

NOTIFICATION

Webinars on supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) and the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, are organizing a series of regional webinars to increase the understanding of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), to foster collaboration between national statistical offices, CBD Parties and experts in the biological sciences for its operationalization, and to discuss the current activities and technical aspects of implementation of the GBF monitoring framework at the global and national levels. Topics of discussion will include the development of the GBF monitoring framework and the suite of proposed indicators, and of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs), Biodiversity Observation Networks (BONs) and Biodiversity Change Indicators endorsed by GEO BON, and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) recently adopted by the 52nd Session of the UN Statistical Commission.

Three regional webinars will be held, beginning Monday, 28 June. Further information, including a programme for the webinar, is provided in the attached concept note. Information is also available on the United Nations Statistics Division website at: <https://seea.un.org/events/webinars-supporting-implementation-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>.

Please register in one of the following options according to your region and language preferences:

- Africa, Europe, North America and Caribbean (English) - 28 June, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (EST) / 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (UTC)
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_obHNBqtsQIWvABEbJ58e1w
- Asia Pacific (English) - 30 June, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Bangkok time) / 2:00 a.m. – 3:30 a.m. (UTC)
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3hXhEXIQD-Fq_KM-PdUWQ
- Latin America (Spanish) - 8 July, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST) / 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (UTC)
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vuw5cl_ERSGtIDvIHgVydQ

Thank you for your continuous support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA National Focal Points, ABS Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations



Webinars on Supporting Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Concept and Purpose:

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions are organizing a series of webinars to increase the understanding of the monitoring framework of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), to foster collaboration between national statistical offices, Parties to the CBD and experts in the biological sciences for its operationalization and to discuss the current activities and technical aspects of implementation of the GBF monitoring framework at the global and national level.

Currently, the GBF monitoring framework is being developed for adoption at the Convention of Parties of the CBD. This will be a major enhancement in the review mechanism for the Convention as compared to the Aichi Framework in which indicators were not an official component of the framework. Analysis of the failure to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has identified a number of deficiencies. However, perhaps the most significant failing has been the lack of implementation support and enabling conditions at the national scale, particularly the implementation of data-to-indicator workflows that help streamline the monitoring of the impact of conservation actions in target achievements.

Parties to the CBD have struggled, in many cases, to easily and effectively track and guide progress to national targets due to their limited access to user-friendly indicator methodologies and the reliable data needed for these indicators. The current monitoring framework proposal for the GBF addresses some of these challenges by providing guidance so that Parties can easily identify appropriate indicators (i.e. Headline, Component and Detailed Indicators) for the different targets. The information document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16 prepared by UNEP-WCMC, outlines some of the strengths, weaknesses and issues related to indicators, monitoring and reporting of progress under the monitoring framework. However, further guidance will be needed for the sustained production, delivery and use of biodiversity indicators.

The adoption of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) at the 52nd Session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021 marks an important milestone for measuring ecosystem extent, condition and services in physical and monetary terms in a consistent manner. The SEEA EA allows to make the contribution of ecosystems to the economy and well-being explicit and for this reason it represents an historic step forward for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals and moving beyond GDP in tracking global progress. The contribution of the SEEA EA and the statistical community to the post-2020 GBF and mainstreaming biodiversity in the national statistical system have been recognized both by the statistical as well as the biodiversity community. According to the Global Assessment of Environmental Economic Accounting and supporting statistics undertaken by UNSD, 34 countries are implementing the SEEA EA and the demand for support in compiling these accounts is rapidly increasing. An implementation strategy to scale up the implementation of the SEEA EA will be submitted to the Statistical Commission in March 2022.

The GEO BON network, comprising over 200 organizations and over 1,700 experts on the delivery of effective biodiversity observations, has advanced in the conceptualization and operationalization of the Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV), defined as a set of metrics capable of measuring state of species, populations, or ecosystems and used as a common basis for the calculation of indicators measuring biodiversity and ecosystem change. Furthermore, GEO BON has supported the establishment of 25 biodiversity observation networks (BONs) representing national, regional and thematic groups covering marine and terrestrial systems that coordinate biodiversity monitoring and supporting development of EBV, data use and sharing. GEO BON partners have been piloting the development of data to indicator workflows at the national scale (in SE Asia, Tropical Andes, Caribbean, Arctic and sub-Saharan Africa) that produce a repeatable and continuous approach to indicator development that integrates national data holdings with extra-national sources (e.g. remotely sensed data).

UNEP-WCMC currently hosts the Secretariat to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) - a global initiative to promote and coordinate the development and delivery of biodiversity indicators. The BIP is mandated to support the development and use of indicators to measure progress towards goals and targets under the CBD through 23 COP Decisions and 14 SBSTTA recommendations. In addition, the BIP supports the development and use of biodiversity-related indicators for other MEAs, as well supporting statistical requirements and intergovernmental processes, including IPBES and the SDGs. It also strengthens capacity at the national level for indicator development and use and reporting of NBSAPs and the SDGs. The BIP brings together over 70 organizations, who work together to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends.

Considering the development of the monitoring framework and the suite of proposed indicators, and of EBV, BONs and Biodiversity Change indicators endorsed by GEOBON, and recent adoption of the SEEA EA and their relevance to the GBF, this webinar series will bring together relevant stakeholders from the CBD Parties, scientific communities and statistical communities to advance a shared understanding and have an initial discussion on implementing the GBF Monitoring Framework.

Programme:

The webinar series consists of two parts: A high-level regional series followed by a technical series which will provide deep dive on selected indicators.

The high-level webinar series consists of three regional webinars to provide a general overview of and the relevance of SEEA EA and GEOBON to the GBF monitoring framework to the regional stakeholders. The following themes in the regional context will be delivered at the webinars.

- General overview of the current draft of the monitoring framework, process, timeline and next steps
- SEEA EA, GEOBON and UNEP-WCMC relevance for the monitoring framework of the post 2020 GBF
- Mapping Data, Accounts and Indicators to Targets: guidance on the selection and application of data and indicators for targets
- Available resources, including the landscape of organisations to provide support and advice, to assist with monitoring, reporting and review of progress towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Country examples

The high-level regional webinars will be conducted according to the official language for the region. They are scheduled for following date and time. Invited countries, organizations and experts will receive a link for online registration. Registered participants will receive the connection links for the webinars.

Region	Language	Date	Time	Registration link
Africa, Europe, North America and Caribbean	English	28 June	9:00AM-10:30AM (EST)	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_obHNBqtsQIWvABEbJ58e1w
Asia Pacific	English	30 June	9:00AM–10:30AM (GMT +7)	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3hXhEXIQOD-Fq_KM-PdUWQ
Latin America	Spanish	8 July	11:00AM-12:30PM (EST)	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vuw5cl_ERSGtIDvIHgVydQ