

# **Indicators and the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Tsukuba, Japan, 2-4 Dec 2008

## **CBD Indicators - a brief history**

Parties agreed early on (COP3 – 1996) on the need for a core set of indicators, particularly for natural reporting.

They also agreed on a two-track approach, starting to use some indicators immediately and developing others over the longer term.

Parties later agreed that indicators could be useful for tracking global trends in biodiversity.

Progress has been slow

Why?

First question:

What is biodiversity?

Second question:  
What are indicators?

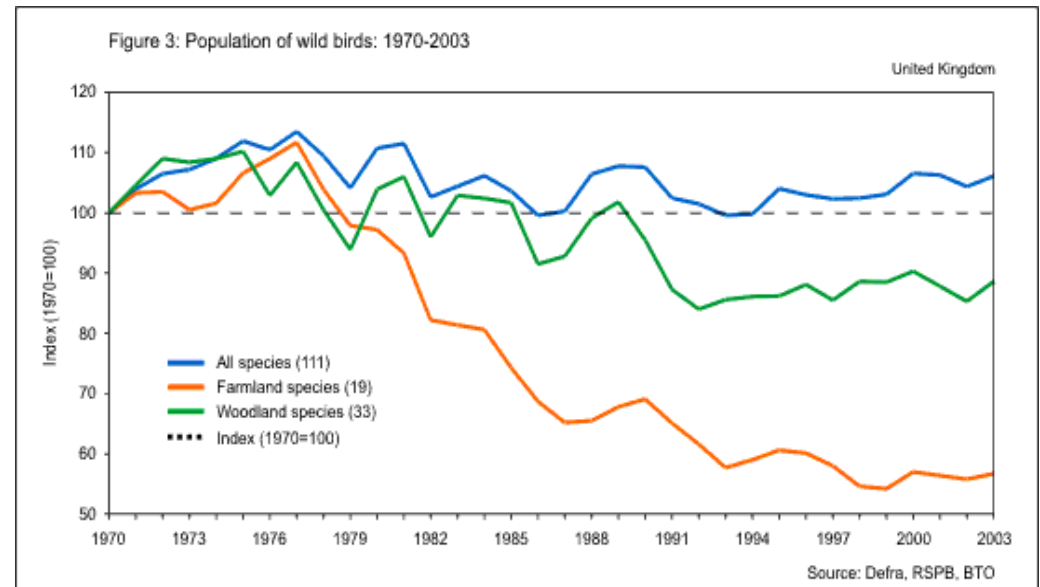
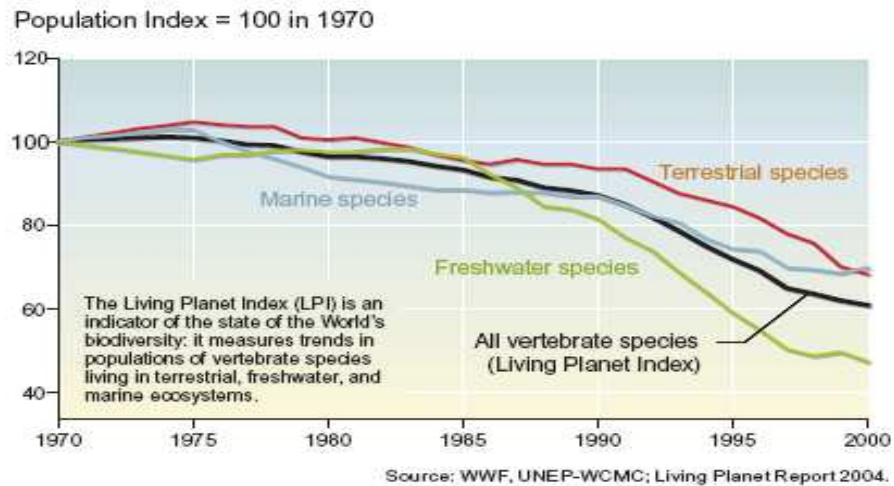
## Many answers:

- They are measures that tell you about more than just themselves
- They are ways of showing complicated or detailed information in a simple way
- Often they might help to tell you whether things are getting better or worse
- They can measure progress towards targets
- They are attempts at answering questions

Third question(s):

