

Template for submission of scientific and technical comments on Appendix 2 of the recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for the Resumed Session of its twenty-fourth meeting

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

Review comments on Appendix 2 of the present recommendation	
Scope of this template for comments	Template for submitting comments in accordance with recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2, paragraph 2, where the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), under the guidance of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), invites Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders to submit views on Appendix 2 of the recommendation.
Contact information	
Party/Government/Observer	Observer
Party/Government/Observer representative	CSIRO (member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership)
Comments	
<p>Please provide any general comments on the Appendix 2.</p> <p>At the SBSTTA sessions in Geneva, CSIRO’s Protected Area Representativeness and Connectedness (PARC) indicator was proposed, in an intervention from Colombia, as an alternative/additional headline indicator for Target 3, but this proposal unfortunately failed to be recorded in Appendix 2 of CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2. The PARC uniquely integrates areal coverage, ecological representativeness and connectivity of PAs and OECMs within a single composite indicator, with the representativeness and connectivity components also able to be disaggregated and reported separately – as PARC-representativeness and PARC-connectedness. PARC-representativeness was listed as a component indicator in earlier drafts of the GBF Monitoring Framework up until the middle of last year – e.g. CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/ADD1 – but then disappeared entirely from subsequent drafts. It is no longer even listed as a complementary indicator, although PARC-connectedness is still included as such. The composite PARC indicator is expressed on the familiar scale of percent coverage of PAs and OECMs but with the score of any spatial unit (e.g. a country) on this scale rigorously adjusted for the effects of both ecological representativeness and connectivity on the extent to which this coverage will ensure long-term persistence of biodiversity. An up-to-date overview of the PARC’s current global implementation is provided in the “GEO BON indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” document https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/815b/9afa/941a22fc6c8760acbf3ab6a3/geobon-headline-indicators-en.pdf.</p> <p>The complete time-series of existing PARC results, extending all the way from 1970 through to 2020, is now publicly accessible through the CSIRO Data Access Portal</p>	

<https://data.csiro.au/collection/csiro:53973>. These data are provided at 30-arcsecond (<1km) grid resolution across the entire land surface of the planet. Country-level results for this same time period are also downloadable from the Environmental Performance Index website <https://epi.yale.edu/>. The PARC is amenable to derivation from better-quality, higher-resolution national and subnational datasets, and CSIRO is currently exploring potential to develop a cloud-based solution enabling countries worldwide to derive the PARC for themselves from best-available national data. The PARC also has good potential to be extended across both the freshwater and marine realms.