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AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

First meeting
Online, 2 May 2023

Workplan for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*

I. BACKGROUND

1. By its [decision 15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. By its [decision 15/5](#), it adopted a monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The monitoring framework is composed of:

(a) *Headline indicators*. These indicators represent a minimum set of high-level indicators that capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and are to be used for planning and monitoring progress, in compliance with [decision 15/6](#). They are nationally, regionally and globally relevant indicators validated by Parties and can also be used for communication purposes;

(b) *Global-level indicators*. These indicators will be collated from “yes/no” responses to binary questions to be included in the national reporting template. They will provide a count of the number of countries that have undertaken specified activities;

(c) *Component indicators*. These indicators are optional indicators which, together with the headline indicators, will cover all components of the goals and targets of the Framework. They may be applicable at the global, regional, national and subnational levels;

(d) *Complementary indicators*. These indicators are optional indicators for a thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target. They may be applicable at the global, regional, national and subnational levels;

2. The Conference of the Parties recognized in the monitoring framework that all goals and targets of the Framework would be monitored through headline and/or binary indicators complemented by component and complimentary indicators. However, some of the headline indicators that have been identified are not yet operational, and additional efforts are required to develop them so that they can be used by Parties.

3. In order to operationalize the monitoring framework, the Conference of the Parties established in decision 15/5 an ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

* The present document has been prepared following the discussions held at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Framework. The terms of reference for the Expert Group are contained in annex II to the decision. The Group has four main tasks:

(a) To provide technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the monitoring framework, as outlined by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, and to prioritize work on the following elements leading up to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(i) Support the work to address critical gaps to improve the monitoring framework, in particular on headline indicators that do not have an existing methodology, and advise on their implementation at the national level. Attention should be paid to fill gaps under Goals B, C and D and Targets 2, 13 and 14 to 22, given the imbalance in available headline indicators and their interlinkages across goals and targets of the Framework;

(ii) Support the identification of important aspects related to disaggregation and aggregation for each headline indicator, as applicable, including any methodological improvements, as appropriate;

(iii) Identify gaps in terms of the operationalization of each headline indicator and the management of data flows, and advise on implementation at the national level;

(iv) Keep the list of binary, component and complementary indicators under review;

(v) Advise on the wording of questions to construct binary indicators to be used in national reports, building upon the table in annex II to decision 15/5;

(b) To provide guidance to Parties on the use of indicators in national planning and reporting, including by reviewing how indicators are proposed for capture in the Online Reporting Tool for national reporting;

(c) To provide guidance to Parties on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties to develop and access information tools;

(d) To provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the monitoring of the Framework.

4. In decision 15/5, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Expert Group, and subject to the availability of resources, to convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework. To respond to that request, a dedicated web page for the Group has been created. The web page will contain a forum that will allow Parties and observers to provide documents and comments on issues related to the monitoring framework. The forum will be accessible to members of the Group.

5. The Expert Group has been established until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will primarily work remotely; however, two in-person meetings are also planned. In addition, it is expected that significant work would be undertaken outside of the planned online and physical meetings of the Group, so that it may deliver on its terms of reference. The work, which will be agreed by the Group and coordinated by its Co-Chairs, with the support of the Secretariat, is expected to require approximately 15 hours per month from members of Group, not including the planned meetings.

6. Ad hoc technical expert groups are not negotiating bodies. They are aimed at providing the best available technical advice on the tasks set out in the terms of reference agreed by the Conference of the Parties. Members of such groups participate in their personal expert capacity.

7. Other experts may also be invited to participate in meetings of the Expert Group, as appropriate, to contribute their expertise and experience on specific issues by providing presentations or documentation related to the terms of reference of the Group. Invited experts are not members of the Group and are not

involved in deliberations, in the formulation of the reports of the meetings or in the preparation of advice or recommendations provided by the Group.

8. A workplan for the Expert Group is presented in section II below. The workplan will be kept under review and updated or modified as needed to reflect progress in the work of the Group. Section III contains an indicative timeline for the work of the Group, while the annex contains the list of headline indicators agreed by the Conference of the Parties with additional information on their current status. Annex II to decision 15/5 contains the terms of reference for the Group, as agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

II. WORKPLAN

9. As specified in its terms of reference, the Group will primarily work through electronic means. It is expected that the Group will convene online meetings approximately every two months to take stock of progress in its work. The online meetings are expected to last up to three hours and will be held at different times of the day, so that the same experts are not favoured or disadvantaged by their time zones. In between the online meetings, additional offline work will be required from members of the Group, such as supporting the drafting of documents, commenting on relevant documents, liaising with other relevant organizations or processes and undertaking work stemming from the terms of reference. Unless otherwise decided by the Group, its members may provide information and updates on the work of the Group to third parties. However, when doing so, they should not identify the contributions of individual members of the Group.

