



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland, 12–15 March 2024

## **Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at its Sixth meeting\*\***

### **Background**

1. The ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by its decision 15/5, and its terms of reference are contained in annex II to the decision. The overall purpose of the Group is to provide technical advice to enable the Conference of the Parties to finalize the monitoring framework for the Framework at its sixteenth meeting.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Expert Group held its sixth meeting in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 12 to 15 March 2024.<sup>2</sup>
3. This report references materials prepared by the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Framework provided in: CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 (Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), CBD/SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1 Advice from the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the wording of the binary questions in the monitoring framework, CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 Guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 Summary of advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs related to the monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The information documents have been drafted by the Expert Group. The recommendation from the Expert Group to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including its annexes, has been fully incorporated in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2.

### **Item 1**

#### **Opening of the meeting**

4. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on 12 March 2024. David Gibbons, Acting Executive Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, welcomed the participants to the Initiative's David Attenborough Building, and the Co-Chairs of the Expert Group welcomed the group. The Secretariat made relevant announcements.

### **Item 2**

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

<sup>1</sup> See [notification No. 2023-40](#) for further information on the composition of the Expert Group and its background.

<sup>2</sup> See [www.cbd.int/conferences/indicators-ahteg/ind-ahteg-2023-01/documents](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/indicators-ahteg/ind-ahteg-2023-01/documents) for the working documents and reports of the meetings of the Expert Group.

## **Adoption of the agenda**

5. The provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Expert Group, as contained in CBD/IND/AHTEG/2024/6/1, and the organization of work, provided in CBD/IND/AHTEG/2024/6/1/Add.1, was adopted by the Expert Group.

## **Item 3**

### **Review of comments made in the online forum**

6. The Secretariat summarized the activity in the online discussion forum on the monitoring framework<sup>3</sup> explaining how it will be handled in the meeting and how it relates to typologies being used in the monitoring framework. The activity in the forum includes 34 posts related to Goal A and Targets 1 to 8, 7 posts for Goal B and Targets 9 to 12, 3 posts for Goal C and Targets 13, 14 posts for Goal D and Targets 14 to 23 and 17 posts on general or cross-cutting issues. A summary of the posts will be provided in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2.
7. The Secretariat explained that the posts in the online discussion forum are primarily related to proposing new indicators and highlighting gaps in the monitoring framework. These issues will be taken up in the further development of the metadata, gap analysis and other relevant discussions.
8. The Secretariat highlighted that the online discussion forum will remain open until the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested that the Secretariat share the results of the meetings of the Expert Group prior to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to allow countries to share their views prior to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
9. The Secretariat informed participants that it will issue a notification requesting the submission of comments as per the request by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in paragraph 8 of its recommendation 25/1. These submissions will be posted publicly on the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention.

## **Item 4**

### **Finalization of the metadata for the headline indicators**

10. The chaperones responsible for each headline indicator presented the work undertaken so far, the status of the indicator, and the ongoing and future capacity building and methodological work needed to have the indicator operational in all countries.
11. The finance indicators had not been discussed previously in meetings of the Expert Group. The Co-Chairs of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting shared the report of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting on its second meeting<sup>4</sup>. The Expert Group referred to the decision during its first and second meeting when it decided to use the list of binary indicators proposed in COP decision 15/5. The list of binary indicators was included in the presession document for the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the agenda item 3 on monitoring, and thus in consultation with the co-chairs of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting, the Expert Group decided that additional binary indicators should not be considered in its final recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
12. The Expert Group agreed on the recommended disaggregations of each headline indicator, the results of which are included in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14. The Expert Group also prepared an overview table which is presented in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 annex I.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/related/monitoring/ind/forum>

<sup>4</sup> CBD/FM/TEG/2024/1/2

13. The Expert Group discussed methodological issues, including in breakout groups, to finalize the metadata for each headline indicator. The metadata are included in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

14. Issues related to the proposed disaggregations, especially as they relate to section C of the Framework, were highlighted by Expert Group members. Monitoring of specific types of ecosystems and of issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, age, gender, children and youth, persons with disabilities and other groups were identified as crucial to being able to monitor and implement the Framework. The Expert Group agreed to further discuss these issues under relevant agenda items.

