



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Second meeting

Online, 11 July 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Proposed approach for the review of the metadata for the headline indicators

Considerations for binary indicators

Note by the Secretariat

Background

1. In its decision [15/5](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed that binary indicators would be included in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It defined the binary indicators as global-level indicators collated from binary “yes/no” responses in national reports. It also indicated that they were global indicators based on responses to “yes/no” questions to be included in the national reporting template and that they would provide a count of the number of countries having undertaken specified activities.¹ In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties noted that binary indicators would be further developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and made available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. Specifically, the Expert Group was requested to advise on the wording of the questions to construct each binary indicator to be used in national reports, building upon table 1 of the terms of reference of the Expert Group,² which is reproduced below, for ease of reference.

* CBD/IND/AHTEG/2023/2/1.

¹ Decision 15/5, annex I, para. 1. (b).

² Ibid., annex II.

Table 1

Global scale indicators to be considered for further development by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and collated from binary (yes/no) reporting from countries through national reports

| <i>Goal/target</i> | <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting</i> |
|--------------------|--|
| B | Number of countries with national constitution or legislation recognizing and implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment |
| 1 | Number of countries using terrestrial and marine spatial planning to identify areas of high biodiversity importance in national development planning |
| 6 | Number of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species |
| 8 | Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications that reflect biodiversity |
| 9 | Number of countries with legal instruments to regulate the use of and trade in wild species, and respecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities |
| 12 | Number of countries with urban sustainability plans referring to green and/or blue spatial management |
| 13 / C | Number of countries that have operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks which relate to Target 13 |
| 14 | Number of countries with national targets for integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts |
| 15 | Number of countries taking legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure that Target 15 is achieved |
| 16 | Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1) |
| 17 | Number of countries with capacity and measures in place related to Target 17 |
| 22 | Number of countries recognizing the legal rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental human rights defenders, women, youth and persons with disabilities with respect to their traditional territories, cultures and practices |
| 23 | Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control |

Note: Table 1 was shared with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in decision 15/5 as an indication of the types of binary indicators that might be considered. The text had not been agreed or negotiated and was shared for information only.

2. The global indicators derived from binary reporting are part of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The values for the indicators would need to be calculated on the basis of information provided in the national reports. Many of the proposed binary indicators cover areas for which a quantitative headline indicator was not included in the monitoring framework. The binary indicators will fill gaps to ensure that the monitoring framework covers all goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The headline and binary indicators are the core set of information that Parties would need to report through their

national reports. The responses would then be aggregated in global reviews of progress in implementation.

3. Calculating the binary indicators in table 1 will require information from Parties. The information will be gathered from a set of questions that Parties will answer in their national reports. Questions to construct the binary indicators therefore need to be formulated, and possible formulations are provided in table 2, for illustration.

Table 2

Possible questions for inclusion in the national reporting template to allow for calculation of the binary indicators

| <i>Goal/target</i> | <i>Questions</i> |
|--------------------|--|
| B | Does your country have a national constitution or legislation recognizing, implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment? |
| 1 | Does your country use terrestrial and marine spatial planning to identify areas of high biodiversity importance in national development planning? |
| 6 | Has your country adopted relevant national legislation adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species? |
| 8 | Do the nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications of your country reflect biodiversity? |
| 9 | Does your country have legal instruments to regulate the use of and trade in specimens of wild species that respect customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities? |
| 12 | Does your country have urban sustainability plans referring to green or blue spatial management? |
| 13 / C | Does your country have operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks that relate to Target 13? |
| 14 | Does your country have national targets or a policy related to integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts? |
| 15 | Has your country put in place legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure the achievement of Target 15? |
| 16 | Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production ^a |
| 17 | Does your country have capacity and measures in place relating to Target 17? |
| 22 | Does your country have legislation recognizing the legal rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental human rights defenders, women, young people and persons with disabilities with respect to their traditional territories, cultures and practices? |
| 23 | Does the legal framework, including customary law, of your country guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership and control? |

^a This indicator would be pulled from Sustainable Development Goals indicator 12.1.1 (see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and thus would be automatically populated in the template. Parties would not be asked to report on it but could reflect on the indicator in the narrative.

Questions for consideration by the Expert Group

4. Taking into account its terms of reference and the information above, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may wish to reflect on the following questions when developing its advice on the formulation of the binary indicators:

(a) Should the questions be truly binary (yes/no) or should they be categorical? For reference, categorical assessments were used in the sixth national report for reporting on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.³ A similar approach is also used in parts of the national implementation report formats of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, with the aim of facilitating reporting by Parties and also recognizing that, as the situation varies among Parties, binary questions are not always adequate. If such an approach were adopted, the following answer options would work for most of the proposed questions in the national reports:

- (i) National policy or legislation is in place and is fully implemented;
- (ii) National policy or legislation is in place but does not cover all elements or all elements are not fully implemented;
- (iii) National policy or legislation has been developed but not yet adopted;
- (iv) National policy or legislation has not yet been developed;
- (v) Unknown;

(b) Many of the questions as currently worded contain multiple clauses. This may make it difficult for countries to respond. Should the questions in table 2 therefore be separated into multiple questions to facilitate reporting and to collect better information for building categorical or binary indicators? For example, should the question on the binary indicator for goal B: “Does your country have a national constitution or legislation recognizing, implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment?” be presented instead as three questions, namely:

- (i) Does your country have a national constitution or legislation recognizing a right to a healthy environment?
- (ii) Does your country have a national constitution or legislation implementing a right to a healthy environment?
- (iii) Does your country have a national constitution or legislation monitoring a right to a healthy environment?

(c) Do some of the indicators require rewording, or are there specific issues in the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that have been missed? Participants are invited to make specific suggestions;

(d) All goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are covered by a headline or binary indicator, with the exception of Target 20. This is likely related to the fact that Target 20 did not exist during the initial discussion on the binary indicator held during the expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Should a binary indicator for Target 20 be included in the list? Participants who think that it should are invited to propose a specific question;

(e) The proposed binary indicator for Goal B is more related to section C of the Framework than to Goal B. Should section C, or other sections, be reviewed to ensure that they are covered with a binary indicator? Participants who think that they should are invited to propose specific questions.

³ The categories were “On track to exceed target”, “On track to achieve target”, “Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate”, “No significant change”, “Moving away from target” and “Unknown”.