits were developed based on the robustness of the scientific publication ecosystem.

35. In order for these methods to capture more data, Parties to the Nagoya Protocol must fulfil their obligation to generate IRCCs and scientific practices for citing IRCCs or ABS permits codes in scientific publications need to be better standardized. Making this information available to countries would help reinforce the national systems for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, as well as help to make the contribution of ABS towards conservation, sustainable use and the advancement of science and research more visible.

36. The process of selecting the six types of non-monetary benefits to be reported and more information about the development of the ABS headline indicators can be found in the Study on Access and Benefit-sharing Indicators as they relate to Target 13 and Goal C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/12).

5e. Data sources

37. See section 5c on data collection method. Information on the three types of non-monetary benefits related to research results and scientific publications (types a, b and c) is available through the Global Database on Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing (https://nmbs.dsmz.de/) and the Target

Tracker tool developed by UNEP-WCMC (https://target-tracker.org/). On the other hand, information on the other three types of non-monetary benefits (types d, e and f) must be collected at the national level.

38. Information on non-monetary benefit-sharing arising from multilateral ABS international instruments should be shared by the corresponding Secretariats to be incorporated in the indicator calculation. The Secretariat of the International Treaty is exploring ways to provide relevant information through the Treaty website that could be linked with the Target Tracker tool.

5f. Availability and release calendar

39. This data will be collected through national reports as per the timing of those reports.

5g. Time series

40. Not currently available.

5h. Data providers

41. Parties should report the data directly with some global data available on the number of research publications.

5i. Data compilers

42. At the global level, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will compile the data. Compilation of information for the globally collected types of non-monetary benefits under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol will use the methodology developed by the Leibniz Institute DSMZ within the Examining Trends in Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing project (funded through 2025 by the German Federal Agency of Nature Conservation, Grant # 3521800500). and further implemented under the project *Support for the global collection of data on non-monetary benefit-sharing to enable Parties to report on progress on Goal C and Target 13* (funded by the European Union through the CBD Secretariat).

43. The information collected globally will be disaggregated to the national level and made available for countries to report on in their national reports (and NBSAPs). This approach would be an efficient use of resources and avoid the need for every country to build up a national database to keep track of some types of non-monetary benefits (research results, international collaborations, and research focused on priority areas resulting from ABS agreements). The sustainability and continuity of the Global Methodology used for the collection of information should be ensured.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

44. As mentioned above national data compilation for bilateral benefits may be challenging due to the existing systems for recording data, confidentiality issues and national capacity and as the compilation of data was not mandatory nor foreseen by the CBD or Nagoya Protocol.

5k. Treatment of missing values

45. Missing data should not be imputed.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

46. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

47. The indicator is available for use at the national, regional and global level. However, regional and global aggregation may have some gaps.

6b. National/regional indicator production

48. This data would be compiled and reported at the national level.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

49. The information on the number of publications which will be estimated using the Leibniz Institute DSMZ methodology, which may differ from national estimates of the number of publications. This could be due to including different publication databases in the search or different publication availability. Parties should review and edit or complement the information received from the Global Methodology and integrate national data if available.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

50. Data could be aggregated from national reports depending on the data received. For the research publications, global level estimates are available.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

51. This data may also be reported in the national reports under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and data sources to be identified for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other multilateral mechanisms on ABS (for example the CBD DSI multilateral mechanism, BBNJ or others) for the Parties to such instruments.

8. Possible Disaggregations

52. Countries should be able to disaggregate the information on benefits by 1) type of non-monetary benefits, 2) non-monetary benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities and 3) relevant access and benefit-sharing instruments.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

53. This indicator has linkages across the framework, including with Target 22.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

SCBD

10b. Contact person(s)

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D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA), for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystems

1. Indicator name

D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA), for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystems

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal D Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 19 Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least $200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least $20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least $30 billion per year by 2030;

(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;

(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;

(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;

(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;

(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;

(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

4. Rationale

1. This indicator quantifies total international public finance flows with biodiversity objectives extended to developing countries by bilateral providers of development co-operation, South-South and triangular Co-operation, as well as multilateral providers of development co-operation. It would also capture financing provided directly to indigenous peoples and local communities. It includes official development assistance (ODA) and other official flows (OOF), or alternatively total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD), for biodiversity. The indicator improves visibility and fosters transparency of support to developing countries by all Parties.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

2. The indicator measures all international public finance disbursements to developing countries in constant prices, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states, for conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Commitments and flows in current prices can also be measured.

3. The total amount of international public finance flows is composed of:

(a) Official Development Assistance (ODA) other official flows (OOF) and private sector instruments (PSI) for developmental purposes that have been marked as targeting the objectives of the CBD (using the so-called biodiversity marker scores "*principal*" or "*significant*") in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)[7]. Data on flows targeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15 can also be considered

(b) For countries that report on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), such as South-South and triangular Cooperation providers, this includes flows targeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15 and/or targeting biodiversity-related sectors[8]. As of 2024, the International Forum on TOSSD included a keyword to better track biodiversity-related support.

(c) Outflows of multilateral institutions, such as multilateral and regional development banks, vertical funds or international institutions. These are defined as institutions included in the list of ODA-eligible international organizations (Annex 2 of CRS reporting guidelines). Multilateral institutions' biodiversity-related outflows can be identified through the biodiversity Rio marker, SDGs 14/15 and purpose sectors, as well as through keyword searches – depending on the granularity of the institutions' reporting to the OECD.

4. Both ODA OOF and PSI as well as TOSSD, are composed of flows disbursed to developing countries by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies – although commitment flows can also be identified. For ODA OOF and PSI, developing countries include countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients. For TOSSD, the list of recipients is broader, and includes 10 non-ODA eligible recipients.

5. Multilateral expenditures (outflows) for biodiversity include a mix of activities financed with core contributions and earmarked contributions to multilateral organizations. These resources are provided by official agencies as defined above but also include other resources that multilateral organizations receive as grants from the private sector or leverage from international capital markets[9]. To avoid double counting, therefore, unearmarked (estimated imputed shares) and earmarked contributions from provider countries can be included as part of the provider country reporting, unless a separate indicator is created to track multilateral institution outflows. In this case, caution needs to be taken to ensure to present bilateral and multilateral flows separately. If a separate indicator is introduced for multilateral organizations, these can include the outflows (expenditures

[7] ODA must have the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective, and be concessional in character (i.e. grants, and concessional loans that are extended on softer terms than market loans). In turn, OOF comprises transactions from governments to developing countries that do not qualify as ODA (i.e. loans extended at market rates). This definition of other official flows excludes official direct export credits.

[8] As of January 2024, the list of TOSSD recipients is the list of ODA recipients as of 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved, as an interim solution. In 2024, the International Forum on TOSSD will discuss including multidimensional criteria to develop a list of TOSSD recipients.

[9] Not all multilateral institutions require core contributions on a regular basis (and thus not all require regular capitalisation by shareholders since they finance themselves through their lending operations and/or capital markets); and not all are able to target capital markets to finance themselves.

on activities in developing countries) reported to the CRS and/or TOSSD while taking into account that earmarked multilateral activities are recorded differently in the systems.

5b. Method of computation

6. Options for countries:

(a) A country can compute their international financial flows by using the DAC CRS based on the Rio marker for biodiversity. The indicator is calculated as the sum of all ODA OOF and PSI activities marked for biodiversity with either the principal or significant score. This can include multi-bi allocations. Given that Rio markers are not applicable to core contributions to multilateral organizations, imputed multilateral flows would need to be calculated based on current and estimated multilateral institutions' outflows for biodiversity. Additional data on flows targeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15 can also be considered.

i. Taken together, the bilateral, the multi-bi and the imputed multilateral flows would give the total international finance for biodiversity per providing country.

ii. Imputed multilateral flows could be calculated by the OECD based on current reporting of multilateral institutions to the CRS and/or TOSSD, as some institutions report using the Rio markers. For other institutions, estimates could also be calculated.

(b) Alternatively, and/or in complement to the above, a country can sum up all activities identified in their TOSSD reporting as additional to ODA and OOF (including flows to non-ODA recipients)and that have been marked with the SDG14, SDG15 and/or the sector code "*biodiversity*", and/or the 'biodiversity' TOSSD keyword. .

(c) Alternatively, a country can report on biodiversity-related international financial flows using other methods (e.g. using own data sources, using more disaggregation than OECD DAC Rio marker data, using ODA/OOF/PSI commitments), as long as the flow targets the objectives of the CBD (in line with the OECD DAC Rio marker definition).

7. For information, the OECD DAC Rio marker helps track biodiversity-related activities when targeting the objectives of the CBD, with a "*principal objective*" or a "*significant objective*". Activities marked as "*principal*" would not have been funded but for that objective; activities marked "*significant*" have other primary objectives, but have been formulated or adjusted to help meet biodiversity concerns. The Rio markers were designed to track the degree to which members are integrating and mainstreaming environmental considerations into their development co-operation activities, and thus apply to the entirety of an activity reported – not to the allocation of finance associated with the biodiversity-specific component of that activity. Hence, when reporting on this target, countries could report only a portion of their development finance targeting biodiversity as a "*significant*" objective, using a coefficient to adjust the volume of finance counted. There is no agreed definition or common approach for this practice, but the most common coefficient applied to countries' "*significant*" flows is 40%, along with the full account of "*principal*" flows. When reporting, countries would need to specify the coefficients used for the amounts disbursed to developing countries. Agreeing on a harmonized coefficient would facilitate more translatable figures across reporting platforms and data custodians. Work continues towards this, and would be particularly important to consolidate before 2030.

8. Two biodiversity-specific activity codes (biodiversity and biosphere protection) have the "*principal*" score of the Rio marker assigned by default (hence would be accounted in full). Additional information might be available through activities reported to SDGs 14 and 15. When looking at complementary data based on the SDGs 14 and 15, TOSSD represents a better source of information because the reporting is part of the eligibility criteria (at the target level) and therefore

better reported and verified by reporters and the Secretariat. Contrary to what happens in TOSSD, the reporting on the SDG focus of ODA flows is voluntary in the CRS and the coverage is lower.

9. Options for multilateral institutions (should a specific indicator be created for multilateral institutions to report separately and voluntarily on their biodiversity-related outflows):

(a) A multilateral institution may report biodiversity-related outflows, either using Rio marker data reported to the OECD, applying the same methodology as explained above for bilateral providers of development co-operation.

(b) A multilateral institution may report biodiversity-related outflows applying other methods, as long as the outflows captured target the objectives of the CBD (in line with the OECD DAC Rio marker definition).

10. As noted earlier, the figures of multilateral flows would need to be presented separately from those of bilateral flows, to avoid double counting (except for multi-bi flows, which can be accounted for by bilateral providers). This would require developing a separate complementary indicator for multilateral institutions.

5c. Data collection method

11. Depending on the reporting option selected by the country/institution, data may be collected through information already reported to the OECD DAC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD:

(a) The OECD DAC Secretariat collects individual aid activities on ODA, OOF and PSI in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) via annual reporting tables compiled by national statistical reporters (in aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, etc.).

(b) The Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD also collects activity-level data on support for sustainable development (concessional and non-concessional), including South-South and triangular Cooperation, through annual reporting forms filled by national statistical reporters, for inclusion in the TOSSD database.

12. Alternatively, a country/institution may report independently from these data collection methods, ensuring international comparability.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

13. Countries and institutions reporting via the OECD databases can refer to:

(a) Methodology on the Rio marker for biodiversity, available here: https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC%282024%2940/ADD2/FINAL/en/pdf (Annex 20).

(b) Information on the OECD DAC CRS itself is available here: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2024/10/resources-for-reporting-development-finance-statistics.html

(c) The TOSSD methodology (reporting instructions) is available here: https://www.tossd.org/content/dam/tossd/en/methodology-pdfs/reporting_instructions.pdf

14. For other countries/institutions, reported data needs to ensure international comparability and the use of these methodological guidelines, notably on what constitutes international public finance for biodiversity (i.e. flows targeting the CBD objectives, as per the Rio marker definition).

5e. Data sources

15. The OECD/DAC collects data on official resource flows through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) (CRS data are considered complete from 1995 for commitments at an activity level and 2002 for disbursements). The Rio marker for biodiversity was introduced in 2002 and tracking

against the SDGs was introduced in 2018. The data are provided by 33 DAC donors, 21 other bilateral providers of development cooperation and 64 multilateral organizations.

16. The CRS also includes non-ODA information, e.g. Other Official Flows and Private Sector Instruments from bilateral donors, private flows from philanthropic institutions providing development finance for biodiversity, and private finance flows mobilised through public interventions (e.g. using guarantees or other forms of finance, including blended finance). Some of this information may be useful for CBD Parties when reporting to indicator 19 D.3 on private finance for biodiversity.

17. TOSSD is a data source complementary to the CRS (see method of computation section) for providers that do not report on ODA/OOF, particularly South-South and triangular co-operation providers, that do not use the biodiversity Rio marker, or that report additional biodiversity-related activities (e.g. to developing countries not eligible to receive ODA/OOF). As such, TOSSD measures all official resources to promote the sustainable development of developing countries. TOSSD distinguishes cross-border flows to developing countries (pillar I) from global and regional expenditures, including for international public goods (pillar II). An activity is deemed to support sustainable development if it directly contributes to at least one SDG target and if no substantial detrimental effect is anticipated on one or more of the other targets. TOSSD data are available at the activity level from 2019. TOSSD includes data from 1308bilateral and multilateral providers.

5f. Availability and release calendar

18. Availability: In the CRS, the Rio marker on biodiversity was introduced in 2002, with improvements in reporting over time. Additional information is available through the SDGs, purpose codes and keyword searches. TOSSD data is available since 2019. Both TOSSD and CRS are reported yearly. In TOSSD, the Rio markers do not exist and identification can be made using the SDGs, sector codes and keywords.

19. Provisional data classification: Tier I

20. Release Calendar: On an annual basis.

5g. Time series

21. The CRS data are available since 1995 for commitments on an annual basis. The Rio marker on biodiversity is available since 2002. TOSSD data are available on an annual basis since 2019.

5h. Data providers

22. Countries and institutions (provided a separate indicator is approved) are providers of biodiversity-related international public flows. This data can be reported directly to the CBD or through data already collected by the OECD and the International Forum on TOSSD.

23. A statistical reporter is responsible for the collection of CRS and/or TOSSD data in each providing country/agency/institution. This reporter is usually located in the national aid agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Finance etc.

24. The OECD Secretariat, in consultation with countries, validates the CRS data before they are published online; while the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD does the same for TOSSD data.

5i. Data compilers

25. Data will be compiled by the CBD Secretariat building upon individual country/institution reports and on data already reported to the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate and the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

26. In the CRS, providers beyond the OECD DAC membership do not systematically report using the biodiversity Rio marker. For these providers, information may therefore be available with Rio marker data, or not. In which case, it may be better to use TOSSD data.

27. For DAC members, the main data gap relates to OOF. In addition, some modalities, such as debt relief operations or general budget support, are also not tracked through the Rio marker system (except debt-for-nature swaps). Work is on-going to increase the coverage of the indicator in relation to biodiversity-related finance beyond ODA from OECD DAC members.

28. Available data includes information on other dimensions that cut across with biodiversity objectives, including gender, the intersection with other Rio markers (climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification), or capacity development type of activities (e.g. technical assistance, scholarships, etc.) and the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology. For other issue areas (e.g. capturing specific sub-themes such as the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and youth), keyword searches can be performed by the OECD or activities may be reported by countries, until a systematic method is identified to track such flows.

29. In TOSSD, the coverage in terms of providers is wider, although the Rio marker methodology does not exist. Biodiversity related activities can be reported through the SDG focus field or biodiversity-related sector codes and the TOSSD biodiversity keyword since 2024. For TOSSD, reporting on the SDG focus field was challenging in the first year of data collection in 2019, but the use of the code and keyword has steadily improved in coverage and quality since then, and the number of South-South and triangular co-operation providers is growing over time.

30. Multilateral institutions report to the OECD on a voluntary basis but do not all use the biodiversity Rio marker or comprehensively indicate their biodiversity-related outflows. This data can be estimated through their reporting on the SDGs or purpose codes, or the use of keyword searches. A more robust breakdown of multilateral flows would be possible through the direct identification and reporting of biodiversity-related flows to the OECD, provided these flows aim at targeting the objectives of the CBD. Multilateral institutions report in the CRS activities financed with their core budget (while earmarked activities are attributed to bilateral donors) and in the TOSSD framework biodiversity-related activities financed with both the core budget and earmarked contributions (both ODA and beyond ODA-related). Biodiversity finance from multilateral organisations forms a significant portion of biodiversity finance flows. The gaps in data coverage are currently understood to stem from incomplete and/or inconsistent reporting on multilateral biodiversity finance flows to the OECD and other data custodians. Finding a solution to ensure complete coverage of multilateral institution reporting on biodiversity finance would greatly strengthen overall tracking of biodiversity finance and give a clearer picture of biodiversity finance needs. Building on the work already underway by multilateral institutions on the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Common Principles for tracking nature finance, for example, could provide a pathway to such changes.

31.

5k. Treatment of missing values

32. Countries (and should an indicator be developed, multilateral institutions) are responsible for the compilation and reporting of their biodiversity-related public international finance to the CBD. They need to ensure avoiding missing values, as well as enabling international comparability of their reported flows, using this metadata sheet as guidance. Countries (and institutions) may decide to report data through the OECD DAC CRS and TOSSD databases.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

33. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation: Activity/project level

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

34. The DAC statistical Reporting Directives govern the reporting of DAC statistics and are reviewed and agreed by the DAC Working Party of Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), see: https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)44... (Annex 20). The International Forum on TOSSD governs the reporting of TOSSD statistics.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

35. DAC and TOSSD statistics are standardised on a calendar year basis for all providers and may differ from fiscal year data available in budget documents for some countries. Some countries and institutions provide more comprehensive information than others.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

36. Data are reported at a country / multilateral institution level

6d.2 Additional methodological details

37. N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

38. Data are reported via an annual questionnaire (at an aggregate level and at an activity level) by national statistical reporters in aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, etc.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

39. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goal 15

8. Possible Disaggregations

40. This indicator could be disaggregated by:

(a) Recipient country (or region, including for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries or fragile contexts)

(b) Income group

(c) Type of finance

(d) Type of aid

(e) Sector and sub sector

(f) Policy marker or cross-cutting issues (e.g. climate change adaptation or mitigation, gender, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth)

(g) Capacity building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation

(h) Development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology

(i) Channel of delivery

41. Additional complementary indicators would be needed to have further information available (e.g. on indigenous peoples and local communities or youth). Countries and institutions may be interested in disaggregating further along other variables.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

N/A

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

42. For countries and institutions wishing to use the OECD databases, the OECD DAC Secretariat or the International TOSSD Forum would have the databases from which to source the information. Otherwise, the country or institution would be the data reporter.

10b. Contact person(s)

CRS (juan.casadoasensio@oecd.org)

CRS (giorgio.gualbertl@oecd.org)

TOSSD (marisa.berbegalibanez@oecd.org)

TOSSD (daniela.ibarradiaz@tossd.org)

OECD CBD Focal Point (katia.karousakis@oecd.org)

11. References

A CRS glossary with key terms and concepts is available here: https://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm

OECD (2023), Biodiversity and development finance 2015-2021, Progress towards Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, https://www.oecd.org/dac/biodiversity-development-finance-target19-2015-2021.pdf

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OECD (2018), Review of the definition and eligibility criteria for the Rio Marker for Biodiversity, https·//one oecd org/document/DCD/DAC/SJAI(2018)25

The TOSSD list of Recipients is available here: https://www.tossd.org/content/dam/tossd/en/methodology-pdfs/List-TOSSD-recipients.pdf

D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

1. Indicator name

D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems**.**
Note: Monetary value of domestic public expenditure on biodiversity per year in national currency.

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal D Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 19 Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least $200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least $20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least $30 billion per year by 2030;

(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;

(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;

(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;

(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;

(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;

(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

4. Rationale

1. Draft Goal D relates to the means of implementation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will need to be implemented primarily through activities at the national and/or subnational levels, with supporting and/or enabling action at the regional and global levels. It would also capture financing provided directly to indigenous peoples and local communities. However, the capacity for implementing the Convention in terms of human, technical and financial resources is limited in most countries, especially in developing countries, in

particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition. Reaching the 2050 Vision for biodiversity will require that the necessary means of implementation are available to enable Parties and stakeholders to undertake the necessary actions.

2. Target 19 refers to an increase of resources for biodiversity from all sources, including international, national, public and private. Target 19 (b) refers to domestic funding aiming at monitoring over time the trend in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the GBF. Inadequate funding levels are a major impediment to effective biodiversity conservation in many countries and may be associated with failures to meet global targets. Conservation investment has been demonstrated to reduce biodiversity loss. Spending on biodiversity provides a very high social return on investment. Thus, while increased biodiversity resource mobilization from all sources is not only necessary to reduce, halt and reverse biodiversity loss (i.e. to bend the curve on biodiversity loss) it is also likely to generate net economic benefits for both present and future generations. Current global biodiversity finance is of the order of $100 billion per year, while estimates of funding needs for a comprehensive post 2020 global biodiversity framework are of the order of $800 billion per year, giving a funding gap of the order of $700 billion per year. This indicator will provide information on domestic resource mobilization at the national level based on a bottom-up approach, useful for global and regional assessments.

3. The rationale for domestic public expenditure on biodiversity conservation is firmly grounded in the fundamental importance of this tool for preserving nature and ensuring the health and functionality of ecosystems. Currently, domestic public expenditure represents the predominant share of global financial resources allocated to the protection of biodiversity. This financial commitment reflects a national dedication to maintaining ecological balance, fostering resilience in ecosystems, and promoting the responsible use of natural resources within the country's borders. Moreover, it constitutes a tangible contribution to achieving international conservation goals and emphasizes a commitment to environmental stewardship for the well-being of both present and future generations.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

4. The following definitions can be used to identify biodiversity expenditures:

(a) UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) defines biodiversity national expenditures: A "*biodiversity expenditure*" is any expenditure whose purpose is to have a positive impact or to reduce or eliminate pressures on biodiversity. These biodiversity public expenditures include "*direct*" expenditures that have biodiversity as their principal purpose, or *"causa finali*s", as well as "*indirect*" expenditures that have biodiversity as their secondary or joint purpose.

(b) In terms of the categories, BIOFIN uses nine categories for recording primary and secondary expenditures: (1) Biodiversity awareness and knowledge, (2) Green economy, (3) Pollution management, (4) Sustainable use, (5) Biosafety, (6) Protected areas and OECM, (7) Restoration, (8) Access and benefit sharing, and (9) Biodiversity and development planning and finance.

(c) The Classification of Environmental Purposes (CEP) is an international statistics standard. It was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2024 and replaces the Classification of Environmental Protection Activities (CEPA; UN, 2000). It will be used for SEEA accounts, (i.e. classifying activities, products, expenditure and other transactions related to environmental protection and management of natural resource (e.g. environmental protection and expenditure accounts [EPEA]). The most relevant "*Division*" (first level of disaggregation) for biodiversity is Division 05 Soil, surface and groundwater, biodiversity

and forest. This covers activities, expenditures and products aimed at protection and remediation of soil and water, biodiversity and forests.

(d) Division 05 is disaggregated into the following "*groups*" (level 2): 501 Protection of soil, surface and groundwater, 502 Protection of biodiversity and landscape, 503 Management of forest resources. The Group 502 Protection of biodiversity and landscapes covers activities, expenditures and products aimed at protecting and replenishment of wild fauna and flora, safeguarding and restoring their habitats, ecosystems of which they are part, natural or semi-natural terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems. Such activities, measures and products are included regardless of the type of areas involved (terrestrial, freshwater incl. wetlands, and marine areas) and whether they occur in areas which are classified as protected areas. Groups are further disaggregated into classes (level 3)

5. For further detail on the definitions of the other categories, see the CEP document.

6. The Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) COFOG was developed in 1999 by the OECD and published by the UN Statistical Division as an international statistical standard for classifying the purposes (functions) of government activities. It classifies government expenditure data from the System of National Accounts by the purpose for which the funds are used. The first-level COFOG splits expenditure data into ten "*functional*" groups or sub-sectors of expenditures, and second-level COFOG further splits each first-level group into up to nine sub-groups. Group 5.4: "*Protection of Biodiversity and Landscape*" covers activities relating to the protection of fauna and flora species (including the reintroduction of extinct species and the recovery of species menaced by extinction), the protection of habitats (including the management of natural parks and reserves) and the protection of landscapes for their aesthetic values (including the rehabilitation of damaged landscapes to improve their aesthetic value). COFOG data can be used in the development of EPEA.

7. Note: international funding should not be accounted under D.2, even ODA that flows through national budgets.

5b. Method of computation

8. Countries will report the monetary value of domestic public expenditure in national currency per year during the CBD national reporting cycle.

9. Data should come directly from countries. Countries should include in their report what the reported expenditure includes, and which methodology and/or statistical framework has been used.

10. Developing country Parties should exclude from the reporting on domestic expenditures for biodiversity those flows that were supported by developed country Parties, or other providers of international public finance, such as multilateral institutions, or international private finance, such as private philanthropy (these flows are captured through the D.1 and D.3 indicators, respectively).

11. The reporting template will provide a dropdown menu for countries to select which data source and/or methodology was used to report for this headline indicator, including but not limited to the following:

(a) BIOFIN: UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) developed a methodology providing guidance to estimate national expenditures for biodiversity; these included public, NGOs and donors. For the purpose of reporting on D2, countries will only report on public funding. The methodology focuses on recording primary and secondary expenditures in nine categories; for the latter, BIOFIN uses attribution rates to account for positive impact on biodiversity. These categories: (1) Biodiversity awareness and knowledge, (2) Green economy, (3) Pollution management, (4) Sustainable use, (4) Biosafety, (5) Protected areas and OECM, (6) Restoration, (7) Access and benefit sharing, and (9) Biodiversity and development planning and finance. It is highly recommended to report on expenditures and not planned budget.

(b) CEP: The Classification of Environmental Purposes (CEP)[10] will be used for SEEA accounts, i.e. classifying activities, products, expenditure and other transactions related to environmental protection and management of natural resource. The most relevant division is: 5 Soil, surface and groundwater, biodiversity and forest which encompasses 501 Protection of soil, surface and groundwater, 502 Protection of biodiversity and landscape, 503 Management of forest resources. A share of expenditure classified in other divisions may also be considered biodiversity relevant. Countries should indicate in their reporting which divisions/groups they have included and what, if any, coefficient they have applied (i.e. what share of expenditure they have counted as biodiversity expenditure).

(c) Please note that CEP is an international statistical classification system which is replacing CEPA. The 27 EU countries are required to develop and report data from environmental protection and expenditure accounts (EPEA). The EPEA have been classified according to the CEPA and from 2025 should be classified according to the new CEP. The CEP is the first statistical classification of activities or products that allows mapping to "*policy areas*" such as for biodiversity (as well climate change mitigation, circular economy, etc.). It therefore allows for SEEA-based applications for those policy areas (see the Annex of the CEP for further detail). The CEP can also be used, for example, in biodiversity budget tagging.

(d) COFOG: Under COFOG, governments code each purchase, wage payment, transfer, loan disbursement or other outlay under one of ten divisions, according to the primary function or purpose that the transaction serves. Each of these divisions is then broken down into groups, which, in turn, are subdivided into classes. Expenditure for which environmental protection is the primary purpose (irrespective of the sector) are coded under Division 5, Environment Protection. Activities relating to the protection of fauna and flora species (including the reintroduction of extinct species and the recovery of species menaced by extinction), the protection of habitats (including the management of natural parks and reserves) and the protection of landscapes for their aesthetic values (including the rehabilitation of damaged landscapes to improve their aesthetic value) are coded under Group 5.4: Protection of Biodiversity and Landscape. COFOG does not capture sustainable use activities.

5c. Data collection method

12. Data will be reported directly from countries through the CBD Secretariat through the national reporting cycles.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

UNDP-BIOFIN:

https://www.biofin.org/sites/default/files/content/publications/workbook_2018/

https://www.biofin.org/biofin-around-world

CEP:

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/documents/BG-4e-CEP-E.pdf

13. CEP is a classification system (replacing the CEPA and the CREMA in March 2024) used to classify data according to the SEEA. For 27 EU Members States, data are reported to EUROSTAT.

[10] The CEP was adopted in March 2024 by UNSD and brings together the CEPA and CReMA. It has a more detailed structure, and more detailed and clearer explanatory notes than CEPA and CreMA, thus being an improvement for practical use. It is the first unified classification of SEEA environmental protection and resource management. It is the first statistical classification designed to be used for activities, products or expenditures. It is the first statistical classification of activities or products that allows mapping to "*policy areas*" including for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and circular economy. It therefore allows for SEEA-based applications for those policy areas.

COFOG (COFOG is both a classification system and a database)

https://data.imf.org/?sk=5804c5e1-0502-4672-bdcd-671bcdc565a9

5e. Data sources

14. Primarily derived from government records (national budgets and accounts) on public expenditures, and when available regional/multilateral databases e.g. Eurostat.

5f. Availability and release calendar

15. Reporting will follow CBD's national reporting cycle.

5g. Time series

16. The baseline for countries to report 2020 onwards, and should follow the CBD national reporting timeline.

5h. Data providers

17. Countries through national reports to the CBD, Statistical offices or Ministries of Finance preferably or Ministers of Environment.

5i. Data compilers

CBD Secretariat through country national reporting.

EUROSTAT, OECD and IMF for COFOG

EUROSTAT and OECD for EPEA

UNDP-BIOFIN (Compiles data but does not have a database)

5j. Gaps in data coverage

18. Each of the methodologies or systems of classification available have gaps and challenges, mainly:

(a) None of these are applied by all CBD Parties, they differ in relation to what each methodology or framework considers as biodiversity expenditures.

(b) COFOG: Based on primary purposes, covering "*biodiversity and landscape protection*". It does not capture sustainable use activities. It is an international statistical classification system. While COFOG has global coverage, not all countries disaggregate data on expenditure on environment protection. Data on biodiversity and landscape protection are available for 59 countries (2020).

(c) EPEA: Not all countries have developed an EPEA according to the SEEA framework. The 27 EU countries are required to develop an EPEA and these statistics are compiled by Eurostat. EPEA from OECD countries are compiled by the OECD. The EPEA have been classified according to the CEPA and from 2025 should be classified according to the new CEP. The CEP is the first statistical classification of activities or products that allows mapping to "*policy areas*" including for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and circular economy, etc. It therefore allows for SEEA-based applications for those policy areas (see the Annex of the CEP for further detail). CEP is based on primary purposes, covering biodiversity protection and resource management.

(d) BIOFIN: Based on primary and secondary purposes, covering a wide range of activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It has been used by 41 countries.

5k. Treatment of missing values

N/A

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☐ Regional: ☐ National☒

19. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☐

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

N/A

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

NA

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

20. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

N/A

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

Target 18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Target 19.

Goal D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

N/A

10b. Contact person(s)

N/A

11. References

N/A

D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

1. Indicator name

D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

1. Possible Disaggregation of the headline indicator:
   (a) International Private Philanthropy for development*
   (b) Private finance mobilised by official development finance for biodiversity*
   (c) Biodiversity offsets*
   (d) Payments for Ecosystem Services*
   (e) Domestic Private Donations
   (f) Private benefit sharing schemes
   (g) Other instruments
2. Parties can report on private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems across all relevant sectors. These possible disaggregations are provided for the information of Parties to take into account, as appropriate, and subject to their national circumstances and priorities.
3. All monetary values are to be reported in national currency.
4. Countries should ensure the methodologies used for potential "*other instruments*" do not double count with previous categories (for instance, biodiversity-relevant bonds).
5. Elements marked with * have a methodology available.

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

Goal D Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

3b. Target

Target 19 Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least $200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least $20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least $30 billion per year by 2030;

(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;
(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;
(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;
(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;
(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;
(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

4. Rationale

1. Goal D relates to the means of implementation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will need to be implemented primarily through activities at the national and/or subnational levels, with supporting action at the regional and global levels. However, the capacity for implementing the Convention in terms of human, technical and financial resources is limited in most countries, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition. Reaching the 2050 Vision for biodiversity will require that the necessary means of implementation are available to enable Parties and stakeholders to undertake the necessary actions.

2. Inadequate funding levels are a major impediment to effective biodiversity conservation in many countries and may be associated with failures to meet global targets. Conservation investment has been demonstrated to reduce biodiversity loss. Spending on biodiversity provides a very high social return on investment. Thus, while increased biodiversity resource mobilization from all sources is not only necessary to reduce, halt and reverse biodiversity loss (i.e.to bend the curve on biodiversity loss) it is also likely to generate net economic benefits for both present and future generations. Current global biodiversity finance is of the order of USD 100 billion per year, while estimates of funding needs for a comprehensive post 2020 global biodiversity framework are of the order of USD 800 billion per year, giving a funding gap of the order of USD700 billion per year. This indicator will monitor the extent to which the gap between available financial resources and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.

3. This indicator aims to quantify total international and domestic private finance flows with biodiversity objectives. It includes international and domestic private philanthropy with biodiversity objectives, and to the extent that data is available, private funding for non-philanthropic investments in biodiversity. It would also capture financing provided directly to indigenous peoples and local communities. Private philanthropy is one source of finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Often these investments in biodiversity do not offer a financial return and therefore are not attractive to the private sector seeking to maximise their profits. While the private sector plays a pivotal role in investing in the sustainable use of biodiversity as part of a broader strategy to mitigate risk and build corporate resilience and reputation, private philanthropy can invest in the protection and preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems for the greater benefits to society without necessarily having a financial return. Measuring private philanthropy finance therefore captures one element of private financial flows towards the protection of biodiversity.

4. While private philanthropy plays an important role in mobilising finance for biodiversity, non-philanthropic funds are critical to achieve biodiversity-related outcomes in the private sector. Through economic expenditures such as the purchase of biodiversity offsets as part of a mitigation hierarchy strategy, the purchase of nature-based carbon offsets in a greenhouse gas mitigation strategy, the payment for ecosystem services as a risk reduction and cost saving strategy, and

investments in natural resource-based supply chains that adhere to sustainability standards, private entities can direct their expenditures to contributions related to biodiversity. In addition to these economic expenditures, financial markets play an equally important role in directing their capital investments towards those in which positive impacts on nature are intended, alongside financial returns.

5. While a robust dataset to measure and report on all streams of private finance for biodiversity is not readily available, this methodology draws on a variety of available resources for countries to quantitatively report on private finance for biodiversity, depending on their national circumstances.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

6. The indicator measures, where information is available, international and domestic private finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The total amount of private finance captured by this indicator is composed of:

(a) International private philanthropy from foundations for development includes foundations reporting their data on grants and program/mission-related investments to the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Philanthropic finance targeting the objectives of the CBD is tracked using the Rio marker for biodiversity (scores "*principal*" or "*significant*") or in specific cases other available statistical tools

(b) Private finance mobilised by official development finance includes data reported to the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) by bilateral and multilateral development finance providers using leveraging mechanisms to attract private investors such as guarantees, syndicated loans, shares in collective investment vehicles, direct investment in companies / SPVs, credit lines, simple co-financing arrangements, project finance schemes and, in some cases, technical assistance. Since data on mobilised private finance data is collected at the activity level, biodiversity-related data can be fetched through the use of purpose codes and keyword searches. For multilateral organizations, only aggregates can be disclosed to the public for confidentiality reasons

(c) Domestic private donations include funding to implement conservation programs with no financial return. This class of funding includes only those revenues generated from individual donations, corporate grants, and investment income (which could be channelled through non-governmental organizations), and excludes revenue received from international private philanthropy from institutionalized philanthropic organizations and from public sources to reduce the risk of double counting.

(d) Biodiversity offsets are "*measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been taken*." (BBOP 2018). They are usually under a no net loss or a net gain objective. There are three main types of biodiversity offsets:

i. One-off biodiversity offsets;

ii. Payments in-lieu and

iii. Biobanking

(e) Payments for ecosystem services (PES) is a voluntary transaction between ecosystem service users and service providers that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management for generating offsite services (Wunder, 2015). Ecosystem service providers and users may be individuals, companies or aggregations of actors. In some cases, a government may act on behalf of users

(f) Private benefit sharing schemes refers to programs that channel private funding from the users of genetic resources to the people and communities providing the genetic resources

(g) Other instruments include debt and equity instruments, insurance schemes, and other biodiversity-relevant financial instruments the country wishes to report on. As financial markets evolve rapidly, this list is not intended to be exhaustive, and countries are encouraged to report on innovative finance mechanisms being deployed in their country targeted towards biodiversity-related activities

5b. Method of computation

7. Countries will report the monetary value of domestic public expenditure in national currency per year during the CBD national reporting cycle.

Options for the Secretariat for global indicators

8. International Private Philanthropy: The Secretariat can compute biodiversity-related international private philanthropic flows for biodiversity at the global level, drawing on the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Data is available in gross disbursements and commitments and in current and constant prices, USD. Biodiversity-related activities can be tracked based on sector/purpose codes, SDG focus and the Rio marker on biological diversity, or keyword search in the description fields

9. Private finance mobilized by official development finance: The Secretariat can compute biodiversity-related private finance mobilized by official development finance at the global level, drawing on the OECD Creditor Reporting System. Mobilised private finance can be tracked based on sector/purpose codes and a keyword search in the description fields in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

10. Private finance from biodiversity offsets and PES: The Secretariat can compute private finance from biodiversity offsets and payments for ecosystems services drawing on the OECD PINE database, if such figures have been reported.

Options for countries for national reporting

11. International Private Philanthropy: A country can compute their international biodiversity-related philanthropic flows by using the DAC Creditor Reporting System based on the amount of flows to their country as a recipient of philanthropic finance. The indicator could be calculated as the sum of all philanthropic activities marked for biodiversity with either the principal or significant score, or countries could apply an attribution score to funding where biodiversity was a significant objective rather than the principal objective

12. Domestic private contributions: Countries may be able to collect private funding from domestic donations and contributions using other sources, for example from tax filings, other charities/initiatives that publish open and standardized grants data, from each organization's publicly available information such as annual/financial reports, and from surveys collecting information directly. These domestic private donations may flow through conservation non-governmental organizations, or they may be household investments in property and land that benefit biodiversity . Caution should be exercised to deduct from the conservation NGO's spending any financial resources received from public entities, international private philanthropic foundations already reporting to the OECD CRS, and financial resources received from domestic public entities that have been reported under D1, if those funds are accounted for separately using either the Secretariat-calculated global option or the national reporting option for flows to recipient country.

13. Payments for Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Offsets: Countries may report on private finance mobilised by biodiversity offsets and payments for ecosystem services as reported to the OECD Policy Instruments for Environment (PINE) database, if such figures have been reported, or else report directly to the CBD. If the country has not reported to the OECD's PINE database, a country may derive estimates for private funding for PES schemes and biodiversity offsets by

employing other data collection methods, such as through direct outreach and publicly available information.

14. Private benefit sharing schemes: requires guidance for computation

15. Other instruments: Countries may report on other instruments based on a consistent, transparent and robust methodology. Countries should ensure said methodology does not lead to double counting with previous categories (for instance, biodiversity-relevant bonds)

Alternative options for countries for national reporting

16. Countries may alternatively report on private domestic funding from their Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts, established following the System of Environmental Economic Accounting framework, for private expenditures, if such accounts have been implemented

17. Countries may alternatively report on private funding collected through existing biodiversity expenditure reviews as part of participation in the UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative, or alternative initiatives to collect private funding for biodiversity.

5c. Data collection method

18. Depending on the reporting option selected by the country, data may be collected through information already reported to the OECD DAC Secretariat, with data collection methods described below. All other data collection will occur at the national level based on the approaches described in the previous section;

19. Private Philanthropy for development. The OECD DAC Secretariat collects individual aid activities on private philanthropy for development in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) via annual collection directly from private foundations.

20. Private finance mobilized by official development finance interventions. As part of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS), the OECD DAC Secretariat has been collecting data on private finance mobilized by bilateral and multilateral providers since 2012. While data are collected at the activity level from all providers, they are not disclosed to the public at the same level of disaggregation due to confidentiality constraints (e.g. multilateral development banks).

21. For the case of private funding for biodiversity offsets and PES collected in the OECD PINE database, see the metadata sheet on 18.1. The OECD PINE database also collects data on the finance mobilized by other positive incentives.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

22. Countries reporting via the OECD database can refer to:

(a) Methodology on the Rio marker for biodiversity, available here: https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)9/ADD2/final/en/pdf (Annex 20).

(b) Information on the OECD DAC CRS itself is available here: https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)9/FINAL/en/pdf

(c) Information on private philanthropy for development is available here: https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/beyond-oda-foundations and https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)9/FINAL/en/pdf

(d) Information on private finance mobilized by official development finance is available here: oe.cd/mobilisation.

(e) OECD PINE website, on the "About" page, regarding methodology.

5e. Data sources

OECD Creditor Reporting System

OECD Policy Instruments for Environment database

Conservation NGO Annual Reports

Government records

Publicly available information

5f. Availability and release calendar

N/A

5g. Time series

23. The CRS data are available since 1996 on an annual basis. The Rio marker on biodiversity is available since 2002

24. For the OECD PINE database, see the metadata sheet for 18.1

5h. Data providers

25. Countries and philanthropic foundations provide biodiversity-related international private flows. This data can be reported directly to the CBD or through data already collected and validated by the OECD prior to publishing online.

26. For the OECD PINE database, see the metadata sheet for 18.1

5i. Data compilers

OECD CRS database

OECD PINE database

CBD Secretariat through country national reporting

EUROSTAT (for the EPEA database, which uses the CEP classification) and National Statistical Offices

UNDP-BIOFIN

Countries through surveys and other available information

5j. Gaps in data coverage

Gaps in the OECD-CRS Database

27. In the CRS, providers beyond the DAC membership do not systematically report using the biodiversity Rio marker. Multilateral institutions report to the OECD on a voluntary basis but do not all use the biodiversity Rio marker or comprehensively indicate their biodiversity-related outflows. This data can be estimated through their reporting on the SDGs or purpose codes, or the use of keyword searches. A more robust breakdown of multilateral flows would be possible through the direct identification and reporting of biodiversity-related flows to the OECD, provided these flows comply with the definition of the Rio marker on biodiversity (i.e. flows targeting the objectives of the CBD). Multilateral institutions report in the CRS activities financed with their core budget.

28. Related to private finance mobilized by official development finance, the data may not adequately capture financial flows to projects/interventions where biodiversity may not have been the primary objective, such as investments in agriculture, but have a significant biodiversity benefit. Due to confidentiality concerns, data on private finance mobilized by some official providers (multilateral development banks in particular is only made publicly available at the aggregate level. This work will explore further the available data on private finance mobilized and also address the capacity building needs to improve the biodiversity flagging of the underlying activities

Gaps in the OECD PINE Database

29. The OECD PINE database includes data from more than140 countries. Limited data are available on biodiversity offsets and PES as these instruments have only recently been integrated into the PINE database. All countries are welcome and encouraged to contribute data, and to disaggregate monetary flows from private and public sectors. The data collection method may result in some reporting bias, as OECD members and active accession countries are likely to report data more regularly. All figures should be interpreted in this context.

Other gaps in data coverage

30. Datasets on private funding for biodiversity are limited. While the OECD-CRS database captures a significant amount of international biodiversity-related private philanthropy for development, it does not comprehensively capture all other private grants and donations for biodiversity-related activities, such as direct donations by high-net-worth-individuals and smaller private philanthropic foundations. Some private philanthropies[11] also do not wish to report their data to OECD-CRS. In addition, the numerous channels, actors, and instruments for biodiversity conservation funding are not captured in a global dataset that countries can draw on for national reporting. Innovative finance mechanisms for biodiversity are continuously evolving and are not adequately captured in the proposed methodology here given the gaps in identifying, tracking, and reporting on these private financial flows. As new mechanisms and strategies evolve over time, countries are encouraged to track the private financial flows as a result of these efforts.

5k. Treatment of missing values

N/A

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

31. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☐

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

N/A

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

N/A

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

[11] International private philanthropies reporting to the OECD are institutionalized philanthropic organizations that are donors of finance from private sources (as opposed to channels of financing from the official sector or other foundations. Financing from "*foundations*" that channel resources of other private and official providers is not tracked.

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

32. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

33. Private biodiversity-related international philanthropic contributions from the OECD CRS database can be disaggregated by recipient, sector/purpose code, DSG focus, and Rio Marker

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

34. Target 18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

35. Target 19 on Domestic Expenditure

36. Target 15 on Business Disclosures

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

37. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for the OECD CRS and PINE databases

38. Eurostat and other statistical agencies for environmental economic accounts including environmental protection expenditure accounts

10b. Contact person(s)

N/A

11. References

N/A

12. Graphs and diagrams

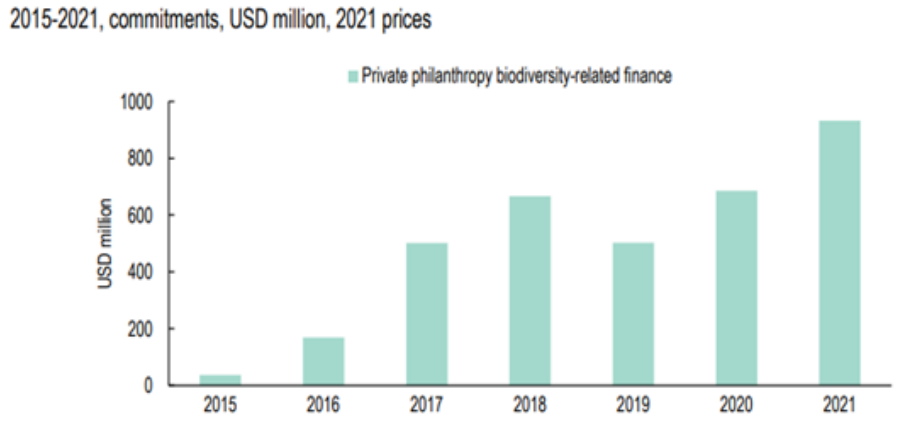


Figure I

Private philanthropy for development. Source: OECD (2023). Estimates based on OECD DAC statistics from the OECD, Creditor Reporting System

1.1. Percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans

1. In COP DEC 15/5, the indicators for Target 1 and Headline indicator 1.1 were approved with two footnotes:

(a) b: a binary indicator was proposed for inclusion for this goal or target and will be further considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

(b) * an agreed up-to-date methodology does not exist for this indicator. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will work with partners to guide the development of these indicators

2. As per the recommendation, a binary indicator was developed for Target 1 with a metadata description including proposed definitions on biodiversity-inclusive approach, participatory approach to spatial planning, effective management processes [addressing land and sea use change] and integrated spatial planning. Categorical responses can only be based on national data since it is about national processes.

3. For the headline indicator 1.1. it was recognized that

(a) it overlaps with indicators for other goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as SDG indicators,

(b) it covers multiple cross-cutting issues and provides opportunities to identify synergetic issues and leverages for other targets;

(c) it is highly relevant for the traditional knowledge indicators (particularly the traditional knowledge indicator on participation).

4. The further development of a methodology was impacted by the following factors:

(a) While most countries have spatial plans, qualitative aspects are usually not measured; the indicator suggests a fusion of spatial/quantitative and qualitative data with aspects of processes, outcomes and impacts to be measured, which is usually in the form of an index or equivalent, which is currently not in existence;

(b) There was no partner to provide an institutional home and guide the development of the methodology for this indicator;

(c) IPBES has in its program to develop an approved methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and connectivity for consideration in 2027 (Decision IPBES-10/1).

5. It is recommended for this headline indicator to:

(a) Work with binary indicators until the methodology of the headline indicator is operational.

(b) In accordance with the IPBES progress, identify and delegate a lead organization to develop the methodology for the indicator, based on good practices and examples, and to be in charge of data collection and evaluation.

(c) Support countries in developing adapted planning and assessment tools taking into account the qualitative aspects.

6. The below provides a summary of the current status of development of this indicator.

4. Proposed rationale

7. Target 1 relates to land-use and sea-use change, a major direct driver of biodiversity loss. To achieve the 2050 Vision and the proposed Goals, the loss of existing intact and wilderness areas through land/sea use change must be avoided, reduced and reversed. More effective and comprehensive spatial planning, which accounts for biodiversity and the objectives of the Convention, will be crucial in accomplishing this. Therefore, an indicator tracking the percentage of land and seas covered by spatial plans that integrate biodiversity would be directly relevant to this target and help to monitor progress towards its attainment.

8. Biodiversity inclusive spatial planning is also relevant for most of the other proposed targets in the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Given competing demands for land and sea areas and potential trade-offs, biodiversity-inclusive integrated spatial planning across all landscapes and seascapes (i.e. marine spatial planning) will be needed to allow socioeconomic development to continue while also conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services in line with the levels of ambition suggested above, and to ensure connectivity between natural habitats.

9. Currently spatial planning is practiced variously and unevenly among countries and currently there is no global synthesis available to assess the proportion of the earth that is considered to be "*under spatial planning*". This is partly because there is no standard definition of what constitutes a spatial plan and a range of approaches and tools for planning are used at different scales.

10. Currently there is no indicator which is under development or operational to fully track the progress on the land and sea area under biodiversity inclusive spatial planning. However, there are SDG indicators related to marine spatial planning and intercoastal zone management (14.2.1), sustainable agricultural area (2.4.1) which also corresponds to headline indicator 10.1 and sustainable forest management (15.2.1), which also corresponds to headline indicator 10.2, which incorporate elements of spatial planning. A selection of further initiatives and examples gathering information on elements of biodiversity inclusive spatial planning is provided under point 5e for guidance. No comprehensive and systematic overview and methodology exists as of today and as such this represents a gap which needs to be addressed. There is some limited information related to conservation strategies, ecoregional plans and integrated coastal zone management. However, how up to date this information is and the extent to which these plans are operational is uncertain. Similarly, the extent to which such plans can be considered representative of spatial planning more generally is also uncertain.

11. The traditional knowledge indicators (discussed at the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in November 2023) are cross-cutting indicators that underpin the achievement of several Goals and Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. SBSTTA-25 (October 2023) "*Requests the Expert Group to fully take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on traditional knowledge indicators in order to further enhance the monitoring framework*"*;* (SBSTTA-25/1, paragraph 12). It is important to point out that indigenous peoples and local communities lands, recognized and secure, could represent biodiversity-inclusive planning in practice (at certain scales).

12. Traditional knowledge indicators with notable relevance to this indicator on spatial planning are the following: "*Land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities*".

13. Addressing the intersession between the headline indicator on spatial planning and this traditional knowledge indicator can also support Parties to operationalise parts of Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly the section on "*contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities*".

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition

14. This indicator is linked to the corresponding headline binary/categorical indicator 1.1 "*Number of countries using participatory, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land and sea use change*" and is based on the same concepts and definitions (table 1).

Table 1
Definition and concepts for indicator

Conceptual basis	*Definition*
Biodiversity-inclusive: Biodiversity-inclusive is recognized in COP 8 Decision VIII/28 but not sufficient for headline binary/categorical indicator and this indicator. The definition of biodiversity-inclusive is expected to reflect the purpose of target 1 to mainstream biodiversity in spatial plans and in the planning process. "*Inclusive*" is not the same as prioritizing biodiversity for protection in plans. To be consistent with the definition and possible answers in the corresponding headline binary/categorical indicator, the definition aims at reflecting the different dimensions of biodiversity inclusive (e.g. protected areas, key biodiversity areas, ecological integrity).	**Biodiversity inclusive approach**: "*taking into account all relevant information to safeguard biodiversity in spatial planning processes.*"
Effective management process [addressing land- and sea-use change] The proposed definition is drawn upon the PAME definition (Hockings et. al 2006), making sure to capture and include traditional management areas (many of these concepts may overlap with OECMs but not registered as OECMs).	**Effective management process**: "*Activities through which evidence-based conservation outcomes are achieved*."
Spatial planning Spatial planning is generally understood as a method or public process for identifying, analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of activities in a given environment in order to achieve various objectives, including social, economic and ecological (such as biodiversity), that have been specified through a political process. Spatial planning includes land-use planning, marine spatial planning, etc. Glossary for the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (cbd.int) (from Land Use and Spatial Planning : Enabling Sustainable Management of Land Resources | SpringerLink, State of the ocean report 2022, Marine spatial planning: a step-by-step approach toward ecosystem-based management (UNESCO-IOC, 2009) and MSPglobal: international guide on marine/maritime spatial planning (UNESCO-IOC and European Commission, 2021))	**Integrated spatial planning**: "*a whole-of-government process to create land and sea use plans to achieve social, economic and ecological objectives for sustainable development*." (modified by Integrated Spatial Planning Workbook | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org))
Participatory The definition is a synthesis of key concepts merging previously suggested definitions (such as "*rights-based governance*" in Springer et al. 2021 and the FAO/CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), which is a document with high levels of legitimacy and that was the result of a long and consultative process with Parties).	**Participatory approaches to spatial planning** "*involve stakeholders and rightsholders in all processes of decision-making and the long-term effective management, taking into account traditional knowledge, ensuring that the voices of rightsholders and particularly marginalized groups are appropriately taken into account, to support healthy ecosystems, social equity and human rights*".

Other key concepts and definitions

15. Areas of high biodiversity importance: Locations that contain populations of threatened or geographically restricted species; highly significant extents of threatened or geographically restricted ecosystems; ecosystems of high ecological integrity; high significance for the maintenance of biological processes (e.g. migration, reproduction, refugia etc.); high irreplaceability; or high significance for ecological connectivity. Locations that include culturally important biodiversity [or species and ecosystems (for indigenous peoples and local communities).

5b. Method of computation

16. N/A. This proposed indicator will be supplemented by the information gathered through binary indicator 1.1 for the time being and until a comprehensive and systematic methodology can be provided.

5c. Data collection method

17. No data collection is planned for this indicator yet. However, information gathered through binary indicator 1.1 and experience drawn from that will inform the methodology for collecting quantitative data at a later stage.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

N/A

5e. Data sources/methods and documentation on processes

18. No comprehensive and uniform data sources have been identified, and there is need to consider/describe sources and processes at the national level.

19. Elements of spatial planning are covered by the Sustainable Development Goals indicators:

(a) Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (2.4.1),

i. headline indicator 10.1

(b) Marine spatial planning and intercoastal zone management (14.2.1)

(c) Sustainable forest management (15.2.1),

i. headline indicator 10.2

20. In addition to partial overlap with:

(a) Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (14.5.1),

(b) Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (15.1.2), C

(c) Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (15.4.1)

(d) headline indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs.

21. Further examples of relevant data sources/methods are:

(a) https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381921

(b) https://www.mspglobal2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/StOR_MSP_SupplementaryMaterial_2022-1.pdf

(c) https://www.mspglobal2030.org/msp-roadmap/msp-around-the-world/

(d) https://macbio-pacific.info/

(e) https://www.mapsofhope.org

(f) https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/,

(g) https://www.cbd.int/protected/2021globalreport.shtml

(h) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yCMmZXBMH48dRvXlOtbDOsA5T6-nC1fX?usp=drive_link

22. For community-based monitoring and information systems see:

(a) https://pipap.sprep.org/

(b) and relevant publications by the SPACES coalition:

i. https://production-wordpress.spacescoalition.org/content//uploads/2022/12/202205_SPACES-Primer-Paper_05.pdf

ii. https://spacescoalition.org/en/resources

From the CBD discussion forum:

23. WCS: a few examples of spatial assessment and planning processes that are biodiversity inclusive and participatory, noting that these thresholds are not clearly defined as of yet and there is a great diversity in approaches.

(a) South Africa: https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/building-knowledge/biodiversity-monitoring-assessment/national-biodiversity-assessment/

(b) Seychelles: https://seymsp.com/the-initiative/

(c) China (national): https://environmental-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Policy-Brief-Ecological-Conservation-Redlines-2.pdf

(d) China (regional): https://journal.hep.com.cn/laf/EN/10.15302/J-LAF-1-030010

(e) United States/Northeast: https://neoceanplanning.org

(f) United States/Mid-Atlantic: https://www.midatlanticocean.org/ocean-planning/about-ocean-planning/

(g) Palau: https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/blog/2023/05/biodiversity-rich-palau-launches-ambitious-marine-spatial-planning

(h) Niue: https://niueoceanwide.com

(i) Malaysia. 4th National Physical Plan: The Planning Agenda for Prosperous, Resilient and Liveable Malaysia https://rmke12.ekonomi.gov.my/ksp/storage/event/962_22_dr_alias_rameli_4th_national_physical_plan_for_a_prosperous_resilient_and_liveable_malaysia.pdf

24. From WWF international:

(a) *Indonesia: Indonesia's national resource report on spatial planning in coastal areas, with a focus on preventing/reducing the impacts of emergency issues, including natural disasters, climate change and sea-level-rise, considers issues and approaches in spatial planning, lessons from around the world, and specifically the application in Indonesia.

(b) https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/44333

(c) *UK: Guiding principles for Marine Spatial Planning produced by Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link), a nature coalition in England bringing together 80 organizations. https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/assets/uploads/Guiding_principles_for_Marine_Spatial_Planning.pdf

25. Examples on "*participatory*" marine spatial planning from Spain:

(a) "*Real Decreto 150/2023, de 28 de febrero, por el que se aprueban los planes de ordenación del espacio marítimo de las cinco demarcaciones marinas españolas*" (https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2023-5704) (participatory process included engagement of representatives of the fishing and wind energy sectors.

(b) In the context of marine protected areas, it has been developed a governance strategy and a guidance for participatory processes within the Life project INTEMARES (access to the Guidance document: https://intemares.es/sites/default/files/a10_guia_procesos_en.pdf).

(c) Following this methodology, several participatory process have been established for the development of the management plans of marine protected areas. As an example, more information

about the participatory process developed for the marine protected area "*El Cachucho*" can be found at https://intemares.es/procesos-participativos/cachucho and the resulting management plan at https://intemares.es/sites/default/files/real_decreto_686-2021_de_3_de_agosto.pdf.

Suggested references from the CBD discussion forum:

26. *WWF South West Indian Ocean Seascape (SWIO Seascape) Regional Programme

(a) South West Indian Ocean Annual Report 2022 | WWF SWIO (wwf-swio.org)

27. *Heart of Borneo - WWF Spatial Planning Experiences in Borneo

(a) Please use "*spatial*" and "*government*" in a keyword search to find relevant information in the report.

(b) This report examines the systematic conservation planning methods used by WWF and assesses its roles, results (outputs, outcomes) and contributions to the conservation effort in Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak. It also captures the challenges and lessons learned and presents it from a consolidated Borneo perspective for sharing with relevant stakeholders within and beyond Borneo.

(c) hob_spatial_planning_report_fa_web.pdf (panda.org)

28. *Viet Nam - Informing a national target for protected areas in Viet Nam under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

(a) Please use "*spatial*" and "*government*" in a keyword search to find relevant information in the report.

(b) This report provides a global assessment of Viet Nam's PA network important biodiversity and NCP features, using both national (where available and accessible) and global data, and it discusses how a further spatial prioritization framework can support the implementation of the biodiversity and climate conventions.

29. *Tanzania and Mozambique - Ruvuma transboundary landscape

(a) Please see the Solutions chapter which states:

(b) "*We need to take a holistic, transboundary landscape approach if we're to secure key terrestrial habitats and their associated wildlife populations and increase benefits for local people and the national economies of Tanzania and Mozambique. Such an approach means multiple stakeholders and partners can collaborate in a well-coordinated and strategic manner to tackle many challenges across several sectors*".

(c) A key intervention for this programme will be:

(d) "*Developing spatially explicit land-use plans jointly, in a consultative manner, with multiple stakeholders and including the valuation and mapping of natural capital*".

30. *Amazon - 2022 Living Amazon Report

(a) Please use the keyword "*planning*" to find occurrences of "*territorial planning*", "*basin-wide planning*" or "*governmental planning*" in the report.

(b) This report outlines the current status of the Amazon biome and basin, summarizes key pressures and drivers of change, and outlines a conservation strategy for this decade that would enable the vision of a Living Amazon to become a reality going forward.

(c) Living Amazon Report 2022 | Publications | WWF (worldwildlife.org)

5f. Availability and release calendar

Not yet available for this proposed indicator, but available for headline binary/categorical indicator 1.1

5g. Time series

N/A

5h. Data providers

See 5e for a selection of data sources/methods/process for elements of headline indicator 1.1.

5i. Data compilers

See 5e for a selection of data sources/methods/processes for elements of headline indicator 1.1.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

Possible issues related to sensitivity over sharing spatial data should be considered.

5k. Treatment of missing values

N/A

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☐ Regional: ☐ National ☒

31. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

Explanation on the differences between country produced and internationally estimated data on the indicator, highlighting and summarising the main sources of differences.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

N/A

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

32. **7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations** Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and connectivity (for consideration by the Plenary at its fourteenth session in 2027) will feed into process to define and operationalise this indicator.

