

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	GEO BON
Comments	
Please provide any general comments on the Appendix 2.	
<p>We strongly support the proposal from Parties at SBSTTA to include indicator 3.4.1 Species Protection Index, currently a component indicator, as headline indicator for Target 3. Target 3 is a central means to achieving Goal A of ensuring the future integrity of ecosystems through “healthy and resilient populations of all species” and “reduced extinction rates”. Although multiple actions are needed to safeguard biodiversity, establishing targets for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) is recognized as a primary mechanism to achieve Goal A and was the motivating driver behind ambitious area targets such as 30%. However, while the simplicity of a common “percent area protected” goal offers a powerful target language, limiting the measurement of success to just this metric would entirely miss the key overarching objective of Target 3. In fact, measurement of success based on “percent area protected” holds the danger of diverting attention away from ecologically relevant places toward actions with simply greatest “area” gain, irrespective of their Goal A contribution. Similarly, binary measurements of conservation progress, i.e. the qualitative metric of KBA coverage, has limited links to biodiversity outcomes and ignores incremental contributions. We thus urge the inclusion of the Species Protection Index (SPI) as a second headline indicator for Target 3. The SPI is an Essential Biodiversity Variable (EBV)-based indicator produced by GEO BON that is part of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership indicator (BIP) suite and was used as Core Indicator in the IPBES assessments. The Index assesses adequate biodiversity representation and the significance of national contributions for global biodiversity conservation. The Index shares the same science and technology principles and base information as the Species Habitat Index, a Goal A headline indicator in the draft Monitoring Framework. The measure can be readily calculated independently with national data or resourced from GEO</p>	

BON. We recommend further that the Ecological Integrity Index be included as a Headline Indicator under Goal A and Targets T1, T2, T3, and T10. There is scientific agreement that ecosystem integrity includes components of ecosystem structure, function and composition. The concept, means of monitoring, and demonstrated applications of ecosystem integrity are well developed for some types of ecosystems such as forests. Indicators of the components of ecosystem integrity are now available for application for many ecosystems and can be applied for the GBF (see CBD/WG2020/4/INF/2/Rev.2 14 June 2022 Background Appendix-Table 1). We would also like to bring to your attention the utility of an additional component indicator: Forest Structural Condition Index (Hansen et al 2019). This metric is a globally consistent, fine-scale measure of forest structure and allows identification of taller, older, more closed-canopy humid tropical forests. Forests of high structural condition are important ecologically because they tend to be high in biodiversity, productivity, carbon storage, and water provisioning. The FSCI is derived from canopy cover, canopy height and time since forest loss. The index ranges from 1 to 18, with the lowest value assigned to stands approximating 5 m tall, disturbed since 2000 or with canopy cover approximating 25%. The highest value is for stands not undergoing loss since 2000 that are tall in stature and closed canopy. The threshold values for height and canopy cover are based on the natural potential within an ecoregion. The index can now be expanded to global forests and updated annually.