



Group on Earth Observations
Biodiversity Observation Network

Statement by the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) at the Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

GEO BON supports the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and monitoring framework for all terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems through the provision of scalable indicators that are underpinned by standardized and curated observations and related technical documentation.

The GEO BON network, comprising over 1800 experts from over 120 countries, will help support Parties' access to fundamental underlying observations and indicator information, and provide guidance around the interpretation and national updating of indicators, in line with paragraph 10 in CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1.

The Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) framework can harmonize multiple sources of data, into a standardized set of biodiversity metrics mapped across different geographic scales and facets of biodiversity. Employing EBVs as an intermediate step in calculating indicators from primary data will allow a consistent basis for reporting progress against post-2020 goals and targets. While several proposed indicators already leverage the EBVs and Essential Ecosystem Services Variables (EESVs), many more of the indicators listed in the draft monitoring framework could benefit from adoption of this approach.

Biodiversity observation networks build scientific and technical capacity to allow countries to collect and interpret data needed to assess progress on targets and goals. GEO BON supports the inclusion of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities for effective biodiversity monitoring. The monitoring framework will be successful when all knowledge types and evidence are brought together for a richer understanding of biodiversity change and how it can be managed.

The global biodiversity framework requires focus on enabling conditions, particularly at the national level for effective progress towards the new targets. Parties, organizations and implementers of the framework need to be able to collect, assess and report on biodiversity change. The GEO BON network can offer technical and scientific support in the data-to-indicator workflow, for example through its indicator webinar series organized in partnership with the CBD. GEO BON offers further support in capacity sharing across its distributed expert network and advising further on operationalizing the monitoring framework.



Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science

Department of Biology | McGill University

1205 Doctor Penfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1B1, Canada

Tel: 514.398.8719

www.geobon.org

Fax: 514.398.5069

info@geobon.org