33. As the custodian agency for SDG 14.2.1, UNEP collects spatial data on marine plans within the national jurisdiction through sea regional plans.

34. See under point 5e for a selection of examples and initiatives?

8. Possible Disaggregations

35. Recommended disaggregations, once the proposed indicator becomes operational, relate closely to the headline binary/categorical indicator 1.1 and could be combined (area and %):

(a) % land/sea covered by plans that biodiversity-inclusive to different degrees

(b) % land/sea covered by plans that are participatory to different degrees

(c) % land/sea covered by biodiv-inclusive plans for each ecosystem functional group (GET)

(d) % within a plan/effective management process that is under active implementation

(e) Optional: % sector (agriculture, forestry etc., where these exist as separate spatial plans)

(f) Optional: % for subnational units (provinces etc.)

36. Suggestion for gender disaggregation:

(a) % of biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans that have included the meaningful participation of women in their design and implementation[1]

37. Some potentially inspirational questions in the ActionAid VGGT Toolkit, though these would need to be further modified for spatial planning. ILC collects data according to Indicator 1.2 – Target groups, including women, youth and holders of customary rights have access to and are supported to engage in multi-stakeholder platforms – though it is not specific to spatial planning.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

38. As made available by CBD guidelines for target 1, progress towards this target will directly support the attainment of Goals A and B and targets 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12 of the Framework. Conversely, progress towards targets 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 will help to reach Target 1.

39. Elements of Target 1 are also addressed in the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including targets 2.4, 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5 and 15.9.

40. This proposed indicator encompasses PAs and OECMs which are also reported under indicator 3.1. See also under points 3a, 3b and 5e for further linkages.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

GEOBON for the headline binary/categorical indicator

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

10b. Contact person(s)

N/A

11. References

N/A

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Binary indicator 1.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries using participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Goal

Goal A. The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.
Goal B Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Target

Target 1. Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Rationale

1. Land-use and sea-use change are major direct drivers of biodiversity loss. Land-use change has had the largest relative negative impact on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems since 1970, with agricultural expansion being the most widespread form of land-use change. Marine and coastal ecosystems have been significantly affected by human activities as well, with research demonstrating increasing cumulative impacts of human activities in more than 60 per cent of the ocean.

2. Increasing demands and conflicting uses of land, inland water and ocean space and resources underscore the need for cross-sectoral approaches that allow for the consideration of multiple interests, values and types of use. Integrated spatial planning and/or effective management processes allow countries to analyze and then effectively allocate the spatial and temporal distribution of activities in each environment to achieve various social, ecological and economic objectives. Integrated and participatory spatial planning helps bring together all stakeholders for a particular space and thereby ensure the prioritization and proper allocation of various activities and balance the need to safeguard nature, while advancing sustainable socioeconomic development and ensuring food security and human well-being.

3. To ensure a sustainable development that respects the rights and needs of all people, it is essential that spatial planning of Parties be carried out in an integrated and biodiversity-inclusive manner. As such, this indicator tracks the progress of Parties towards the inclusion of biodiversity in spatial planning for all ecosystem types and the use of participatory processes in the design of spatial plans.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

4. Biodiversity inclusive approach: Taking into account all relevant information to safeguard biodiversity in spatial planning processes.

5. Integrated spatial planning: A whole-of-government process to create land and sea use plans to achieve social, economic and ecological objectives for sustainable development.

6. Effective management processes: Activities through which evidence-based conservation outcomes are achieved.

7. Participatory approach: Involve stakeholders and rightsholders in all processes of decision-making and the long-term effective management, taking into account traditional knowledge, ensuring that the voices of rightsholders and particularly marginalized groups are appropriately taken into account, to support healthy ecosystems, social equity and human rights.

8. Land-use change: Land-use change includes the conversion of land cover (e.g. deforestation or mining), changes in the management of the ecosystem or agro-ecosystem (e.g. through the intensification of agricultural management or forest harvesting) or changes in the spatial configuration of the landscape (e.g. fragmentation of habitats).

9. Sea-use change: Similarly, sea-use change refers to measures and activities altering the use of marine areas, for example, coastal development, offshore aquaculture, mariculture, oil and gas exploration, and bottom trawling.

10. Terrestrial: All lands at or above sea level. These may correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Global Ecosystem Typology: Tropical-subtropical lowland rainforests (T1), tropical-subtropical dry forests and scrubs (T2), shrublands & shrubby woodlands (T3), savannas and grasslands (T4), deserts and semi-deserts (T5), polar-alpine (T6), Intensive land-use systems (T7).

11. Inland water: All freshwater and/or landlocked waterbodies, including rivers, lakes, inland seas and groundwater. These may correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Global Ecosystem Typology: Rivers and streams (F1), lakes (F2), palustrine wetlands biome (TF1), artificial freshwaters (F3).

12. Coastal and marine: All connected saline ocean waters characterised by waves, tides and currents. These may correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Global Ecosystem Typology: Marine shelfs (M1), pelagic ocean waters (M2), deep sea floors (M3), semi-confined transitional waters biome (FM1), shoreline systems biome (MT1), supralittoral coastal systems biome (MT2), brackish tidal systems biome (MFT1), anthropogenic marine systems (M4), anthropogenic shorelines (MT3).

Method of Computation

13. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to two questions and three sub questions:

(a) 1.1 Are all areas of your country under biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes that:

i. Address land-use (terrestrial) change?

ii. Address land-use (inland water) change?

iii. Address sea-use (coastal and marine) change (Will be considered not applicable for landlocked states)?

14. 1.2 If the answer to any of the questions in 1.1 is not “No” were the plans created using a participatory process? (Select all that apply, note that if your country is a landlocked state, marine spatial planning will be considered as not relevant)

15. There are four possible answers to each of the options in question 1.1:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

16. A "*No*" answer implies that spatial planning is either absent or being done without the explicit inclusion of biodiversity. Spatial planning may be implemented to cover any extent of the country's terrestrial (1.1a), inland water (1.1b) and coastal and marine (1.1c) areas, if it does not specifically include biodiversity, select "*No*".

17. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to implement biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning to address land- and sea-use change in terrestrial (1.1a), inland water (1.1b) and coastal and marine (1.1c) areas. That is, countries may have spatial planning tools that consider and include biodiversity, but these are not yet being used to address the effects of land- and sea-use change. Alternatively, a country may have implemented biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land- and sea-use change, but these are limited to a small amount of the surface area of the country (e.g. only in a single region or province).

18. A "*Partially*" answer implies that a country is making progress towards having all terrestrial (1.1a), inland water (1.1b) and coastal and marine (1.1c) areas under biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land- and sea-use change. Namely, over half of a country's area, for each type (terrestrial (1.1a), inland water (1.1b) and coastal and marine (1.1c)), is under biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes.

19. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all or almost all terrestrial (1.1a), inland water (1.1b) and coastal and marine (1.1c) areas of a country are under biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land- and sea-use change.

20. There are four possible answers to question 1.2[12]:

(a) For terrestrial spatial planning

(b) For inland water spatial planning

(c) For coastal and marine spatial planning

(d) None of the above

21. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "*select all that apply*" approach. Namely, if any of each type of plans (terrestrial, inland water or coastal and marine) developed by a Party, as indicated in 1.1, were created using a participatory process then select the types of plans to which this applies. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 1.2 is "*Yes*". If none of the plans developed by the Party used a participatory process, then select option (d)[13].

[12] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

[13] If a nation is a landlocked state, all questions related to coastal and marine spatial planning will be ignored in the aggregation process of answers.

2.1 Area under restoration

1. Indicator name

2.1 Area under restoration

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 2: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

4. Rationale

1. Ecosystem degradation is a global challenge spanning all ecosystems. The UNCCD has estimated land degradation to span over 1.5 billion hectares in 2019 (UNCCD, n.d.). 66 percent of world's ocean area is impacted by human activities, including fisheries and pollution (IPBES, 2019).

2. Given the magnitude of global degradation, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 2 aims to bring at least 30 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.

3. Achieving this target by 2030 requires urgently scaling up ecosystem restoration. Given that recovery of ecosystems requires time (e.g. often decades or more), the target does not stipulate that areas are fully restored; rather it promotes actions and activities that result in effective ecosystem restoration have been initiated and are being implemented and monitored.

4. To track global progress towards the target, robust and harmonized monitoring systems that utilize various tools and approaches such as remote sensing data and field data are essential for generating reliable information on where restoration is happening, how much area is under restoration, and the effectiveness of the restoration activities. It is also key to use appropriate tools and approaches to collect complete and systematic geospatial data on the location and extent of restoration initiatives.

5. Ecosystem restoration contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a wide number of other global policies and instruments. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNGA, 2019). The UN Decade outlines the expected contributions of ecosystem restoration during the decade to a wide variety of policies and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (FAO, SCBD & SER, 2024).

6. In response to growing global momentum for ecosystem restoration, FAO, as the custodian agency of the headline indicator for Target 2, has led the development of methodologies, guidance, and a strategic Target 2 Road Map implementation through COP16 and beyond. With a renewed mandate to accelerate this work, endorsed in CBD COP Decision 16/35, the Target 2 Road Map serves as a platform to coordinate, support, and scale restoration monitoring (CBD/SBI/6/INF/4)

7. The headline indicator for Target 2 is the first global mechanism to compile country-reported, area-based data on ecosystem restoration across all ecosystems. The indicator measures the physical extent of a site where the previously degraded ecosystem is recovering as the result of a wide array of activities and interventions along the restorative continuum (FAO, SCBD & SER, 2024).

8. The indicator includes restoration areas at all spatial scales (from local site-level to landscape and seascape level) that have ongoing interventions or are under a monitoring scheme when interventions have been completed and the ecosystem continues its recovery. Ecosystem restoration can take years, decades, even centuries to recover biodiversity, integrity, functions and services, and connectivity. Therefore, it is important to have monitoring efforts in place after interventions are completed to avoid new degradation and to implement adaptative management strategies to combat renewed ecosystem degradation.

9. The indicator encompasses restoration interventions that fall within the categories of ecological restoration and ecosystem rehabilitation along the restorative continuum. Ecological restoration includes efforts to increase the area of a natural ecosystem and its integrity through recovering an ecosystem that has been degraded or destroyed, this includes conversion of non-natural transformed ecosystems back to a natural state. Ecosystem rehabilitation includes efforts to increase ecosystem functions and services of transformed ecosystems.

10. The indicator is an absolute number and does not directly measure the percentage of degraded ecosystems under restoration. To estimate a percentage in line with the target, countries would need a national estimate of the area of total degraded ecosystems (baseline) and then compare it with the reported area under restoration.

11. Increases in the value of the indicator over time will reflect a combination of a) actual increases in area under restoration, and b) improved data collection and reporting on areas under restoration. This is an important limitation or caveat for interpretation of the indicator.

12. In its current formulation, the indicator does not measure biodiversity, effectiveness, restoration results, ecosystem functions and services or connectivity. Therefore, additional indicators and monitoring methods are needed to measure these aspects.

13. Indicator 2.1 is intended to be used and interpreted in the context of other ecosystem-related indicators of the GBF. The five headline indicators that deal most directly with ecosystems are A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, 2.1 Area under restoration, and 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This set of indicators can together provide a well-rounded picture of the state of ecosystems, their benefits to society, and interventions to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems. They should be interpreted collectively rather than individually, with each providing different but complementary information (see also 9. Related goals, targets and indicator).

14. At the national level, using a common national classification system for ecosystem types across these five headline indicators will greatly facilitate bringing information from this set of indicators together to provide a coherent narrative and to be most useful for policy and implementation. For coherence in global reporting and analysis, it is useful for countries to cross-reference their national ecosystem classification to the Global Ecosystem Typology, as discussed in section 5.b.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

15. Ecosystem degradation is a global challenge spanning all ecosystems. The UNCCD has estimated land degradation to span over 1.5 billion hectares in 2019 (UNCCD, n.d.). 66 percent of world's ocean area is impacted by human activities, including fisheries and pollution (IPBES, 2019).

16. Given the magnitude of global degradation, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 2 aims to bring at least 30 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.

17. Achieving this target by 2030 requires urgently scaling up ecosystem restoration. Given that recovery of ecosystems requires time (e.g. often decades or more), the target does not stipulate that

areas are fully restored; rather it promotes actions and activities that result in effective ecosystem restoration have been initiated and are being implemented and monitored.

18. To track global progress towards the target, robust and harmonized monitoring systems that utilize various tools and approaches such as remote sensing data and field data are essential for generating reliable information on where restoration is happening, how much area is under restoration, and the effectiveness of the restoration activities. It is also key to use appropriate tools and approaches to collect complete and systematic geospatial data on the location and extent of restoration initiatives.

19. Ecosystem restoration contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a wide number of other global policies and instruments. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNGA, 2019). The UN Decade outlines the expected contributions of ecosystem restoration during the decade to a wide variety of policies and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (FAO, SCBD & SER, 2024).

20. In response to growing global momentum for ecosystem restoration, FAO, as the custodian agency of the headline indicator for Target 2, has led the development of methodologies, guidance, and a strategic Target 2 Road Map implementation through COP16 and beyond. With a renewed mandate to accelerate this work, endorsed in CBD COP Decision 16/35, the Target 2 Road Map serves as a platform to coordinate, support, and scale restoration monitoring (CBD/SBI/6/INF/4)

21. The headline indicator for Target 2 is the first global mechanism to compile country-reported, area-based data on ecosystem restoration across all ecosystems. The indicator measures the physical extent of a site where the previously degraded ecosystem is recovering as the result of a wide array of activities and interventions along the restorative continuum (FAO, SCBD & SER, 2024).

22. The indicator includes restoration areas at all spatial scales (from local site-level to landscape and seascape level) that have ongoing interventions or are under a monitoring scheme when interventions have been completed and the ecosystem continues its recovery. Ecosystem restoration can take years, decades, even centuries to recover biodiversity, integrity, functions and services, and connectivity. Therefore, it is important to have monitoring efforts in place after interventions are completed to avoid new degradation and to implement adaptative management strategies to combat renewed ecosystem degradation.

23. The indicator encompasses restoration interventions that fall within the categories of ecological restoration and ecosystem rehabilitation along the restorative continuum. Ecological restoration includes efforts to increase the area of a natural ecosystem and its integrity through recovering an ecosystem that has been degraded or destroyed, this includes conversion of non-natural transformed ecosystems back to a natural state. Ecosystem rehabilitation includes efforts to increase ecosystem functions and services of transformed ecosystems.

24. The indicator is an absolute number and does not directly measure the percentage of degraded ecosystems under restoration. To estimate a percentage in line with the target, countries would need a national estimate of the area of total degraded ecosystems (baseline) and then compare it with the reported area under restoration.

25. Increases in the value of the indicator over time will reflect a combination of a) actual increases in area under restoration, and b) improved data collection and reporting on areas under restoration. This is an important limitation or caveat for interpretation of the indicator.

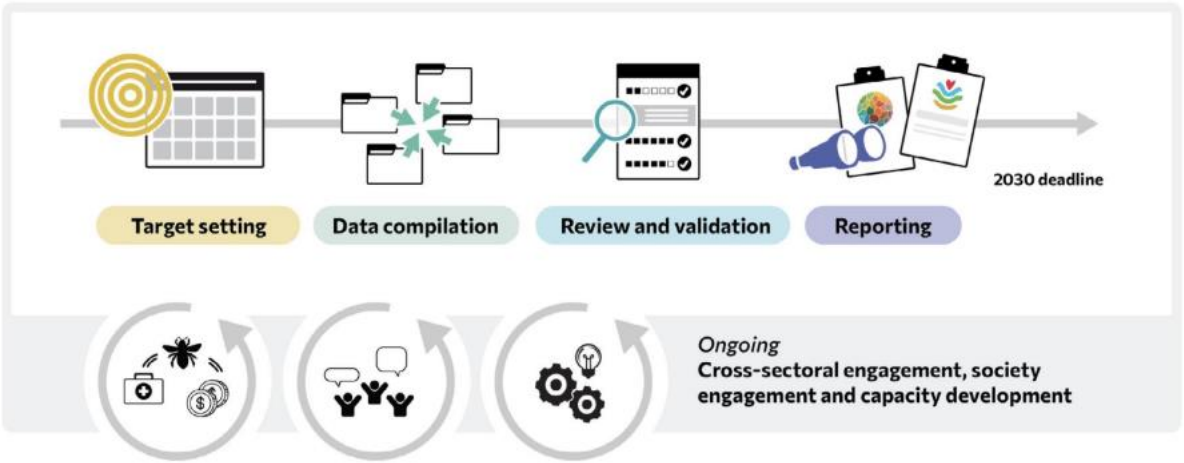
26. In its current formulation, the indicator does not measure biodiversity, effectiveness, restoration results, ecosystem functions and services or connectivity. Therefore, additional indicators and monitoring methods are needed to measure these aspects.

27. Indicator 2.1 is intended to be used and interpreted in the context of other ecosystem-related indicators of the GBF. The five headline indicators that deal most directly with ecosystems are A.1 Red List of Ecosystems, A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems, B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, 2.1 Area under restoration, and 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This set of indicators can together provide a well-rounded picture of the state of ecosystems, their benefits to society, and interventions to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems. They should be interpreted collectively rather than individually, with each providing different but complementary information (see also 9. Related goals, targets and indicator).

28. At the national level, using a common national classification system for ecosystem types across these five headline indicators will greatly facilitate bringing information from this set of indicators together to provide a coherent narrative and to be most useful for policy and implementation. For coherence in global reporting and analysis, it is useful for countries to cross-reference their national ecosystem classification to the Global Ecosystem Typology, as discussed in section 5.b.

5b. Method of computation

29. The proposed workflow for monitoring the indicator consists of five components: 1) target setting and planning, 2) data compilation, 3) review and validation, 4) monitoring and reporting, and 5) cross-sectoral and society engagement and capacity development, which underpins the overall process.



Source: Authors own elaboration.

30. Once national targets on restoration are set, in the data compilation step, countries are encouraged to develop a database of restoration actions, making use of existing monitoring systems (such as national forest monitoring systems), when possible. Reporting guidelines and standards can be provided to collect consistent information across restoration actions. Additionally, workshops and consultations can be organized to collect project-level data.

31. Restoration projects, initiatives and policies are long- or short-term efforts aimed at achieving specific restoration goals and objectives in defined geographic locations. In the metadata, the terms restoration projects and restoration initiatives are used interchangeably. Monitoring and reporting areas under restoration that are not project based but a result of policy actions, natural regeneration or other factors can be done using a variety of methods and data, including remote sensing, field surveys, and cadastral data. Before official reporting, data in the database or monitoring system need to be processed, reviewed, and validated to ensure quality and alignment to the metadata.

32. Below are some recommended parameters for a restoration project database. Depending on the specific context, they may be named and/or defined slightly differently. Additional parameters

for building a project database can be found in the Restoration Project Information Sharing Framework (Gann et al, 2022):

(a) Restoration target includes pledges, targets or commitments and can be reported as time-bound absolute values with units, e.g. to restore 500 hectares by 2030. This parameter will not be counted as area under restoration but will serve as a reference to monitor restoration progress.

(b) Area under restoration describes the extent of a restoration initiative or project in appropriate units (e.g. number of hectares of forests, number of kilometers of rivers). The area under restoration is typically the area where restoration interventions take place. In some circumstances, the broader impact area (where biodiversity, ecological integrity, ecosystem functions, and services and connectivity have been improved) may better represent area under restoration, than the direct intervention area. It is important to specify whether the area under restoration represents the intervention area or a broader impact area.

(c) Geometry is geospatially explicit points or polygons that represent the restoration areas of an initiative or project. Well-delineated polygons are strongly recommended as they can be used to approximate area under estimation, therefore important for spatial analysis, enhanced data quality and transparency (see also paragraph 6).

(d) Start year and end year of the initiative or project.

(e) Ecosystem(s) of the restoration initiative or project. When an initiative or project contains multiple ecosystem types, it is recommended to also collect areas under restoration disaggregated by ecosystem to be aligned to the reporting requirement. The IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (GET) (Keith et al. 2022) is a hierarchical ecosystem typology recommended by CBD decisions for reporting disaggregation of multiple KMGBF targets. When possible, area under restoration should be disaggregated using level 2 or level 3 of the typology, or by national or local ecosystem types. Guidelines for cross-walking ecosystem classifications to the IUCN GET are available (IUCN, 2025). Furthermore, to understand and monitor ecosystem transitions, both the current ecosystem type and the target ecosystem type can be documented in the database.

(f) Restoration activity, sometimes called intervention, describes what is being implemented on the ground in order to achieve restoration goals and objectives.

(g) Restoration status, characterized by three phases, in preparation, in progress and post-completion monitoring.

(h) Restoration type indicates the group of activities in the restorative continuum. Target 2 includes rehabilitation and ecological restoration. Ecological restoration includes efforts to increase the area of a natural ecosystem and its integrity through recovering an ecosystem that has been degraded or destroyed, this includes conversion of non-natural transformed ecosystems back to a natural ecosystems state. Ecosystem rehabilitation includes efforts to increase ecosystem functions and services of transformed ecosystems.

(i) Protected area status, such as whether the restoration initiative or project is in one or more protected areas or OECMs, and the extent of the overlap.

(j) Tenure status of the initiative and project sites, and the extent of the overlap with an Indigenous and traditional territory.

33. The reference period of the GBF is 2011-2020 (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5.2) and the monitoring period is 2021-2030. This reference period should be used to establish the baseline, which is the spatial extent of degraded areas, taking into consideration that concepts of degradation are different between natural and production ecosystems. Restoration within the reference and monitoring periods, 2011-2030, can be counted and reported for indicator 2.1. Restoration initiatives may start before the reference period, and either the restoration activities must be within the monitoring period or there

are documented monitoring efforts and actions to ensure there is no degradation within the areas and the ecosystem has recorded improvements towards reaching the intended outcomes (i.e., biodiversity, ecological integrity, ecosystem functions and services, and connectivity).

34. Total area under restoration can be estimated by summing up the area of non-overlapping individual restoration initiatives and projects that have either 'in progress' status (i.e. with ongoing restoration activities) or 'post-completion monitoring' status (i.e. with monitoring efforts in place).

35. Data cleaning is an important step to prevent duplicated data and double counting when aggregating restoration data. Accurate delineation of restoration areas (Parameter C: Geometry) enables transparent identification and removal of duplicate records and overlapping areas, ensuring that each area is only counted once in the total area under restoration. Tabular data without spatial information on the location of restoration initiatives pose challenges and risks for duplicate and overlapping areas and data often cannot be directly aggregated.

36. To support transparent reporting and monitoring of ecosystem restoration, the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration (FERM)14 was collaboratively developed and launched in 2022 through the joint efforts of the UN Decade FAO-led Task Forces on Monitoring and Best Practices. The FERM provides a comprehensive monitoring framework for tracking global restoration progress, assessing progress for the UN Decade and KMGBF Target 2.

37. The FERM is comprised of four main components:

(a) A registry that harmonizes and collects area-based data on ecosystem restoration initiatives and projects, interoperable with similar platforms that collect restoration project level data;

(b) A geospatial tool for visualizing restoration areas on the map and curated global datasets relevant to ecosystem restoration;

(c) A search engine for consulting restoration initiatives and good practices; and

(d) A data review functionality to support Parties in compiling and reviewing data on ecosystem restoration for reporting.

38. Countries are invited to enter data on restoration projects and initiatives directly in the FERM registry or through its API. The API is designed to facilitate uploading many initiatives automatically and thereby reducing errors in manual data entry 15.

39. The FERM can be used by countries as a restoration initiative database, to transparently share restoration progress. This can be complementary to national databases or countries without national databases can use the FERM as a national monitoring system.

40. In addition, FAO has been compiling data on areas under restoration in the FERM to reduce reporting burden for countries and making it available through the data review functionality. The default data for area under restoration is data compiled from different sources that show the amount of restoration across all ecosystems in each country. It is designed to support national reporting and provides more information and context on restoration progress beyond area-based estimates, including the restoration objectives, activities, tenure status, project specific indicators, and other parameters.

41. The default data for area under restoration utilizes an interoperability framework to integrate restoration data from various available data sources. Currently, the data sources include:

(a) the FERM registry,

[14] https://ferm.fao.org/

[15] API documentation can be requested from restoration-monitoring@fao.org.

(b) Global Forest Resources Assessment16 (FRA),

(c) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands17,

(d) National monitoring systems and databases for selected pilot countries,

42. Additional data sources that are being integrated include:

(a) the World Database on Protected Areas,

(b) UNCCD PRAIS,

(c) IUCN Restoration Barometer,

(d) and other platforms.[18]

43. FERM will aggregate the default data according to the following logic and assumptions:

(a) If data is not reviewed by the national focal point, only official data is aggregated, where 'official' means officially reported by national government representatives through other existing reporting processes (i.e., MEAs, FRA, and other international instruments). If, however, data is reviewed by the focal point, then unofficial data may be aggregated depending on the input provided during the review.

(b) Total area under restoration = sum of the reported area under restoration for all the initiatives after removing duplicates and ensuring overlapping areas are only counted once

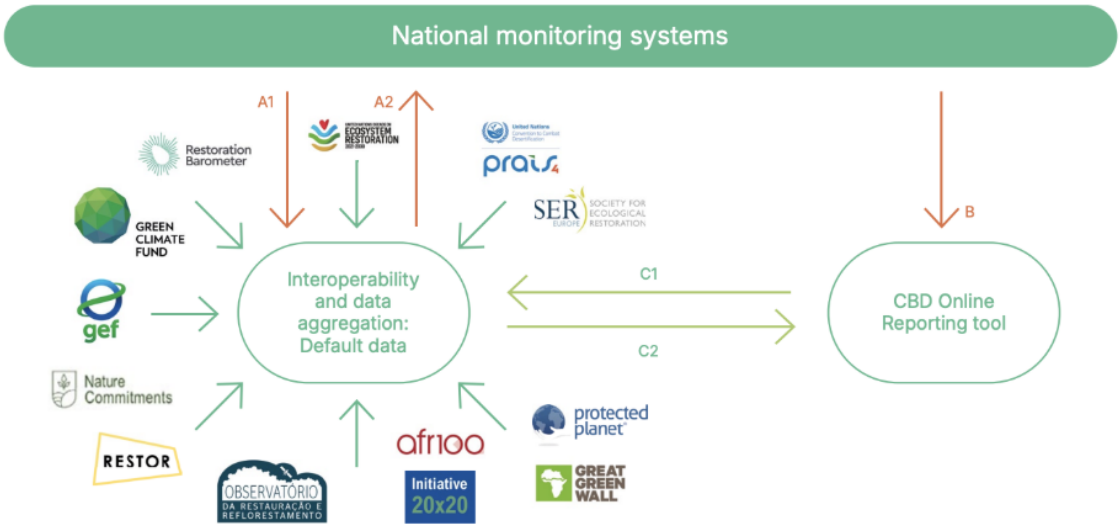
(c) Specifically, if FRA data (hectares of forest restored) is available, the default data aggregation assumes this number includes all forest biomes (equivalent to T1 and T2 in IUCN GET terminology) under restoration in the country. To address double counting, when FRA data is present, any other forest restoration initiative in the country is not counted toward the default data. Furthermore, if an initiative does not specify the biome or ecosystem information, the default data aggregation assumes it is forest restoration and the initiative is not included in the calculation and it is assumed that it is included in FRA data.

44. National focal points can access the FERM data review functionality, review the default data, add national data from the national monitoring systems (arrow a1), and aggregate them. They can also optionally use default data to complement national monitoring systems and national data collection (arrow a2). In the CBD Online Reporting Tool, national focal points can directly report national data using information from national monitoring systems (arrow b) or use the FERM default data, accessible by an API (arrow c2). The data reported by the country to the CBD will be integrated into FERM to update the default data (arrow c1).

[16] Data extracted from Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025, Section 3c Forest restoration, parameter 'hectares of forest restored to date' (https://fra-data.fao.org/).

[17] Data generated based on: i) data of all Ramsar Sites exported from the Ramsar Sites Information Service (https://rsis.ramsar.org/), containing general information such as the site name, ID, country and region, wetland type, site area in hectares, etc.; and ii) updated data collected from Parties relating to restoration activities undertaken or planned at the level of the entire site or part of the site.

[18] Including unofficial data platforms such as: UNEP-WCMC's Nature Commitment, Society of Ecological Restoration's Restoration Resource Center, the Kelp Forest Alliance's restoration project database, etc.



5c. Data collection method

45. Data collection for the area under restoration indicator can be conducted using a compilation of ecosystem restoration projects and initiatives implemented in the country (described in 5b, paragraphs 2-5), as well as using remote sensing technology and field data to track increments in the extent or improvements in the condition of natural ecosystems. In addition, FAO has been compiling data in FERM (described in 5b, paragraphs 9-12).

5d. Reporting template

46. According to CBD/COP/DEC/15/6, Parties will report the implementation of KMGBF directly using CBD's online reporting tool (ORT). The reporting template for indicator 2.1 can be downloaded after logging in to ORT, under 7th National Report - My country - Indicator Data - 2.1 Area under restoration (GBF-INDICATOR-2.2) - Add data - Use national data set.

47. Two versions of template are available for indicator 2.1, a simplified version and a detailed version. The two versions are mostly identical except that the simplified version allows free text in all columns while the detailed version uses controlled vocabulary in a few columns as drop-down lists. Only one version of the two is needed for reporting national data.

48. The columns of the two versions of the template are the same, namely:

(a) A - Indicator code: prefilled, no action needed

(b) B – Indicator name: prefilled, no action needed

(c) C – Does this data row represent a disaggregation: enter or select 'No' or 'Yes'

(d) D – Disaggregation type: enter or select the broader type of disaggregation

(e) E – Disaggregation: enter or select the specific name of the disaggregation

(f) F – Year: prefilled in the simplified version but can be edited; empty in the detailed version

(g) G – Unit: enter the unit of measure. Hectare is recommended but other units are also allowed

(h) H – Value: enter the cumulative total area under restoration as of the corresponding year

(i) I – Footnote: fill in as needed

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Indicator code	Indicator	Does this data row represent a disaggregation	Disaggregation type	Disaggregation	Year	Unit	Value	Footnote
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2026			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2025			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2024			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2023			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2022			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2021			
2.1	2.1 Area under restoration				2020			

49. Controlled vocabulary is used in columns C, D, and E of the detailed version of the template. The options for column C are: Yes, No and -. If 'No' is selected, column D and E will automatically display 'Not applicable'. If 'Yes' is selected, six options of the disaggregation types in column D are available: by biome - GET L2; by EFG – GET L3; by PA&OECM; by Indigenous and traditional territories; by restoration activity; and other. If by biome, by EFG, or by type of restoration activity is selected in disaggregation type, a list of biomes, ecosystem functional groups or activities will become available in column E. If by PA and OECM, by ITT or other is selected in disaggregation type, a description of the disaggregation can be entered as free text in column E.

50. Start with reporting total area under restoration without disaggregation (i.e. enter or select 'No' in column C). If the simplified template is used, leave column D and column E empty. The template automatically adds rows for years 2020-2026 in column F. It is not necessary to report a value for each year if data is unavailable or not assessed for that year. It is possible to add rows for years prior to 2020. If the detailed template is used, column D and column E will be filled automatically.

51. In column H, cumulative total area under restoration as of the corresponding year in column F should be entered. If more data points assessed at different years are available, enter those values (cumulative) and corresponding years. Therefore, a trend of total area under restoration can be produced to show progress towards the target over time.

52. To report area under restoration with a disaggregation, start with a new row and enter or select 'Yes' in column C. If the simplified template is used, enter the type of disaggregation in column D (e.g. ecosystem, type of restoration action) and the specific disaggregation (e.g. mangroves, natural regeneration) in column E. If the detailed template is used, dropdown lists with controlled vocabulary will be available in column D, and based on the choice of disaggregation type, specific disaggregation will become available in column E as dropdown lists. If no dropdown list is available, it is possible to provide a description in free text instead.

53. In column H, similar to reporting total area under restoration without disaggregation, enter the cumulative total area under restoration for that disaggregation as of the corresponding year. If more data points assessed at different years are available, enter those values (cumulative) and corresponding years.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

54. The methodology is not currently published in a peer-reviewed location.

5e. Data sources

55. Data sources that are currently included in the FERM default data include:

(a) the FERM registry,

(b) Global Forest Resources Assessment,

(c) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,

(d) National monitoring systems and databases for selected pilot countries,

56. Additional data sources that are being integrated include:

(a) the World Database on Protected Areas,

(b) UNCCD PRAIS,

(c) IUCN Restoration Barometer,

(d) Other platforms.[19]

5f. Availability and release calendar

57. The indicator is currently in development. The methodology is available online and will be periodically reassessed and updated. The national reports will provide data on Target 2 in 2026 and 2029.

5g. Time series

58. Expected availability: 2021-2030. First update: Seventh National Report (NR7) in 2026.

5h. Data providers

59. The data are sourced from in-country agencies, thus leveraging in-country resources and ongoing programs. Other data may be obtained from conservation organizations, scientific societies, national and public repositories, citizen scientists, and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and traditional knowledge holders. The data sources in FERM default data are listed in 5e.

5i. Data compilers

60. FAO is responsible for the maintenance of the methodology and tools for use. The compilation of data and reporting is performed by in-country agencies.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

61. The data compiling will take place in a stepwise approach and aim for completeness in terms of coverage by ecosystem and by country.

5k. Treatment of missing values

62. FAO will be compiling data from existing processes and platforms. Each custodian agency and platform has its own methodology of treating missing values. Therefore, no further estimates will be made by FAO. Missing values will not be imputed or otherwise estimated.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

1. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

[19] Including unofficial data platforms such as UNEP-WCMC's Nature Commitment, SER's Restoration Resource Center, and the Kelp Forest Alliance's project database.

63. The scale of indicator 2.1 is national and can be aggregated globally.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

N/A

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

64. The national, regional and global methodology and estimates are to be consistent across scales. The methodology for national, regional and global estimates and data collection can be found in sections 5b and 5c in this metadata. The FERM is central for collecting and compiling data on area under restoration for consistent monitoring across scales.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

65. Data can be collected through FERM by the registry interface or its API.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

66. The indicator itself is not used in other MEAs or processes. However, data are compiled from existing MEAs and processes (see also 5e. Data sources).

8. Possible Disaggregations

67. According to CBD/COP/Dec/16/31, optional disaggregations of the indicator include:

(a) By biome or ecosystem functional group (IUCN GET levels 2 and 3 or equivalent)

(b) By Indigenous and traditional territories

(c) By protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures

(d) By type of restoration activity

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

68. Target 2 is related to various goals and targets, including Goal A (ecological restoration and restoring converted ecosystems), Goal B (Restoration of ecosystem functions and services), Target 1 (spatial planning) and Target 3 (implementing protected areas).

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

10b. Contact person(s)

Julian Fox (Julian.Fox@fao.org)

11. References

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12. Graphs and diagrams

3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

1. Indicator name

3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 3. Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

4. Rationale

1. This indicator measures a policy response to biodiversity loss. An increase in the coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) indicates increased efforts by governments and civil society to protect land and sea areas to achieve the long-term conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

2. The indicator and its disaggregations provide insights into progress on the following elements of Target 3: "*30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas,* especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions... *are... conserved and managed through ecologically representative... and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures"*. (See section 5b below in relation to the element "*recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable"*).

3. The indicator enables tracking of the "*30 per cent*" element, while the following disaggregations enable tracking of other elements: (1) coverage of protected areas versus OECMs, (2) coverage of realms, biomes, and ecosystem functional groups (3) coverage of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, (4) coverage by protected areas and OECMs with different levels of effectiveness, and (5) coverage by governance type. A sixth disaggregation, coverage by Indigenous and traditional territories, does not yet have a methodology. This is discussed in section 5b. The rationale for the first five disaggregations is explained further below:

(a) Coverage by protected areas versus OECMs: this enables the relative contributions of these two approaches to meeting the 30% element of the target to be distinguished.

(b) Coverage of realms, biomes, ecosystem functional groups, ecoregions etc.: coverage of terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal realms will enable tracking of progress towards achieving 30 per cent coverage of "*terrestrial and inland water areas*", and of "'*marine and coastal areas*", can provide insights into the degree to which protected area and OECM networks are "*ecologically representative*". Richer understanding can be derived by disaggregating further to assess coverage of biomes within each realm (e.g. Tropical/subtropical forests biome, Rivers and streams biome, Pelagic ocean waters biome etc.) and to Ecosystem Functional Groups within each

biome (e.g. Tropical/Subtropical Lowland Rainforests, Seagrass meadows, Permanent Upland Streams etc.), or terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecoregions.

(c) Coverage of areas of particular importance for biodiversity: existing Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 14.5.1 (marine), 15.1.2 (terrestrial and freshwater), and 15.4.1 (mountains) already report protected area and OECM coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas for all countries, as a measure of coverage of "*areas of particular importance for biodiversity*", using nationally-defined, developed, and maintained datasets of areas of importance following the global Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Standard. This provides a standardised dataset with which the headline coverage of areas of importance for biodiversity can be calculated. At a national scale, Parties may wish to include other areas that meet the definition of areas of particular importance for biodiversity (Plumptre et al. 2024). A detailed methodology is provided below.

(d) Coverage by effectiveness: the '"*effectively conserved and managed*" and "*equitably governed*" elements of Target 3 can be assessed by disaggregating protected area and OECM coverage using data on management effectiveness, governance quality, conservation outcomes, and the quality of design and planning to group protected areas and OECMs according to their level of effectiveness or change in effectiveness over time. A methodology for disaggregating the indicator in this way at the global level, building on the existing Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME), is outlined below.

(e) By governance type (government, private organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, or shared) using data already documented in the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA). Coverage of protected areas or OECMs with Indigenous peoples' governance, local community governance, or shared governance is relevant to the *"equitably governed*" aspect of Target 3, albeit as a proxy, since these governance types have stronger engagement by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities than governance by government and private governance.

4. These disaggregations of the indicator reflect the fact that increases in percentage coverage are insufficient in isolation, and that protected areas and OECMs also need to be: located in areas of importance for biodiversity, cover representative areas of different realms, biomes and ecosystems (i.e. be ecologically representative), effective in achieving positive biodiversity outcomes, and equitably governed, as detailed in the wording of Target 3.

5. Disaggregations to reflect other elements of the target are not yet feasible owing to lack of suitable comprehensive data or methods, including in relation to areas of importance for ecosystem services, connectivity, equitable governance, integration into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Assessing progress to Target 3 will require the use of component and complementary indicators and consideration of Sections C including paragraphs (a), (b), (g), (h) and (n) in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the cross-cutting nature of indicators for Targets 21-23.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition:

6. This indicator measures the percentage area covered by protected areas or OECMs. The five disaggregations measure:

(a) the percentage area covered by protected areas and the percentage area covered by OECMs;

(b) the percentage area of terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal realms (and biomes and ecosystems within them) covered by protected areas or OECMs;

(c) the mean percentage of areas of particular importance for biodiversity (KBAs) covered by protected areas or OECMs (SDG indicators 14.5.1, 15.1.2, 15.4.1 represent the marine, terrestrial/freshwater and mountain components of this metric);

(d) the percentage area covered by protected areas or OECMs that are at different levels of effectiveness;

(e) the percentage area covered by protected areas or OECMs that are governed by each of: government, private organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, or shared.

Other key concepts and definitions:

7. Protected area: "*A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*." (Dudley et al. 2008).

8. Other effective area-based conservation measure: "*a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, s6piritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values*." (CBD, 2018).

9. Areas of particular importance for biodiversity: "*sites that contain significant populations/extents of threatened or geographically restricted species or ecosystems, or that have significant ecological integrity or irreplaceability, significance for the maintenance of biological processes, or provide significant ecological connectivity to maintain populations of species*" (Plumptre et al. 2024). Key Biodiversity Areas have been identified in all countries and represent the most comprehensive network of such sites, and are defined as sites "*contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity*" (IUCN, 2016).

5b. Method of computation

10. The indicator is calculated from data in the form of point locations and polygons of protected area and OECM boundaries managed in the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA; this database combines the previously separate World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). The majority of these sites are available for download at www.protectedplanet.net. However, due to restrictions requested by some data providers, a small number of sites are not made publicly available. These sites are still included in the analyses that generate coverage statistics.

11. Not all sites in the WDPCA are included in the indicator. Proposed protected areas are excluded, as are sites for which the status has not been reported. Sites submitted as points with no reported area are also excluded. Currently, UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (MAB) sites reported as protected areas to the WDPCA are excluded, on the basis that that the MAB sites currently in the WDPCA include buffer and transition zones that in many cases are not protected areas. MAB Core areas are usually protected areas designated at a national level and are therefore generally accounted for in our calculations. (UNEP-WCMC is working with the MAB Secretariat to secure an accurate set of boundaries for the core areas to ensure the contribution of these sites is accurately reflected). MAB sites reported as OECMs are, however, included in coverage analyses.

12. The protected area coverage is calculated using the following steps:

(a) The WDPCA is filtered to exclude records with the characteristics listed above. OECMs are also excluded for this part of the analysis.

(b) A buffer is created around protected areas reported as points using their Reported Area. There are important caveats associated with this method, some of which are explored by Visconti et al. 2013. Buffering points can underestimate or overestimate protected area coverage as the circles created around points might cover areas where protected areas do not exist (overestimation) or

overlap with areas where other protected areas already exist (underestimation). It can also give inaccurate values for sites that are partly terrestrial and marine as the absence of boundaries make it difficult to predict which portion of a protected area is in the land or the sea.

(c) Both polygon and buffered point layers are combined in a single layer.

(d) For calculating the overall coverage, this layer is flattened (dissolved) to eliminate overlaps between designations and avoid double counting.

(e) Subsequent steps are described in Section 8.

13. The OECM coverage is calculated separately:

(a) OECM data from the latest WDPCA monthly release is used.

(b) A buffer is created around OECMs reported as points using their Reported Area.

(c) Both polygon and buffered point layers are combined in a single layer.

(d) Areas where protected areas and OECMs overlap are erased from this layer using the global protected areas dissolved layer (step 4 above).

(e) The output OECMs layer is flattened (dissolved).

(f) Subsequent steps are described in section 8.

14. Methods for the various disaggregations are detailed in Section 8 below.

15. Note that the indicator follows an established methodology in tracking coverage of protected areas and OECMs, given the wording of Target 3 which refers to "*systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures*". The target also includes the wording "*recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable*". This could be interpreted as implying (1) a disaggregation of the metric to show trends in the extent of protected areas and OECMs governed by Indigenous peoples or local communities and falling within Indigenous and traditional territories, and/or (2) that Indigenous and traditional territories are a third type of area that can be added to protected areas and OECMs to contribute towards achievement of the target (while noting the overlap in coverage between these areas). The interpretation of this section of the target is the subject of ongoing discussions of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and the CBD COP. For this reason, Indigenous and traditional territories outside protected areas and OECMs are not included in the methodology described here While a disaggregation of protected area and OECM coverage by Indigenous and traditional territories is included in the Monitoring Framework, a methodology for calculating this would also be dependent on the outcomes of the ongoing discussions. A methodology for this disaggregation is therefore not included here.

16. This approach may evolve to reflect future COP decisions if appropriate. To track this element of the target at national level, Parties can use national data and definitions, as appropriate, and may also choose to make use of the indicator methodologies developed for Target 22..

5c. Data collection method

17. Data on protected areas and OECMs are submitted to UNEP-WCMC by national governments. In some cases, data are submitted directly by the governance authorities of protected areas or OECMs, and are added to the WDPCA following a verification process. The WDPCA is updated monthly.

18. KBAs are identified nationally through inclusive and consultative processes involving government, academia, non-governmental organizations, indigenous people's groups, and other stakeholders as appropriate, typically coordinated by KBA National Coordination Groups. Anyone with appropriate data may propose a site, but consultation with all stakeholders at the national level is required during the proposal process. Submission of proposals for KBAs to the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas follows a systematic review process to ensure that the KBA criteria have

been applied correctly and that the sites can be recognised as important for the global persistence of biodiversity. Regional Focal Points have been appointed to help KBA proposers develop proposals and then ensure they are reviewed independently. Guidance on Proposing, Reviewing, Nominating and Confirming sites has been published to help guide proposers through the development of proposals and the review process, highlighting where they can obtain help in making a proposal (see https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/working-with-kbas/proposing-updating/proposal-process and specific guidance at https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/assets/af7c1fe6-d669-414e-b066-e9733f0de7a8). Site proposals undergo independent review. This is followed by the official site nomination with full documentation meeting the Documentation Standards for KBAs. Sites confirmed by the KBA Secretariat to qualify as KBAs are then published on the KBA Website. For further information, see www.keybiodiversityareas.org/working-with-kbas/proposing-updating.

19. For details of other data used in generating disaggegations, see below.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

20. The methods are also described in the metadata to SDG indicators 14.5.1 and 15.1.2 at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata. Methods for the KBA disaggregation were also published in Butchart et al. (2012, 2015), with relevant rationale also provided in Plumptre et al. (2024). The protected area and OECM indicator and its realm, effectiveness, governance type and KBA disaggregations are calculated nationally, regionally and globally. The ecoregion disaggregation is calculated at the global level.

5e. Data sources

21. Protected area and OECM data are compiled by ministries of environment and other ministries responsible for the designation and maintenance of protected areas and OECMs. Other data providers can contribute in some cases (see section 5c). Protected area and OECM data are aggregated globally into the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2026) by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, according to the mandate for production of the United Nations List of Protected Areas (UN Economic and Social Council, 1959; Deguignet et al. 2014) and subsequent decisions of the CBD CoP. They are disseminated through Protected Planet, which is a joint product of IUCN and UNEP, managed by UNEP-WCMC. Parties are encouraged to ensure that updates to national protected area systems are submitted to the WDPA in a timely fashion. Effectiveness data are compiled by UNEP-WCMC in the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) and made available through Protected Planet.

22. Realms, biomes and ecosystem functional groups are defined in the Global Ecosystem Typology (https://global-ecosystems.org/). Inland water biomes are mapped in the RiverATLAS (Linke et al. 2019) and Global Lakes and Wetlands Database v2 (Lehner et al. 2024). Terrestrial ecoregions are mapped in Dinerstein et al. (2017), marine ecoregions are mapped in Spalding et al. (2007, 2012), and freshwater ecoregions are mapped in Abell et al. (2008).

23. KBAs are identified nationally through multi-stakeholder processes involving government, academia, non-governmental organizations, indigenous people's groups, and other stakeholders as appropriate, typically coordinated by KBA National Coordination Groups, following standard criteria and thresholds. Key Biodiversity Areas data are aggregated into the World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas, managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership, and made freely available through the KBA website at www.keybiodiversityareas.org.

5f. Availability and release calendar

24. The headline indicator disaggregated by coverage by realm, and by protected areas versus OECMs, is published on the Protected Planet website each month. Once fully developed, the disaggregation by level of effectiveness will also be published every month.

25. The disaggregation by coverage of areas of particular importance for biodiversity is updated annually using the latest versions of the datasets on protected areas, OECMs and Key Biodiversity Areas. This disaggregation is also provided annually in the UN Sustainable Development Goal Database (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal) and in the IBAT Country Profiles (https://www.ibat-alliance.org/country_profiles?locale=en), and every two years, alongside the disaggregations by ecoregion, biome and governance type in the Protected Planet Report series. Temporal trends are also provided in this series.

5g. Time series

1800 – current year

5h. Data providers

See Data sources.

5i. Data compilers

UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and BirdLife International

Protected area and OECM data are aggregated globally into the WDPCA by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, according to the mandate for production of the United Nations List of Protected Areas (UN Economic and Social Council, 1959; Deguignet et al. 2014) and subsequent decisions of the CBD CoP. They are disseminated through Protected Planet, which is managed by UNEP-WCMC. The Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness is managed by UNEP-WCMC and compiled from multiple sources. It is also made available through Protected Planet. Key Biodiversity Areas data are aggregated into the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, managed by BirdLife International.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

26. Quality control criteria are applied to ensure consistency and comparability of the data in the WDPCA. New data are validated at UNEP-WCMC through a data management system and translated into the standard data structure of the WDPCA. Discrepancies between the data in the World Database on Protected Areas and WD-OECM and new data are minimised by provision of a manual (UNEP-WCMC 2019) and resolved in communication with data providers. Data and knowledge gaps can arise due to difficulties in determining whether a site conforms to the IUCN or CBD definitions of a protected area or the CBD definition of an Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure. However, given that both are incorporated into the indicator, potential misclassifications (as one or the other) do not impact the calculated indicator value. Non-state governed protected areas, and potentially OECMs, are under-represented in the WDPA. The majority of countries have not yet reported OECMs.

27. Regarding areas of importance for biodiversity, similar processes apply for the incorporation of data into the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (BirdLife International 2023), and the KBA Proposal, Review, Nomination and Confirmation process involves a number of steps to ensure that the data are valid and the KBA criteria have been appropriately applied.

28. The biggest limitation currently is that site identification to date has focused disproportionately on specific subsets of biodiversity, for example birds (for Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas) and highly threatened species (for Alliance for Zero Extinction sites). While Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas have been documented to be good surrogates for biodiversity more generally (Brooks et al. 2001, Pain et al. 2005), the application of the unified standard for identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN 2016) across different levels of biodiversity (genes, species, ecosystems) and different taxonomic groups remains a high priority, building from efforts to date (Eken et al. 2004, Knight et al. 2007, Langhammer et al. 2007, Foster et al. 2012). Fortunately, good progress is now being made, with birds now comprise less than 50% of the species for which Key Biodiversity Areas have been identified, and as Key Biodiversity Area identification for other taxa and elements

of biodiversity proceeds, such bias will become a less important consideration in the future. Key Biodiversity Area identification has been validated for a number of countries and regions where comprehensive biodiversity data allow formal calculation of the site importance (or "*irreplaceability*") using systematic conservation planning techniques (Di Marco et al. 2016, Montesino Pouzols et al. 2014).

29. Future developments of the indicator will include:

(a) Improvements in the data on protected areas by continuing to increase the proportion of sites with documented dates of designation and with digitised boundary polygons (rather than coordinates);

(b) Increased documentation of OECMs;

(c) Expansion of the taxonomic coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas through application of the Key Biodiversity Areas standard (IUCN 2016) to a wider variety of vertebrates, invertebrates and plants, as well as increased application of the criteria relating to ecosystem, ecological integrity and irreplaceability; and

(d) Improved data on effectiveness;

(e) Increased use of disaggregations by ecosystem functional groups as these are mapped in increasing numbers of countries.

(f) An improved method for analysing trends in coverage of protected areas and OECMs.

5k. Treatment of missing values

Disaggregation by areas of importance for biodiversity only:

30. At country level

(a) Data are available for protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas in all of the world's countries, and so no imputation or estimation of national level data is necessary. Year of protected area establishment is unknown for a small but significant proportion of protected areas, generating uncertainty in temporal trends in the disaggregation by areas of importance for biodiversity (SDG indicators 14.5.1, 15.1.2, and 15.4.1). To reflect this uncertainty, in such cases a year was randomly assigned from another protected area within the same country, and this procedure was repeated 1,000 times, with the median plotted (Butchart et al. 2012, 2015).

31. At regional and global levels

(a) Global and regional versions of the indicators are generated from all countries globally or in the relevant region, and so while there is uncertainty around the data, there are no missing values as such and so no need for imputation or estimation.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

32. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

33. The following method is used to calculate coverage of protected areas by realm:

(a) Start with the latest WDPA monthly release.

(b) The WDPCA is filtered to exclude records with the characteristics listed in section 5b. OECMs are also excluded for this part of the analysis.

(c) A buffer is created around protected areas reported as points using their Reported Area. There are important caveats associated with this method, some of which are explored by Visconti et al. 2013. Buffering points can underestimate or overestimate protected area coverage as the circles created around points might cover areas where protected areas do not exist (overestimation) or overlap with areas where other protected areas already exist (underestimation). It can also give inaccurate values for sites that are partly terrestrial and marine as the absence of boundaries make it difficult to predict which portion of a protected area is in the land or the sea.

(d) Both polygon and buffered point layers are combined in a single layer.

(e) The layer above is flattened (dissolved) by country/territory to remove overlaps between designations within countries/territories and avoid double counting (please note that this retains overlaps between countries and should therefore only be used to calculate national, not regional or global, coverage.

(f) Transboundary sites (those that are attributed to multiple countries) are split geographically according to where each part of the protected area is located and are then allocated to the corresponding countries/territories using the base map of the world (see section 5b).

(g) The flattened output is intersected with a base map of the world (see section 5b)

(h) The intersected output is used to calculate, using geodesic area calculations in WGS 1984, the land and EEZ protected area in square kilometers of every country and territory.

(i) The terrestrial protected area coverage is calculated for each country or territory by dividing the total area of terrestrial protected areas by total terrestrial area of that country/territory. The marine and coastal protected area coverage is calculated for each country or territory by dividing the total marine and coastal area of protected areas by total marine and coastal area of that country/territory.

34. OECM coverage by realm is calculated separately:

(a) Start with the latest OECM data from the lasted WDPCA monthly release.

(b) A buffer is created around OECMs reported as points using their Reported Area. The caveats above also apply here.

(c) Both polygon and buffered point layers are combined in a single layer.

(d) Areas where protected areas and OECMs overlap are erased from the OECMs layer using the global protected areas flattened layer.

(e) The output OECMs layer is flattened (dissolved) by country/territory to eliminate overlaps between areas and avoid double counting.

(f) The OECMs flattened layer is intersected with a base map of the world (see section 5b) The intersected output is used to calculate, using geodesic area calculations in WGS 1984, the land and EEZ protected area of every country and territory in km2.

35. The national total protected area & OECM coverage for each realm in each country and territory is calculated:

(a) National terrestrial protected area & OECM coverage = (national total area of terrestrial protected areas + national total area of terrestrial OECMs) / total terrestrial area of the country/territory.

(b) National marine and coastal protected area & OECM coverage = (national total area of marine and coastal protected areas + national total area of marine and coastal OECMs) / total marine and coastal area of the country/territory.

36. Regional indices for the disaggregation by Key Biodiversity Areas are calculated as the mean percentage of each Key Biodiversity Area in the region covered by (i.e. overlapping with) protected areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures: in other words, the percentage of each Key Biodiversity Area covered by these designations, averaged over all Key Biodiversity Areas in the particular region.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

37. National processes provide the data that are incorporated into the WDPCA, and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, so there are very few discrepancies between national indicators and the global one. One minor source of difference is that WDPCA incorporates internationally designated protected areas (e.g. UNESCO World Heritage sites, Ramsar sites, etc.), a few of which are not considered by their sovereign nations to be protected areas.

38. Note that because countries do not submit comprehensive data on degazetted protected areas to the WDPCA, earlier values of the indictor may marginally underestimate coverage. Furthermore, there is also a lag between the point at which a protected area is designated (or OECM is recognised) on the ground and the point at which it is reported to the WDPA. As such, current or recent coverage may also be underestimated. A method to more accurately analyse historic trends is under development by UNEP-WCMC.

39.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

40. See above for the methods for calculating coverage by realm and by Key Biodiversity Areas for regions and globally. Protected Areas, OECMs and Key Biodiversity Areas in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) are included in the global versions of these indicators, but not for national or regional versions.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

See section 5.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

41. Sustainable Development Goals

42. Marine versions of the indicator are the same as Sustainable development Goal (SDG) indicator 14.5.1. Terrestrial and freshwater versions of the disaggregation by areas of importance for biodiversity are the same as SDG indicator 15.1.2 (while SDG indicator 15.4.1 represents a version for sites of important mountain biodiversity).

43. Relevant subsets of the KBA disaggregation are also used and or reported in:

(a) subsidiary agreements of the Convention on Migratory Species (e.g. African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Raptors MOU),

(b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

(c) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Global Assessment and each of the Regional Assessments.

44. Disaggregation by inland waters and by inland water biomes and realms is also relevant to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

8. Possible Disaggregations

i. Disaggregation by PAs and OECMs

See section 5.

ii. Disaggregation by realm, biomes, ecosystem functional groups and ecoregions

45. The indicator was previously disaggregated by coverage of the marine and coastal realm and the terrestrial realm (including inland waters). A methodology for calculating coverage of inland waters separately has now been developed (by TNC, with the support of the Convention on Wetlands Scientific and Review Panel STRP and UNEP-WCMC) and will be implemented moving forwards.

46. The following steps are used to disaggregrate coverage by realm (following the steps described in section 5):

(a) Protected areas:

i. The global protected areas flat layer is intersected with a base map of the world. The base map used by UNEP-WCMC is a combination of terrestrial country boundaries (UN Geodata), Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ; Flanders Marine Institue 2023)) and 30-meter resolution global shoreline (Sayre et l 2018)

ii. Calculated areas are summed by land, marine and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Marine and coastal areas are those outlined in the EEZ dataset (see above). ABNJ constitute international waters outside the 200 nautical mile limits of national jurisdiction.

iii. Currently, the terrestrial protected area coverage is calculated by dividing the total area of terrestrial protected areas by total global terrestrial area, excluding Antarctica. ABNJ protected area coverage is calculated by selecting areas where ISO3 = "*ABNJ*". Marine and coastal protected area coverage is (total global protected areas flat coverage) - (ABNJ Area + Land Area). In future, it will be important to clarify whether terrestrial coverage statistics refer to terrestrial + inlands waters (as currently) or exclude inland waters (once coverage of inland waters is calculated too: see below).

iv. Inland water coverage will be calculated as the total extent of inland waters (from GLWD v2) within protected and conserved area boundaries (from WDPCA) divided by the total extent of inland waters.

(b) OECMs:

i. The OECMs flat layer is intersected with a base map of the world (see above)

47. The area of each polygon is calculated, in km2, using geodesic area calculations in WGS 1984.

i. Calculated areas are summed as described above for protected areas.

(b) Protected areas + OECMs:

i. Statistics for protected areas and OECMs combined are calculated by summing these.

48. At the national scale, it is recommended that the indicator is disaggregated to show coverage of Ecosystem Functional Groups within the Global Ecosystem Typology (e.g. Tropical/Subtropical Lowland Rainforests, Seagrass meadows, Permanent Upland Streams etc.). This can be achieved by (a) matching national ecosystem maps to the Global Ecosystem Typology and assessing coverage by protected areas and OECMs; or (b) using indicative global maps from the Global Ecosystem Typology and assessing coverage by protected areas and OECMs, excluding any inappropriate

ecosystem groups that may have been included erroneously owing to data resolution. Coverage of Ecosystem Functional Groups can be combined to show coverage of biomes (e.g. Tropical/subtropical forests biome, Rivers and streams biome, Pelagic ocean waters biome etc.). At the global scale, it may be more appropriate to calculate coverage by protected areas and OECMs of biomes, or a combination of biomes and Ecosystem Functional Groups (to enable distinction between coral reefs and seagrass beds, for example). For inland waters, it is recommended to assess coverage of (the total length of) rivers and streams, and (the area of) lakes and wetlands, and artificial wetlands. At a global scale, or in the absence of better data at regional, national, or sub-national scales, these metrics can be derived using the vectorized linear river network of RiverATLAS (Linke et al. 2019) and the lakes, wetlands and artificial wetland classes in GLWD v2 (Lehner et al. 2022). Coverage can also be assessed for terrestrial ecoregions (Dinerstein et al., 2017), marine ecoregions (Spalding et al. 2007, 2012) and freshwater ecosystems (Abell et al. 2008).

Disaggregation by areas of importance for biodiversity:

49. This disaggregation shows temporal trends in the coverage by protected areas and OECMs of areas of particular importance for biodiversity (see definition above). It can be measured as the mean percentage of each important Key Biodiversity Area that is covered by protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), calculated from data derived from a spatial overlap between digital polygons for protected areas and OECMs (from the WDPCA; UNEP-WCMC & IUCN 2026),) and digital polygons for Key Biodiversity Areas (from the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, including Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and other Key Biodiversity Areas). The value of the indicator at a given point in time, based on data on the year of protected area establishment recorded in the WDPCA, is computed as the mean percentage of each Key Biodiversity Area currently recognised that is covered by protected areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.

50. Protected areas and OECMs lacking digital boundaries in the WDPCA, and those sites with a status of "*proposed*" or "*not reported*" are omitted. Degazetted sites are not kept in the WDPCA and are also not included. Man and Biosphere Reserves reported as protected areas are also excluded as these often contain potentially unprotected areas. Year of establishment is unknown for ~11% of protected areas and OECMs in the WDPCA, generating uncertainty around changing protected area and OECM coverage over time. To reflect this uncertainty, a year was randomly assigned from another protected area within the same country, and then this procedure repeated 1,000 times, with the median plotted.

