

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	BirdLife International
Comments	
<p>Please provide any general comments on the Appendix 2.</p> <p>On headline indicator for Target 4: “Proportion of species requiring intensive recovery actions to avoid extinction that are under active recovery management”: We are supportive of the suggestion to add a Headline indicator for Target 4 of “Proportion of species requiring intensive recovery actions to avoid extinction that are under active recovery management”. This is the only proposed Headline indicator that captures the essence of Target 4, which is about recovering populations of threatened species that would not otherwise recover solely through actions to mitigate threats or implement solutions like protected areas. This indicator would be easily generated from information in the IUCN Red List and other sources. On headline indicator for Goal A: “Living Planet Index”: We support the inclusion of the Living Planet Index (LPI) as headline indicator for Goal A as proposed in Appendix 2 (hence moving it from its listing as component indicator A.4.2 to the headline indicator level). In order to know whether ecosystem integrity is being enhanced we must monitor the essential components of ecosystem integrity: the extent of good quality habitat, species diversity and the abundance of species. The set of headline indicators currently proposed for Goal A does not include an indicator specifically for species population abundance. This is a significant gap given that species population abundance is an Essential Biodiversity Variable. As a number of Parties pointed out at SBSTTA 24.2, the Living Planet Index (LPI) can fill this gap: it is an established indicator which measures population abundance and is compiled using national data. The Species Habitat Index (SHI), which is currently proposed as a headline indicator for Goal A, is a modelled indicator that measures habitat change, but does not specifically measure abundance trends. In an information document (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16) for SBSTTA 24 (January 2021) on indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, prepared by the UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with the</p>	

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and incorporating inputs from a peer review process, the LPI was shown to be relevant for a wide range of targets and was shown as a 'high scoring indicator'. The results from a survey on headline indicators (see CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/29) conducted by the CBD Secretariat during SBSTTA 24 (May 2021), showed that 81% of Parties who responded agreed that the LPI is relevant to measure overall progress of Goal A. This scored higher than for some of the other proposed indicators. The recent technical analysis of proposed indicators (CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3) also gives the LPI a "green" assessment in relation to the criteria. Over 40 countries have data for at least 50 species (and many countries have data sets for several hundred species) already providing a solid basis for the widespread use of the LPI at national level. A predictive map is currently being developed to give an expected trend of the LPI at national level.

On Headline indicator for Target 3: "Protected Area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas": We note that editing the wording of headline indicator "3.0.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs..." to read 'Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (by Key Biodiversity Areas and Effectiveness)' would then satisfy the call by Parties for inclusion of an indicator on PA & OECMS that encompasses Key Biodiversity Areas as listed in Appendix 2 as "Protected Area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas". While this headline indicator is suggested to be disaggregated by KBAs, we believe KBAs should be explicitly named in the indicator together with effectiveness to ensure representativeness of protection as well as effectiveness is present. IUCN Standards (agreed and accepted by the global conservation community) exist for both KBAs and for identifying effectively governed, managed and planned protected and conserved areas (the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas). The Proportion of KBAs in favourable condition is an additional indicator which is currently being developed and could be used to assess whether effective management is achieving conservation outcomes that are desired under target 3. On headline indicators for the right to a healthy environment (In Goal B, Goal D, and Target 21): In order to measure the recognition of the right to a healthy environment (which should be added as a component to goal B, worded as: "B.6 recognition and implementation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment"), we support the following inclusion as a headline indicator for Goal B: 'Number of countries that recognize the right to a healthy environment through their constitutions, legislation or as parties to legally binding treaties' (as proposed in Appendix 2 of CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2, which we prefer to the similar Headline indicator proposed for Goal B in in Appendix 2 of CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2). We also support the proposed headline indicator for Target 21: "Number of countries that recognize the right to a healthy environment through their constitutions, legislation or as parties to legally binding treaties" (although this should be in addition to, not instead of, retaining this indicator to track Goal B). This is already reported by the UN special rapporteur on human rights and the environment and could easily be adopted into the framework. Currently 156 countries recognise this right in their national constitutions or legislation so this would act as the baseline and is easily reported at both national and global level. Finally, we support the proposal of language for an indicator specific to the implementation of the right to a healthy environment as currently included in the Appendix under Goal D, framed as: "Number of Parties that have processes and tools to measure the right to a healthy environment" though feel it would be better aligned to the delivery of Goal B. Each of these indicators assessed against the three questions a-c (posed by the co-leads of the WG2020-03 contact group in Geneva) would qualify as 'green'.