

**Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

**TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Draft guidance for capturing commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms contained in CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD 6**

<b>Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation</b>	
<b>Scope of this template for comments</b>	Draft guidance for capturing commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms contained in the document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6, which includes a draft of Annex B to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5. This template aims to collect feedback on that Annex.
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<b>Comments</b>	
Please include general comments on <b>capturing commitments</b> from actors other than national governments.	
The <b>Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections</b> (SPNHC) is an international society with over 500 members from 30 countries on five continents. Its mission is to improve the preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections and of the biological objects stored in them to ensure their continuing value to scientific research, education, and society ( <a href="https://spnhc.org/">https://spnhc.org/</a> ).	

SPNHC members are engaged in the long-term preservation, availability, and accessibility of natural science specimens around the world. Member institutions and organizations are supporting the development and active operation of scientific collections. SPNHC engages the collections community in collaboration, capacity building, technology transfer, training and research worldwide.

The collection management, evolutionary, taxonomic and biodiversity expertise of SPNHC researchers, specialists and member institutions contributes important components of the data basis and knowledge, as well as analogue and digital infrastructures, tools and a wide range of services to the achievement of the three goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). SPNHC members aim to contribute as non-governmental actors information-rich datasets to biodiversity monitoring associated with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Long-term digitization efforts of physical collection specimens in all world regions have established collections institutions and the collections community as important contributors of high-quality specimen-based data to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)). In addition, the collections community, including many SPNHC members, is actively engaged in developing global biodiversity information standards for global data and infrastructure harmonization, for example, as part of the non-profit organization [TDWG](#). We are building on this experience and expertise in this contribution to the public review of the “CORE REPORTING ELEMENTS FOR ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS” in the annex to CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6 on “COMMITMENTS FROM ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ENHANCED PLANNING, MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING MECHANISM”.

In the currently ongoing development of the “Digital Extended Specimen” concept as a foundation for the next-generation of digital infrastructures for biodiversity data, the need to consider ethical, legal and sensitive data protection obligations has been recognized, resulting in the development of an ethical and legal framework to be natively implemented. On this basis, we are proposing a new fourth section to the core set of reporting elements, which is focused on capturing information indispensable for data sharing, specifically in highly cooperative contexts, as represented by post-2020 GBF monitoring, characterized by a large number of contributing actors with commitments based on often large and composite datasets, involving many data providers and data users. The proposed information captured in the fourth section is providing metadata that forms an indispensable prerequisite for transforming data into Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable ([FAIR](#)) data. FAIR data support transparency, accountability and attribution, core values of the post-2020 GBF.

Moreover, the perspective and contents of the newly proposed fourth section have direct connections to assessments of the use of biodiversity and benefit sharing. The information gathered in this section will contribute data to qualification and quantification of access, use and benefit sharing statistics. It can directly flow into the calculations of indicators and their assessments required for Goal C, the associated milestones, Target 13 and proposed additional targets of the post-2020 GBF. In addition to the current initial steps, a mid-term goal should be to have this information provided in more differentiated and standardized ways and, where applicable, automatically aggregated from the individual data points within the often large, composite datasets that form the basis of the contributed commitments.

The data gathered here are specifically associated with access, use and benefits shared for the purpose of post-2020 GBF monitoring. Furthermore, they can contribute to indicators, which report on access, use and benefit sharing in general, e.g. biodiversity resources shared with scientists, collection institutions, or businesses, and in the future might form an important part of the data for the corresponding indicators.

Please use the table below to provide any specific comments on the template:

Section	Comment
<b>1</b>	<b>Please provide comments on section 1 on general information on the actor.</b>
1.	The organization identified here performs several roles in relationship to the commitment and the dataset itself. It combines the roles of responsible agent (a person or organization) for the commitment, owner or steward of the data resource, data contributor, provider and/or manager, as well as analyst and/or author of the commitment report. With the intention to keep this core set of information concise, these roles might not be distinguished, or might be identified by multiple choice checkboxes. A more comprehensive information set should allow input to all these roles as applicable.
3.	The focal point in this core set of information acts both as contact point for the commitment, that is the final report as contribution to progress tracking as part of post-2020 GBF monitoring, as well as contact point for the original dataset itself. The dataset-specific contact point can provide detail information about the data resource, since they were and/or are involved e.g. in the compilation, analysis, maintenance and management of the dataset. The contact point can be a person or organization.
5.	To collect standardized input, consider specifying the information that actors should provide, e.g. if it is country information, if sub-national resolution should be included, or if actors should provide address information. The latter has the advantage that such information might be transformed into geographic coordinates, improving findability, interoperability and reusability, and thus, for example, can be used as mostly scale-independent measurements in further analyses and summaries of the contributed commitments.
6.	Consider defining a controlled vocabulary for contributors to choose from based on the four terms provided. The given terms provide general information about scale with a largely administrative focus. Alternatively, consider complementing or replacing this focus by a geographically more explicit perspective from which the administrative scope can be deduced. That is, consider providing hierarchically designed vocabularies for widely used and of interest in the post-2020 GBF context a) world regions, b) subregions and c) finer geographic entities including countries and subnational levels.
<b>2</b>	<b>Please provide comments on section 2 which includes the section on specific commitments from actors other than national governments.</b>
9.	Following the final decision on the structure of the post-2020 GBF, consider adding post-2020 goals and milestones as appropriate to the sentence, that is, changing the sentence to “To which goals, milestones, and target(s) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ...”
12.	Consider providing the listed action themes as controlled vocabulary, including an option of “other” and an associated free text field.
14.	Consider removing “Partners” here and instead to collect more clearly defined information on data contributors/providers and additional partners involved in the cleaning and generation of the dataset, its analyses and reporting (cp. authors of the report) in the context of the proposed new section 4.
<b>3</b>	<b>Please provide comments on section 3 on progress tracking.</b>
15.	Please specify if the content of this element is expected to capture information on the planned, abstract process tracking strategy, or the empirical timeline of realized sampling, assessment and reporting events.