10. It is expected that the Expert Group will meet twice in person during the intersessional period. Each meeting will last three to four days. At the first in-person meeting, which will be held in October 2023, the Group will focus on the tasks described in paragraph 1 (a) of its terms of reference. At its second in-person meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 2024, it will finalize any outstanding issues related to those tasks, focus on the tasks described in paragraphs 1 (c) and (d) and complete its report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting. It is expected that the Group can complete the task in paragraph 1 (b) primarily online and that the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Group, will provide a training workshop on the Online Reporting Tool, including the use of indicators, during either the twenty-fifth or the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

11. A specific agenda will be prepared for each online and in-person meeting of the Expert Group, in consultation with the members, and circulated before each meeting, together with supporting documentation, as necessary. The main issues proposed for each meeting are detailed below:

(a) *First meeting (online), in May 2023.* The Expert Group selected two co-chairs among the participants from Parties to support and guide its work. It also developed and adopted a workplan on the basis of a proposal made by the Secretariat.¹ To undertake its work effectively, the Group identified from among its members individuals who would follow the development of specific indicators, in particular those that did not currently have a methodology. Those members were tasked with providing periodic updates to the Group on relevant developments with the indicators that they were following. Such reports would be provided during the second and subsequent meetings of the Group;

(b) *Second meeting (online), in July 2023.* The Expert Group will consider the formulation of binary indicators and hear updates from members on specific indicators for which methodological work is ongoing;

(c) *Third meeting (in person), in October 2023.* The Expert Group will hear reports from the members following specific indicators identified as in need of further development and, on that basis, develop a proposed way forward. The Group will also discuss the disaggregation of each indicator and discuss gaps in the monitoring framework;

¹ A draft workplan was circulated to the members after the meeting, and their comments were taken into account in the drafting of the present document.

(d) *Information-sharing session at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (in person), in October 2023.* Members of the Expert Group who will attend the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body will be invited to participate in an interactive discussion with Parties on the work of the Group. The Secretariat will also provide an update on the inclusion of indicators in the Online Reporting Tool;

(e) *Fourth meeting (online), in December 2023.* The Expert Group will take stock of its progress and of the outcomes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. On that basis, the Group will review its working methods and workplan and, if warranted, make changes to them. It will also begin consideration of the tasks described in paragraphs 1 (c) and (d) of its terms of reference on the basis of documentation prepared by the Secretariat;

(f) *Fifth meeting (online), in February 2024.* The Expert Group will conclude consideration of the tasks described in paragraphs 1 (c) and (d) of its terms of reference;

(g) *Sixth meeting (in person), in April 2024.* The Expert Group will develop its final recommendations on each of the tasks set out in its terms of reference and prepare its final report.

12. As a result of other decisions adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, other processes relevant to the work of the Expert Group have been initiated. Specifically, a technical expert group on financial reporting has been established. This expert group will consider issues relevant to the indicators identified for Goal D and targets 18 and 19 of the Framework. It will be invited to provide an update of its work to the Group at a relevant meeting. In addition, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will be considering at its twelfth meeting, in November, issues relevant to the indicators identified for Target 21. The Expert Group will be invited to take into account in its deliberations any relevant information and documentation from that process. Given those two ongoing streams of work, the Group will delay its consideration of the indicators associated with the aforementioned goal and targets until those processes have made progress.

13. To facilitate discussions during meetings of the Expert Group, the Secretariat will prepare relevant background information and presentations, as appropriate. Depending on the issues under consideration, the Secretariat may call upon relevant technical experts and partners to ensure that the Group has the most up-to-date information possible. Such experts will come from the organizations referenced in decision 15/5, among others.² The Secretariat will also seek the support of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) as the data manager for the indicator metadata and secretariat of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. UNEP-WCMC will provide analyses and relevant information for consideration by the Group, as necessary. UNEP-WCMC will not participate in the formulation of the Group's recommendations, but its technical expertise may be called upon, as appropriate and relevant, to support the Group in its deliberations. The Secretariat of the Convention will also share with the Group relevant documentation prepared for other meetings that may help to inform its work.