51. Prior to 2017, the indicator was presented as the percentage of Key Biodiversity Areas completely covered by protected areas. However, it is now presented as the mean % of each Key Biodiversity Area that is covered by protected areas and OECMs in order to better reflect trends in protected area and OECM coverage for countries or regions with few or no Key Biodiversity Areas that are completely covered.

52. The indicator is reported for all Key Biodiversity Areas, and for marine, terrestrial and freshwater realms separately, matching SDG indicators 14.5.1 and 15.1.2 (while SDG indicator 15.4.1 represents the mountain subset). Sites were classified as marine Key Biodiversity Areas by undertaking a spatial overlap between the Key Biodiversity Area polygons and an ocean raster layer (produced from the "*adm0*" layer from the database of Global Administrative Areas (GADM 2019)), classifying any Key Biodiversity Area as a marine Key Biodiversity Area where it had ≥5% overlap with the ocean layer (hence some sites were classified as both marine and terrestrial). Sites were classified as freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas if the resident species for which they were identified were documented in the IUCN Red List as dependent on "*Inland Water*" systems. For non-resident or migrant species, or species that shift habitats during the annual cycle, the site was tagged as freshwater if the species occurred at the site in the appropriate season of water-dependence (e.g. some species are only dependent on water during the breeding season). Sites were then screened (using the satellite imagery base layer within ArcGIS) as to whether they lay wholly in the Coastal Zone (defined here as within 10 km of the coast), and these sites were then untagged as Freshwater and

instead tagged as Marine if the wetland habitats present at the site fell purely within the IUCN Habitat Classification Scheme class "*Marine Supratidal*" (i.e. estuaries, lagoons, etc.). If the site was within the Coastal Zone, but contained a mixture of Marine Supratidal and Inland Water classes, then it was tagged as both Freshwater and Marine. Each site was then manually cross-checked against other (less comprehensively available) site attributes, such as the habitat preferences of its trigger species, the site's name (Delta, River, Humedal, etc.), its areal coverage by different habitat types, its overlap with Ramsar Sites etc., so as to confirm or remove the freshwater tag appropriately. Some Key Biodiversity Areas qualify as both marine and terrestrial, and others qualify as both terrestrial and freshwater. Such sites are included in both of the relevant realm disaggregations. The indicator is also disaggregated to show trends in coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas identified for migratory species by protected area and OECMs, as a measure of the protection of ecological connectivity (this disaggregation is also relevant to the Convention on Migratory Species).

53. While Key Biodiversity Areas provide the most comprehensive dataset available of areas of particular importance for biodiversity identified nationally using a standardised approach that is comparable across all countries, Parties may wish to include other areas that meet the definition of areas of particular importance for biodiversity (Plumptre et al., 2024).

iv Disaggregation by effectiveness:

54. The Target 3 Headline Indicator can be disaggregated to show coverage of protected areas and OECMs for which a management effectiveness assessment has or has not been conducted, based on data submitted to the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME). In 2025, the GD-PAME was expanded to include new optional fields to capture additional high-level information on effectiveness. These new fields contain questions relating to the governance; design and planning; management and outcomes of protected areas and OECMs. These questions represent a subset of key aspects of effectiveness that can be feasibly reported drawing on results obtained via a range of effectiveness assessment methods and frameworks (including some listed as component and complementary indicators in CBD/COP/DEC/15/5). Reporting on these fields is optional and data providers may submit data to the GD-PAME at different levels of detail, according to their capacity to report and the availability of data. More comprehensive data submissions enable more detailed disaggregations 'by effectiveness' of the headline indicator, e.g., coverage of protected areas and OECMs that have been assessed for governance quality; involve key actors in decision-making; have identified major biodiversity values; are monitoring, evaluating and adapting management actions; have sufficient staff resources; or are reporting positive trends in conservation outcomes. Further information on reporting data and the optional data fields is provided in the GD-PAME manual: http://wcmc.io/GD-PAME_User_Manual_EN.

55. .

v. Disaggregation by governance type:

56. The indicator can be disaggregated by coverage of each IUCN governance type (government, private organizations, IP and LC, or shared) using the WDPCA GOV_TYPE field.

57. A time series can be created for all disaggregations using the WDPCA STATUS_YR field.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

58. Target 1 Complementary indicator "*Percentage of spatial plans utilizing information on key biodiversity areas*",

59. Target 2 & 3 Complementary indicator "*Status of Key Biodiversity Areas*",

60. Target 3 Complementary indicator "*Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover Key Biodiversity Areas that are important for migratory species*".

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

BirdLife International

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

10b. Contact person(s)

Heather Bingham (Heather.Bingham@unep-wcmc.org)

11. References

These metadata are based on https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-01-02.pdf, and https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-14-05-01.pdf, supplemented by https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/coverage-of-protected-areas-terrestrial-and-marine, https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/protected-area-coverage-of-key-biodiversity-areas , https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/resources/calculating-protected-area-coverage and the references listed below.

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12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels[20]

1. Indicator name

5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 5 Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

4. Rationale

1. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA [UN, 1995]) and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995a) all require maintaining or restoring fish stocks at levels that are capable of producing their maximum sustainable yield (MSY). To fulfil the objectives of these international treaties, fishery management authorities need to undertake assessment of the state of fish stocks and develop effective policies and management strategies. As a UN Agency with a mandate for fisheries, FAO endeavour to provide the international community with the best information on the state of marine fishery resources.

2. Since 1974, FAO has been periodically assessing and reporting the state of marine fishery resources using a wide spectrum of methods from numerical models to data poor approaches. FAO global and regional estimates were also used as an MDG indicator for Goal 7 on environment during the period 2000-2015. This facilitated its approval as a Tier I SDG indicator by the 2nd IAEG-SDG in October 2015.

3. The indicator has a peculiar nature compared to more conventional SDG indicators. The indicator estimates the sustainability of fish stocks that often move across national boundaries. This led the indicator to be initially reported only at global and regional levels, with regions not corresponding to continental MDG or SDG regions but to marine regions termed "*FAO Major Fishing Areas*".

4. The Global SDG Indicator Framework is a voluntary mechanism, but countries are required to report if data are available. As a custodian agency, the FAO works to put in action the 2030 Agenda's emphasis on country ownership and incentivising actions at country, regional and global levels. FAO has developed, since 2019, a questionnaire approach to allow individual countries to report on the sustainability of fish stocks. The approach 1) provides a framework for meaningful country-level reporting that complements and informs the core methodology of SDG indicator 14.4.1 at the global/regional levels (Sharma et al. 2025), and 2) provides countries with simplified methods to carry out fish stock assessment in data-limited contexts, to some extent overcoming the technical barriers that traditional methods presented. This is because country-level reporting will be limited to the assessment of stocks that are found only within a country's EEZ and/or shared with neighbouring countries' EEZs, and therefore not include straddling stocks, highly migratory species, or stocks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

[20] The Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels is Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.4.1 The official SDG metadata is accessible from Metadata-14-04-01.pdf (un.org)

5. As a result, national data alone cannot be meaningfully aggregated at global/regional levels, but it can be used to inform country progress on fish stock sustainability within the EEZ.

6. In 2019, the FAO began sending a questionnaire to countries to collect national data with the aim to help countries in the reporting process.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

7. The indicator, "*Proportion of marine fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels*", measures the sustainability of the world's marine capture fisheries by the abundance of the exploited fish stocks with respect to MSY levels.

8. For each level of reporting (National, Regional, Global) the indicator is calculated as the ratio between the number of exploited fish stocks classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" and the total number of stocks in the Reference List that were classified with a determined status (within/not within "*biologically sustainable levels*").

$$P_s = \frac{N_s}{N} x100 = \frac{N_s}{N_s + N_u} x100$$

9. Where Ps is the percentage of stocks classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" for the Reference List of stocks. Ns is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*", Nu is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "*outside biologically sustainable levels*" and N = Ns + Nu is the total number of stocks in the Reference List that have been classified as within or outside "*biologically sustainable levels*".

Classifying individual stocks as within/outside "biologically sustainable levels":

10. In order to keep consistency with the 14.4 target ("*at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics*" and other earlier international agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), a fish stock is classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" if its abundance is estimated (considering uncertainty) to be equal to or greater than the level that can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). In contrast, when abundance falls below the MSY level, the stock is classified as "*outside biologically sustainable levels*".

11. A wide array of methods and approaches (including documented expert opinion) is used to classify stock status relative to the abundance producing MSY. This varies among countries, regions and stocks. Nevertheless, the reliability of the classification is assessed by FAO as part of the process of producing the index.

12. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is commonly defined as the greatest average amount of catch that can be harvested in the long-term from a stock under constant and current environmental conditions (e.g. habitat, water conditions, species composition and interactions, and anything that could affect birth, growth, or death rates of the stock), without affecting the long-term productivity of the stock. A stock can produce MSY if its abundance is above a certain level, usually around 50% of its unexploited abundance (but actual value can vary around that level, depending on the biological characteristics of the stock). See more at https://www.fao.org/faoterm/en/?defaultCollId=21

13. MSY-based reference points are the most common type of reference points used in fisheries management today. This is primarily because, for decades, reference points from surplus production models have most often been set based on the concept of MSY and they are the basic benchmarks for the sustainability of fisheries set by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

(UNCLOS, Article 61(3)). For more on Reference Points in Fish Stock Assessment, see Caddy and Mahon (1995), Cadima (2003) or Haddon (2011).

14. BMSY: Biomass corresponding to Maximum Sustainable Yield from a production model or from an age- based analysis using a stock recruitment model. Often used as a biological reference point in fisheries management, it is the calculated long-term average biomass value expected if fishing at FMSY.

15. A population is: "*A group of individuals of the same species living in the same area at the same time and sharing a common gene pool, with little or no immigration or emigration*."

16. A biological stock is: "*A subpopulation of a species inhabiting a particular geographic area, having similar biological characteristics (e.g. growth, reproduction, mortality) and negligible genetic mixing with other adjacent subpopulations of the same species*." (FAO, 2004-2021).

17. The Reference List of Stocks: it is not possible to classify the sustainability of exploitation for all the exploited stocks from a country, region or the world. Therefore, the indicator must be calculated based on a subset of these stocks. The list of the stocks that are classified for status and used to calculate the indicators is called the "*Reference List of Stocks*".

18. The Reference List of Stocks is built differently for the Regional/Global and the National levels. The process of building the Reference List of Stocks for regional and global level are described in Sharma et al. 2025. The 2025 FAO publication updated and expanded the Regional/Global reference lists, reconciling them to the previous methodology (FAO 2011) by using the finest level of resolution to obtain a more comprehensive list, which includes National level stocks, linking the three levels (national, regional, global) of the indicator.. At National level, countries are requested to define a list of stocks, based on an agreed set of criteria (Appendix 1). National and shared stocks can be included, but not straddling stocks (stocks that are distributed both in national EEZ and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction). At this moment, there is not a direct correspondence between the national level Reference Lists (that are defined by each country) and the regional and global Reference lists (that are defined by FAO).

19. The detailed description of all necessary concepts can be found in the e-learning course (FAO 2019-2021

20. Unit of measure: Percent %

5b. Method of computation

21. FAO currently reports the global and regional indicators calculated from FAO's assessment of a selected list of fish stocks around the world. The methodology is described in the FAO Technical Paper (Sharma et al. 2025), updated from FAO (2011),

22. FAO has worked to develop the new approach for national-level reporting since 2017, and has consulted with countries in three dedicated expert consultation workshops: In November 2017, FAO convened a workshop to exchange views with national practitioners on the new proposed analytical methods to produce Indicator 14.4.1 at country level1. In February 2019, FAO convened an expert consultation workshop on development of the methodologies for the global assessment of fish stock status, with participants from countries and regional fisheries organizations. In order to help countries reporting on the indicator, FAO then organized a series of capacity development workshops on stock status assessment and estimation methods of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 for various regions.

23. In November 2019, FAO dispatched the first SDG14.4.1 questionnaire calling countries to report on their national indicator. Eighty-three countries submitted their questionnaire and three reported independently. FAO has reported the full results of this first inquiry through UNSD in February 2022.

24. For each level of reporting (National, Regional, Global) the indicator is calculated as the ratio between the number of exploited fish stocks classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" and the total number of stocks in the Reference List that were classified with a determined status (within/not within "*biologically sustainable levels*")

$$P_s = \frac{N_s}{N} x100 = \frac{N_s}{N_s + N_u} x100$$

where Ps is the percent of stocks classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" for the Reference List of stocks. Ns is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*", Nu is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "*outside biologically sustainable Levels*" and N = Ns + Nu is the total number of stocks in the Reference List that have been classified as within or outside "*biologically sustainable levels*".

Classifying individual stocks as within/outside "*biologically sustainable levels*":

25. In order to keep consistency with the 14.4 target ("*at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristic*s" and other earlier international agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)), a fish stock is classified as "*within biologically sustainable levels*" if its abundance is estimated to be (considering uncertainty) at or greater than the level that can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). In contrast, when abundance falls below the MSY level, the stock is classified as "*outside biologically sustainable levels*".

26. A wide array of methods and approaches (including documented expert opinion) is used to classify stock status relative to the abundance producing MSY. This varies among countries, regions and stocks. Nevertheless, the reliability of the classification is assessed by FAO as part of the process of producing the index.

Global/Regional:

27. Until 2025, global and regional estimates of stock sustainability have been performed for 584 fish stocks around the world, representing 70% of global landings. The status of each stock is estimated using the methodology described in the FAO Technical Paper (FAO, 2011). From 2025, the global and regional estimates have been performed for 2 570 assessment units around the world, representing a more granular list covering 74% of global landings. The stock status of each stock estimated using the methodology described in FAO Technical Paper (Sharma et al., 2025).

28.

National:

29. Countries are requested to report the status of a reference list of fish stocks defined by each country on the basis of the criteria presented in Appendix 1. (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-14-04-01.pdf)

5c. Data collection method

Global/regional:

30. The fish stocks that FAO monitos represent a wide spectrum of data availability, ranging from data-rich and formally assessed stocks to those that have very little information apart from catch statistics by FAO major fishing area and those with no stock assessment at all. For the purposes of using the best available data and information and maintaining consistency among

stocks and assessors, a procedure has been defined to identify stock status information (Sharma et al. 2025).

National:

31. FAO collects national data through a questionnaire sent to the Principal Focal Point (PFP) of each country. The PFP organises an institutional set-up which identifies the competent authorities to develop a reference list of stocks and completes the questionnaire.

32. During the initial stages of national data reporting, the information or data collected through the questionnaire from a country only informed the indicator for the individual countries, acknowledging the need for a learning curve along the few first questionnaire inquiries. As a result, the global/regional indicator remains during these initial stages separate from the national indicators. However, FAO is working on a convergence (where possible) of the two processes, and a selection of good-quality stock status assessments reported by countries for the national indicators will be included in the regional/global indicator calculations.

33. Despite this effort, due to the heterogeneity of reporting from countries in the same FAO Major Fishing Area, and the necessary inclusion of straddling and highly migratory stocks and fisheries in the regional and global indicator, it is unlikely that a full convergence will be achieved in a short time-frame

5d. Accessibility of methodology

34. In each country, the data available for each stock and expertise level to conduct different types of assessments will differ. Some countries may have classic stock assessments already conducted for many of their stocks, while others may have very few or no assessments available.

35. For some countries, little stock assessment has been done. To help these countries and to facilitate their reporting, FAO prepared online materials and tools, including a selection of methods that can be used to evaluate stock status with data limited methods such as length-based and catch-only methods. The strengths and limitations of these methods are discussed in an eLearning course (Lesson 4), and caveats were also provided to avoid misuse and exercise cautions in practice. Furthermore, capacity building workshops have been organised to provide support to countries in stock assessment and reporting on the SDG 14.4.1. FAO continues to work on the development of online tools and updated eLearning.

36.

37. eLearning course: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=502

5e. Data sources

38. The classification of the status of exploited stocks relatively to the abundance that can produce MSY is often established through a formal stock assessment process. The data to inform stock assessments can come from many different sources, including fishery-dependent and fishery-independent sources. Fishery-dependent data are collected from the fishery itself, using both commercial and recreational sources through reporting or sample-based surveys at sea, at landing sites, or within fishing communities.

39. They can include information on removals of fish from the sea, which can include landings and discards, and information on the fleet such as number of boats, number of tows, time spent on the sea, as well as economic and social information like fish prices, fuel expenditures, total sales, employment or other.

40. Fishery-independent data are obtained in ways not related to any fishing activity and are typically collected by scientists via surveys (often scientific cruises) designed to estimate species abundance and biomass over long time series, and over consistent seasons and geographic areas. Typically, fisheries- independent data also include biological information on the species (age,

length, weight, maturity, etc.), and habitat and environmental information (temperature, salinity, depth, etc.).

41. These data and other information are used by Stock Assessment scientists to classify the stock status. References on the methods most commonly used can be found in Cadima (2003), Haddon (2011), Sparre and Venema (1998) and other publications dealing with the methods of stock assessment.

42. The information used for the indicator at the Global/Regional level is based on a different process and data sources than that used for the national level

Global/Regional:

The global and regional methodology (Sharma et al 2025) explicitly splits the reference list of stocks into three "tiers" based on the best data and information available and based on the methods used to classify their stock status, incorporating results from existing classical stock assessment and data-limited methods and performing rapid assessments where existing assessments are lacking. The current reference list of 2570 stocks is reconciled with the more limited 2011 list by using the finest level of resolution of representative assessment units, representing about 74 percent of the global catch. Stock included are from industrial and small-scale fisheries in both developed and developing countries.**National:**

43. The national level indicator, on the other hand, is based exclusively on the stock status reported by countries. A multiplicity of methods are used to classify the stock status, including model-based estimates, empirical indicators and documented expert opinion.

44. For country reporting, a questionnaire is sent out to all FAO member states with marine boundaries (156 FAO member states, 25 non-FAO member states and territories, and three Caspian Sea border countries) on a two-year basis. For the complete list of questions used to inform this indicator, please refer to Appendix 2 (https://sfcs.fao.org/media-cnt/docs/statisticslibraries/questionnaires/fisheries/sdg_14-4-1_questionnaire_2024_en.xlsx?sfvrsn=155757a2_1&Status=Master))

5f. Availability and release calendar

Data availability:

45. Global/regional: the indicator has global and regional data from 1974 to 2019. Regional breakdown is by FAO major fishing area. The regional and global indicators were calculated based on the reference list of fish stocks FAO established in 1974 , and updated periodically with the latest update in 2025 now including 2570 stocks. Countries are not directly involved in the computation of the indicator at global/regional level.

46. National: the national-level questionnaire was dispatched for the first time in November 2019 and then on a biennial basis since 2022; FAO identifies countries and territories with a marine border, including 156 FAO member states, 25 non-FAO member states, which includes , three countries with Caspian Sea border, as being eligible, in principle, to report. Of these, data for the indicator has been reported at least once for about three quarters of the eligible countries.

Data release calendar:

47. Global/regional: biennially

48. National: biennially.

5g. Time series

Global/regional level:

1974 to 2021.

National level:

First questionnaire dispatched in November 2019, considered a trial/testing phase. On a biennial basis since 2022.

5h. Data providers

Global and regional data are provided by FAO, international organisations and institutions, and include national-level data.. National-level data are generally reported by the National Statistics Office or the Ministry of Fisheries and/or Agriculture

5i. Data compilers

FAO

5j. Gaps in data coverage

N/A

5k. Treatment of missing values

Global/regional levels

49. To ensure completeness of regional and global information on stocks, FAO gathers additional information outside of what is provided by each country, in particular concerning the highly migratory and straddling fishing stocks. For shared stocks, FAO may consult with international organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), who are mandated to assess and manage stocks with their contracting parties, in order to receive information and data and conduct stock assessment when necessary.

National level

50. This indicator examines marine fish stocks. If a country has no marine capture fisheries, then the indicator is not calculated for that country. In such case, no imputation is performed to derive estimates. For countries reporting limited marine fish stock data, or data scored of low quality after quality assurance process, these are reported as Low reliability (code "*U*" of the OBS_STATUS flag)

51. From 20025, the estimation of the indicator at regional and global levels includes stock statuses from country questionnaires, as part of a systematic assessment of a reference list selected globally by FAO.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

52. Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

53. National data is collated to form global indicator: ☐

6b. National/regional indicator production

54. In each country, the data available for each stock and expertise level to conduct different types of assessments will differ. Some countries may have classic stock assessments already conducted for many of their stocks, while others may have very few or no assessments available. For some countries, little stock assessment has been done. To help these countries and to facilitate their reporting, FAO prepared online materials and tools, including a selection of methods that can be used to evaluate stock status with data limited methods such as length-based and catch-only methods and an online platform for hands-on practice. The strengths and limitations of these methods are discussed in an eLearning course (Lesson 4), and caveats were also provided to avoid

misuse and exercise cautions in practice. Furthermore, capacity development workshops have been organised to provide support to countries in stock assessment and reporting on the SDG 14.4.1. eLearning course: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=502

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

Sources of discrepancies:

55. The indicator is estimated by the FAO based on the methodology developed in the 1980s (FAO, 2011 and updated in 2025 (Sharma et al. 2025)). Although regular updates were carried out to incorporate technical advances and changes in major fish species, some discrepancies between regions may occur in the representativeness of the reference list in practical fisheries. However, this will not pose a large impact on the reliability of the global indicator's temporal trends which covers 74% of global landings.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

56. As explained in the "*Rationale*" section, national data alone cannot be meaningfully aggregated at global/regional level because country-level reporting will be limited to the assessment of stocks that are found only within a country's EEZ (including stocks shared with neighbouring countries' EEZs), and therefore not include straddling stocks, highly migratory species, or stocks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Therefore, regional "*aggregates*" by FAO Major Fishing Area and the global indicator value are calculated with a specific approach, as described in the FAO Technical Paper (FAO 2011)

6d.2 Additional methodological details

57. FAO carries out a series of validations to assure that the data and information are provided by countries in line with the questionnaire instructions. The validation process consists of: (i) identification of errors, mistakes and missing value in the data and, (ii) correcting errors, mistakes and missing values in close consultation with the countries concerned. Each country is asked either to confirm that the data provided are correct or to provide remarks and / or revise data accordingly if they identify any errors.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

58. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Core Indicator

59. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 14.4.1 https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/1441-fish-stocks-sustainability/en

8. Possible Disaggregations

60. By FAO major marine fishing areas for statistical purposes.

61. Taxonomically, FAO publishes the indicator separately for straddling stocks (mostly tuna and tuna like).

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

Target 9

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

10b. Contact person(s)

Rishi Sharma (rishi.sharma@fao.org)SDG-indicators@fao.org

11. References

Websites:

https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1441/en/

https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=502

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal

https://www.fao.org/publications/sofia/2020/en/

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Sparre P. & Venema, S.C. (1998). Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment. Part 1. Manual. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 306.1, Rev. 2. Rome, FAO. 407p.

UN (1995) Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. 40 pp.

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment

1. Indicator name

6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 6: Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

4. Rationale

1. The establishment and spread of invasive alien species (IAS) is a main driver of biodiversity loss. Recent extensive analyses of biological invasions show that the documented numbers of IAS have continued to increase over recent decades (IPBES 2023). Multi-national agreements developed for the purposes of addressing the challenge and negative impacts of IAS require information on the status and trends of IAS establishment – within and across countries. Without a repeated data collection process to detect new invasive alien species and an up-to-date evidence-base, progress to prevent and reduce the consequences of IAS is hampered, and neither the evaluation nor the achievement of policy targets is feasible.

2. This indicator links the success of managing invasive alien species introduction pathways to the desired outcome of preventing new invasive alien species country establishments. It directly supports Target 6 of the framework, which focuses on managing pathways for the introduction of IAS and on preventing and reducing their rate of introduction and establishment. It also informs the effectiveness of IAS management actions for the recovery and conservation of species and ecosystems.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

3. Rate of invasive alien species establishment indicator: The number of invasive alien species that are expected to have established in a new region or country per year, based on modelled trends in IAS observations.

4. The unit of measurement is the rate of invasive alien species establishments (number/year). From the modelled trend the direction of the trend (increasing or declining numbers of IAS per year), the average number of new invasive alien species established per year and the rate of change for the reporting period can be estimated.

5. The indicator is calculated over a policy relevant time period (1970-2020, and eventually if enough new data are available, 1970-2030 and 1970-2050). Fifty years is the minimum length of the time series needed for calculation.

6. The percentage change (reduction or increase) in the establishment rate is calculated as the difference between the estimated number of new IAS established in the first year (in 1970) (X) and

the estimated number in the final year of the trend (e.g. in 2020) (Y), divided by the number in the first year (X), i.e. ((x-y)/x)*100).

5b. Method of computation

7. There are two possible ways of calculating the indicator; a semi-qualitative approach (following McGeoch et al. 2023) and a quantitative approach (following Buba et al. 2024). Most countries and regions are in a position to use the semi-qualitative approach, whereas the quantitative approach is only possible for countries with adequate to high data completeness.

8. Both approaches use the same data:

Step 1

9. The indicator is calculated from four sets of data:

(a) First compiled country checklists of introduced and invasive species from the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS; Pagad et al. 2018). GRIIS is maintained by the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), published as open-access, interoperable checklist datasets through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), and available via (i) the GBIF GRIIS Portal and is also (ii) linked to the "*invasive alien species*" country profile pages of the CBD global Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). The checklists are updatable through national expert author teams coordinated globally by GRIIS, and form the backbone of country monitoring frameworks for IAS. The information value of this indicator is dependent on the availability of the most up to date data on new IAS established in the country, and ongoing updates to the GRIIS country checklists

(b) Second, the indicator relies on data on the dates of introduction, estimated dates of introduction, or dates of "first record" (Alien Species First Record Database (Seebens et al. 2017; see e.g. 2023 update (v3) of the Alien Species First Record Database, Seebens 2023). These data can be collated from in-country sources, and/or obtained from the IAS First Record Database (Seebens 2023) or similar sources. Date information can be compiled on a taxon-by-taxon basis, starting with those taxa for which the data are most readily available and complete. The information value of this indicator is dependent on the availability of dates (year) of first establishment of a species in a country ('first record'). Countries are well-placed to supplement existing open first record data with information on years of introduction or establishment (first record) that is available but currently not findable, accessible, interoperable and retrievable (FAIR).

(c) Third, the indicator is informed by ongoing research and collation of in-country evidence on which alien species have started to cause harm (have a negative impact) or continue to do so, and this information is fed back into the GRIIS country checklists so that the indicator can be calculated for IAS specifically (the priority set of species) versus all aliens (some of which don't impact biodiversity).

(d) Fourth, modelling and interpreting the indicator needs data on the survey effort invested in detecting new IAS establishments. This information informs on the likelihood of the checklist of IAS being complete and up to date or not, as incomplete data can affect the observed trend and rate estimate (Figure 1). Where a direct measure of survey effort for IAS is not available a proxy can be used (Buba et al. 2024, Leihy et al. 2025).

10. It may be necessary for the Parties to review the data in advance to ensure that it contains the necessary information. This review could be carried out by each country with the cooperation of experts as appropriate. Pre-prepared, baseline datasets including the above information can be made available, where countries do not have such country data or do not integrate existing data for this purpose from the above open sources.

Step 2

11. The indicator can be calculated for different species subsets: (1) The primary calculation is for species known to have an impact (i.e. based on the subset of invasive alien species in GRIIS for which there is evidence of impact in at least one country, denoted as "*Invasive*" in the "*isInvasive*" field of the country checklists). Other calculations can include (2) all alien (introduced) species in a country using GRIIS data or alternative sources, or (3) species introduced via a particular pathway of introduction where additional data linking species to pathways is available.

Step 3

12. Raw data trends can be compiled showing the known number of newly-established species per year (Figure 1).

Step 4

13. To estimate the "*Rate of Establishment Indicator*" using the quantitative approach, the above information is then modelled to estimate the rate of invasive alien species establishment, along with an estimate of uncertainty. The model is based on a time series that measures the number of observed species in each time period, and estimates the rate of introduction of new species from these IAS observations. The observed number of IAS is the product of the number of introductions and the observation probability of the introduced species, and a measure of proxy of survey effort for new IAS can be included in the model (Buba et al. 2024For the semi-qualitative approach see supporting information providing guidance to countries on constructing such indicators for guidance on this estimation procedure.

Step 5

14. Comparable use of this indicator by Parties relies on the use of the same baseline dataset and a consistent method for estimating the rate parameter. Further tools are currently being prepared by GEO BON to assist countries with this step.

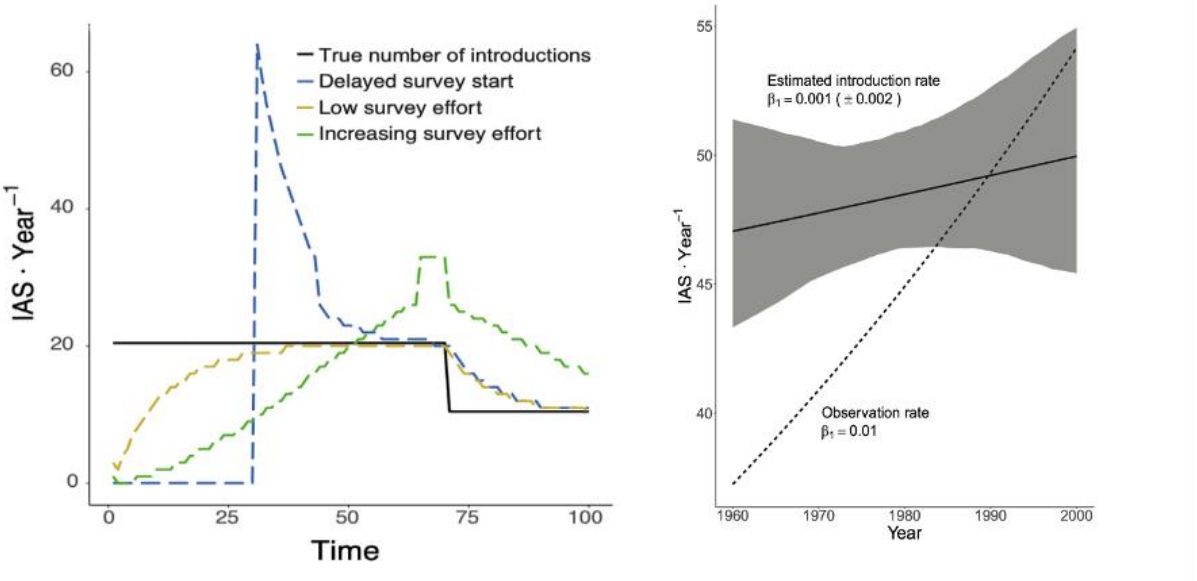

Figure I

The graph on the left shows an example of a step change in the true number of introductions (black line). This is estimated from checklist data updated over time. We see that survey effort (coloured dotted line) affects our knowledge of the change in the rate of IAS (number per year). The true number is estimated with a model as described by McGeoch et al. (2023). The graph on the right shows the change in the rate of establishment of IAS over a longer

period. This trend is estimated as a linear trend (as estimated with a slope from a regression) through a time series of IAS per year

15. For countries or regions which have their own local lists of invasive alien species with years of first record, it is possible apply the method described above.

5c. Data collection method

16. Detailed methodology for compiling country checklists within the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS, see previous section) is described in Pagad et al. (2018), and included within the metadata associated with each checklist, available through GBIF and linked from the CHM country profile pages.

17. The methodology for compiling the IAS First Record Database is described in Seebens et al (2017).

18. No standard measure or method of calculating survey effort for IAS is available, and will depend on the information available that is likely to differ across countries.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

19. The semi-qualitative method for the indicator is described in McGeoch et al. (2023) and its national application is supported by GEO BON and GBIF and the quantitative method in Buba et al. (2024) . As described in this paper governments and institutions responsible for assessing invasive alien species at the national level can follow the approach outlined above to build the data needed to estimate rates of invasive alien species (IAS) establishment, as summarised in the four steps below (figure II).

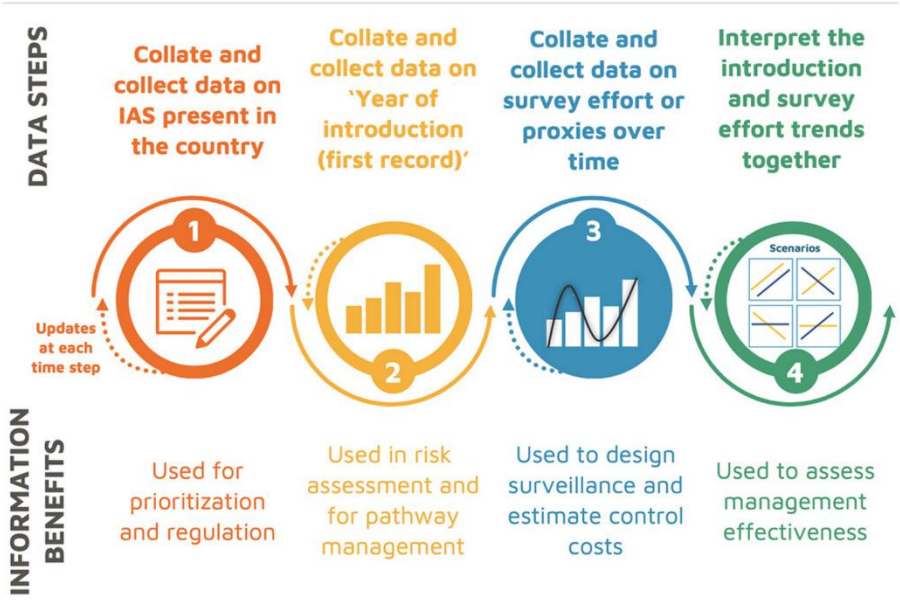

Figure II
Four steps for countries to build the data required for this indicator (taken from McGeoch et al. 2023, figure III)

20. Parties can contribute to these efforts and to their own IAS establishment indicator by updating these data sources where necessary, and over time through ongoing observations of new species introductions and new evidence of IAS impacts within countries.

21. GEO BON is producing additional material and tools to further support Parties in using this indicator, and will support a baseline indicator calculation that Parties can use in their reporting, or

replace with their own calculation. Updates on this indicator will be made available at: https://geobon.org/ebvs/indicators/.

5e. Data sources

22. Country checklists of introduced and invasive Species, available via the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS, see 5b above; Pagad et al. 2018; Pagad et al. 2022)

23. Date of first records for the country in the Alien Species First Record Database (Seebens 2023, see 5b above)

24. Number of new biodiversity records per year per country in GBIF- as a proxy survey effort (Fig. II) (Buba et al. 2023)

25. The above sources can be replaced or supplemented by additional country data where these are available, including for example national and global citizen science platforms which often provide the most up to date records of IAS observations. Parties are strongly encouraged to share such data with GRIIS to bring the national checklists up to date.

26. Aggregated species occurrence data via national biodiversity data platforms and/or the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) occurrence search, filtered by species and country. This will bring together a wide variety of data sources including specimen collection events, observations from field surveys, data associated with published research articles, eDNA and citizen science, among others.

5f. Availability and release calendar

27. The indicator is available for calculation now. Indicator values can be produced for major taxonomic groups and countries with IAS checklists. The indicator can be updated annually, although annual updates rely on longer-term trends and interpreting change within the estimated uncertainty bounds.

5g. Time series

28. Indicator will be available for the period from, from 1970 – 2020, although with highly variable levels of confidence depending on data availability at global and national levels. It can be recalculated in 2030 to discern the change in the rate of IAS establishment, subject to concerted effort by countries to ensure FAIR and adequate data for the period 2020-2030.

5h. Data providers

29. Expert organizations, scientific societies, researchers, national and public repositories (e.g. IUCN ISSG, GRIIS, GBIF, CABI, GEO BON infrastructure, OBIS)

5i. Data compilers

30. GEO BON, IUCN ISSG, OBIS, national and subnational agencies responsible for monitoring IAS.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

31. Gaps in overall data availability are reflected in the large variability of the completeness of the GRIIS country checklists, dates of first record in the country for these species, and evidence of their impact. The methods outlined above are designed to deliver useful information in the face of incomplete data. The IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment highlighted the issue of incomplete IAS inventories across realms, taxonomic groups and geographic regions, in particular highlighting marine, tropical and Arctic ecosystems; microorganisms and invertebrates; and Africa and Central Asia (IPBES 2023).

5k. Treatment of missing values

32. The indicator can be expressed for specific taxonomic groups only, for examples for plants and all vertebrates or subsets such as mammals, and other taxa (e.g. microbes) with inadequate data omitted. Species-poor taxonomic groups can also be aggregated by introduction pathways (e.g. release, escape, contaminant, stowaway, corridors, and unaided natural dispersal) for rate of establishment per pathway.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

33. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

This indicator can also be disaggregated to include within-country levels, in particular relating to islands.

6b. National/regional indicator production

34. This indicator is calculated based on data collected and shared at the national level, supplemented by independent research contributions and globally aggregated sources, see above.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

35. Differences between country and international estimates may originate from limited data availability and the size and impact of IAS interventions and control measures. Filling species data gaps and confirming detections will reduce discrepancies. In countries where resources are limited, global analysis e.g. through literature synthesis, can supplement data available nationally. Because the rate of IAS establishment is estimated over several years, the impact of new national, regional, or global prevention and control interventions will take time to manifest as changes in index values at higher levels.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

36. The indicator is based on a model-estimated change in the number of new introductions per year, assuming a sampling effect (Belmaker et al. 2009, McGeoch et al. 2012, McGeoch et al. 2023. Buba et al 2024).

6d.2 Additional methodological details

37. None

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

38. Details for collecting checklist data are available in Pagad et al. (2018) and in Seebens et al. (2017) for the first record data.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

39. An earlier version of this indicator was reported in the:

(a) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Assessment, by the CBD for Aichi Target 9.

(b) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 15.8.

40. It will be relevant to:

(a) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

(b) Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar,

(c) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

(d) IPBES Global and Regional Assessments.

8. Possible Disaggregations

41. Where the relevant data is available through GRIIS, this indicator can be disaggregated by species, taxon, region, country, sub-national unit (including islands), protected areas, pathways or type of impact.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

42. As invasive species are a key driver of biodiversity loss, there is a clear link with goals A and B and its associated indicators (e.g. Red List Index, Red List of Ecosystems). Headline indicator 6.1. is also related to the complementary indicator for Target 21 regarding growth in biodiversity knowledge, because the interpretation of headline indicator 6.1 relies on an understanding of survey effort for IAS which when not available can be replaced by a proxy, such as the growth in GBIF records.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

10b. Contact person(s)

Melodie McGeoch, Monash University/GEO BON (melodie.mcgeoch@monash.edu)

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12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Binary indicator 6.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Goal
N/A

Target
Target 6. Eliminate, minimize, reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

Rationale

1. Invasive alien species are one of the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss. In some ecosystems, such as islands, invasive alien species (IAS) are the leading cause of biodiversity decline. Invasive alien species affect biodiversity by competing with native species for resources, by direct predation or by introducing pathogens. They also modify the composition and structure of ecosystems, reducing the services they provide. In addition to their environmental impacts, invasive alien species pose a threat to food security, human health and economic activities. Globalization and an associated increase in human-mediated activities, such as international transport, trade and tourism, have made the movement of species beyond natural bio-geographical barriers easier and quicker, by creating new introduction pathways. Due to the wide and crosscutting impacts of IAS, including environmental, economic, health, social and cultural impacts, it is necessary to strengthen collaboration across sectors and government agencies at all levels and areas to ensure that this threat is managed effectively.

2. Governments have an important role to play in setting the regulatory landscape to support institutions in reducing the impacts of IAS. Business as usual practices have led to a large number of species being introduced to habitats where they have had significant impact on local biodiversity. Regulations, such as those on ballast water emptying, and appropriate resources to enforce them have a proven effect on reducing the rates of IAS establishment. Specifically, this indicator reports on the number of countries that have adopted regulation, processes and measures, and allocated resources, to reduce the impact of IAS.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Impact of alien invasive species: Impacts are changes to nature, nature's contributions to people and/or good quality of life. Impacts can be observed or unobserved. Generally, negative impacts become more apparent and problematic when invasive alien species are well established, widespread and present for a long time. Along with their adverse effects, some invasive alien species may have positive impacts providing benefits to some people.

4. Alien invasive species: An alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity.

5. Establishment: Production of a viable, self-sustaining population.

6. Control: Direct action(s) taken to reduce or suppress the distribution, abundance, spread and impacts of invasive alien species within a defined geographic area (FAO, 1995)

7. Eradicate: Eliminate/extirpate an invasive alien species from a defined geographic area even in the absence of all preventive measures obviating the necessity for further control measures (Dowdle, 1998). The time period after which an invasive alien species can be considered eradicated depends on the species and location.

Method of Computation

8. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to three questions:

(a) 6.1 Does your country have regulations and processes empowering relevant institutions to implement the measures necessary for a reduction of the introduction and impact of invasive alien species?

(b) 6.2 Does your country have measures in place for preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species?

(c) 6.3 Does your country have measures in place for eradicating or controlling invasive alien species?

9. There are four possible answers to each question[21]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

10. A "*No*" answer implies that Parties have not put in place any regulation nor processes to reduce the introduction and impact of IAS (6.1) nor measures to prevent the introduction and establishment of IAS (6.2) nor for eradicating and controlling IAS (6.3). Therefore no regulations nor policy measures exist in the country for the specific requirements of each question and none have been proposed.

11. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to design and implement regulation on reduction of introduction and impacts (6.1), prevention of introduction and establishment (6.2) or eradication and control of IAS (6.3). For each of these items in turn, national governments must be in the design stage of such measures (e.g. a bill or measures have been proposed) but none of them have passed nor been implemented yet. The development of these measures must involve legal or governmental bodies with the authority to implement the proposed measures.

12. A "*Partially*" answer implies that only some of the elements in the question have been fulfilled. That is:

(a) regulation or processes have been put in place but not both (6.1)

(b) measures are in place to reduce introduction or impact of IAS but not both (6.1)

(c) measures are in place to prevent introduction or establishment of IAS but not both (6.2)

(d) measures are in place to eradicate or control some IAS (6.3)

13. If any one of the above has been put in place, then partial achievement has been reached. Additionally, in the case where a subnational authority may have put in place both of the measures

[21] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

listed in questions 6.1 or 6.2 or to eradicate or control all IAS (6.3) in its area of jurisdiction, Parties may also select "*Partially*" to represent the efforts being done in their country. In this case however, partial achievement of a question at the subnational level does not reach the threshold for Parties to select "*Partially*" and Parties should revert to the "*Under development*" answer.

14. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely, for 6.1 that both regulation and processes are in place to empower institutions in reducing both introduction and the impact of IAS and for 6.2 that measures are in place to prevent the introduction and establishment of IAS. For 6.3 measures are in place to control or eradicate all IAS of particular concern for the Party. If any one element is missing, then only partial achievement has been reached. For all questions, the regulations, processes and measures must be in place at the national level. All measures put in place by governments need to be resourced (financial and human) to count as "*Fully*".

7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential[22]

1. Indicator name

7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential

2. Date of metadata update

January 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 7: Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

4. Rationale

1. Coastal areas are areas of high productivity where inputs from land, sea, air and people converge. With over 40 percent of the human population residing in coastal areas, ecosystem degradation in these areas can have disproportionate effects on society (IGOS, 2006). One of the largest pressures on coastal environments is eutrophication, resulting primarily from land-based nutrient input from agricultural runoff and domestic wastewater discharge. Coastal eutrophication can lead to serious damage to marine ecosystems and vital sea habitats and can cause the spread of harmful algal blooms.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

2. The indicator is a subset of the indicators used for SDG 14.1.1. The indicator aims to measure the contribution to coastal eutrophication from countries and the state of coastal eutrophication. Therefore, two levels of indicators are recommended:

(a) Level 1: Globally available data from earth observations and modelling

(b) Level 2: National data collected from countries (through the relevant Regional Seas Programme where applicable, that is, for countries that are a member of a Regional Seas Programme)

Monitoring parameters	*Level 1*	*Level 2*
Indicator for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (N and P loading)	X	
National modelling of indicator for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP)		X

[22] The index of coastal eutrophication potential is Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.1.1(a). The official SDG metadata is accessible from Metadata-14-01-01.pdf (un.org)

3. Unit of measure: Indicator for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP): kilograms of carbon (from algae biomass) per square kilometre of river basin area per day (kg C km^{-2} day^{-1}).

5b. Method of computation

Level 1: Indicator for coastal eutrophication potential

4. This indicator is based on loads and ratios of nitrogen, phosphorous and silica delivered by rivers to coastal waters (Garnier et al. 2010), which contribute to the ICEP. The basis for these loads is collected from land-based assessments of land use including fertilizer use, population density, socioeconomic factors and other contributors to nutrient pollution runoff. Given the land-based nature of the indicator, it provides a modelled number indicating the risk of coastal eutrophication at a specific river mouth. The indicator can be further developed by incorporating *in situ* monitoring to evaluate the dispersion of concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorous and silica to ground-truth the index. The indicator assumes that excess concentrations of nitrogen or phosphorus relative to silica will result in increased growth of potentially harmful algae (ICEP > 0). ICEP is expressed in kilograms of carbon (from algae biomass) per square kilometre of river basin area per day (kg C km^{-2} day^{-1}).

5. The ICEP model is calculated using one of two equations depending on whether nitrogen or phosphorus is limiting. The equations (Billen and Garnier 2007) are:

$$ICEP\ (N\ limiting) = [NFlx/(14 * 16) - SiFlx/(28 * 20)] * 106 * 12$$

$$ICEP\ (P\ limiting) = [PFlx/31 - SiFlx/(28 * 20)] * 106 * 12$$

where *PFlx, NFlx* and *SiFlx* are respectively the mean specific values of total nitrogen, total phosphorus and dissolved silica delivered at the mouth of the river basin, expressed in *kg P* km^{-2} day^{-1}, in *kg N* km^{-2} day^{-1} and *in kg Si* km^{-2} day^{-1}.

Level 2: National ICEP modelling

6. Existing ICEP modelling at the national level is limited but could be further developed following the model of a current study analysing basin level data in Chinese rivers (Strokal et al. 2016). The study utilises Global NEWS – 2 (Nutrient Export from WaterSheds) and Nutrient flows in Food chains, Environment and Resources use (NUFER) as models. The Global NEWS-2 model is basin-scale and quantifies river export of various nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, carbon and silica) in multiple forms (dissolved inorganic, dissolved organic and particulate) as functions of human activities on land and basin characteristics (Strokal et al. 2016). Furthermore, the model shows past and future trends.

7. A full methodology for this indicator is available in the "*Global Manual on Ocean Statistics for Measuring SDG 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1*".

5c. Data collection method

8. National data are collected through the Regional Seas Programmes to reduce the reporting burden on countries. For countries that are not included in the Regional Seas Programme, UNEP contacts countries directly. For globally derived data, UNEP has established a partnership with NOAA and GEO Blue Planet and the Global Nutrient Management System (GNMS) to facilitate the production of global data products.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

9. The methodology for this indicator is published under the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35086/USO.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

10. The data for this indicator is also available on the UN SDG Global database: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database

5e. Data sources

11. For Level 1 indicators:

(a) Global models, which are based on official data from national governments as collected from UN organizations.

12. For Level 2 indicators:

(a) Data provided by national governments.

5f. Availability and release calendar

13. For Level 1 indicators:

(a) ICEP has been calculated for large marine ecosystems. River-basin scale information is expected in 2024. National models will be available beginning in late 2024 with the release of guidance from UNEP for preparing national models.

14. For Level 2 indicators:

(a) The first UNEP data collection was carried out in 2023 and nutrient data (TN, TP and DSI) is available by sampling stations from 2000 to 2022. After that, data collection will be synchronised with the Regional Seas data collection calendar.

5g. Time series

15. For Level 1 indicator:

(a) ICEP: 1900-2015: data are available for Global large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and River Basins. Data are available for N loading, not P loading.

16. For Level 2 indicator:

(a) The first UNEP data collection was carried out in 2023 and nutrients data (TN, TP and DSI) is available by sampling stations from 200-2022. The plan is to align the data collection with Regional Seas every 4 years and the data will be yearly data, as used for SDG 14.1.1.

5h. Data providers

17. For Level 1 data:

(a) Geo Blue Planet, NOAA, Esri, IOC-UNESCO.

18. For Level 2 data:

(a) National governments, through the Regional Seas, or directly to UNEP.

5i. Data compilers

19. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with partners mentioned in the other sections of this metadata.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

20. Level 2 Data for ICEP:

(a) Total Nitrogen, Toal Phosphorus and Dissolved Silica data is now available for some countries in the UN SDG Global database under SDG Indicator 14.1.1, however the ICEP data is not yet available.

(b) With the use of the index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP), freshwater pollution is not addressed; the ICEP is only a marine indicator. There are two related SDG indicators which may be considered as options to supplement national reporting: SDG 6.6.1

looking at trophic state and turbidity, using chl a, and SDG 6.3.2 on quality of freshwater (for which there are plans to integrate information from citizen science monitoring).

5k. Treatment of missing values

21. For Level 1 data:

Not applicable.

22. For Level 2 data:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Regional Seas do not make any estimation or imputation for missing values, so the number of data points provided are actual country data.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

23. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation: Regional and national level. *Sub-national level can also be derived upon request.

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☐

(c) Global LMEs and River Basins scale indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

24. The methodology for global (Level 1) and national (Level 2) indicators (Global Manual on Ocean Statistics for Measuring SDG 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1) is available at the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086

25. UNEP is preparing guidance for the development of national modelled values of the ICEP. Some countries are not coastal but do contribute to coastal nutrient loads via watersheds; however, the ICEP models are only designed for countries with mouths of river(s).

26. The national level data for this indicator will be data collected from countries and will measure the ICEP at the mouth of rivers in those countries. Modelled data will not be used unless countries are not able to measure ICEP; it is not yet clear if the use of modelled data will cover landlocked countries.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

27. For Level 1:

Global models are used.

28. For Level 2:

National data is used. National level models of the index of coastal eutrophication will be initiated beginning in 2024.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

29. The methodology for global (Level 1) and national (Level 2) indicators (Global Manual on Ocean Statistics for Measuring SDG 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1) is available at the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35086

6d.2 Additional methodological details

30. UN Environment will continue to provide regional (at the scale of large marine ecosystems and at the scale of basins) data for the ICEP values. UNEP is working (starting in 2024) to provide national modeled values for ICEP, and it is these national values that will be used to feed into CBD reporting.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

31. National data collection through the Regional Seas already exists for many Regional Seas and directly from countries; the nutrients data was compiled for SDG reporting in 2023 and reported in the UN SDG Global database in 2024.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

32. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): indicator 14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication

8. Possible Disaggregations

33. A geospatial disaggregation of the state of pollution is proposed. For the ICEP loading indicators, this disaggregation should be at the sub-basin level.

34. The processes of assessing and reporting on this indicator should be inclusive, following the approach outlined in Section C for implementing the GBF. The planned data collection for this ICEP indicator does not collect or permit disaggregation by gender or indigenous peoples and local communities. The indicator does not assess the impact of pollution; rather, the indicator relies on environmental measurements or models of nutrient levels, human population levels, agricultural chemical use and other contributors to nutrient pollution runoff.

9. Related indicators

N/A

10. Data reporter
10a. Organization

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

10b. Contact person(s)

35. Dany Ghafari, (dany.ghafari@un.org)

11. References

Website

Regional Seas website: https://www.unep.org/topics/ocean-seas-and-coasts/regional-seas-programme

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12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

7.2 Pesticide environment concentration and/or aggregated total applied toxicity

1. In decision 16/31 Parties identified pesticide environment concentration and/or aggregated total applied toxicity as headline indicators for Target 7. Parties may choose to report on pesticide environment concentration and/or aggregated total applied toxicity headline indicator, depending on the availability of methodology and in accordance with their national circumstances and technical capacities. Note that the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group established to support the further development and operationalization of the monitoring framework only developed metadata for the indicator aggregated total applied toxicity which is provided below. Metadata for the indicator pesticide environment concentration is not currently available.

1. Indicator name

7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT)

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 7: Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

This headline indicator addresses target element b. For information on the headline indicator related to target element (a) see headline indicator 7.1 ‘index of coastal eutrophication potential’).

4. Rationale

2. Chemical pollution can have considerable impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity [1-8]. Pesticides have a propensity for pollution risks due to their outdoor application and their resulting transport into non-target habitats and ecosystems, such as surface waters or field margins [2,6,9-26]. Pollution risks tend to increase with the amounts of pesticides being used. An indicator of pesticide pollution risks should, therefore, take into account pesticide use.

3. Individual pesticide active ingredients affect different components of biodiversity, including different non-target species, to dissimilar degrees [25,27-30]. This is expressed as the toxicity of the pesticide for the particular species or species group. For example, some pesticides are highly toxic to pollinators, whereas others are toxic to aquatic plants. Because toxicities vary, even among chemical compounds belonging to the same pesticide type (e.g., fungicides, herbicides, insecticides) or pesticide class (e.g., based on chemical structure or mode of action), then pesticide use has to be tracked per individual pesticide active ingredient: Total pesticide use or use per type or class is not sufficient [28,29].

4. The headline indicator should ensure that a broad range of species are covered to protect biodiversity as a whole. The indicator should reflect progress towards target 7b, but over-

achievement of the target for some species or species groups should not be allowed to compensate for underachievement related to other species or species groups.

5. A low availability of pesticide use data limits the estimation of pesticide pollution risks. Pesticide use data is not publicly available for many countries [31]. In such cases, use has to be estimated from sales, import, export and production data. National indicators established in some countries incorporate additional data for the estimation of pollution risks [19,32-39], but their high requirements for data and analytical capacity make them unsuited as global headline indicators. Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) builds on Total Applied Toxicity (TAT [28]), which requires only active ingredients use and related toxicities as input data. TAT uses compound-specific pesticide toxicities as a weighting factor for the amounts of each applied pesticide in a country. The ATAT incorporates TATs for a range of species groups by pesticides used in agriculture, considered proxies for pesticide risk to non-target species [24,28,29], and assesses changes across TATs relative to an established target and baseline.

6. Currently, pesticide pollution cannot be comprehensively monitored directly. Even with established monitoring programs [12,15,22,23,40-42], the limitations of on-site pesticide monitoring in different environmental compartments (e.g., surface water, soil, atmosphere) hinders comprehensive and accurate risk evaluations at large spatial scales [11].

7. In many instances, pollution risks associated with other highly hazardous chemicals, other than pesticides, do not emerge from direct outdoor applications. This headline indicator cannot track pollution risks from these chemicals. Complementary indicators may be developed to track the target for these chemicals.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

8. Pesticides are any substance or mixture of substances—chemical or biological—intended to repel, destroy, or control pests, including vectors of human or animal disease, unwanted species of plants or animals causing harm during production, processing, storage, or transport of food and agricultural commodities [43]. Pesticides are understood here as active ingredients, i.e., chemical compounds, and not as products. Approximately 600 pesticides, for which toxicity data are available for a large number of species groups [29], form the basis for ATAT calculations in each country (see 5e Data sources). These include pesticides of various types (e.g., fungicides, herbicides, insecticides) that are mainly synthetic chemicals and mainly used outdoors.

9. Pesticide use is the amount of a pesticide active ingredient (in kg) applied within a country and a year. Where this use data is not available through government records or survey-based market research, it can be estimated using sales, import, export, and production data. Only outdoor pesticide use, including seed treatments, should be included in ATAT calculations; other uses, for example in greenhouses or storage, should be excluded. When outdoor uses are not reported separately for pesticides that are mainly used outdoors, then these pesticides should also be included for ATAT calculations.

10. A range of species groups, each with species that have similar taxonomic or functional properties, represent the species diversity component of biodiversity [29]. Together, these groups are considered as the broadest possible representation of biodiversity in the context of species groups for which pesticide toxicity data are available. Species groups are defined during pesticide risk assessments in countries that implement pesticide regulatory frameworks. The ATAT uses a set of nine species groups that are commonly considered under pesticide regulatory frameworks, these are: aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants, fish, terrestrial arthropods (excluding pollinators), pollinators, birds, mammals, soil organisms and terrestrial plants. An advantage of considering different species groups is the possibility to identify leverage points for effective management decisions, such as substituting more toxic with less toxic pesticide alternatives [29]. Further details regarding the coverage of species groups are provided in section 5e.

11. Regulatory frameworks have been established in some countries and regions to proactively evaluate and manage risks from pesticide use. Within these frameworks, considerable information on pesticide toxicities is accumulated with a high level of standardization, allowing comparisons of acute or chronic toxicity data between a large number of pesticides. Data and methodologies from regulatory frameworks, harmonized for global representativeness, are the main source of toxicity estimates for ATAT calculations. The toxicity of a pesticide refers to the amount of pesticide in a medium (or organism) that results in specific effects, commonly derived from laboratory tests [28,35,44]. Toxicities are expressed as a single value for each pesticide active ingredient for a species (where data is available, toxicities for adjuvants, solvents or other pesticide components can be included). ATAT calculations for all countries will use the same set of toxicity values in the form of Regulatory Threshold Levels (RTLs [23]). These RTL values are derived by (i) collating acute and chronic ecotoxicity endpoint values (e.g., LC_{50}, EC_{50}, NOEC, etc.) for each pesticide active ingredient for each species within a group; (ii) applying methodologies in established regulatory frameworks, such as safety factors [22,23]; and (iii) selecting the worst case value (after applying safety factors) as the RTL.

12. Total Applied Toxicity (TAT [28]) is a measure that sums up weighted pesticide use (in kg) in a country and year, whereby each amount of pesticide used is weighted by the respective pesticide's toxicity (RTL) for a species group (in different units, e.g., µg/L for aquatic invertebrates or µg/individuum for pollinators). There is one TAT value per country, year and species group (n = 9). TAT values for different species groups cannot be compared directly.

13. Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) summarizes the TAT values for the nine species groups calculated for a country and year into a single value. It does so by comparing the TAT values to baseline TAT values, allowing the indicator to track progress against the targeted reduction (i.e., 50% according to target 7b) per species group. This yields a relative measure, e.g., a value of 100 indicates that the TAT equals the baseline TAT, a value of 50 that the TAT was reduced to 50% of the baseline TAT. The ATAT is calculated as the average of the nine TATs, but it also ensures that the value indicating target achievement (= 50) can only be reached if all species groups are covered (see paragraph 3 above). There is one ATAT value per country and year.

5b. Method of computation

14. The calculation of TAT for species group *sp* and year *t* was described by Schulz et al. (2021)[28] as:

$$TAT_{sp,t} = \sum_{s}^{n} \frac{m_{s,t}}{RTL_{s,sp}} \quad (1)$$

where the $TAT_{sp,t}$ is the sum of the mass m of a pesticide s applied within one year divided by the toxicity of the pesticide (RTL, Regulatory Threshold Level) for a species group sp. TAT is summed up over n pesticides (up to, about 600 required for ATAT calculations). With nine species groups, each country calculates nine TAT values per year. A set of RTLs will be made available to be used for this equation.

15. A baseline TAT per species group represents the status of the TAT at the beginning of the decade. This is calculated as the arithmetic mean of TAT values for the number of years T for which data is available during the period between 2011 and 2020, inclusive (equation 2). Whereas 10 full years of data is recommended, if data availability does not allow the calculation of TAT for the ten years prior to 2021, then a different number of consecutive years can be used to calculate the baseline TAT; however, this should not be less than three. Each country is required to calculate a baseline TAT per species group (i.e., nine in total). The baseline TAT is calculated as:

$$\overline{TAT}_{base,sp} = \frac{1}{T} \sum TAT_{sp,t} \quad (2)$$

16. TAT values calculated per species group need to be expressed relative to the respective baseline TAT (TAT index, equation 3). The proportion between TAT and baseline TAT is scaled by a factor of 100 so that a value of 100 indicates that the TAT equals the baseline TAT, and a value of 50 means that the TAT is half the baseline TAT (= target achievement).

$$\widehat{TAT}_{sp,t} = 100\ \frac{TAT_{sp,t}}{TAT_{base,sp}} \quad (3)$$

17. The ATAT value for a country and year is calculated according to equation 4. ATAT is expressed as the average TAT index over all nine species groups as:

$$ATAT_t = \frac{1}{9}\sum_{sp=1}^{9}\begin{cases}\widehat{TAT}_{sp,t}, & \widehat{TAT}_{sp,t} > 50\\ 50, & \widehat{TAT}_{sp,t} \leq 50\end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Individual TAT indexes of less than 50 are capped at 50. This ensures that the overall reduction covers all species groups and thereby represents the diversity component of biodiversity (see paragraph 4 above)

5c. Data collection method

18. Each country can calculate yearly ATAT values using national data on pesticide outdoor use by active ingredient. Where such data is unavailable at an active-ingredient level, pesticide use can be estimated based on, in order of preference, (1) sales, (2) imports (= amounts of individual active ingredients imported into the country in kg), plus production (= amounts of individual active ingredients produced in the country in kg), minus exports (= amounts of individual active ingredients exported from the country in kg) or (3) based on applied area (including agricultural land, treated forests, locust control, vector management, aquaculture, etc.) and application rates (see 5e Data sources). The method of pesticide use data collection should be indicated at the time of reporting.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

19. The methodology for calculating TAT is available as supplementary information in a paper by Schulz et al. (2021)[28]. The method has already been applied to compare trends in environmental toxicity for key species groups across countries and years [25,27-29,46]. The ATAT builds on the TAT by recommending standard inputs to be used, including species groups, pesticide use, and toxicities to allow comparisons between regions, countries and years.