New 4	<b>Proposed new section on “Data sharing”</b>
	Consider adding a new section 4 focused on “Data sharing” covering ethical and legal information. The metadata provided by the elements of this section transform the contributions to the post-2020 GBF monitoring into FAIR contributions, which also form the basis for the implementation of the CARE principles. The information stored in the elements of this section provide transparency, accountability and attribution. These form the foundation for the (re-)use of biodiversity-related data, including traditional knowledge, and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of the data.
4.1	<p><b>Link to contributed dataset:</b> A pointer is required to the actual dataset based on which the KPI was calculated. This pointer should be a persistent unique identifier that at the same time acts as a link to the contributed dataset.</p> <p><i>Usage:</i> This link should be directly to the dataset version used for a specific analysis. It might lead to a landing page providing more detailed information about the dataset.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Dataset contributors and authors:</b> This element enables attribution to data providers (e.g. government agencies, IPLCs, NGOs, researchers, citizen scientists, businesses), data mediators and aggregators (e.g. natural science collections, GBIF, GeoBon, NSOs) and partners who in the scientific realm typically are authors on publications, that is, scientists and analysts designing the sampling strategy, assembling and cleaning the dataset, performing analyses, assessing the results and writing reports and publications. Providing important information for data to be FAIR, this element on “Partners” is better situated in section 4 than section 2, since section 2 focuses on the contributions of analysis outcomes (i.e. the KPIs) to applied questions and not the underlying dataset.</p> <p><i>Usage:</i> It is of importance to distinguish between the roles of data contributors and dataset authors. The information of this element might also be provided in the form of a recommended citation for the dataset. However, with large datasets and complex analytical approaches, the number of contributors and partners might become too large to be adequately handled by a reference. As alternative to a full list here, a link might be provided to the landing page of the dataset, on which a full list, with roles identifying contributions, can be found. A midterm goal should be for data infrastructures to store the information on individual data providers as machine-actionable elements to allow automatic aggregation of provider lists for large datasets where applicable.</p>
4.3	<p><b>Ethical compliance:</b> An element presenting information that ethical considerations and guidelines as well as social rules were followed, for example, free prior informed consent was obtained; the <a href="#">CARE</a> principles and the e.g. the <a href="#">LocalContexts</a> rules were adhered to during sample and data collection by the data provider and/or mediator; action was and is taken to protect sensitive data associated with nature (e.g. endangered taxa) or humans (e.g. privacy concerns); and no de-anonymization occurs or is subsequently promoted during analytical steps.</p> <p><i>Usage:</i> In a first implementation step, this element might be a checkbox by which the data provider states that ethical compliance has been met. A mid-term perspective should be to allow the linking and presentation of more detailed information, and to have this information automatically aggregated from the individual data points in the dataset where applicable.</p>
4.4	<p><b>Legal compliance:</b> This element provides information that the data provider obtained all required legal documents, e.g. permits and contractual agreements. Such documents and information, linked directly to the dataset or provided upon request, ensure legal security for the data provider, as well as transparency, accountability and attribution in association with commitments to post-2020 GBF monitoring.</p> <p><i>Usage:</i> Explicit legal documents might not be required for all datasets. Thus, this element should provide a “NA – not applicable” option as entry by the data provider.</p>

	In a first implementation step, this element might be a checkbox by which the data provider assures legal compliance. A mid-term perspective should be to allow the linking and presentation of more detailed information, and to have this information automatically aggregated from the individual data points in the dataset where applicable.
4.5	<p><b>Data license:</b> A clearly stated data license communicates a data provider’s consent to the re-use of a data resource, optionally with associated rules (permissions, prohibitions and duties) for data access, use and benefit sharing. Thus, data licenses are important elements of FAIR data and can promote the re-use of data.</p> <p><i>Usage:</i> A mid-term perspective should be to have this information automatically aggregated from the individual data points in the dataset where applicable.</p>