



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,  
Technical and Technological Advice  
Twenty-sixth meeting  
Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*  
Monitoring framework for the  
Kunming-Montreal Global  
Biodiversity Framework**

### **Guidance from the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation regarding indicators for Target 20 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Background**

1. In [decision 15/5](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, composed of headline indicators, global-level indicators, component indicators and complementary indicators. For Target 20 on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, decision 15/5 did not provide any indicators.
2. In decision 15/5, the Conference of the Parties also established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Expert Group on Indicators) to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in accordance with the terms of reference contained in Annex II to the decision.
3. An update on the work of the Expert Group on Indicators was provided to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth meeting, including a proposed way forward for the global indicators constructed from binary responses as well as related questions for Target 20 (see [CBD/SBSTTA/25/2](#), Annex).
4. In [recommendation 25/1](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Expert Group to continue working on outstanding issues and to provide advice on the wording of the list of binary questions to facilitate the discussions at its next meeting and to provide additional explanatory information on the list of binary questions, including guidance on the methodologies that will be used to compile the global indicators based on the binary responses, the thresholds for responding to the questions and a glossary of key terms.

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\* CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

5. At its third meeting, held from 3 to 6 October 2023, the Expert Group on Indicators recognized the importance of inviting experts in other groups coordinated by the Secretariat that are working on specific indicators and welcomed the input provided by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation on Target 20.

6. At its third meeting, held from 19 to 21 February 2024, the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation was updated on the work of the Expert Group on Indicators and was invited to provide feedback on the binary indicator questions, the proposed glossary of key terms, and the complementary indicators for Target 20 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in recommendation SBSTTA 25/1.

## II. Organization of the online discussions of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation

7. In response to the invitation by the Expert Group on Indicators, a dedicated online discussion forum<sup>1</sup> for Advisory Group members<sup>2</sup> was hosted on the clearing-house mechanism from 23 February to 5 March 2024.

8. Through the online discussions, members were expected to:

(a) Provide advice on the list of complementary indicators for Goal D in relation to Target 20, as contained in Table 2 of Annex I of [decision 15/5](#);

(b) Suggest any other complementary indicator(s) that could be proposed for which data is available and that can be measured at the national level;

(c) Provide suggestions on how to improve the glossary of terms and add any missing term(s) that need to be defined; and

(d) Provide recommendations on how to resolve the brackets in the wording of the binary questions 20.1 to 20.5 and the Alt text proposed for question 20.5, as contained in [recommendation 25/1](#).

## III. Outcome and synthesis of the online discussions

9. Over the course of the online discussions, 13 interventions were posted by Advisory Group members. The views received under the three discussion topics A, B and C are summarized below and were submitted for consideration by the Expert Group on Indicators at their sixth meeting, held from 12 to 15 March 2024.

### A. Complementary indicators for Goal D in relation to Target 20

10. For this topic, members were asked to provide advice on the list of complementary indicators, and to suggest any other complementary indicator(s) that could be proposed for which data is available and that can be measured at the national level. The text in **bold** below indicates suggested new text:

i. Finance mobilized for capacity-building **and development**.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator could be a sub-target under the financial indicators for Goal D and T19.

ii. Finance mobilized for promoting the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology.

iii. Number of scientists per population.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag/forums/iag?threadid=3217>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag/members>

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator would be difficult to measure as there are scientists in the private sector, in higher education, in national research centres as well as in regional centres. There are also scientists who no longer work in science. This indicator also needs a qualifier for the word “scientists”.

- iv. **Number of** joint scientific papers published (in Ocean Biodiversity Information System) by sector.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator should not be limited to scientific papers published in Ocean Biodiversity Information System.

- v. **Number of** nationally maintained research vessels.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this is a good indicator, but it is not applicable for landlocked countries. It does not inform about the operability of the vessels.

- vi. **Proportion** of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator is too restrictive. Perhaps it could be better under Goals A, B or C, but not under goal D.

- vii. Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study **related to biodiversity**.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that if official development assistance can be useful, it needs to be decomposed.

- viii. Global imports of information and communication technology goods as presented by bilateral trade flows by information and communication technology goods categories.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator is vague. It needs further explanation and clarification, including the meaning and method of evaluation. What is being monitored? Percentage share of global information and communication technology to total exports and imports?

- ix. Total amount of funding [~~for developing countries~~] to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies.

*Comment:* Some members were of the view that this indicator would be difficult to measure as it has a very broad scope. The development of technologies could also take place in developed countries. Suggests deleting the word “for developing countries”.

- x. Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries **to measure the indicators of the monitoring framework**.

- xi. Number of countries that have (a) assessed values of biodiversity in accordance with the Convention, (b) identified and reported funding needs, gaps and priorities, (c) developed national financial plans for biodiversity, (d) been provided with the necessary funding and capacity building to undertake the above activities.

11. Additional complementary indicators suggested by Advisory Group members:

- i. Number (or percentage) of civil servants working on biodiversity conservation.
- ii. Number of countries hosting a national biodiversity observation network (along the lines of the [Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network](#)).
- iii. Number of countries that have established a national network for surveying or detecting biodiversity (e.g. biodiversity observation networks).

- iv. Number of biodiversity-related international scientific research cooperation projects under bilateral or multilateral agreements.
- v. Number of countries that have catalogued their endangered species (e.g. Red List of Biodiversity)
- vi. Number (or percentage) of priority needs for capacity-building and development, as expressed in national biodiversity strategies and action plans that have been met. (Baseline = national biodiversity strategies and action plans, means of verification = 8th national reports).
- vii. Regular contribution by a country to global reference databases (such as the [World Database on Protected Areas](#), the Red List of Threatened Species, [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#)).
- viii. Level of capacity to collect and use indigenous knowledge.
- ix. Digital maturity of infrastructure used to report on biodiversity (e.g. independent processing of earth observations, governmental databases and portals). A scale could be used to rank capacities (e.g. data in-situ collection = low, remote sensing = medium, eDNA = high)
- x. Existence of an environmental economic accounting system in the country

**B. Target 20 metadata sheet – glossary of key terms**

12. For this topic, members were invited (in line with [Recommendation SBSTTA 25/1](#), paragraphs 6 and 7) to provide suggestions on how to improve the glossary of key terms provided in the metadata sheet for Target 20, and to add any missing term(s) that need to be defined. There was no feedback received on this topic.

**C. Target 20 binary questions**

13. For this topic, members were invited to review the list of binary questions (contained in the annex to [Recommendation SBSTTA 25/1](#)) and provide recommendations on how to resolve the brackets and the Alt text proposed for question 20.5. One general comment received under this topic referred to the need to have a “time dimension” to the two YES answers (yes, partially and yes, fully) to questions 20.1, 20.2, 20.4 and 20.5. For example, it would be important to specify the date/year of the national capacity-building and development action plans for biodiversity.

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