5e. Data sources

20. ATAT calculations require national/country data on the use of pesticide active ingredients. Disaggregated, open-source, national statistics on pesticide use are not accessible in many countries; however, data on pesticide use by type are generally recorded on an annual basis in many countries, if not publicly reported. Data on pesticide use are reported by countries in an aggregated form (by chemical group and pesticide type by country) to FAO and disseminated through FAOSTAT [46]. Some countries publicly report pesticide use, sales or trade through government ministries. Where necessary, national biodiversity coordinators can source information on pesticide use from relevant ministries, or estimate use based on available sales, import, export and production data as outlined in section 5c.

21. Forestry and agricultural areas, disaggregated by crop or livestock species, are often collected on an annual basis by agricultural or trade ministries. Data on crop production (crop types, harvested area, yields), required for improved pesticide use estimates, in cases where use and sales data are absent, are available for most countries from FAOSTAT. Some data may also be available through national reporting authorities, often in a more disaggregated form. Commercial pesticide use data based on surveys might be another source of data [29]. To avoid differences in the parameters used during calculation of ATATs and, thereby, possible biases during the calculations, countries will

need to apply a standard set of RTL values (for each active ingredient for each species group) that are deemed suitable for the global indicator. These RTLs will be made available to end users.

22. Further data on pesticide toxicity is freely available through the Pesticide Properties DataBase (PPDB). The PPDB holds data for circa 2,500 pesticide active substances and over 700 metabolites, with circa 320 parameters (e.g., toxicity, biodiversity risk assessments, etc.) stored for each substance [44. The PPDB is publicly available and is used worldwide to support pesticide risk assessments, models and indicators, policy focused monitoring exercises, and general research.

The PEST-CHEMGRIDS dataset [37] provides a publicly accessible, georeferenced dataset of pesticide application rates specific to major and aggregated crops. CROPGRIDS is a global georeferenced dataset providing the distribution, harvested area, and physical area of crops [37,47].**5f. Availability and release calendar**

23. The ATAT indicator was proposed by a group of technical and policy experts at a dedicated meeting in FAO (Rome) in January 2024 as a robust indicator that meets the criteria for tracking risk reduction to biodiversity from pesticides. Whereas TAT was already available for use, the methodology for aggregating TAT values for a range of species groups was not yet finalized. The equations for ATAT calculation as presented above have subsequently been developed together with a group of experts in pesticide risk indicators to be made available at SBSTTA-28.

24. Following extensive testing of the TAT and ATAT methodologies by the group of experts and facilitated through FAO, a final methodology and protocol for the application of ATAT relevant to indicator 7.2 was submitted to the CBD in March 2026. The methodology, based on pesticide use, and recognizing that some countries might estimate use based on sales or trade data, inherently incorporates crop, forest and other production areas, and therefore, does not require normalization by area for the purposes of the indicator. Furthermore, based on the availability of pesticide toxicity data and the underlying laboratory methods used to estimate toxicities, including the exposure of a limited number of test/target species as recommended by relevant testing authorities (e.g., OECD), the methodology does not apply weightings based on priorities, endemicities or species richness, to any of the nine species groups used as indicator taxa. Furthermore, although pesticide (active ingredient)-specific data is sometimes incomplete to varying degrees across indicator taxa; the selected species groups have been recommended to allow a broad overview of potential component risks related to the full range of pesticide types (i.e., herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.).

5g. Time series

25. The 2011-2020 baseline should be provided during initial reporting (see section 5b) with comparative risks and risk reductions for each year reported from 2022 to 2030. To avoid biases, all parameters used to calculate baseline values must concur with parameters used during the calculation of annual ATATs.

26. Changes to national protocols for collecting data on pesticide use (or data on pesticide trade where use is estimated) may occur over the baseline years (2011-2020) or during the reporting period (2022-2030). Protocol changes can disproportionately affect the estimated total toxicities for certain species groups, thereby distorting the component contributions to the overall ATAT values. Data collection protocols should be standardized across the reporting periods; however, if changes to protocols do occur, their effects on each species group should be investigated (i.e., pre- and post-change), noted and accommodated through a reassessment of the data to ensure standardization across reported years. Changes in data collection should be recorded by relevant national reporting authorities to better inform potential risk mitigation actions.

5h. Data providers

27. Data on pesticide use may be available through national governments. Pesticide use data is sometimes available through trade and commodities agencies, including private sector agents. Where

pesticide use is estimated, data on pesticide trade, including import, export and production may be available through relevant government authorities, including customs, ministries of trade and/or industry. Monash University and the University of Sydney can provide pesticide use estimation services to countries. Data on crop production, including acreage, is available through relevant ministries, including agriculture, forestry, and others. FAOSTAT maintains a publicly accessible database on crop production by country. The RTL values needed to calculate the ATAT will be made available to end users (e.g., via the PPDB). These values must be used by all countries when calculating their ATAT.

5i. Data compilers

28. ATATs are reported to the CBD by relevant national authorities. It is recommended that the data used to calculate TATs and ATATs is maintained by each country's authority. Individual TAT values as well as the contributions to TAT values by specific pesticide active ingredients represent important component indicators that can support the drafting of risk mitigation plans. For example, the top five pesticide active ingredient contributors to overall TAT values can be noted to develop regional and/or national strategies for risk mitigation.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

29. The indicator is non-cumulative and not dynamic in time—that is, it does not consider the effects of accumulated pesticides and their degradation products in the environment over time and thus may not fully capture the pervasiveness of active ingredients in the environment, or their residence times, byproducts and pathways.

30. The indicator does not account for the synergistic or antagonistic effects of pesticide mixtures, which are currently poorly documented and for which useful toxicity data is largely unavailable.

31. The indicator omits illegally traded and illegally used pesticides for which information is largely unavailable, in particular, the indicator cannot include non-reported use of banned pesticides – many of which have severe impacts on key species groups.

32. The indicator does not include the detrimental effects of obsolete pesticide stocks in nations; these are often inadequately stored and can have severe adverse effects on biodiversity and ecosystems.

33. The indicator does not address risk mitigation measures such as avoiding pesticide drift, avoiding riverine habitats, avoiding bird and fish breeding seasons, maintaining distances from water bodies, etc.; it assumes that pesticide transport into non-target ecosystems largely depends on use, as indicated by many studies (see section 4. Rationale).

34. The indicator does not incorporate cascade effects whereby pesticide impacts on one species, or a group of species, has detrimental effects on other community components (species or species groups) despite minimal direct pesticide impacts on the latter (e.g., herbicide impacts on flowering plants affect specialized pollinators or pesticide impacts on chironomid larvae affect fish).

35. The indicator is based on pesticide toxicities to species groups as indicated from mainly laboratory studies using recommended target species; it does not apply weightings for rare or endangered species or species that are endemic to specific countries.

36. The indicator does not include coastal and marine habitats and possible detrimental effects to marine organisms.

5k. Treatment of missing values

37. Data on pesticide use if unavailable, can be substituted using the hierarchical approach outlined in section 5c (data collection methods). Reporting authorities are encouraged to maintain clear records of methods and calculations in such cases; this will better inform relevant national authorities when drafting risk mitigation actions.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

38. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation: Aggregated by pesticide active ingredients, species and species groups, and crop production areas (including plantation forestry and pastures) or application areas (in the case of public health pesticides)

- Global / regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒
- National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒
- National data may be disaggregated to crops or regions if use data at the respective resolution are available to guide mitigation measures at the regional level: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

39. Indicator characteristics and calculations are available for national authorities in papers published by Schulz et al. (2021)[28], Bub et al (2023)[27] and Wolfram et al. (2023)[25]. Data to calculate the indicator is available at national levels including, in many cases, to calculate the baseline indicator (2011-2020) using historical data [29]. Annual TATs for individual species groups are recommended as useful complementary indicators that can inform on risk mitigation actions.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

40. ATAT is a relative measure, expressed as percentage change against the baseline; as such it allows for convenient aggregation at the global level.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

41. The methodology for TAT and its application in comparing environmental toxicities between regions and over time has been published by Schulz et al. (2021)[28].

6d.2 Additional methodological details

42. None

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

43. The ATAT will be reported by Parties choosing to use this indicator through their national reports.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

44. ATAT complements SDG 6 and SDG 15, which currently has an emphasis on protected lands and waters; directly contributes to monitoring hazardous pesticide risk reduction under the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) target A7 and supports related targets under the Framework (e.g., A5, B6 and D5); IPBES (global and regional assessments, thematic assessments and sustainability); contributes to monitoring implementation of Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel and Minamata Conventions and the Montreal Protocol. The component indicators further support other key international agreements and mechanisms that address pesticide management.

8. Possible Disaggregations

45. The ATAT indicator can be disaggregated by pesticide types (herbicide, insecticide, molluscicide, fungicide, etc.) and their relative contributions to reducing toxicities to all species groups against the baseline. Disaggregation of ATAT by changes due to use of nationally listed highly hazardous pesticides (e.g., those listed under international agreements or with human carcinogenic, mutagenic and adverse effects on reproduction) and the transition to safer alternatives will also be possible. Disaggregation to the component indicators, especially TAT, is necessary to inform policy decisions and/or actions on risk mitigation. Disaggregation to crops or regions within a country is an option, provided that use data at the respective resolution are available, to guide mitigation measures.

9. Related indicators

46. The ATAT will complement monitoring of Goal B and the implementation of targets 9, 10, 11, 15, and 18 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF and indicators 10.2 ‘progress towards sustainable forest management’ and 18.2 ‘value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed’.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

10b. Contact person(s)

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12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Binary indicator 8.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Rationale

1. Climate change is one of the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss. In addition to climate change, rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have also resulted in ocean acidification. Seawater pH can be further reduced by other processes, such as the decomposition of organic material, aspects of nitrogen cycling and inputs of acidic pollutants. Various mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures, including nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, have the potential to increase the resilience of ecosystems and human livelihoods to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, including reducing emissions from deforestation and other land-use changes, managing inputs of organic material and nutrients to the marine environment and by enhancing natural carbon sinks. These approaches can also deliver numerous social, economic and environmental co-benefits.

2. However, while some climate actions have demonstrated beneficial effects on biodiversity (e.g. increased habitat availability from tree planting or mangrove and seagrass restoration) others can have strongly negative effects (e.g. terrestrial or deep-sea mining for rare metals currently used in electric batteries). Some proposed climate mitigation strategies, such as marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR), also have the potential to exacerbate the scale and rate of ocean acidification. Therefore, it is important to ensure that negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity are avoided as much as possible whilst positive impacts are promoted. Therefore, policies to fight climate change and ocean acidification must be considerate of biodiversity. As such, this indicator tracks progress towards the national implementation of policies that reduce the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity whilst minimizing negative impacts and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

4. Mitigation: A human intervention to reduce the drivers of climate change and ocean acidification, or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

5. Disaster risk reduction: The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, evidence-based management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

6. Climate change: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: "*a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods*".

7. Ocean acidification: Ongoing reduction in the pH of the ocean, caused primarily by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere, but can also be exacerbated by local processes, such as the decomposition of organic material, microbial processes involved in nitrogen cycling and acidic wastewater discharge.

8. Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity: This requires action to reduce the severity and rate of climate change and ocean acidification by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing any additional local factors or drivers. It also requires action to increase the resilience to, or reduce the sensitivity of, biodiversity to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification. These actions may include nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, as well as considerations such as the siting of protected and conserved areas and species recovery programmes to take into account climate change and ocean acidification.

9. Minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity: While efforts and activities to address climate change could have the potential to generate significant positive impacts on biodiversity and those dependent on it, they could also unintentionally result in negative impacts if they are not appropriately designed and implemented. The potential benefits for, and risks to, biodiversity from specific climate actions should be assessed and understood prior to implementation. Once implemented, climate action should include effective monitoring, reporting and verification procedures. Taking into consideration biodiversity when designing, implementing and monitoring climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, can both deliver multiple benefits, and also contribute to avoiding negative impacts of the activities on biodiversity and ecosystems.

10. Climate action: Climate action refers to efforts taken to combat climate change and its impacts. These efforts include, but are not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, reducing concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere or ocean (reversing the associated effects of greenhouse gases (e.g. by enhancing ocean alkalinity), and/or taking action to build resilience or promote adaptation.

11. Resilience: The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks (Walker et al. 2004). A concept initially developed and applied in ecology, which progressively gained usage in the social and environmental sciences.

Method of Computation

12. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to nine questions:

(a) 8.1 Does your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan include actions to prevent or minimize the impacts of the following (select all that apply)

(b) 8.2 Do your country's climate change policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?

(c) 8.3 Do your country's other policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?

(d) 8.4 Do your country's other policies address the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity?

(e) 8.5 Are the impacts of climate change on biodiversity monitored and reported on?

(f) 8.6 Are the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity monitored and reported on?

(g) 8.7 Do your country's policies or action plans on the impact of climate change and ocean acidification contain the following types of actions designed to increase biodiversity resilience or reduce impacts (select all that apply)

(h) 8.8 Are measures included in your country's policies or actions plans to minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity?

(i) 8.9 Are measures included in your country's policies or actions plans to foster positive impacts of climate actions on biodiversity?

13. There are three possible answers to question 8.1[23]:

(a) Climate change

(b) Ocean acidification

(c) None of the above

14. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "*select all that apply*" approach. Namely, if a country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) includes actions to prevent or minimize the impact of climate change and/or ocean acidification then select the option to which these apply. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 8.1 is "*Yes*". If the NBSAP does not include actions to prevent or minimize the impact of neither climate change nor ocean acidification select "*None of the above*". In this question, it is understood that an NBSAP exists, it has been adopted and it meets the criteria for 8.1. Note that if a country is landlocked, answer (b) is deemed not applicable.

15. There are four possible answers to questions 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8 and 8.9[24]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

16. A "*No*" answer implies that there is no mention nor consideration of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in national policies on climate change (8.2) nor any consideration of the impacts of climate change (8.3) nor ocean acidification (8.4) on biodiversity in any other national policy. Current policy on climate change or other may be at any level of implementation (from draft to law) yet it fails to specifically address impacts on biodiversity. Additionally, no monitoring of the impacts of climate change (8.5) nor ocean acidification (8.6) on biodiversity is ongoing. Moreover, no measures are included in national policies nor action plans to minimize negative impacts (8.8) and foster positive impacts (8.9) of climate actions on biodiversity.

17. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to include the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in climate (8.2) and other policy (8.3), to include the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity in policy (8.4), to start monitoring and reporting on these impacts (8.5 and 8.6) or to put measures in place to minimize negative impacts (8.8) and foster positive impacts (8.9) of climate actions on biodiversity. New climate or other policy drafts including biodiversity, or amendments to current policy to include biodiversity, may have been proposed, but these have not been accepted nor implemented yet. Additionally, monitoring programs and reporting systems may be in the design phase or be completed and accepted but not resourced, and therefore have not begun. Finally, new measures to account for biodiversity in climate action may have been designed and/or proposed but not yet implemented.

18. A "*Partially*" answer implies that:

[23] For landlocked countries "*ocean acidification*" as an answer to 8.1 will be considered not applicable. Additionally, questions 8.4 and 8.6 will be considered not applicable and only policies and action plans on the impacts of climate change are to be considered relevant for answering 8.7

[24] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(a) a country's climate (8.2) or other (8.3) policies address some the impacts of climate change on biodiversity but not all, or addresses all the impacts of climate change but only on some aspects of biodiversity (e.g. species diversity)

(b) a country's policies address some of the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity (8.4) but not all, or addresses all the impacts of ocean acidification but only on some aspects of biodiversity (e.g. species diversity)

(c) some or all the impacts of climate change on some or all of biodiversity are being monitored and/or reported (8.5)

(d) some or all the impacts of ocean acidification on some or all of biodiversity are being monitored and/or reported (8.6)

(e) measures are in place to minimize some of the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity (8.8) but not all, or to minimize all negative impacts of climate actions but only on some aspects of biodiversity (e.g. species diversity)

(f) measures are in place to foster positive impacts of climate actions on biodiversity (8.9) but not all, or to foster all positive impacts of climate actions but only on some aspects of biodiversity (e.g. species diversity)

19. If any one of the cases outlined applies, only partial achievement has been reached.

20. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that all the impacts of climate change on biodiversity are addressed in national climate (8.2) and other (8.3) policy, that all impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity are addressed in national policy (8.4), that monitoring and reporting on both these impacts on biodiversity is resourced and ongoing (8.5 and 8.6) and that measures are in place to both minimize all negative impacts (8.8) and foster all positive impacts of climate actions on biodiversity (8.9).

21. There are seven possible answers to question 8.7:

(a) Mitigation

(b) Adaptation

(c) Disaster risk reduction

(d) Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches

(e) Policies to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

(f) Other

(g) None of the above

22. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "*select all that apply*" approach. Namely, if a country's action plans, policies or strategies on the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification contain actions on mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, policies to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity or other to increase biodiversity resilience or reduce impacts, then select the option(s) which apply. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 8.7 is "*Yes*". In the case that "*Others*" is selected, please specify what this refers to in the free text section. If policies or action plans on the impact of climate change and ocean acidification do not contain any of the actions listed, select "*None of the above*". In this question, it is understood that nations have plans to tackle climate change and ocean acidification and asks whether these actions are also designed to increase biodiversity resilience or not.

9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species

1. The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) included a list of indicators to monitor the goals and targets of the GBF as contained in decision 15/5 of the COP 15. This list includes the headline indicator 9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species to monitor Target 9 of the convention, namely:

> Target 9. Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People
> Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

2. Indicator 9.1 was initially understood as a possible disaggregation of indicator B.1 S*ervices provided by ecosystems*, since benefits derived from the use of wild species can be measured through the ecosystem service accounts in indicator B.1 under Goal B. Although for indicator B.1 parties are encouraged to flag, when possible, if ecosystem services are used above certain sustainability thresholds, the sustainable use of ecosystem services is not the primary focus of indicator B.1 while it is a prerequisite for the adequate monitoring of target 9 (indicator 9.1).

3. The AHTEG, at its 6th meeting in March 2024, discussed indicator 9.1 and acknowledged that in practice it is difficult to capture the benefits from the sustainable use of wild species. Various options for indicator 9.1 were considered, including a binary indicator, however, the AHTEG, recognizing the importance of this indicator, agreed to maintain it as a headline indicator for Target 9, noting that more work is needed in order to provide a methodology that allows the sustainability assessment aspect of the use of ecosystem services. As such, it is suggested that Goal B1 and Target 9 use the same indicator for reporting purposes.

4. The AHTEG also noted that the benefits from the sustainable use of the wild species are undoubtedly enormous, especially to indigenous peoples and local communities. However, to monitor progress towards "*ensuring that the management and use of wild species are sustainable*", it is important to measure if the overall use of wild species is sustainable or not rather than only looking at the benefits from the sustainable use. Once the sustainable use of wild species is guaranteed, then, it would be possible to assess the benefits provided, as well as the beneficiaries or users through ecosystem service accounts.

5. Indicator B.1 may provide relevant information toward target 9 on the overall use of wild if ecosystem services, such as "*Wild animals, plants and other biomass provisioning services*" "*Wild fish and other natural aquatic biomass provisioning services*" or "*Recreation-related services*" are included in the reporting under B.1.

9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations

1. Indicator name

9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations
Traditional Knowledge - Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations

6. Discussion will need to take place for the further development and operationalization of this indicator, including suggestions for a more suitable indicator name (see rationale in section 4).

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 9. Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

4. Rationale

1. Actions to implement Target 9 need to take into account indigenous and local systems for the control, use and management of natural resources and seek to protect and encourage these. The practice of traditional occupations is a key a element of this which is not only essential to the spiritual, cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples and local communities but also a key element in ensuring that the management and use of wild species is sustainable.

2. The traditional knowledge indicator on "*Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations*" was adopted by COP-13 in 2016. COP-15 adopted a related but (slightly) different indicator as headline indicator for Target 9. "*Percentage of the population in traditional occupations*". Discussion has started on how best to further develop and operationalize this indicator.

3. A potential computation by "*dividing the number of Indigenous People (IP) practicing traditional occupations by the total number of working age indigenous people in a country*" was originally proposed in the technical paper on *Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics,* (Geneva. International Labour Office, 2023). However, based on existing data, it is not yet possible (beyond pilot studies) to measure this indicator on a global and national level due to the lack of identifiers for Indigenous Peoples in countries' census processes. The international Labour Organization (ILO) observed that "*Comprehensive official statistics on traditional occupations are rarely available, partly owing to the continuing poor visibility of indigenous and tribal peoples in official statistics, and partly owing to the absence of an agreed definition of traditional occupations for statistical purposes.*"

4. We therefore propose that this indicator could be measured across scales (from local to global) through the use of structural, process and outcome indicators generated through Community Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS), combined with binary indicators..

5. Potential titles for the indicator include:

(a) Number of countries/programmes/processes supporting customary sustainable use of indigenous peoples and local communities

(b) Number of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with plans for customary sustainable use/support for traditional occupations

6. These aspects and proposals will need to be further discussed and agreed.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications
5a. Definition:

7. Traditional occupations are generally understood as the activities that indigenous and tribal peoples have traditionally undertaken to provide for their subsistence needs and livelihoods. The practice of these occupations relies on intimate knowledge of ancestral lands, the environment, and natural resources passed on from generation to generation. These occupations and the skills and knowledge underlying them are not static. They have evolved over time and will continue to do so. The concept of traditional occupations to be measured in statistics should not therefore be limited to the economic and cultural activities that indigenous peoples have traditionally undertaken in the past, but should also embrace other occupations in which indigenous peoples are using their traditional knowledge today and will do so in the future, for example in life sciences, climate research and tourism.

8. The concept of work adopted in 2013 by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians for the purposes of official statistics is very broad and includes any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use. Traditional occupations may be practised in any of the forms of work recognized in official labour statistics, including own-use production work, employment for pay or profit, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work, and other work activities.

9. For the purposes of this indicator, traditional occupations is defined as:

(a) Traditional occupations are occupations in which indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, innovations and technologies may influence the way the work is performed, if the work is performed by a person who identifies as belonging to an indigenous or tribal group. Indigenous knowledge refers to the constantly evolving information, skills, practices, science and technology passed from generation to generation within an indigenous or tribal group. The work performed in traditional occupations embraces production of goods and services for own use and other forms of unpaid work including volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, as well as employment for pay or profit.

10. For the operational measurement of traditional occupations, it is necessary to reflect this definition in terms of a set of occupations defined in a classification of occupations used for the compilation of official labour statistics.

11. The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) provides a system for classifying and aggregating occupational information obtained by means of statistical censuses and surveys, as well as from administrative records (see annex 1). Many national classifications are based on ISCO-08 or on its predecessor, ISCO-88. Some countries have national occupation classifications that are not based on ISCO, but in most cases it is possible to map data from detailed levels of the national classification to a relatively detailed level of ISCO08. In countries that have not developed their own national classifications, a version of ISCO may be used directly. ISCO-08 is a four-level, hierarchically structured classification that allows all jobs in the world to be classified into 436 unit groups. These groups form the most detailed level of the classification structure and are aggregated into 130 minor groups, 43 sub-major groups and 10 major groups, on the basis of their similarity in terms of the skill level and skill specialization required for the jobs. This allows the production of relatively detailed internationally comparable data as well as summary information for only ten groups at the highest level of aggregation. A subset of these unit groups (see annex) are used to identify jobs which could be considered as traditional occupations. However national occupation classification schemes may frequently identify specific occupations that fit within the definition of traditional occupations that are not separately identified in ISCO. It would be preferable in such cases, therefore, to identify the groups in the national classification that fit the definition of traditional occupations, using the agreed list of ISCO groups as guidance.

12. There is no internally agreed definition of "*indigenous peoples*". However, individuals belonging to such a group would generally have an ancestral connection to the group and self-identify as a member of that group. The most appropriate approach to the design of questions to identify such people will vary between countries and regions depending on cultural perceptions about concepts of ethnicity and indigeneity, and the number and nature of the ethnic groups that need to be identified.

13. Many countries already have their own definitions or criteria, and information is generally collected through national census or surveys. Such national data collection exercises can be used to calculate the indicator.

5b. Method of computation

14. The indicator will need to be measured across scales. Using the binary question below could be the first step to compute the indicator. Countries could also be asked whether they offer programs focused on indigenous peoples and local communities engaged in traditional occupations. It is still to be determined if the question about programs will include the topics of some/co-management/full management of lands by indigenous peoples and local communities, use of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in land management, access to traditional foods, education policies promoting the learning of indigenous peoples and IK, and tourism. Similar questions asked for the land tenure and language indicators could also demonstrate the support of the right of traditional occupations. Case studies and community- based monitoring and information systems would allow countries to demonstrate if countries are upholding their customary sustainable use laws and policies and programs are achieving their goals. However, the exact computation is still to be determined.

15. Global:

Data collection found there was very little standardized data about indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional occupations

16. National

Between the discussions with the staff of the International Labour Office and their 2023 Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics it became clear due to the lack of inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities (LC) in countries' census processes it is difficult to measure this indicator on a global and national level. Instead as described above of other possible ways to compute this indicator.

17. Community

Data collection demonstrated there are available sources of community -based monitoring and information systems and case studies that could provide both quantitative and qualitative date.

5c. Data collection method

18. Forest Peoples Program (FPP) collaborated with a team at the University of Michigan (UM) to research what data is available about traditional occupations, what are the themes, and how is the data presented. After multiple meetings and including a meeting with FPP staff and International Labor Office staff the UM team decided to create a spreadsheet and focus on four resources to research. The four resources included the Indigenous Navigator (found 39 entries that matched the key word searches), Local Biodiversity Outlook (49 different case studies/community based monitoring and information systems entries), academic articles (51 articles found and used Google Scholar), and media sources (10 sources found, but limited time spent on search. The UM team used agreed-upon keywords for searches like livelihoods, co-management, traditional occupation, and subsistence. Years parameters for searches were 2011-2023. They produced a spreadsheet[25], which

[25] 2. Indicators Research Spreadsheet - Google Sheets

includes 43 countries, which means the country appeared in at least one of the four search areas and sometimes more than one.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

19. The methodology by the team at the University of Michigan is not currently published in a peer-reviewed location. The spreadsheet they produced is open to anyone with a link and there are further links in the spreadsheet to the four different types of research areas. However, some of the academic articles are not open source and behind a paywall. People can access the websites and public data of the Indigenous Navigator and the Local Biodiversity Outlook on their own, including the data and methodology submissions produced by the Indigenous Navigator consortium in February 2026. A 2023 discussion paper *Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics* has been prepared by the International Labour Organization which provides further information, including on the limitations of this approach (T*raditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics*. Geneva: International Labour Office, 2023).

5e. Data sources

20. The data collected so far included data and information from a range of sources including:

(a) The Indigenous Navigator: a global, rights-based monitoring framework coordinated by IWGIA and implemented by Indigenous organizations and communities. It provides structured, community-generated data on traditional occupations, including identification and classification of occupations, 20-year trends, gender-disaggregated participation, barriers and enabling conditions (e.g., land tenure, FPIC, market access), and national-level policy indicators. The Indigenous Navigator has conducted over 300 community surveys and national questionnaires across 30 countries, with data publicly accessible at https://indigenousnavigator.org/data-explorer/2.

(b) The ILO's 2023 report, Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics, which includes micro-analyses of multiple countries and highlights the limitations of current labour force data in capturing Indigenous traditional occupations..

21. Indigenous-led organizations, such as the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska and others participating in the Indigenous Navigator Consortium, such as Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, contribute case studies and community-based monitoring data that support the application and contextualization of this indicator and monitoring of customary sustainable use more broadly. These sources provide data on the lived realities and evolving practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relation to traditional occupations.

22.

5f. Availability and release calendar

23. The percentage indicator is currently in development. The global monitoring process for this indicator, the update frequency and release calendar are currently under development. The year when the first round of data will be ready is pending.

24.

5g. Time series

25. The indicator is under development. To be determined. The University of Michigan team researched from the years 2011-2023

5h. Data providers

International Labor Organization (ILO)

Indigenous Navigator supported by IWGIA, Tebtebba, AIPP, Forest Peoples Programme and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, with the support of the European Union

Local Biodiversity Outlook International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, Forest Peoples Programme

Media– Mongabay, WWF, Vox, Grist, UNESCO, and IISD

Academic Journals-Biological Conservation, Forests,The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses, Health & Place, Development and Change, Marine Policy, Forest Ecology and Management, Identities, Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine, Habitat International, BMC Public Health, International Journal for Equity in Health, and more

5i. Data compilers

26. The Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), are leading the development of the indicator, together with the Indigenous Navigator consortium, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the team from the University of Michigan. [To be determined] would be a potential custodian for the indicator working in collaboration with CBD Secretariat.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

27. The indicator is under development. To be determined.

28. Overall, there is a lack of national statistics for traditional occupations. Part of this comes from the lack of questions asking if someone is Indigenous national censuses (ILO 2023). Even if indigenous peoples are included in the national census the population is too small to be considered statistically significant. In their 2023 report ILO recommends microdata analysis, labour force survey, surveys targeting Indigenous Peoples, time-use surveys, population census, economic data collections, and administrative records to create a statistically significant measure.

29. The data currently includes 43 countries. The Indigenous Navigator currently covers 30 countries with national partners using the Indigenous Navigator surveys with 500 communities. 26 In the Local Biodiversity Outlook just over 20 countries' case studies met the research criteria. There are many more countries signed on to the CBD. To further develop and operationalize this indicator it should be decided what sources are approved to use their case studies and community based monitoring and information systems.

30. The definition of traditional occupations is broad, so the team at the University of Michigan, in their data compilation narrowed down what occupations to include in the research. Those occupations focused on agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers, education, health, and tourism. The occupation research is a brief summary and more research could be conducted and data gather. Also, the analysis excludes other possible occupations.

5k. Treatment of missing values

31. The indicator is under development. To be determined.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

[26] The data produced by the Indigenous Navigator represent the realities and experiences of the Indigenous communities and the organisations which have completed the surveys. These data have been reviewed and validated, before being published. Please note, that the data do not reflect a statistical representation of the situation in a given country or community, but rather the specific situation(s) as reported by communities and partner organisations.

32. The indicator data will be more qualitative for the time being before it can be scaled to a global level.

6b. National/regional indicator production

33. The indicator is under development.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

34. The indicator is under development but no discrepancies are anticipated given the data collection method.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

35. Regional and global estimates are produced by aggregating country-level data.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

36. *The* data for the indicator would be collected across the national and community scales.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

37. The indicator was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity through decision X/43.

8. Possible Disaggregations

38. Disaggregation could be possible through case studies and community based monitoring and information systems based on the data provided by the communities.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

39. Depending on the finalization of the indicator, it may be relevant to goal B as well as several other targets, particularly targets 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 19, and 22, 23.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

40. Indicator under development. To be determined.

10b. Contact person(s)

Indicator under development. To be determined.

Q”apaj Conde, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (qapaj.conde@un.org)

11. Ongoing work to further operationalize the indicator and related considerations

41. The Indigenous Navigator and its partners have undertaken further work to support the development of the metadata for the indicator.[27] They have identified several issues which will need to be addressed or be taken into consideration as the metadata is developed and operationalized:

[27] See the Indigenous Navigator submissions on Methodology and Data.

(a) In line with the guidance of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, a multi-scale approach which combines official labour statistics with indigenous-led community-based monitoring and information systems, is likely to be required to operationalize the indicator. Such an approach would enhance the indicator's relevance, while ensuring that nationally reported data are contextualized with community-generated information. Community-level data may also reflect more nuanced or locally defined understandings of traditional occupations, which may not always align with national classifications.

(b) National and regional production of the indicator should integrate both official labour statistics and community-based monitoring data. The increasing availability of data from community-based monitoring systems data, presents an opportunity to improve and enhance the data which is available to use in the calculation of this indicator. At the same time, further methodological work is required to address differences between community-defined traditional occupations and national or international labour classifications.

(c) At present, the indicator is not computable in many national contexts due to the limited availability of labour statistics disaggregated by indigenous peoples and local communities. This data limitation could potentially be addressed by supplementing official data with community-based monitoring data, such as those generated through community-based monitoring systems such as the Indigenous Navigator. The Indigenous Navigator's methodology includes gender-disaggregated data, enabling countries to report on qualitative data on the distinct experiences of women and men in traditional occupations. The Indigenous Navigator has conducted standardized surveys in over 30 countries, with more than 500 communities participating. These surveys provide structured data on traditional occupations, including identification, trends, barriers, and enabling conditions, and can be used to complement national-level data collection efforts. In February 2026, the Indigenous Navigator produced a summary analysis of this data.

(d) Data provided through community-based monitoring systems can provide insights into the status and trends of traditional occupations, particularly where national data are unavailable or statistically insignificant. Since the metadata was initially prepared, the Indigenous Navigator has developed and released a high-level analysis of its methodology and data relevant to the indicator which can further inform the development of the indicator. This includes information on the possible the role of complementary community-based evidence on status and trends, gender-disaggregated insights, and barriers and enablers for traditional occupations, which can inform national reporting and contextual understanding.

(e) The effective operationalization of the indicator will depend on sustained collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities as well as on the systematic consideration of enabling policy, legal, and institutional frameworks

12. References

Websites

Indigenous Navigator: https://indigenousnavigator.org/

Local Biodiversity Outlook: https://localbiodiversityoutlooks.net

Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics, Geneva: International Labour Office, 2023: https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/WCMS_862144/lang--en/index.htm

Team from University of Michigan's Spreadsheet

13. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Annex 1

1. ISCO-08 groups to be used for operational measurement of traditional occupations when information on the use of indigenous knowledge at work is not directly available.

2. Unit groups. The following ISCO-08 unit groups could be used or help guide relevant categories in national occupation classification schemes. In addition, all unit groups in sub-major group 92 (Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers) should be included if the status in employment of the indigenous worker is employer, independent worker without employees (own-account worker), or contributing family worker:

(a) 1113 Traditional Chiefs and Heads of Villages

(b) 2131 Biologists, Botanists, Zoologists and Related Professionals

(c) 2132 Farming, Forestry and Fisheries Advisers

(d) 2133 Environmental Protection Professionals

(e) 2230 Traditional and complementary medical practitioners

(f) 2341 Primary School Teachers

(g) 2342 Early Childhood Educators

(h) 2354 Other Music Teachers

(i) 2355 Other Arts Teachers

(j) 2641 Authors and Related Writers

(k) 2642 Journalists

(l) 2643 Translators, Interpreters and Other Linguists

(m) 2651 Visual Artists

(n) 2652 Musicians, Singers and Composers

(o) 2653 Dancers and Choreographers

(p) 2654 Film, Stage and Related Directors and Producers

(q) 2655 Actors

(r) 2656 Announcers on Radio, Television and Other Media

(s) 2659 Creative and Performing Artists Not Elsewhere Classified

(t) 3141 Life Science Technicians (excluding Medical)

(u) 3142 Agricultural Technicians

(v) 3143 Forestry Technicians

(w) 3230 Traditional and Complementary Medicine Associate Professionals

(x) 3413 Religious Associate Professionals

(y) 3434 Chefs

(z) 5113 Travel Guides

(aa) 5120 Cooks

(bb) 5311 Child Care Workers

(cc) 5312 Teachers' Aides

(dd) 6111 Field Crop and Vegetable Growers

(ee) 6112 Tree and Shrub Crop Growers

(ff) 6113 Gardeners; Horticultural and Nursery Growers

(gg) 6114 Mixed Crop Growers

(hh) 6121 Livestock and Dairy Producers

(ii) 6122 Poultry Producers

(jj) 6123 Apiarists and Sericulturists

(kk) 6129 Animal Producers Not Elsewhere Classified

(ll) 6130 Mixed Crop and Animal Producers

(mm) 6210 Forestry and Related Workers

(nn) 6221 Aquaculture Workers

(oo) 6222 Inland and Coastal Waters Fishery Workers

(pp) 6223 Deep-sea Fishery Workers

(qq) 6224 Hunters and Trappers

(rr) 6310 Subsistence Crop Farmers

(ss) 6320 Subsistence Livestock Farmers

(tt) 6330 Subsistence Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers

(uu) 6340 Subsistence Fishers, Hunters, Trappers and Gatherers

(vv) 7111 House Builders

(ww) 7115 Carpenters and Joiners [includes wooden boat builders]

(xx) 7312 Musical Instrument Makers and Tuners

(yy) 7313 Jewellery and Precious Metal Workers

(zz) 7314 Potters and Related Workers

(aaa) 7315 Glass Makers, Cutters, Grinders and Finishers

(bbb) 7316 Signwriters, Decorative Painters, Engravers and Etchers

(ccc) 7317 Handicraft Workers in Wood, Basketry and Related Materials

(ddd) 7318 Handicraft Workers in Textile, Leather and Related Materials.

(eee) 7511 Butchers, Fishmongers and Related Food Preparers

(fff) 7512 Bakers, Pastry-cooks and Confectionery Makers

(ggg) 7513 Dairy Products Makers

(hhh) 7514 Fruit, Vegetable and Related Preservers

(iii) 7531 Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters

(jjj) 7535 Pelt Dressers, Tanners and Fellmongers

(kkk) 7536 Shoemakers and Related Workers

(lll) 9624 Water and Firewood Collectors.

3. Minor groups - When data are only available at the ISCO-08 minor group (3-digit) level, indigenous persons employed in the following groups should be considered to be practising traditional occupations:

(a) 213 Life Science Professionals

(b) 264 Authors, Journalists and Linguists

(c) 265 Creative and Performing Artists

(d) 323 Traditional and Complementary Medicine Associate Professionals

(e) 611 Market Gardeners and Crop Growers

(f) 612 Animal Producers

(g) 613 Mixed Crop and Animal Producers

(h) 621 Forestry and Related Workers

(i) 622 Fishery Workers, Hunters and Trappers

(j) 631 Subsistence Crop Farmers

(k) 632 Subsistence Livestock Farmers

(l) 633 Subsistence Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers

(m) 634 Subsistence Fishers, Hunters, Trappers and Gatherers

(n) 731 Handicraft Workers

(o) 921 Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Labourers (only if status in employment is employer, independent worker without employees (own-account worker), or contributing family worker).

4. Sub-major groups - When data are only available at the ISCO-08 sub-major group (2-digit) level, indigenous persons employed in the following groups should be considered to be practising traditional occupations.

(a) 61 Market-oriented Skilled Agricultural Workers

(b) 63 Subsistence Farmers, Fishers, Hunters and Gatherers

(c) 92 Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Labourers (only if status in employment is employer, independent worker without employees (own-account worker), , or contributing family worker)

Binary indicator 9.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with policies to manage the use in wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target

Target 9. Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Rationale

1. Biodiversity is the source of many goods and services on which people depend. The maintenance, in quantity and quality, of the benefits provided by biodiversity offers an important incentive for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It will not be possible to reach the 2050 Vision if the benefits provided by biodiversity, particularly those related to nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, are not ensured. The main focus of this target is ensuring that the management and use of wild species is sustainable for the benefit of people.

2. Governments have a major role to play in ensuring that biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and that benefits are fairly shared between people. Through the passing of laws and legislation, governments can regulate how biodiversity is used and traded to protect species and ensure sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits for people. As such, this indicator tracks the existence of policies put in place to sustainably use, manage and trade wild species whilst protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Biodiversity-*based products and services*: Biodiversity-based commercial and non-commercial actions and products result from the collection, production or transformation of biological resources. They are found in industries as varied as food and beverage, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, paper, textiles, energy, and handicrafts. Services based on biodiversity are those that derive value from genetic resources, species and ecosystems, such as nature-based tourism, pollination, and water treatment. The sustainable production, use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services provide developing countries with valuable opportunities for biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, economic diversification, value addition, improved livelihoods, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including women and ethnic minorities. (UN, Implications of COVID-19 for Biodiversity-based Products and Services, including BioTrade)

4. *Trade in wild species*: The selling or trading (i.e. selling of dead or living wildlife and/or products derived from them) of wild species for food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific, recreational and work-related uses. Adapted from "*Trade and use*"

5. *Wild species*: Populations of any species that have not been domesticated through multigenerational selection for particular traits, and which can survive independently of human intervention that may occur in any environment. This does not imply a complete absence of human management and recognizes various intermediate states between wild and domesticated.

6. *Customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities*: Actions to implement this target should take into account indigenous and local systems for the control, use and management of natural resources and seek to protect and encourage these. Customary use of biological resources includes spiritual, cultural, economic and subsistence functions.

7. *Social, economic and environmental benefits*: Wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species contribute to human well-being in multiple ways, including by providing nutrition, food security, medicines and livelihoods. The use and management of wild species needs to consider the various social, economic and environmental benefits provided by wild species to people. The target further specifies that particular attention should be given to those people living in vulnerable situations and for whom wild species are particularly important to their well-being as they may be engaged in biodiversity-based economic activities, or rely on biodiversity based products and services.

8. *Sustainable use*: The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Method of Computation

9. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to four questions:

(a) 9.1 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks or administrative measures for the sustainable management and use of wild species?

(b) 9.2 Does your country monitor the sustainable management and use of wild species?

(c) 9.3 Does your country monitor the social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people, in particular those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

(d) 9.4 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to protect and encourage the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, for example, the plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity or other relevant initiatives?

10. There are four possible answers to questions:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

11. A "*No*" answer implies that there are currently no legal instruments nor policy frameworks or administrative measures in place for the sustainable management and use of wild species (9.1), no monitoring of sustainable management and use of wild species (9.2) no monitoring of any of the benefits derived from the use of wild species (9.3) and there are no legal instruments nor other policy frameworks in place to protect and encourage customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities (9.4). In all cases, there are no national-level efforts to legislate or monitor the management and sustainable use of wild species.

12. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to:

(a) design legal instruments, policy frameworks or administrative measures for the sustainable management and use of wild species (9.1).

(b) monitor the sustainable management and use of wild species (9.2) by designing a monitoring program and strategy and mobilizing resources to begin data collection.

(c) monitor the social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people, in particular those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity (9.3), by designing a monitoring program and strategy and mobilizing resources to begin data collection.

(d) design legal instruments or other policy frameworks to protect and encourage customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities (9.4).

13. In each of these cases, legal, policy and administrative frameworks may be in the draft stages and awaiting ratification. Resources may also be in the process of being mobilized to support these frameworks. Importantly, these processes must be ongoing at the national level and backed by governmental bodies with implementation authority.

14. A "*Partially*" answer implies that:

(a) legal, policy or administrative frameworks for the sustainable management or use of some wild species are in place (9.1).

(b) monitoring of sustainable management or use of wild species has begun but does not cover all wild species or uses (9.2).

(c) monitoring of the social, economic or environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people (9.3) has begun but does not cover all three types of benefits or only accounts for some uses and wild species and/or does not consider those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity.

(d) legal instruments or other policy frameworks to protect or encourage some types of customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities (9.4) are in place.

15. In all these cases, government initiatives are resourced and implemented but they do not address the entirety of the question's asks. If any one of the cases outlined above applies, only partial achievement has been reached.

16. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that:

(a) legal, policy or administrative frameworks for both the sustainable management and all types of use of wild species are in place (9.1),

(b) monitoring of sustainable management or use of wild species has begun and covers all wild species and uses (9.2).

(c) monitoring of the social, economic or environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people (9.3) has begun and covers all three types of benefits, accounts for all uses and wild species, and considers those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity.

(d) legal instruments or other policy frameworks to both protect and encourage all types of customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities (9.4) are in place.

17. Note that all these frameworks and legislations must be established at the national level and be appropriately resourced (financial and human).

18. For question 9.3, if the answer "fully" or "partially" is selected, Parties will be asked to identify which of the following groups of people this applies to:

(a) Women and girls

(b) Children and youth

(c) People with disabilities

(d) Indigenous peoples and local communities

In responding to the question Parties will be able to select all the groups that apply.

10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture[28]

1. Indicator name

10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 10. Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

4. Rationale

1. The approaches to framing and defining sustainable agriculture vary in terms of their coverage of the three primary dimensions of sustainability, i.e. economic, environmental and social, and in terms of the scale that is used to assess sustainability, i.e. from field and farm scales, to national and global scales. Some approaches consider different features of sustainability, for example whether current practices are economically feasible, environmentally friendly and socially desirable. Other approaches focus on particular practices such as organic, regenerative or low-input agriculture and can equate these with sustainable agriculture. The conclusion from a literature review associated with the methodological development of this indicator is that the multi-dimensional approach developed by FAO in 1988 is a meaningful framing of the concept. Thus, sustainable agriculture can be considered as "*the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generation. Such development (in agriculture, forestry and fishing etc.) conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable*." (FAO, 1988)

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

2. The indicator is defined by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Area under productive and sustainable agriculture}}{\text{Agricultural land area}}$$

3. This implies the need to measure both the extent of land under productive and sustainable agriculture (the numerator), as well as the extent of agriculture land area (the denominator).

[28] The proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture is sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.4.1. The official SDG metadata is accessible from Metadata-02-04-01.pdf (un.org). The proxy metadata is accessible from Metadata-02-04-01proxy.pdf (un.org)

4. The numerator captures the three dimensions of sustainable production: environmental, economic and social. It corresponds to agricultural land area of the farms that satisfy the sustainability criteria of the 11 sub-indicators selected across all three dimensions[29].

5. The denominator in turn the sum of agricultural land area (as defined by FAO) utilized by agricultural holdings that are owned (excluding rented-out), rented-in, leased, sharecropped or borrowed. State or communal land used by farm holdings is not included. Please see the methodological document[30] prepared by FAO for a more detailed explanation.

6. The scope of the indicator is the agricultural farm holding, and more precisely the agricultural land area of the farm holdings, i.e. land used primarily to grow crops and raise livestock. This choice of scope is fully consistent with the intended use of a country's agricultural land area as the denominator of the aggregate indicator. Specifically, the following are:

7. Included within scope:

(a) Intensive and extensive crops and livestock production systems.

(b) Subsistence agriculture.

(c) State and common land when used exclusively and managed by the farm holdings.

(d) Food and non-food crops and livestock products (e.g. tobacco, cotton, and sheep wool).

(e) Crops grown for fodder or for energy purposes.

(f) Agro-forestry (trees on the agriculture land areas of the farm) and Aquaculture, to the extent that it takes place within the agricultural land area of the farm as secondary activities. For example, rice fish farming and similar systems.

8. Excluded from scope:

(a) State and common land not used exclusively by the farm holding.

(b) Nomadic pastoralism.

(c) Production from gardens and backyards. Production from hobby farms

(d) Holdings focusing exclusively on aquaculture.

(e) Holdings focusing exclusively on forestry.

(f) Food harvested from the wild.

9. Concepts: The literature review (Hayati, 2017) identified a large number of potential sustainability themes across the three dimensions of sustainability and, for each theme, usually a large number of possible sub-indicators. The key considerations in the selection of themes are relevance and measurability. In terms of relevance, the relationship between the associated sub-indicator and sustainable agriculture outcomes at farm level should be strong. Following this approach, only sub-indicators that are responsive to farm level policies aimed at improving sustainable agriculture are considered. In terms of measurability, only a "*core*" set of themes and sub-indicators for which measurement and reporting is expected in the majority of countries are selected.

10. A key aspect of all approaches to measuring sustainable agriculture is the recognition that sustainability is a multi-dimensional concept, and that these multiple dimensions need to be reflected

[29] The 11 sub-indicators and the methodology to calculate each of them are described in the official SDG 2.4.1 Metadata sheet (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-04-01.pdf). The detailed description of the development process for the eleven sub-indicators is described in the Methodological note (https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e344e3ee-4630-49c1-98a8-b1f5df3dcb8f/content)

[30] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e344e3ee-4630-49c1-98a8-b1f5df3dcb8f/content

in the construction of the indicator. This implies that SDG indicator 2.4.1 must be based on a set of sub-indicators that cover these three dimensions.

11. Through a consultative process that has lasted over two years, 11 themes and sub-indicators have been identified, which make up SDG 2.4.1.

No.	Themes	Sub-indicators
1	Land productivity	Farm output value per hectare
2	Profitability	Net farm income
3	Resilience	Risk mitigation mechanisms
4	Soil health	Prevalence of soil degradation
5	Water use	Variation in water availability
6	Fertilizer pollution risk	Management of fertilizers
7	Pesticide risk	Management of pesticides
8	Biodiversity	Use of agro-biodiversity-supportive practices
9	Decent employment	Wage rate in agriculture
10	Food security	Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
11	Land tenure	Secure tenure rights to land

Please see the annex of the official metadata sheet (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-04-01.pdf) for a detailed description of the sub-indicators.

5b. Method of computation

12. Steps undertaken to develop the methodology of the indicator include:

(a) Determining the scope of the indicator: The scope of indicator is the agricultural farm holdings, and more precisely the agricultural land area of the farm holdings, i.e. land used primarily to grow crops and raise livestock. Forestry, fisheries and aquaculture activities may be included to the extent that they are secondary activities conducted on the agricultural area of the farm holdings, for example rice fish farming and similar systems

(b) Determining the dimensions to be covered: Indicator includes environmental, economic and social dimensions in the sustainability assessment.

(c) Choosing the scale for the sustainability assessment: Indicator is farm level with aggregation to higher levels.

(d) Selecting the data collection instrument(s). It is recommended that indicator be collected through a farm survey.

(e) Selecting the themes within each dimension, and choosing a sub-indicator for each theme. The sub-indicators should satisfy a number of sustainability criteria (described in annex 1 for each sub-indicator in the methodological document[31]).

(f) Assessing sustainability performance at farm level for each sub-indicator: Specific sustainability criteria are applied in order to assess the sustainability level of the farm for each theme according to the respective sub-indicators.

(g) Deciding the periodicity of monitoring the indicator. It is recommended to be collected at least every three years.

[31]See the SDG metadata for SDG indictor 2.4.1 accessible from https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-04-01.pdf

(h) Modality of reporting the indicator. The set of sub-indicators are presented in the form of a dashboard. The dashboard approach offers a response in terms of measuring sustainability at farm level and aggregating it at national level.

13. The methodology proposes reporting of indicator through a national-level dashboard, presenting the different sub-indicators together but independently. The dashboard approach offers several advantages, including the possibility of combining data from different sources and identification of critical sustainability issues, facilitating the search for a balance between the three sustainability dimensions. As a result, countries can easily visualize their performance in terms of the different sustainability dimensions and themes, and understand where policy efforts can be focused for future improvements.

14. Computation of results and construction of the dashboard are performed for each sub-indicator separately using the "*traffic light*" approach already defined for each sub-indicator: aggregation at national level is performed for each sub-indicator independently, by summing the agricultural land area of each agricultural holdings by sustainability category (red, yellow or green), and reporting the resulting national total as percentage of the total national agricultural land area of all agricultural farm holdings in the country. In practice, the reported value of the indicator is determined by the results of most limiting sub-indicator in terms of sustainability performance.

5c. Data collection method

15. A questionnaire has been sent to all countries annually since 2020 (http://www.fao.org/sustainabledevelopment-goals/indicators/241/en/). Furthermore, in order to facilitate data collection by countries, a data collection module[32] has been designed, which contains the core set of questions necessary to obtain the data for the indicator. If farm surveys already exist within a country, these questions can be integrated into existing instruments in order to minimize the burden to national statistical offices in data collection.

16. All data collection activities will be done through the National Statistical Office (NSO) or the offices designated (Ministry of Agriculture in some countries) to collect data for this indicator. FAO, together with the Global Strategy to improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics (GSARS), have developed the capacity development material necessary for this indicator, including a methodological guide[33], an enumerator manual[34], data entry guidelines[35], calculation procedure document[36], sampling guidance[37] and an e-learning course[38] to train country NSO and other relevant staff on the indicator.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

17. The methodological, support documents, update on capacity development activities etc. can be found at this link: https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/Indicator2.4.1-proportion-of-agricultural-area-under-productive-and-sustainable-agriculture/en

5e. Data sources

18. In order to propose a manageable and cost-effective solution, a requirement stressed by several countries during the consultations, the methodology offers a single data collection instrument for all sub-indicators: the farm survey.

[32] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4cb138eb-c887-4463-b6c4-34d94b6de5c3/content
[33] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e344e3ee-4630-49c1-98a8-b1f5df3dcb8f/content
[34] The conversion from local units to hectares is given in detail in the enumerator manual: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/03d673ed-6360-47b6-9ac0-e8ca1eac35e0/content
[35] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6599bf25-e0af-46c7-b756-c420cf839d90/content
[36] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8a9fb2b2-604c-4e1d-b1b9-37192e226bce/content
[37] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/7935a029-2a50-4a75-8ee4-72125fe660c0/content
[38] https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=503

19. In the process of capacity development, several countries have suggested using existing data sources or alternative data sources on the grounds that these instruments can be more cost-effective and sometimes provide more reliable results than farm surveys. These instruments include remote sensing, GIS, models, agricultural surveys, household surveys, administrative data or environmental monitoring systems.

20. Often, environmental data are collected through environmental monitoring systems, including remote sensing. Yet many countries do not have the capacity or resources to do so, and therefore these data are sparse or non-existent.

21. The methodology considers the possibility to use such instruments, subject to a series of criteria to ensure data quality and international comparability. Other data sources may also be used to complement and/or validate farm survey results. The methodology note also recommends that countries complement the farm survey with a monitoring system that can measure the impact of agriculture on the environment (soil, water, fertilizer and pesticide pollution, biodiversity, etc.) and on health (pesticides residues in food and human bodies). This will provide additional information and help crosscheck the robustness of the indicator with regard to the environmental dimension of sustainability. In this respect, FAO has initiated work streams on alternative data sources to improve reporting of the indicator. In addition, FAO has also commenced development of a proxy approach to report on the indicator as an interim solution to bridge the data gaps while countries get ready to adopt and implement the farm survey based methodology. The proxy approach is under development, once the proposal is finalized, tested and approved and endorsed by IAEG-SDG, it will be shared with member states.

5f. Availability and release calendar

22. Although new data may not be available annually for each country, all new information are expected to be released annually through FAO SDG portal and UNSD.

5g. Time series

23. Indicator measures progress towards more sustainable and productive agriculture over a three year periodicity because for many sub-indicators, it is likely that changes will be relatively limited from one year to another. Furthermore, the 3-year periodicity will enable countries to have three data points on the indicator before 2030.

5h. Data providers

24. National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Agriculture or national offices designated by countries will be responsible for collecting and reporting data for this indicator,

5i. Data compilers

25. National Statistical Offices or designated offices within countries will be responsible for collecting and compiling data for this indicator. They will in turn report to FAO, which provides capacity development, conducts quality control and disseminates the information through the FAO SDG portal. FAO will in turn report the regional and global estimates to the international statistical community and UNSD.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

26. The indicator is new and complex and thus current data coverage of the indicator is low. Few countries have reported the entire dashboard, several reported a sub-set of the sub-indicators and the majority have yet to provide data. The data coverage will improve over time (in the short to medium term), thanks to the capacity development efforts that include both regional and national trainings and bilateral technical assistance to member states.

5k. Treatment of missing values

27. Partial non-response at individual level (farm holding) will be imputed using appropriate statistical techniques, such as nearest-neighbour algorithms. The decision on whether to impute or not and the choice of the method is a function of the nature of the variable to impute and the amount and type of data available for the imputation, such as the availability of auxiliary data coming from different sources (e.g. surveys, administrative information). It is important to clearly distinguish missing data from non-applicable events. As specified above and in the sub-indicator methodology sheets, some sub-indicators can be recorded as "*Not applicable*" for a given farm. In this case, the farm will be considered sustainable from the perspective of the given sub-indicators.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

28. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

www.fao.org/3/ca7154en/ca7154en.pdf

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

29. Data on the official SDG indicator 2.4.1 is currently scarce, as countries still build their capacity to adapt their agricultural surveys to collect the necessary information. As a provisional, stop-gap solution, the UN Statistical Commission has approved the use of a proxy (https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/documents/2024-36-FinalReport-E.pdf) for monitoring progress towards productive and sustainable agriculture, based on widely available national-level statistics. The proxy consists of seven sub-indicators capturing the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) in the agricultural sphere and shall be used as a "*practical interim solution*" while FAO continues to work with countries "*to strengthen capacity-building activities for the official indicator*". For information on the SDG Indicator 2.4.1 Proxy "*Progress towards productive and sustainable agriculture*", please see www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/indicator-241-proxy-progress-towards-productive-and-sustainable-agriculture/en.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

30. The indicator methodology proposes reporting of the indicator through a national-level dashboard, presenting the different sub-indicators together but independently.

31. Computation of results and construction of the dashboard are performed for each sub-indicator separately using the "*traffic light*" approach already defined for each sub-indicator. In practice, the reported value of the indicator is determined by the results of the most limiting sub-indicator in terms of sustainability performance.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

32. Several levels of analysis will be undertaken with the data received from member countries. Time series of unsustainability for the entire world (both % and area) will allow progress towards a sustainable agriculture worldwide to be measured and tracked. Charts by regions will show the % of unsustainability comparing the results of the same triennium, comparison will be done also analysing the results of three country groups: developed economies, economies in transition, and developing economies. A map will be used to display the % of unsustainability, considering a given year or

triennium, to have an immediate visualization of the most critical countries. A similar map will show the distance to the target of sustainability.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

33. National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Agriculture or designated offices within countries will be responsible for collecting and compiling data for this indicator. They will in turn report to FAO who will conduct quality control and disseminate the information through FAO SDG portal. FAO will in turn report to the international statistical community and UNSD.

34. A questionnaire is sent by email to all countries annually since 2020 (https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/statistics/questionnaires/SDG_Indicator_241_Agricultural_Sustainability_EN.xlsx).

35. The email is sent to the National focal point relevant to the indicator, National focal point for generic SDG and Heads of NSO. With copy to FAO Representative, Country, Regional and Sub-regional offices, FAO Regional Statisticians in the Region and in the Sub-regional offices, staff officially nominated to be in "*CC*" of all indicator communications and ESS-Registry, with a deadline for returning the filled in questionnaire within 4 weeks.

36. Special cases for Bahrain, Brazil, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Myanmar, Afghanistan for which the dispatch will be addressed according to the "*Data Collection Phase*" guidelines (Statistical Standard Series, endorsed by the IDWG-TTF on Statistics, 15 November 2019, Revised 16 June 2023).

37. Once the questionnaires are received a validation process is done through the check of the person who replied with the questionnaire returned: indicator focal point / FAO local office / Regional Statistician might be contacted to clarify if the questionnaire returned is considered valid or not.

38. The received questionnaires are analysed in all their parts. Namely, checking individually, both manually and automatically through an R script, standard rules (unit, text out of the spaces, time series, outliers, inconsistencies, anomalies, missing data).

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

39. The indicator is the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 2.4.1 and is linked with SDG Goal 2 and targets 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.3.2 and 5.a.1

8. Possible Disaggregations

40. Proposed disaggregation:

(a) Household and non-household sector farms

(b) Crops, livestock and mixed

(c) Irrigated and non-irrigated

41. Although not a mandatory variable for international reporting for SDG 2.4.1, the indicator can in principle be disaggregated by gender of the farm holder. This information is not, and will not be publicly available as a default in FAO and UNSD databases and reporting systems. Nevertheless, a question on gender disaggregation of data is incorporated into the SDG 2.4.1 questionnaire, accompanied by guidance for countries to collect and report information on the gender of the holder of the agriculture holding. Therefore, for national policy-making purposes, the country has the necessary tools, guidance and thus the capability to produce disaggregated estimates by gender should countries wish to collect and report sex-disaggregated data on 2.4.1 at the national level.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

N/A

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Statistics Division, Agri-environment team

10b. Contact person(s)

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11. References

https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/Indicator2.4.1-proportion-of-agricultural-area-under-productive-and-sustainable-agriculture/en

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management[39]

1. Indicator name

10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 10. Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

4. Rationale

1. This indicator aims to monitor the progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM) which is a central concept for Target 10.