14. A dedicated web page has been created for the Expert Group.³ Unless otherwise decided by the Group, all documents will be made publicly available. Furthermore, given the request in decision 15/5 for the Executive Secretary to convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework, in collaboration with the Group, the web page will include a link to a public discussion forum to allow all Parties and observers to post comments and questions.

15. The Expert Group will report on progress at each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held during the intersessional period. It is expected that the Group will provide a progress report in the form of a document for the Subsidiary Body on scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth meeting and

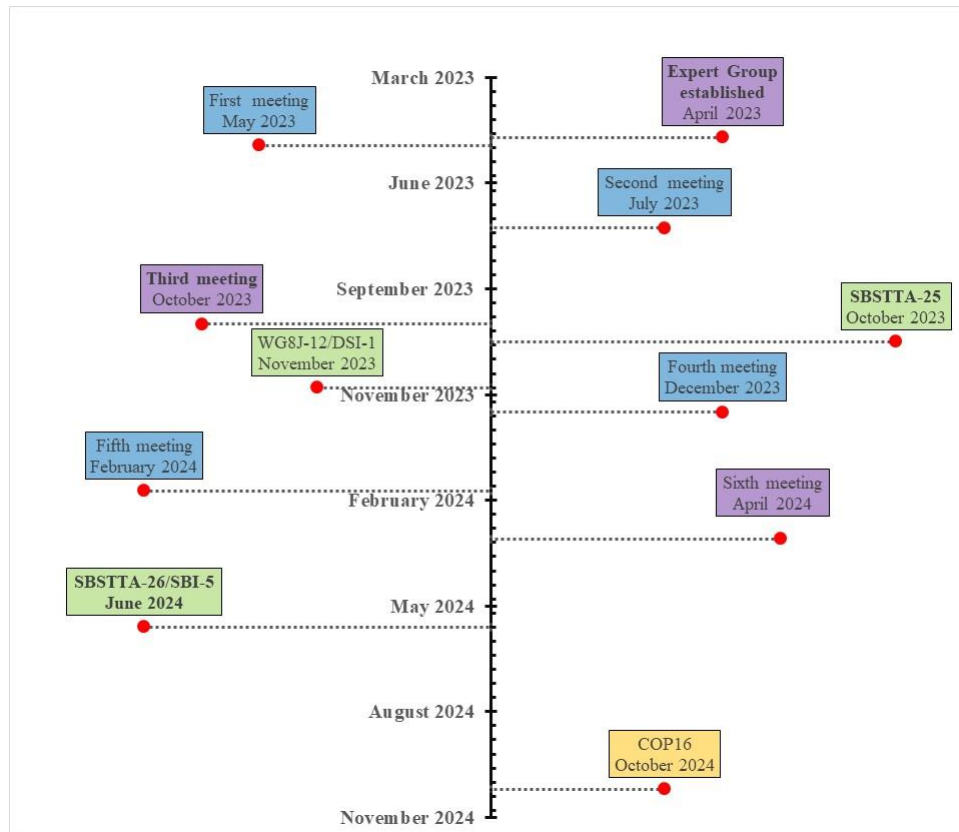
² In paragraph 7 of decision 15/5, the Conference of the Parties invited the Statistical Commission, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

³ See www.cbd.int/gbf/monitoring/ind/.

that the Co-Chairs of the Group will provide a presentation in plenary session. The Group will also provide a final report on its work with elements for a recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting, in May 2024, and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and its fifth meeting, in October 2024.

III. INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP⁴

16. The chart below shows an indicative timeline for the Expert Group.



Abbreviations: COP16, sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; DSI- 1, first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources; SBI-5, fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation; SBSTTA-25 (-26), twenty-fifth (twenty-sixth) meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; and WG8J-12, twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

⁴ The specific dates of meetings will be determined in conjunction with the members of the Group and once the dates of meetings of the subsidiary bodies have been confirmed. At the time of reporting, some of the meeting dates for the subsidiary bodies, the working groups and the Conference of the Parties were still tentative.

*Annex***STATUS OF HEADLINE INDICATORS**

The headline indicators agreed by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/5 are presented in the table below with information on their current status and, where relevant, the entities currently developing them. A number of indicators are also being developed through other intersessional processes taking place in response to requests made by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. These include indicators related to resource mobilization, traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing. The connections are indicated in the table.

