



Identification, Monitoring, Indicators and Assessments

Assessing Effectiveness of Management Decisions

Addressing biodiversity loss requires in-depth knowledge about biodiversity. Thus assessments of the effectiveness of policy and management decisions – usually through adaptive management – and decision-making in accordance with national biodiversity strategies, relevant biodiversity targets and other sustainable development objectives are crucial.

Because of the complexity of biodiversity, incomplete taxonomic knowledge and high cost of biodiversity assessments and monitoring programmes, monitoring will typically rely on a small number of indicators, for which data are available.

Why it is important:

- Serve as information tools, summarizing data on complex environmental issues on the overall status and trends of biodiversity
- Can be used to assess national performance and to highlight key issues to be addressed through policy interventions and other actions
- Monitors the status and trends of biological diversity and, in turn, feeds back information on ways to continually improve the effectiveness of biodiversity management programmes
- When used to assess national or global trends, they build a bridge between the fields of policy-making and science. Policy makers set the targets and measurable objectives, scientists determine relevant variables of biodiversity, monitor its current state, and develop models to make projections of future biodiversity status.

What the CBD is doing:

The use of reliable indicators is essential to the development of measures designed to achieve the aims of the Convention. Global headline indicators for assessing progress towards the three objectives of the Convention and other key issues have been identified as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The Convention has also developed guidance to assist Parties in the design of national-level monitoring programmes and indicators.

At COP 9, Parties will consider the evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, undertaken in 2005, and the need for another integrated assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems, taking into account the future plans of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as the outcomes of the current and future processes of the Global Environment Outlook of the United Nations Environment Programme, and scientific assessments that may be undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).



For more information:

Identification and Monitoring: www.cbd.int/indicators

COP Decisions: www.cbd.int/indicators/decisions.shtml

Implementation: www.cbd.int/indicators/implementation.shtml



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