2. The definition of SFM by the UN General Assembly contains several key aspects, notably that sustainable forest management is a concept which varies over time and between countries, whose circumstances – ecological, social and economic – vary widely, but that it should always address a wide range of forest values, including economic, social and environmental values, and take intergenerational equity into account. Clearly a simple measure of forest area is insufficient to monitor sustainable forest management as a whole. The significance of the five sub-indicators can be briefly explained as follows:

(a) Trends in forest area are crucial for monitoring SFM. The first sub-indicator focuses on both the direction of change (whether there is a loss or gain in forest area) and how the change rate

[39]The indicator progress towards sustainable forest management is Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1. the official SDG metadata is accessible from Metadata-15-02-01.pdf (un.org)

varies over time; the latter is important to capture progress among countries that are losing forest area but have managed to reduce the rate of annual forest area loss.

(b) Changes in the above-ground biomass stock in forest indicate the balance between gains in biomass stock due to forest growth and losses due to wood removals, natural losses, fire, wind, pests and diseases. At country level and over a longer period, sustainable forest management would imply a stable or increasing biomass stock per hectare, while a long-term reduction of biomass stock per hectare would imply either unsustainable management of the forests and degradation or unexpected major losses due to fire, wind, pests or diseases.

(c) The change in forest area within legally protected areas is a proxy for trends in conservation of forest biodiversity as well as cultural and spiritual values of forests and thus a clear indication of the political will to protect and conserve forests. This indicator is related to GBF Target 3 which calls for each country to conserve at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas.

(d) The fourth sub-indicator looks at the forest area that is under a long-term forest management plan. The existence of a documented forest management plan is the basis for long term and sustainable management of the forest resources for a variety of management objectives, for instance any combination of development of wood and non-wood forest products, protection of soil and water, biodiversity conservation, social and cultural use, and a combination of two or several of these. An increasing area under forest management planning can therefore be an indication of progress towards sustainable forest management.

(e) The fifth sub-indicator is the forest area that is certified by an independently verified forest management certification scheme. Such certification schemes usually apply higher standards than those established by countries' own normative frameworks, and compliance is verified by an independent and accredited certifier. An increase in certified forest area therefore provides an additional indication of progress towards sustainable forest management. It should, however, be noted that there are significant areas of sustainably managed forest that are not certified, either because their owners have chosen not to seek certification (which is voluntary and market-based) or because no credible or affordable certification scheme is in place for that area.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

Indicator definition

3. "*Sustainable forest management*" (SFM) has been formally defined, by the UN General Assembly, as follows:

[a] dynamic and evolving concept [that] aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations" (Resolution A/RES/62/98)

4. The indicator is composed of five sub-indicators that measure progress towards all dimensions of sustainable forest management. The environmental values of forests are covered by three sub-indicators focused on the extension of forest area, biomass within the forest area and protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources. Social and economic values of forests are reconciled with environmental values through sustainable management plans. The sub-indicator provides further qualification to the management of forest areas, by assessing areas which are independently verified for compliance with a set of national or international standards.

5. The sub-indicators are:

(a) Annual forest area change rate

(b) Above-ground biomass in forest

(c) Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas

(d) Proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan

(e) Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme

6. A dashboard is used to assess progress related to the five sub-indicators. The adoption of the dashboard approach aims at ensuring consideration of all dimensions of sustainable forest management and provides for clear view of areas where progress has been achieved.

Other key concepts and definitions:

7. Forest Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

8. Explanatory notes:

(a) Forest is determined both by the presence of trees and the absence of other predominant land uses. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 meters *in situ*.

(b) Includes areas with young trees that have not yet reached but which are expected to reach a canopy cover of 10 percent and tree height of 5 meters. It also includes areas that are temporarily unstocked due to clear-cutting as part of a forest management practice or natural disasters, and which are expected to be regenerated within 5 years. Local conditions may, in exceptional cases, justify that a longer time frame is used.

(c) Includes forest roads, firebreaks and other small open areas; forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas such as those of specific environmental, scientific, historical, cultural or spiritual interest.

(d) Includes windbreaks, shelterbelts and corridors of trees with an area of more than 0.5 hectares and width of more than 20 meters.

(e) Includes abandoned shifting cultivation land with a regeneration of trees that have, or are expected to reach, a canopy cover of 10 percent and tree height of 5 meters.

(f) Includes areas with mangroves in tidal zones, regardless whether this area is classified as land area or not.

(g) Includes rubberwood, cork oak and Christmas tree plantations.

(h) Includes areas with bamboo and palms provided that land use, height and canopy cover criteria are met.

(i) Includes areas outside of legally designated forest land which meet the definition of "forest".

(j) Excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover. Note: Some agroforestry systems such as the "*Taungya*" system where crops are grown only during the first years of the forest rotation should be classified as forest.

9. Above-ground biomass: All biomass of living vegetation, both woody and herbaceous, above the soil including stem, stump, branches, bark, seeds, and foliage.

(a) Explanatory note: In cases where forest understorey is a relatively small component of the above ground biomass carbon pool, it is acceptable to exclude it, provided this is done in a consistent manner throughout the inventory time series.

10. Protected areas: Areas especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.

11. Forest area within protected areas Forest area within formally established protected areas independently of the purpose for which the protected areas were established.

12. Explanatory notes:

(a) Includes IUCN Categories I – IV

(b) Excludes IUCN Categories V-VI

(c) Includes forest area within legally established protected areas whose IUCN category is unknown.

13. Forest area with long-term management plan: Forest area that has a long-term (ten years or more) documented management plan, aiming at defined management goals, and which is periodically revised.

14. Explanatory notes:

(a) A forest area with management plan may refer to forest management unit level or aggregated forest management unit level (forest blocks, farms, enterprises, watersheds, municipalities, or wider units).

(b) A management plan may include adequate details on operations planned for individual operational units (stands or compartments) but may also be limited to provide general strategies and activities planned to reach management goals.

(c) Includes forest area in protected areas with management plan.

(d) Includes continuously updated management plans

15. Forest area under independently verified forest management certification: Forest area certified under a forest management certification scheme with published standards and is independently verified by a third-party.

Units of measure

SUB-INDICATOR	*UNIT*
Annual forest area change rate	Percent (%)
Above-ground biomass in forest	Tonnes per hectare
Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas	Percent (%)
Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	Percent (%)
Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	1000 hectares

5b. Method of computation

16. National data on forest area, biomass stock, forest area within protected areas, and forest area under a long-term management plan are reported directly by countries to FAO for pre-established reference years. Based on the country reported data, FAO then makes country-level estimates of the annual forest area change rate using the compound interest formula. The proportion of forest area within protected areas and under a management plan is calculated using the reported areas for each reference year and the forest area for year 2015.

17. Data on forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme are reported to FAO by the head offices of the respective forest certification schemes, who jointly adjust the figures to correct for any double counting.

18. No dashboard traffic lights are made at country level.

5c. Data collection method

19. Sub-indicators 1 to 4

(a) Data on these sub-indicators are collected through FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) programme. Officially nominated national correspondents and their teams prepare the country reports for the assessment. Some prepare more than one report as they also report on dependent territories. For those remaining countries and territories where no information is provided, a report is prepared by FAO using existing information and a literature search.

(b) All data are provided to FAO by countries in the form of a country report through an online platform following a standard format, that includes the original data and reference sources and descriptions of how these have been used to estimate the forest area for different points in time. The online platform was used for all data entry, review and quality control.

(c) To obtain internationally comparable data, countries are requested to provide national categories and definitions. In case where these differfrom the FAO categories and definitions, countries are requested to perform a reclassification of national data to correspond to the FAO categories and definitions and to document this step in the country report. Countries are also requested to use interpolation or extrapolation of national data to provide estimates for the specific reporting years.

20. Sub-indicator 5

Data are annually reported by the certification bodies to FAO and consolidated into estimates of total certified forest area, which are made available to the countries through the FRA platform where country officials can view the data that are being submitted.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

21. The methodology for the SDG 15.2.1 indicator is published in SDG indicators metadata on UNSD website at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

5e. Data sources

22. Sub-indicators 1 to 4

(a) Data are collected by FAO through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). Assessments have been carried out at regular intervals since 1946 and are now produced every five years. The latest of these assessments, FRA 2025, contains information for 236 countries and territories on around 50 variables related to the extent of forests, their conditions, uses and management for several points in time.

23. Sub-indicator 5

(a) Currently, forest certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are included in the data submissions. The latter includes several national/regional certification schemes that have been endorsed according to the PEFC standards.

(b) Data on forest certification are submitted annually to FAO by the head offices of the respective forest certification scheme. Data include the area certified by each scheme, as well as areas that are double-certified, which means areas certified by both of the schemes. That allows for estimating the total certified forest area, adjusted for double certified area.

5f. Availability and release calendar

24. The complete dataset, featuring updated time series and data for the year 2025 was released in 2025 as part of FRA 2025 dataset.

25. Data from countries that voluntarily updated their national reports before the end of September are included in the reports of the following year.

26. The next release of a completely updated FRA dataset is scheduled for 2030.

27. Data on forest certification is updated annually.

28. Data availability:

Data are available from 236 countries and territories. **5g. Time series**

29. Sub-indicators 1 to 4:

(a) 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025

30. Sub-indicator 5:

(a) 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015, and every year since

5h. Data providers

31. Sub-indicators 1 to 4

(a) The data are provided by the countries through a global network of officially nominated national correspondents. For those countries and territories that do not have a national correspondent, a report is prepared by FAO using previously-reported information, literature search, remote sensing or their combination.

32. Sub-indicator 5,

(a) Forest certification, data are provided by the head offices of the respective forest certification schemes.

33. 5i. Data compilers

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

5j. Gaps in data coverage

34. Data are available for 236 countries and territories, for one or more of the sub-indicators.

5k. Treatment of missing values

35. At country level:

(a) For countries and territories where no information was provided to FAO for FRA 2025 (42 countries and territories representing 1.6 percent of the global forest area in 2025), FAO made estimates based on existing information or from previous assessments, literature search, remote sensing or from a combination of these. For any missing values remaining after this step, including for countries and territories not in FAO FRA, the values are given as “Not Available” in the country-level sub-indicator data.

36. At regional and global levels:

(a) Before aggregating country-level above-ground biomass data, protected area data, or area under a management plan data up to regional and global levels, missing values for countries and territories in FAO FRA 2025 that did not already have FAO estimates (see above) were imputed.

(b) Above-ground biomass in forest: Some countries and territories had partial above-ground biomass time series with missing values for some reference years. Where FAO FRA data on the change rate in growing stock and partial above-ground were available for a country or territory, they were combined to create a full imputed time series. For countries and territories with no above-ground biomass data, estimated above-ground biomass per hectare values were multiplied by the forest area time series for the country or territory. In a few cases, the estimated per hectare values were the FAO FRA values for a nearby or otherwise similar country or territory. In other cases, the estimated per hectare values were the mean of FAO FRA values for countries and territories in the same FRA subregional grouping.

Proportion of forest area within legally established protected and under a long-term management plan: Some countries and territories had partial protected area or area under management plan time series. Where a country or territory had a missing value in the earliest reference year, it was imputed using the value from the second earliest reference year (if not missing). Where there was a missing value in the latest reference year, it was imputed using the value from the second latest reference year (if not missing).

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National ☒

37. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

6b. National/regional indicator production

38. Detailed methodology and guidance on how to prepare the country reports through an online reporting platform and on how to convert national data according to national categories and definitions to FAO's global categories and definitions can be found in the documents "*FRA 2025 Guidelines and Specifications" (www.fao.org/3/I8699EN/i8699en.pdfhttps://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc4690en) and "FRA 2025 Terms and Definitions" (www.fao.org/3/I8661EN/i8661en.pdfhttps://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc4691en).*. FAO supports the reporting process through capacity development on reporting methodology and remote sensing. The reporting platform provides easy access to relevant and freely available global remote sensing data sets and products.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

39. Before aggregating country-level above-ground biomass data, protected area data, or area under a management plan data up to regional and global levels, missing values for countries and territories in FAO FRA 2025 that did not already have FAO estimates were imputed (see 5k).

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

Sub-indicator 1 - Annual forest area change rate

Unit: Percent

Reference period: 2015-2025

Method of estimation: Compound annual change rate formula as follows:

$$r = \left[\left(\frac{AF_{t2}}{AF_{t1}}\right)^{1/(t2-t1)} - 1\right] \times 100$$

where:

r = compound annual change rate for the period t_1 -t_2

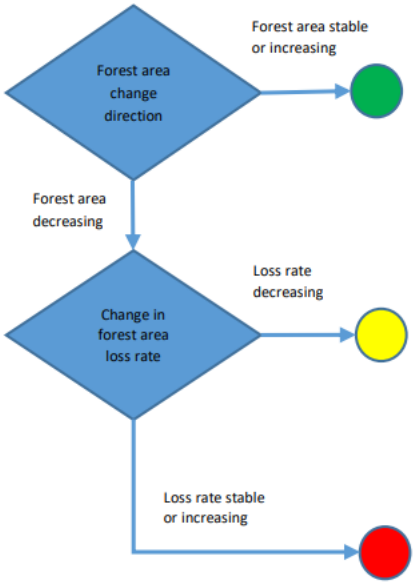
t_i = time i (year)

AF_{t1} = forest area at t_1

AF_{t2} = forest area at t_2

Translation to dashboard/traffic light

40. The following flowchart explains the logic behind the translation of this indicator to a dashboard/traffic light:



41. The forest area change direction is determined by examining the value of the forest area change rate for the most recent period, a negative value indicate a loss of forest area, a zero value means that forest area is stable, and a positive value means that forest area has increased. The change in forest area loss rate is based on a comparison of the annual forest area change rate for the period 2015-2025 with the annual forest area change rate for the period 2000-2010 (baseline). If forest area change rate is negative (= forest loss) then: annual forest area loss rate = - (annual forest area change rate)

Comments:

42. This traffic light accounts for both the direction of forest area change (if forest area increases or decreases) as well as changes in the rate of forest area loss – the latter is an important indication of progress among countries that are losing forest area but managing to reduce the loss rate.

43. The baseline should be updated every 5 years. In 2025 a new baseline was calculated for the period 2000-2015 based on updated country data.

Sub-indicator 2 – Above-ground biomass in forest
Unit: tonnes/hectare
Reference year: Latest reporting year
Method of estimation: Reported directly by countries
Translation to dashboard/traffic light:

44. The indicator value for the latest reporting year is compared with the indicator value reported for 2015.

45. The ratio (r) between the current indicator value and the value reported for 2015 is calculated; r>1 means an increase in stock per hectare, r<1 means a decrease while 1 indicates no change. A narrow interval for r has been established to indicate a stable condition, and traffic-light colours are assigned as follows:

$r \geq 1.01$
$0.99 < r < 1.01$
$r \leq 0.99$

Sub-indicator 3 – Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas
Unit: Percent
Reference year: Latest reporting year

Method of estimation:

$$r = \frac{AFP_{[reference\ year]}}{AF_{2015}} \times 100$$

Where:

AFP = Forest area within legally established protected areas

AF = Total forest area

Translation to dashboard/traffic light:

The indicator value for latest reporting year is compared with the indicator value reported for 2015.

46. The ratio (r) between the current indicator value and the value reported for 2015 is calculated; r>1 means an increase in forest area within protected areas, r<1 means a decrease while 1 indicates no change. A narrow interval for r close to 1 has been established to indicate a stable condition, and traffic-light colours are assigned as follows:

r ≥ 1.01	
0.99 < r < 1.01	
r ≤ 0.99	

Comment:

47. Using forest area in 2015 as the denominator for estimating this indicator ensures that the time series of percentages reflects real changes in the forest area within legally established protected areas and is not affected by changes (losses or gains) in total forest area.

Sub-indicator 4 – Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan

Unit: Percent

Reference year: Latest reporting year

Method of estimation:

$$r = \frac{AFMP_{[reference\ year]}}{AF_{2015}} \times 100$$

Where:

AFMP = Forest area under a long-term management plan

AF = Total forest area

Translation to dashboard/traffic light: The indicator value for latest reporting year is compared with the indicator value for previous reporting year for assessment of continuity of progress since last report.
The ratio (r) between the current indicator value and the value reported for 2010 is calculated; r>1 means an increase in areas under forest management plan, r<1 means a decrease while 1 indicates no change. A narrow interval for r has been established to indicate a stable condition, and traffic-light colours are assigned as follows:

r ≥ 1.01	
0.99 < r < 1.01	
r ≤ 0.99	

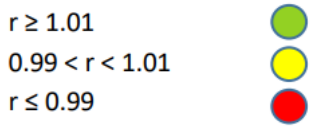
Comment:

48. Using forest area in 2015 as denominator for estimating this indicator ensures that the time series of percentages reflect real changes in the forest area under forest management plan and is not affected by changes (losses or gains) in total forest area.

Sub-indicator 5 – Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme

Unit: Thousand hectares
Reference year: Latest reporting year (as of June 30)
Method of estimation: Data are collected directly from the databases of each certification scheme and provided to countries for validation.
Translation to dashboard/traffic light: The indicator value for latest reporting year is compared with the indicator value for the previous reporting year, to assess continuity of progress since the last report.

The ratio (r) between the current indicator value and the previously reported value is calculated; r>1 means an increase in areas under an independent forest management certification scheme, r<1 means a decrease while 1 indicates no change. A small interval for r close to 1 has been established to indicate a stable condition, and traffic-light colours are assigned as follows:



Comments:

49. Using June 30 as the date for reporting, allows the certification bodies to update their databases and then provide information to FAO by end of the year, such that the updated data can be included in the annual SDG reporting in the beginning of the following year.

6d.2 Additional methodological details

50. See above.

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

51. The data for sub-indicators 1 to 4 are reported to FAO by National Correspondents, national experts officially nominated by the countries to coordinate compilation of data from different national sources. The FRA National Correspondent network currently covers 187 countries and territories. National Correspondents compile country reports using commonly agreed terms and definitions and a standardized reporting methodology. The actual reporting is facilitated by a dedicated online platform, where all the National Correspondents are asked to document data sources and how they computed and reclassified data to comply with the international definitions.

52. For sub-indicator 5, forest certification, data are provided by head offices of respective forest certification scheme.

53. Data reported by countries to FAO are subject to a rigorous review process to ensure correct use of definitions and methodology as well as internal consistency. A comparison is made with past assessments and other existing data sources. Regular contacts between national correspondents and FAO staff by e-mail and regional/sub-regional review workshops form part of this review process.

54. All data submitted by countries to FRA, including the FAO estimates made in case of desk studies, are available at the FRA online platform (https://fra-data.fao.org). The platform also includes the sub-indicators for SDG 15.2.1 indicator. A request for validation is sent to the respective Head of Forestry before finalization and publishing of data.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

55. The indicator is the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.2.1

8. Possible Disaggregations

56. The FRA guidelines includes data disaggregation by indigenous peoples and local communities for forest ownership and management rights. This means countries have the tools and guidance and thus possibly the capability to produce disaggregated estimates by indigenous peoples and local communities ownership/management rights (provided countries wish and have the requirement to collect and report data at the national level). Countries are encouraged to report on

the elements related to forest ownership and management rights, noting that these attributes contribute to the long-term effectiveness of forest management.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

57. The indicator is linked to Goal A Indicator "*extent of natural ecosystems by type*" (forest data), and Goal B "*Functions and services provided by ecosystems, by service type*."

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

10b. Contact person(s)

Anne Branthomme (anne.branthomme@fao.org)

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12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all[40]

1. Indicator name

12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all.

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Target 12:Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services

4. Rationale

1. The value of public spaces is often overlooked or underestimated by policy makers, leaders, citizens and urban developers. There are several reasons for this, such as lack of appreciation of the value of these spaces to the functioning of urban systems and quality of life, prevailing urban planning processes, the lack of resources, or understanding or capacity to use public space as a complete, multi-functional urban system. Often the lack of appropriate enabling frameworks, weak political will and the absence of the means of public engagement compound the situation.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have for the first time provided a platform where public spaces can be globally monitored. SDG indicator 11.7.1 measures the share of land allocated to public spaces and the total population with access of these spaces by age, gender and disability. The share of land that a city allocates to streets and open public spaces is not only critical to its productivity, but also contributes significantly to the social dimensions and health of its population. The size, distribution and quality of a city's overall public space act as a good indicator of shared prosperity. A well developed and properly designed network of streets increases connectivity, promotes walking and social interactions but also income, gender, race or disability status and one that promotes multiple activities not only encourages their use, but also contributes to the urban character and quality of urban life.

3. Cities that improve and sustain the use of public space, including streets, enhance community cohesion, civic identity, and quality of life. A prosperous city develops policies and actions for sustainable use of, and equitable access to public space. In many cities however, there has been neglect of public space - both in quantity and quality, which has been further exacerbated by uncontrolled rapid urbanization which has created disorderly settlement patterns with alarmingly low shares of public space, as well as a dramatic reduction of public spaces. There is a need to expand the ratio of land allocated to public spaces and improve their qualities to make cities and urban areas more efficient, liveable, prosperous, and sustainable. Reclaiming urban spaces for people encourages development of other street activities that bring life to a city. Equally, a well distributed and

[40] Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all is an element of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.7.1. The official SDG metadata is accessible from unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-07-01.pdf

hierarchical system of open public spaces that can be accessed by all regardless of is part of how we can humanize our cities and make our streets and public areas more communal.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications
5a. Definition:

4. The following is the definition of the SDG 11.7.1 indicator and consequently there could be small variations in the definition for the "*Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all*".

5. SDG Indicator 11.7.1 has several interesting concepts that required global consultations and consensus. These include; built-up area, cities, open spaces for public use, etc. As a custodian agency, UN-Habitat has worked on these concepts along with several other partners.

6. City: A range of accepted definitions of "*city*" exist, from those based on population data and extent of the built-up area to those that are based solely on administrative boundaries. These definitions vary within and between nations, complicating the task of international reporting for the SDGs. Definitions of cities, metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations also vary depending on legal, administrative, political, economic or cultural criteria in the respective countries and regions. Since 2016 UN-Habitat and partners organized global consultations and discussions to narrow down the set of meaningful definitions that would be helpful for the global monitoring and reporting process. Following consultations with 86 member states, the United Nations Statistical Commission, in its 51st Session (March 2020) endorsed the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA) as a workable method to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international statistical comparisons. This definition combines population size and population density thresholds to classify the entire territory of a country along the urban-rural continuum, and captures the full extent of a city, including the dense neighbourhoods beyond the boundary of the central municipality. DEGURBA is applied in a two-step process: First, 1 km2 grid cells are classified based on population density, contiguity and population size. Subsequently, local units are classified as urban or rural based on the type of grid cells in which majority of their population resides. For the computation of SDG indicator 11.7.1, built up areas, as the indicator denominator has the same meaning as "*city*" (see definition of city above).

7. Public space: The Global Public Space toolkit defines Public Space as all places that are publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all, for free and without a profit motive, categorized into streets, open spaces and public facilities. Public space in general is defined as the meeting or gathering places that exist outside the home and workplace that are generally accessible by members of the public, and which foster resident interaction and opportunities for contact and proximity. This definition implies a higher level of community interaction and places a focus on public involvement rather than public ownership or stewardship. For the purpose of monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 11.7.1, public space is defined as all places of public use, accessible by all, and comprises open public space and streets.

8. Land allocated to streets refers to the total area of the city/urban area that is occupied by all forms of streets (as defined above). This indicator only includes streets available at the time of data collection and excludes proposed networks.

9. Open public space: is any open piece of land that is undeveloped or land with no buildings (or other built structures) that is accessible to the public without charge, and provides recreational areas for residents and helps to enhance the beauty and environmental quality of neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat recognizes that different cities have different types of open public spaces, which vary in both size and typology. Based on the size of both soft and hard surfaces, open public spaces are broadly classified into six categories: national/metropolitan open spaces, regional/larger city open spaces, district/city open spaces, neighbourhood open spaces, local/pocket open spaces and linear open spaces. Classification of open public space by typology is described by the function of the space and can include: green public areas, riparian reserves, parks and urban forests, playground, square, plazas, waterfronts, sports field, community gardens, parklets and pocket parks.

10. Potential open public space: the identification of open public spaces across cities can be implemented through, among other sources, analysis of high to very high resolution satellite imagery, from base-maps provided by different organizations (e.g. OpenStreetMap, Esri, etc.) or as crowd-sourced and volunteered data. While these sources provide important baseline data for SDG indicator 11.7.1, some of the identifiable spaces may not meet the criteria of being "*accessible to the public without charge*". The term "*potential open public space*" is thus used to refer to open public spaces which are extracted from the above-mentioned sources (based on their spatial character), but which are not yet validated to confirm if they are accessible to the public without charge.

11. Streets are defined thoroughfares that are based inside urban areas, towns, cities and neighbourhoods most commonly lined with houses or buildings used by pedestrians or vehicles in order to go from one place to another in the city, interact and to earn a livelihood. The main purpose of a street is facilitating movement and enabling public interaction. The following elements are considered as streets space: Streets, avenues and boulevards, pavements, passages and galleries, Bicycle paths, sidewalks, traffic island, tramways and roundabouts. Elements excluded from street space include plots (either built-up), open space blocks, railways, paved space within parking lots and airports and individual industries.

12. For more details and illustrations on the definition of the different types of open spaces considered for SDG indicator 11.7.1 see the step by step training module (https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/indicator_11.7.1_training_module_public_space.pdf).

5b. Method of computation

13. The following is the definition of the SDG 11.7.1 indicator and consequently there could be small variations in the definition for the "*Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all*".

14. The method to estimate the area of public space has been globally piloted in over 600 cities and this follows a series of methodological developments that go back to the last 7 years. The finalized methodology is a three-step process:

(a) Spatial analysis to delimit the city/urban area which will act as the geographical scope for the spatial analysis and indicator computation;

(b) Spatial analysis to identify potential open public spaces, expert consultations and/or field work to validate data and assess the quality of spaces and calculation of the total area occupied by the verified open public spaces;

(c) Estimation of the total area allocated to streets;

(d) Estimation of share of population with access to open public spaces within 400 meters walking distance out of the total population in the city/ urban area and disaggregation of the population with access by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Spatial analysis to delimit the city/urban area

15. Following consultations with 86 member states, the United Nations Statistical Commission in its 51st Session (March 2020) endorsed the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA) as a workable method to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international statistical comparisons. Countries are thus encouraged to adopt this approach, which will help them produce data that is comparable across urban areas within their territories, as well as with urban areas and cities in other countries. More details on DEGURBA and its application are available here: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf.

Spatial analysis to identify potential open public spaces, ground verification and estimating their total area

16. This step involves mapping of potential open public spaces within the urban boundaries defined in step one above and estimation of their area. Identification of potential open public spaces is based on the spatial character of each space and is also informed by existing country/ city land use maps and open space inventories. To compute this component of the indicator, follow these steps:

(a) An inventory of Open Public Spaces should be the initial source of information. Additional legal documents, land use plans and other official sources of information can be used to complement the data from the inventory. If the focus urban area or city has a detailed and up-to-date database of its open public spaces, use the information to plot such spaces in GIS software and compute their areas. Where necessary, clean data to remove components which are not applicable in the computation of this sub-indicator (e.g. recreation areas which attract a fee such as golf courses, etc.).

(b) Since many cities and countries do not have an open public spaces inventory, satellite imagery can be used to extract information on potential open public spaces. The identification of such spaces from imagery should be based on careful evaluation of the character of each space against the known forms of open public spaces within that city / country. High resolution satellite imagery or Google Earth imagery can be used in this analysis. Open data sources such as OpenStreetMap (OSM) have some polygon data on open spaces in many cities. While this data may not be comprehensive for all cities, it can contribute to the data collection efforts and can be explored.

(c) Using the data extracted from step 2 above, undertake validation to remove spaces which are not open for public use (e.g. private non-built up land within the urban area), or to add new spaces that might have been omitted during the extraction stage. This can be achieved through analysing the character of spaces (e.g. size, shape, land cover, etc.), comparison of

(d) identified spaces with known recreational areas within the city or with data from OpenStreetMap, or consultations with city leaders, local civil society groups, community representatives among others. UN-Habitat, in consultation with partners, experts and data producers have developed a detailed tool to facilitate the verification of each space and collection of additional data on the space quality and accessibility. This tool is freely available and allows for on-site definition/ editing of the space's boundaries. It also contains standard and extended questions which collect data relevant to the indicator, including location of the spaces, their ownership and management, safety, inclusivity and accessibility. This data provides basic information about each space, as well as information relevant for disaggregation - such as access issues linked to age, gender and disabilities, as requested for by the indicator. The tool is dynamic and allows cities to include extra questions which generate information that is useful for their decision making (Tool is available at https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#IGFf6ubq). It should however be noted that the validation approaches which require primary data collection are capital intensive and may not be feasible for most countries in the short term. Validation based on existing city-level data and continuous stakeholder engagement should thus be adopted since they have been shown to produce reliable results at lower costs.

(e) Calculate the total area covered by the verified open public spaces. Once all open public spaces have been verified, calculate their area in GIS or other database management software. The share of land occupied by these spaces is then calculated using the formula:

$$\text{The land allocated to streets} = \frac{\text{Sum of LAS from all sampling point}}{\text{Number of sampling points}}$$

Computation of land allocated to streets (LAS)

17. Where street data by width and length fields is available/specified, the following methodology could be used:

(a) Select only the streets included in the city / urban area (or clip streets to the city/urban boundary)

(b) From GIS (or alternative software), calculate the total area occupied by each street by multiplying its length with width. Add up all individual street areas to attain the total amount of land occupied all streets within the defined urban area.

18. Where detailed data on streets is not available, there is a need to map out each street line (or the entire area covered by the streets), measure its length and width, which are required for the area computation. For small urban areas, it is possible to manually digitize all streets, but this is more complex for large urban areas and cities. For these large urban areas, an alternative technique for computing land allocated to the streets is one that adopts sampling principles. An approach that uses the Halton sampling sequence is recommended, specifically because the sequence generates equidistant points, increasing the degree of sample representativeness. To compute LAS using this method, follow the following steps:

(a) Using the urban extent boundary identified earlier, generate a Halton sequence of sample points (Halton sequence refers to quasi-random sequence used to generate points in space that are ex-post evenly spread; i.e. equidistant). The number of points used for each city varies based on its area. In large study areas of more than 20 km^2, a density of one circle per hectare is used while in small study areas of less than 20 km^2 a density of 0.5 circle per hectare is used.

(b) Buffer the points to get sample areas with an area of 10 hectares each.

(c) Within each 10-hectare sample area, digitize all streets in GIS software and compute the total amount of land they occupy.

(d) Calculate the average land allocated to streets for all sample areas using the following formula:

(e) The land allocated to streets =

$$\frac{\text{Sum of LAS from all sampling points}}{\text{Number of sampling points}}$$

19. Open-source datasets such as OpenStreetMap (OSM) have a good amount of street data on many cities, which is increasingly being updated and extended to cover new areas. This data can also be used as a starting point to understand the pattern of streets in a city. Upon verification of the OSM street categorization for each city, sampling can be used to estimate the average width of each street category, which can in turn help compute the share of land allocated to streets.

20. The final computation of the indicator is done using the formula:

$$\textbf{Share of the built} - \textbf{up area of the city that is open space in public use}(\%) = \frac{\textbf{Total surface of open public space} + \textbf{Total surface of land allocated to sreets}}{\textbf{Total area of the city}}$$

d) Estimation of share of population with access to open public spaces and disaggregation by population group

21. To help define an "*acceptable walking distance*" to "*open public spaces*", UN-Habitat organized a series of consultations with national statistical officers, civil society and community groups, experts in diverse fields, representatives from academia, think tanks, other UN-agencies, and regional commissions among other partners. These consultations, which were held between 2016 and 2018 concluded that a walking distance of 400 meters - equivalent to 5 minutes' walk - was a practical and realistic threshold. Based on this, a street network-based service area is drawn around each public

open space, using the 400 meters access threshold. All populations living within the service areas are in turn identified as having access to the public open spaces, based on the following key assumptions:

(a) Equal access to each space by all groups of people – i.e. children, the disabled, women, elderly can walk a distance of 400 meters (for 5 minutes) to access the spaces (in actual sense, these will vary significantly by group).

(b) All streets are walkable – where existing barriers are known (e.g. un-walkable streets, lack of pedestrian crossings, etc.), these can be defined in the delimitation of the space service area.

(c) All public open spaces have equal area of influence – which is measured as 400 meters along street networks. In real life situations, bigger spaces have a much larger area of influence.

(d) All buildings within the service area are habitable, and that the population is equally distributed in all buildings/built up areas

22. The estimation of total population with access to open public spaces is achieved using the two broad steps described below:

(a) Create 400 meters walking distance service area from each open public along the street network. This requires use of the network analyst tool in GIS software and street data (such as that from City Authorities or from Open Sources such as OpenStreetMap). A network service area is a region that encompasses all accessible areas via the streets network within a specified impedance/distance. The distance in each direction (and in turn the shape of the surface area) varies depending on, among other things, existence of streets, presence of barriers along each route (e.g. lack of foot bridges and turns) and walkability or availability of pedestrian walkways along each street section. In the absence of detailed information on barriers and walkability along each street network, the major assumption in creating the service areas is that all streets are walkable. Since the analysis is done at the city level, local knowledge can be used to exclude streets which are not walkable. The recommendation is to run the service area analysis for each OPS separately then merge all individual service areas to create a continuous service area polygon. Step by step guidance on how to create the service area is provided in the detailed SDG 11.7.1 training module (https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/indicator_11.7.1_training_module_public_space.pdf)

(b) In GIS, overlay the created service area with high resolution demographic data, which should be disaggregated by age, gender, and disability. The best source of population data for the analysis is individual dwelling or block level total population which is collected by National Statistical Offices through censuses and other surveys. Where this level of population data is not available, or where data is released at large population units, countries are encouraged to create population grids, which can help disaggregate the data from large and different sized census/ population data release units to smaller uniform sized grids. For more details on the available methods for creation of population grids explore the links provided under the references section on "*Some population gridding approaches*". A generic description of the different sources of population data for the indicator computation is also provided in the detailed SDG ndicator 11.7.1 training module (https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/indicator_11.7.1_training_module_public_space.pdf). Once the appropriate source of population data is acquired, the total population with access to open public spaces in the city/urban area will be equal to the population encompassed within the combined service area for all open public spaces, calculated using the formula below

$$\textbf{Share of population with access to open space in public spaces } (\%) = \frac{\textbf{Total population within 400 m service areas}}{\textbf{Total population within the city/urban extent}}$$

5c. Data collection method

23. The method to estimate the area of public space has been globally piloted in over 600 cities and this follows a series of methodological developments that go back to the last 7 years. The finalized methodology is a three-step process: a) Spatial analysis to delimit the city/urban area which will act as the geographical scope for the spatial analysis and indicator computation; b) Spatial analysis to identify potential open public spaces, expert consultations and/or field work to validate data and assess the quality of spaces, and calculation of the total area occupied by the verified open public spaces; c) Estimation of the total area allocated to streets; d) Estimation of share of population with access to open public spaces within 400 meters walking distance out of the total population in the city/ urban area and disaggregation of the population with access by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

24. Methodology for SDG indicator 11.7.1 is available and has been piloted in over 1,000 cities and 123 countries. Data on the indicator is published by UN-Habitat (https://data.unhabitat.org)

5e. Data sources

25. City land use plans, high to very high-resolution satellite imagery (open sources), documentation outlining publicly owned land and community-based maps are the main sources of data.

5f. Availability and release calendar

26. The monitoring of the indicator can be repeated at regular intervals of 3-5 years, allowing for three reporting points until the year 2030. However, annual updates to the existing database will be done and hence data releases based on annual updates will be available every year. Monitoring in 3-5-year intervals will allow cities to determine whether the shares of open public space in the built-up areas of cities are increasing significantly over time, as well as deriving the share of the global urban population living in cities where the open public space is below the acceptable minimum.

5g. Time series

27. Baseline data on SDG indicator 11.7.1 available for 2020

5h. Data providers

28. Ministries in charge of urban development, national mapping agencies, national statistical offices

5i. Data compilers

29. UN-Habitat is the lead agency on the global reporting for this indicator and as such, has since 2016 coordinated the efforts of various partners, on methodological developments and piloting of data collection. Key among these partners have included National Statistical Offices, New York University, ESRI, FAO, UNGGIM, UCLG, Local government departments, the European Commission, UN regional commissions, KTH University-Sweden, Urban Observatories, etc. Working in partnership with these partners, UN-Habitat has undertaken trainings and capacity development activities in cities, countries and regions, which have contributed to enhanced data collection and setting up of systems to monitor and report on the indicator.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

30. The currently available data covers cities and urban areas of different sizes but is not classified by typology of open public space i.e. green, blue and artificial surfaces. A methodology for identifying and classifying green space (shrublands and forest) is being developed and piloted at this time. However, methodology is needed for blue (freshwater or marine) spaces. Other facets of biodiversity are missing, including measures of taxonomic and functional measures of diversity. Protected status should also be added (e.g. protected urban park).

5k. Treatment of missing values

31. All qualifying cities/countries are expected to fully report on this indicator more consistently following implementation and full roll out of this methodology. In the early years of this indicator, we had data gaps due to no data being collected at the time, as opposed to missing data. In most of the cases, missing values to-date reflect a non-measurement of the indicator for the city. However, because national statistical agencies will report national figures from a complete coverage of all their cities, some cities may take longer to be measured or monitored. As a result, UN-habitat has worked with partners to develop a concept of applying a National Sample of Cities. With this approach, countries will be able to select a nationally representative sample of cities from their system of cities, and these will be used for global monitoring and reporting purposes for the period of the SDGs. The fully developed methodology on this concept has been rolled out and countries that are unable to cover the full spectrum of their cities are already applying this approach. See: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/national_sample_of_cities_english.pdf

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: : ☐

32. The indicator is applicable from city to national and regional/global levels. Measurement is done at the city level (for all cities and/or using a sample of representative cities) from where data can be aggregated to national, regional and global levels.

6b. National/regional indicator production

33. Global SDG indicator 11.7.1 methodology is applicable to national and local city levels (see https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-07-01.pdf).

34. Since countries have the responsibility to produce data on the indicator, the underlying data is available to them through existing national and local data sharing mechanisms. Data produced through the efforts of international organizations such as UN-Habitat is openly available to countries for use.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

35. Minimal to no differences are likely to emerge for this indicator since measurement is done at the city level, with data aggregated to national, regional then global levels. Data produced by international organizations is to be shared with countries for validation, and nationally produced data will be treated as the most authoritative data. The only likely source of variations may be on the application of the globally harmonized approach to defining cities and urban areas, where countries may choose to use their national definitions as opposed to the harmonized approach. Data for this indicator should thus be accompanied by an explanation on the definition of city/urban area used in the computations.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

36. Data produced at the city/urban level within each country is aggregated to produce a national value based on the national sample of cities approach developed by UN-Habitat, through which a weighting scheme is developed for each city as a factor of its national representativeness (See: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/national_sample_of_cities_english.pdf). The national aggregates from different countries are then used to produce regional and global estimates.

37. Anticipating the challenge of limited data availability from countries in the earlier years of the indicator, the global sample of cities developed jointly by UN-Habitat, New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy presents a consistent approach to producing regional and global aggregates. The global sample of cities includes a list of cities which are representative of all regions and for which data can be produced and used to produce weighted regional and global values on the indicator performance (see https://www.lincolninst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/atlas-of-urban-expansion-2016-volume-1-full.pdf).

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

38. N/A.

8. Possible Disaggregations

39. Based on availability of high-resolution population data, population with access to open public spaces should be disaggregated by age, gender and disability.

40. Wherever possible, it would also be useful to have information disaggregated by:

(a) Location of public spaces (intra-urban)

(b) Quality of the green/blue space by safety, inclusivity, accessibility, greenness, and comfort

(c) Type of green/blue space as a share of the city area. This includes a classification of green (e.g. forest, shrub land, grassland) and blue (e.g. wetland, lake, river, mangrove) ecosystem type and extent, and a measure of ecosystem condition.

(d) Measures of ecosystem functions and services (nature's contributions to people) to people such as health and wellbeing are needed to reflect this wording in the target.

(e) The share of green/blue space in public use which are universally accessible, particularly for persons with disabilities.

(f) Type of human settlements

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

41. Indicators for biodiversity used in Goal A are valuable to assessing the contribution of urban green and blue spaces to urban biodiversity targets. Complementary indicators for estimating the integrity, connectivity and resilience of ecosystems are relevant and could be applied to urban ecosystems. Also relevant are indicators for Goal B, such as those to be used for ecosystem services and other contributions of nature to human well-being.

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

UN-Habitat

10b. Contact person(s)

Robert Ndugwa: (robert.ndugwa@un.org)

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SDG 11.7.1 metadata, 2020. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-07-01.pdf

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Binary indicator 12.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with biodiversity-inclusive urban planning referring to green or blue urban spaces.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Goal

Goal A The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.
Goal B Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Target

Target 12. Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

Rationale

1. Green and blue spaces have a range of positive effects on human physical and mental well-being. Ensuring the availability and accessibility of such areas is particularly important given that the increasing trend towards urbanization risks separating people further from nature, with potential negative effects on human health and reduced understanding of biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides. Further, green and blue spaces can provide important habitat for species, improve habitat connectivity, provide ecosystem services and help mediate extreme events, if managed with such objectives in mind. The target focuses on the importance of biodiversity-inclusive urban planning and making space for nature within built landscapes to improve the health and quality of life for citizens and to reduce the environmental footprint of cities and infrastructure. It also recognizes the dependency of urban communities on well-functioning ecosystems and the importance of spatial planning to reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity of urban expansion, roads and other infrastructure.

2. Poor urban planning has many negative effects on people, affecting wellbeing, health and social relationships. Effective urban planning on the other hand can improve such outcomes for people and biodiversity. Many cities around the world are actively increasing the amount of green and blue spaces available to promote biodiversity and human wellbeing. There is a need to support such action and encourage biodiversity-inclusive urban planning. This indicator tracks the effort made by cities to improve their urban planning to include the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the provision ecosystem services and nature's contribution to people.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Biodiversity-inclusive urban planning: Urban planning is the process that is applied as a way to organize the dynamics of human actions in cities, with the purpose of stipulating guidelines that order spatial occupation through typological patterns of use, mobility, distribution of equipment, services, and natural areas in the territory, in order to provide uniformity in the distribution of the onus and advantages generated by the development of the infrastructures. The planning, furthermore, aims to announce in advance what can be done in the face of solving problems that may hinder the dynamics of functioning that involve cities. The Framework specifically calls for such processes to be biodiversity inclusive.

4. Green and blue spaces: These are areas of vegetation, inland and coastal waters, generally in or near to urban areas and other densely populated areas. The target specifically calls for the area, quality, connectivity, accessibility and benefits from such areas to be increased for the purposes of enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improve human health and well-being and connection to nature. This could be accomplished in various ways, including by creating new green and blue spaces, better managing existing areas for biodiversity and health outcomes, and ensuring that such areas are accessible to people.

5. Urbanisation**:** The increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas; the process by which a large number of people becomes permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities.

6. Urban and densely populated areas: Variable per country but generally refers to areas highly modified by and for humans where large numbers of people live. United Nations definitions, provided by national statistics offices, by country can be found here.

Method of Computation

7. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to two questions:

12.1 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning that incorporates the management of green or blue spaces for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?

12.2 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning incorporating the management of green or blue spaces for ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people?

8. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[41]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

9. A "*No*" answer implies that urban planning strategies within nations contain no wording on biodiversity (12.1) or nature's contributions to people (12.2) and no effort is being made at the national level to include biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in urban planning. In the case where some cities are implementing biodiversity-inclusive urban planning voluntarily on an ad hoc basis with no concerted effort at the national level, select "*No*".

10. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to urge cities to produce new plans that are biodiversity-inclusive, such plans must be improved to specifically include green and blue spaces with the intent to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity (12.1) and improve provisioning of nature's contributions to people (12.2). A concerted effort must imply that funding is being mobilized to support cities in upgrading their plans, and policies are put in place to

[41] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

incentivize cities to take action. However, the presence of resources and policies on their own is not sufficient to answer "*Under development*", cities must be actively applying for or using these resources in developing new biodiversity-inclusive urban plans.

11. A "*Partially*" answer implies that biodiversity-inclusive urban planning is already being done and supported in some cities but not fully. That is:

(a) Only green or blue spaces are being managed but not both (12.1 and 12.2)

(b) Biodiversity is only being managed for sustainable use but not conservation or vice versa (12.1)

(c) Only ecosystem services are being managed but not nature's contributions to people or vice versa (12.2)

12. If any one of the cases outlined above applies, only partial achievement has been reached.

13. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that biodiversity-inclusive urban planning it being done and supported in some cities, it includes both green and blue spaces, biodiversity is managed for both conservation and sustainable use (12.1) and ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people are incorporated (12.2). The minimum number of cities needed to achieve these criteria and answer "*Yes*" is 1. However, it is essential that this not be an outlier case but that the city be responding to concerted efforts and policies at the national level, otherwise refer to the description of "*No*".

Binary indicator 13.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries that have taken effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 13. Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

Rationale

1. The sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is one of the three objectives of the Convention and a key pillar for the success of its implementation. It builds an equity dimension among countries providing and using biodiversity with the dual objective of providing incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and mobilizing new resources redirected towards biodiversity. Access and benefit-sharing is included in several international instruments. Under the Convention, the framework for the implementation of its third objective is provided in Article 15. In addition, Article 8(j) contains provision to encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) created greater legal certainty, clarity and transparency for both users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. At COP 15 in December 2022, Parties agreed to develop a solution for the sharing of benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources and established a way forward to advance the consideration of this issue under the Convention.

2. The implementation of these Articles and of the Nagoya Protocol require active governmental involvement and regulation of genetic resources and their use for the benefit of all members of society. Therefore, one of the main elements of this target is to put in place legal, policy and administrative measures on ABS. As such, this indicator tracks Parties' progress towards implementing the necessary measures on ABS.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources: Benefits may include monetary and non-monetary benefits, including but not limited to those listed in the Annex of the Nagoya Protocol.

4. Access and benefit sharing: One of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as set out in its Article 1, is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding. The CBD also has several articles (especially Article 15) regarding international aspects of access to genetic resources. Access and benefit-sharing refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers). In some cases, this also includes valuable traditional knowledge

associated with genetic resources that comes from indigenous peoples and local communities. The benefits to be shared can be monetary, such as sharing royalties when the resources are used to create a commercial product, or non-monetary, such as the development of research skills and knowledge.

5. Genetic resources: Genetic resources means genetic material of actual or potential value. (CBD, article 2). Note that genetic material means any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

6. Traditional knowledge: The concept of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) has two characteristics. Firstly, CBD defines TK as one kind of knowledge, innovations and practices which is helpful to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Secondly, CBD limits the TK to link with indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, i.e. these TK were created and preserved by IP indigenous peoples and local communities and they are accumulated, developed and inherited generation by generation.

Method of Computation

7. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to seven questions:

(a) 13.1 Does your country have effective legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?

(b) 13.2 Does your country have capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?

(c) 13.3 Has your country taken administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant to the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism in decision 16/2?

(d) 13.4 Do the measures mentioned in questions 13.1 and 13.2 include the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources?

(e) 13.5 Does your country monitor the monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country?

(f) 13.6 Does your country monitor the non-monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country?

(g) 13.7 Does your country have measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefitsharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed in another country?

(h) There are five possible answers to questions 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5, 13.6 and 13.7:

(i) No

(j) Under development

(k) Partially

(l) Fully

(m) Not applicable

8. A "*No*" answer implies that:

(a) no legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources are in place or operational (13.1). Therefore, no legal, administrative and policy measures exist in the country for ABS.

(b) no capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources are in place or operational (13.2). Therefore, no capacity-building measures exist in the country for ABS.

(c) Your country has not taken any administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant the operationalization of the multilateral mechanisms in decision 16/2 (13.3).

(d) The monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country are not monitored (13.5)

(e) The non-monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country are not monitored (13.6)

(f) No measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed in another country are in place (13.7)

9. An "Under development" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to:

(a) implement legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources (13.1).

(b) implement capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources (13.2).

(c) implement administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant to the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism in decision 16/2 (13.3).

(d) monitor the monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country (13.5)

(e) monitor the non-monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country (13.6)

(f) measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed in another country (13.7)

10. Such monitoring may be at various stages of development: proposal or accepted, but it is not operational. If there is progress towards monitoring but it is not resourced and ongoing then select this answer.

11. A "*Partially*" answer implies that:

(a) some legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of some genetic resources are in place and operational (13.1). If the measures put in place cover only some genetic resources but not all, then only partial achievement has been reached. Additionally, if only a legal, policy or administrative framework is in place, even if it covers all genetic resources, then select this answer.

(b) capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of some genetic resources are in place and operational (13.2). That is, these measures do not apply to all benefits or genetic resources.

(c) Some administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant to the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism in decision 16/2 are in place and operational (13.3). If the measures put in place cover some aspects of the multilateral mechanism but not

all, then only partial achievement has been reached. Additionally, if only a legal, policy or administrative framework is in place, even if it covers all aspects of the multilateral mechanism, select this answer.

(d) monitoring of some monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with some genetic resources (13.5) is ongoing. That is, data is being collected on part of the monetary benefits and/or only some genetic resources.

(e) monitoring of some non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with some genetic resources (13.6) is ongoing. That is, data is being collected on part of the non-monetary benefits and/or only some genetic resources.

(f) measures to ensure compliance with domestic access and benefit-sharing of the country of origin for some genetic resources are in place and operational (13.7). That is, these measures do not apply to all genetic resources.

12. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that:

(a) legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources are in place and operational (13.1) and that these cover all genetic resources.

(b) capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources are in place and operational (13.2) and that these cover all genetic resources.

(c) administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant to the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism in decision 16/2 are in place and operational (13.3) and cover all aspects of the multilateral mechanism, select this answer.

(d) monitoring of monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with some genetic resources (13.5) is ongoing. That is, data is being collected on the monetary benefits of all genetic resources.

(e) monitoring of some non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (13.6) is ongoing. That is, data is being collected on the non-monetary benefits of all genetic resources.

(f) measures to ensure compliance with domestic access and benefit-sharing of the country of origin for genetic resources are in place and operational (13.7). That is, these measures apply to all genetic resources and respective countries of origin.

13. A "*Not applicable*" answer can be selected for each question by parties who have chosen not to regulate access to genetic resources under Article 6 of the Nagoya Protocol.

14. There are three possible answers to question 13.4[42]:

(a) No

(b) Yes

(c) Not applicable

15. A "*No*" answer implies that the framework or measures mentioned in questions 13.1 and 13.2 do not include the utilization of the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

[42] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

16. A "*Yes*" answer implies that the framework or measures mentioned in questions 13.1 and 13.2 do include the utilization of the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

17. A "*Not applicable*" answer is to be selected by Parties who have chosen not to regulate traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources under Article 6 of the Nagoya Protocol.

Binary indicator: 14.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 14. Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

Rationale

1. Article 6 (b) of the Convention calls upon Parties, in accordance with their particular conditions and capabilities, to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Such "biodiversity mainstreaming" seeks to ensure that the multiple biodiversity values are duly taken into account in decision- and policy-making of private and public actors, across governments, economic sectors and society more broadly. As many (if not most) activities that rely on biodiversity or have an impact on biodiversity are outside of the remit of biodiversity policies, implementing this target is critical for implementing the objectives of the Convention. Nevertheless, the multiple values of biodiversity are not widely reflected in decision-making. Integrating and reflecting the contribution of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides in relevant strategies, policies, programmes, and reporting systems is an important element in ensuring that the diverse values of biodiversity and the opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use are recognized and reflected in decision-making.

2. The aim of this target is to ensure that the values of biodiversity are fully reflected or mainstreamed in all relevant decision-making frameworks so that it is given proper attention in decision-making, leading to alignment of all activities, and of all financial flows, with the goals and targets of the framework. As such, this indicator tracks progress towards the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policy, regulation, planning and strategy in both the public and private sectors. Specifically, it asks processes currently account for the multiple values of biodiversity in their design and implementation.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

3. Multiple values of biodiversity: Biodiversity values include diverse considerations from ecological, genetic, economic, cultural, social, scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic perspectives. Valuation and values of biodiversity require the recognition of a wide range of worldviews and plural value dimensions of the meaning and importance of nature associated with the quality of human life seen as interdependent in terms of biophysical, sociocultural, economic, health or holistic perspectives.

4. Mainstreaming: Biodiversity mainstreaming is generally understood as ensuring that biodiversity, and the services it provides, are appropriately and adequately factored into policies, strategies, plans and practices that rely and have an impact on biodiversity, so that it is conserved and sustainably used. A final definition may be proposed during COP16 as part of the Long-term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming Biodiversity (see CBD/COP/DEC/15/6).

5. Environmental impact assessment: Environmental impact assessment is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account interrelated socioeconomic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

6. Environmental economic accounting: A set of national statistical accounts that organize and present statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy, for example the UN SEEA.

7. Poverty eradication strategies: Governmental plans designed, and actions taken in line with the United Nations SDG Goal 1 of "*ending poverty in all its forms everywhere*".

8. Non-monetary values: The value attributable to an item or a service without relation to any acceptable cash price and for which a fixed or determinable amount of currency is absent (e.g. many ecosystem services, interpersonal good-will, health, etc.).

9. Fiscal and financial flows: Financial flows consist of transactions and other flows and represent the movement of money in and out of accounts. Fiscal flows refer to transactions in and out of national treasury accounts.

Method of Computation

10. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to five questions:

(a) 14.1 Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at all levels of government?

(b) 14.2 Does your country use environmental economic accounting to quantify the monetary and non-monetary values of biodiversity?

(c) 14.3 Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, plans and strategies across all sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming?

(d) 14.4 Does your country have policies, regulations, plans or strategies in place to progressively align all relevant public and private activities with the goals and targets of the Framework?

(e) 14.5 Are policies, regulations, strategies or plans in place to progressively align fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework?

(f) There are four possible answers to each of these questions[43]:

i. No
ii. Under development
iii. Partially
iv. Fully

11. A "*No*" answer implies that:

(a) biodiversity and its multiple values have not been integrated into any policies, regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at any levels of government (14.1)

[43] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(b) environmental economic accounting is not being done (14.2)

(c) biodiversity and its multiple values have not been integrated into any policies, regulations, plans and strategies across any sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming (14.3)

(d) there are no policies, regulations, plans or strategies in place to progressively align all relevant private and public activities with the goals and targets of the Framework (14.4)

(e) there are no policies, regulations, plans or strategies in place to progressively align fiscal nor financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework (14.5)

12. In all, no progress has been made to draft nor propose policies to further the integration of the multiple values of biodiversity and business-as-usual continues to be the approach at all levels of government and across all sectors.

13. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to:

(a) begin the process of integrating biodiversity and its multiple values have policies, regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at all levels of government (14.1) for example through the drafting of and proposal of bills.

(b) the implementation of environmental economic accounting is in process, resources are being allocated (e.g. hiring of statisticians) to begin the first set of environmental economic accounts; non-monetary, monetary or both (14.2).

(c) begin the process of integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, plans or strategies across all sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming (14.3). Progress is being made towards designing and putting forward official national policy.

(d) put in place policies, regulations, plans or strategies to progressively align all relevant private and public activities with the goals and targets of the Framework, these are being drafted and proposed (14.4).

(e) put in place policies, regulations, plans or strategies to progressively align fiscal or financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework, theses are being drafted and proposed (14.5).

14. In all cases, clear national efforts can be seen (e.g. draft bills, new regulation, ...) to progress towards the target but these are not yet in place and producing results.

15. A "*Partially*" answer implies that:

(a) there exist national policies to integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at all levels of government but not all four (14.1). Alternatively, all four are present but not at all levels of government.

(b) environmental economic accounting is being done but only for monetary or non-monetary accounts, not both, and may only be happening on an irregular ad hoc basis (14.2).

(c) biodiversity and its multiple values are integrated into policies, regulations, plans or strategies across some sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming (14.3). That is, there remain sectors for which biodiversity mainstreaming is not supported by policy. Here, Parties may choose to optionally provide a list of sectors, in free text, for which policies are in place.

(d) policies, regulations, plans or strategies are in place to progressively align some relevant private and public activities with some of the goals and targets of the Framework (14.4).

(e) policies, regulations, plans or strategies are in place to progressively align fiscal or financial flows with some of the goals and targets of the Framework (14.5).

16. In each case outlined above, some elements implied by the question have not been achieved.

17. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely that:

(a) national policies are in place to integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into all of the following: regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies (14.1).

(b) environmental economic accounting is being done regularly for both monetary and non-monetary accounts (14.2).

(c) biodiversity and its multiple values are integrated into policies, regulations, plans or strategies across all sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming (14.3).

(d) policies, regulations, plans or strategies are in place to progressively align all relevant private and public activities with all of the goals and targets of the Framework (14.4).

(e) policies, regulations, plans or strategies are in place to progressively align fiscal and financial flows with all of the goals and targets of the Framework (14.5).

18. For question 14.3, if a Party responds "partially" or "fully", they may optionally identify the sectors where biodiversity and its multiple values have been integrated into policies, regulations, plans and strategies across by selecting from the following list:

(a) Agriculture

(b) Fisheries

(c) Forestry

(d) Aquaculture

(e) Finance

(f) Tourism

(g) Health

(h) Infrastructure

(i) Energy

(j) Mining Manufacturing and processing

(k) Other

15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts

1. Indicator name

15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 15: Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

a. Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;

b. Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;

c. Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

4. Rationale

1. Target 15 seeks to foster more sustainable patterns of production and financing. It aims to progressively reduce the risks related to biodiversity loss faced by business and finance as well as their negative impacts on biodiversity, and to increase their positive contributions to nature. By reporting on risks, dependencies, and impacts, companies and financial institutions contribute to a broader understanding of how their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios interact with biodiversity. While comprehensive biodiversity-related disclosure is still under development, several (private sector) reporting and data initiatives have started to emerge. Exemplifying this, the global non-profit CDP, which operates the world's largest environmental disclosure system, provides multi-year standardized datasets on corporate biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts, which can support implementation and learning for Target 15. This indicator - on disclosing biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts of businesses and finance - helps address that important information gaps by encouraging large and transnational companies and financial institutions globally to assess and recognize their role in biodiversity conservation. This involves assessing the impacts of their activities (or the operations they finance) on biodiversity and analysing the risks posed by biodiversity loss to their operations and supply chains. Subsequently, companies are prompted to take steps to address these identified impacts and risks.

2. Additionally, through comprehending the interconnections between biodiversity, businesses, and finance, governments can better formulate targeted regulations that address the most pressing challenges and promote sustainable practices. This broader understanding enables governments to identify the areas where regulatory intervention and support are most vital, allowing for the strategic allocation of resources to both mitigate adverse impacts and encourage positive contributions.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

Indicator definition:

3. This indicator requests countries to measure the number of large and transnational companies and financial institutions that disclose information about their interactions with biodiversity in terms of risks, dependencies, and impacts. Companies and financial institutions reporting on these aspects typically disclose information about how their operations, their supply and value chains, or the operations they finance, affect biodiversity, the dependencies they have on biodiversity, and the risks posed by biodiversity loss to their operations and supply chains.

Other key concepts and definitions:

4. Companies**,** under this indicator are understood as enterprises and financial institutions that are nationally recognised as being "*large*". Alternatively, parties may choose to rely on the World Bank's definition for SMEs and consequently of large companies. The World Bank defines SMEs as those enterprises with a maximum of 300 employees, $15 million in annual revenue, and $15 million in assets.

5. While companies often deliver consolidated reports at a group level, it's important to recognize that many of their impacts manifest locally, and some subsidiaries or franchises produce their own sustainability reports. For the purpose of this indicator, both the group and subsidiary/franchise levels can be counted as distinct entities. Therefore, when using the term "*company*" it can refer to either the parent company or a franchise/subsidiary, depending on how they disclose information on biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts.

6. Disclosing, is understood for this indicator as the act of making information available to the general public and stakeholders, in a clear and transparent manner. In this context, it means making information publicly available about a company's impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and its risks from biodiversity loss.

7. Biodiversity-related *risks* to businesses are categorised as:

(a) Ecological risks, i.e. risks related to biodiversity-related ecological impacts and dependencies, linked to biodiversity loss or ecosystems degradation.

(b) Liability risks, where parties who have suffered biodiversity-related loss or damage seek compensation for those they hold responsible.

(c) Risks related to achieve transformative change for biodiversity, including regulatory risks, market risks and financial risks.

(OECD, Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, 2019)

8. Dependencies are aspects of environmental assets and ecosystem services that a person or an organisation relies on to function. A company's business model, for example, may depend on the ecosystem services of water flow, water quality regulation and the regulation of hazards like fires and floods; provision of suitable habitat for pollinators, who in turn provide a service directly to economies; and carbon sequestration. (Sources: TNFD Glossary of Key Terms, version September 2023, and adapted from Science Based Targets Network (2023) SBTN Glossary of Terms)

9. Impacts refer to a change in the state of nature (quality or quantity), which may result in changes to the capacity of nature to provide social and economic functions. Impacts can be positive or negative. They can be the result of an organisation's or another party's actions.