<i>Headline indicators</i>	<i>Status^b</i>	<i>Indicator development within the scope of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group</i>
A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems A.3 Red List Index A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	Indicators A.1 and A.3 are under development by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Indicator A.3 is relatively advanced. Both indicators will need additional effort for roll-out at the national level. Indicator A.2 is linked to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting framework for ecosystem accounting. There is a need for the Expert Group to further define “natural” and agree on a global data product that can be used for global analysis. Indicator A.4 is under development by the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON). There is a proposed methodology; however, additional biodiversity observation data will be needed to improve the quality of this indicator over time.	Yes. The Expert Group should review methodologies and provide guidance on disaggregation.
B.1 Services provided by ecosystems ^a	Indicator B.1 is linked to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting framework. The Expert Group will need to agree on a list of ecosystem services that can be used in a global analysis and, in collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, on a global data product for this indicator.	Yes
C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received ^a C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits ^a	Indicators C.1. and C.2 do not have an agreed methodology or an agreed expert group working on them. A background study on these indicators is envisioned as a starting point. Relevant information was previously made available at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. ^c	Yes
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	Indicators D.1–3 are being assessed by the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting, with which the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may wish to share information. A background paper on indicator D3 will be produced as a starting point for the discussion by the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting.	Yes, but indicators D.1–3 will be considered by the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting first.

D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems ^a		
1.1 Percentage of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans ^a	Indicator 1.1 does not currently exist. The Expert Group may wish to make recommendations on how to move forward with this indicator.	Yes
2.2 Area under restoration ^a	Work is being conducted under the umbrella of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to develop indicator 2.2, through the Task Force on Monitoring and the Working Group on Target 2, both led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Expert Group may wish to work on this indicator with the Task Force on Monitoring within the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Decade.	Yes
3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures	Indicator 3.1 exists; however, the Expert Group may wish to consider specific disaggregation.	Yes. The Expert Group should provide guidance on disaggregation.
5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Indicator 5.1 is a Sustainable Development Goal indicator under FAO custodianship.	No. Indicator 5.1 is addressed through the Sustainable Development Goal process.
6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment	Work is being conducted by GEO-BON to develop invasive alien species indicators. The Expert Group may therefore wish to work with GEO-BON on indicator 6.1.	Yes. The Expert Group should review methodologies and provide guidance on disaggregation.
7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential 7.2 Pesticide environment concentration ^a	Indicator 7.1 is an indicator on nitrogen and phosphate exports through waterways. This is a Sustainable Development Goal indicator developed by UNEP and members of the International Nitrogen Management System initiative. Indicator 7.2 does not exist. A few possibilities for measuring risk are mentioned in the metadata. The Expert Group should consider the possible formulation of this indicator.	Yes for indicator 7.2, but indicator 7.1 is addressed through the Sustainable Development Goal process.
9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species ^a 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations ^a	In the metadata, indicator 9.1 is described as a disaggregation of indicator B.1. Indicator 9.2 is listed as an indicator falling under the scope of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. A consultation on this indicator has been initiated in that context, and a paper will be produced for the Working Group on Article 8(j) and use by the Expert Group.	Yes for indicator 9.1, but indicator 9.2 will be first considered by the Working Group on Article 8(j).
10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management	These are Sustainable Development Goal indicators under FAO custodianship, and work on them is being conducted under the process specific to those Goals.	No. Indicators 10.1 and 10.2 are addressed through the Sustainable Development Goal process.

12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all	These are Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and work on them is being conducted under the process specific to those Goals.	No. Indicator 12.1 is addressed through the Sustainable Development Goal process.
15.1 Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity ^a	Indicator 15.1 relates to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1 on corporate sustainability reporting and to the work of the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures; however, this indicator requires development.	Yes
18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed	Indicators 18.1 and 18.2 will be part of the work of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting.	Yes, but indicators 18.1 and 18.2 will be considered by the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting first.
21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for the monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	While it is not indicated in decision 15.5, indicator 21.1 does not yet exist. The metadata provide some ideas, suggested by GEO-BON, on a possible approach for measuring this indicator.	Yes

^a An agreed up-to-date methodology does not exist for this indicator. The Expert Group will work with partners to guide its development.

^b More details are provided in the indicator metadata, which are available at www.post-2020indicators.org/.

^c See document CBD/WG2020/3/INF/5.
