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**International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity  
Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator  
Development  
[ Workshop report]**

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## **International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development**

A workshop convened by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

Hosted by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with funding provided by the European Commission (EC), the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

*Innovation Centre, Reading, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

*6-8 July 2009*

## **Workshop Report**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2010, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will review the extent to which progress has been made in meeting the global biodiversity target, and will develop a new, post-2010 strategic plan and associated target(s). Progress towards the 2010 target is being tracked using a framework of indicators and the extent to which policy-makers and society will be able to assess their achievements, and identify suitable responses, is largely dependent upon the information provided by such indicators.

In July 2009, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) jointly convened a meeting to review the use and effectiveness of the 2010 biodiversity indicators and to consider the implications for the development of post-2010 targets and indicators. The meeting was hosted by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), whilst additional financial support was provided by UNEP, the European Commission (EC) and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The workshop brought together over 70 participants including government nominated experts and representatives of biodiversity-related conventions, UN agencies, academic and research institutions and other relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The meeting crafted a series of recommendations of which the following were voted the most important:

- A. A small set (10-15) of broad headline indicators, clearly linked to the main target and sub-targets and underscored by more specific sub-indicators/ measures, should be maintained/ developed, in order to communicate the indicator set through key storylines and clear, policy relevant messages, while maintaining a flexible framework to cater for national/ regional needs.
- B. The current framework of global indicators should be modified and simplified into four 'focal areas': Threats to Biodiversity; State of Biodiversity; Ecosystem services; and Policy Responses. Existing indicators should be re-aligned with the new framework, as appropriate, in order to maintain continuity and enhance their use. The relationships between the focal areas and between indicators and targets should be clearly explained and documented, including their scientific basis and assumptions.
- C. Some additional measures on threats to biodiversity, status of diversity, ecosystem extent and condition, ecosystem services and policy responses should be developed to provide a more complete and flexible set of indicators to monitor progress towards a post-2010 target and to clearly link actions and biodiversity outcomes to benefits for people.
- D. National capacity for framework application, indicator development, data collection and information management should be further developed and properly resourced in order to strengthen countries' ability to develop, monitor and communicate indicators in a participatory, sustained and integrated way and to link with other processes, such as multilateral environmental agreements, at all levels.
- E. Priority must be given to developing a communication strategy for the post-2010 targets and indicators in order to inform policy discussions and ensure effective communication of messages coming from the indicators into all sectors (including delivering stories relevant to human well-being, identifying champions, promoting a regular reporting process, etc).
- F. A flexible and inclusive process/ partnership for post-2010 indicator development should be maintained and adequately resourced in order to increase collaboration in the development, quality control, implementation and communication of indicators at all levels, including the sharing of experience and the building of capacity.

A series of additional recommendations and action points were also captured. The report of the workshop will be submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD for inclusion as an information document at SBSTTA-14, and as a contribution to other events in the process of developing a post-2010 CBD strategic plan. The workshop is expected to stimulate additional activities, including further elaboration of proposed indicator frameworks.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. In 2010, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will review the extent to which progress has been made in meeting the global biodiversity target, and to develop a new, post-2010 strategic plan and associated target/s. Progress towards the 2010 target is being tracked using a framework of indicators, and the extent to which policy-makers and society will be able to assess their achievements, and identify suitable responses, is largely dependent upon the information provided by such indicators.

2. In July 2009, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre jointly convened a meeting to review the use and effectiveness of the 2010 biodiversity indicators and to consider the implications for the development of post-2010 targets and indicators. This is the report of that meeting. The meeting was hosted by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), whilst additional financial support was provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Commission (EC) and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The workshop brought together over 70 participants including Government nominated experts and representatives of biodiversity-related conventions, UN agencies, academic and research institutions and other relevant international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is provided in annex 3.

## **THE 2010 FRAMEWORK OF TARGETS AND INDICATORS AND THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS PARTNERSHIP**

3. At its sixth meeting in 2002, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan, with the mission ‘to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth’ (decision VI/26). This 2010 target was subsequently endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, and was incorporated as a new target under the Millennium Development Goals (Target 7b).

4. Although indicators for biodiversity had been considered in the Convention since the second meeting of the COP in 1995, it was only at the seventh meeting of the COP in 2004, that global indicators were first identified. At that meeting, the COP developed a framework of goals and targets, and identified provisional indicators within a set of seven focal areas for evaluating biodiversity status and trends (decision VII/30) in order to assess progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Based on the findings of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) reviewed the use of the indicators and further developed the set of indicators (recommendation X/5). Subsequently, the COP, at its eighth meeting in 2006, further refined the 2010 indicators and allocated them to the targets under each goal (decision VIII/15) (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Provisional indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target as presented in CBD decision VIII/15 (2006). Indicators considered ready for immediate testing and use (in 2006) in green, those requiring further development in red.

<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Headline indicator</b>
Status and trends of the components of biological diversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats</li> <li>2. Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> <li>3. Coverage of protected areas</li> <li>4. Change in status of threatened species</li> <li>5. Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance</li> </ol>
Sustainable use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management</li> <li>7. Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources</li> <li>8. Ecological footprint and related concepts</li> </ol>
Threats to biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Nitrogen deposition</li> <li>10. Trends in invasive alien species</li> </ol>
Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Marine Trophic Index</li> <li>12. Water quality of freshwater ecosystems</li> <li>13. Trophic integrity of other ecosystems</li> <li>14. Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems</li> <li>15. Incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure</li> <li>16. Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services</li> <li>17. Biodiversity for food and medicine</li> </ol>
Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</li> <li>19. Other indicator of the status of indigenous and traditional knowledge</li> </ol>
Status of access and benefit-sharing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. Indicator of access and benefit-sharing</li> </ol>
Status of resource transfers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention</li> <li>22. Indicator of technology transfer</li> </ol>

5. In response to the establishment of the framework of goals, targets and indicators, the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP, [www.twentyten.net](http://www.twentyten.net)) was formed, with major support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The 2010 BIP brings together a host of international organizations working on indicator development, to provide the best available information on biodiversity trends to the global community and assess progress towards the 2010 target. The three main objectives of the 2010 BIP are:

- i) to generate information on biodiversity trends which is useful to decision-makers,
- ii) to ensure improved global biodiversity indicators are implemented and available, and
- iii) to establish links between biodiversity initiatives at the global, regional and national levels to enable capacity-building and improve the delivery of the biodiversity indicators.