10. Impacts may be:

(a) Direct – a change in the state of nature caused by a business activity with a direct causal link;

(b) Indirect – a change in the state of nature caused by a business activity with an indirect causal link (e.g. indirectly caused by climate change generated by greenhouse gas emissions); and/or

(c) Cumulative – a change in the state of nature (direct or indirect) that occurs due to the interaction of activities of different actors operating in a landscape or freshwater/marine area.

5b. Method of computation

11. In order to be counted under the indicator, companies and financial institutions need to publicly disclose their biodiversity-related risks, impacts and dependencies on a regular basis, and in line with relevant standards, regulations and/or best practices. For example, through disclosure of risks, impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, in line with:

(a) International Standards, e.g. as evolving from the International Sustainability Standards Board (IFRS, ISSB S1 (global), S2 (climate) and forthcoming S3 on nature)

(b) Regional regulation, e.g. European Union Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

(c) National regulation, e.g. France Energy and Climate Law (LEC), India's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)

(d) Voluntary standards, e.g. Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

(e) Voluntary disclosure frameworks / guidance, e.g. Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD), Science-Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), Biodiversity Disclosure Protocol (South Africa)

12. The computation of the indicator involves a straightforward counting process. Any entity that adheres to the "*company*" definition (see 5a) and that discloses its biodiversity-related risks, impacts and dependencies, per description above, is counted as a disclosing company within the context of this indicator.

5c. Data collection method

13. Governments have various channels through which they can gather information about which and how many companies and financial institutions disclose information about their biodiversity risks, dependencies, and impacts. It's important for governments to use a combination of approaches to ensure a comprehensive overview of biodiversity disclosures within their country. Collaborative efforts with businesses, industry stakeholders, and civil society can contribute to a more robust and effective monitoring system:

(a) Public_institutions: Governments could engage with (inter)national standard setters, regulators, national ministries, or other public institutions to explore collaboration around collating information on the number of businesses disclosing relevant data. For example, in France, companies send their reports to the Autorité des Marchés Financiers – AMF, to be in compliance with the energy-climate law (article 29) requiring asset management companies and financial companies (for their asset management activities) to disclose their nature-related risks, impacts and dependencies. These reports are then sent to ADEME (a public environmental institution), which makes a comparative analysis.

(b) International reporting platforms: Companies may report on biodiversity disclosures through international reporting and monitoring platforms such as CDP. CDP's monitoring of Target 15.1 is updated annually, and highlights – at a country level – the publicly disclosing organizations that have established processes to identify, assess and manage their nature-related risks, dependencies and impacts. Initiatives such as the World Benchmarking Alliance are also instrumental in monitoring organizations and make information publicly available. GRI holds a registry of GRI Standards reports. Governments can explore data-sharing arrangements with such platforms to help assess which companies are disclosing biodiversity-related information – as well as the quality of said disclosure.

(c) Framework developers: Organizations providing frameworks and guidance to companies and financial institutions on assessing and disclosing nature related risks, dependencies and impacts (e.g. TNFD and SBTN) may track which companies apply their guidance. For example,

starting in 2025, the TNFD plans to publish information about which organizations are TNFD adopters.

(d) Chambers of Commerce: While specifics can vary by country and local regulations, the Chambers of Commerce often play a key role in the collection and dissemination of certain business documents, including annual reports. The annual reports serve as the main disclosure tool for companies reporting on risks, dependencies, impacts and on biodiversity.

(e) Industry associations: Industry associations such as World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WCSD), the World Economic Forum (WEF), Business for Nature (B4N), may promote biodiversity disclosures. Governments can work together with these associations to promote sustainable practices and gain insight into the number of companies disclosing relevant information.

(f) NGOs, IGOs and research organizations: Collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and research institutions can provide governments with valuable insights. These organizations often conduct assessments and gather data on corporate sustainability practices, including biodiversity disclosures. For example, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) facilitates publication and use of private-sector data on biodiversity. This includes the data that companies collect during monitoring and impact assessment activities. Biodiversity data-sharing requirements or recommendations are increasingly becoming part of business and financial standards and best practices, including through the Equator Principles relating to large private financial institutions.

(g) Surveys and Recognition Programs: Directly engage with companies through surveys or recognition programs may help gather specific information on biodiversity disclosures.

(h) Corporate filings: Review corporate filings, including annual reports and other regulatory submissions, where companies may provide details about their biodiversity-related practices.

(i) Artificial Intelligence tools / Online data searches: Many companies voluntarily publish sustainability reports or disclose information on their websites. With the help of Artificial Intelligence Tools or web-based searches, governments can review these publicly available documents to identify companies that provide information on biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts.

(j) UNCTAD / UNEP / UN Global Compact: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are the Custodian Agencies for the SDG indicator 12.6.1: Number of companies publishing sustainability reports. Some SDG 12.6.1 indicator data is published on UNEP's World Environment Situation Room (WESR) website, as well as through UN SDG Indicator Database. Moreover, the United Nations (UN) Global Compact encourages businesses and organizations worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation.

5d. Data sources

See section 5c.

5e. Data providers

14. In most countries there are no specific entities tasked with gathering and assessing all relevant information regarding the disclosure of companies' biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts.

5f. Data compilers

Not identified, see above.

5g. Gaps in data coverage

15. Significant data gaps are expected, as most countries lack specific entities tasked with systematically gathering and assessing companies' disclosures on biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts, risks.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

16. Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒
Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

17. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

18. Recommended disaggregation include: By sector. Aligned with the sector classification proposed by UNCTAD and UNEP for SDG indicator 12.6.1, using the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) (first level classification):

(a) Agriculture, forestry and fishing

(b) Mining and quarrying

(c) Manufacturing

(d) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

(e) Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities

(f) Construction

(g) Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

(h) Transportation and storage

(i) Accommodation and food service activities

(j) Information and communication

(k) Financial and insurance activities

(l) Real estate activities

(m) Professional, scientific and technical activities

(n) Administrative and support service activities

(o) Public administration and defense; compulsory social security

(p) Education

(q) Human health and social work activities

(r) Arts, entertainment, and recreation

(s) Other service activities

(t) Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use

(u) Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

N/A

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

19. Not identified

10b. Contact person(s)

20. In most countries there are no specific entities tasked with gathering and assessing all relevant information regarding the disclosure of companies' biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts.

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11. References

Websites:

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

The Science Based Target Network

GRI

UNEP-WESR

UNCTAD

UN SDG indicator database; see 12.6.1 report

CDP

World Benchmarking Alliance

UN Global Compact

GBIF

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WCSD)

Taskforce on Nature-related Fiancial Disclosures (2023) Guidance on the identification and assessment of nature-related Issues: The TNFD LEAP approach version 1.1 October 2023;

Science Based Targets Network (2023) SBTN Glossary of Terms;

Capitals Coalition (2016) The Natural Capital Protocol

Climate Disclosure Standards Board (2021) Application guidance for biodiversity-related disclosures.)

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Binary indicator 15.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 15. Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

(a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;

(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;

(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity- related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

Rationale

1. All businesses are tied in some way to biodiversity through their risks, dependencies and impacts. However, these risks, dependencies and impacts are not always acknowledged or accounted for. By assessing and monitoring their impacts on biodiversity, businesses can better understand their relationship with biodiversity and assess the impacts of their activities on it and the risks posed by biodiversity loss to their operations and supply chains. Once these relationships, impacts and risks have been assessed and disclosed, it becomes easier to take concrete steps to address them. Governments have a particularly important role to play in this respect as they can put in place the legal, administrative or policy measures that can facilitate these assessments to take place in a consistent and equitable manner.

2. Large and transnational companies and financial institutions have a disproportionately great impact on biodiversity. These types of companies and institutions, owing to their size and areas of operation, supply and value chains and portfolios often have large net impacts on biodiversity. As such improvements in their monitoring, assessment and disclosure processes have significant potential to generate positive outcomes for biodiversity, particularly as issues associated with supply chains and portfolios are often overlooked in sustainability reports. They also have the resources to track their biodiversity related risks and impacts for reporting and action. This indicator aims to track the progress made by governments to encourage and enable businesses, especially large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to reduce their negative impact and increase their positive impacts on biodiversity. Specifically, this indicator reports on the number of countries that have implemented legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure large and transnational companies and financial institutions make progress towards elements (a), (b) and (c) of target 15.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

Definition

3. Large and transnational companies and financial institutions: A large private or public firm which owns and controls productive assets and/or holds investments in two or more countries. The most commonly used criteria for company size are employment and annual revenue. The World Bank generally considers companies with over 300 employees and $15 million in annual revenue to be

"large". However, some countries or jurisdictions use different thresholds to define "large". Parties may choose to rely on the World Bank criteria or nationally recognised criteria of their own.

(a) Measures: The Framework calls for legal, administrative or policy measures to be implemented to support the achievement of its goals and targets. In the context of target 15, such measures could, for example, include:

(b) Adopt legislation at national level requiring disclosure of biodiversity-related risks, impacts and dependencies for large and transnational companies and financial institutions;

(c) Mandate financial regulators to require disclosure of nature-related risks, impacts and dependencies from financial market participants;

(d) Create an enabling environment to encourage companies and financial institutions to disclose, through capacity-building, guidance, best practice, information on existing frameworks (such as TNFD and others);

(e) Develop financial incentives to encourage companies and financial institutions to disclose biodiversity-related risks, impacts and dependencies;

(f) Biodiversity-related certification of products for businesses;

(g) Allocate resources towards implementing/enforcing the relevant (above-mentioned) policies or legislative measures

4. Such measures may be supported by policy frameworks adopted by countries aiming at reducing the impact on biodiversity. Finally, these laws and policies should be supported with personnel resources in administration whose mandate it is to include biodiversity concerns.

5. Biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions: The TNFD defines nature-related risks as potential threats (effects of uncertainty) posed to an organization that arise from its and wider society's dependencies and impacts on nature. Biodiversity-related risks to businesses are categorised as:

(a) Ecological risks, i.e. risks related to biodiversity-related ecological impacts and dependencies, linked to biodiversity loss or ecosystems degradation.

(b) Liability risks, where parties who have suffered biodiversity-related loss or damage seek compensation for those they hold responsible.

(c) Risks related to achieve transformative change for biodiversity, including regulatory risks, market risks and financial risks.

6. Sustainable consumption and production: The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations.

7. Operations: All activities carried out by business, including large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to continue functioning and generating revenue.

8. Dependencies and impacts: Dependencies on biodiversity are environmental assets and ecosystem services that a person or an organization relies on to function, including water flow and quality regulation; regulation of hazards like fires and floods; pollination; carbon sequestration. Impacts on biodiversity refer to a change in the state of nature (quality or quantity), which may result in changes to the capacity of nature to provide social and economic functions. Impacts can be positive or negative, including pollution of air, water, soil; fragmentation or disruption of ecosystems and habitats for species; alteration of ecosystem regimes. (Science-based Targets for Nature (2020))

Method of Computation

9. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to five questions:

(a) 15.1 Has your country put in place legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions, monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios?

(b) 15.2 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions provide relevant information to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns?

(c) 15.3 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that that large and transnational companies and financial institutions report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations?

(d) 15.4 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity and increase their positive impacts?

(e) 15.5 Does your country monitor whether negative impacts from business on biodiversity have progressively decreased?

10. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[44]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

11. A "*No*" answer implies that Parties have not put in place any measures to ensure monitoring, assessment and disclosure (15.1), to promote information sharing (15.2), to ensure compliance with access and benefit-sharing (ABS) regulations (15.3) nor to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts on biodiversity (15.4) of large and transnational companies and financial institutions. Therefore, no legislative, administrative nor policy measures exist in the country for the specific requirements of each question in turn and none are being discussed nor designed. Additionally, no monitoring of business impacts on biodiversity is taking place (15.5).

12. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to design and implement legislative, administrative or policy measures for monitoring, assessment and disclosure (15.1), information sharing (15.2), ABS compliance (15.3) or business impact on biodiversity (15.4) of large and transnational companies and financial institutions. For each of these items in turn, national governments must be in the design stage of such measures (e.g. a law is being drafted) but none of them have passed yet nor are they required for large transnational companies and financial institutions to follow. The development of these measures must involve governmental bodies with the authority to implement the proposed measures. Additionally, monitoring of business impacts on biodiversity is in development (15.5), monitoring programs and reporting systems may be in the design phase or be completed and accepted but not resourced, and therefore have not begun.

13. A "*Partially*" answer implies that only some of the elements in the question have been fulfilled. For 15.1 it means that:

(a) at least one of legislative, administrative or policy measures are in place

[44] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(b) large and transnational companies and/or financial institutions

(c) at least monitor, assess or disclose

(d) either their risks, dependencies or impacts on biodiversity

(e) along their operations, supply or value chains, or portfolios.

14. If any one of the measures for either type of institution on any kind of activity is in place, then partial achievement has been reached. For 15.2 and 15.3 the measures put in place (for information sharing (15.2) or ABS compliance (15.3)) must apply to either companies or financial institutions but not both. For 15.4 measures on either reducing negative impact or increasing positive impacts must be in place and apply to either companies or financial institutions. In all cases (15.1, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4), resources, financial and human, must also be mobilized to ensure that the measures taken by governments are implemented. Additionally, monitoring of business impacts on biodiversity (15.5) is taking place but not for all aspects of biodiversity (e.g. only genetic or species diversity).

15. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "*Partially*" have been met. Namely, for 15.1, that all legislative, administrative or policy measures are in place. These apply to both large and transnational companies and financial institutions. To ensure they monitor, assess and transparently disclose risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity along all their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios. If any one element is missing, then only partial achievement has been reached. For measures related to information sharing (15.2), ABS compliance (15.3) and business impacts, both positive and negative (15.4), these must apply to both companies and financial institutions to count as "*Fully*". All measures put in place by governments need to be resourced and enforced to count as "*Fully*". Additionally, monitoring of business impacts on all aspects of biodiversity is in place, ongoing and resourced (15.5).

Binary indicator: 16.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

Rationale

1. Unsustainable consumption is an underlying driver of biodiversity loss. Halting and ultimately reversing biodiversity loss will require a shift towards more sustainable consumption patterns. This means consuming resources and producing waste at a level within planetary boundaries. Governments have a central role to play in making information available and accessible to consumers who, in turn, can make better and more informed consumption choices.

2. This target calls for measures to be put in place to encourage people to make more sustainable consumption choices so that overconsumption and waste generation are significantly reduced. As such, this indicator tracks the development and adoption of policies aimed at informing on the importance of and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices.

Definitions Concepts And Classifications

Definition

3. Food waste: Is food and associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain in the following sectors: retail and other distribution of food; food service (restaurants, schools, hospitals, other canteens, etc.); and households. “Removed from the human food supply chain” means one of the following end destinations: landfill, controlled combustion, sewer, litter/discards/ refuse, co/anaerobic digestion, compost/aerobic digestion or land application.

4. Overconsumption: The action or fact of consuming something to excess. Especially in the context of excessive use of natural resources.

5. Waste: Materials that are not prime products (that is, products produced for the market) for which the generator has no further use in terms of his/her own purposes of production, transformation or consumption, and of which he/she wants to dispose. Wastes may be generated during the extraction of raw materials, the processing of raw materials into intermediate and final products, the consumption of final products, and other human activities.

6. Waste generation: The process of generating waste, whether through production or consumption.

7. Sustainable consumption: The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.

Method of Computation

8. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to three questions:

(a) 16.1 Has your country established mechanisms, policy, or legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption?

(b) 16.2 Has your country adopted mechanisms to improve awareness or education with regard to the impacts of consumption on biodiversity and access to relevant and accurate information or alternatives supporting sustainable consumption?

(c) 16.3 Has your country adopted or implemented policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to reduce the impacts of consumption, including through reducing food waste, overconsumption, and waste generation, on biodiversity?

9. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[45]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

10. A "*No*" answer implies that there are no established mechanisms, policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption (16.1), that no mechanisms are in place to improve awareness or education on the impacts of consumption on biodiversity nor improve access to information or alternatives in support of sustainable consumption (16.2) and no policy instruments aimed at reducing the impacts on consumption, especially with regards to waste, are in place (16.3). In all cases, there are no national efforts to promote sustainable consumption and reduce the impacts of overconsumption on biodiversity. Initiatives may exist to tackle these issues at a grassroots level, but these are not backed by government and legislation is missing.

11. An "*Under development*" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to:

(a) establish mechanisms, policy, or legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption (16.1)

(b) adopt mechanisms to improve awareness of the impacts of consumption and promote alternatives (16.2)

(c) adopt policy aimed at reducing the impacts on consumption, especially with regards to waste, are in place (16.3).

12. In each of these cases, national strategies, legislation and novel regulations may be in the draft stages and awaiting ratification. Resources may also be in the process of being mobilized to support these mechanisms. Importantly, these processes must be ongoing at the national level and backed by governmental bodies with implementation authority, ongoing engagement with or support of stakeholders promoting sustainable consumption is insufficient.

13. A "*Partially*" answer implies that some actions are being taken to promote sustainable consumption, but not all. That is:

(a) mechanisms, policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption have been established but not all (16.1)

(b) mechanisms to improve awareness or education about the impacts of consumption on biodiversity are in place but not both, and these include

[45] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

mechanisms to improve access to relevant and accurate information and/or alternatives supporting sustainable consumption (16.2)

(c) policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to reduce the impacts of consumption are in place, but these do not include reducing food waste, overconsumption, nor waste generation (16.3)

14. All these cases imply governmental support (e.g. through legislation or financing) for the mechanisms in place. If any one of the cases outlined above applies, only partial achievement has been reached.

15. A "*Fully*" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "Partially" have been met. Namely that mechanisms, policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption have all been established (16.1), mechanisms to improve awareness or education about the impacts of consumption on biodiversity are in place and they include mechanisms to improve access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives supporting sustainable consumption (16.2) and policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to reduce the impacts of consumption are in place, including through reducing food waste, overconsumption, and waste generation (16.3). Note that all these mechanisms must be established at the national level and be appropriately resourced (financial and human).

Binary indicator 17.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

Rationale

1. Living modified organisms resulting from biotechnologies provide opportunities, but its use and release requires regulation, management and control of potential associated risks. Participation in biotechnological research and development by Parties, especially developing country Parties, providing the genetic resources for such research would help empower them to address their own needs. In addition, priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties, in particular developing country Parties, to the results and benefits of biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by these Parties would enable countries to benefit from technological advances based on genetic resources, providing a powerful incentive for conservation. As such, this indicator tracks progress towards the implementation of articles 19 and 8 of the Convention.

Definitions Concepts And Classifications

Definition

2. Biosafety: This concept refers to the need to protect human health and the environment from the possible adverse effects of the products of modern biotechnology.

3. Biotechnology: Under the Convention, “biotechnology” means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (Convention, Article 2).

4. Living modified organisms: The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety defines “living modified organism” as any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

5. Modern biotechnology: Under the Cartagena Protocol, “modern biotechnology” means the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection. (Cartagena Protocol, Article 3(i)).

6. Genetic resources: Means genetic material of actual or potential value.

7. Risk assessment: The objective of risk assessment is to identify and evaluate the potential adverse effects of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the likely potential receiving environment, taking also into account risks to human health.

Method of Computation

8. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to six questions:

(a) 17.1 Has your country established biosafety-related policy, legal, administrative and other measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?

(b) 17.2 Does your country implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?

(c) 17.3 Has your country taken legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Parties, especially developing countries, that provide the genetic resources for such research as set out in paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Convention?

(d) 17.4 Has your country taken practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by those Parties, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Convention?

(e) 17.5 Does your country carry out scientifically sound risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms?

(f) 17.6 Does your country provide access to biosafety-related information for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms?

9. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[46]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

10. A "No" answer implies that:

(a) no biosafety-related legal, policy nor administrative measures in line with Article 8(g) have been established (17.1)

(b) no biosafety measures in line with Article 8(g) are being implemented (17.2)

(c) no measures have been put in place for the effective participation in biotechnology research activities by Parties that provide genetic resources as set out in Article 19 (17.3)

(d) no measures have been taken to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by Parties as set out in Article 19 (17.4)

(e) no risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms have been carried out (17.5)

(f) no information on the safe use of living modified organisms is being provided to other Parties (17.6)

11. In all, no progress has been made to draft nor propose policies to implement measures relative to articles 8(g) and 19 of the convention and the safe use and management of living modified organisms.

12. An "Under development" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to implement measures such that:

[46] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(a) biosafety-related legal, policy or administrative measures in line with Article 8(g) have been proposed and/or drafted but not yet ratified (17.1)

(b) biosafety measures in line with Article 8(g) have been proposed but not yet implemented (17.2)

(c) legislative, administrative or policy measures for the effective participation in biotechnology research activities by Parties that provide genetic resources, as set out in Article 19, have been drafted and/or proposed (17.3)

(d) measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by Parties, as set out in Article 19, have been drafted and/or proposed (17.4)

(e) risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms are planned and/or designed but not yet carried out (17.5)

(f) compiling of information on the safe use of living modified organisms for other Parties has been commissioned and/or drafted but is not yet complete (17.6)

13. In all cases, clear national efforts can be seen (e.g. draft bills, new regulation, ...) to progress towards the target but these are not yet in place nor producing results.

14. A “Partially” answer implies that:

(a) there exist biosafety-related legal, policy or administrative measures in line with Article 8(g) but have been partially established (17.1)

(b) biosafety measures in line with Article 8(g) have been partially implemented (17.2)

(c) legislative, administrative or policy measures for the effective participation in biotechnology research activities by Parties that provide genetic resources, as set out in Article 19, have been partially implemented (17.3)

(d) measures to ensure the sharing of benefits from genetic resources of other Parties, as set out in article 19, have been partially implemented (17.4)

(e) risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms have been carried out in some cases (17.5)

(f) information on the safe use of living modified organisms for other Parties is available to some extent (17.6)

15. In each case outlined above, the coverage of the measures in place is incomplete.

16. A “Fully” answer implies that all the conditions outlined in “Partially” have been met. Namely that:

(a) biosafety-related legal, policy or administrative measures in line with Article 8(g) are in place (17.1)

(b) biosafety measures in line with Article 8(g) have been implemented (17.2)

(c) legislative, administrative and policy measures for the effective participation in biotechnology research activities by Parties that provide genetic resources, as set out in Article 19, have been implemented (17.3)

(d) measures to ensure the sharing of benefits from genetic resources of other Parties, as set out in article 19, have been (17.4)

(e) risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms have been carried out in all cases (17.5)

(f) information on the safe use of living modified organisms for other Parties is available for all living modified organisms (17.6)

18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

1. Indicator name

18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

1. The total number of positive incentives in place is the sum of the number of instruments listed below (that are active, i.e. in force):

(a) Biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges (number active)

(b) Biodiversity-relevant environmentally beneficial subsidies[47] (number active)

(a) Biodiversity-relevant tradable permits (number active)

(c) Payments for ecosystem services (number active)

(d) Biodiversity offsets (number active)

2. Countries reporting to the OECD Policy Instruments for Environment (PINE) database could extract data directly from the PINE database and those not providing data to the PINE database could complete this based on simple guidance (see next section). Countries would report on number of active instruments per year from 2020-30.

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for **Target 18**: Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least $500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4. Rationale

3. Positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (also referred to as economic instruments or incentive-based mechanisms) are policy instruments that provide signals to consumers and producers to behave in a more sustainable manner. In economic terms, they serve to internalise externalities associated with the use of biodiversity. Positive incentives include biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges (e.g. pesticide tax, protected area fees, water abstraction charges), biodiversity-relevant environmentally beneficial subsidies, payment for ecosystem services, tradable permit schemes (e.g. fisheries individual transferable quotas), and biodiversity offsets. These positive incentives are key to mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries) and serve to reflect the true value of biodiversity in economic decision-making. They provide continuous incentives to both consumers and producers to behave in a more environmentally sustainable way. Additionally, positive incentives also help to mobilise private sector finance for biodiversity. Several of these positive incentives also generate revenue for governments (e.g. biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges, and tradable permits if auctioned),

[47] The PINE database considers a subsidy as environmentally beneficial if it reduces (or increases) directly or indirectly the use of something that has a proven, specific negative (or positive) impact on the environment. Environmentally beneficial subsidies include grants, per-unit subsidies, or preferential tax treatments, , among others.

which in some cases is earmarked for biodiversity. The application of this indicator needs to take into account that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with the considerations set out in Section C of the Framework which includes, among other things, that the Framework needs to be implemented in accordance with relevant international obligations and that nothing in the Framework should be interpreted as agreement to modify the rights and obligations of a Party under the Convention or any other international agreement.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5.a Definition

1. Positive incentives (also referred to as incentive-based or economic instruments) are the set of fiscal and other economic incentives to incorporate biodiversity-related costs and benefits into production and consumption. They are policy instruments that use price signals to discourage activities harmful to biodiversity (e.g. a tax on pollution) or encourage activities that benefit biodiversity (e.g. payments for ecosystem services). In contrast to more traditional command-and-control approaches (e.g. restrictions on access or use, standards, etc.), economic instruments can, in theory, meet a given environmental objective at a lower total economic cost.

2. Biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges: payment to the government levied on tax bases or linked to services associated with a proven, specific negative impact on biodiversity. They could include taxes on pollution and natural resource/land use. Non-exhaustive list of examples:

(a) Synthetic fertilisers and pesticides taxes

(b) Water pollution taxes and water abstraction charges

(c) Fishing and hunting licence fees

(d) Protected area entrance fees

(e) Taxes and fees/charges for timber harvest.

3. Biodiversity-relevant environmentally beneficial subsidies: Subsidies that reduce directly or indirectly the use of something that has a proven, specific negative impact on biodiversity, including direct payments from government and preferential tax treatments (e.g. VAT exemptions). Non-exhaustive list of examples could include:

(a) Payments from government to private land-users/owners to restore land

(b) Preferential land tax for forests under protection or restoration

(c) Agri-environmental payments promoting habitat protection and restoration.

4. Payments for ecosystem services: A payment for ecosystem services (PES) is a voluntary transaction between ecosystem service users and service providers that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management for generating offsite services (Wunder, 2015). Ecosystem service providers and users may be individuals, companies or aggregations of actors. In some cases, a government may act on behalf of users.

5. Biodiversity-relevant tradable permit schemes: market-based instruments that provide allowance or permission to engage in an activity under an aggregate cap. These permits can be traded. Non-exhaustive list of examples:

(a) Individual transferable quotas (ITQs) for fisheries

(b) Tradable water rights

(c) Salinity trading schemes

(d) Tradable development rights.

6. Biodiversity offsets: Biodiversity offsets are "*measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been taken*." (BBOP 2018). They are usually established with an overall objective of a No Net Loss (NNL) or Net Gain (NG) and are embedded in the mitigation hierarchy. Biodiversity offsets can be classified into three main types:

(a) One-off biodiversity offsets;

(b) Payments in-lieu; and

(c) Mitigation banking schemes.

7. Biodiversity credits: Biodiversity credits have *been referred to as voluntary*, measurable *units/certificates representing a* positive biodiversity outcome. They are treated here as separate from *units generated under biodiversity offsets programmes with NNL or NG objectives which are embedded in the mitigation hierarchy*

8. Unit of measurement: Number of positive incentives (by type).

5b. Method of computation

9. OECD collects national level data on positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These incentives are also referred to as economic instruments or incentive-based instruments. The data are collected through the OECD database on Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE). The data meet the headline indicator criteria (i.e. they can be aggregated globally from national level data and can be disaggregated down from totals, as the data are reported in a consistent and comparable way across countries). The categories of positive incentives used in the OECD PINE database are:

(b) biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges

(c) biodiversity-relevant positive subsidies and payments for ecosystem services

(d) biodiversity-relevant tradable permits and biodiversity offsets

While the OECD PINE database uses these broad categories of positive incentives, the categories can be further disaggregated and filtered. For example, in the database it is possible to separately view biodiversity relevant tradable permits and biodiversity offsets.

10. The data on positive incentives collected via the OECD PINE database covers:

(a) when the policy instrument was introduced;

(b) what it applies to;

(c) the geographical coverage (e.g. national, local);

(d) the environmental domain (e.g. biodiversity, climate change, air pollution);

(e) the industries concerned;

(f) the revenues, costs or rates;

(g) whether the revenue is earmarked; and

11. The OECD Secretariat manages the database and ensures consistency in the way data are classified (including compliance with definitions and internationally agreed classifications) and undertakes quality checks.

12. The questionnaire, data structure, and typology and definitions of instruments can be found on the "*About*" section of the PINE database website available at: http://oe.cd/pinedatabase.

13. The data on monetary value of positive incentives (revenues or payments) is reported in millions of local currency per year in current prices. For biodiversity offsets this could include private transactions for example when purchasing offsets through biobanking, payments for one-off offsets and payments to government if it is a payment-in-lieu scheme.

14. Information is available by country at the individual policy instrument level. Dashboards aggregated up to the global level are also presented in the data dissemination portal. Data on biodiversity-related economic instruments (positive incentives) are presented and analysed in OECD reports on "*Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity*" which is updated on a regular basis. The latest release was in 2024, with the next update to take place in 2026.

15. All countries are welcome to contribute to the OECD PINE database. Currently more than 140 countries have contributed. Countries may either use the data in PINE to report to the CBD or provide data directly to the CBD from their national reporting systems. Countries are encouraged to establish national systems for collecting data on positive incentives for biodiversity.

5c. Data collection method

16. Data on positive incentives for biodiversity, reported via the OECD PINE database are collected via a network of 500+ registered country experts from government agencies (Ministries of Finance and Environment, statistical institutes) as well as research institutes and international organisations. Data are collected regularly for OECD members, accession countries and OECD key partners. A growing number of non-member countries also contribute data to PINE. The OECD also conducts targeted data collection initiatives to expand the coverage of countries and update the information. Currently the PINE database includes information from more than 140 countries (~70% of Parties to the CBD).

17. Registered experts are asked to update data at least once a year, typically from January- March, through a secured online data collection portal. Country experts register to access the database.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

18. The PINE data are publicly available on the OECD website. See http://oe.cd/pinedatabase

19. The PINE data can be accessed:

(a) by type of economic instrument (tax, fee/charge, tradable permit, etc.)

(b) by country

(c) by environmental domain (e.g. biodiversity, climate change, air pollution, etc.)

20. The data analysis for the indicators on biodiversity-relevant positive incentives is undertaken by extracting the relevant information in the PINE database for the biodiversity environmental domain.

21. The methodology has been approved by OECD delegates.

5e. Data sources

22. Data come mainly from government agencies (e.g. Ministries of Finance and Environment; statistical institutes) as well as research institutes and international organisations. See section 5c for further detail.

5f. Availability and release calendar

23. Data is available from 1980-present. Updated annually.

5g. Time series

24. Data in the OECD PINE database are available from 1980-present for more than 140 countries and are updated annually. OECD's Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity reports (first released in 2017 and updated regularly, for example in 2024, with the next update

forthcoming in 2026) summarises and analyses the biodiversity-related instruments in the PINE database. The annually updated data is publicly accessible on the OECD PINE website.

5h. Data providers

25. Data providers are a network of 4500+ registered country experts from government agencies (Ministries of Finance and Environment, statistical institutes) as well as research institutes and international organisations. Data are collected systematically for OECD members as well as the active OECD accession countries. A growing number of non-member countries also provide information. Registered experts are asked to update and validate data once a year, typically in January through March, through a secured online data collection portal. All countries are welcome to contribute data to the OECD PINE database.

26. Countries can also provide data directly to CBD.

5i. Data compilers

27. The OECD Secretariat is responsible for collecting and harmonising the data. Data validation is undertaken by the OECD Secretariat in collaboration with the reporting countries.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

28. The OECD PINE database includes data from more than 140 countries (and is expanding over time). The data collection method may result in some reporting bias, as OECD members and active accession countries are likely to report data more regularly. All figures should be interpreted in this context. Data updates for countries may be delayed due to staff changes in the national teams providing the information. As the instrument categories on "*payments for ecosystem services*" and on "*biodiversity offsets*" were introduced into the PINE database in 2023, the data for these two types of positive incentives is likely to be less comprehensive than for the other types of positive incentives. It is expected that reporting on these two new instruments will improve over time.

5k. Treatment of missing values

29. If data on positive incentives are missing, they may be reconciled using data from other international data platforms where appropriate (e.g. EUROSTAT, OECD Revenue Statistics).

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):
Global: ☒ Regional: ☒ National☒

30. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☒

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☒

31. Data on positive incentives are collected at national level. Countries can specify whether the policy instrument is applied nationally or sub-nationally. National data can therefore be collated to provide global indicators (e.g. total number of countries with biodiversity-relevant taxes [over time]; total number of biodiversity-relevant taxes [over time], etc.).

6b. National/regional indicator production

32. All data are publicly available online on the OECD PINE database website. The database is overseen by the OECD Working Party on Environmental Information (WPEI) under the OECD Environmental Policy Committee, and the Joint Working Party on Tax Environment (JMPTXE). The biodiversity-relevant data can be viewed by searching for environmental domain: "*biodiversity*". The OECD Secretariat also regularly updates the analysis on "*Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity*" to facilitate user-friendliness and to highlight policy-relevant messages.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

33. All data in PINE are provided by a network of country experts, including government agencies, international organisations, and research institutes. The OECD Secretariat then harmonises and validates the data in consultation with countries before publishing them on the OECD PINE database and using them in OECD work and beyond. Divergence between nationally produced data and international data may occur if there are discrepancies in the way instruments are categorised in national data sets and in PINE. Some countries provide more comprehensive information than others.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

34. Data is reported at country level

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

35. Data are reported via an annual questionnaire (at an instrument level) by national statistical agencies, ministries of finance, environment, etc.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

36. The data is used as an indicator for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.a.1 on biodiversity finance.

8. Possible Disaggregations

37. The indicator on positive incentives for biodiversity can be disaggregated by type of instrument (biodiversity-relevant tax, fee or charge; biodiversity-positive subsidy; tradable permit; PES; biodiversity offset), by geographic location, by industry concerned, etc.: see below.

38. The OECD PINE database also collects information on:

(a) Whether the incentive is national or local in scope (for more detail, see above)

(b) What sector the incentives relate to (via ISIC codes) e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, recreation, etc.

(c) Revenue generated (e.g. from taxes, fees and charges, tradable permits)

(d) Payments (e.g. from biodiversity-relevant positive subsidies, payments for ecosystem services)

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

39. Aligning price signals through positive incentives is fundamental for resource mobilisation (target 19). Positive incentives such as PES, biodiversity offsets and subsidies also disburse finance for biodiversity, while biodiversity-relevant taxes can generate revenue which can (if desired) be earmarked for biodiversity. In addition, Target 19.4 explicitly refers to certain types of positive incentives (i.e. payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsets).

40. Target 19 Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least $200 billion per year by 2030 ...;

41. 19.2. Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;

42. 19.3. Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;

43. 19.4. Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;

44. Target 14: Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations [...] aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework

45. Goal D: The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed

10. Data reporter

10a. Organisation

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Environment Directorate)

10b. Contact person(s)

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11. References

On positive incentives (economic instruments) for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use: OECD 2024, Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity - 2024

OECD 2025, Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE) Database, http://oe.cd/pine , July 2025 version. https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/policy-instruments-for-the-environment-pine-database.html

12. Graphs and diagrams

18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

1. Indicator name

18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity.

1. Possible disaggregations of the headline indicator:

(a) Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity/environment

(b) Value of subsidies ("support") to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective fisheries management

(c) Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

(d) Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity in another sector (such as water, transportation and mining sectors)

2. All the values are to be reported in national currency in current values.

3. Explanation: The disaggregated values are taken from the formerly proposed complementary indicators; the value of subsidies to capture fisheries is new, proposed by the technical expert group on financial reporting. In case of the disaggregation for the fisheries sector and fossil fuels, datasets with data for some countries exist and can be used within the template. Further information below. Parties can report on incentives harmful for biodiversity across all relevant sectors, these disaggregations are provided for the information of Parties to take into account, as appropriate, and subject to their national circumstances and priorities.

4. Justification for revising the proposed headline indicator: The headline indicator as it is worded in Table 2 of CBD/COP/DEC/15/5 would only allow countries to report on (positive) reform, but if this were to be reversed in another year, this information would not be recorded. For example, country X might eliminate/reform 2 million worth of harmful incentives in year 1, but then introduce (other) harmful incentives worth 10 million in year 2 or 3. The original wording of the headline indicator only requires that countries report on the reform of harmful incentives in year 1, but does not require the country to report on the introduction of harmful incentives in year 2 or 3. Furthermore, a country with a high value of harmful subsidies/incentives that reforms even a small fraction of them will look to be performing better than a country that has few or no harmful subsidies/incentives and has therefore reformed few or none.

5. The technical expert group on financial reporting notes that there is no standardized, globally agreed methodology for assessing the value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that are eliminated, phased out or reformed, nor is there a single global dataset providing this information. However, there are datasets and methodologies for assessing the value of (potentially) harmful subsidies and other incentives across particular sectors. Furthermore, changes in these values from one year to the next at national level may represent policy action (reform) but can also reflect other factors e.g. changes in commodity prices. In aggregate, time series data on indicators relevant to evaluating "*the value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity*" allows for the monitoring of progress towards target 18.2. (i.e. by examining trends over time).

2. Date of metadata update

February 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

3a. Goal

N/A

3b. Target

Headline indicator for Target 18: Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least $500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4. Rationale

6. This indicator quantifies all the incentives including subsidies harmful to biodiversity provided by the Government. Regular reporting on the indicator will reveal the trend of the value of incentives including subsidies harmful to biodiversity over time. A decreasing trend indicates that a government is eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives harmful to biodiversity. On the other hand, an increasing trend suggests the value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity is rising over time.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition:

7. There is no universally agreed definition of subsidies, as it depends on the context in which the term is discussed. Harmful or perverse incentives to biodiversity are generally regarded as economic, legal and institutional incentives that emanate from policies or practices that induce unsustainable behaviour that destroys biodiversity, often as unanticipated side-effects of policies designed to attain other objectives. Subsidies are considered a subset of incentives.

8. In context of this indicator, the focus is on the monetary value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, including policy measures (e.g. market price support, where relevant).

9. The WTO defines a subsidy as "*a financial contribution by a government, or agent of a government, that confers a benefit on its recipients*" for the purposes of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

10. The OECD describes environmental harmful subsidies/support as "*all kinds of financial support and regulations that are put into place to enhance the competitiveness of certain products, processes or regions, and that, together with the prevailing taxation regime, (unintentionally) discriminate against sound environmental practices*".

11. Similarly, in the SEEA, the Central Framework explicitly says, "*A definition of PEDS (potentially environmentally damaging subsidies)] is not included in the SEEA*". Eurostat provides the following guidance and information in this context: Guidance material for the Eurostat PEDS compilation, Potentially environmentally damaging transfers and Background document (discussed in the working group on monetary environmental statistics and accounts in 2022). The Eurostat Guidelines on Environmental subsidies and similar transfers state:
"*There is no established definition of potentially environmentally damaging subsidies but there are ideas of how such a definition could be elaborated. One idea is to look at reductions and exemptions related to environmental taxes (using the list of environmental tax bases), which includes tax abatements. Another possible idea is to create a list of potentially harmful activities. This approach is an example of an approach 'based on beneficiary' since each subsidy would have to be allocated to the receiving activities and those transfers that are allocated to potentially harmful activities are considered as PEDS. All environmental subsidies and similar transfers should be excluded from the scope*."

12. It is important for each country to identify subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity within their national context when working on the identification of subsidies (see indicator 18.2.).

Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

13. Total value of incentives, including subsidies, that have been identified to be harmful to biodiversity. This value can be either provided as total sum by the countries, or they can choose to

use the disaggregation options (agriculture, fisheries, fossil fuels, others), as relevant. For the latter, the country would be requested to specify which sectors the data relate to.

14. If the data are reported directly by Parties, they should be reported annually and in the national currency in current values.

Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

15. The OECD database on Producer Support Estimate (PSE) collects data on government support to agriculture. 54 countries provide data to this database (as of January 2026), covering about 75% of global agricultural value-added. In relation to the reporting on the "*Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity*", the OECD has identified that agricultural support provided through market price support, payments based on output, and the unconstrained use of variable inputs, could be potentially most harmful to the environment, (Henderson and Lankoski, 2019; DeBoe, 2020a,b). More recent work, synthesising research to date, provides a detailed typology of support instruments based on a refined set of criteria consistent with the PSE framework (Lankoski, Nales and Valin, 2025). It confirms that most production-coupled forms of support are the most likely to generate environmentally harmful impacts. It highlights that the type of production or input being targeted by the support, as well as the possible presence of environmental conditions attached to the support instrument, are also relevant to consider.

16. Sources: Henderson and Lankoski (2019) http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/add0f27c-en; DeBoe (2020a) https://doi.org/10.1787/6bc916e7-en. DeBoe (2020b), https://doi.org/10.1787/3d459f91-en. Lankoski, Nales and Valin (2025), https://doi.org/10.1787/808f110c-en.

Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)[21]

17. Relevant measures include:

(a) direct transfer of government funds;

(a) induced transfers (price support); and

(b) tax expenditure, other revenue foregone, and under-pricing of goods and services.

18. Concepts:

(a) Use definition of fossil fuels from IEA Statistics Manual, "*Fossil fuels are taken from natural resources which were formed from biomass in the geological past. By extension, the term fossil is also applied to any secondary fuel manufactured from a fossil fuel*."

(b) Use the terms set out in CPC Rev. 2.1 for the statistical classification of the individual products. No other commonly accepted definition identified.

(c) Include electricity and heat generated from fossil fuels in the scope of fossil fuels.

(d) Include non-energy uses with monitoring optional for the measuring of this indicator.

(e) Additional details are provided in the methodological document entitled, UNEP (2019), Measuring Fossil Fuel Subsidies in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals

19. Direct transfers are generally reported in government budgets, and well documented in sectoral and Finance Ministries, broken down by programme if not by fuel. Those that meet the System of National Accounts (SNA) definition of "*subsidies*" – i.e. subsidies on products, and other subsidies on production – can also be found in a country's System of National Accounts. Budget documents are publicly available for most countries. The degree to which information on individual programmes is itemized in those reports is highly variable, however. Support to corporations involved in energy production or transformation may sometimes be found in their annual reports, for example. In some cases, researchers may be able to obtain unpublished data from state-owned energy enterprises directly. Induced transfers are measured by calculating the price gap between the producer or consumer price and a reference price and multiplying that differential by the affected volume produced or consumed. Measuring the value of special features introduced into the tax code to favour

certain industries or activities of those industries (such as investment in productive capital) can be a complex endeavour. Some countries do this exercise already and report the annual value of those tax breaks in their periodic tax-expenditure reports. However, what is considered a tax expenditure varies from one country to another, in particular depending on the tax code structure. When countries do not produce tax-expenditure reports, the analysist must estimate the difference in the revenues that would be owed to the government under the baseline conditions (that he needs to determine) and with the special tax feature.

Value of subsidies to capture fisheries presenting a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective fisheries management[22]

20. Fisheries subsidies or "*support*" can "*pose risks to the sustainability and productivity of fisheries when it encourages the build-up of excess fishing capacity; overfishing; and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*" (OECD, 2022). The extent to which subsidies and other forms of support can encourage unsustainable fishing depends on the type of subsidy offered (and how directly it impacts fishing costs and benefits) as well as how well the subsidized fisheries are managed, whether the fish stocks they target are healthy (OECD, 2022).

21. Indeed, according to OECD (2022), in the absence of effective fisheries management:

(a) The following types of support present a high risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing:

i. Support to vessel construction and purchase

ii. Support to vessel modernisation and purchase of gear (capacity enhancing)

iii. Support to fuel consumption

iv. Support for access to infrastructure

i. Support for access to other countrie' waters

ii. Preferential insurance for fishers

(b) Support to the following tends to have a moderate risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing:

iii. Support to vessels modernisation and purchase of gear (safety and environmental impact)

iv. Support to infrastructure construction and modernisqtion (capital)

v. Buyback of vessel of licence

vi. Support to fisher income

Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity in other sectors

22. When analysing incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, countries might choose to consider other sectors than agriculture, fisheries or fossil fuels. Such sectors could be, but are not limited to, transport (e.g. road construction) or water (e.g. price subsidies). For examples of potentially harmful subsidies in other sectors, see Matthews, A. and K. Karousakis (2022), "*Identifying and assessing subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity: A comparative review of existing national-level assessments and insights for good practice*."

5b. Method of computation

Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

23. Depending on the reporting option selected by the country/institution (i.e. global data base or national data) data may be collected through information already reported to the OECD and others including the FAO and IDB, IMF and IEA (depending on the sectors).

Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

24. The OECD database on Producer Support Estimate (PSE) collects data on government support to agriculture. 54 countries have provided data to this database (as of March 2024), covering about 75% of global agricultural value-added. Data is reported annually and classified based on support implementation criteria.

25. In relation to the reporting on the "*Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity*", the OECD has found that agricultural support provided through market price support, payments based on output, and the unconstrained use of variable inputs, are the potentially most harmful to environment, and thereby could affect biodiversity in particular countries (Henderson and Lankoski, 2019; DeBoe, 2020a,b). The type of production or input being targeted by the support, as well as the possible presence of environmental conditions attached to the support instrument, are also relevant to consider (Lankoski, Nales and Valin, 2025).

26. The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) database on agricultural subsidies complies information from countries on their domestic support to agriculture as part of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Information is submitted annually and could be used in the calculation of the indicator. This is one possible source of information for the calculation of this indicator.

Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

27. This indicator corresponds to the SDG indicator 12c but is presented as total monetary value rather than per unit of GDP. Direct transfers are generally reported in government budgets, and well documented in sectoral and Finance Ministries, broken down by programme if not by fuel. Those that meet the SNA definition of "*subsidies*" – i.e. subsidies on products, and other subsidies on production – can also be found in a country's System of National Accounts. Budget documents are publicly available for most countries. The degree to which information on individual programmes is itemized in those reports is highly variable, however. Support to corporations involved in energy production or transformation may sometimes be found in their annual reports, for example. In some cases, researchers may be able to obtain unpublished data from state-owned energy enterprises directly. Induced transfer are measured by calculating the price-gap between the producer or consumer price and a reference price, and multiplying that differential by the affected volume produced or consumed. Measuring the value of special features introduced into the tax code to favour certain industries or activities of those industries (such as investment in productive capital) can be a complex endeavour. Some countries do this exercise already and report the annual value of those tax features in their periodic tax-expenditure reports. However, what is considered a tax expenditure varies from one country to another; in particular depending on the tax code structure. When countries do not produce tax-expenditure reports, the analysist must construct a model and estimate the difference in the revenues that would be owed to the government under the baseline conditions and with the special tax feature. For further details on the method of computation as explained in the metadata sheet of SDG indicator 12c. Please refer to the sources below (11. References).

Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective fisheries management

28. Every two years the OECD publishes the OECD Review of Fisheries. These reports present information on fish stock health and productivity, fisheries management and support to fisheries in OECD Members and other major fishing nations. Data on government support to fisheries are collated in the OECD Fisheries Support Estimates (FSE) database. In 2024, the OECD FSE data covered 42 countries and territories, which, together, accounted for 69% of global marine fisheries production (by volume) over 2020-22. The FSE database records information on direct support to individuals and companies in the fishing sector, such as fuel and vessel subsidies or income support, as well as public financing of fisheries services and infrastructure, such as monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), port construction and operation, or payments for access to other countries' waters. For each type of support, the OECD attributed one of four categories reflecting on the risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing posed by each support policy type in the absence of effective fisheries management The four categories –high risk, moderate risk, uncertain risk and no risk – were

defined and agreed by the OECD Fisheries Committee using over two decades of economic and policy research conducted by the OECD and others. The classification and the justification for the breakdown were discussed in the OECD Review of Fisheries 2022 and most recently applied to analyse FSE data in the OECD Review of Fisheries 2025.

5c. Data collection method

Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

29. Depending on the reporting option selected by the country/institution (i.e. global data base or national data) data may be collected through information already reported to the OECD and others including FAO, IDB, the IMF and IEA (depending on the sector).

Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

30. The OECD PSE database collects data on government support to agriculture on an annual basis from national governments within the OECD, as well as from other complementary sources for non-OECD countries covered in the dataset. The data is verified and checked by the OECD Secretariat (Trade and Agriculture Directorate) before it is made publicly available online.

31. The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) database on agricultural subsidies complies information from countries on their domestic support to agriculture as part of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Information is submitted annually and could be used in the calculation of the indicator.

32. In relation to the reporting on the "*Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity*", the OECD has found that agricultural support provided through market price support, payments based on output, and the unconstrained use of variable inputs, are the potentially most harmful to environment, and thereby could affect biodiversity in particular countries (Henderson and Lankoski, 2019; DeBoe, 2020a,b). The type of production or input being targeted by the support, as well as the possible presence of environmental conditions attached to the support instrument, are also relevant to consider. (Lankoski, Nales and Valin, 2025).

Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

33. See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-12-0c-01.pdf and Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker (fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org)) Data are already collected to report against SDG 12.c.

Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing

34. OECD already collects data from countries and categorises the support by its risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing.

35. The data are based on information submitted by national authorities, complemented by publicly available information when there is no direct co-operation between national authorities and the OECD Committee for Fisheries.

36. Details on how support to fisheries data are collected by the OECD, and how the data is processed and published can be found in the OECD Fisheries Support Estimate (FSE) Manual.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

The three databases are available publicly. There are also references and guidance materials to support Parties in reporting, including a comparative review of existing national-level assessments and insights for good practice (Matthews, A. and K. Karousakis (2022)) and a fiancé for nature workbook (UNDP 2024). These and other reference materials are included in reference section of the metadata.**5e. Data sources**

37. Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

Agricultural support http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=114544

38. Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28111/FossilFuel.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

39. Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing

(a) Data will be available on the OECD Data Explorer as of Q1 2026. Data can be obtained from the OECD in the meantime (fish.contact@oecd.org)

5f. Availability and release calendar

40. Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity:

(a) The data on government support to agriculture is collected and published annually

41. Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption):

(a) The data is collected and published annually - see the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker and the SDG 12 c metadata sheet for further information

42. Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing:

(a) The data is collected and published bi-annually, when a new edition of the OECD Review of Fisheries is published.

5g. Time series

Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

43. Data should be provided annually

5h. Data providers

44. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity

(a) The data would be provided at the disaggregated level

45. Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

(a) OECD via national reporting from OECD governments and other complementary sources for non-OECD countries covered by the dataset.

46. World Trade Organisation's (WTO) database on agricultural subsidies which complies information from countries on their domestic support to agriculture as part of the WTO Agreement on AgricultureValue of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

(a) National Focal Points from National Statistical Systems.

(b) International Estimate Providers – OECD, IEA and IMF

47. Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing

(a) OECD via national reporting from OECD Members and non-Members participating in the work of the OECD Fisheries Committee and other complementary official sources for non-OECD countries covered in the dataset.

5i. Data compilers

48. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity:

(a) None. Countries would need to report nationally

49. Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity:

(a) OECD

(b) WTO

50. Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption):

(a) UN Stats/UNEP

(b) OECD/IISD's Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker Home - Fossil Fuel Subsidies (fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org)

51. Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing:

(a) OECD

5j. Gaps in data coverage

52. Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

The OECD collects data on government support to agriculture. As of January 2026, 54 countries across six continents provide data accounting for three quarters of global agricultural value-added

53. Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

The data for the SDG indicator 12c is available for all or most countries. For most non-OECD countries, these data refer to induced transfers only, estimated by the IEA and the IMF.

54. Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing

Data covers 41 countries and territories which, together, accounted for 69% of world landings by volume over 2020-2022

5k. Treatment of missing values

N/A

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

Scale of application (please check all relevant boxes):

Global: ☐ Regional: ☐ National☐

55. Scale of data disaggregation/aggregation:

(a) Global/ regional scale indicator can be disaggregated to national level: ☐

(b) National data is collated to form global indicator: ☐

6b. National/regional indicator production

N/A

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

N/A

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

6d.1 Description of the methodology

N/A

6d.2 Additional methodological details

N/A

6d.3 Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries

N/A

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

56. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.C for the fossil fuel data

8. Possible Disaggregations

57. N/A

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

58. Goal D: Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

59. Target 14: Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

10. Data reporter
10a. Organization

Depends on the data set. See above for further detail.

10b. Contact person(s)

Value of agricultural subsidies and other incentives potentially harmful to biodiversity

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Value of fossil fuel subsidies (production and consumption)

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-12-0c-01.pdf and Home - Fossil Fuel Subsidies (fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org))

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Value of subsidies to capture fisheries with a risk (moderate or high) of encouraging unsustainable fishing

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DeBoe, G. (2020), "Economic and environmental sustainability performance of environmental policies in agriculture", OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Papers, No. 140, OECD Publishing, Paris. http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/3d459f91-enHenderson

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OECD (2025), *OECD Review of Fisheries 2025*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/560cd8fc-en.

European Commission, Toolbox on Phasing out Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (europa.eu) https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/6923655/KS-GQ-15-005-EN-N.pdf/e3be619b-bb19-4486-ab23-132a83f6ff24

The state of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022. Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable https://www.fao.org/3/cc0639en/cc0639en.pdf SDG 12c

SDG12c https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-12-0c-01.pdf

The OECD Fisheries Support Estimate (FSE) Manual - https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/fisheries-subsidies/OECD-FSE-Manual-2024.pdf

OECD (2023), *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2023: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/b14de474-en.

OECD (2025), *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2025: Making the Most of the Trade and Environment Nexus in Agriculture*OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/a80ac398-en.

The Nature of Subsidies: A step-by-step guide to repurpose subsidies harmful to biodiversity and improve their impacts on people and nature (2024) The Nature of Subsidies: A step-by-step guide to repurpose subsidies harmful to biodiversity and improve their impacts on people and nature | BIOFIN

Matthews, A. and K. Karousakis (2022), "*Identifying and assessing subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity: A comparative review of existing national-level assessments and insights for good practice*", *OECD Environment Working Papers*, No. 206, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/3e9118d3-en

UNDP (2024). BIOFIN Workbook 2024: Finance for Nature. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative. United Nations Development Programme. New York.UNEP (2019),Measuring Fossil Fuel Subsidies in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Environment, Nairobi, Kenya FossilFuel.pdf (unep.org)

OECD and IISD, Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker, Home - Fossil Fuel Subsidies (fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org)

12. Graphs and diagrams

Figure 7.2. Support to fisheries by risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective management, 2010-22

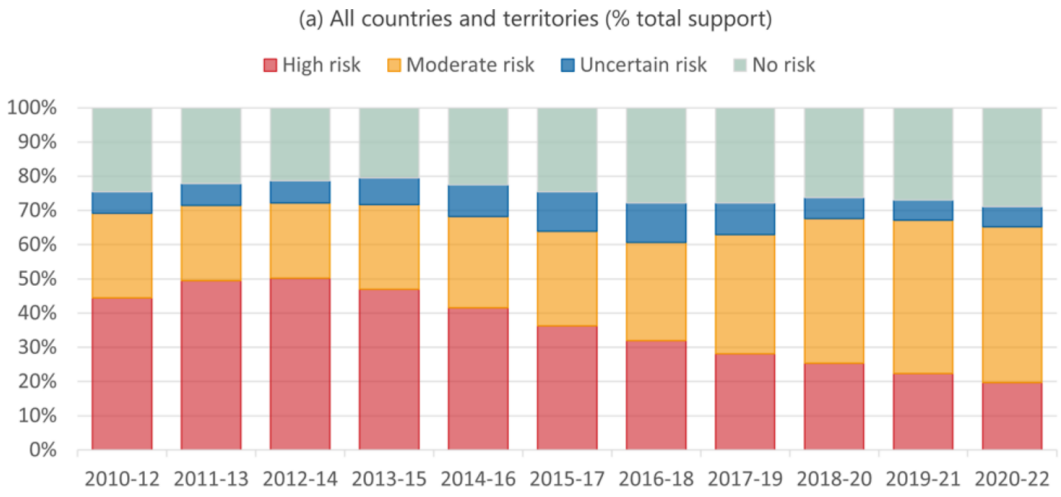

Figure I
Support to fisheries by risk of encouraging unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective management 2010-2022

Target 19

1. Note that the headline indicators for target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are headline indicators D.1 (International public funding, including official development assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems) D.2 (Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems) and D.3 (Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems).

Binary indicator 20.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 20. Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.

Rationale

1. To achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Parties and other actors need to have commensurate expertise (including both technical and functional capacities), knowledge, tools, technologies and institutional capacity to effectively prioritize, plan, mobilize resources, and implement and monitor relevant strategies, programmes and activities at the national level. Capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation are crucial for enhancing the abilities, resilience and effectiveness of individuals, institutions and systems at various levels for improved biodiversity-related decision-making, action and outcomes.

2. The ultimate aim of this target is to ensure that Parties and other relevant actors have the necessary enabling conditions, capacity, know-how, technologies and other tools for implementation, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework. Therefore, the indicator tracks progress along the assessment of needs, both in terms of capacity and technology, the development of action plans for capacity-building and technology, and the cooperation between Parties. All three elements, assessing needs, developing an action plan and collaboration are essential to deliver on the Framework.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

Definition

3. Capacity: The ability of people, organizations and societies as a whole to achieve the biodiversity-related goals and action targets.

4. Capacity-building and development: The process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results. Capacity-building and development is considered at three levels: the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels.

5. Technical and scientific cooperation: Technical and scientific cooperation refers to a process whereby institutions in two or more countries pursue their individual or collective biodiversity-related goals through cooperative actions. This may include the creation and/or exchange of scientific knowledge, data, expertise, resources, technologies, and technical know-how. It may also include human resource development, institution building, joint training of personnel, exchange of experts, joint research programmes, joint ventures for the development and diffusion of technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), and transfer of technology and know-how.

6. National capacity self-assessment: An official process outlined by the United Nations and the GEF secretariat to assess the existing capacity of a nation to deliver on and implement the convention. The primary goal of an NCSA is to determine national priorities for capacity development to better address global environmental issues. The NCSA will analyse the country's capacity strengths, constraints and needs, and recommend capacity development actions to address them. The focus is on a country's capacity requirements to implement the three "Rio Conventions" – biodiversity (CBD), land degradation (CCD), and climate change (UNFCC) – and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). In addition, the NCSA process aims to identify cross-cutting capacity issues and foster synergies among the MEAs.

7. National capacity development action plan: National capacity development action plans are part of the formal process for Parties to support the implementation of their NBSAPs. Examples of these action plans can be found here.

8. South-South cooperation: The exchange of best practices, resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries.

9. North-South cooperation: The exchange of best practices, resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries and developed countries.

10. Triangular cooperation: Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organization(s), to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.

11. Indigenous technology: Refers to the technological knowledge, skills, and resources transmitted or handed down from the past indigenous people to the present ones to meet their needs and wants by means of investigating, designing, developing, and evaluating products, processes, and systems with an intention of solving the practical problems. Indigenous technology is used by the native inhabitants of a country or region, and it constitutes an important part of its cultural heritage (Gumbo, 2014; access here).

Method of Computation

12. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to five questions:

(a) 20.1 Does your country have plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity?
(b) 20.2 Does your country have measures to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and people with disabilities in capacity-building and development for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)
(c) 20.3 Has your country undertaken a national capacity self-assessment or other processes for assessing the capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?
(d) 20. Has your country undertaken a national assessment of the capacity-building and development needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, and people with disabilities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)
(e) 20.5 Has your country established partnerships to foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening

scientific research and monitoring capabilities, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation?

13. There are four possible answers to questions 20.1, 20.3 and 20.5:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

14. A "No" answer implies that:

(a) there are no plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity (20.1)

(b) no national capacity self-assessment or other process for assessing capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has been conducted (20.3)

(c) no partnerships to foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities have been established with another Party (20.5)

15. In all, no progress has been made towards any of the statements in each question and there are no national level efforts to make any.

16. An "Under development" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to make progress towards each question. That is:

(a) plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity (20.1) are in development, these may be at the stage of draft or formal bill introduced but not yet ratified.

(b) a plan is in place to carry out a national capacity self-assessment or other process for assessing capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (20.3), a strategy to carry it out exists and resources are being mobilized but the assessment has not yet begun.

(c) partnerships to foster joint technology development or joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities (20.5) are in process, cooperation between Parties is being discussed, including through either South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation.