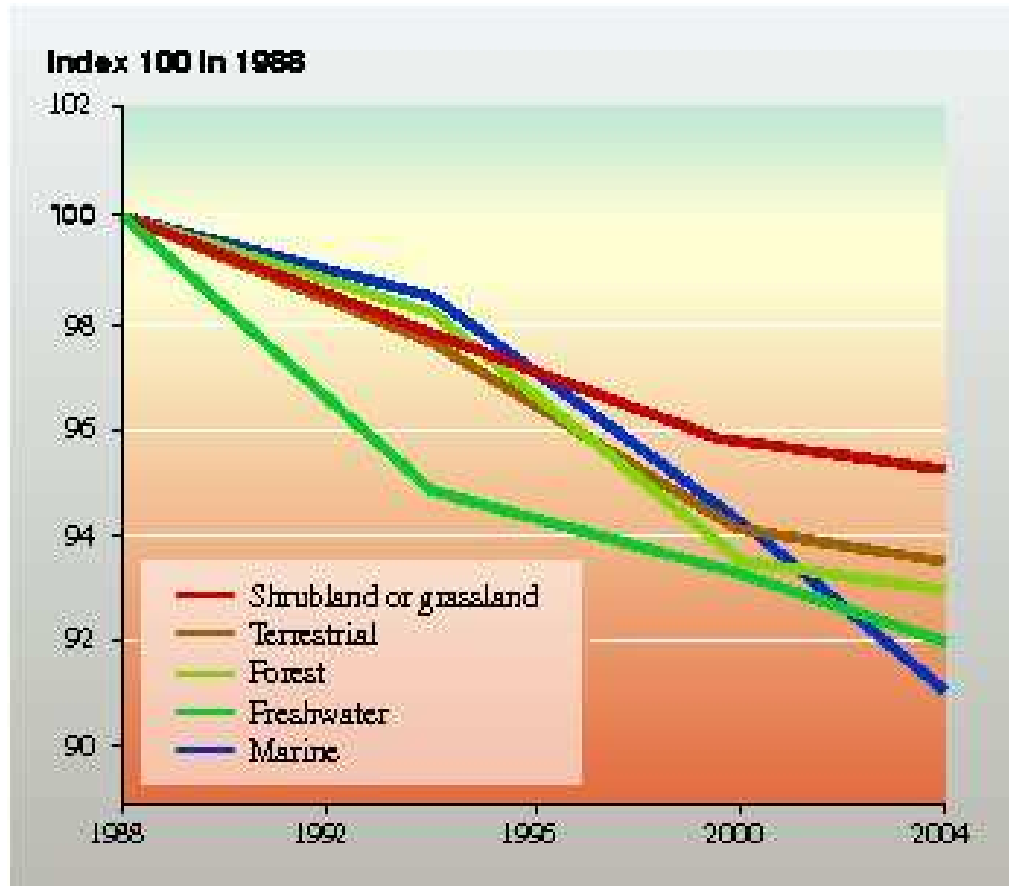
Who decides on the indicators and what exactly are they for?