## **Item 5**

### **Finalization of the metadata and aggregation methods for the binary indicators**

15. The Co-Chairs and the Secretariat presented the status of the development of metadata for the binary indicators as well as the binary indicator aggregation methodology. The Expert Group agreed with the current approach for providing guidance on the metadata to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting. The Expert group prepared specific suggestions on the proposed wording for the binary indicators. This information will be made available for Parties in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2/Add1. .

16. The Expert Group discussed and agreed on a process for aggregating the responses to the questions comprising the binary indicators to summarize information for tracking progress at global level. The Expert Group also noted that the term “binary indicator” does not accurately reflect the non-binary nature of the questions.

17. The metadata and the aggregation methodology for the binary indicators are provided in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

## **Item 6**

### **Review of the glossary of key terms**

18. The Expert Group discussed and finalized the glossary of key terms, this is included in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14. The Expert Group agreed that the glossary is being provided for information only to support interpretation of the metadata and implementation of the monitoring framework, for Parties to use, where relevant. The Expert Group also noted that many countries may have existing definitions which they may continue to use and the glossary should not be seen as agreed text.

## **Item 7**

### **National planning and reporting**

19. The Secretariat outlined the process for developing the Online Reporting Tool, which serves as a blueprint for tabular reporting. A demonstration will be tested with Parties next month. The Online Reporting Tool, once developed, will be tested again on a duplicated system prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with testing open to all.

20. The Expert Group agreed on disaggregations that will also be included in the national reporting template. These are listed in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 annex I and more detail is in the metadata in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

21. The Secretariat will use the elaboration of the disaggregations to further develop the Online Reporting Tool for the submission of national reports.

## **Item 8**

### **Overarching issues with the implementation of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the consideration of section C of the Framework in that implementation.**

22. The Expert Workshop on Traditional Knowledge Indicators<sup>5</sup> held from 8 to 10 March 2024 in Cambridge was attended by six members of the Expert Group, including both co-chairs. Two of the experts who attended this meeting provided an update on the findings from the meeting. The meeting directly contributes to the request from the Working Group on 8(j) to work on the four traditional knowledge indicators. The methodology for headline indicator 9.2: Percentage of the population in traditional occupations was discussed in detail by the experts involved in the Expert Workshop on Traditional Knowledge Indicators as it is one of the four traditional knowledge indicators.

23. The work on the Indigenous Navigator, which measures a variety of indicators related to indigenous peoples, including indicators related to land tenure and use, participation, languages and employment was also presented.

24. A presentation was also made on the consideration of section C of the Framework in the implementation of the monitoring framework. The Expert Group agreed that the recommendations on section C should include three issues: (1) relevant indicators and disaggregations in the monitoring framework ; (2) strengthening monitoring processes (including through citizen science and community-based monitoring) and (3) strengthening engagement in developing monitoring systems including through ensuring adequate means of implementation (resources, tools, capacity building, among others). The Expert Group agreed that the traditional knowledge indicators are examples of indicators that contribute to the monitoring of section C of the Framework.

25. The Expert Group discussed technical issues related to disaggregations in the monitoring framework relating to local communities, as the data availability related to disaggregations for indigenous peoples is currently more developed than that for local communities. The Expert Group also discussed how the intersection between gender and indigenous peoples and local communities can be monitored. The Expert Group noted that there are gaps in the ability to monitor outcomes related to Target 22 and highlighted the need for component indicators to fill this gap.

26. The Expert Group also noted the technical and scientific review of traditional knowledge indicators assessment that the indicator on land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities fulfils the criteria of headline indicators.

27. The Expert Group discussed and agreed to include a proposal in the section C guidance on disaggregating by land use and land tenure change across the monitoring framework as an optional disaggregation for the spatially derived indicators.

