

**INPUT TO AHTEG:
INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

PJ Stephenson
WWF International
Avenue du Mont Blanc, 1196 Gland, Switzerland
pjstephenson@wwfint.org

I am grateful for being invited to join the AHTEG and apologize again for not being able to attend on the revised meeting dates. On behalf of WWF I would like to submit the following feedback on the background materials for the meeting 14-17 September 2015.

Key Messages:

- Minimize the indicator set so as to minimize the reporting burden on Parties and allow more investment in the use of existing indicators.
- Focus on using those indicators that can be disaggregated at multiple levels, especially the Living Planet Index (which has potential to track ten targets) and the Red List Index (potentially nine targets), and also habitat cover/extent, protected area coverage and PA management effectiveness.
- Once the indicators are agreed, move swiftly to ensuring their active use through mobilizing resources for national and regional capacity building to facilitate data collection and the harmonization of methods. We also advocate effort to share data, use data in decision-making at all levels and build strong partnerships for collaboration.
- As follow up to the AHTEG meeting, WWF stands ready to help finalize indicators and provide advice and support to the CBD Secretariat, CBD Parties and their partners in enhancing monitoring and NBSAP delivery.

General Feedback

We agree with the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/ID/AHTEG/2015/1/2 21 July 2015) that *“given the complexity of biodiversity and the breadth of issues addressed by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 it is almost certain that we will always have to deal with gaps in the indicators suite or other uncertainties...”* However, WWF’s monitoring work and our use of many of the BIP indicators has shown that even incomplete indicator sets and incomplete datasets can be used to gain some measure of progress on goal delivery so we should not be disheartened.

We encourage the development of new indicators to fill key gaps in the indicator set, especially for ecosystem services and benefits to people (T14), wildlife trade (T14), food systems and agricultural landscapes (T4 and T7) and for the gaps identified for targets 2, 3 and 15. We also acknowledge the need to remain flexible and draw upon new indicators and data sources as they emerge. However, **we would encourage Parties to keep the indicator set to a minimum** and invest time, effort and resources into improving the measurement of existing indicators. We need to make existing indicators work before we add too many new ones, and even many of the well-established ones (Red List, Living Planet Index, PA coverage) have data gaps. Too many new indicators will also make it difficult for Parties that need to finalize and implement their NBSAPs and national indicators.

We therefore encourage Parties in their deliberations on indicators to make every effort to ensure that we move swiftly to establish the enabling conditions for indicator use. For example:

- **Capacity and resources.** Capacity and awareness need to be built, especially in relevant national institutions, to support NBSAP development, implementation and monitoring and to ensure conservation programmes use best practices for planning, monitoring and data collection. This can only be realized through more sustained investment and **mobilization of resources for national and regional training.** To use resources efficiently, we should prioritize where we monitor nationally and globally, focusing on populations and habitats at risk or where monitoring capacity already exists.
- **Enhance and standardize data collection and sharing.** More *in-situ* data collection is required by governments and their NGO and academic partners for the core BIP indicators and more of the data fed into global data sets where relevant. We need to work together to make every effort to standardize and share data in formats of use to NBSAP reporting.
- **Use data in decision-making.** Mechanisms need to be devised for incorporating data into decision frameworks to meet decision-makers' needs, both in government and NGO structures. Developing derived products from global and local data sets, including dashboards like those used in the GBO4 and by WWF, NatureServe and others, to enhance assimilation of information, could help support policy-making on governmental, corporate and financial levels and encourage more data collection.
- **Harness partnerships and engage civil society.** We all need to work together to help move forward and we'd encourage more NGOs to join the NBSAP Forum. We need to enhance collaboration between the earth observation community, biodiversity practitioners and decision-makers, as well as with organizations that monitor transparency.

As support for our input, **we would like to submit the attached paper as an INF document** for the meeting. This recently published article entitled "Overcoming challenges to conservation monitoring: Integrating data from in situ reporting and global data sets to measure impact and performance" (Stephenson et al. 2015) summarizes efforts made by WWF and its partners to integrate ten indicators of relevance to CBD Parties into its global monitoring system and to use global data sets and data from field programmes to determine progress against multi-level goals. We feel that many of our lessons are relevant to CBD Parties trying to use the same indicators nationally and the CBD Secretariat trying to assess progress globally.

Specific Feedback on AHTEG materials

In terms of the proposals outlined in the INF Doc 1 (UNEP/CBD/ID/AHTEG/2015/1/INF/1 18 June 2015):

We would highlight the finding that "*a number of the indicators can be disaggregated to monitor trends towards multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets, notably the Red List Index and the Living Planet Index.*"

For example, the Living Planet Index can be disaggregated to assess habitat specialists (Target 5 and T15), species in bycatch (T6), farmland and forest species (Target 7), species affected by pollution (T8), invasive species (T9), reef-dependent species and species in vulnerable ecosystems (T10), species in conserved areas (T11), threatened species (T12) and traded or pollinator species (T14). Additional indicators that have multiple uses across targets include the Red List Index, habitat cover/extent and protected area coverage and PA

management effectiveness (see Table 1). The advantage in such indicators is that, as well as being useful global indicators, they can be used by Parties in national and regional monitoring.

Key indices that need adaptation and finalization as a matter of urgency to become useful in ensuring marine and freshwater systems are well monitored include the River Connectivity Index and the Ocean Health Index.

We agree “*it is important to ensure the continued production and enhancement of the indicators brought together under the BIP*” and suggest much wider use of the core set mentioned above (RLI, LPI, habitat cover PAs and PAME). These need to be used and resourced and disaggregated to track multiple targets.

We agree “*there should be a focus on identifying indicators for Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2, 3 and 15*” but suggest keeping the set of new indicators to a minimum, focusing on those that are most easily put in place and build on existing databases (such as, in T15, the LPI of habitat specialists and the area of restoration projects in the Global Restoration Network Database).

Table 1: Key indicators that can be disaggregated by biome, species, threat or geography to measure multiple Aichi Targets at both national and global level.

Aichi Target	Multiple use BIP indicators				
	Living Planet Index	Red List Index	Protected area coverage	PA management effectiveness	Cover/extent of habitat types (incl. forest, agriculture, etc.)
4		X			
5	X	X			X
6	X	X			
7	X				X
8	X	X			
9	X	X			
10	X	X			X
11	X		X	X	
12	X	X			
13		X			
14	X	X	X	X	X
15	X		X	X	X
Total targets monitored	10	9	3	3	5

As follow up to the AHTEG meeting, WWF stands ready to help finalize indicators and provide advice and support to the CBD Secretariat, CBD Parties and their partners in enhancing monitoring and NBSAP delivery.