# Indicators of species and populations trends

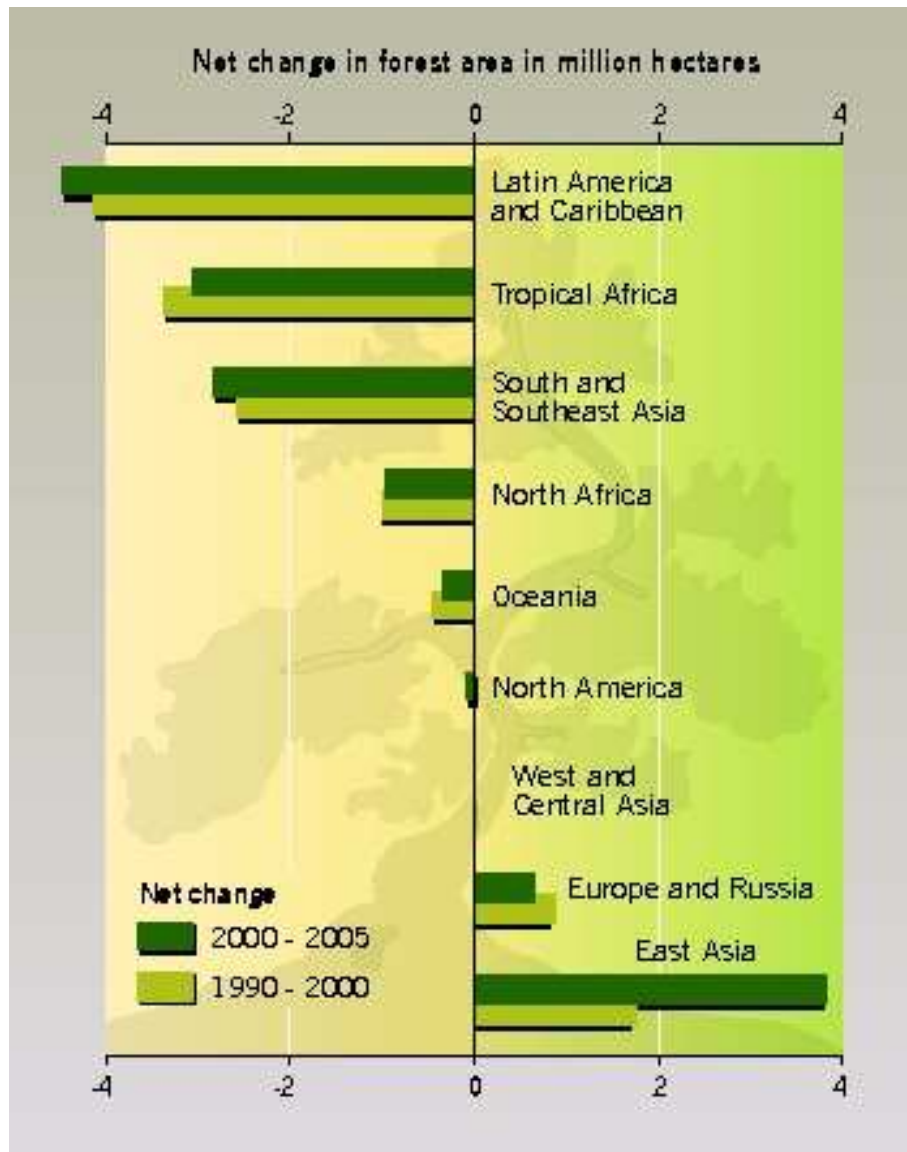




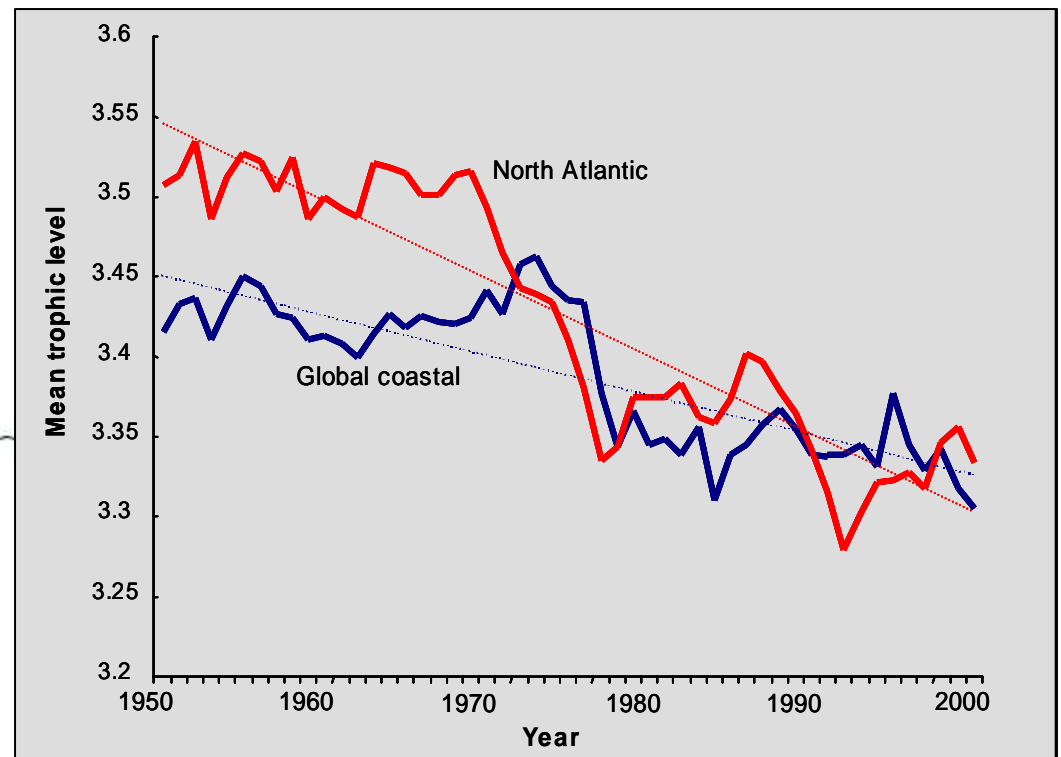
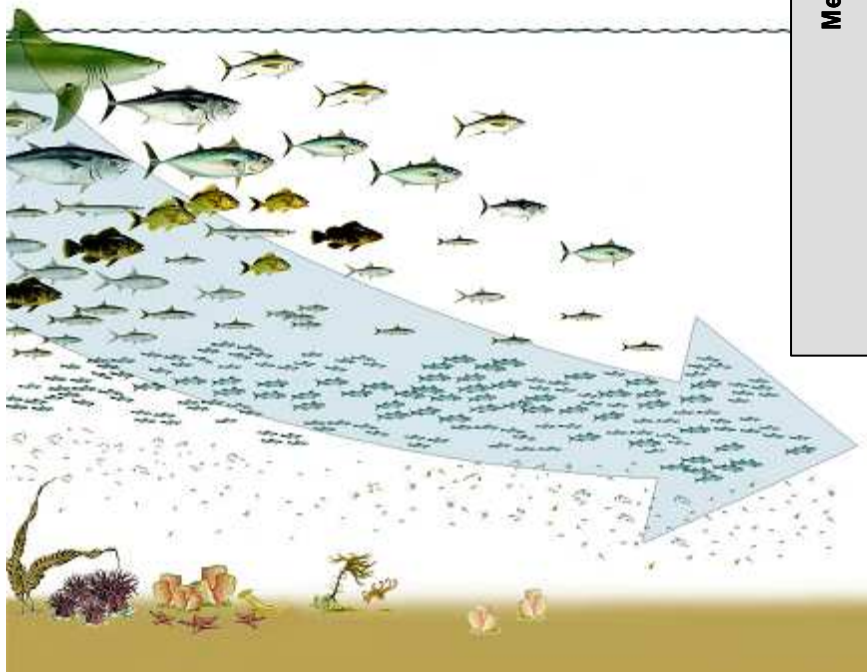
# Red List Index (Birds)







