

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	On the EDGE Conservation
Comments	
<p>Please provide any general comments on the Appendix 2.</p> <p>On the EDGE Conservation (and the expert group of IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force that we host) support the inclusion of two proposed additional/alternative headline indicators listed in Appendix 2: Goal A: A.40 Changing status of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered species (EDGE Index), as Component: The EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) Index monitors how well we are performing at averting the greatest losses across the Tree of Life by conserving the most distinctive species. This index tracks the change in conservation status for distinctive and threatened species through time, highlighting species whose conservation can safeguard large amounts of threatened evolutionary history. This newly developed indicator (based on methodologies in use for 15 years) adds value to existing broader species measures and Goal A indicators. Prioritising evolutionarily distinct species to conserve evolutionary lineages across the Tree of Life was listed as an important element in the CBD Scientific and Technical Review (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1). This indicator is already developed, and is globally feasible with national disaggregation (updating its status from Orange to Green in CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3). Goal B: B.1 Expected loss of Phylogenetic Diversity, as Headline: The Phylogenetic Diversity indicator monitors biodiversity’s capacity to provide benefits into the future, and is used by IPBES to monitor multiple NCPs. This captures the suite of non-material benefits and future options from biodiversity across the Tree of Life, which have arisen as a result of our planet’s evolutionary history, and which is omitted from the current Goal B headline indicator ‘National environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services’. Phylogenetic Diversity (PD) is a critical and often overlooked facet of biodiversity which measures the evolutionary heritage represented by a set of species across the Tree of Life. By conserving PD globally, we conserve the variety of different evolutionary features of species,</p>	

and so benefits and future options for humanity. For example, prioritising plant species for conservation based on PD most effectively safeguards a larger and wider variety of benefits to people. Phylogenetic diversity and maintaining options for future generations has been recognised as an essential component of NCPs in the CBD Scientific and Technical Review (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1). This indicator is already in use by IPBES, and is globally feasible with national disaggregation (updating its status from Orange to Green in CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3). These two indicators monitor our progress towards safeguarding variety across the Tree of Life and associated non-monetary benefits and future options from biodiversity ensuring intergenerational equity, as encompassed by Nature's Contributions to People. They also uniquely link species conservation in Goal A with its contributions to people in Goal B. Without explicitly monitoring biodiversity's contributions to NCPs, we risk prioritising conservation activities solely for maintaining ecosystem services while assuming sufficient biodiversity will also be conserved. The IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force has committed to generate both indicators at the global and national level, and make these publicly available and accessible through an online tool currently in development. Data is available for terrestrial and marine vertebrate groups, gymnosperms, and corals, and will eventually be available for all seed plants under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. A fuller brief on the indicators can be found [here](#) based on our preprint [here](#), and a shortform metadata sheet for each has been lodged with UNEP WCMC.