17. To select this response, a nation must be planning to deliver on each of these elements and be designing the methodology to do so. Intent is not sufficient, official commitments and methodological proposals must be present.

18. A "Partially" answer implies for each question that a start has been made. Namely:

(a) plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building or development needs for biodiversity (20.1) are in place but do not address both. For example, a national bill on capacity building has been ratified but it does not address development needs.

(b) a national capacity self-assessment or other process for assessing the capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (20.3) has started, it is resourced and ongoing but not yet complete.

(c) partnerships to foster joint technology development or joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities (20.5) have begun, namely official collaboration has started, including through at least one of South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation. This cooperation does not need to cover all of the aspects specified in the question; one is sufficient (e.g. technology development) to select this answer.

19. Clear unambiguous progress must be seen to select this answer. The planning stages are understood to be over and work towards each question has started.

20. A "Fully" answer implies that completion of the efforts underlined under "Partially". Namely:

(a) national level plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity (20.1) are in place and address both.

(b) a national capacity self-assessment or other process for assessing the capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (20.3) is complete.

(c) partnerships to foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities (20.5) have been established and official collaboration is ongoing, including through South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation. This cooperation covers all the aspects specified in the question.

21. In each of these cases, results have been produced and are observable and shareable.

22. There are five possible answers to question 20.2 and 20.4[48:]

(a) Women and girls

(b) Children and youth

(c) People with disabilities

(d) Indigenous peoples and local communities

(e) Others

23. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "select all that apply" approach. Namely, if a country has measures to ensure the full and effective participation of specified groups in capacity-building and development for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (20.2) or has undertaken a national assessment of the capacity-building and development needs of those groups (20.4) then select the groups to which these apply. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 20.2 and 20.4 is "Yes". If "Others" is selected, specify to which group this refers to in the free text section. If no answers are selected, then an overall "No" is understood. Note that for 20.2 a country needs to have measures at the national level already in place, written in law and implemented, if this is not the case, even if these measures are being drafted, then do not select any answer for which measures are missing. Similarly, for 20.4 national assessment of capacity-building and development needs must be complete and results reported, if the assessment is in process, in draft phase or not conducted at the national level, do not select any answer for which this is the case.

[48] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the global biodiversity framework

1. Indicator name

21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the global biodiversity framework

2. Date of metadata update

September 2024

3. Goals and Targets addressed

Target 21. Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision-makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of Indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

4. Rationale

1. Biodiversity information is required to identify threats to biodiversity, to determine priority actions for conservation and sustainable use and to determine if such actions are effective. Biodiversity information, including traditional knowledge, will underpin assessments of progress towards all of the proposed goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

2. Despite the importance of traditional knowledge to biodiversity, there is limited information on how such information is being taken into account in decision making. In particular, the need for a measure of "*the trends in which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan*" was identified in COP decision XIII/28 but remains to be operationalised.

3. This indicator is necessary for countries to be able to assess their overall ability to access biodiversity data, information and knowledge required to guide action and report progress under the monitoring framework. The indicator should evaluate the availability of biodiversity information and knowledge for all dimensions of biodiversity required to monitor progress across all targets of the GBF.

4. It is recognized that:

(a) A single composite indicator may give an overall summary of status or progress, but appropriate disaggregation will be needed to assess which aspects of biodiversity information are lacking or needed to increase country scores.

(b) Because biodiversity information is cross cutting with other goals and targets of the KM GBF, information used for other indicators will be relevant.

(c) Metrics capturing information related to traditional knowledge are at the heart of the indicator and should be included.

(d) Information in national reports, including how well countries are able to report on all indicators and targets, may support this indicator.

5. There remains a need to establish quantitative national targets to indicate progress towards improving the coverage and completeness of biodiversity data used and produced by countries to monitor progress to the targets and goals of the GBF. This indicator should present information in a

way that fosters action to fill gaps and improve strength of the conclusions that can be drawn from the data (Leung and Gonzalez 2024).

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

5a. Definition

6. The number (or percentage) of headline indicators identified in a national monitoring framework where national biodiversity datasets, traditional knowledge, and monitoring schemes are available for use. Over time this would capture country-level trends in the access and use of data for governance, management and communication of biodiversity outcomes.

7. Three specific elements are recommended for reporting under this indicator:

(a) Metrics on the availability, amount, coverage and quality of information used to report on each biodiversity indicator within the national monitoring framework.

(b) An evaluation of how many targets take traditional knowledge into account in the assessment of trends or decisions required for each target.

(c) An enumeration of the number and coverage of biodiversity monitoring schemes currently active and providing data and knowledge on the basis of FAIR and CARE principles, needed to report trends in a headline indicator.

8. Definitions for data sources and indicators to do this are given below.

5b. Method of computation

9. A country reporting this indicator would provide the number (or percentage) of headline indicators in a national monitoring framework where national biodiversity datasets, traditional knowledge, and monitoring schemes are available for use.

10. Development of a national methodology for this indicator must consider that while most countries have national datasets and monitoring schemes for some species and ecosystems, these sources rarely cover all the biodiversity information needed for this headline indicator. Some countries may need to refer to international data sources and monitoring programs. Access and use of international databases can often be disaggregated to country level.

11. In the case of a global network such as GBIF, such disaggregations will in fact include a combination of species occurrence data from national sources, with data shared from institutions in other countries - emphasising the benefits of global cooperation in bringing together data from all sources.

12. An assessment of the availability of information sources captures one element of this indicator. Measures of data coverage and quality are also needed to assess growth in the availability of information of sufficient quality to guide decisions. We describe the indicators that can be used to assess these facets of information quality and source in the next section.

Indicators for data quality, data coverage and knowledge gaps

13. The following table summarizes the types of biodiversity information that can be used to assess the gaps, coverage, and quality of information needed to calculate this headline indicator. General examples are given for types of data or information sources, and these will differ from country to country. Countries may maintain a database of sources of biodiversity information and knowledge to report for headline indicator 21.1.

Table 1

The four types of biodiversity information and sources to be evaluated for each dimension of biodiversity need for indicator 21.1.

We include a non-exhaustive list of examples for the rows of this table. This compilation of data and knowledge sources would also serve to assess the information available to calculate many other

indicators. Each element would include traditional knowledge, national and international information sources.

Information type Biodiversity dimensions	Monitoring schemes (community-based, national & international)	Primary/raw data (number/completeness of relevant observations)	Model-based information (Assessing quality and coverage)	Information product relevant to indicator (e.g. data on trends and coverage per country)
Genetic diversity	e.g. Number of species covered by systematic population monitoring schemes	e.g. Time series of censused abundances from populations monitored for effective population size with genetic markers (e.g. individuals genotyped by non-invasive sampling).	e.g. Estimated effective population sizes (Ne) from genetic and demographic data across monitored populations	e.g. Number of populations with an effective population size (Ne) above 500 individuals, with coverage reported across taxa.
Population abundances	e.g. Number of species and taxonomic groups covered by systematic population monitoring schemes	e.g. Time series of abundances available from national monitoring or international datasets (e.g. Living Planet Database).	e.g. modelled trends in demographic rates estimated for monitored taxa.	e.g. Number of taxonomic groups covered by abundance trend metric (e.g. Living Planet Index, Wild Bird Index etc.)
Species (occurrences)	e.g. Number of species and taxonomic groups covered by distribution atlases	e.g. Number of occurrence records in GBIF or OBIS	e.g. modelled trends in species distributions across taxa (e.g. species distribution models).	e.g. Number of species and taxonomic groups covered by a national Red Lists of species
Ecosystem extent	e.g. extent of ecosystem types monitored for extent	e.g. Earth observation, satellite and remote sensing imagery for ecosystem mapping.	e.g. model based assessments of change in ecosystem extent accounting for data gaps	e.g. Number of ecosystems with Red List of Ecosystems assessments

Ecosystem condition	e.g. monitoring of composition, structure and functioning by remote sensing	e.g. in situ and local knowledge of ecosystem structure and functioning, such as vegetation canopy structure, net primary productivity, carbon storage	e.g. The national ecosystem condition accounts following the UN SEEA EA methodology.	
Ecosystem services/NCPs	e.g. Monitoring of ecosystem service variables	e.g. Time series of supply and use of ecosystem services gathered for national accounts.	e.g. The national flow and use ecosystem service accounts following the UN SEEA EA methodology.	e.g. The national stock and change in stock ecosystem asset accounts following the UN SEEA EA methodology .

14. Multiple indicators are available to assess the quality, coverage and gaps in information available to a country when reporting under this indicator.

Survey gap analysis

15. Survey gap analysis is a tool designed to solve the problem of filling data gaps with additional surveys and monitoring. Based on the generalised dissimilarity modelling (GDM) approach, it uses continuous environmental data to help maximize financial resources for gathering new information on biodiversity status and trends. The methodology is provided by Funk et al. (2005) and Ferrier et al. (2007), with a practical application available via the "Where Next?" tool https://rpubs.com/jivelasquezt/516782 .

Sampling effectiveness index

16. This indicator on sampling effectiveness (SSEI) relates the realized geographic distribution of records held by a country to the distribution of data needed to adequately calculate an indicator (Oliver et al. 2021). The methodology for this indicator has been published and is available in documentation reported by Oliver et al. (2021) and made available on a per country basis by the Map of Life.

Species Information Index

17. This indicator captures how well existing data on localities of species occurrences covers the expected geographic range of a species. At the species level, the SII can be calculated across the entirety of the species' expected range, ignoring national boundaries, or separately within each nation where it is expected to occur. The methodology is provided by Oliver et al. (2021) and made available on a per country basis by the Map of Life.

Ecosystem coverage

18. A measure capturing the quality of available ecosystem characterisations. This may comprise two aspects:

(a) Countries may report whether they have national (or sub-national) ecosystem maps that can support reporting on headline indicators A1 (Red List of ecosystems) and A2 (extent of natural ecosystems).

(b) An attribute evaluation (for example, that can then be translated to a 0 - 100 scale) based on the spatial, temporal, and thematic resolution and accuracy of global ecosystem maps available in the country, based on maps of ecosystem functional groups in the Global Ecosystem Typology (https://global-ecosystems.org/).

19. Coverage of monitoring schemes and networks:

(a) Monitoring programs provide systematic and repeated biodiversity information needed to reliably assess trends in different dimensions of biodiversity.

(b) A count of the monitoring projects (e.g. by Biodiversity Observation Networks, and similar monitoring schemes) gathering relevant biodiversity data, including the scope and coverage of this information (e.g. taxonomic, geographic) in each country.

(c) Note: An open global meta-database of biodiversity monitoring schemes is needed to support the calculation of the change in the capacity of countries to monitor biodiversity and generate required information. For example, a dataset for population monitoring schemes (see Moussy et al. (2022)) is available on the IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/schemes.html

(d) The GOOS BioEco Metadata Portal an open global meta-database of marine biodiversity monitoring schemes (https://bioeco.goosocean.org/).

20. Indigenous knowledge:

(a) This refers to the use of traditional knowledge in national monitoring frameworks and used in the equitable governance and management of biodiversity.
(b) The Indigenous Navigator (https://indigenousnavigator.org/) is a framework and set of tools for and by Indigenous Peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. By using the Indigenous Navigator, Indigenous organisations and communities, duty bearers, NGOs and journalists can access free tools and resources based on community-generated data. The Indigenous Navigator will be a valuable source of information that can be used to calculate a component related to which targets are using traditional knowledge to support decision making.
(c) Another source of information is the number of community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) active in a given country (Ferrari et al. 2015).

21. Relevant information from complementary indicators:

(a) Additional indicators are relevant and available to support reporting for indicator 21.1

(b) Growth in number of records and species in the Living Planet Database.

(c) Growth in species occurrence records accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

(d) Growth in occurrence records accessible through the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS).

(e) Proportion of known species assessed through the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

(f) Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

(g) Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (https://iucnrle.org/rle-in-progress).

(h) World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) bio-literacy survey (Biodiversity literacy in global zoo and aquarium visitors).

(i) Essential Biodiversity Variable data sets freely available for use on the EBV data portal (GEO BON). These are classified by EBV class and geographic extent.

(j) Growth in biodiversity observing and monitoring systems and technologies deployed.

5c. Data collection method

22. For the aspects of this indicator related to other indicators in the monitoring framework, this could be automatically calculated based on what is submitted through the national reporting processes.

23. For the aspects of this indicator related to data which is captured in international databases (for example GBIF), the information on record counts is already currently available. This source of information can be used to assess the completeness and inclusiveness of monitoring processes, from data to collection to indicator production. It also tracks the extent to which existing monitoring data is being shared into open data repositories using interoperable standards, enabling re-use and thus increasing availability of accessible data to support implementation of the GBF as required by Target 21.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

24. The metadata and methodology for the elements of this indicator are fully public. The SSEI and SSI are available online.

5e. Data sources

25. The data sources are existing databases for biodiversity observation monitoring, community-based monitoring databases and biodiversity indicator databases.

5f. Availability and release calendar

26. This indicator would be included in the national reports and follow the release calendar for the 7th and 8th national reports.

5g. Time series

27. Parties would be asked to report data from 2020 to the most recent year available. Additionally, it would be encouraged to go as far back as possible in time in order to see how monitoring systems are developing over time.

5h. Data providers

28. National governments are the primary data provider. GEO BON, IIFB, GBIF, OBIS, IUCN and other organizations maintain information relevant to this indicator. However, this indicator would be reported through the national reporting process.

5i. Data compilers

29. Countries, including subnational and local counterparts, are the data compilers.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

30. This indicator is currently being developed. It is expected that it could be operationalized in the 7th national report as the indicator will aim to capture gaps in monitoring systems. An overestimation of the gaps may occur, and this would reflect poor data flows between data collection on the ground and national governments.

5k. Treatment of missing values

31. Datasets may not be of adequate quality or coverage which represents important sources of uncertainty. This uncertainty can be assessed and addressed to guide the collection of better information. This indicator is assessing where there are missing values and thus this category does not apply.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

32. National, regional and global

6b. National/regional indicator production

33. Data would primarily be compiled at the national level.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

34. In some cases, data may flow to the global level without flowing to the national level or vice versa. This could create discrepancies between the global and national figures. Identifying and resolving discrepancies would help make progress toward Target 21.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

35. As GEO BON, IIFB, GBIF, IUCN and other organizations maintain biodiversity information these organizations would be in a position to provide regional and global data on this indicator which Parties could choose to use, where relevant.

7. Other MEAs, processes and organizations

36. This indicator is relevant for all the biodiversity MEAs as it could inform where information

8. Disaggregation

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

10. Data reporter

10a. Organization

37. Guidelines for indicator development are being prepared by GEO BON, with other partner organizations and groups (GBIF, OBIS, IUCN, IIFB, Birdlife and research centres and universities).

38. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

39. Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

10b. Contact person(s)

Andrew Gonzalez (andrew.gonzalez@mcgill.ca), GEO BON;
Jillian Campbell (campbell7@un.org, SCBD)

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22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities

1. Indicator name

Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

2. Date of metadata update

March 2026

3. Goals and Targets addressed

Target 22 - Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

4. Rationale

1. Addressing the intersection between traditional knowledge indicators and existing Goals and Targets can also support Parties to operationalize parts of Section C of the KM-GBF, particularly related to the "Contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities" and committing to "ensure that the rights, knowledge, and traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity" are protected, documented and preserved with their free, prior and informed consent. Likewise, Section C of the KM-GBF declares that nothing in the framework may be construed as "diminishing or extinguishing the rights that Indigenous People currently have," further underlining the need for these to be documented and monitored in the context of the KM-GBF and its Goals and Targets

2. In decision XV/5 (December, 2022), the Conference of Parties invited the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to "continue the development and operationalization of indicators related to traditional knowledge". Likewise, Decision XV/4, Section C recognizes the important role and contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, calling for KMGBF implementation to ensure that their rights, knowledge, including traditional knowledge, are respected, documented and preserved.

3. SBSTTA-25 (October, 2023) "Requests the Expert Group to fully take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on traditional knowledge indicators in order to further enhance the monitoring framework; (SBSTTA-25/1, paragraph 12[MOU1]). In WG8J/REC/12/4 (November, 2023), the AHTEG on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions invited the AHTEG on Indicators and SBSTTA to "consider the development of indicators on trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities."

4. The land tenure indicator originally considered in the KMGBF[49] – SDG 1.4.2 – is a component of the compound indicator originally adopted in decision XIII/28, retained in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (decision X/43).

[49] The land tenure indicator SDG 1.4.2 is currently listed as a component under Target 22 and Target 23 . It is also a sub-indicator embedded within headline indicator 10.1, which is the equivalent of SDG 2.4.1.

Together with this generic indicator, covering land use change and land tenure, decision XIII/28 identified two specific indicators that would be used for implementation:

(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.

(b) Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.

5. Both of the land tenure indicators identified to monitor the Aichi Targets and considered within the KM-GBF monitoring framework are established SDG indicators. The first corresponds to SDG indicator 5.a.1. The second, focused on legally recognized documentation and perceptions of tenure security, corresponds to SDG indicator 1.4.2, and forms the basis for the present indicator.

6. The land use change component of this indicator is modelled after SDG 15.3.1 "Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area"[50] and SDG 15.4.2b "Proportion of degraded mountain land"[51] but reports the inverse value (i.e., reports non-degraded area instead of degraded area) for lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities..

7. Land use and land cover data document the various physically observable features on earth's surface such as forests, wetlands, agricultural land, etc. and has a strong geospatial evidence base going back years. While land surfaces can be affected by causes beyond human intervention for various reasons, land use patterns shaped by activities such as agriculture and urbanization are clearly observed through this data. In particular, by allowing geospatial data on land use and cover and Indigenous and local community areas to be overlaid and analysed, the status of land (e.g. natural or modified) in these areas can be identified.

8. Thus, the indicator can contribute to assessing land cover/land use change over time provided it is reported consistently. The underlying data sources can be further analysed to identify specific transformations (desertification, crop expansion, urbanization etc.) in land cover. This information can be useful in formulating responses to address any land degradation thus identified. By disaggregating these results for land that is formally acknowledged by governments to be Indigenous Peoples and local communities' lands and territories that are claimed but currently unacknowledged, it would also be possible to observe differences that may be driven by differences in land tenure status.

9. The retained indicator, including its three components and their associated methods, will require further testing and development over time to better understand the comparability of different stages of data collection over time, the aggregation of this data and its applicability to diverse geographies.

10. Further information on the process to develop this indicator is contained in annex 2 to the metadata for this indicator.

5. Definitions, concepts and classifications

11. Measurement of this indicator is operationalized via three components – a, b, and c – that are aggregated into one average value:

(a) Proportion of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (a) with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation and (b) where there is perceived security of tenure. (c) Land use change in lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

[50] SDG Indicator 15.3.1 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-03-01.pdf

[51] SDG Indicator 15.4.2 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-04-02.pdf

12. As outlined in this metadata sheet, these components are further defined as:

(a) Proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples (IP) and local communities (LC) with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation.

(b) Proportion (%) of IP and LC communities and individuals where there is perceived security of tenure.

(c) Proportion (%) of IP and LC land and territories that is categorized as non-degraded against a baseline year.

(d) Final reported aggregate value: the average value of components a, b, and c.

5a. Definition:

13. International law provides important guidance and language that is relevant for this indicator, particularly as concerning the internationally recognized rights of Indigenous peoples, tribal peoples and communities meeting criteria for collective rights to lands.

14. UNDRIP recognizes the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources. Article 26 further underlines their right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. Furthermore, it calls on States to give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources with due respect for the land tenure systems of the Indigenous Peoples concerned.

15. ILO Convention No. 169 provides further guidance, particularly in Articles 12-19, declaring that Indigenous and tribal peoples are bearers of the rights to ownership over the lands and resources they have historically occupied, and therefore they have the right to be recognized as the legal owners of their territories, to obtain a formal legal title to property over their lands, and to the due registration of said title. The collective right to property of indigenous lands implies a collective title to territory, that is, the recognition of an equally collective title to property over such lands that reflects the community property of the land, with due respect for Indigenous Peoples' forms of internal organization regarding land tenure.

16. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs) is another widely endorsed guidance that supports an understanding of the concepts presented here. Chapter 9 is on Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems, highlighting in paragraph 9.4 that States should provide appropriate recognition and protection of the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems, consistent with existing obligations under national and international law.

17. Definitions of specific relevance to components (a), (b), and (c) are listed below.

18. Greater detail on how the data for both components is generated can be found in Annex I.

19. Definitions:

(a) *Indigenous lands or territories* refer to the collectively held and governed lands and territories including freshwater, coastal and marine areas – and natural resources of Indigenous Peoples (see relevant frameworks above). As with other community lands, some indigenous lands may be allocated with group consent for use by individuals and families. Other indigenous land is managed as common property. In some cases, indigenous land is held by individuals or families. Note: Traditional lands and territories may include titled and untitled lands, customary use areas, and areas of spiritual/cultural significance identified

by rights-holders, including connected ecological/cultural landscapes, provided documentation and governance safeguards are described in metadata.

(b) *Community lands* are all lands that fall under the customary governance of the community whether or not this is recognized in national law. Community land is variously described as the community domain, community land area, community territory, or other terms.

(c) *Land held or used* as a proxy for assertions generally by Indigenous groups over their ancestral lands and territories.

(d) *Legally recognized land and documentation* refers to the recording and publication of information on the nature and location of land, rights and right holders in a form that is recognized by government and is therefore official. Note: It is recommended that tenure security reporting within national metadata include both extent (area) and quality, where quality captures: strength of legal protection, effectiveness of enforcement/implementation, and observed conflict/pressure indicators

(e) *Indicative areas of Indigenous and community lands* represent areas where Indigenous and community lands likely exist but the clear delimitation, recognition and/or documentation status of these land rights are not available at this time.

(f) *Land cover/land use* refers to the observed physical cover of the Earth's surface and the way people use or manage the land. It includes vegetation and man-made features as well as bare rock, bare soil and inland water surfaces[52]. The primary units for characterizing land cover and land use are categories. For the purposes of this indicator, the following categories are recommended: Forests, shrubland, grassland (herbaceous vegetation), ocean, wetland, bare/sparse vegetation, cropland, built up, snow and ice, permanent water bodies.

(g) *Land cover/land use change* refers to the transition from one land cover/land use category to another over time, which is used to assess whether land conditions are improving, stable, or degrading. The change is measured between two points in time: a starting point (baseline) and an end point.

(h) *Non-degraded (stable or improving) land cover/land use* is the land where no negative transition has occurred when measuring land use/land cover change, meaning the land either remains in the same land cover/land use category (e.g., forest remains forest) or it moves to a category with equal or higher ecological value (e.g., bare land transitions to forest).

20. Definitions relevant to methods to be used for proxy (b) the presence of perceived security of tenure are available in Annex I with detail on how data for both components will be generated.

21. The scope of the indicator can be adapted to include freshwater, coastal and marine areas. Component (a) can accommodate data on freshwater, coastal and marine areas if this data is presented as the total area of land, freshwater, coastal, and marine territory held or used by IPs & LCs that is recognized by government as a proportion of the total land, freshwater, coastal, and marine area held or used by IPs & LCs. The main limitation for inclusion of freshwater, coastal and marine areas is in component (c), which is based on the availability of land cover/land use change data that typically excludes marine areas. However, if such data are available, the methods for component (c) presented in this metadata sheet would apply.

[52] ESACCI-LC-Ph2-PUGv2_2.0 (ucl.ac.be)

5b. Method of computation

22. The land-use and land tenure indicator consists of three components –a, b, and c-- which are aggregated into a final reported value based on the average of the three components:

(a) Proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation.

(b) Proportion (%) of IP and LC communities and individuals where there is perceived security of tenure.

(c) Proportion (%) of IP and LC land and territories that is categorized as non-degraded against a baseline year.

(d) Final reported aggregate value: the average value of components a, b, and c.

23. For all components, a stage-based approach is used to show stages of development of the indicator and how a country could report against the indicator with varying levels of data availability as well as representativity of data and potential for disaggregation and associated complexity of the data. The stages are described in Annex I.

24. On component (a), method and means of computation proposed is as follows:

> Proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation = Area held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation (ha) /Total area held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ha)

25. On component (b), method and means of computation proposed is as follows:

> Proportion (%) of the adult population in the area determined in denominator of component (a) who perceive their community tenure to be secure = Adult population in the area determined in denominator of component (a) who perceive their community's tenure to be secure /Total adult population in the area determined in denominator of component (a)

26. On component (c), method and means of computation is as follows:

> Proportion (%) of nondegraded land in area held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities = Area of nondegraded land in territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities in year n (ha)/ (Total area held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ha) Where the numerator is the sum of area (in hectares) covered by non-degraded (neutral or improving) land and water within mapped territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (legally recognized by government or not) in year n. This includes the sum of area where land cover/land use change is considered stable or improved (not degraded) from the baseline year. Land cover/land use changes that constitute improved or neutral transitions (as well as degradation) are defined through a land cover/land use change matrix. A generic land cover/land use change matrix that illustrates how to classify and quantify transitions is shown in Appendix I. Also where the denominator is the total mapped area of territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (legally recognized by government or not)

27. The methods for component (c) are aligned with the methods for SDG 15.3.1 "Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area"53 and SDG 15.4.2(b) "Proportion of degraded mountain land"[54] but reports the inverse value (i.e., reports non-degraded area instead of degraded area). The same land cover/land use change data used for SDG 15.3.1 and 15.4.2 could be used for reporting on this indicator, many of which are detailed in the respective metadata sheets and Good Practice Guidance for SDG Indicator 15.3.1[55].

28. Regular reporting of the indicator would allow an examination of land use changes over time within the territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities against a baseline year. In lieu of land cover/land use analyses, variations such as analysis of forest cover extent (where forests are the dominant natural ecosystem) could be used as a proxy. See Appendix I.

29. The final aggregate value, method and means of computation is as follows:

$$\frac{Component\ (a) + Component\ (b) + Component\ (c)}{3}$$

Where:

(a) Component (a) is the proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation.

(b) Component (b) is the proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities where there is perceived security of tenure.

(c) Component (c) is the proportion (%) of non-degraded (neutral or improving) land and water within mapped land and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

30. All component values are reported as percent with 0 being the lowest possible value and 100 being the highest (best) possible value, and so the final reported average value will also represent this scale.

5c. Data collection method

31. Data collection is already being carried out via multiple organizations and initiatives in cases where national sources of data are not available as outlined in section 5e. See annex I for further detail on how data will be collected in stages of data availability.

5d. Accessibility of methodology

32. Methods were developed by a technical working group of multiple organizations.56 The current methodology was reviewed and updated based on submissions received from Parties, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities during a comment period initiated in April 2025. See ntf-2025-046-kmgbf.

33. The latest version of the methodology will be publicly available on the websites of the CBD, and FAO's Global Land Observatory, and UNEP-WCMC's Target Tracker.

53 SDG Indicator 15.3.1 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-03-01.pdf

54 SDG Indicator 15.4.2 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-04-02.pdf

55 Good practice guidance. SDG indicator 15.3.1, Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. Version 2.0. | UNCCD

56 The International Land Coalition (ILC), LandMark, the Indigenous Navigator, Prindex, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), World Resources Institute (WRI), Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) among others.

5e. Data sources

34. Multiple data sources are available for components (a), (b), and (c) of the indicator. For example, official land administration data for SDG 1.4.2, where available, could be used for component (a) of the indicator. Component (b) data will be sourced from survey-based sources such as household surveys/Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)/ Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with IPs & LCs, and land cover/land use data sourced from SDG 15.3.1 and 15.4.2 for component (c), and other sources as follows:

(a) For component (a), *Proportion (%) of lands and territories held or used by IP and LC with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation*, data sources include:

i. Local and national sources

ii. LandMark

iii. Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) Who Owns the World's Land?

iv. Afro-descendant Atlas

v. Indigenous Navigator

vi. FAO Global Land Observatory (GLO)

(b) For component (b) of the indicator, Proportion (%) of IP and LC communities and individuals where there is perceived security of tenure, data sources include:

i. Local and national sources

ii. Prindex

iii. International Land Coalition (ILC) LANDex

(c) For component (c) of the indicator, Proportion (%) of IP and LC land and territories that is categorized as non-degraded against a baseline year, data sources include:

i. Local and national sources

ii. LandMark

iii. ICCA Registry

iv. Afro-descendant Atlas

v. GLAD/WRI (30 m)

vi. ESA-CCI-LC (300 m)

35. See references (sec 11) below for more information about these initiatives and their contributions to the indicator detailed here.

5f. Availability and release calendar

36. See section 5g.

5g. Time series

37. Global land cover/land use data, such as from GLAD, ESA-CCI-LC, is updated annually.

38. Maps and numerical data for Indigenous Peoples and local communities land and territories, such as from LandMark, are updated on a varying basis as data become available.

39. Perception of tenure security data, such as from Prindex, is updated at four-year intervals.

5h. Data providers

40. See section 5e.

5i. Data compilers

41. See section 5e.

5j. Gaps in data coverage

42. Gaps in data coverage exist both within and across countries due to a variety of factors. The stages of data availability outlined in Annex I seeks to address data gaps and suggests proxies that can support national reporting until data are complete.

43. Further, FAO and the technical working group is exploring the possibilities of including coverage to freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. The land tenure component of the indicator as it is currently built could accommodate data on freshwater, coastal and marine areas, provided data is presented as a total proportion of area held or used and area recognized. An in-depth assessment of freshwater, coastal and marine or coastal areas within the scope of the indicator – land use and land tenure – would require additional consideration, possibly the development of a separate sub-indicator, as well as additional data sources. The development of the land use and tenure indicator in this context could, however, inform the basis of further development of an indicator responding more closely to freshwater, coastal and marine areas.

5k. Treatment of missing values

44. Data for components a, b, and c may not be available for all countries. In cases where one or more data points for a component is missing, then the aggregate (average) value is also reported as no data.

6. Scale

6a. Scale of use

45. The indicator is reported at the national level, with global values representing the average of all reported national values

6b. National/regional indicator production

46. The methodology presented in this metadata can be reported at national and global scale. In cases where national figures are unavailable, the data sources presented in 5e can be accessed and used to produce national indicators.

6c. Sources of differences between global and national figures

47. Global figures are based on datasets that are global in scope and may vary from national sources for a variety of reasons, especially regarding geographic and temporal coverage. Results based on global land cover /land use data may differ from those based on national land cover/land use data due to differences in classification schema and assessment of what types of changes are considered degradation. Global data for lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities sourced from LandMark is aggregated from a wide variety of sources including governments, NGOs, and communities and may differ from national data in source and/or completeness of coverage.

6d. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

43. Regional data can be aggregated from national reports depending on the data received, or disaggregated from global data).

7. Other MEAs, processes and organisations

48. N/A

8. Possible Disaggregations

49. Component (a):

(a) Proportion of land and territories held or used be Indigenous People and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation, by type of tenure

50. Component (b):

(a) Proportion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the area defined by (a) who perceive their community's tenure to be secure, by type of tenure

(b) Proportion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the area defined by (a) who perceive their community's tenure to be secure, by sex

(c) Proportion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the area defined by (a) who perceive their community's tenure to be secure, by age

51. Component (c):

(a) Proportion of land and territories held or used be Indigenous People and local communities with legal recognition or legally recognized documentation, by type of tenure

52. Countries are encouraged to report indigenous peoples and local communities territories separately where distinctions exist, and specify treatment of overlaps.

9. Related goals, targets and indicators

53. The proposed indicator is a contextualization of SDG indicator 1.4.2, currently listed as a component indicator under Targets 22 and 23. See further detail on linkages under point 3, 3a. and 3b.

10. Data reporter
10a. Organization

54. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Land Coalition (ILC), and World Resources Institute (WRI).

10b. Contact person(s)

55. FAO: Ward Anseeuw, Senior Land Tenure Officer, ward.anseeuw@fao.org

56. FAO: Clinton Omusula, Geospatial and Land Monitoring Specialist, clinton.omusula@fao.org

57. ILC: Eva Hershaw, Data and Land Monitoring Lead, e.hershaw@landcoalition.org

58. WRI: Katie Reytar, Senior Research Associate, katie.reytar@wri.org

59. FPP: Maurizio Ferrari, Senior Policy Advisor, maurizio@forestpeoples.org

11. References

Bonn report, July 2022. See Table 1: An expert assessment of SDG 1.4.2, considered as a potential headline indicator for Target 21 and Target 22 at the time, gave it a ranking of

1-2 where the highlight possible ranking (1) represented broad support for inclusion. Capacity building needs were considered low and the indicator was considered relevant to all Goals and Targets.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), 2007.

International Labour Organization, Convention No. 169, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989.

Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs)

Indigenous Navigator: https://indigenousnavigator.org/

LandMark: https://www.landmarkmap.org/

RRI Tenure Tracking Tool: https://rightsandresources.org/rri-tenure-tool/

Prindex: https://www.prindex.net/

FAO: https://www.fao.org/tenure/en/

LANDex: https://www.landexglobal.org/en/

SDG Indicator 15.3.1 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-03-01.pdf

SDG Indicator 15.4.2 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-04-02.pdf

Good practice guidance. SDG indicator 15.3.1, Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. Version 2.0. | UNCCD

Global land cover/land use data GLAD/WRI (30 m)

Global land cover/land use data ESA-CCI-LC (300 m)

FRA Platform | Global Forest Resources Data | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12. Graphs and diagrams

N/A

Annex 1

22.1 Land Use-Change and Land Tenure Indicator: Detailed Methodology and Stages of Data Development for Components (a), (b), and (c)

60. This annex provides a more detailed description of the methodology and sources of data for the three components of the land tenure and land use indicator, focusing on how to accommodate gaps in data availability by implementing a staged approach until more complete data are available.

Component (a) on documentation of IP and LC land and territories

Proportion of IP&LC lands that are documented and recognized =

$$\frac{\text{(1) area of IP\&LC land recognised and documented (ha)}}{\text{(2) area of land held or used by IP\&LC (ha)}}$$

61. Comments:

(a) *Two stages are proposed related to data availability and accuracy (with stage 2 the ideal scenario)*:

i. Stage 1 is based on numerical, statistical data (including secondary data)

ii. Stage 2 is based on georeferenced map data

62. Limitations of an area-based indicator include the degree of disaggregation possible (for example sex and age disaggregation is not possible).

63. Definitions:

(a) See Appendix B, Section 5a for definitions of terms.

Stage 1	**Numerical data**
Data type	Numerical measurement of area of land (in hectares)
Data sources and quantity: (1) area of IP&LC land recognised and documented (ha) (2) area of land held or used by IP&LC (ha)	Sources of global data (1) - LandMark database for national area of IP&LC lands acknowledged by government (LandMark "Percent of Country Held and Used By Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities" data layer) - Rights and Resources Initiative "Who Owns the World's Land" area of country legally recognized as owned by or designated for IPs & LCs - Global Land Observatory global tenure database - Indigenous territorial planning instruments may be used as structured evidence for governance and land management dimensions, supporting national reporting, especially where linkages to official planning systems exist (2) - LandMark database for total national area of IP&LC lands (acknowledged and not acknowledged by government) - Rights and Resources Initiative "Who Owns the World's Land"

Comments	- Available at present for approximately 105 countries - Values are reported for both IP and LC; disaggregation is available in some cases
Stage 2	**Georeferenced map data**
Data type	Map-based data (from which numeric data in hectares is deducted)
Data sources and quantity: (1) area of IP&LC land recognised and documented (ha) (2) area of land held or used by IP&LC (ha)	Sources of global data (1) - LandMark database of geo-referenced IP&LC lands by recognition status (acknowledged by government) - ICCA Registry (2) - LandMark database of geo-referenced IP&LC lands by recognition status (combining acknowledged by government, not acknowledged by government, and unknown/indicative) - ICCA Registry
Comments	- Partial global coverage at present; over time, expected to be available for all countries in the world - Global data from LandMark is compiled from many local and national sources which can often be accessed directly for national reporting. - Other national and local sources of georeferenced spatial data for IP&LC lands and territories may be available locally. - Combination of data possible: Stage 2 data can be combined with Stage 1 data to report on the indicator component. For example, the mapped area of IP&LC lands acknowledged by government from Stage 2 could be used as the numerator and the estimated total area of IP&LC lands from Stage 1 used as the denominator.

Component (b) on IP and LC perceived tenure security

64. On component (b), method and means of computation proposed is as follows:

$$Proportion\ (\%)\ of\ the\ adult\ population\ in\ the\ area\ determined\ in\ denominator\ of\ component\ (a)\ who\ perceive\ their\ community\ tenure\ to\ be\ secure$$

$$= \frac{Adult\ population\ in\ the\ area\ determined\ in\ denominator\ of\ component\ (a)\ who\ perceive\ their\ community\ tenure\ to\ be\ secure}{Total\ adult\ population\ in\ the\ area\ determined\ in\ denominator\ of\ component\ (a)}$$

65. Comments:

(a) This section outlines component (b) indicator 22.1 to assess the perceived land tenure security of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs).

(b) Five stages (0-4) are proposed for this component, related to data availability and accuracy, Stage 4 representing a scenario with the highest accuracy of data.

TABLE 1

PROGRESSIVE METHODOLOGICAL STAGES FOR MEASURING PERCEIVED TENURE SECURITY IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' LANDS UNDER COLLECTIVE TENURE REGIMES

Stage	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Description	Perceived tenure of rural population as proxy	Key Informant Interview (KII) or Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with national level IP and LC representatives	KII or FGD with national sample of IP and LC leaders	FGD with convenience sample of IP and LC community leaders	Interviews with defined sample of IP and LC community members
Data type	National–level survey data	Qualitative assessment data	Qualitative assessment data	Qualitative assessment data	Community-level survey data
Data source	Administrative data; Prindex; Indigenous Navigator; LANDex; CBMIS	Administrative data; Prindex; Indigenous Navigator; LANDex; CBMIS	Administrative data; Prindex; Indigenous Navigator; LANDex; CBMIS	Administrative data; Prindex; Indigenous Navigator; LANDex; CBMIS	Administrative data; Prindex; Indigenous Navigator; LANDex; CBMIS
Comments	If nationally representative, the survey may have limited visibility on sub-groups of	Relies on IP and LC representatives as proxies for community views; limited individual-	Relies on leaders as proxies for community views; limited individual-level	Not probability-based at individual level; sub-group comparisons	More resource intensive; requires survey capacity and

	interest for this indicator.	level disaggregation	disaggregation; possible elite / respondent bias	require additional FGD; consensus may mask internal differences	adequate sample sizes

Note: Table 1 outlines progressive methodological options for measuring perceived tenure security in IP & LC lands under collective tenure regimes. It distinguishes approaches by respondent type, sampling method, unit of analysis, and level of statistical rigor, ranging from leader-based and community-based consensus methods to probability-based individual surveys. The framework enables reporting in terms of adult population, communities, or land area, while highlighting the trade-offs between feasibility, disaggregation potential, and robustness.

Component (c) Land use change in lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities

66. On component (c), method and means of computation is as follows:

$$\textit{Proportion (\%) of nondegraded land in territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities} = \frac{\textit{Area of nondegraded land in territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities in year } n}{\textit{Total area of territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities}}$$

where

Numerator = Sum of area (in hectares) covered by non-degraded (neutral or improving) land and water within mapped territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (legally recognized by government or not legally recognized) in year *n*. This includes the sum of area where land cover/land use change is considered to be neutral or improved (not degraded) from the baseline year. Land cover/land use changes that constitute improved or neutral transitions (as well as degradation) are defined through a land cover/land use change matrix. A generic land cover/land use change matrix that illustrates how to classify and quantify transitions is shown in Table 2.

Denominator = Total mapped area of territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (legally recognized by government or not legally recognized)

67. Definitions:

(a) See section 5a for definitions of terms.

Table 2. Example land cover/land use change matrix that shows transitions from the original (baseline) land cover/land use class to the final (most recent) land cover/land use class and whether the transition is considered improvement (I), neutral (N), or degradation (D).

		Final Class									
Original (Baseline) Class		Bare	Built-up	Cropland	Ocean	Salt pan	Short vege-tation	Snow/ ice	Tree cover	Water	Wetland
	Bare	N	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Built-up	I	N	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Cropland	D	D	N	N	I	I	I	I	N	I
	Ocean	D	D	N	N	N	N	I	N	N	N
	Salt pan	D	D	D	N	N	I	I	I	N	I
	Short vegetation	D	D	D	N	D	N	I	I	N	I
	Snow/ice	D	D	D	D	D	D	N	D	D	D
	Tree cover	D	D	D	N	D	D	I	N	N	D
	Water	D	D	D	N	D	D	I	D	N	N
	Wetland	D	D	D	N	D	D	I	D	N	N

68. Comments: Two stages are proposed related to data availability and accuracy (with stage 2 the ideal scenario):

(a) Stage 1 is based on numerical, statistical data (including secondary data)

(b) Stage 2 is based on georeferenced map data

Limitations of an area-based indicator include the degree of disaggregation possible (for example age and sex disaggregation is not possible).

Stage 1	**Numerical data**
Data type	Numerical measurement of area of forest land (in hectares)
Data sources and quantity: (1) area of **forest** in territorries held or used by IP&LC (ha) (2) total area of territories held or used by IP&LC (ha)	Sources of global data (1) - Forest Resources Assessment data on forest ownership – "Area of forest owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities" (2) - LandMark database for total national area of IP&LC lands (acknowledged and not acknowledged by government) - Rights and Resources Initiative "Who Owns the World's Land"
Comments	- Data from FAO's Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is collected and available every five years, with data from 2025 as the most recent reporting year - Numerical data from FRA are available only forest area, not all land cover/land use types.

Stage 2	Georeferenced map data
Data type	Map-based data (from which numeric data in hectares is deducted)
Data sources and quantity: (1) area of **non-degraded land** in territorries held or used by IP&LC (ha) (2) total area of territories held or used by IP&LC (ha)	Sources of global data (1) - LandMark database of geo-referenced IP&LC lands - Global land cover/land use data, such as GLAD/WRI (30 m) or ESA-CCI-LC (300 m), and reclassified according to a land cover/land use change matrix into neutral and improving land classes (2) - LandMark database of geo-referenced IP&LC lands
Comments	- Partial coverage at present; over time, expected to be available for all countries in the world - Global data from LandMark is compiled from many local and national sources which can often be accessed directly for national reporting. - Other national and local sources of georeferenced spatial data for IP&LC lands and territories may be available locally.

69. The Stage 2 method, which is the preferred method, is a quantification based on geospatial analysis of data on land cover/land use within mapped territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and therefore requires geospatial data for both numerator and denominator. Ideally, the total area of territories for Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the denominator of component (a) will match the area in the denominator of component (c), but if geospatial data are not complete, then component (c) may be based on a smaller total area for which mapped data are available.

70. The land cover/land use data used in the global analysis for component (c) is sourced from the Global Land Analysis and Discovery Lab (University of Maryland) and World Resources Institute.[57] Data are available annually starting from 2015 with the latest year of data released annually. The analysis used a baseline year of 2020, with transitions classified and quantified to the most recent year of data availability (i.e., 2024).

71. The transition matrix in Table 2 shows one potential method for classifying categorical changes in land cover/land use between a baseline year and an end year into categories of degradation, improvement, or neutral (i.e., no change in classification or no positive or negative impact). National reporting may choose to classify transitions differently based on local context or,

[57] Matthew C Hansen, Peter V Potapov, Amy H Pickens, Alexandra Tyukavina, Andres Hernandez-Serna, Viviana Zalles, Svetlana Turubanova, Indrani Kommareddy, Steve V Stehman, Xiao-Peng Song and Anil Kommareddy. (2022) Global land use extent and dispersion within natural land cover using Landsat data. *Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** 034050 https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac46ec; Potapov P., Hansen M.C., Pickens A., Hernandez-Serna A., Tyukavina A., Turubanova S., Zalles V., Li X., Khan A., Stolle F., Harris N., Song X.-P., Baggett A., Kommareddy I., Kommareddy A. (2022) The global 2000-2020 land cover and land use change dataset derived from the Landsat archive: first results. Frontiers in Remote Sensing https://doi.org/10.3389/frsen.2022.856903. Data available at: https://glad.umd.edu/dataset

if a different source of land cover/land use data is used, both the classes and transitions may look different. Regardless, the end result should quantify the area within lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities where land cover/land use remains neutral or improved relative to a baseline year as a proportion of the total area of lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The methods for component (c) are aligned with the methods for SDG 15.3.1 "Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area"[58] and SDG 15.4.2(b) "Proportion of degraded mountain land"[59] but reports the inverse value (i.e., reports non-degraded area instead of degraded area) within Indigenous and local community lands and territories. The same land cover/land use change data used for SDG 15.3.1 and 15.4.2 could be used for reporting on this indicator, many of which are detailed in the respective metadata sheets and *Good Practice Guidance for SDG Indicator 15.3.1*[60].

72. In lieu of using land cover/land use data and a change matrix, variations such as analysis of forest cover extent could be used as a proxy. For example, data on area of forest cover within the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a proportion of total area held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities and its change over time could serve as a proxy for analysis of land cover/land use data for forest-dominant countries.

[58] SDG Indicator 15.3.1 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-03-01.pdf
[59] SDG Indicator 15.4.2 | Sustainable developments Goals; Metadata-15-04-02.pdf
[60] Good practice guidance. SDG indicator 15.3.1, Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. Version 2.0. | UNCCD

Binary indicator 22.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation, in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 22. Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Rationale

1. Indigenous peoples and local communities have a cultural and holistic understanding of nature based on their traditional knowledge, practices and innovation. This information and understanding of biodiversity in turn play a crucial role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The insights of indigenous peoples and local communities on local ecosystems play a fundamental role in developing conservation initiatives that integrate cultural values and traditional governance systems, including sustainable use such as resource management techniques, traditional hunting and fishing, and elective harvesting. Further, their lands encompass diverse ecosystems, ranging from forests and wetlands to mountains and coastal areas with high concentrations of biodiversity and often promote sustainable land use, including agroforestry, rotational farming and community-based conservation management systems. Involving indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the recognition of their perspectives and expertise can contribute to the development of context-specific and effective conservation and sustainable use strategies. This participation of indigenous peoples and local communities must further be done in a way that respects their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, promoting access to justice and information in the process. Only through full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation can the goals of target 22 and the Framework be fully achieved.

2. The target also recognizes the importance of meaningful participation in decision-making, access to justice, and access to information of women and girls, as well as the inclusion of children, youth and persons with disabilities. This indicator can provide a picture of the processes and means that countries have put in place to promote these rights, toward empowering these groups to actively contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and promoting social equity for groups in vulnerable situations. It also highlights the need to protect environmental human rights defenders as they are at the forefront of protecting biodiversity by monitoring and exposing environmental violations, promoting sustainable practices and advocating for a human rights-based approach to conservation efforts. Many environmental defenders face threats to their lives and safety in the face of doing this work. As such, this indicator tracks the progress of national efforts towards the protection of these groups.

3. The elements reflected in this binary indicator are cross-cutting in nature and relate to several aspects in Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the contributions and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, whole-of-society approach, intergenerational equity, gender, and a human rights-based approach.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

Definition

4. Full protection: Measures that can be taken to safeguard individuals or groups who work to protect the environment, advocate for environmental justice, and defend the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Key aspects of protecting environmental human rights defenders could include but are not limited to: preventing violence and intimidation by providing legal protection, effective remedies and secure exercise of their rights free from reprisals and retaliation and raising awareness about the important role of environmental human rights defenders.

5. Human rights defenders: everyone exercising their right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels, including trade unionists and some journalists. (UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, A/Res/53/144)

6. Environmental human rights defenders: Individuals and groups who, in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna (UNEP)

7. Children: A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.

8. Youth: There is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group. For statistical purposes, however, the United Nations—without prejudice to any other definitions made by Member States—defines “youth” as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This definition, which arose in the context of preparations for the International Youth Year (1985) (see A/36/215), was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/28 of 1981. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition, as is reflected in the annual yearbooks of statistics published by the UN system on demography, education, employment and health.

9. Persons with disabilities: Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

10. Gender-responsive: A gender responsive approach is one that moves beyond “do no harm” to “do better”, towards changing gender norms, roles and access to resources. Gender responsiveness refers to processes and outcomes that reflect an understanding of and take into account gender dynamics, roles, and inequalities in a given society, and which encourage equal participation and fair distribution of benefits. Gender responsive approaches are based on gender analysis to understand the norms and expectations for women and girls and men and boys in relevant contexts, to inform the design of appropriate interventions. (CBD, SBI3)

11. Indigenous peoples and local communities: The Convention on Biological Diversity does not define the terms indigenous and local communities or indigenous peoples and local communities. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples does not adopt or recommend a universal definition for Indigenous Peoples (Decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/13). Indigenous peoples are also known as first peoples, aboriginal peoples, native peoples, or autochthonous peoples, are ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently. The distinctive groups, usually maintaining traditions or other aspects of an early culture that is associated with a given region, are protected in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their linguistic and historical ties to a particular territory, prior to later settlement, development, and or occupation of a region. Local community is a self-identified human group that

relates to a life environment in collective ways that participate to define a shared territory and culture. The members of a local community have frequent chances of direct (possibly face-to-face) encounters and possess some common history, traditions, institutions, language, values and life plans. A local community can be long-standing ("traditional") or relatively new, include a single or multiple ethnic identities and be permanently settled or mobile. A local community should have a form of political identity that enables it to exercise its rights and responsibilities with respect to its territory and neighbors.

12. Access to justice: The ability of people to seek and obtain a just resolution of legal problems through a wide range of legal and justice services. These services include legal information, counsel and representation, formal (e.g. courts) and alternative dispute resolution, and enforcement mechanisms. Emphasis should also be placed on legal empowerment, which enables people's meaningful participation in the justice system and builds their capability to understand and use the law for themselves. The rule of law requires impartial and non-discriminatory justice. Without equal access, a large portion of the population can be left behind and their vulnerabilities exposed.

13. Access to information: Access to Information has two principle components: the obligation for states to have a legal framework that is also implemented in practice, that: entitles public to request access to information (documents and other information recorded in any format) and to respond to such requests in a timely fashion and obliges authorities to ensure that information of public interest is put into the public domain proactively, without the need for requests.

Method of Computation

14. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to three questions and eight sub questions:

(a) 22.1 Does your country have policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels that:

i. Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making related to biodiversity of the following?

ii. Respect the following rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply)?

iii. Ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders?

iv. Ensure public access to information related to biodiversity for the following (select all that apply)?

v. Provide access to justice for one or more of the following categories (select all that apply)?

(b) 22.2 Does your country have operational frameworks and mechanisms related to the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks listed under question 22.1?

(c) 22.3 Does your country monitor:

i. (a) The full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making of the following (select all that apply)?

ii. (b) The following culture and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply)?

iii. (c) The full protection of environmental human rights defenders?

15. There are five possible answers to questions 22.1a, 22.1d, 22.1e and 22.3a:

(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities

(b) Women and girls

(c) Children and youth

(d) Persons with disabilities

(e) Others

16. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "select all that apply" approach. Namely, if a country has policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels to ensure the representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making (22.1a), ensure access to information (22.1d) or provide access to justice (22.1e) or if a country monitors the representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making (22.3a) then select the groups to which these apply. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 22.1a, 22.1d, 22.1e and 22.5a is "Yes". If "Others" is selected, specify to which group this refers to in the free text section. If no answers are selected, then an overall "No" is understood. Note that for 22.1 a country needs to have policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels already in existence, written in law and implemented, if this is not the case, even if these frameworks are being drafted, then do not select any answers in the sub questions. Additionally, if the frameworks in place are only at the subnational or national level but not both, then do not select any of the answers for which one of them is missing.

17. There are five possible answers to questions 22.1b and 22.3b:

(a) Culture and practices

(b) Rights over lands and territories

(c) Rights over natural resources

(d) Rights over traditional knowledge

(e) Not applicable

18. Each of the answers here is to be chosen using a "select all that apply" approach. Namely, if a country has policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels that respect indigenous peoples and local communities' rights in ensuring the representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making (22.1b) or monitors the culture and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (22.3b) then select the options to which these apply. In other words, select each option for which the answer to 22.1b and 22.3b is "Yes". Parties with no recognized indigenous peoples and local communities groups may select the "Not applicable" answer but are asked to provide a justification for the choice in the free text. If no answers are selected, then an overall "No" is understood.

19. There are two possible answers to questions 22.1c and 22.3c:

(a) No
(b) Yes

20. A "No" answer implies:

(c) that there are no policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in place to protect environmental human rights defenders (22.1c). No legal and policy protection exists, arrests and lawsuits against environmental human rights defenders are still taking place. Killing and other attacks may have been observed in the last year.

(d) there is no ongoing effort to monitor the protection of environmental human rights defenders (22.3c). There is no information available on the

legal and security threats faced by environmental human rights defenders nor on the efforts being made to protect them.

21. A "Yes" answer implies:

(a) that there are policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in place to protect environmental human rights defenders (22.1c). Such legal and policy protection is reducing arrests and lawsuits against environmental human rights defenders and investigating and punishing any killing and attacks that may still be observed.
(b) there is ongoing monitoring of the protection of environmental human rights defenders (22.3c). Information is available on the effect that legal and security protections are having in reducing the threats faced by environmental human rights defenders.

22. There are four possible answers to question 22.2[61]:

(a) No
(b) Under development
(c) Partially
(d) Fully

23. A "No" answer implies that there are no operational frameworks and mechanisms to support the implementation of the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in 22.1 for any of the groups or rights mentioned in the sub questions.

24. An "Under development" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to create operational frameworks and mechanisms to support the implementation of the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in 22.1 but these are still in the drafting or proposal stage.

25. A "Partially" answer implies that operational frameworks and mechanisms to support the implementation of the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in 22.1 exist and have been implemented but they do not cover all the groups (indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, environmental human rights defenders) nor all of their culture, practices and rights (over lands and territories, over resources, over traditional knowledge). If only some groups and their culture, practices and rights benefit from these operational frameworks but not others, select this answer.

26. A "Fully" answer implies that all the conditions outlined in "Partially" have been met. Namely that operational frameworks and mechanisms to support the implementation of the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks in 22.1 exist and have been implemented for all groups (indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, environmental human rights defenders) and all their culture, practices and rights (over lands and territories, over resources, over traditional knowledge). If any one group or culture, practice and right does not benefit from these operational frameworks, then select "Partially".

[61] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

Binary indicator 23.b

Full Indicator Name

Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring womens equal rights and access to land and natural resources.

Goals and Targets Addressed

Target 23. Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

Rationale

1. Gender roles in many countries influence the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by impacting the ability of women to participate in decision-making and by affecting their access to and control of land, biological resources and other productive assets. Considering gender dimensions in biodiversity-related decision-making can lead to positive outcomes for biodiversity and gender equality. Women often play a vital role in managing natural resources and promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. When women have access to resources, land, education, healthcare and economic opportunities on par with men, they are better able to participate in decision-making processes and advocate for environmental protection.

2. The focus of this target is on ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach. Gender responsive is the process of ensuring that programmes, policies and institutions take into account the different needs and experiences of people based on their gender identity. It aims to create a society that is responsive to the diverse needs and realities of people, including those who may face discrimination or disadvantage because of their gender. As such, the indicator tracks progress along the development of legal, administrative or policy frameworks that are gender inclusive as well as the deployment of financial resources to support gender equality with a focus on rights and access to land and natural resources.

Definitions Concepts and Classifications

Definition

3. Equal opportunity and capacity [to contribute]: Can effectively and fully participate in the achievement of the Convention's goals without any discrimination, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, respecting the rules set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

4. Equal rights: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration62, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political,

[62] The Universal Declaration of Human rights - https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. As per article 2 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.

5. Sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses: Collection and analysis of data which is cross classified by sex, and which presents information separately for men and women, boys and girls. Sex-disaggregated data is necessary for effective gender analysis, as it is more difficult to identify real and potential inequalities in its absence.

6. Gender Plan of Action: An officially negotiated and agreed upon document of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework who's purpose is to support and promote the gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The plan will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the framework.

7. The three objectives of the convention: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three main objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

8. Gender equality: The concept that women and men, girls and boys have equal conditions, treatment and opportunities for realizing their full potential, human rights and dignity, and for contributing to (and benefitting from) economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality is, therefore, the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in the home, community and society. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that womens' and mens' rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men and girls and boys are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups and that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes and prejudices about gender roles. Gender equality is a matter of human rights and is considered a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development.

9. Decision-making: The process of making decisions can happen at the individual level or amongst groups and entails the prioritisation of certain values. This prioritization greatly influences which issues are found worthy of consideration, do and do not become part of the agenda, as well as determine which decision-makers are considered socially legitimate to participate in the process.

10. Explicitly recognise and protect: Women and girls rights to, access to and control of land and natural or biodiversity resources need to be acknowledged and guaranteed in legislation and policy, in accordance with the Gender Plan of Action. To advance this recognition, it is important that sex-disaggregated data be collected, and that gender-related roles and needs be taken into account, as opposed to a gender-blind approach.

11. Participation and leadership at all levels of action: Women are often not provided with the same opportunities to participate in decision-making as men or to serve in leadership roles. Analysis has shown that opportunities for effective action on biodiversity are missed due to insufficient involvement of women in these ways. Womens' participation and representation in decision-making processes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use must be promoted. This includes ensuring that women are represented in policy-making bodies, community meetings and other decision-making forums.

b

12. This indicator is a binary indicator and must be compiled from the answers to four questions:

(a) 23.1 Does your country have mechanisms for facilitating the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership of all women and girls at

all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity?

(b) 23.2 Has your country adopted legislation or policy measures that explicitly recognize and protect all women and girls rights and access to land and natural or biodiversity resources?

(c) 23.3 Does your country explicitly apply a gender-responsive approach and recognize the contributions and roles of women and girls in its implementation of the Framework through its national reports of national biodiversity strategy action plan?

(d) 23.4 Does your country conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses to assess the differential impacts of biodiversity policies and programmes?

13. There are four possible answers to each of these questions[63]:

(a) No

(b) Under development

(c) Partially

(d) Fully

14. A "No" answer implies that:

(a) there are no mechanisms in place to facilitate the participation and leadership of women and girls at any level of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity (23.1)

(b) there is no recognition of women and girls' rights related to land and natural or biodiversity resources in legislation or policy (23.2)

(c) there is no recognition of gender nor the contributions and roles of women and girls in the implementation of the Framework (23.3)

(d) no sex-disaggregated data has been collected (23.4)

15. An "Under development" answer implies a concerted effort at the national level to:

(a) begin the process of facilitating the inclusion of women and girls (23.1) and recognize their rights (23.2) through the proposal of official legislation or measures. For example, there may be a drafted bill, proposed text or consultation but these have not yet been ratified nor implemented.

(b) recognise gender in the application of the Framework or in national reports or the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP – 23.3). That is, gender is explicitly mentioned in proposed initiatives for the implementation of the Framework (e.g. the establishment of a new protected area) or the NBSAP has been revised to include gender considerations but not yet adopted.

(c) collect sex-disaggregated data but none is available yet, e.g. surveys have been revised to include gender considerations but not been distributed yet (23.4)

16. In all cases, clear efforts can be seen (e.g. draft bills, revised reporting, ...) to progress towards the target but these are not yet in place and producing results.

17. A "*Partially*" answer implies that:

[63] Further information on progress towards the target can be provided in the free text section of the reporting tool.

(a) mechanisms are in place (e.g. bills ratified, resources allocated) to facilitate the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation or leadership of women and girls at different levels of action, engagement, policy or decision-making (23.1). That is, either participation or leadership may still be missing and not all women and girls are represented at all levels of action, engagement, policy or decision-making.

(b) legislation or policy measures that explicitly recognize and protect women and girls rights or access to land or natural or biodiversity resources (23.2). That is, either legislation or policy may still be missing or failing to protect both rights and access to either land or natural or biodiversity resources.

(c) gender is recognized in the application of the Framework or in national reports or NBSAP (23.3) but the resources, both human and/or financial, are lacking to implement the new gender-responsive approach.

(d) surveys designed to collect sex-disaggregated data have been produced and are being used and distributed (23.4). Select this answer even if no data is available yet from the release of these surveys.

18. In each of the cases outlined above some elements of the question have not been achieved or the resources for them to be effectively implemented are lacking.

19. A “Fully” answer implies that all the conditions outlined in “Partially” have been met. Namely that:

(a) mechanisms are in place (e.g. bills ratified, resources allocated) to facilitate the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership of women and girls at all levels of action, engagement, policy or decision-making (23.1).

(b) legislation and policy measures that explicitly recognize and protect women and girls rights and access to land or natural or biodiversity resources are fully in place and covering all aspects of 23.2.

(c) gender is recognized in the application of the Framework and in national reports and NBSAP (23.3) and these have been implemented in such a way that can be objectively verified (e.g. the impact on women and girls was studied in the proposal of a new protected area).

