



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Connecting people and place: Sharing experiences on indicators linking cultural and biological diversity



The Nature and Culture Summit
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt • November 23, 2018

What are Indicators

Observations that help us monitor and communicate about the condition of something in order to make better decisions. Can measure:
state of something (number, area covered...)
trends (things are getting better or worse)

Examples include status of indigenous knowledge transmission, access to land/seascapes, number of fish in a population.



Improving and maintaining healthy human and ecological communities requires a clear understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and environmental connections between people and nature.





Addressing human and ecological well-being separately means interlinkages between people and nature are overlooked, often resulting in conflicting or misguided approaches and decisions.

Need to monitor, evaluate, and report on progress towards implementation of the Convention in ways that are locally relevant, recognize the interplay between the cultural and biological parts of a system, and facilitate cross-scale linkages.



Culturally relevant and community-based monitoring and reporting indicators can provide strong evidence, lead to better tracking of whether or not global biodiversity targets are being met, and enable meaningful action on the ground to address local issues and key threats.



Examples of CBD indicators

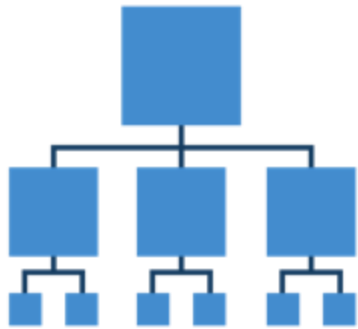
Target 18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Headline indicator(s)	Operational indicator(s)
Trends in integration of biodiversity into planning, policy formulation and implementation	Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (decision X/43)
Trends in integration of biodiversity into planning, policy formulation and implementation	Trends in the practice of traditional occupations (decision X/43)
Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application	Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and the full and effective participation in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan
Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application	Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)

(Adapted from decision XI/3 A, annex, Indicative List of Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.)

Linking local to global indicators

Global goals and indicators



Quantified, standardized entities
Compartmentalized/bounded
Vulnerability
Percent forest cover

Rights
Gender
Nature
Culture

Local goals and indicators



Quantitative and qualitative
Stories, songs
Tailored to cultural and biological context
Recognizes feedbacks
Resilience
Governance, processes, knowledge

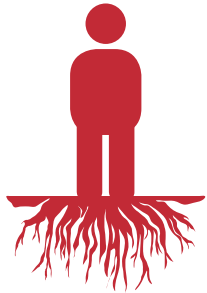
Indicators \neq Reality

What we measure and how we measure has an impact on the people and activities that are included in or excluded from a given plan for action.

Intent \neq Impact



Approaches to indicator development that link biological and cultural diversity



Begins with an understanding of locally grounded questions and institutions



Uses participatory methods to ensure indicators are relevant for local decisions



Explicitly encompasses environmental and cultural elements in a system



The Action Group on Knowledge Systems and Indicators of Wellbeing

April 21-22, 2018 • New York City • <http://amnh.org/actiongroup>

People who *should* know, including youth, recognize and use traditional names, uses of plants / animals, and follow traditional occupations

National values acknowledge and respect local traditions

Place-based knowledge and practices are incorporated in educational curriculum

Action Group Deliverables:

Nature-Culture Indicators and Knowledge Systems Resource Directory

Home Resources About



<http://resources.cbc.amnh.org/indicators>

Getting involved

- <http://resources.cbc.amnh.org/indicators>
- Share materials for the directory
 - **Contact:** Hellin Brink, hbrink@amnh.org



- **Global policy interface:** UN CBD post-2020 framework (potential elements for Article 8j on Traditional Knowledge)
- **Other products under development:**
 - Webinar series
 - Guidance documents for national-level reporting



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