# Changes in forest cover 1990 - 2005



# Marine Trophic Index

















## They can be simple ‘Traffic Lights’:

-  improving
-  little or no overall change
-  deteriorating
-  insufficient or no comparable data

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<sup>1</sup> The earliest available year is used as the baseline for assessment of long term change. The base year used for each measure is shown in the table. Where data are unavailable, or do not precede 1996, a long term assessment is not calculated.

Focal area, indicator title and individual measure(s) (where applicable)		Long term change <sup>1</sup>	Change since 2000
Focal area 1. Status and trends of the components of biological diversity			
1a. Trends in populations of selected species (birds)	Farmland birds	 1970	
	Woodland birds	 1970	
	Seabirds	 1970	
1b. Trends in populations of selected species (butterflies)	Butterflies of the wider countryside	 1976	
	Specialist butterflies	 1976	
2. Plant diversity	Open habitats	 1990-98	
	Meadlands	 1990-98	

## **CBD 2010 Target**

“to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth”

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# CBD Indicator Framework

## Framework for targets and indicators:

- Biodiversity components
  - species, habitats, ecosystems, protected areas
- Sustainable use
- Threats to biodiversity
- Ecosystem integrity, good and services
- Traditional knowledge, innovations, practices
- Access and benefit sharing
- Resource transfers, both ODA and technology

(COP Decision VII/30 and SBSTTA Recommendation X/5)

# The 2010 “Indicators”

<b>Status and trends of the components of biodiversity</b>	Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats
	Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
	Coverage of protected areas
	Change in status of threatened species
	Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance
<b>Sustainable use</b>	Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management
	<i>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources</i>
	<i>Ecological footprint and related concepts</i>



# The 2010 “Indicators”

<b>Threats to biodiversity</b>	Nitrogen deposition
	Trends in invasive alien species
<b>Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services</b>	Marine Trophic Index
	Water quality of freshwater ecosystems
	<i>Trophic integrity of other ecosystems</i>
	Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems
	<i>Incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure</i>
	<i>Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services</i>
	<i>Biodiversity for food and medicine</i>

## The 2010 “Indicators”

<b>Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b>	Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
	<i>Other indicator of the status of indigenous and traditional knowledge</i>
<b>Status of access and benefits sharing</b>	<i>Indicator of access and benefit-sharing</i>
<b>Status of resource transfers</b>	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention
	<i>Indicator of technology transfer</i>

## **Meeting reporting obligations**

- Time is short – very short! Only 18 months until 2010 and much less until 4<sup>th</sup> national reports due, and a lot has been asked for
- Don't panic – much is achievable in this time
- Availability of data is the crucial limiting factor

# Constraints on indicator development

- Data need to be reliable but don't have to be perfect
- In the short term, indicators will have to be based on existing data sets
- 2010 only the start – long-term monitoring is crucial
- Realistically, it may be difficult to make a great deal of progress for some of the agreed headline indicators by 2010

# **Some concluding thoughts:**

What story are you trying to tell?

Understand your data: their strengths, their limitations, where they come from.

Always put your indicators in context.

Don't try to answer everything at once: one indicator will never tell you all you want to know.

Indicators should lead on to other things – they are not ends in themselves.

And finally.....

The best way to think about indicators is...



To forget about them!



***‘Working together to track global biodiversity trends’***

**THANK-YOU!**

<http://www.twentyten.net>