(d) sex-disaggregated data are being collected and analyzed (23.4)

Annex
Glossary of key terms in the monitoring framework

The following glossary is provided as a reference only. The definitions included do not represent negotiated or agreed definitions, but they represent definitions that are used in the headline and binary indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The definitions are provided to help guide for Parties in applying the monitoring issues, to use as relevant or applicable.

Term	Definition
Above-ground biomass	All living biomass above the soil including stem, stump, branches, bark, seeds, and foliage. (FAO, 2004-2021)
Access and benefit sharing regulations and measures	Measures and regulations pertaining to the access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources set out in Article 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Access to information	Access to Information has two principle components: the obligation for states to have a legal framework that is also implemented in practice, that: entitles public to request access to information (documents and other information recorded in any format) and to respond to such requests in a timely fashion and obliges authorities to ensure that information of public interest is put into the public domain proactively, without the need for requests. (UN Stats)
Access to justice	The ability of people to seek and obtain a just resolution of legal problems through a wide range of legal and justice services. These services include legal information, counsel and representation, formal (e.g. courts) and alternative dispute resolution, and enforcement mechanisms. Emphasis should also be placed on legal empowerment, which enables people's meaningful participation in the justice system and builds their capability to understand and use the law for themselves. The rule of law requires impartial and non-discriminatory justice. Without equal access, a large portion of the population can be left behind and their vulnerabilities exposed. (OECD, 2021)
Action plan	An official strategy or course of action to deliver on the goals of the Framework.
Adaptation to climate change	Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. (IPBES, 2018)
Agricultural land	Land used primarily to grow crops and raise livestock. Forestry, fisheries and aquaculture activities may be included to the extent that they are secondary activities conducted on the agricultural area of the farm holdings, for example rice fish farming and similar systems. (FAO, 2004-2021)
Air filtration services	Air filtration services are the ecosystem contributions to the filtering of air-borne pollutants through the deposition, uptake, fixing and storage of pollutants by ecosystem components, particularly plants, that mitigates the harmful effects of the pollutants. This is most commonly a final ecosystem service. (SEEA, 2021)

Alien invasive species	An alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity. (Convention, Article 8(h))
Alien species	A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. (Convention, Article 8(h))
All areas	For the purpose of the Convention, the term "*all areas*" generally refers to the entire territory of each country and thus include all terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems
Areas of particular importance for biodiversity	Sites that contain significant populations/extents of threatened or geographically restricted species or ecosystems, or that have significant ecological integrity or irreplaceability, significance for the maintenance of biological processes, or provide significant ecological connectivity to maintain populations of species. Key Biodiversity Areas are nationally identified sites using standardised criteria encompassing each of these elements and encompassing existing systems for identifying areas of particular importance for biodiversity, such as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and Alliance for Zero extinction sites. (Plumptre et al. 2024)
Benefit	Advantage that contributes to wellbeing from the fulfilment of needs and wants. (IPBES, 2019)
Benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	Benefits may include monetary and non-monetary benefits, including but not limited to those listed in the Annex of the Nagoya Protocol. (Annex of the Nagoya Protocol)
Biodiversity	Refer to the definition of "*Biological diversity*".
Biodiversity-based activities, products and services	These are the commercial and non-commercial action and products that result from the collection, production or transformation of biological resources. They are found in industries as varied as food and beverage, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, paper, textiles, energy, and handicrafts. Services based on biodiversity are those that derive value from genetic resources, species and ecosystems, such as nature-based tourism, pollination, and water treatment. The sustainable production, use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services provide developing countries with valuable opportunities for biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, economic diversification, value addition, improved livelihoods, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including women and ethnic minorities.
Biodiversity-inclusive	Inclusive of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use considerations.

Biodiversity-inclusive urban planning	Urban planning is the process that is applied as a way to organize the dynamics of human actions in cities, with the purpose of stipulating guidelines that order spatial occupation through typological patterns of use, mobility, distribution of equipment, services, and natural areas in the territory, in order to provide uniformity in the distribution of the onus and advantages generated by the development of the infrastructures. The planning, furthermore, aims to announce in advance what can be done in the face of solving problems that may hinder the dynamics of functioning that involve cities. The Framework specifically calls for such processes to be biodiversity inclusive. (Eckert & Padilha, 2021)
Biodiversity offsets	Biodiversity offsets are "*measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been taken*." (BBOP, 2018). They are usually under a no net loss or a net gain objective. There are three main types of biodiversity offsets: 1. One-off biodiversity offsets; 2. payments in-lieu and 3. biobanking.
Biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions	Biodiversity-related risks to businesses and financial institutions are categorised as: Ecological risks, i.e. risks related to biodiversity-related ecological impacts and dependencies, linked to biodiversity loss or ecosystems degradation. Liability risks, where parties who have suffered biodiversity-related loss or damage seek compensation for those they hold responsible. Risks related to achieving transformative change for biodiversity, including regulatory risks, market risks and financial risks. (OECD)
Biodiversity-relevant environmentally beneficial subsidies and payments	Subsidies or payments that reduces directly or indirectly the use of something that has a proven, specific, negative impact on biodiversity, including direct payments from government and preferential tax treatments (e.g. VAT exemptions). It is one of the five types of policy instruments collected in the OECD PINE database. Non-exhaustive list of examples: Payments from government to private land-users/owners to restore land; Preferential land tax for forests under protection or restoration; Agri-environmental payments promoting habitat protection and restoration.
Biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges	Payment to the government levied on tax bases with a proven, specific, negative impact on the biodiversity. They include taxes on pollution and natural resource/land use. Non-exhaustive list of examples: Fertilisers and pesticides taxes; Water pollution taxes and water abstraction charges; Fishing and hunting licence fees; Protected area entrance fees; Taxes and fees/charges for timber harvest
Biodiversity-relevant tradable permit schemes	Market-based instruments that provide allowance or permission to engage in an activity under a cap. These permits can be traded. Non-exhaustive list of examples: Individual transferable quotas (ITQs) for fisheries; Tradable water rights; Salinity trading schemes; Tradable development rights.
Biological diversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (Convention, Article 2)

Biological resources	Includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. (Convention, Article 2)
Biological stock	A subpopulation of a species inhabiting a particular geographic area, having similar biological characteristics (e.g. growth, reproduction, mortality) and negligible genetic mixing with other adjacent subpopulations of the same species. (FAO, 2004-2021)
Biomass corresponding to Maximum Sustainable Yield (BMSY)	Biomass corresponding to Maximum Sustainable Yield from a production model or from an age- based analysis using a stock recruitment model. Often used as a biological reference point in fisheries management, it is the calculated long-term average biomass value expected if fishing at the maximum rate of fishing mortality. (FAO, 2004-2021)
Biosafety	This concept refers to the need to protect human health and the environment from the possible adverse effects of the products of modern biotechnology. (Cartagena Protocol, 2000)
Biotechnical research activities	The study of scientific knowledge related to biotechnology (see biotechnology).
Biotechnology	Under the Convention, "*biotechnology*" means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (Convention, Article 2).
Built-up area of cities	Conventionally, built up areas of cities are areas occupied by buildings and other artificial surfaces. (UN Stats)
Capacity-building	In this strategic framework, capacity is described as "*the ability of people, organizations and societies as a whole to achieve the biodiversity-related goals and action targets*", and capacity-building and development is understood as "*the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results*." Capacity-building and development is considered at three levels: the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels. (Adapted from UNDP, 2017)
Capacity development	The process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results. Capacity-building and development is considered at three levels: the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels. (UNDP, 2017)
Capacity-building measures	For the purpose of the Framework, capacity building measures refer to administrative, policy and legislative instruments that are used for capacity-building and development.
Census population size	Is the number of adult individuals present in a discrete area.

Children	A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier. (UNICEF)
City	A range of accepted definitions of the "*city*" exist, from those based on population data and extent of the built-up area to those that are based solely on administrative boundaries. These definitions vary within and between nations, complicating the task of international reporting for the SDGs. Definitions of cities, metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations also vary depending on legal, administrative, political, economic or cultural criteria in the respective countries and regions. Since 2016 UN-Habitat and partners organized global consultations and discussions to narrow down the set of meaningful definitions that would be helpful for the global monitoring and reporting process. Following consultations with 86 member states, the United Nations Statistical Commission, in its 51st Session (March 2020) endorsed the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA) as a workable method to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international statistical comparisons. [1] This definition combines population size and population density thresholds to classify the entire territory of a country along the urban-rural continuum, and captures the full extent of a city, including the dense neighbourhoods beyond the boundary of the central municipality. DEGURBA is applied in a two-step process: First, 1 km2 grid cells are classified based on population density, contiguity and population size. Subsequently, local units are classified as urban or rural based on the type of grid cells in which majority of their population resides. For the computation of SDG indicator 11.7.1, countries are encouraged to adopt the degree of urbanisation to define the analysis area (city or urban area).
Climate action	Climate action refers to efforts taken to combat climate change and its impacts. These efforts include, but are not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, reducing concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere or ocean (reversing the associated effects of greenhouse gases (e.g. by enhancing ocean alkalinity), and/or taking action to build resilience or promote adaptation. (EU)
Climate change	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: "*a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods*".
Coastal and marine	All connected saline ocean waters characterised by waves, tides and currents, this includes IUCN Global Ecosystem Typologies (GET): Marine shelfs (M1); pelagic ocean waters (M2); deep sea floors (M3); semi-confined transitional waters biome (FM1); shoreline systems biome (MT1); supralittoral coastal systems biome (MT2); brackish tidal systems biome (MFT1); anthropogenic marine systems (M4); anthropogenic shorelines (MT3). (Adapted from TNFD, 2023)
Community-based monitoring and information systems	Community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) refer to initiatives by indigenous peoples and local community organisations to monitor their community's well-being and the state of their territories and natural resources, applying a mix of traditional knowledge and innovative tools and approaches. (FPP, 2015)

Complementary indicator	A list of optional indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target which may be applicable at global, regional, national, and subnational levels (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5).
Compliance	The fulfilment by the contracting parties of their obligations under a multilateral environmental agreement and any amendments to the multilateral environmental agreement (Source: Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs, 2002). The systems adopted under MEAs to promote compliance (e.g. UNFCCC compliance refers to a country / company / individual fulfilment of their emissions and reporting commitments). The components of compliance mechanisms can be analysed into four categories: a) performance information; b) multilateral institutional procedures; c) non-compliance response measures; and d) dispute settlement procedures. (UNEP, 2002)
Component indicator	A list of optional indicators that, together with the headline indicators, cover components of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which may apply at the global, regional, national and subnational levels (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5).
Connection to nature	The positive interaction, experience, way of relating and relationships between people and nature. It usually implies a sense of attachment to nature by people.
Connectivity	Refer to the definition of "*Ecological connectivity*".
Conservation	The management of human interactions with genes, species, and ecosystems so as to provide the maximum benefit to the present generation while maintaining their potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations; encompasses elements of saving, studying, and using biodiversity. (IPBES, 2019)
Consumers	Individuals who acquire, consume or use goods and services for personal use, either for themselves or for others, and not for resale, commercial or trade, business, craft or profession purposes. (CSRD, 2023)
Control of invasive alien species	Direct action(s) taken to reduce or suppress the distribution, abundance, spread and impacts of invasive alien species within a defined geographic area (FAO, 1995)
Culture and practices	Culture has been defined as "*that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capacities and habits acquired by man as a member of society*". In other words, culture is a patterned way of life shared by a group of people. Culture encompasses all that human beings have and do to produce, relate to each other and adapt to the physical environment. It includes agreed-upon principles of human existence (values, norms and sanctions) as well as techniques of survival (technology). Culture is also that aspect of our existence which makes us similar to some people, yet different from the majority of the people in the world … it is the way of life common to a group of people, a collection of beliefs and attitudes, shared understandings and patterns of behaviour that allow those people to live together in relative harmony but set them apart from other peoples. (Kipuri, 2011)

Customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities	The uses of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements. (Convention, Article 8(j))
Decision-making	The process of making decisions can happen at the individual level or amongst groups and entails the prioritisation of certain values. This prioritization greatly influences which issues are found worthy of consideration, do and do not become part of the agenda, as well as determine which decision-makers are considered socially legitimate to participate in the process. (IPBES, 2022)
Degraded ecosystem	An ecosystem where, due to any process or activity, the viability of ecosystem functions and processes, and hence biodiversity, have been removed or lessened. (Dunster and Dunster, 1996)
Degraded land	The reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from a combination of pressures, including land use and management practices. (UNCCD)
Dependencies and impacts	Dependencies on biodiversity are environmental assets and ecosystem services that a person or an organisation relies on to function, including water flow and quality regulation; regulation of hazards like fires and floods; pollination; carbon sequestration. Impacts on biodiversity refer to a change in the state of nature (quality or quantity), which may result in changes to the capacity of nature to provide social and economic functions. Impacts can be positive or negative, including pollution of air, water, soil; fragmentation or disruption of ecosystems and habitats for species; alteration of ecosystem regimes. (SBTN, 2020)
Development of and access to innovation	The development of new, transformative and innovative solutions for biodiversity needs to be fostered and access to those solutions improved. Parties and actors in the innovation space should direct research and development investments into addressing biodiversity challenges. Harnessing emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, as well as the innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent may offer new opportunities to improve the conservation, sustainable use and valorization of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefiting arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
Disaster risk reduction	The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, evidence-based management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events. (IPBES, 2018)
Disclosing	The act of making information available to the general public and stakeholders, in a clear and transparent manner. In this context, it means making information publicly available about a company's impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and its risks from biodiversity loss.

Ecological connectivity	Connectivity (i.e. ecological connectivity) is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth (CMS, 2020). It may thus also refer to continuous ecosystems often connected through ecological corridors. There are two types of connectivity: structural (in which the continuity between ecosystems is identified) and functional (in which the movement of species or processes is verified).
Ecological integrity	The degree to which the ecosystem's composition, structure and function resemble those characteristic of its natural range of variation, which may be defined from historical or minimally disturbed reference states, replicated contemporary samples, ecosystem models and/or expert judgement. (Nicholson et al. 2024)
Ecological restoration	The process of managing or assisting the recovery of a natural ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed, as a means of improving or sustaining ecosystem resilience, ecological integrity and conserving biodiversity. (Adapted from CBD, 2016) See also ecosystem restoration.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992). Specifically, ecosystems are made up of living components (biotic complexes and assemblages of species), the abiotic environment, the processes and interactions within and between the biotic and abiotic components, and the physical space in which these operate (Keith et al. 2013).
Ecosystem collapse	The endpoint of ecosystem decline, when an ecosystem loses its defining features (i.e. species, assemblages, structure, and functions) and is replaced by a different, often depauperate, ecosystem type. Collapse can be irreversible, but some ecosystems may recover, over long timeframes or with restoration. The risk of ecosystem collapse is the likelihood that an ecosystem will collapse over a specified timeframe (Keith et al. 2013).
Ecosystem conversion	Refer to situations in which, for a given location, there is a change in ecosystem type involving a distinct and persistent change in the ecological structure, composition and function which, in turn, is reflected in the supply of a different set of ecosystem services. (SEEA, 2021)
Ecosystem extent	Is the size of an ecosystem asset, which are contiguous spaces of a specific ecosystem type characterized by a distinct set of biotic and abiotic components and their interactions. (SEEA, 2021)
Ecosystem function	The flow of energy and materials through the biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. It includes many processes such as biomass production, trophic transfer through plants and animals, nutrient cycling, water dynamics and heat transfer. (IPBES)
Ecosystem functional groups	Ecosystem functional groups comprise "*a group of related ecosystems within a biome that share common ecological drivers, which in turn promote similar biotic traits that characterise the group. Derived from the top-down by subdivision of biomes*" (Keith et al. 2022, https://global-ecosystems.org/). Examples include: M1.1 seagrass meadows; M1.2 kelp forests and M1.3 photic coral reefs in the marine realm; T1.1 tropical/subtropics lowland rainforests and T4.2 pyric tussock savannas in the terrestrial realm; F1.6 episodic arid rivers and F2.8 artesian springs and oasis in the freshwater realm; and MFT1.3 coastal saltmarshes and reedbeds in the transitional realm between freshwater, marine and terrestrial realms.

Ecosystem restoration	Any intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state. Active restoration includes a range of human interventions aimed at influencing and accelerating natural successional processes to recover biodiversity ecosystem service provision. Passive restoration includes reliance primarily on natural process of ecological succession to restore degraded ecosystems but may include measures to protect a site from processes that currently prevent natural recovery (e.g. protection of degraded forests from overgrazing by livestock or unintentional human-induced fire). Ecosystem restoration includes: 1) ecological restoration of natural ecosystems; and 2) rehabilitation of converted and degraded areas (e.g. degraded agricultural lands) to improve social-ecological resilience through the provision of ecosystem services.
Ecosystem service	A service that is provided by an ecosystem as an intrinsic property of its functionality (e.g. pollination, nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, fruit and seed dispersal) contributing to the benefits (and occasionally disbenefits) that people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; and cultural services such as recreation and sense of place. This includes the whole pathway from ecological processes through to final ecosystem services, goods and anthropocentric values to people. In the original definition of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment the concept of ecosystem goods and services is synonymous with ecosystem services. (IPBES, 2016)
Ecosystem type	Reflects a distinct set of abiotic and biotic components and their interactions. Ecosystem types can be described, classified, and identified using the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (Keith et al. 2022).
Ecosystem-based approaches	Refer to the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall strategy to help address the adverse effects of climate change. Ecosystem-based mitigation refers to the use of ecosystems for their carbon storage and sequestration service to aid climate change mitigation. Ecosystem-based adaptation aims to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change. Such approaches can include sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction is the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to reduce disaster risk, with the aim of achieving sustainable and resilient development.
Effective management processes	Effective management process may be utilised instead of or as a complement to spatial planning to address land use and sea use change. This may include such things as environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment.

Effective population size	This metric quantifies the rate of genetic change, or genetic loss (erosion). The effective size of a population is related to the number of adult/breeding individuals in a population that contribute offspring to the next generation, the relative evenness of their offspring production, sex ratio, and other factors linked to the ecological features of populations. Any population with Ne below 500 is likely to be losing genetic diversity.
Effective restoration	Effective Restoration is standards-based restoration underpinned by agreed principles that results in net gain for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, and human well-being. It integrates spatial planning, addresses both process and outcomes, achieves multiple benefits, and is assessed against clear goals and objectives using measurable indicators. Different types of restoration will achieve different levels of outcomes: to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.
Empowerment	The process by which people gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives. It is the process by which they increase their assets and attributes and build capacities to gain access, partners, networks and/or a voice, in order to gain control. (IPBES, 2019)
Enhancement [of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people]	To improve the quality and quantity of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people.
Environmental economic accounting	Environmental-economic accounts are integrated statistics that illuminate the relationship between the environment and the economy, both the impacts of the economy on the environment and the contribution of the environment to the economy. Environmental-economic accounts can provide information about the extraction of natural resources, their use within the economy, natural resource stock levels, the changes in those stocks during a specific period and economic activity related to the environment. Environmental-economic accounts present this information in physical and monetary terms, as appropriate. (SEEA, 2021)
Environmental human rights defenders	Individuals and groups who, in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna (UNEP)
Environmental impact assessment	Environmental impact assessment is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account interrelated socioeconomic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse. (CBD/COP/DEC/6/7)
Environmentally harmful subsidies	All kinds of financial support and regulations that are put into place to enhance the competitiveness of certain products, processes or regions, and that, together with the prevailing taxation regime, (unintentionally) discriminate against sound environmental practices. (OECD)
Equal opportunity and capacity to contribute	Can effectively and fully participate in the achievement of the Convention's goals without any discrimination, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, respecting the rules set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (Adapted from UN ESA and UN Women)

Equal opportunity, capacity and rights	Equality refers to the idea that everyone, regardless of their gender, should have the same rights, opportunities and access to resources, including land and natural resources. Discrimination and biases that may prevent individuals from achieving their full potential due to their gender or other characteristics need to be eliminated.
Equal rights and access to land and natural resources [for women]	In the context of the Framework, this relates to rights of women in relation to land and natural resources. Women are often the primary stewards of biodiversity, and when women have secure land tenure, they are more likely to engage in sustainable land use practices that conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystems. Women who own and control land are also better able to provide for their families, secure their livelihoods and invest in their communities, leading to improved health and education outcomes. Achieving equal rights may require changes to laws and policies and cultural norms, including those related to rules around land registration and ownership, and practices.
Eradicate	Eliminate/extirpate an invasive alien species from a defined geographic area even in the absence of all preventive measures obviating the necessity for further control measures (Dowdle, 1998). The time period after which an invasive alien species can be considered eradicated depends on the species and location. (IPBES, 2023)
Establishment of invasive alien species	Production of a viable, self-sustaining population. (IPBES, 2023)
Eutrophication	Nutrient enrichment of an ecosystem, generally resulting in increased primary production and reduced biodiversity. In lakes, eutrophication leads to seasonal algal blooms, reduced water clarity, and, often, periodic fish mortality as a consequence of oxygen depletion. The term is most closely associated with aquatic ecosystems but is sometimes applied more broadly. (IPBES, 2019)
Ex situ conservation	Conservation actions implemented in captive breeding/propagation facilities (from which individuals can be reintroduced back into native ranges), i.e. in conditions under which individuals are spatially restricted with respect to their natural spatial patterns or those of their progeny, are removed from many of their natural ecological processes, and are managed on some level by humans. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Extinction	A species is extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Detecting extinction requires exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, throughout the species' historic range. (IUCN, 2012)

Extinction rate	The number of species going extinct expressed over a unit of time. The challenges of detecting extinctions mean that there are often time-lags before a species can be declared extinct, so extinction rates are most accurately estimated retrospectively. Moreover, absolute extinction rates are also difficult to estimate given considerable uncertainty over the total number of species on the planet. It is therefore useful to compare relative extinction rates, expressed as extinctions per million species per year (E/MSY). Mean fossil species' lifetimes produce a background extinction rate of 0.1–1 E/MSY, while human activities have driven species extinct at a rate perhaps 1,000 times higher. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Extinction risk	The probability that a species may go extinct (q.v.). Extinction risk is extremely difficult to quantify for individual species, so the commonest approach to assessing risk is to use the categories and criteria of the IUCN Red List, which range from Least Concern to Critically Endangered and Extinct. Detecting trends in extinction risk cannot be achieved by simply comparing the proportion of species that are threatened (q.v.) or that are in different categories of risk over time, because most reclassifications result from improved knowledge. It is therefore necessary to distinguish those category changes resulting from genuine improvements or deterioration in status of species. The Red List Index (q.v.) is designed to summarise overall trends in extinction risk by doing exactly this. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Financial resources	Money and other financial vehicles available for the purposes of the Convention. These may be from private or public funds and take any form (e.g. investment, bond, loan, grant).
Fiscal and financial flows	Financial flows consist of transactions and other flows and represent the movement of money in and out of accounts. Fiscal flows refer to transactions in and out of national treasury accounts. (Adapted from Eurostat and FDR)
Flood control services	Consist of coastal protection services and river flood mitigation services. Coastal protection services are the ecosystem contributions of linear elements in the seascape, for instance coral reefs, sand banks, dunes or mangrove ecosystems along the shore, in protecting the shore and thus mitigating the impacts of tidal surges or storms on local communities. River flood mitigation services are the ecosystem contributions of riparian vegetation which provides structure and a physical barrier to high water levels and thus mitigates the impacts of floods on local communities. River flood mitigation services are synchronous with peak flow mitigation services in providing the benefit of flood protection. (SEEA, 2021)
Food waste	Food and associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain in the following sectors: retail and other distribution of food; food service (restaurants, schools, hospitals, other canteens, etc.); and households. "*Removed from the human food supply chain*" means one of the following end destinations: landfill; controlled combustion; sewer, litter/discards/refuse; co/anaerobic digestion; compost/aerobic digestion or land application. (UN Stats)
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. Forest is determined both by the presence of trees and the absence of other predominant land uses. (FAO, 2020)

Forest area with management plan	Forest area that has a long-term documented management plan, aiming at defined management goals, which is periodically revised. (FAO, 2020)
Free, prior and informed consent	Free implies that indigenous peoples and local communities are not pressured, intimidated, manipulated or unduly influenced and that their consent is given, without coercion; Prior implies seeking consent or approval sufficiently in advance of any authorization to access traditional knowledge respecting the customary decision-making processes in accordance with national legislation and time requirements of indigenous peoples and local communities; Informed implies that information is provided that covers relevant aspects, such as: the intended purpose of the access; its duration and scope; a preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts, including potential risks; personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the access; procedures the access may entail and benefit- sharing arrangements; Consent or approval is the agreement of the indigenous peoples and local communities who are holders of traditional knowledge or the competent authorities of those indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, to grant access to their traditional knowledge to a potential user and includes the right not to grant consent or approval; Involvement refers to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in decision-making processes related to access to their traditional knowledge. Consultation and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities are crucial components of a consent or approval process. (CBD, CBD/COP/DEC/14/13)
Full equitable meaningful and information participation and leadership	Complete, not missing anything. Fair and impartial. Considered with equal weight and given significant meaning and importance. Informed implies that information is provided that covers relevant aspects of the action, engagement, policy and decision-making under consideration, such as: its intended purpose; its duration and scope; a preliminary assessment of its likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts, including potential risks; personnel likely to be involved in its execution and procedures it may entail. Participation is understood as the act of engaging in society's activities. It refers to the possibility to influence decisions and have access to decision-making processes. Social participation creates mutual trust among individuals, which forms the basis for shared responsibilities towards the community and society. The position of being a leader and the action of leading a group of people or an organisation. Leadership implies decision-making authority and recognition of this authority by others.
Full protection of human rights defenders	This refers to measures that can be taken to safeguard individuals or groups who work to protect the environment, advocate for environmental justice, and defend the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Key aspects of protecting environmental human rights defenders could include but are not limited to: preventing violence and intimidation by providing legal protection, effective remedies and secure exercise of their rights free from reprisals and retaliation, and raising awareness about the important role of environmental human rights defenders.

Gender equality	The concept that women and men, girls and boys have equal conditions, treatment and opportunities for realizing their full potential, human rights and dignity, and for contributing to (and benefitting from) economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality is, therefore, the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in the home, community and society. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that womens and mens rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men and girls and boys are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups and that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes and prejudices about gender roles. Gender equality is a matter of human rights and is considered a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development. (UNICEF, 2017)
Gender Plan of Action	An officially negotiated and agreed upon document of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework who's purpose is to support and promote the gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The plan will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the framework. (CBD/COP/15/L.24)
Gender-responsive	A gender responsive approach is one that moves beyond "*do no harm*" to *do better*", towards changing gender norms, roles and access to resources. Gender responsiveness refers to processes and outcomes that reflect an understanding of and take into account gender dynamics, roles, and inequalities in a given society, and which encourage equal participation and fair distribution of benefits. Gender responsive approaches are based on gender analysis to understand the norms and expectations for women and girls and men and boys in relevant contexts, to inform the design of appropriate interventions. (CBD, SBI3)
Genetic diversity	Is variation at the DNA level, including differences among individuals within populations of species and differences among populations of each species.
Genetic material	Any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity. (Convention, Article 2)
Genetic resources	Means genetic material of actual or potential value. (Convention, Article 2)
Global climate regulation services	The ecosystem contributions to reducing concentrations of GHG in the atmosphere through the removal (sequestration) of carbon from the atmosphere and the retention (storage) of carbon in ecosystems. These services support the regulation of the chemical composition of the atmosphere and oceans. (SEEA, 2021)
Global footprint of consumption	The area used to support the global population's consumption. The consumption Footprint (in GHa) includes the area needed to produce the materials consumed and the area needed to absorb the carbon dioxide emissions. (Adapted from GFN)
Global indicator	Indicator reported at the global level.

Green and blue spaces	Areas of vegetation, inland and coastal waters, generally in or near to urban areas including green roofs and walls, and other green infrastructure. These can have a range of positive effects on human physical and mental well-being and provide opportunities to reconnect with nature. Green and blue spaces also provide important habitats for species, improve habitat connectivity, provide ecosystem services and help mediate extreme events, if managed with such objectives in mind. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Habitat	The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. (Convention, Article 2)
Harmful or perverse incentives to biodiversity	Economic, legal and institutional incentives that emanate from policies or practices that induce unsustainable behaviour that destroys biodiversity, often as unanticipated side-effects of policies designed to attain other objectives
Headline indicator	A minimum set of high-level indicators, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be used for planning and tracking progress as set out in decision 15/6. They are nationally, regionally and globally relevant indicators validated by Parties. These indicators can also be used for communication purposes. (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5)
Healthy and resilient levels	Levels of population abundance that are not substantially depleted in comparison with historical levels and not diminished to a level that reduces their contribution to ecosystem structure and function, or at which species face the threat of extinction. "*Resilient levels*" imply that species' populations are healthy throughout their native range and that no populations have been extirpated. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Human-induced extinction	Extinctions driven by human activities, rather than "*natural*" extinctions such as those caused by, for example, volcanic eruptions, which would be extremely difficult to avoid. Human-driven extinctions include those resulting from natural phenomena, such as hurricanes, floods and fires, that are occurring at far higher intensity and frequency because of human-driven climate change (recognising that in practice it may be difficult to confirm that climate change has led to particular extinctions). (McGowan et al. 2024)
Human rights defenders	Everyone exercising their right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels, including trade unionists and some journalists. (UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, A/Res/53/144)
Human-wildlife conflict	Struggles that emerge when the presence or behaviour of wildlife poses an actual or perceived, direct and recurring threat to human interests or needs, leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife. (IUCN, 2022)

Impacts from invasive alien species	Impacts are changes to nature, nature's contributions to people and/or good quality of life. Impacts can be observed or unobserved. Generally, negative impacts become more apparent and problematic when invasive alien species are well established, widespread and present for a long time. Along with their adverse effects, some invasive alien species may have positive impacts providing benefits to some people. (IPBES, 2023)
Impact of climate change	The consequences of realized risks on natural and human systems, where risks result from the interactions of climate-related hazards (including extreme weather/climate events), exposure, and vulnerability. Impacts generally refer to effects on lives, livelihoods, health and well-being, ecosystems and species, economic, social and cultural assets, services (including ecosystem services), and infrastructure. Impacts may be referred to as consequences or outcomes and can be adverse or beneficial. (IPCC)
In situ conservation	Conservation actions implemented in the wild (usually within the distribution of the target species). (McGowan et al. 2024)
Incentives	The opportunities and constraints that influence the behaviour of individuals and organisations in a society, deriving from a wide range of societal factors, including, but not limited to, from measures taken by governments.
Inclusive	Inclusion is defined as the process of improving the terms of participation, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. (UN DESA, 2016)
Independently verified forest management certification	Forest area certified under a forest management certification scheme with published standards and is independently verified by a third-party. (FAO, 2004-2021)
Indigenous and traditional technologies	Technologies employed by the native inhabitants of a country, and which constitute an important part of its cultural heritage and should therefore be protected against exploitation by industrialized countries. (EEA)

Indigenous peoples and local communities	The Convention on Biological Diversity does not define the terms indigenous and local communities or Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples does not adopt or recommend a universal definition for Indigenous Peoples (Decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/13). Indigenous people are also known as first peoples, aboriginal peoples, native peoples, or autochthonous peoples, are ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently. The distinctive groups, usually maintaining traditions or other aspects of an early culture that is associated with a given region, are protected in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their linguistic and historical ties to a particular territory, prior to later settlement, development, and or occupation of a region. Local community is a self-identified human group that relates to a life environment in collective ways that participate to define a shared territory and culture. The members of a local community have frequent chances of direct (possibly face-to-face) encounters and possess some common history, traditions, institutions, language, values and life plans. A local community can be long-standing ("*traditional*") or relatively new, include a single or multiple ethnic identities and be permanently settled or mobile. A local community should have a form of political identity that enables it to exercise its rights and responsibilities with respect to its territory and neighbors. (Adapted from IPBES, 2019)
Inland waters	All landlocked and/or freshwater bodies, including rivers, lakes, inland seas and groundwater, this includes IUCN Global Ecosystem Typologies: rivers and streams (F1), lakes (F2), palustrine wetlands biome (TF1), artificial freshwaters (F3)
Innovation	The implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations. Innovation is an application of invention so that it improves conservation, sustainable use or monitoring of biodiversity. (UN HCR, 2017)
Institutions	Organisations, both public and private, founded and organised around a common goal.
Integrated assessment	The essential characteristics of integrated assessments are the simultaneous consideration of the multiple dimensions of environmental problems, the integration of various practices and coordinated development. (IPBES, 2016)
Integrated spatial planning	A whole-of-government process to create land and sea use plans to achieve social, economic and ecological objectives for sustainable development. (Adapted from UNDP, 2022).
Integrity	Refer to the definition of "*Ecological integrity*".
Key Biodiversity Area	Sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. (IUCN, 2016)

Known threatened species	Species that have been documented as threatened (qv) on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or on national red lists (often using the guidelines for regional and national application of the IUCN Red List categories and criteria (IUCN 2012). Although many other species are highly likely to be threatened, those for which this is not yet formally "*known*" (including large numbers of species that have not even been described to science) are excluded. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Land allocated to streets	Refers to the total area of the city/urban area that is occupied by all forms of streets. This indicator only includes streets available at the time of data collection and excludes proposed networks. (UN Habitat, 2018)
Land and sea use change	Land-use change includes the conversion of land cover (e.g. deforestation or mining), changes in the management of the ecosystem or agro-ecosystem (e.g. through the intensification of agricultural management or forest harvesting) or changes in the spatial configuration of the landscape (e.g. fragmentation of habitats). Similarly, sea-use change refers to measures and activities altering the use of marine areas, for example, coastal development, offshore aquaculture, mariculture, oil and gas exploration, and bottom trawling. (IPBES and IPBES and IPBES)
Landslide mitigation services	The ecosystem contributions, particularly the land stabilising effects of vegetation, that mitigates or prevents potential damage to human health and safety and damaging effects to buildings and infrastructure that arise from the mass movement (wasting) of soil, rock and snow. (SEEA, 2021)
Large and transnational companies and financial institutions	A large private or public firm which owns and controls productive assets and/or holds investments in two or more countries. The most commonly used criteria for company size are employment and annual revenue. The World Bank generally considers companies with over 300 employees and $15 million in annual revenue to be "*large*". However, some countries or jurisdictions use different thresholds to define "*large*". Parties may choose to rely on the World Bank criteria or nationally recognised criteria of their own. (Adapted from World Bank, 2020 and IFC)
Legal instruments	Formal written documents that represent a contractual duty or obligation and are recognized and enforceable by law.
Legislative framework	The sets of rules that structure lawmaking.
Living modified organisms	The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety defines "*living modified organism*" as any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology. (IPBES, 2022)
Mainstreaming biodiversity	Biodiversity mainstreaming is generally understood as ensuring that biodiversity, and the services it provides, are appropriately and adequately factored into policies, strategies, plans and practices that rely and have an impact on biodiversity, so that it is conserved and sustainably used. A final definition may be proposed during COP16 as part of the Long-term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming Biodiversity (see CBD/COP/DEC/15/6).

Maintain genetic diversity	The amount of genetic diversity (alleles, heterozygosity) does not decrease, and there is no loss of within-population genetic diversity or among population genetic diversity; the precise genetic composition may shift for adapting to environmental change. The Ne 500 indicator ensures maintenance of within-population genetic diversity. Some scientists have argued for a more conservative minimum Ne of 1000, though the Ne 500 recommendation remains common.
Maintenance of biodiversity and NCP	To keep the existing quantity and quality of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people.
Managed/ anthropogenic ecosystems	Are predominantly influenced by human activities where a stable natural ecological state is unobtainable and future socio-economic interventions are required to maintain a new stable state. Examples (with reference to IUCN GET) are urban green spaces and croplands, artificial waterbodies and anthropogenic marine systems. Managed/anthropogenic ecosystems are defined based on the IUCN GET Ecosystem Functional Groups. (Keith et al. 2020)
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	The greatest average amount of catch that can be harvested in the long-term from a stock under constant and current environmental conditions (e.g. habitat, water conditions, species birth, growth, or death rates of the stock), without affecting the long-term productivity of the stock. A composition and interactions, and anything that could affect stock can produce MSY if its abundance is above a certain level, usually around 50% of its unexploited abundance (but actual value can vary around that level, depending on the biological characteristics of the stock). (FAO)
Mitigate	In the context of IPBES, an intervention to reduce negative or unsustainable uses of biodiversity and ecosystems. (IPBES, 2018)
Mitigation of climate change	A human intervention to reduce the drivers of climate change and ocean acidification or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. (IPBES, 2018)
Modern biotechnology	Under the Cartagena Protocol, "*modern biotechnology*" means the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection. (Cartagena Protocol, Article 3(i)).
Monetary ecosystem services flow accounts	Describe the ecosystem services generated by the ecosystem asset in monetary terms. Aggregate indicators in monetary terms, namely Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) can be derived using relevant entries of ecosystem services in the monetary ecosystem services flow account. Metrics of monetary units are measured in terms of dollar or local currency. Indicators are measured in terms of their percentage change over an accounting period or with respect to the baseline period determined by countries. (SEEA, 2021)
Monitor	Monitoring is the repeated observation of a system in order to detect signs of change. (IPBES, 2019)

Multiple values of biodiversity	Biodiversity values include diverse considerations from ecological, genetic, economic, cultural, social, scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic perspectives. Valuation and values of biodiversity require the recognition of a wide range of worldviews and plural value dimensions of the meaning and importance of nature associated with the quality of human life seen as interdependent in terms of biophysical, sociocultural, economic, health or holistic perspectives. (for a definition of value systems see the IPBES, 2020)
National biodiversity strategy and action plan	The Convention on Biological Diversity calls on each of its Parties to prepare a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (Article 6a) that establishes specific activities and targets for achieving the objectives of the Convention. These plans mostly are implemented by a partnership of conservation organizations. Species or habitats which are the subject of NBSAPs are the governments stated priorities for action and therefore raise greater concern where they are threatened. NBSAPs do not carry legal status and listed species and habitat types are not necessarily protected (although some are covered by other legislation) (Hesselink et al., 2007).
National accounting	The implementation of complete and consistent accounting techniques for measuring the economic activity of a nation, for example following the UN System of National Accounts. (UN Stats)
National budget	Total budget (income and expenditure) of a country.
National capacity self-assessment	An official process outlined by the United Nations and the GEF secretariat to assess the existing capacity of a nation to deliver on and implement the Convention. The primary goal of an NCSA is to determine national priorities for capacity development to better address global environmental issues. The NCSA will analyse the country's capacity strengths, constraints and needs, and recommend capacity development actions to address them. The focus is on a country's capacity requirements to implement the three "*Rio Conventions*" – biodiversity (CBD), land degradation (CCD), and climate change (UNFCC) – and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). In addition, the NCSA process aims to identify cross-cutting capacity issues and foster synergies among the MEAs. (GEF, 2001; UNDP, 2005; UNDP 2010)
National indicator	Indicator reported at the level of nations.
Nationally determined contributions	Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. (UN FCCC)
Native biodiversity	A species (animal, plant or other organism) within its natural range, including shifting its range, without human involvement. (IPBES, 2023)

Native wild species	Species that occur naturally in the wild in the area under consideration. Invasive alien species and domesticated species are excluded. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Natural ecosystems	Natural ecosystems are predominantly influenced by natural ecological processes, functions drivers, and composed of native/indigenous species, relative to historic baselines or reference states (adapted from Nicholson et al. 2021).
Natural or biodiversity resources	Natural or biological assets (raw materials) occurring in nature that can be used for economic production or consumption. (EU Commission, 2023)
Nature-based solutions	Refer to actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits including on mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. (UNEA, 2022)
Nature's contributions to people (NCP)	Nature's contributions to people (a concept similar to and inclusive of ecosystem services) refers to all the contributions from biodiversity to people's well-being or quality of life. They include (a) material contributions, such as the production of food, feed, fibre, medicines and energy, (b) regulating services, such as the regulation of air and water quality, climate regulation, pollination, regulation of pests and diseases and provision of habitat, and (c) other non-material contributions, such as learning, inspiration, health, physical, psychological, spiritual well-being and experiences and supporting identities and culture, as well as maintaining options for future generations. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Non-monetary values	The value attributable to an item or a service without relation to any acceptable cash price and for which a fixed or determinable amount of currency is absent (e.g. many ecosystem services, interpersonal good-will, health, etc.). (IPBES, 2016)
Nursery population and habitat maintenance services	The ecosystem contributions necessary for sustaining populations of species that economic units ultimately use or enjoy either through the maintenance of habitats (e.g. for nurseries or migration) or the protection of natural gene pools. This service is an intermediate service and may provide input to different final ecosystem services including biomass provision and recreation-related services. The potential metric is the size of biomass stocks dependent upon nursey and habitat services.
Ocean acidification	Ongoing reduction in the pH of the ocean, caused primarily by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere, but can also be exacerbated by local processes, such as the decomposition of organic material, microbial processes involved in nitrogen cycling and acidic wastewater discharge. (GOOS)

Open public space	Any open piece of land that is undeveloped or land with no buildings (or other built structures) that is accessible to the public without charge, and provides recreational areas for residents and helps to enhance the beauty and environmental quality of neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat recognizes that different cities have different types of open public spaces, which vary in both size and typology. Based on the size of both soft and hard surfaces, open public spaces are broadly classified into six categories: national/metropolitan open spaces; regional/larger city open spaces; district/city open spaces; neighbourhood open spaces; local/pocket open spaces; and linear open spaces. Classification of open public space by typology is described by the function of the space and can include: green public areas, riparian reserves, parks and urban forests, playground, square, plazas, waterfronts, sports field, community gardens, parklets and pocket parks. (UN Habitat, 2018)
Operations	All activities carried out by large and transnational companies and financial institutions to continue running and earning money.
Other effective area-based conservation measure	A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values. (CBD/SBSTTA/22/L.2)
Outside biologically sustainable levels	When abundance falls below the MSY (maximum sustainable yield) level.
Overconsumption	The action or fact of consuming something to excess. Especially in the context of excessive use of natural resources.
Participatory process	Specific methods employed to achieve active participation by all members of a group in a decision-making process (Chatty et al. 2003).
Participatory research	Participatory research methods are a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods geared towards planning and conducting the research process with those people whose life-world and meaningful actions are under study (Bergold & Thomas, 2012). Participatory methods acknowledge the possibility, the significance, and the usefulness of involving research partners in the knowledge-production process (Bergold, 2007).
Participatory spatial planning	Spatial planning that involves stakeholders and rightsholders in all processes of decision-making and long-term effective management, taking into account traditional knowledge, ensuring that the voices of rightsholders and particularly marginalized groups are appropriately taken into account, to support healthy ecosystems, social equity and human rights.
Pathways of the introduction of alien species	The many ways in which species are moved from one location to another by human activities that give rise to an intentional or unintentional introduction. (IPBES, 2023)
Payments for ecosystem services	A voluntary transaction between ecosystem service users and service providers that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management for generating offsite services (Wunder, 2015). Ecosystem service providers and users may be individuals, companies or aggregations of actors. In some cases, a government may act on behalf of users.

Persons with disabilities	Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (UN CRPD, Article 2)
Pesticide	Pesticide means any substance, or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or regulating plant growth. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Physical ecosystem services flow accounts	The supply of final ecosystem services by ecosystem assets and the use of those services by economic units, including households, enterprises and government, in physical units. They use a supply and use table structure, the ecosystem service flow accounts record the flows of final ecosystem services supplied by ecosystem assets and used by economic units during an accounting period and also allow for the recording of intermediate services flows between ecosystem assets. (SEEA, 2021)
Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity	The objective of this plan of action is to promote, within the framework of the Convention, a just implementation of Article 10(c) at local, national, regional and international levels and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of implementation. (Convention, Article 8(j))
Policy	A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual. (IPBES, 2016)
Policy framework	Policy frameworks are general structures, often encapsulated in documents or established practices, that provide institutions a guiding architecture for policy action across one or multiple policy areas. (Lahkno, 2023)
Pollination services	The ecosystem contributions by wild pollinators to the fertilization of crops that maintains or increases the abundance and/or diversity of other species that economic units use or enjoy. This may be recorded as a final or intermediate service. (SEEA, 2021)
Population	A group of individuals of the same species living in the same area at the same time and sharing a common gene pool, with little or no immigration or emigration.
Portfolios	The range of investments held by large and transnational companies and financial institutions.
Positive incentives (for biodiversity)	Positive incentives (also referred to as incentive-based or economic instruments) are the set of fiscal and other economic incentives to incorporate biodiversity-related costs and benefits into production and consumption. They are the policy instruments that use price signals to discourage activities harmful to biodiversity (e.g. a tax on pollution) or encourage activities that benefit biodiversity (e.g. payments for ecosystem services). In contrast to more traditional command-and-control approaches (e.g. restrictions on access or use, standards, etc.), economic instruments can, in theory, meet a given environmental objective at a lower total economic cost.

Potential invasive alien species	Species that may become invasive alien species if unchecked.
Potential open public space	The identification of open public spaces across cities can be implemented through, among other sources, analysis of high to very high-resolution satellite imagery, from base-maps provided by different organizations (e.g. OpenStreetMap, Esri, etc.) or as crowd-sourced and volunteered data. While these sources provide important baseline data for indicator 11.7.1, some of the identifiable spaces may not meet the criteria of being "*accessible to the public without charge*". The term "*potential open public space*" is thus used to refer to open public spaces which are extracted from the above-mentioned sources (based on their spatial character), but which are not yet validated to confirm if they are accessible to the public without charge. (UN Habitat, 2018)
Poverty eradication strategies	Governmental plans designed and actions taken in line with the United Nations SDG Goal 1 of "*ending poverty in all its forms everywhere*". (UN SDG)
Preventing introduction and establishment of invasive alien species	Involves taking action to avoid the introduction of an invasive alien species and is often more cost effective then eradicating it once it has become established. Conducting a risk analysis prior to the introduction of an alien species as well as enhancing border controls and quarantine, early warning mechanisms, rapid response measures and management plans are the types of actions that could be taken to help prevent the establishment of alien species.
Priority invasive alien species	Invasive alien species of special importance to a locality, causing particularly large or disproportionate impacts.
Priority sites	Ecosystems and habitats which are sensitive and susceptible to biological invasions and areas where impacts of invasive alien species on native components of biodiversity, as well as on social, economic or cultural values are high. Priority sites may include island ecosystems, protected areas, priority ecosystem restoration sites, areas with endemic species, areas with intensive farming and aquaculture, and sites of particular importance for biodiversity. Priority sites may be designated internationally and/or at the national level on the basis of their conditions and circumstances. (See also CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1, para. 76)
Protected area	A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. (Dudley et al. 2008)
Public and private activities	Commercial and other activities conducted by entities that are subject to control by government units and/or non-government individuals and corporations, with control being defined as the ability to determine general corporate policy by choosing appropriate directors, if necessary. (UN Stats, 1993)

Public space	The Global Public Space toolkit defines Public Space as all places that are publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all, for free and without a profit motive, categorized into streets, open spaces and public facilities. Public space in general is defined as the meeting or gathering places that exist outside the home and workplace that are generally accessible by members of the public, and which foster resident interaction and opportunities for contact and proximity. This definition implies a higher level of community interaction and places a focus on public involvement rather than public ownership or stewardship. For the purpose of monitoring and reporting on indicator 11.7.1, public space is defined as all places of public use, accessible by all, and comprises open public space and streets. (UN Habitat, 2018)
Red List Index	The Red List Index measures change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species. It is based on genuine changes in the number of species in each category of extinction risk on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (www.iucnredlist.org) and is expressed as changes in an index ranging from 0 to 1. Similarly, there exists a Red List Index for ecosystems based on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems.
Reduce	Minimize impacts, from a previous baseline value, without eliminating them entirely. (SBTN, 2023)
Regulating and maintenance services	Those ecosystem services resulting from the ability of ecosystems to regulate biological processes and to influence climate, hydrological and biochemical cycles, and thereby maintain environmental conditions beneficial to individuals and society. (SEEA, 2021)
Regulation	Rules or directives maintained by law.
Regulatory framework	Regulatory frameworks are legal mechanisms that exist on national and international levels. They can be mandatory and coercive (national laws and regulations, contractual obligations) or voluntary (integrity pacts, codes of conduct, arms control agreements). Together they form a legal background against which conservation efforts are measured. The existence of these frameworks is a pre-requisite for fighting biodiversity loss.
Rehabilitation	Management actions that aim to reinstate a level of ecosystem functioning on degraded sites, where the goal is renewed and ongoing provision of ecosystem services rather than the biodiversity and integrity of a designated native reference ecosystem (Gann et al. 2019). Rehabilitation is a type of ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem rehabilitation is focused on restoring and improving functions within transformed ecosystems, while ecological restoration is focused on restoration to a natural state.
Report	The act of sharing information to a known entity, body, repository that can be internal or external. Reporting can also be a format that disclosure can take when made available externally. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Resilience	The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks (Walker et al. 2004). A concept initially developed and applied in ecology, which progressively gained usage in the social and environmental sciences.

Respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities	The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities must be respected and preserved with their free, prior and informed consent, including their full and effective participation in decision making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and human rights law. This may include the recognition of local spatial planning of indigenous peoples and local communities, which takes advantage of the local context, including cultural, governance and spiritual dimensions, as well as the planning and management processes being led by indigenous peoples and local communities within their respective lands and waters. (UNDRIP, 2018)
Rights of women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities	Individuals living in vulnerable situations often do not enjoy rights or access to biodiversity and resources. In many places this includes women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities. The Framework calls for measures to ensure that individuals belonging to these groups enjoys the same rights and access as others.
Rights over lands, resources and traditional knowledge	This pertains to recognizing and upholding the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as outlined in other international frameworks, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights law, including respecting their right to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories, and resources.
Risk assessments for living modified organisms	In the context of living modified organism management: the qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed in an effort to define the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the use or release of a living modified organism. (UNEP)
Risk categories of ecosystem collapse	The risk of ecosystem collapse is based on the risk categories each ecosystem is assigned through assessment under the Red List of Ecosystems framework. The risk categories include, in order of increasing risk of collapse: Least Concern; Near Threatened; Vulnerable; Endangered; Critically Endangered; and Collapsed. If there are insufficient data to assign a risk category, a criterion or ecosystem type it is considered Data Deficient, or Not Evaluated if not assessed.
Risks to business	Biodiversity-related risks to businesses are categorised as: o Ecological risks, risks i.e. related to biodiversity-related ecological impacts and dependencies, linked to biodiversity loss or ecosystems degradation. o Liability risks, where parties who have suffered biodiversity-related loss or damage seek compensation for those they hold responsible. o Risks related to achieve transformative change for biodiversity, including regulatory risks, market risks and financial risks. (See OECD for more detail)
Restoration	Refer to the definition of "*Ecological restoration*".
Safeguard genetic diversity	To protect genetic diversity e.g. with in-situ and ex-situ protective measures (e.g. seed banks and botanic gardens, well managed protected areas, translocations, etc.).

Scientific research	Systematic and creative actions taken to increase knowledge about biodiversity, ecosystems, their functions and services and nature's contributions to people, and to apply it in new areas of interest. Scientific research is the research performed by applying systematic and constructed scientific methods to obtain, analyze, and interpret data. Scientific research is the neutral, systematic, planned, and multiple-step process that uses previously discovered facts to advance knowledge that does not exist in the literature. It can be classified as observational or experimental with respect to data collection techniques, descriptive or analytical with respect to causality, and prospective, retrospective, or cross-sectional with respect to time. (Erol, 2017)
Scientifically sound	Adhering to the requirements of best available science.
Semi-natural ecosystem	An ecosystem with most of its processes and biodiversity intact, though altered by human activity in composition, balance or function relative to the natural state.
Sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses	Collection and analysis of data which is cross classified by sex, and which presents information separately for men and women, boys and girls. Sex-disaggregated data is necessary for effective gender analysis, as it is more difficult to identify real and potential inequalities in its absence. (Adapted from UN Women, 2022)
Soil erosion control services	The ecosystem contributions, particularly the stabilising effects of vegetation, that reduce the loss of soil (and sediment) and support use of the environment (e.g. agricultural activity, water supply). (SEEA, 2021)
Spatial planning	There are different definitions of spatial planning, however it is generally considered to be a method or process for analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human uses and activities in a given area, in order to achieve various social, economic and ecological objectives. It may also include integrating biodiversity considerations using spatial data during land- and sea-use planning exercises. When undertaken in terrestrial areas it is often referred to as "*land use planning*" while in marine areas it is referred to as "*marine spatial planning*". For inland water and related ecosystems, planning processes often take place at the watershed level. (Adapted from Metternicht, 2018)
Storm mitigation services	The ecosystem contributions of vegetation including linear elements, in mitigating the impacts of wind, sand and other storms (other than water related events) on local communities. (SEEA, 2021)
Strategic environmental assessment	Strategic environmental assessment is the formalized, systematic and comprehensive process of identifying and evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policies, plans or programmes to ensure that they are fully included and appropriately addressed at the earliest possible stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations. Strategic environmental assessment, by its nature, covers a wider range of activities or a wider area and often over a longer time span than the environmental impact assessment of projects. Strategic environmental assessment might be applied to an entire sector (such as a national policy on energy for example) or to a geographical area, (for example, in the context of a regional development scheme). (CBD/COP/DEC/6/7)

Streets	Defined thoroughfares that are based inside urban areas, towns, cities and neighbourhoods most commonly lined with houses or buildings used by pedestrians or vehicles in order to go from one place to another in the city, interact and to earn a livelihood. The main purpose of a street is facilitating movement and enabling public interaction. The following elements are considered as streets space: streets, avenues and boulevards; pavements; passages and galleries; bicycle paths; sidewalks; traffic islands; tramways and roundabouts. Elements excluded from street space include: plots; open space blocks; railways; paved space within parking lots; and airports and individual industries. (UN Habitat, 2018)
Supply chain	The linear sequence of processes, actors, and locations involved in the production, distribution, and sale of a commodity from start to finish. (TNFD, 2023)
Sustainable - Sustainability	A characteristic or state whereby the needs of the present and local population can be met without compromising the ability of future generations or populations in other locations to meet their needs. (IPBES, 2018)
Sustainable agriculture	The management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generation. Such development (in agriculture, forestry and fishing etc.) conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. (FAO, 1988)
Sustainable consumption	The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations. (UNEP)
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (UN SDG)
Sustainable forest management	A dynamic and evolving concept that aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations (Resolution A/RES/62/98)
Sustainable patterns of production / Sustainable consumption and production	The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations. (UNEP)
Sustainable use	The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. (Convention, Article 2)
Sustainably used and managed	The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. (EC, 2023)

Technical and scientific cooperation	Technical and scientific cooperation refers to a process whereby institutions in two or more countries pursue their individual or collective biodiversity-related goals through cooperative actions. This may include the creation and/or exchange of scientific knowledge, data, expertise, resources, technologies, and technical know-how. It may also include human resource development, institution building, joint training of personnel, exchange of experts, joint research programmes, joint ventures for the development and diffusion of technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), and transfer of technology and know-how.
Technology	The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes linked to the conservation, sustainable use or monitoring of biodiversity.
Technology development	Refers to the systematic process of advancing and improving existing technologies or creating entirely new ones through research, experimentation, and innovation.
Terrestrial	All lands at or above sea level, this includes IUCN typologies: tropical-subtropical lowland rainforests (T1); tropical-subtropical dry forests and scrubs (T2); shrublands & shrubby woodlands (T3); savannas and grasslands (T4); deserts and semi-deserts (T5); polar-alpine (T6); and intensive land-use systems (T7).
The three objectives of the convention	The Convention has three main objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. (UN)
Threatened species	Threatened species are those listed on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the categories Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered (i.e. species that are facing a high, very high, or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future). (IUCN, 2012)
Trade in wild species	The selling or trading (i.e. selling of dead or living wildlife and/or products derived from them) of wild species for food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific, recreational and work-related uses. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Traditional knowledge	The concept of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in the Convention has two characteristics. Firstly, the Convention defines TK as one kind of knowledge, innovations and practices which is helpful to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Secondly, the Convention limits the TK to link with indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, i.e. these TK were created and preserved by indigenous peoples and local communities and they are accumulated, developed and inherited generation by generation. (IPBES, 2022)
Traditional occupations	Occupations in which indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, innovations and technologies may influence the way the work is performed, if the work is performed by a person who identifies as belonging to an indigenous or tribal group. Indigenous knowledge refers to the constantly evolving information, skills, practices, science and technology passed from generation to generation within an indigenous or tribal group. The work performed in traditional occupations embraces production of goods and services for own use and other forms of unpaid work including volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, as well as employment for pay or profit.

Transparently	The condition in which all disclosures are made known and available in a timely fashion to the stakeholders - particularly the end users. (UN Stats, 2012)
Triangular cooperation	Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organization(s), to implement development cooperation programmes and projects. (UNDP, 2012)
Urban and densely populated areas	Variable per country but generally refers to areas highly modified by and for humans where large numbers of people live. United Nations definitions, provided by national statistics offices, by country can be found here (UN Stats, 2005)
Urbanisation	The increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas; the process by which a large number of people becomes permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities. (IPBES, 2022)
Urgent management actions	Species-specific management actions required above and beyond efforts to mitigate threats such as loss of natural habitats, unsustainable harvest, invasive alien species, pollution, and climate change, which are the focus of in other targets in the framework. More than half of threatened species from comprehensively assessed groups on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species require such actions, including supplementary feeding, vaccinations, ex situ management, reintroduction and a range of recovery actions. (McGowan et al. 2024)
Utilization of genetic resources	Utilization of genetic resources means to conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology as defined in Article 2 of the Convention. (Nagoya Protocol, Article 2, paragraph (c)).
Value chain	The full range of interactions, resources and relationships related to a reporting entity's business model and the external environment in which it operates. A value chain encompasses the interactions, resources and relationships an entity uses and depends on to create its products or services from conception to delivery, consumption and end-of-life, including interactions, resources and relationships in the entity's operations, such as human resources; those along its supply, marketing and distribution channels, such as materials and service sourcing, and product and service sale and delivery; and the financing, geographical, geopolitical and regulatory environments in which the entity operates. (IFRS, 2023)
Vulnerable situation - Vulnerability	The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards. (CBD/WG2020/5/4)
Waste	Materials that are not prime products (that is, products produced for the market) for which the generator has no further use in terms of his/her own purposes of production, transformation or consumption, and of which he/she wants to dispose. Wastes may be generated during the extraction of raw materials, the processing of raw materials into intermediate and final products, the consumption of final products, and other human activities. (UN Stats)
Waste generation	The process of generating waste, whether through production or consumption.

Water flow regulation services	Consist of baseline flow maintenance services and Peak flow mitigation services. Water regulation services are the ecosystem contributions to the regulation of river flows and groundwater and lake water tables. They are derived from the ability of ecosystems to absorb and store water, and gradually release water during dry seasons or periods through evapotranspiration and hence secure a regular flow of water. Likewise, this ability mitigates the effects of flood and other extreme water-related events. (SEEA, 2021)
Wellbeing	A perspective on a good life that comprises access to basic resources, freedom and choice, health and physical, including psychological, well-being, good social relationships, security, equity, peace of mind and spiritual experience. Well-being is achieved when individuals and communities can act meaningfully to pursue their goals and can enjoy a good quality of life. The concept of human well-being is used in many western societies and its variants, together with living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. All these are different perspectives on a good quality of life. (IPBES, 2019)
Wild animals, plants and other biomass provisioning services	The ecosystem contributions to the growth of wild animals, plants and other biomass that are captured and harvested in uncultivated production contexts by economic units for various uses. The scope includes non-wood forest products and services related to hunting, trapping and bio-prospecting activities; but excludes wild fish and other natural aquatic biomass. (SEEA, 2021)
Wild fish and other natural aquatic biomass provisioning services	The ecosystem contributions to the growth of fish and other aquatic biomass that are captured in uncultivated production contexts by economic units for various uses, primarily food production. (SEEA, 2021)
Wild species	Populations of any species that have not been domesticated through multigenerational selection for particular traits, and which can survive independently of human intervention that may occur in any environment. This does not imply a complete absence of human management and recognizes various intermediate states between wild and domesticated. (IPBES, 2022)
Within biologically sustainable levels	Abundance is estimated (considering uncertainty) to be equal to or greater than the level that can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).
Youth	There is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group. For statistical purposes, however, the United Nations—without prejudice to any other definitions made by Member States—defines "*youth*" as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This definition, which arose in the context of preparations for the International Youth Year (1985) (see A/36/215), was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/28 of 1981. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition, as is reflected in the annual yearbooks of statistics published by the UN system on demography, education, employment and health.