28. The Expert Group produced guidance for Parties on how to take into account section C of the Framework when implementing the monitoring framework, which is included in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 annex II. The Expert Group also agreed on gaps in terms of the consideration of section C which are presented in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

## Item 9

### **Approach for the monitoring of ecosystems across the framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

29. A presentation was made on the opportunities and challenges for monitoring at the ecosystem scale across the Framework. It was noted that Parties took an ecosystem approach to the Framework as a whole, in section C of the Framework and included goals and targets related to ecosystems in the Framework. Parties selected indicators for ecosystems, and information on ecosystems is critical for both implementing and monitoring the Framework. The Expert Group agreed that including an ecosystem approach underpins effective planning and monitoring across the Framework and that a consistent approach across indicators and across countries would be useful for global aggregation of

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<sup>5</sup> This workshop was conducted by the Secretariat in response to the request made by the ad hoc open-ended intersessional working group on Article 8(j) and related provisions at its twelfth meeting (CBD/WG8J/REC/12/4, paragraph 6a). The workshop report is available as CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11.

national information. Further, a consistent approach to ecosystems can promote a positive feedback loop in implementation and harmonize national classification. By its resolution 7.061<sup>6</sup>, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress encouraged its Council to promote and support its Members in applying the Global Ecosystem Typology to support global, regional and national efforts to assess and manage risks to ecosystems. The Global Ecosystem Typology was also adopted as an international statistical classification by the fifty-fifth Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission<sup>7</sup> and is included in the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures<sup>8</sup>. The Typology will be revised over time by IUCN including on the basis of its use through a feedback process.

30. The Expert Group discussed the Global Ecosystem Typology at level 3, relating to ecosystem functional groups. The Expert Group agreed on specific guidance for the Parties related to using the Global Ecosystem Typology, to support countries to crosswalk their existing national classification with the global typology, which is included in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

## Item 10

### Gap analysis and review of component and complementary indicators

31. The Expert Group identified the 187 elements of the goals and targets which would all need to be measured, if countries were to fully monitor the scope and breadth of the goals and targets. The identification of the elements was established by the Expert Group at its fifth meeting. The 187 elements covering the four goals and 23 targets are described in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 with a summary in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 annex III. The Expert Group conducted a survey among its members before the meeting on the coverage of different elements of each goal and target by the current indicators in the monitoring framework. The members leading this work gave a presentation.

32. The Expert Group reviewed these results and agreed on how to use them to produce a summary of coverage of each goal and target. Indicator chaperones initially used the survey results to score each headline and binary indicator and their recommended disaggregations for how well they cover each element of the relevant goals and targets, and to list component or complementary indicators that can help fill gaps. Break-out groups discussed and revised this documentation where appropriate. This work enabled the quantification of how well headline and binary indicators cover the goals and targets, the identification of which component and complementary indicators are most important alongside the headline and binary indicators, and which elements of which goals and targets represent critical gaps in terms of the ability to monitor progress towards them.

33. The Expert Group agreed that the headline and binary indicators do cover much of the scope and breadth of the goals and targets. Through using the disaggregations of the headline indicators the coverage of the goals and targets will be improved and using component and complementary indicators will further improve the coverage. This levelling of the indicators also provides countries with flexibility to implement monitoring based on national needs and priorities.

34. The Expert Group reviewed the list of component and complementary indicators to highlight indicators which can fill key gaps, suggested changes to the list of component and complementary indicators are in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 annex I. In this review the list of complementary indicators, the Expert Group noted that many indicators are not operational or do not represent an indicator that can be measured. In order to make the list a usable resource for Parties, the Expert Group removed the indicators that do not exist from the list of component and complementary indicators. The Expert Group added links to the indicators as a resource for Parties to identify where information is available relating to the specific indicators. The Expert Group also

<sup>6</sup> See WCC-2020-Res-061-EN

<sup>7</sup> See decision 55/119(d), E/2024/24-E/CN.3/2024/37

<sup>8</sup> See [Recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(2023\)](https://www.tnfd.global/recommendations-of-the-tnfd/). [www.tnfd.global/recommendations-of-the-tnfd/](https://www.tnfd.global/recommendations-of-the-tnfd/)

noted that some of component and complementary indicators in decision 15/5 are proposed disaggregations. If the proposed column on disaggregations is not maintained, then these should remain in their current position in the monitoring framework.

35. Additionally, many of the comments in the online forum relate to where knowledge gaps exist or where indicators are available to fill specific gaps. The Expert Group amended the list of complementary indicators to add known indicators. Some of these indicators were also suggested in the Report of the online discussions of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as it relates to Target 17<sup>9</sup>, the Report of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting on its second meeting<sup>10</sup>, the advice of the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation<sup>11</sup> and inputs from the Expert Workshop on Traditional Knowledge Indicators<sup>12</sup> and these were also included to fill gaps.

