



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twentieth meeting  
Montreal, Canada, 25-30 April 2016  
Agenda item 11

### RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

#### **XX/13. Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, national reporting and indicators for assessing progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

*Recognizing* the importance of the scientific quality, completeness and transparency of national reporting to enable a credible global assessment of progress,

1. *Notes* that the guidelines for the preparation of the sixth national reports will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting, *welcomes* the draft resource manual for the sixth national reports, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to reflect the comments made during the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice when finalizing the resource manual;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage with the process under the United Nations Statistical Commission to develop indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and to seek to align the proposed indicators with the work of the Convention;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and partners of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to update the list of indicators contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, national reporting and indicators for assessing progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets<sup>1</sup> in the light of the comments made during the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice applying the criteria contained in recommendation XIX/4, and to make the updated list of indicators available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

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<sup>1</sup> [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/13](http://www.unep.org/cbd/sbstta/20/13).

*The Conference of the Parties***Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its fourth plenary meeting, in February 2016, to undertake a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, foreseen to be concluded by May 2019, and *re-emphasizes* the importance of this global assessment for analysing progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

2. *Also welcomes* the completion and acceptance of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the approval of the Summary for Policy Makers by the Plenary of the Platform, and *recognizes* the high relevance of this assessment for work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and, in particular, the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

3. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations, the scientific community, stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities to further develop and use scenarios and models to support decision-making and the evaluation of policies, and to contribute to the further development of scenarios and models as described by the Summary for Policymakers on models and scenarios of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of matching scenarios to the needs of particular policy or decision contexts, including for exploring post-2020 policy scenarios, and to consider improving, and more widely applying, participatory and cross-scale scenario methods in order to enhance the relevance and use of regional, sectoral and thematic scenarios for biodiversity and ecosystem services;

5. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, including funding organizations, to support efforts to develop human and technical capacity for scenario development and modelling needs and to promote open and transparent access to scenario and modelling tools, as well as the data required for their development and testing;

6. *Invites* the scientific community:

(a) To address key gaps in methods for modelling the impacts of drivers and policy interventions on biodiversity and ecosystem services that have been identified in the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(b) To develop practical and effective approaches to evaluating and communicating levels of uncertainty associated with scenarios and models, as well as tools for applying those approaches to assessments and decision-making;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to foster further enhanced collaboration between the scientific communities related to these bodies working on scenarios and models, as well as collaboration with communities working on biodiversity monitoring and data, and the policy community;

**Indicators**

8. *Recalls* decision XI/3 and paragraph 20(b) of decision XII/1;

9. *Takes note of* the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and *expresses* its thanks to the European Union and the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their financial support;

10. *Endorses* the updated list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contained in the annex to the present draft decision;<sup>2</sup>

11. *Notes* that the list of global indicators provides a framework for assessing progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the global level;

12. *Emphasizes* that the list of indicators provides a flexible framework for Parties to adapt, as appropriate, to their national priorities and circumstances, and *decides* that the list of indicators should be kept under review, enabling, inter alia, the future incorporation of other relevant indicators;

13. *Notes* that indicators may be used for a variety of purposes at the national, regional and global levels, including:

(a) Informing and supporting decision-making;

(b) Communicating with policymakers and other stakeholders, including those unfamiliar with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity;

(c) Mainstreaming the Aichi Biodiversity Targets within other international processes, including, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goals, by facilitating the integration of biodiversity in other processes through shared indicators or aggregated or disaggregated elements of indicators;

(d) Reporting by Parties;

(e) Enabling the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(f) Providing a knowledge base for developing future plans and targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements;

14. *Encourages* Parties:

(a) To use a variety of approaches, according to national circumstances, in assessing progress towards national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including quantitative indicators, expert opinion, stakeholder consultation and case studies, clearly documented in order to record uncertainty, contradictory evidence and gaps in knowledge to enable comparable assessments to be undertaken;

(b) To consider the use of a small subset of indicators from the global list that are identified as being available today, easy to communicate, and for which national data are available, including proposed indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals where relevant;

15. *Invites* biodiversity-related conventions as well as intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to make use of the list of global indicators and to contribute to the further development of the indicators, inter alia, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership;

16. *Emphasizes* the advantages of aligning the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and those of the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant processes, *notes* that shared indicators must be reviewed to determine the degree to which they are suitable for each use, and *stresses* the role of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in this regard;

17. *Notes* the report on National Indicators and Approaches to Monitor Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;<sup>3</sup>

18. *Also notes* the potential role of the existing mechanism established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for reporting on the Code of Conduct for Responsible

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<sup>2</sup> Prepared in accordance with Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommendation XX/13.

<sup>3</sup> [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/34](http://www.unep.org/cbd/sbstta/20/inf/34).

Fisheries in assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6, *welcomes* the report of the Expert Meeting on Improving Progress Reporting and Working Towards Implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6<sup>4</sup> which includes a framework of actions and indicators to accelerate, monitor and report on progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6, *invites* Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and regional fishery bodies to consider the results of this meeting, and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to further develop this framework;

19. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and, in particular, its Knowledge, Information and Data Task Force and its regional and global assessments to contribute to and make the best use of biodiversity indicators, including through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, for the regional and global assessments in order to maximize synergy, ensure relevance to policy and reduce the multiplicity of global indicators;

20. *Welcomes* the important contributions to indicator development by the members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations and processes, as well as initiatives on community-based monitoring and information systems, and *encourages* further collaboration and continued support for work on indicators, including in the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

21. *Notes* that many indicators rely on a small number of essential biodiversity variables and that further efforts are required to improve the monitoring of these variables;

22. *Invites* data holders and institutions to improve the accessibility of data and documentation, to further enhance data generation and to work in close collaboration with research, observation and indicator communities to fill gaps in data collection and provision, including through community-based monitoring efforts and citizen science;

23. *Recalls* recommendation XIX/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and *invites* those institutions that compile global indicators to promote the free and open access to underlying data and methodologies and to facilitate national disaggregation of underlying data, and methodologies, where appropriate, taking into account the voluntary guidance to improve the accessibility of biodiversity-related data and information;<sup>5</sup>

24. *Recalls* decision XI/3, in which it recognized the need to strengthen technical and institutional capacities and to mobilize adequate financial resources for the development and application of indicators and monitoring systems, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition.

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<sup>4</sup> [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/27](#).

<sup>5</sup> [Recommendation XIX/2](#), annex.