6. The Partnership, supported with funding from GEF, the European Commission and UNEP, will continue to the year 2010 and beyond to provide the best available information on biodiversity trends to all its users, to promote the various ways in which the global indicators can be applied and

communicated, and to support uptake of the indicators at national and regional levels. The eighth meeting of the COP in 2006 noted ‘the progress made in establishing the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership’ (decision VIII/15).

7. Indicators have been discussed and developed in some of the other biodiversity-related conventions as well. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, at the ninth meeting of its COP in 2005, developed an initial set of eight ecological outcome-oriented indicators for assessing the effectiveness of selected aspects of the Convention’s implementation (the so-called first tranche of indicators) (resolution IX.1). The tenth meeting of the COP in 2008, through resolution X.10, requested the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to operationalise the first tranche and to develop a second tranche of indicators.

8. In Resolution 8.7, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) requested the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council to continue working towards the adoption of suitable indicators to measure the achievement of the 2010 Target. Two existing indices were selected as a basis for further work towards developing specific indicators for migratory species: the IUCN Red List Index and the Living Planet Index.

9. Through decision 14.1, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) requested the Standing Committee to develop indicators for each of the objectives contained in the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013, based upon the work of the Strategic Vision Working Group convened at COP 14 (2007). Subsequently, the Standing Committee, at its 57th meeting in 2008, adopted a set of indicators for the objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013.

## **THE EMERGING POST-2010 AGENDA**

10. The ninth meeting of the CBD COP, in 2008, recalled COP decision VIII/15, in which the COP had decided to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan, with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at its tenth meeting. The COP requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to draft a revised and updated Strategic Plan, including a revised biodiversity target, for the period 2011-2022 (decision IX/9). WGRI was requested to draw upon an examination, to be undertaken by SBSTTA, of the outcome-oriented goals and targets and associated indicators, with a view to recommending adjustments.

11. In preparation for the task for SBSTTA and WGRI, the Secretariat invited Parties and organizations to submit views on the updating and revision of the Strategic Plan. In addition, the Secretariat established an electronic forum on the same subject. The third meeting of WGRI as well as the 14th meeting of SBSTTA, which will undertake the tasks requested by COP 9, are both scheduled for May 2010. They are expected to adopt recommendations for COP 10, which is scheduled for October 2010.

12. As Parties to the CBD begin to consider revisions to the Strategic Plan, there is a question as to whether, and to what extent, the current biodiversity indicator framework should be extended or modified, or whether a completely new set of indicators will be required. This technical expert workshop has been organised to assist the CBD in answering this question. It is anticipated, therefore, that the results of this expert workshop will inform both the SBSTTA and WGRI discussions in May 2010 as well as other upcoming international dialogues on the post-2010 target.

## BACKGROUND TO, AND PREPARATION FOR, THE WORKSHOP

13. The need for the workshop was identified during a 2010 BIP meeting hosted by the CBD Secretariat in Montreal in June 2008. The CBD Secretariat suggested that UNEP-WCMC, as part of its support to GBO-3, undertake an *'analysis of the use and effectiveness of the indicators and sub indicators in the 2010 framework and recommendations for post-2010 targets and indicators'*. In discussion with the CBD Secretariat it was proposed that this would involve a review, consultation and expert stakeholder workshop on the science and use of the biodiversity indicators in the context of the 2010 target, implemented and convened by UNEP-WCMC during 2009, with a view to preparing a report for the CBD secretariat and SBSTTA 14 to support the revision of the CBD Strategic Plan.

14. Prior to the workshop, a review and consultation process was undertaken to provide background information and highlight key points for discussion at the workshop. A report of the review and consultation process was prepared by UNEP-WCMC, including discussion of i) the development of the 2010 biodiversity indicators, ii) the national use of biodiversity indicators, and iii) the views of biodiversity stakeholders regarding the 2010 indicators and the post-2010 indicator framework.

15. Three sources of evidence were used in the review:

- a. The ongoing progress reports and submissions to the CBD for the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-3) from the 2010 BIP Key Indicator Partners responsible for delivering the 2010 indicators at a global scale. This provided the most up-to-date picture of the status of development of the full suite of biodiversity indicators together with an overview of current trends revealed by the indicators.
- b. An analysis of the reporting of indicators in the CBD 3rd National Reports (3NR, 2005, 146 Parties submitted) and 4th National Reports (4NR, 2009, 45 Parties submitted as of 15 June 2009) using data publicly available on the CBD website. The CBD report analyser ([www.cbd.int/reports/analyzer.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/reports/analyzer.shtml)) was used where appropriate, together with a more in-depth reviewing and cross-referencing of the content of individual Party's reports.
- c. An online stakeholder consultation undertaken by UNEP-WCMC from 16 March to 16 May 2009. A notification to CBD Parties by the Executive Secretary drew their attention to the consultation, and an invitation to contribute was widely circulated among biodiversity stakeholders. A total of 119 responses, equally spread between governmental, academic, intergovernmental, non-governmental, and commercial

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