36. After revising the list of component and complementary indicators, the Expert Group noted that some of the removed indicators are not functional but represent a knowledge gap. Additional gaps in the monitoring framework were also highlighted in the Report of the online discussions of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as it relates to Target 17, the Report of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting on its second meeting, or the advice of the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and inputs from the Expert Workshop on Traditional Knowledge Indicators. Additionally, while considering the entire monitoring framework and the results of the survey, the Expert Group identified specific gaps. A summary of these gaps is presented in the document shared in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19.

37. The Expert Group noted that additional research is needed to fill these gaps, noting that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services may provide additional guidance in its methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people expected to be considered by its plenary in the fourth quarter of 2026<sup>13</sup>. The Expert Group agreed that a process for updating the list of complementary indicators over time will be needed to take into account new or other existing indicators, acknowledging that many entities may be involved in developing them. The Expert Group proposed that the list of complementary indicators be updated over time as noted in the advice for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting in annex I.

## Item 11

### Filling temporal and spatial data gaps and gaps in capacity

38. A presentation was made on the draft analysis of a survey on capacity needs and opportunities prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre UNEP-WCMC at the request of the Expert Group. The Expert Group provided advice on the development of the survey at its third meeting, and it was distributed to Parties<sup>14</sup>. Through the survey, UNEP-WCMC collected information on the current capacity of Parties to monitor and report on progress towards national actions and targets, using the headline indicators, and the needs for technical assistance. As only 26 responses were received, the survey will be extended, and suggestions were made on how to garner more responses. The proportion of responses across the indicators, and implications of the responses was presented.

<sup>9</sup> See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/13

<sup>10</sup> See CBD/FM/TEG/2024/1/2 and for indicator D.3 see CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/20

<sup>11</sup> See CBD/TSC/1AG/2024/1/2 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/21

<sup>12</sup> See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11

<sup>13</sup> See *Scoping report for a methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people* [https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-public-files/2023-09/scoping\\_report\\_for\\_the\\_monitoring\\_assessment.pdf](https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-public-files/2023-09/scoping_report_for_the_monitoring_assessment.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> See notification No. 2024-013

39. Preliminary results of the survey indicate that the current capacity of Parties to compile and produce headline indicators is greatest for those indicators associated with Targets 1 to 8: “reducing threats to biodiversity.” In contrast, the current capacity is low for indicators associated with Targets 9 to 13 on “meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing” and Targets 14 to 23: “tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.”

40. The headline indicators most frequently compiled by Parties were associated with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and Sustainable Development Goals. The remaining headline indicators were infrequently compiled or not compiled in a national database. Parties expressed concerns about the ability to produce the Headline indicators by the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

41. In the survey, Parties most frequently mentioned the need for training on the methodology for compiling the indicator in the national context. respondents also reported the need for assistance with data collection, analysing the indicator, and institutional coordination on data reporting.

42. In the survey, the respondents noted that the current financial resources are not sufficient to produce and compile headline indicators.

43. A presentation was made on the ways that Parties might fill temporal and spatial data gaps through building up underlying national biodiversity observation networks. Noting a gap between progress and data availability and quality, indicators and monitoring should be used in an adaptive process to better guide action. The Expert Group will produce guidance for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting on how to better develop national biodiversity observation systems taking into account existing experiences from the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network and other organizations and existing platforms. This guidance will be added to CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19. The Expert Group also discussed how a global system for biodiversity monitoring based on connecting national level information to the global level could provide a global resource.

44. The document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 will contain information on capacity needs to be added by the Expert Group prior to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

## **Item 12**

### **Review of guidance for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

45. The Secretariat will make available the agreed guidance and draft recommendations provided by the Expert Group in the report of this meeting for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting. The Expert Group considered and agreed these recommendations which are available in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2.

## **Item 13**

### **Adoption of the report**

46. The Expert Group adopted the procedural report of the meeting. In accordance with established practice, it also invited the Co-Chairs to finalize the report after the meeting, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

## **Item 14**

### **Closure of the meeting**

47. The meeting was closed at 5:15 p.m. on 15 March 2024.